



## MU Music Department

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Fall 1999

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### Band Events

Mansfield University Marching Band will celebrate its 50th Anniversary this year, or will it? "Not so," says MU Director of Bands Adam Brennan. There have been erroneous reports of the MU Bands Anniversary. After further research, Prof. Brennan found evidence of marching units at Mansfield University prior to the 1900's. Nevertheless the "Pride of Pennsylvania" is strong and continues to grow, with 137 members this year. The band will be performing in several venues this season including: Allentown, PA at the "Collegiate Marching Band Festival" with twenty other regional university bands; and at Towanda & Huntingdon, PA in their annual "Cavalcade of Bands" both of which are recruiting performances. Of course you can see the band perform locally at the next football game. Their musical repertoire will include: "The Promenade/Great Gate of Kiev" by Modest Mussorgsky, "Death Hunt" from the movie Citizen Kane, "Festive Overture" by Dimitri Shostakovich, "The Bag Pipe" a percussion feature by Béla Bartók, and "Make His Praise Glorious" by Sandi Patti. Remember that the band enjoys hearing from alumni, please stop by and say hello at the next game or Homecoming event!

Prof. Brennan is also very busy preparing the Mansfield University Wind Ensemble for their fall tour. He and Dr. Michael Galloway are currently in the process of confirming locations in the Southern Pennsylvania region. The tour will be from November 15 - 17, and will also include the music of the MU Jazz Ensemble. Each day will include a morning, afternoon and combined evening performances. All bands will, as in tradition, record a compact disk following the tour. Previous recordings include: "Strike up the Bands" released in '97, "This Could be the Start of Something Big" released in '98, "Summertime" currently in production, and this year the band is looking forward to recording "Laude" to be released in 2000.

After a successful tour, the 47 member Wind Ensemble will of course be performing for their home audience. Their university concert will be on November 21 at 3 pm, and will include the following musical selections: "Laude" by Howard Hanson, "Overture for Winds" by Felix Mendelssohn, "Symphony in B flat" by Paul Hindemith, "Morning Star" by David Maslanka, and "Lincolnshire Posy" by Percy Grainger. As you can see this will be an exciting season of music for the Mansfield University bands, and we hope to share it with you! If you are interested in purchasing a CD for \$15, or would like any further information regarding the bands, please contact the Band Office at 662-4735.

By  
Felicia Barber  
Music Dept. Graduate Assistant

CHORAL EVENTS - AN EXCITING YEAR!!

## Mansfield University Concert Choir performs at ACDA Conferences

The Mansfield University Concert Choir has received invitations to perform at the ACDA-PA Summer Conference in State College on August 10, 1999, and at the ACDA Eastern Division Convention in Baltimore in February of 2000. These mark the seventh and eighth invitations the group has received in as many years to perform at state, regional, national, or international music conventions. The choir has produced a new CD entitled "Around the World in Song," which features performances at the MENC Eastern Division Convention in 1997, the PMEA State Conference in 1998, and the European Tour of 1999. It will be available at all choral concerts throughout the year or by contacting Peggy Dettwiler.

The Music Department will host the Annual School Choral Festival on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 21-22, 2000. Area schools are invited to bring their choirs for a 45-minute performance and workshop session. The focus of this year's festival is the music of Johann Sebastian Bach in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his death. Each choir will be asked to sing at least one selection by J. S. Bach as a part of their performance. To highlight the festival, the Chamber Singers will perform Bach's Cantata 187, "Es wartet alles auf dich." The Festival Chorus will present Mozart's Requiem on Saturday, April 8, 2000 at 8 pm. Designated a Memorial Concert for Edward Brown, Professor of Theory and Piano at Mansfield from 1971 to 1998, the performance will feature Jennifer Schmid, soprano; Fran Shumway, mezzo-soprano; William Cutter, tenor, and Thomas Jones, bass. A large orchestra of student and professional players will accompany the soloists and chorus. Membership in the M.U. Festival Chorus includes over 100 singers: faculty, students, and staff from the university as well as singers from the surrounding communities. All proceeds from the concert will support the Ed Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Concert Choir alums should look for a mailing about the Concert Choir Reunion scheduled for October 6-8, 2000! If you don't receive a letter, please contact Peggy Dettwiler to update your address: contact her at Butler 105, Mansfield University, phone number: (570) 662-4721, e-mail: pdettwil@mnsfld.edu.

## MU SYMPHONY COMPLETES MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The MU Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth L Sarch, reorganized into a classical size ensemble for the 1998-99 season and presented a season of outstanding concerts both on campus and on tour. "As the string program grows at Mansfield", Dr. Sarch explained, "I needed to balance the existing string sections with the winds, brass and percussion so that the fine symphonic sound expected from an orchestra can be realized. We now have experienced string players in every section and therefore I limited the woodwinds to pairs, two horns, two trumpets, and timpani. Almost immediately, our sound, intonation, and ensemble improved!" To celebrate the orchestra's new sound, Dr. Sarch took the orchestra to Corning Community College and on tour to Elmira and Horseheads, New York to perform in addition to the campus concerts, which included a symphony concert in the fall, the annual Pops concert with a Valentine's theme in February in combination with the MU Concert Wind Ensemble, and the annual Student Soloists Concerto Concert in April. All concerts were received with enthusiastic response.

Repertory this past season included Rossini and Beethoven overtures, Mozart, Gounod and Prokofieff symphonies, and Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet" and Meyer's "Millennium" with added players. Four outstanding Mansfield University Music students were featured as winners of the annual Solo Competition: Tenor John Manning, a junior studying with Dr. Earl Kim, pianists Irena Pevzner ( junior from Latvia) and Yukiko Matsudome (senior from Japan) both studying with Dr. Nancy Boston and trombonist Beth Kramer, a senior studying with professor Stephen McEuen were all featured on the April concert with a Donizetti aria, Mozart and Beethoven piano concertos, and Berghmans "La Femme a Barbe" for trombone and chamber orchestra. After twenty years of not touring, the members of the orchestra are realizing their potential as symphony players and are preparing for another exciting season which begins in the fall.

## FACULTY NOTES

Peggy Dettwiler had a very productive summer and is excited to bring new ideas to the choral program in the fall. She has completed the first of two summer sabbaticals for 1999 and 2000. Peggy participated for the second time in the Conducting Masterclass at the Oregon Bach Festival under the renowned conductor, Helmut Rilling of Germany. During the 17-day festival, she studied and conducted movements from the Mozart "Requiem" and Bach's Cantata No. 187 in three concert performances. On her return, she attended a Vocal Jazz Workshop at the Eastman School of Music led by Steve Zegree, well-known arranger and director of Gold Company from Kalamazoo, MI. She completed her sabbatical study for the summer by taking a class in the Application of Laban-Bartenieff Movement to Conducting from Harlan Parker at the Peabody Conservatory. On July 1, Peggy became President-Elect of the American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania. She will assume the presidency of the association in 2001.

Steve McEuen and Sue Laib announce the birth of their son, David Michael McEuen, on Saturday July 24, 1999, at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA. David weighed in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces, was twenty inches long, and was delivered by C-Section after labor complications. Due to medical complications, David began suffering seizures on his second day, and was transferred to the Neonatal Intensive Care unit of Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira NY, where Steve's older sons were born (both premies). After many tests (EEG, MRI, CT-Scan, etc), and a few days observation, he was pronounced fit. He arrived home on Saturday, July 31st, in time to attend the Wellsboro Town Band picnic.

In other McEuen-Laib news, Steve has been studying alto trombone lately, and has been granted a sabbatical for the 1999-2000 school year for further study. His project will involve research, writing, and private lessons with Mark Kellogg, Professor of Alto Trombone and Euphonium at the Eastman School of Music, and principal Trombonist of the Rochester Philharmonic. Steve also plays in a professional quartet, The Tuba-Euphonium Consortium, with Kellogg. Other group members include Jeff Anderson, tubist in the Rochester Philharmonic, and David Unland, tuba teacher at Ithaca College. Sabbatical time will also be put to use in staying home and taking care of little David Michael.

This past June Sue, though seven months pregnant, accompanied Steve to the International Trombone Festival, at SUNY Potsdam, where he performed with the William Cramer Trombone Choir and the Orchestra of Northern New York. The festival was hosted by distinguished alum Dr. Mark Hartman, Professor of Trombone at Potsdam. Alums Dr. Tom Pollett (now at Culver Stockton College) and Mark Bowling (now with the U. S. Army Field Band) also performed in the Cramer Choir. Bowling appeared in concert with the Army Band, and with the Embassy Brass, the official brass quintet of the Army Band. Other MU alums at the festival included John McKelvey and Jay Vonada.

Steve's son Brian spent the summer in Mansfield, helping on the new house, attending the MU High School Music Camp, and being a great big brother to David. He and Steve saw a St. Cardinals game at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, a Pioneers game in Elmira, and visited the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. Steve's older son Matt stayed in St. Louis, earning money for college. He'll be a freshman at the Rochester Institute of Technology this fall, studying computer science. That will work out well with Steve's sabbatical study in Rochester.

#### SARCH INVITED TO CONDUCT AND ADJUDICATE

MU Associate Professor Kenneth Sarch received an invitation from Charlotte, North Carolina to be in residence for a week to prepare and conduct two of his string orchestra works, the Colonial Williamsburg Suite which is now published by KJSO Music Company and an Arabic Dance which will be published next year. The event took place at East Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte on May 6, 1999 and the school district sponsored the week long residency.

Dr. Sarch also received another invitation to fly to Texas to adjudicate the annual Texas Music Educators Solo and Ensemble Festival held at the end of May at the University of Texas at Austin. This event attracts over 16,000 students from the state and music professors from many parts of the United States are invited to Austin to adjudicate.

During the summer, Dr. Sarch taught and performed on the faculty of several music camps and festivals: The Mansfield University High School Music Camp, FAME International Music Festival in Lawrenceville, New Jersey where he was appointed Director of a new Chamber Music Program and the Williamsport Area High School Strolling Strings Camp.

In June, Dr. Sarch received a Mansfield University Faculty Development Grant to travel to Cherokee, North Carolina and prepare sketches for his new orchestra work based on the Cherokee experience now in progress.

#### ALUMNOTES

Frank Schreiner '73

I just completed my 26th year of teaching and my 23rd year at Red Land High School (West Shore School District in New Cumberland, PA) as the director of bands. The Red Land Band recently was selected and appeared on national TV on the 1998 Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The Red Land Marching Band will also be the featured band on the documentary

program "On the Inside" produced by ABC News for the Discovery Channel. The program will show the 1998 Macy's Parade and what goes on behind the scenes and all the prep work for it. The Red Land Band was chosen to be the feature band that they follow in rehearsal and through the parade. The documentary will be aired in October on the Discovery Channel.

I will be changing schools for the 1999-2000 school year to Allen Middle School and will direct the band and jazz band program there. Allen Middle School is part of the West Shore School District.

My wife Sue (class of 1974) is currently the Director of Music and Worship at Good News Free Methodist Church, teaches private voice and piano and directs the El Shaddai Singers( a 125 voice multi-denominational community christian choir). The El Shaddai Singers completed a two week tour of Europe in the summer of 1999. Frank and Sue's daughter Christina is a Special Education major at Mansfield University. Brian is majoring in music at Penn State and sings in the professional accapella quartet "Trademark" at Hersheypark and the greater Harrisburg area.

Scott Smeltzer (>95) and Megan Haught (>96) moved this past August to Manama, Bahrain, where they will teach at an American school. Scott will be the only music teacher (grades K-9), and Megan will teach 8th and 9th grade math. They are keeping a post office box in the states: P.O. Box 720879, McAllen, TX 78504 or can be reached via e-mail at: scottmegan@yahoo.com

Melissa (Fisher) Dreisbach (>94) and her husband, Michael, have purchased a home. The new address is 864 N. Washington St., Pottstown, PA 19464.

Kirk M. (BS ME >61) and Jo Ellen Dunklee have moved to: 8 Birch Court Lake Monticello, Palmyra, VA 22963

Amber (Bartone) Hepfer (BM MT '97) recently was married. Her major instrument was violin. Her new E-mail is: sahepfer@rcn.com

## 1999 EUROPEAN CONCERT TOUR SUMMARY

by Peggy Dettwiler

"Incredible, life-changing, awesome, unforgettable, most memorable experience of my life." These were some of the words recorded in the journal of the Mansfield University Concert Choir on the return from their European Concert Tour on May 24. The group of 56 travelers included 42 singers, four instrumentalists, Mansfield University's new president (John Halstead), a trustee, an alum, two faculty members, one nurse, three moms and a dad! The entourage traveled to Italy, Austria, and Germany and performed in Rome, Florence, Venice, Innsbruck, Salzburg, and Munich.

Preparations for the trip began in April of 1998. Throughout the year, the group raised over \$38,000. Students gave concerts in their local communities, sold raffle tickets, and collected

donations. The fundraising efforts revealed much grassroots support for the ensemble and brought public recognition to the music department and the university.

There were many thrills and moving experiences. Among the highlights was the choir's participation in masses at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and St. Mark's in Venice. The huge marble sanctuary of St. Peter's and the golden mosaic balconies of the 1000 year-old basilica of St. Mark's created a remarkable impression of majesty. The five to seven-second reverberant echo was captured beautifully in their performance of Bruckner's "Ave Maria" at both services. Equally moving was their spontaneous singing of the Bruckner in the Pantheon in Rome, a magnificent round marble temple built two hundred years after Christ.

The choir's love of singing was evident in their wonderful performances at each new venue. They presented full concerts at a cathedral in Venice, which featured frescoes painted by Tintoretto, at a spa near Salzburg, in a spectacular Baroque cathedral in Innsbruck, and in a church in Florence served by a delightful, fun-loving priest. Frequently holding-hands as they stood in a circle, the group captured the hearts of surprised tourists with their spontaneous performances in the Siena Piazza, St. Jacob Cathedral, and the Wies Kirche.

The travelers had plenty of fun beyond their music-making activities. All 56 embarked on 10 gondolas for a romantic evening ride on the canals of Venice. And the entire entourage visited the salt mines at Berchtesgaden, where they rode on a small train deep into the mountain and slid down wooden slides, not unlike an experience they would get at Disney World! To capture the ambience of Austrian life, they attended an evening of Tiroler folk music, where they heard authentic yodeling, Alpine horns, and an "oompah" band!

Among the most powerful experiences of the trip was their visit to Dachau, the first concentration camp developed by the Nazis before World War II. Here over 31,000 people died. The memorial made a lasting impression of the horrific treatment of people by other human beings.

All of these experiences helped each member of the tour see life from a new perspective. This growth was beautifully expressed by Carrie Miller in the choir journal, "I have felt myself change in so many ways closer to the person I've always wanted to be." And another by Sharlyn Hazekamp, "There are some moments in your life that can be completely life-changing, ones that you know you will remember until you're rocking your grandchildren to sleep."

#### MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR 1999 EUROPEAN DONOR PROGRAM

The Concert Choir gratefully acknowledges those who have contributed to the European Tour Fund. (June 15, 1999)

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