Jim Rodde travels the state in search of the best high school vocalists
There’s an old hockey saying that goes: “Skate to where the puck will be, not to where it is.” That is certainly something that hockey players have to do if their team has any chance of prevailing. It is also something that music departments have to keep in mind when they’re considering the future.

Our department is certainly embracing that philosophy, and this newsletter highlights the positive direction of our department - and that of our alumni. We continue to change and upgrade that which we offer and believe me, we are not stuck in the corner with the puck.

This past fall we celebrated Iowa State University’s sesquicentennial anniversary with a spectacular Homecoming Concert, which featured our Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra and the Iowa State Singers. This concert featured ISU alumna soprano Carol Wilson, who received our outstanding alumni award. In addition to her residency, we also honored Peter McCoy as our outstanding alumni in music education. Both of these alumni provided our students with fresh ideas, inspirational messages, and demonstrated that their diploma and time studying music at Iowa State helped shape their success.

We continue to upgrade and assess our programs. We hope to be offering a minor in music technology beginning next year. We are currently creating a way for students to study music entrepreneurship. And we continue to upgrade our music education requirements as changes are made to the certification process.

This newsletter features a new name and attractive new color format. It highlights several of our new faculty. These outstanding individuals bring new blood and new ideas to our department. They represent our future, and they all have joined us because of the opportunities – and challenges – that we must face when renewal and changes are the hallmarks of our future progress.

We continue to upgrade our facilities. Visitors who have not been in Music Hall in the last few years comment on the new look of the building. Our students take great pride in our “home” and help us maintain its effectiveness. We’ve recently renovated our Brombaugh organ in the Recital Hall, we’ve purchased several new acoustic and digital pianos, and we continue to re-paint and re-carpet practice rooms and rehearsal rooms.

Of course, we also have new students each year. Recruiting quality students is an important component of having a successful department, and this newsletter details how this is done in the choral area. We have also had a new emphasis on creating scholarships for our students, helping to attract the best and most talented students possible.

Lastly, we are indebted to those “Friends of Music” who continue to support our department financially, which allows us to offer programs and provide opportunities and equipment beyond the norm. The recent partially-deferred gift of $1 million from Tom Walvoord and Ellen Molleston Walvoord, in addition to significant gifts from many others, helps to ensure the success, quality and future of our department.

I hope that when you review this brief newsletter and attend the recitals and concerts of our faculty and our students, you will clearly see that we are always going to go to where the puck is going to be.

Dr. Michael Golemo
Director of Bands
Chair, Department of Music
Last December the music department released a compact disc featuring F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist-in-Residence and internationally acclaimed bass-baritone Simon Estes titled “Holiday Classics.” Sales far exceeded expectations. The CD will be on sale again this winter.

This compact disc features Simon Estes singing nine holiday selections with the ISU Wind Ensemble, and three with the Ames Piano Quartet.

The Wind Ensemble and Ames Piano Quartet each recorded an additional holiday selection, which features their separate ensembles.

Holiday Classics with Simon Estes is available online for $15 at www.music.iastate.edu under “Shop Marketplace,” and will also be sold at the ISU Bookstore and at concerts featuring the Wind Ensemble and the Ames Piano Quartet. Proceeds from the sale of these recordings will support the Simon Estes Fund for Musical Outreach and the ISU Wind Ensemble travel fund.

“This was a very exciting project,” said Michael Golemo, director of bands and chair of the Department of Music. “Our students had a tremendous opportunity to work with opera legend Simon Estes, plus the demanding experience of several high-level recording sessions. We are extremely proud of the quality of this recording, although I must admit that it was a bit strange to be recording holiday music in August.”

Golemo also serves as the director of the ISU Wind Ensemble.

The ISU Department of Music went “global” on Sept. 7, 2007 with the first live webcast of an event from the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall. The Fanfare Concert was the first concert broadcast using the new video camera and webcast system installed in the Recital Hall this past summer. Two digital Sony video cameras relay a live image from the Recital Hall stage to a vbrick digital computer. It converts the stage to a digital format that can be broadcast over the Internet to the public.

University Carilloneur Tin-Shi Tam also began webcasting performances of her Monday through Friday concerts beginning 11:50 AM on the Stanton Memorial Carillon this fall. Interested viewers can watch Tin-shi play a live concert from the carillon playing cabin during the week and also enjoy viewing special carillon guest performers and PowerPoint slide shows of the ISU campus from the Carillon.

Both webcast links can be accessed from the Music Department homepage under the left column “Calendar” link approximately five minutes before concert start time. Most recitals from the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall will be webcast. Home viewers will need a computer of recent vintage, QuickTime Plugin 7.1.5 or higher and sufficient bandwidth.

Check the Events Calendar on the webpage link for upcoming concerts.

View Music Hall and Carillon recitals live on the web!

Thanks to the help of Chad Jacobsen (foreground) and Grant Furgiuele (in the back) Music Hall and Carillon recitals can be viewed live on the web.

Homecoming show

A special Homecoming concert featured two professional opera singers (Simon Estes and alumna Carol Wilson), concluding a week-long set of activities at Iowa State. “The Homecoming Concert” combined the ISU Wind Ensemble, ISU Symphony Orchestra and the Iowa State Singers in a celebration of Iowa State’s sesquicentennial.

Simon Estes makes the perfect holiday gift

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Ames Piano Quartet CDs earn rave reviews

The Ames Piano Quartet’s new two-CD set of British piano quartets has been enthusiastically praised by print and web classical music critics. The American Record Guide wrote, “The performances and sound are both first-class.” The respected web site CLOFO (“Classical Lost and Found,” http://www.clofo.com) described the performances of the six works: “The Ames Piano Quartet plays all of these to perfection.” A reviewer on Amazon.com called the Quartet “A first class ensemble.”

The Quartet recorded its 12th CD in December. It includes works by Turina, Tansman and Surnich. Like the British set, it will be released by Albany Recordings, http://www.albanyrecords.com/.

The Quartet’s touring this fall included concerts and masterclasses in Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. The Quartet is the resident chamber music ensemble of Iowa State University. Its members include William David, piano; Mahlon Darlington, violin; Jonathan Sturm, viola; and George Work, cello.

Iowa State University Carillon Festival 2007

On Saturday, April 14, Iowa State University celebrated its 2007 Carillon Festival at the Stanton Memorial Carillon in Ames, Iowa. The Festival featured guest carillonneur Don Cook of Brigham Young University and composer Jeffrey Prater of Iowa State University in a variety of events enjoyed both by local attendees and, thanks to live webcasting, a registered Internet audience. Iowa State University Carillonneur Tin-Shi Tam hosted the event, which was sponsored by the Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation.

The day began with a masterclass, led by Dr. Cook, on performance technique and interpretation. The informal setting gave participants and web audiences numerous opportunities for questions and answers. Then came a concert by Iowa State carillonneurs, culminating in a performance of Dr. Prater’s Interfusions and the premiere of the winning entry in the ISU Carillon Composition Competition: Aller guen Dingi (and one) by Daniel Nass of Minneapolis, Minn. The Carillon Composition Competition was held to encourage the writing of original carillon compositions by young composers. The judges were Don Cook, Jeffrey Prater and Tin-Shi Tam. Entries came from the United States, Canada and the Netherlands.

Dr. Prater conducted a seminar on Star Bells, his composition for carillon and orchestra. Star Bells, commissioned by the ISU Stanton Memorial Carillon Foundation in celebration of the centennial of the Stanton Memorial Carillon, was premiered in December 2002 at C. Y. Stephens Auditorium and the Campanile on Iowa State’s Central Campus. Dr. Prater discussed the logistical and technical problems faced in its first performance.

The Festival concluded with a public concert by Dr. Cook on the Stanton Memorial Carillon. Featuring music from the 18th century through the 21st, including arrangements by Dr. Cook himself, the concert was an excellent end to a fine day of carillon. (Submitted by Tin-Shi Tam)

Fanfare performance

The “Fanfare Concert” featured the diverse artistry of Iowa State music faculty in early September. The performance was also a benefit for the Department of Music’s student scholarship fund. “This was a great way to hear the tremendous musicians who make up the Iowa State music faculty,” said Michael Golemo, associate professor and chair of the Department of Music. “The concert also will help support many talented student musicians in our department.” The program featured brass, woodwind, vocal, organ, piano, harpsichord and percussion performances.

Iowa State students take honors at the NATS regional auditions

Fifteen Iowa State vocal students competed at the Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) auditions at Augustana College Nov. 2-3. This competition included participants from over 20 colleges and universities throughout Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. Thirteen ISU students competed in the semifinals, and five were finalists: Kelly Kruse, first place, senior women; Samantha McCurry, third place, senior women; Chris Ebke, second place, junior men; Austin Naggatz, third place, sophomore men; Jesse Donner, honorable mention, freshmen men.

Donald Simonson will lead NATS

Professor Donald Simonson, head of the ISU vocal division, has been chosen by the Nomination Committee of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) as its only nominee to serve as President-Elect beginning in July 2008. Previously, Simonson has served NATS in many capacities, most recently as vice-president in charge of NATSAA, the organization’s national Artist Awards Competition. The National Association of Teachers of Singing, Inc. was founded in 1944 and is now the largest association of teachers of singing in the world. Today NATS boasts more than 6,500 members in the United States, Canada, and over 25 other countries around the world.

NATS offers a variety of lifelong learning experiences to its members, such as workshops, intern programs, master classes and conferences, all beginning at the chapter level and progressing to national events. Students of NATS members have access to one of the organization’s most widely recognized activities: student auditions.
His statewide journeys take him to high schools in five-day period in late October and early November. RoddeMap

An idea born
While Rodde has been conducting these off-campus auditions since he first came to campus eight years ago as the Department of Music’s Louise Moen Chair and director of choral activities, this isn’t the first time he has done this type of recruitment.

Rodde held a similar position at the University of North Dakota and began conducting auditions throughout the state for that school’s honor choir festival, which he initiated in 1985. That personal touch paid off big time.

“A nervous high school student walks into the band room. Jim Rodde introduces himself and then goes into his routine.

First he welcomes the student and takes the audition form. He invites the student and his accompanist to perform a prepared solo of their choosing.

After the student is finished, Rodde takes him through sight-reading and tonal memory exercises, and notes the beauty of his voice, his poise, and his ear for music.

Then it’s thank you and the five-minute audition is over. It’s on to the next anxious student waiting out in the hallway.

“I have to select individuals who not only beautiful voices, but display exceptional musicianship skills. That’s the only drawback to this process,” Rodde says. “Close to 300 singers will get a response back from me that ‘rejects’ them. I pick musicians who are able to learn music quickly. To be successful with a two-day festival like this, I have to select not only beautiful voices, but individuals who display exceptional musicianship skills.”

An idea born

“Here’s the way I’ve discovered that we can get the best kids to participate in the ISU Honor Choir,” he says. “My goal is to get the state’s best vocalists to come to our campus, to hear our choirs, and to hopefully have a fulfilling experience working with me in a choral setting.”

On the road

On Monday, Oct. 29, Rodde started this year’s journey across the state. He began by auditioning Des Moines-area high school students at Valley Southwoods before hitting the road to Fort Dodge, Storm Lake, Denison, Council Bluffs, Waverly, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Grinnell and Indianola. This was in addition to a Saturday after-school audition session he held on campus for central Iowa vocalists.

It’s a schedule that takes him from 8 in the morning to 10 at night.

“The kids were talking not about the All-State Choir but rather the UND Festival as their pinnacle achievement,” he says.

“That’s because, in part, no one else was conducting personal auditions. Other vocal festivals were asking for audition tapes or simply directors’ choices. With Rodde, the students knew that the best would be selected, so many of the best auditioned for him.

And if the numbers are any indication, that seems to be true for the ISU Honor Choir Festival. In his first year on campus, Rodde auditioned just 175 students for the festival at sites throughout the state.

That number has grown somewhat steadily each year to nearly 400 from more than 40 Iowa high schools this year that wish to be a part of the choir.

“The students tell me it’s good to see that someone cares enough about them and their talents to come to their school and audition them,” Rodde said. “I believe they leave the audition feeling good about themselves and about singing at Iowa State.”

But it was a comment from a mother of an auditioning student that hit home to Rodde.

“She told me that by traveling and auditioning each student individually it showed how much I cared about the Festival. And if I cared that much about the success of the Festival, think of how much I must care about the choral program at ISU.”

It’s a grueling schedule for about four days,” he says. “I generally eat while I drive and rarely have a break, although I do count on at least someone not showing up.

“It is tiring, but I get to see colleagues and meet some outstanding student vocalists. I know it has value. I know the festival has a real positive impact on recruitment.”

During an audition, Rodde puts the vocalists into three different categories — accept; reject; deserves further consideration. Students in the last group, should they not be accepted, get personal letters from Rodde after the audition congratulating them on their achievements and encouraging them to audition next year or, for seniors, to sing if attending Iowa State.

By the time the auditions are over, Rodde will have selected just over 100 students for the ISU Honor Choir.

“That’s the only drawback to this process,” Rodde says. “Close to 300 singers will get a response back from me that ‘rejects’ them. I pick musicians who are able to learn music quickly. To be successful with a two-day festival like this, I have to select not only beautiful voices, but individuals who display exceptional musicianship skills.

And it’s a real satisfying process. When it all comes together in February, the Honor Choir members arrive excited and eager to excel. Even our ISU choir members get enthused about it, as a good number of them are former Honor Choir members.

“There are moments while I’m driving from Iowa City to Grinnell that I wonder why am I doing this? But I quickly answer myself. It’s the students. The experience we have together during those two days in February is very fulfilling.”

--DG
Mason Conklin joined the Iowa State faculty as group pianist. He comes to ISU from the University of Oklahoma, where he studied piano pedagogy with Jane Magrath and Barbara Fast. He is a candidate for a Ph.D. in music education with an emphasis in piano pedagogy. Prior to entering the University of Oklahoma, Conklin taught class piano, aural skills, and theory at Montclair State University in Montclair, N.J., as well as maintaining a vibrant private studio. He has adjudicated in several state and local competitions in the New Jersey area, and served on several scholarship competition committees. Conklin holds a B.M. and M.M. in piano performance from Baylor University, where he studied with artist-in-residence Krasimir Jordan. His current research investigates the nature of performance anxiety in recorded performances distributed by way of the Internet.

Ruth Lin was named Director of Orchestral Activities in August 2007. Lin conducts the Iowa State Symphony Orchestra and teaches beginning and advanced instrumental conducting. Ruth Lin performed as a debut conductor with the National Symphony Orchestra in 2007 as part of the National Conducting Institute where she had the opportunity to work with Maestro Leonard Slatkin. She is also the Founding Director and Conductor of the “Good Samaritan Symphony Orchestra,” an orchestra of student, freelance and community-based musicians in the Chicago area. She served as the Assistant Conductor of the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra, and has been an active guest conductor of the North Shore Chamber Orchestra, Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra, Northwestern University Philharmonia, and the Xiamen Philharmonic in Xiamen, China. Lin has conducted several premieres, including works by composer Chia Lin Pan.

Lin was born in Zhang Zhou, China. She immigrated to the United States with her family at the age of 10. She had begun her musical studies on the piano at the age of five. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University in Music Education and Music Technology in 2002, and a Master’s degree in Orchestral Conducting in 2005. While working on her undergraduate degree, Lin studied piano with Alan Choe, and had the opportunity to perform Prokofiev’s Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Northwestern University Symphony Orchestra as the Concerto Competition Winner. Still active as a pianist and performer, she was recently featured on the Dame Myra Hess Series on WFMT in March 2007, as part of the Lin-Kontorovich piano duo. Lin is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in orchestral conducting from Northwestern University, studying under Maestro Victor Yampolsky. Her other teachers include Leonard Statkin, David Effron, Fred Ockwell, Mallory Thompson, Robert Hasty and John Lynch.

Anne A. Watson joined the music faculty at Iowa State in the fall of 2007. An active performer, Watson is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in performance from the University of Arizona. In addition to her Arizona-based performing career as a pianist, she has performed and taught in Europe as well as internationally. Watson has been a featured soloist with the 2003 Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS) convention and at the 2003 International Clarinet Association Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has also been a soloist with the Arizona State University Percussion Ensemble and Clarinet Choir of Oostend, Belgium. Watson holds degrees from West Texas A&M University (B.Mus.), where she won the University’s Concerto Competition at the age of 18 and Arizona State University (M.Mus.), where she is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree under the tutelage of Robert Spring. Watson has also studied with Doug Storey and Nancy King Sanders, and in the summers of 2000 and 2002, she attended the Belgian Clarinet Academy in Oostend, Belgium, where she studied with Eddy Vanossyouth, Luis Rossi and Howar Klug.

Janet Alcorn joined the Department of Music faculty. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University and a Master of Music degree in Voice and Voice Therapy from Boston University. She was a member of the Metropolitan Opera Studio and the New York City Opera and sang major roles with the opera companies of Cleveland, Dallas, Philadelphia, Frankfurt and Vienna. She has also been a soloist with many symphony orchestras including Philadelphia, Cleveland and Cincinnati. She was on the faculty of the Cleveland Institute of Music for many years, and retired from Iowa State University as associate professor of voice and director of the Opera Studio with emeritus status. While in Iowa, she was district director of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions. She was on the faculty of the Hart School of the University of Hartford from 2000 to 2003 and Birmingham-Southern College from 2003 until 2007. Now retired from singing, her primary interests are vocal health and rehabilitation and musicians’ health. She is on the faculty of Andover Institute of Voice, where she trains other teachers in vocal health techniques. She has also studied extensively in somatics, body mapping and the Alexander Technique. She is a certified Andover Educator, teaching courses and giving workshops such as “What Every Singer (Musician) needs to know about the Body.”

To promote a Des Moines Symphony concert, Concertmaster Jonathan Sturm fiddles on the skyswalk.

Through a publicity stunt for a good cause, master violinist Jonathan Sturm redeemed himself for something he wanted to do nearly a quarter century ago.

A life-changing event? Not really. The associate professor of music spent an hour in September as a street musician on a busy downtown downtown Des Moines skyswalk.

With his violin case open for donations, the Des Moines Symphony concertmaster played from memory virtuoso music by Bach, Paganini and others.

“It was hard work,” said Sturm, who teaches music history and plays viola for the Ames Piano Quartet. “It really made me appreciate my day job.”

The symphony’s publicity folks asked Sturm to do the skyswalk gig. They even got him the necessary busking license to legally play in the skyswalk.

The play on unsuspecting skyswalkers was to promote an appearance at the symphony’s season-opener by Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell. In early 2007 Bell played a similar incongruent concert in a Washington, D.C. subway station just to see if anyone noticed.

Bell and Sturm both dressed casually; Bell in a Washington Nationals baseball cap; Sturm in a red Cyclones hat.

According to an article in The Des Moines Register, each was only recognized once.

“Josh is still the king, darn it all,” he joked.

Sturm said it was his own personal challenge to play the romance seeing the musician on the street corner,” he said. “It was hard work,” said Sturm, who teaches music history and plays viola for the Ames Piano Quartet. “It really made me appreciate my day job.”

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After graduating from Oberlin College in 1983, Sturm visited Europe with his “junky” violin in tow. He envisioned himself playing in busy public areas for passing Europeans. “There’s a certain
Luke Foster (B.A. ’02) lives in New Richmond, Wis., and has been practicing as a general dentist since graduating from the University of Iowa in 2006. He studied accompanying and vocal coaching at Iowa, and he is now studying piano with Roger McVey at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Luke and his wife, Sarah, a violinist, enjoy playing for their church and host weekly chamber music gatherings with other area musicians. They recently performed on a series of chamber music recitals in western Wisconsin.

Maureen Hurd (B.Mus. ’94) was one of the featured performers at the ClarinetFest 2007 in Vancouver last summer. Her award-winning research on the classical side of Benny Goodman’s production of Don Giovanni in Pittsburgh. She has been cast as Donna Anna in graduate work at Duquesne University in chamber music recitals in western Wisconsin.

Aaron McCullough (B.Mus. ’00) After teaching six years at the secondary level, Aaron recently finished a year of study and teaching at the School for Music Vocations at Southwestern Community College. There he sang in the award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, VoicesIowa, under the direction of Phil Matson, worked with the choir and taught applied voice. As a member of VoicesIowa, he participated in several tours this year including a performance at Carnegie Hall in New York. The group also sang three performances in the Twin Cities as a part of the Minnesota Jazz Festival. Aaron’s family (wife, Charlotte, and girls Madison, 3, and Catherine, 1) moved to Columbus, Ohio, in July. He began work towards a masters degree in choral conducting at The Ohio State University under Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt and Dr. Bob Ward this fall, while also serving as a graduate teaching assistant. Aaron can be reached at amccullough@operaoml.com and cell phone (515) 480-5871.

Shelby Sievers (B.Mus. ’05), winner of the American Choral Directors National Conducting Award, is currently pursuing her Master of Music degree in vocal performance at Michigan State University. Shelby was awarded a tuition grant and teaching assistantship at MSU.

Joseph Wilgenbusch (B.Mus. ’05) was one of only three tenors selected by the Eastman School of Music graduate program in 2006. He has been performing in the opera program at Eastman for the past three semesters, and will graduate this spring with a Master of Music degree in vocal performance.

Esther (Woolf) Wright (B.Mus. ’76) has been teaching secondary technology/business at Des Moines Christian School since fall 2002. Currently she plays handbells and flute in her church. Esther has three children: Benjamin (graduate of ISU in May, 2007), Laura (will graduate from ISU in December, 2007) and Daniel (sophomore at ISU). Her e-mail address is blends2@msn.com.

Destined for music

There was no doubt in Peter McCoy's mind that music was going to play an important role in his life – probably even in his career. His parents are music teachers and although they didn't encourage McCoy to become a teacher, they did make music a part of his life.

"I was interested in all sorts of other things (he has a chemistry minor from Iowa State), but teaching music felt like the right path for me," McCoy says. "I wanted to make a difference." Like his parents, McCoy started out as a public school music teacher after graduating from Iowa State with a Bachelor of Music degree in 1985. He worked his way up through the teaching ranks – starting in small Iowa towns before winding up in Winnetka, Ill., a Chicago suburb with nearly 4000 students in the high school.

By 1993, McCoy had started to look at options outside of high school teaching. He moved to Chicago and began working on his Ph.D. degree at Northwestern University. The next year he began teaching at New Trier High School in Winnetka while continuing work on his doctorate.

"Before I began work on my doctorate, I couldn't think of becoming a college teacher," he says. "New Trier High School was my ideal public school job. I wasn't really looking for a college job but if the perfect opportunity came along I would consider it."

McCoy's "perfect job" did come along – a position at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, a position he held for two years.

"I had spent a lot of time and energy getting that Ph.D., so I told myself I should consider teaching college," he said. "At the college level I get to wear many different hats. It's something different every day."

One of the very different things McCoy has gotten to do in recent years is the "Teach Music New York City" project. The two-year project, which was funded by the VH1 Save the Music Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education, worked to find musicians in the city to become teachers in the inner city.

"There are a lot of musicians in New York but it's not easy to make a living," McCoy said. "The program helped a group of students get their teaching certification and go back to teach in the city."

"I saw many wonderful things happen and saw some outstanding teaching through this program."

McCoy is also involved with the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) Project, a peer-reviewed web resource of online learning objects. His involvement as a member of the program's music editorial board gives him an opportunity to observe unique, new techniques in music instruction.

"Looking back over the years, I realize what an excellent education I received at Iowa State. I still use the things I've learned here on a daily basis," McCoy added. "Seeing and hearing all the great things that are happening on campus today makes me very proud to have started my journey here."

McCoy was back on campus this Homecoming to receive the Department of Music's Outstanding Alumni Educator Award.

No matter where his career has led him, music is a part of Peter McCoy's life.
From Germany to Stephens

Opera star shares the stage with Iowa State music ensembles.

Carol Wilson made the most of her return trip to Iowa State this year. The 1970 music alumna made plans more than a year ago to participate in "The Homecoming Concert," a Department of Music event held the Sunday of Homecoming weekend. That concert was the final event on her whirlwind tour of her home state, but it was far from the only highlight for Wilson that week.

The week began with a guest recital in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall on Thursday evening, followed by a family reunion of more than 20 individuals—all with Iowa State degrees. And those individuals stayed on throughout the Homecoming weekend to see Wilson sing with the ISU Symphony Orchestra and the ISU Wind Ensemble.

The principal soloist with Deutsche-Opera-am Rhein in Dusseldorf sang "Ebben?...Ne andro Iontana" from Catalani's La Wally with the ISU Wind Ensemble and "Dich, teure Halle" from Wagner's Tannhauser with the ISU Wind Ensemble.

Making a Difference

The Department of Music at Iowa State University is committed to providing outstanding opportunities for the university community. In order to have the resources necessary to take the music and theatre programs into the future, support for the department is essential. Funding is required to aid the program in developing new opportunities in technology, creating and advancing outreach activities, maintaining and expanding current performance and educational opportunities, and supporting students and faculty. These services are crucial as the Department of Music strives to keep up with the student demand for these experiences and advance the study of performing arts. To help make a difference, simply fill out the form, drop it in the mail (ISU Foundation, 2505 University Blvd, Ames, Iowa 50010-8644) and check our next newsletter.

For more information about making a gift to the Department of Music or including ISU in your estate plans, please contact College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Development Office at 515-294-3607 or Erin Steinkamp at estein@iastate.edu.

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