



Mansfield University Department of Music

Winter 2002

MU Orchestra Plans CD Release, Tour, and Student Solo Competition

This spring, the orchestra will embark on its sixth annual tour which will include public performances at schools in Altoona and Johnstown. Following the MU Orchestra debut playing for the university musical production, "Oklahoma," the orchestra will travel to Johnstown on February 27 for a combined concert with the Richland High School Orchestra hosted by Win Garland. The ensembles will perform separately, then combine with Mr. Garland and Dr. Sarch sharing the podium. On February 28, the MU Orchestra will perform a program with a similar format sharing the stage with the Altoona High School Orchestra conducted by Kelly Dettwiler.

Recently, the MU Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Sarch recorded selections for its first ever release of a CD. The CD will feature the last movement of the Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 17 "Little Russian," Bizet "Carmen" Suite No. 1, and the Hoe Down from Aaron Copland's Ballet "Rodeo." The orchestra plans to release the CD in the fall of 2002. Anyone wishing to purchase an MU Symphony Orchestra CD at \$10 each should contact Dr. Sarch at the university.

The annual Student Soloist Concert will be held April 21. A competition is held in late January and student winners are invited to perform as soloists with the orchestra at its end of the season concert.

The MU Symphony Orchestra has won the acclaim of audiences both locally and of the public who have heard the orchestra on tour. Last season, the orchestra performed in Canton, Williamsport and Corning and the State Capitol in Harrisburg as well as on the Lycoming College Noon Series. The orchestra has also performed in Elmira and Horseheads, New York, Hanover, Johnstown, Lewisburg and Athens in Pennsylvania.

Assistant Director of Bands Sought

We are currently searching for a full-time, tenure track Assistant Director of Bands.

Margi Underwood has been serving in this position as a half-time position but will be starting a doctoral program next year. To eliminate some overloads the administration has agreed to convert the position to full-time with no increase in the overall faculty complement. The successful candidate will direct the Mountie Band and Symphonic Band, teach basic conducting, computer notation, orchestration, and other duties within the expertise of the successful candidate. If you know of good candidates, have them contact the music department.

Faculty Highlights

On December 11, several MU Music Department faculty members were seen participating in the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Concert. WVIA public television broadcast the concert live, and taped it for later viewing. Members participating were **Ken Sarch**, concertmaster, **Sue Laib**, principal oboe, **Angela McBrearty**, principal flute, **Steve McEuen**, principal trombone. Retired faculty participating included **Don Stanley**, tuba. In addition to Music Department faculty, **Brad Holtman** of the foreign language department, performed as a member of the cello section. Several MU students also participated. Ken Sarch was prominently featured in the first piece on the program, Holst's Concerto for two violins.

Steve McEuen performed with the Glimmerglass Trombone Quartet on Nov 10, as the featured soloists with the Utica Symphony. Steve was subbing for his friend and colleague, Dr. Harold Reynolds, trombone prof at Ithaca College. The group is comprised of the trombone section of the Glimmerglass Opera, Cooperstown, NY, and members are active performers and teachers throughout Northern New York. The concert featured the quartet accompanied by the Utica Symphony on two major pieces, plus one for trombone quartet and rhythm section, and an encore by themselves.

Joe Murphy will be on sabbatical next year practicing, performing, recording, writing, researching, and synthesizing. After 6 years of chairing the music department there are many loose ends to tie together. Adam Brennan has agreed to be interim chair while Joe is on sabbatical. The plan is for Joe to resume chair duties when he returns in Fall 2003, but he will gladly return to more teaching if someone else would like to occupy the Chair.

Kenneth Sarch, Violin, Viola Professor and Orchestra Director at Mansfield University and immediate past-President of PADESTA with PSOA, was invited to travel to Cuba in December as part of a People To People International Stringed Instrument Education Delegation that helped end a 40-year cultural embargo against Cuba. He joined string teacher colleagues from across the U.S. representing all aspects of string teaching in a 10-day itinerary in Cuba.

The schedule included meetings with Cuban musicians and teachers, lectures and demonstrations of

Cuban folk music, visits to Cuban Public Schools for the arts, university and conservatory music programs, meetings with string players and conductors of the Cuban National Symphony and the Youth Orchestra in Havana. Sarch also traveled with the delegation to Santa Clara and Cienfuegos to obtain a better picture of the music program in Cuba and to experience more of Cuba outside of Havana.

"This was both an honor and an opportunity to reach out and seek peace through music," Sarch said. Sarch received a Mansfield University Faculty Development Grant which helped in part to cover expenses of the trip.

"Music is everywhere in Cuba. There is a band in every restaurant, street musicians who serenade tourists on the square, and a system of music study in special Schools for the Arts. Children are tested in 2nd grade at age 7. A small percentage of Cuban children are selected to study instruments or voice in special schools beginning in the 3rd grade at age 8. Instrumental music is not available in the general public school system. Music students live at the special schools and proceed through a vigorous system of levels and exams until they are accepted at the Institute de Art Superior (ISA) on the university level," Sarch explained. He presented two master classes and string teaching demonstrations for teachers and students at the university. Students at all levels performed, all from memory as required, for the delegation. Sarch was impressed with what the instructors, students and musicians had accomplished given a lack of supplies, repair shops and music in Cuba. The delegation brought string supplies, music, a violin outfit and two violin bows as gifts donated by music companies and local violin shops. To sum up life in a Communist country: "Some things are taken care of by the state — food, shelter, medical care, education. Other items are either not available or in short supply, like string supplies and music, soap, some food items etc. Our gifts and donations were greatly appreciated," Sarch noted. "I hope to return sometime in the future and work further with the incredibly musical and talented Cuban people."

Edwin Zdzinski (retired 1991) died on November 4, 2001. He was a 1954 grad of Fredonia, and 1955 & 69 (PhD) graduate of Columbia University. From 1966-91 he taught at Mansfield University. He taught Conducting,

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Mansfield University Choral Ensembles Take On Major Performance Projects

The 120-voice Festival Chorus will present “Carmina Burana” by Carl Orff on Saturday, April 6, at 8 p.m. in Steadman Theatre and Sunday, April 7, at 3 p.m. in the Corning Museum of Glass Auditorium. A large orchestra of student and professional players will accompany the chorus and the soloists: Gayle Berman, soprano from Boston, MA; Daniel Brondel, counter-tenor from Rochester, NY; and Neil Wilson, bass-baritone from Richmond, VA. The Hamilton-Gibson Children’s Chorus directed by Thomas Putnam from Wellsboro, PA, will also be featured in two movements.

“Carmina Burana” is a cantata based on 13th-century poems found in the library of a Bavarian monastery and were written by party-mad poets of the day called Goliards. They describe the fancies that possess the human flesh as winter turns to spring such as drinking, dancing, eating, and carousing. Orff captures these sentiments through pounding rhythms, rip-roaring sonorities, flowing melodies, and spine-tingling aural effects from the massed musical forces including a battery of percussion. The performances will be thrilling for both the audience and the participating musicians.

The Concert Choir will tour to Scranton, PA, and Binghamton, NY, before it presents its home tour concert

on Saturday, April 13, at 8 p.m. in Steadman Theatre. These performances will be part of the musical preparations for choir’s third European Concert Tour, May 6 to 22. During the 16-day tour, members will visit and perform in Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava, Prague, Leipzig, and Berlin, some of the most spectacular regions and cities in Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Germany. The tour will include performances in some of the loveliest cathedrals in Europe and an International Choral Festival in Zwickau, Germany. At the festival, the group will compete with choirs from around the world in categories for mixed choir, women’s choir, and men’s choir. Their tour program will feature selections written by composers who lived in the cities to be visited, as well as choral music by American composers.

The exposure to other cultures in this ever-shrinking world is of utmost importance to students’ development. From the differing architecture, art, language, dress, and food, to the exposure to other people and divergent attitudes, a tour is a broadening and educational experience. Students become more aware of world events and the similarities and connections between people around the world.

For more information about choral events, contact Peggy Dettwiler, director of Choral Activities at 570-662-4721 and pdettwil@mnsfld.edu.

Faculty Highlights continued from previous page

strings, orchestration, acoustics, and conducted the College-Community Orchestra. He also served four years as department chair and served as the first APSCUF president. He performed with Williamsport (concertmaster), Corning, and Elmira orchestras. He was a member of Phi Mu Alpha and Kappa Kappa Psi.

His wife Theo created a scholarship in his name. Friends and alumni who would like to contribute to the account can send the check to the Mansfield Foundation with a note designating the account.

Other accounts that have yet to reach the minimum level to be considered endowed (\$10,000) include Ed Brown Memorial Scholarship, and Stebbins Voice Scholarship. We also have several accounts that have reached the endowed level and are generating scholarship interest including Eugene Jones, John Baynes, Jean Kruescher, Louise McConnell, Rhoda Bartell, Richard Swartz, David Dye, Kathryn and Alice Smith, David Dick, and Alex Sidorowicz.

Upcoming Events

In addition to our regular Fine Arts Series which included the Turtle Island String Quartet we have many guests this year including pianists David Mattingly and Christine Fischer, composers Marilyn Shrude, Carolyn Bremmer and Barton McClean, jazz saxophonist Denis DiBlasio, popular groups including 5 O’Clock Shadow and Diva (all female big band), workshops in Church Music (Jeff Seeley), string bass (Henry Neubert), instrument repair (Michelle Williamson), organ (Marian Miller), choral music (John Goldsmith), and finally internationally known author/speaker/educator/musician Don Campbell.

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We Love to Hear From Our Alumni

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