



MU Music Department

Spring 1999

ALUMNOTES

Mark Varian (BM ME `95) has been teaching Junior High Orchestra in the Brazosport School District in Lake Jackson, TX for three years. He is also active in Music Theatre, the Community Symphony, and the Houston Symphony Chorus. His school address: Lake Jackson Intermediate School, 500 Circle Way, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. E-mail: mvarian@brazosport.isd.tenet.edu

Laura (Beahm) Welkey (BM `86) lives in Saylorsburg, PA with her husband, Mark and two daughters: Jessica-4 yrs. and Regan-11 months. Laura teaches elementary vocal/general music in the Easton Area School District. She is a member of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. Her E-Mail address: ilweldit@ptd.net

Joseph Wargo (BS `77 violin/viola major) has been teaching in Chesterfield County, a suburb of Richmond, VA for the past 20 years. He is the music department chair and a full-time string teacher at Swift Creek Middle School. Joseph plays the viola with the Richmond Symphony and conducts one of the 3 Youth Orchestras. He has been a guest director with the VBODA Regional Orchestra (district in PA). This year the faculty at his middle school voted him "Teacher of the Year". Joseph's students consistently place in first chairs at all regional, county, and youth orchestra events. The middle school orchestra has been awarded a community service award and annually receives "I", or Superior ratings at VBODA Festivals. Joseph still loves teaching and the students. Many thanks to MU for the excellent music education I received from the school and the great professors such as the Borodkins, the Wunderlichs, Ed Brown, Dr. "Z" (Zdinski), Dr. Baynes, Pat Aiken, etc. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do. His E-Mail address: jwargo@chesterfield.k12.va.us

Nancy (Sheldon) Durst (BS ME `74) has just completed her year as Grand Choir Director of the PA Order of the Eastern Star. Nancy spent the last year traveling around PA, conducting choir rehearsals for her over 90 member, mixed adult voiced choir. The year culminated at their convention in Lancaster, PA where the choir performed for over six thousand delegates over a period of five days. Nancy also made history in the Grand Chapter by organizing its first handbell choir consisting of members from all across the state. In April, she hosted the MU Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble at St. John's Lutheran Church in Erie for an evening of outstanding music. The last time the Concert Choir performed in Erie was in 1974, when Nancy was a member of that group. Her address: 5961 Cobblestone Dr., Erie, PA 16509.

Teresa Forringer (BM ME `97) is teaching Elementary General Music, grades K-6 for the Keystone Central School District in Lock Haven. During the summer she is working on her Masters in Music Ed at PSU. Her E- Mail: tforring@oak.kcsd.k12.pa.us

Sharon (Wilson) Phetteplace (BM ME `97) is in her second year teaching 4-5th grade general music, chorus, band, and woodwind/percussion lessons at Townsend Elementary School in Walton, NY. She is currently working towards a Master's Degree in K-12 reading from SUNY Cortland.

David Phetteplace (BM ME `95) is in his third year teaching 6-12th grade music at the O'Neill Jr./Sr. High School in Walton, NY. He is responsible for the 6-7th grade Jr. high band, 7-8th grade jazz band and general music, 6-12th grade woodwind lessons, high school theory I and II, and high school jazz band. David is currently working towards his Master's Degree in K-12 reading from SUNY Oneonta. David & Sharon reside in Walton and have purchased a modular home there.

Maureen Rae (Tiffany) Downs (BS ME `72) address is: RR4 Box 4161, Wyalusing, PA 18853. Her e-mail: kdowns@epix.net

Robert L. English (BS ME `54) has taken additional music studies at the Guild Hall School of Music, London, England, Penn State University, Freedonia College, Peabody Conservatory of Music and the Ithaca College. Bob taught music in Marienville and Youngville, PA before moving in 1971 to Oil City, PA. He was music supervisor for the Oil City School District until his retirement in 1989. Bob hosted many PMEA festivals. In 1977 the Oil City H.S. Band was under the direction of Bob and was selected as the Official Inaugural Band representing PA in the upcoming Inaugural of Jimmy Carter and his Vice-President Walter Mondale. Robert was instrumental in bringing the United States Service Bands to Oil City as well as the dance bands of the Big Band Era which included Harry James and Maynard Ferguson. Bob was an organist for 32 years with the Third Pennsylvania District, Knights of Columbus Degree Team and from 1979 to 1944, Bob played keyboard for the Oil Heritage Jazz Concerts, produced and directed by Rex Mitchell. Mr. English also has his own B & E COMBO. In 1997, Bob performed on trumpet while recording with the Assumption B.V.M. Church Choir of Oil City. The tapes were presented to Pope John II at the Vatican in Rome. In September 1977, the Pennsylvania Association of School Retireers, Venango County Chapter, honored Bob as the Outstanding Volunteer of the year. Mr. English is one of the founders of "Mostly Brass" and is currently the director. The band annually presents "CONCERTS IN THE PARK", in area communities and also presents mini-programs at the various convalescent homes, civic and church events. With the addition of its circus inspired band wagon, the band has become a favorite feature in area parades. In April of 1998, "Mostly Brass" played the prelude at the formal opening of the 77th state convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of Music Clubs, Inc. The convention was held in Franklin, PA. Bob and his wife, Marion, have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. "STILL GOING STRONG"

Laura (Waterhouse) Bissell (BM ME `95) was a long-term music substitute teacher at the Troy Middle School in the spring of `96. On 6/22/96 Laura married Paul M. Bissell, also a Mansfield graduate (Dec. `94) in Dushore, PA. She was a substitute teacher for the 1996-97 school year and was also hired as a Chor Director at St. Peter Lutheran Church. On 9/26/97 they became the proud parents of Adam Michael Bissell. Laura took a year off to be with her son and is now back substitute teaching. They live at: 126 E. Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Lisa A. (LaMachia) Roeseler (BM ME `85) is in her 13th year as Choral Director at Medina

H.S., NY. She is currently director of 4 choruses at Medina...and also teaches 2 music theory classes and an Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory Class. Lisa has been married to her husband, Marty, for 6 years and they have 3 sons (Matthew, age 4; Zachary, age 3; and Jacob, age 1)...Quite a handful! She is also an organist and Choir Director at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Medina. Lisa loves spending time with her husband and boys!!! They live at 9320 Ridge Rd., Middleport, NY 14105.

Alice (Wilcox) Waltman (BS `40) retired in 1971 after teaching music in Madison, NJ for 30 years. She still lives in Berkeley Heights, NJ, and keeps busy carrying wood for her two fireplaces. She lives at 585 Plainfield Ave. Berkeley Height, NJ 07922.

Audra Jan Beaver (BM ME `93) is living in Columbus, OH, with her "soon to be" husband, James, and their son, Aaron, who was born 8/31/96. Audra is working as a private piano instructor at the Conservatory of Piano in Columbus. She would love to hear from all of her friends, classmats, and SAI sisters. Audra lives at 4116-C Dundee Ave., Columbus, OH 43227.

Brent Merle Young (BS `79) is currently employed at the Practical Bible College in Binghamton, NY, where he teaches piano, Music Appreciation, Fundamentals of Muisic, Music in Ministry, and Functional Guitar to non- music majors. He and his wife, Rose Ann have 3 children - ages 11, 9, and 4. In addition to his teaching and family responsibilities, Brent is working on a Ph.D. in Music Ed at Penn State University. Their address: 3 Beth Place, Apalachin, NY 13732

Dennis Ritz (BS `69, MM ED`74) and Barbara (Cuffey) Ritz (`75) Barbara came out of retirement to home school son, David, for the 8th grade. Both did a wonderful job. David is performing well as a freshman at Shippensburg H.S. The family spent it's 19th summer at the New England Music Camp. Dennis conducted the Concert Orchestra again, Barbara volunteered in many areas and David was a camper playing trombone. Barbara continues to sing in the church choir and minister to shut-ins and convalescents. Dennis completed the Instrument Flight Rating in August, (what a thrill to perform an instrument landing descending out of zero visibility in the clouds and seeing the runway straight ahead.) He plans to begin the Commercial rating in the spring. The entire Ritz family will tour England in June; David will go with his Latin class to Italy in October. The Ritz's live at: 418 Herswen Dr., Shippensburg, PA 17257

John & Nikki (Griffin) Cole (BM ME's `93) have been watching their new house being built and are bursting to move in the house which is expected to be completed by Christmas! John received his Master of Music in Music Education from Ithaca College in August 1998, and Nikki expects to be finished with her Master's in August 1999. Nikki teaches Instrumental Music at Thomas K. Beecher Elementary School in Elmira, and John teaches high school Instrumental Music at Haverling High in Bath, NY. In March 1998, John participated in the West Point Percussion Festival Marimba Orchestra, conducted by Frederick Fennell. This 1998 Marimba Orchestra was documented by the Guinness Book of World Records as being the largest indoor marimba ensemble ever assembled, with 164 players on 134 marimbas. John literally played alongside some of the world's tp marimbists, such as Emile Richards, Gordon Stout, Gordon Peters, as well as Bob Becker and Leigh Howard Stevens!!! The Percussive Arts Society Journal, "Percussive Notes", featured the West Point Festival in August 1998 and placed a picture of the Marimba Orchestra on the cover - if you come across a copy, John is in the second row, to the

viewer's right, directly behing Bill Ludwig and Emile Richards! What an unforgettable experience! We'd love to hear from our fellow soupies!!! Call or write at (607) 962-5292, Summit Drive Extension, South Corning, NY 14830

RETIRED PROFESSOR KENT HILL

I began on August 9 as Interim Music Director of Music Ministries at the Second Congregational Church, a church of some 1200 members, and was then appointed to the permanent position! I play for two Sunday morning services, direct an excellent adult choir of 35 and three bell choirs, and oversee Sunday morning services, direct an excellent adult choir of 35 members and three bell choirs, and oversee directors of 2 children's choirs and another bell choir. In addition, our plans are to try to redevelop a youth choir under the fine young director of our children's choirs. Other exciting news is that the church signed a contract for a large new organ which will be installed next October. I feel truly blessed to be embarking on such a major position at age 64, but I believe I have a few good years left in me for doing something which I really love. My wife, Janet, has been called as Lay Minister of Music and Faith Formation at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, one of the beautiful old down town churches here in the city. She began her work in August, and was installed officially on October 11. She is enjoying her work enormously, with a wonderfully supportive pastor and staff, and the opportunity for a growing musical program, along with overseeing the program in Christian Education.

Grand Rapids is proving to be a wonderful city - good orchestra, museums, opera, ballet, and choral groups. Not to mention many fine organs! So in spite of the sadness of leaving Rochester and the northeast, we believe it was a good move for us. The Hill's reside at: 478 Marywood Drive NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Robert Garofalo, Ph.D. (60) is a professor of music and director of graduate programs in instrumental conducting at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. A native of Pennsylvania, he was educated at Mansfield University, the Eastman School of Music, and Catholic University. He studied trombone with Emory Remington, composition with G. Thaddeus Jones, musicology with Ruth Steiner, and conducting with Llyyd Geisler (National Symphony) and Richard Lert (American Symphony Orchestra League's East Cost Conducting Institute). During his tenure at CUA, Dr. Garofalo has at various times conducted the opera orchestra, symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, chamber winds, brass ensemble, and jazz ensemble. From 1989 to 1993, he was music director of "Eternal Winds of Washington", a versatile professional ensemble; and from 1978 to 1988 he was conductor of "Heritage Americana", a recreated Civil War era brass band which performed on period instruments. Heritage Americana is featured in the video series "The History of Bands in America" and heard on the sound track of Ken Burns' TV documentary "The Civil War". Garafalo is author of 8 books and numerous music publications. His articles, both scholarly and practical, have appeared in national and international music journals and dictionaries. He maintains a busy schedule as a guest conductor, clinician, lecturer, and adjudicator throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad.

National Association of Schools of Music

ALUMNI SURVEY FORMAT

(NASM recommends that all institutions maintain records on graduates. The following questions are provided as examples. Institutions are encouraged to use this format as a basis for developing a survey that focuses on the institution's own program.)

1. Please indicate the music degree(s) you received or program(s) you completed at (name of school), listing the level of the most recent degree or program first. Indicate B for bachelor's degree, M for master's degree, and D for doctoral degree. Also, include your focus of studies (e.g., composition, music education/choral, guitar performance), the year the degree/program was completed, and the number of years it took to complete the degree/program.

Degree/Program	Focus of Studies	Year Conferred	Number of Years to Complete the Degree/Program	Primary Instrument
			Years full-time	
			Years Part-time	
			+	
			+	
			+	

2. Please list your opinions regarding the following areas. (If you did not take classes outside the school or department of music, answer only parts 1 and 2 of this questions. N.O. = No Opinion.)

Low High

Quality Quality

Overall quality of the (name of school) school/department of music 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

Quality of your specific focus of studies as identified in question 1 above 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

Quality of (name of school) overall studies outside of music 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

3. Please list the positions you have occupied since graduating from or leaving (name of school) and the years in each position. Most recent first, please note if full or part-time.

Position Employer, Location Year(s) (e.g., 1976-79)

4. If you have never been employed in a full-time music-related position, please list the part-time music positions you have occupied since graduating from (name of school) and the years in each position. (If you answered question 3, you should skip this question).

Position Employer, Location Year(s) (e.g., 1976-79)

5. Please list your opinions regarding the quality of instruction at (name of school) in the following areas: (If you did not have any classes in a specified field, circle N.O. for No Opinion.)

Low High

Quality Quality

Basic Music Theory 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

Music History 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

Studio Lessons 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

Teaching Methods/Pedagogy 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

Ensembles 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

General Education/Liberal Arts 1 2 3 4 5 N.O.

6. Please describe any courses you think should be added for music majors/students at (name of school).

7. Please list any courses you were *required* to take that you think should not be required.

8. Given your major or professional emphasis, do you feel you had adequate opportunities to work in the following situations? (Circle appropriate response for each item.)

Performance with large ensemble (conducted) Yes No N/A

Performance with small ensemble (non-conducted) Yes No N/A

Solo performance Yes No N/A

Teaching opportunities Yes No N/A

Research/Writing projects Yes No N/A

9. What was the general influence of these working opportunities (question 12) on your personal career development?

No Great

Influence Influence

Overall quality of the (name of school) school/department of music 1 2 3 4 5 N.A

Performance with small ensemble (non-conducted) 1 2 3 4 5 N.A

Solo performance 1 2 3 4 5 N.A

Teaching opportunities 1 2 3 4 5 N.A

Research/Writing projects 1 2 3 4 5 N.A

10. Would you recommend (name of school or department of music) to someone considering studying music:

Yes No

Please explain your answer:

11. What advice would you give to present music students in regard to preparation for a career in music? Emphasize your current career in music.

12. How important were the following elements in your decision to attend (name of school)?

Not Very

Important Important

Location 1 2 3 4 5

Cost of tuition 1 2 3 4 5

Recommendations of a teacher 1 2 3 4 5

Assistantship/Scholarship 1 2 3 4 5

Quality of education 1 2 3 4 5

Reputation of the school/department of music 1 2 3 4 5

Presence of particular faculty member(s) 1 2 3 4 5

Facilities 1 2 3 4 5

13. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the (name of school or department of music)?

OPTIONAL

14. Name Phone ()

Address

City State Zip

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please return it to: (Name of School,

Address)

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-----Detach and Return-----

Name Phone

Street Address

City State

Zip Code

My employer has a Matching Contribution Fund yes no

Name of Company

Address of Company

My contribution is given in memory of:

My contribution is given in honor of:

I am interested in funding a special ongoing scholarship and/or including a bequest in my will

Tax deductible contributions can be made payable to: MU Foundation Music Scholarship, Acct.# 9017A, and mailed to the Department of Music, Butler Center, Mansfield, PA 16933