



Mansfield University Department of Music

Fall 2002

Mansfield University Concert Choir Wins a Gold! *by Peggy Dettwiler*

Forty-eight members of the Concert Choir returned from a fabulous 16-day European Tour on May 22. During those days, we visited and performed in five capital cities: Budapest, Hungary; Vienna, Austria; Bratislava, Slovakia; Prague, Czech Republic; and Berlin, Germany. In addition to performing in some of the most beautiful cathedrals in Europe, the choir participated in the Robert Schumann International Choir Competition and Festival in Zwickau, Germany, where we received a gold medal.

Competing with 27 other choirs from 13 different countries, Mansfield received a total score of 25.39 out of 30 points, which earned a level 5 gold. They performed a total of ten selections in three rounds. The Concert Choir also received a special prize of 500 Euro for "Artistic Interpretation," sponsored by the city of Zwickau.

Another highlight of the trip was a performance in the Thomaskirche in Leipzig at the grave of Johann Sebastian Bach. Other glorious churches serving as concert sites were the Matyas Church in Budapest, the Karlskirche in Vienna, and the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedachtniskirche in Berlin, among others. A CD, **Mansfield University Concert Choir: Live From Europe**, has been produced in these reverberant acoustics and is available through the Music Department.

Traveling and performing abroad expands students' horizons enormously. Eight of the 48 had never been on an airplane before and almost half had never been outside of the United States. Feeling the bond of unity and passion on the stage of a competition before thousands of people is absolutely thrilling. I can proudly say that our students were honorable ambassadors for the Music Department,

Mansfield University, the USA, but most importantly, for themselves.

What they gained from this is beautifully expressed in the tour journal by Sara Reddington. "All and all, this has been a FABULOUS trip. I learned much, cried, laughed, SANG, and bonded. I love you all and I will never forget this trip. I've found there is more to this world other than our Mansfield or my home town. I envy the sun, because it shines down on it all."

MU Bands to Host PA Intercollegiate Band

Adam F. Brennan, director of Bands, is pleased to announce that Mansfield will host the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band February 28 through March 2, 2003. Musicians will be selected from college bands throughout the state to visit our campus for rehearsals and to perform in a closing concert. Most of them will stay in the homes of local residents during the festival. Dr. Brennan is in the process of booking the guest conductor for this event and he is expecting about 115 musicians. Band members will arrive to audition for seating and rehearse on the afternoon of February 28 and rehearse all day on March 1. The concert on Sunday, March 2 is open to the public. Tickets will be available at the door for \$5 adult and \$3 students, children and senior citizens.

Concert Wind Ensemble Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Mansfield University Concert Wind Ensemble will celebrate its 50th year with a reunion weekend and concert on April 4-6, 2003. Donald Stanley and Adam Brennan will share the podium. A new composition by Dr. Brennan will receive its premiere performance at this concert by the combined alumni and CWE players. There will also be a most special tribute to Bertram Francis, the founder of the CWE. Current plans include a reception on Friday, April 4, rehearsals in the morning and during the day on Saturday, April 5, a gala reunion dinner on Saturday evening and the 50th Anniversary Concert on Sunday, April 6. The CWE alumni will receive invitations in the mail. It would be of great help to us if you could provide your new address if you have recently moved and inform us of CWE alumni who have not received our notices of this event or The Cadenza. Please write to abrennan@mnsfld.edu or call (570) 662-4735.

The department will soon add a display case near the band room where historical memorabilia for MU Bands will be on permanent display. 50th Anniversary Reunion participants will certainly enjoy the display of Bert's artifacts. The case will cost about \$1200 and we invite you to make a contribution made to MU Bands - Francis Project.

Bert Francis was hired by Mansfield State Teachers College in 1940. In 1953 he had an idea which for its time was still very original. That was to audition the best wind and percussion students and form a Wind Ensemble on the pattern of Frederick Fennell's famous ensemble at Eastman. Mansfield was one of the first colleges to take this step and now it is commonplace to find a training band plus a select ensemble of better players from the college to the grade school levels in our country. Megan Sorenson received her bachelor of music degree at Mansfield and is currently working on her master's degree. The following is taken from a biography she is writing.

Bertram Francis was born in East Chicago, Indiana on July 15, 1912. He attended Dennison University in Granville, Ohio as a Music Education major. At Dennison, Bert was recognized for his skills as a musician when he was initiated into the Nu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, professional music fraternity. After two years at Dennison, Francis transferred to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where he completed his bachelor of music degree in Music Education. During his senior year at Northwestern, Bert was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda, Honorary Music Fraternity. He graduated from Northwestern in June of 1933 and went on to his first public school teaching job in Bridgeport, Ohio. Bert's most notable teaching experience was at Hobart High School in Hobart, Indiana where he was the Director of the Marching and Concert Bands. Following in the footsteps of his now famous predecessor Dr. William D. Revelli, Bert continued to build a tradition of excellence with this nationally recognized award-winning band.

In 1940, the Francis family moved to Mansfield, PA where Bert took the position of Director of Instrumental Music and Head of the Music Department at Mansfield State Teachers College. His responsibilities at Mansfield included teaching lessons for all instrumental music majors and conducting all instrumental ensembles. He was director of the Concert Band and the Mountie

Marching Band. Francis was also faculty advisor for "The Esquires" dance band (previously the "Red and Black Serenaders"). Bert took a leave of absence in 1944 in order to serve his country in the Navy. His first position was as a communications officer on a tanker that took gasoline to England. Following that, Bert shipped to the Pacific where he was stationed on a troop transport traveling to and from the Philippines. He returned home in 1946 and resumed his duties as director of Instrumental Music. Highly active in many professional organizations, he was the president of both the Eastern Division of the College Band Directors National Association and the Pennsylvania College Bandmasters Association. During his tenure at Mansfield, Bert and several colleagues were instrumental in founding the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band Association in 1947, which to this day honors the best of Pennsylvania's collegiate instrumentalists.

Bertram Francis was known for demonstrating a level of musical excellence and commitment that surpassed others in his field. He was also known for expecting that same excellence and commitment from his students. As a result of this, in 1953 Francis borrowed an idea from colleague Frederick Fennell at the Eastman School of Music to create another instrumental ensemble called the Concert Wind Ensemble. The idea behind this new ensemble was to retain a full complement of band instruments (woodwind, brass, percussion) but to have very little doubling of parts, and when possible, only one player to a part. The Concert Wind Ensemble would be a by-audition-only select ensemble, the philosophy of which is "to challenge the better instrumental performers of the school with advanced music and musical ideas." The creation of the CWE at Mansfield is significant, not only because it was a catalyst for the elevation of musicianship in the instrumental department, but because its inception was second only to that of the Eastman Wind Ensemble, making it a landmark in instrumental music education.

Due to his commitment to excellence in music education, and to his tremendous involvement in many professional organizations, Bertram Francis was given possibly the best honor a band director can receive in February, 1964 when he was elected to the American Bandmasters Association. The ABA is a highly prestigious organization that was founded in 1929 by Edwin F. Goldman. A by-invitation-only organization, its membership includes the best band directors in the country. Bert would eventually serve as president of the ABA.

Bert Francis was the Director of Bands at Mansfield from 1940-1971. During this time he was a widely known and respected conductor and clinician who frequently accepted invitations to guest conduct District, Region and State Band festivals. He saw Mansfield grow from being a state teachers college to a state university. He was present for the building of the Will George Butler Music Center in 1969. Bert relinquished his position as director of Bands in 1971 in order to become Assistant Chair of the Music Department. The CWE then came under the direction of Donald Stanley and the MMB was turned over to Dick Talbot. Bert Francis retired in June of 1974. He and his wife Maureen reside in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Continued on next page

Butler Musings: *Editorial Notes by David Borsheim*

Although it's difficult to imagine why anyone would want to leave our lovely hills and valleys, not every Mansfield University alumnus remains in close proximity of the 16933 zip code after graduation. In fact, our music alumni are scattered far and wide. We would like to know how our alumni are doing in the real world and so we are asking you to send us information about yourselves. This might include news of a professional nature such as a new job, degree, a publication or an award, or about your families, travels and interesting experiences. These will be included in the next issue of *The Cadenza*. We also need to know your address if you have moved. Please send your news to me at dborshei@mnsfld.edu

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The *Cadenza* is not supported by state funds or tuition money but by your generous donations. We are also very dependent on you for your giving toward our music scholarships. The number of scholarships has increased over the years but not all of them are fully endowed yet. The Music Department has made it a priority to complete the endowment of the scholarships we presently offer. The Mansfield Foundation administers scholarship funds and they will be happy to tell you which ones are not yet endowed if it is your desire to help in this way. We are extremely grateful to those who have contributed to The Mansfield Foundation for the purpose of helping the Music Department.

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Debut

The Mansfield University Symphony Orchestra is featured on its first CD recording. Dr. Kenneth Sarch, orchestra conductor and professor of violin and viola, is justifiably proud of the orchestra's accomplishments. "It took a number of years to build the orchestra. Last year we felt that the orchestra was performing at a high level worthy of making its first recording. I am sure that when you hear the orchestra

CD, you will agree." The music heard on the CD includes the *Carmen Suite No. 1* by Bizet, the *Finale of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2* known as "Little Russian," and the *Hoe Down* from Copland's *Rodeo* ballet.

The orchestra has won the acclaim of audiences throughout the region. It has performed at the State Capital in Harrisburg, the Lycoming College Noon Series, Corning Community College, and at schools in Elmira, Altoona, Mills Hall, Saxton, Hanover, Williamsport, Canton, Johnstown, and Athens. In addition to its usual concert dates, the orchestra will present a special Children's Concert at MU in January.

The Mansfield University Symphony Orchestra Debut CD can

be purchased by sending a \$10 check made out to "MU Orchestra CD" along with your address. Send your order to MU Orchestra CD, Dr. Kenneth Sarch, Music Department, Mansfield University, Mansfield, PA 16933.

50th Anniversary, *Continued*

Donald Stanley built upon the reputation of the CWE and honed it into a highly respected performing ensemble. He retired in 1992 and was followed as director by Theodore Rounds, David Borsheim and Joseph Murphy. Adam F. Brennan has been director of Bands since 1995. His fine work in continuing the professionalism displayed for so many years by the CWE has earned invitations to perform at PMEA and at many regional high schools. He has also produced three CD recordings of the CWE with a fourth coming soon. They are available at his email address or phone number above. Mark your calendars and watch your mail for additional news about the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Concert Wind Ensemble at which we will gather to honor its founder, Bert Francis.

Faculty Highlights

Peggy Dettwiler, director of Choral Activities, attended the Sixth World Symposium on Choral Music held at the end of July in Minneapolis, MN. Here 1700 choral conductors from 67 countries came together to hear choirs from all corners of the earth. Highlights for her included a concert with Bobby McFerrin and Voicestra, a 12-voice improvisatory vocal ensemble, and a performance of the Bruckner "Te Deum" and Penderecki "Credo" with Helmut Rilling conducting without score! Rilling also gave a 75-minute lecture/demonstration on the Bach B-Minor Mass without any reference to notes. She came home with 18 new CDs and about 15 pounds of music from all over the world!

In August, Peggy presided over the Eighth Annual Summer Conference for Choral Musicians held at Penn State University and sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania. The conference featured five guest headliners and an early music performing group from Boston, Liber unUsualis. Peggy is in her second year as president of the 900-member organization.

Peggy's final summer project was the development of her web site. You are welcome to view the site at www.peggydettwiler.com.

Dr. Kenneth Sarch, professor of violin and viola and conductor of the Mansfield University Symphony Orchestra, was on the faculty of a new chamber music festival last June in Birmingham, Alabama called "String Summit." Dr. Sarch taught chamber music ensembles and worked with talented young musicians on the techniques of improvisation for strings. He played the Dvorak "Terzet" for two violins and viola and also performed the first violin part in a string sextet by Tchaikovsky, "Souvenir de Florence" with members of the Alabama Symphony on the Faculty Showcase Concert.

Youngsuck Kim, professor of voice, has announced that his first CD will soon be available. He recorded 29 German Lied this past June at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of the University of Illinois. The CD includes "Dichterliebe" by Robert Schumann, the most important song cycle in history, along with Beethoven's "An die ferne Geliebte," the first song cycle in history, three songs by Brahms and three songs by Richard Strauss. Dr. Kim's accompanist was Dr. Eric Dalheim, vocal coach and faculty accompanist at the University of Illinois. Orders for this CD may be placed at ykim@mnsfld.edu

Nancy Boston, professor of piano, has been researching the vast repertoire of piano transcriptions. Some of her more interesting discoveries will be featured on her solo recital of November 3rd, titled "Borrowed Music." She has also invited Dr. Robert Miller of East Stroudsburg University to join her in a recital of music for two pianos. They will perform works by Ravel, Milhaud and Schumann on our two Steinway concert grands this coming October 6. Nancy also traveled to Alaska where she met with Suzanne Summerville, a leading authority in the field of "Women and Music."

Douglas Crowder, professor of voice, has been promoted to the rank of associate professor of Music.

Susan Laib, double reeds, has been granted tenure to the faculty of the University and she has also been promoted to the rank of assistant professor of Music.

Sera Smolen, cello and double bass, continues her ambitious schedule of performances and research. Among her diverse interests, Sera has studied the pedagogy of improvisation and implemented new techniques, strategies and theories in her teaching and various presentations. She continues to perform as a member of the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Tri-Cities Opera Orchestra and The Lilac String Quartet. Sera organized "New Directions in Strings" in tandem with the ASTA/PADESTA solo festival at MU and she performs on a regular basis with members of the music faculty.

Mark-Daniel Schmid, professor of music history and piano, had a busy summer finishing the *Strauss Companion* which he edited and sent to Greenwood Press for release later this year. He also contributed one of the book's ten essays focusing on such topics as Strauss's contemporaries, his musical, literary, and philosophical influences, what fueled his poetic imagination, the formal criteria and critical reception of his tone poems, his abstract instrumental works, the pre-Salome stage works, the later operas, and the choral works. On August 7, he presented a paper at the 17th Congress of the International Musicological Society in Leuven, Belgium, titled *Modern Oder Altmodisch? Richard Strauss and the Crisis of Reception*. The highlight of his summer was, however, the birth of his second daughter, Nadia Francesca Clara, on May 27. She is quite lively and, much to his and Jennifer's chagrin, seems to be a night owl.

Matthew Slotkin, instructor of guitar, is putting the finishing touches on his new solo CD, *Twentieth Century Guitar Music* which will be released early this fall. The disc was recorded this past summer and includes world premiere recordings of "Feuille d'Album" by Carlos Chavez and George Auric's "Hommage a Alonso Mudara."

Joseph Murphy is enjoying a one-year sabbatical. He has quite a list of projects including solo appearances at Kutztown University (9/12), Indiana State (9/24), Duquesne (9/25), Youngstown (9/26), Potsdam (9/30), Fredonia (10/1), Ithaca (10/2), Seton Hill (10/4) as well as Penn State, Bowling Green and Northwestern in the Spring.

Adam Brennan is serving as chairman of the Music Department during Joe Murphy's leave. He will continue directing the Concert Wind Ensemble and the Mountie Marching Band.

Margaret Underwood, assistant director of bands, is returning to a one-year full-time position. She has been accepted as a DMA candidate in conducting at the University of Minnesota where she will begin her studies in 2003.

Alumnotes

Kristy Brown '01 completed an internship with the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra where she was soon employed as an administrative assistant. She was promoted to Operations Manager this past August and is now working full time for the orchestra.

Matthew Brown '01 Kristy's husband, will complete his M.M. at Michigan State University in December. He is the graduate assistant for the tuba/euphonium studio and he is also teaching ear training in the theory department.

Tara Ensminger '02 is teaching privately, playing gigs and working in a law office. She would enjoy hearing from her friends at hrnrae@hotmail.com

Kimber Billow '70 has recently moved from Elmira, N.Y. where he taught vocal music for 32 years. He now resides in Cape Cod and works as a consultant for a company developing a musical theater festival in New York. He has many fond memories of Mansfield: "I am always proud to boast of my undergraduate degree."

Beth (Kramer) Schondelmeyer '99 recently married her high school crush and best friend Brad on June 23, 2002. After a two week honeymoon to Disney World and Universal Studios, the couple now resides in Newtown, PA where Beth is a K-6 general and instrumental music teacher for the Lakewood School District in Lakewood, NJ and her husband Brad is a land surveyor for Gilmore and Associates in Doylestown, PA.

Marcia Newcomb '75 is the business manager and board secretary for the Coudersport Area School District, Coudersport, PA. She has two sons, Tom, 22, and Dan, 19, and resides in Sabinsville, PA.

Stephanie (Yingling) Haifley '97 recently completed a master's degree in elementary education at Shippensburg University. She is an elementary vocal music teacher in the Dover Area School District. Stephanie lives in Gettysburg, PA with her husband, Chad.

The Cadenza has plenty of room for your Alumnotes. You may address them to the editor at dborshei@mnsfld.edu

Musical Terms

Music students and those in the trade rely on the Harvard Dictionary and other sources for information. Some terms are sadly missing from these editions. The Grievous Music Dictionary is an apparent effort to remedy this situation. Here are some examples of terms we might not find in the traditional sources.

Adagio fromaggio: to play in a slow and cheesy manner.

Bull horn: a brass instrument that plays notes you would not believe.

Carmina banana: a medieval musical plantain.

Dill piccolo: a wind instrument that plays only sour notes.

Etude brute: an early form of Roman music performed with a rapid, sharp, repetitive beat.

Fiddler crabs: grumpy string players

Gaul blatter: a French horn player.

Hyperportamento: a tone that soars, bends, strains until it pierces into another dimension and leaves, ever after, a porthole to heaven.

Mallade: a romantic song that's really awful.

OraToro: a lawn mower may be substituted for the original instrumentation at this point.

Pianorama: instrument capable of broad, sweeping musical performances.

Rubato: cross between rhubarb and a tomato.

Status cymbal: an instrument to be played at inaugurations and socialite balls.

Trouble clef: any clef one can't read, e.g., the alto clef for pianists.

Woodwind: a noise in the game of golf, made by a club missing the ball on a tee shot

Special Announcement

Michael and Angela McBrearty announce the birth of a son. Kieran Kinney McBrearty, born on Friday, August 30th. He weighed 8 lbs. 3 ozs and was 22 inches long. He is in perfect health and Angela is recovering nicely.

Cadenza
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We Love to Hear From Our Alumni

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Name _____

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Years of attendance _____

News items _____
