

Music Today

Fall 2006 at Iowa State University



Concert “reopens” recital hall

The Department of Music "reopened" the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall during a special concert on Friday, Sept. 8.

The concert marked the 25th year of the recital hall as well as a new look for the facility. This past summer, major renovations were completed including new seating, new acoustical banners and new carpet. The orange motif that permeated the hall since its construction in the late 1970s was replaced with shades of blue. The new acoustical banners can be moved electronically to enhance the sound of any performance.

The total project was budgeted at approximately \$220,000. Funding for the project was made available through University funds and a private donation by Ellen (Molleston) and Tom Walvoord, 1961 Iowa State graduates.



Another important new feature to the recital hall is a digital video camera mounted at the rear of the facility. In the future, selected events will be made available for viewing on the Department of Music's website (www.music.iastate.edu).

Individuals will be able to watch not only performances, but classroom lectures, guest speakers and rehearsals in real time. **Michael Golemo**, chair of the Department of Music and director of bands, pointed out in his introductory remarks that several alumni and friends of the department were actually “attending” the re-dedication concert on-line.

The digital video camera was made possible through a donation from Iowa State alumnus **Deloris Wright** of Colorado.

Those individuals viewing on-line and audience members were treated to an evening of diverse performances featuring primarily Department of Music faculty members. The **Ames Piano Quartet** performed a selection by Brahms and accompanied vocalists **Simon Estes**, **Mary Creswell** and **Donald Simonson** on selections from "Porgy and Bess."

Other performances included "Promise," an original composition written by faculty member **Jeffrey Prater**, selections performed on the Brombaugh Organ and an electroacoustic composition performed by **Christopher Hopkins**. □

From the Chair

Dear Friend of ISU Music –

The times, they are a-changin'. As are the programs, students, faculty and facilities in the Department of Music.

Our building is celebrating its 25th anniversary, and it has seen some major changes since 1981. When it first opened, students were typing papers on typewriters (remember those?) and writing music by hand. Times have certainly changed.

This past summer we renovated much of our building. Classrooms, practice rooms, and many hallways have been re-painted and re-carpeted. The Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall now features new seats, acoustical banners, carpeting, paint, and a high-quality digital video camera for webcasting concerts and lectures. We have also added several additional speakers in the recital hall. Many of these improvements were made possible with the financial support of the university and two very special donors, Ellen Walvoord and Deloris Wright.

Most of our building, including the recital hall, features wireless internet connections. Students now attend lectures and use the lobby area as a way to complete work and connect to the internet via their laptops. It is common to see students entering our building wearing earphones connected to iPods and digital music systems. What a change from 25 years ago!

And speaking of technology, we are currently in the process of securing approval to offer a Minor in Music Technology. Our courses in this area are popular not only with our music

students, but with others from a wide variety of majors outside our department. We will also be hosting the national convention this spring semester for the Society for Electroacoustic Music (SEAMUS).

This year is already off to a flying start with our “Rededication” concert in the Recital Hall on September 8th, which will likely become an annual potpourri concert event. We have created the “Simon Estes Fund for Music Outreach” to support student and faculty travel. Opera Studio is performing Mozart’s “The Marriage of Figaro” in November. We have also had a number of guest performers and ensembles on our campus, including master pianist Ralph Votapek, the University of Illinois Faculty Brass Quintet, and the Air Force Band and Singing Sergeants from Washington D.C. And on it goes... this is a busy and dynamic department.



In looking ahead, 2007 VEISHEA will begin the sesquicentennial celebration of Iowa State University, and the Music Department is planning to participate in that celebration by creating a compilation cd of our department — perhaps from a historical perspective, and we will publish a “Songs of Iowa State” book. As part of this celebration, our biannual “President’s Concert” will be held at Stephens Auditorium on
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Music Today

Michael Golemo, chair
William David, editor
Dave Gieseke, public relations manager, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Music Today is published twice a year for the alumni, friends, students and faculty of the Department of Music at Iowa State University, an academic department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

www.music.iastate.edu

Please address all correspondence to the editor:
wddavid@iastate.edu
515-294-3831

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department news

Iowa State Singers tour China

On May 14, 2006 fifty members of the Iowa State Singers, together with Dr. James and Kathleen Rodde, embarked on an eleven-day performance tour in China where they visited the cities of Beijing, Hangzhou, and Shanghai.

In Beijing the choir toured the Imperial Palace, Tian Anmen Square, the Beijing Zoo, the Summer Palace, and the Temple of Heaven. Memorable highlights included a trip to the Great Wall, a fun-filled acrobatic show, and the group's two concerts at Beijing University of Technology and the National Library of Theatre.

As an impromptu final encore each night, the Iowa State Singers and the host choir sang "Da Hai" together.

In Hangzhou the singers enjoyed a boat tour on West Lake, visited both a tea



Post concert celebration following final concert in Shanghai. Jim and Kathleen surrounded by local choral conductor and tour organizer.



The Choir from the Beijing University of Technology and the Iowa State Singers pose on stage after closing their first concert singing "Da Hai" together.

plantation and the Guozhuan, and sang a concert at Zhejiang University.

In Shanghai the choir had time for shopping and took an evening cruise surrounded by the lights of the Shanghai skyline. Their final concert at the Lanxin Theatre in Shanghai was followed by a farewell dinner, complete with entertainment. Each of the four concerts was shared with another Chinese choir.

The Singers prepared and closed each performance with "Da Hai a! Gu Xiang," a well-known Chinese piece. Each night

the audience enthusiastically applauded throughout their singing of the first phrase of this piece — a great memory. As an impromptu final encore each night, the host choir joined the Iowa State Singers on stage to sing "Da Hai" together.

The superb tour guide who traveled with the choir, John, quickly and easily became a member of the choir family. The overall positive experience of the tour provided lifelong memories, including healthy and productive views of our global society. □

Omaha site of third President's Concert

Two premieres and an appearance by Simon Estes highlighted Iowa State University's "President's Concert" on Sunday, March 26, at the new Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha.

A reception for Iowa State alumni and friends was held at the facility prior to the concert.

The concert featured performances by the Iowa State Singers, the ISU Wind Ensemble and the ISU Symphony Orchestra.

The Iowa State Singers presented the official premiere of *The Early Bird*, a commissioned work by composer René Clausen. The piece is a setting of a poem by **Ted Kooser**, U.S. Poet Laureate and 2005 Pulitzer Prize winner.

Kooser spoke to the audience and met backstage with the Iowa State Singers prior to the concert.

During the Wind Ensemble's portion of the program, *A Cyclone Fanfare*, written by music professor **Jeffrey Prater**, received its world premiere.

Simon Estes appeared as a soloist on two selections with the Wind Ensemble and once with the Symphony Orchestra.

Both Iowa State **President Gregory Geoffroy** and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences **Dean Michael Whiteford** spoke at the event.

In addition, the Ames Children's Choir under the direction of music professor **Sylvia Munsen** was featured in the lobby prior to the concert.

Conductors **Michael Golemo**, **James Hannon**, and **James Rodde** agree that the President's Concert provides an extraordinary



performance opportunity for ISU students. Rodde commented, "Our students look forward to the President's Concert as one of the year's highlights."

Recent President's Concerts have been held in Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis (2002) and Orchestra Hall, Chicago (2004). In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Iowa State University, the next concert is being planned for Ames on Oct. 21, 2007. □

The 2006 President's Concert in the new Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha featured performances (photos clockwise from the top) Simon Estes with the ISU Wind Ensemble, the Iowa State Singers, James Hannon and the ISU Symphony Orchestra and an appearance by U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser.

On the web

Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall Video Webcast

Events and selected classes in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall will soon be available via webcast on the internet. We are installing two Sony 3CCD Color Video

Cameras in the Recital Hall which will be able to transmit programming to one hundred simultaneous internet viewers.

The transmission system was tested during the Gala Rededication on September 8, 2006. Former music students from Seattle to New York were supplied with access to the program and reported that the concert was very enjoyable.

The final installation will be completed after the fall semester. The department will post access information on the Music Department web page.

Campanile Video Webcast

Former ISU students and fans of the ISU Carillon will be able to watch and listen to ISU Carillonneur Tin-shi Tam perform her noon-time concerts live on the internet by the end of this semester.

The Campanile is being equipped with a video camera and webcast system which will allow guests to tune in Monday through Friday to enjoy the programs.

Access information will be posted on the Music Department web page.

Two-week European tour awaits Wind Ensemble

The ISU Wind Ensemble is planning a performing tour of Europe for May, 2007. Cities to be included in this tour are Brussels, Paris, Ulm, Salzburg and Rothenburg.

The two-week tour will feature concerts in Salzburg, the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; in Brussels, where they will share a concert with a local Flemish concert band and with the high school concert band from the Department of Defense American School; and at Steinhausen, Germany as part of a Sunday mass at "the prettiest village church in the world."

"This is our third performing tour of Europe in six years," said **Michael Golemo**, director of bands. "Our students helped to select the cities included in this tour, and our concert venues should be truly memorable.

"As an example, we are performing music for the Mother's Day Mass at a church in southern Germany, which is perhaps the best example of the

baroque rococo style - built in the 1730s. It is simply stunning."

In addition to these concerts, the students will have the opportunity to visit cathedrals including Notre Dame and the Ulm Muenster - which is the tallest in the world, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, Mozart's birthplace, a medieval village and other sites.

"All this is in addition to sharing our music and learning about other cultures," Golemo said. "This should be an incredible experience for our students."

Although the university is helping to defray the travel cost for members of the Wind Ensemble, each student is still required to pay a substantial fee for this tour. If you would like to contribute to the "Wind Ensemble Travel Fund," please contact **Samantha Garton** at sgarton@iastate.edu or at 515.294.8418 at the ISU Foundation.



ABOVE: Performing in Prague's St. Nicholas Cathedral. RIGHT: Poster advertising ISU Wind Ensemble concert.



Ninth recording for Ames Piano Quartet



In June, Dorian Recordings (a division of Sono Luminus) released Ames Piano Quartet's newest compact disc. The Quartet's members include **William David**, piano; **Mahlon Darlington**, violin; **Jonathan Sturm**, viola; and **George Work**, cello.

The CD, the Quartet's ninth commercial release, contains three wonderful but little known works by Czech composers: Joseph Suk, Vitezslav Novák, and Bohuslav Martinu. The first two composers were students of Dvorák (Suk was also his son-in-law). Their music is lush and romantic. Martinu was a student of Suk. His quartet is more contemporary, featuring energetic rhythmic writing.

The Quartet has also recently completed recording six British quartets, tentatively scheduled for release as a two-CD set in December of 2006 by Albany Recordings. Composers represented include Bridge, Stanford, Mackenzie (a Scottish romantic composer), Jacob, Howells, and Walton. This project was made possible in part by a grant from the Iowa State University Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities.

All Ames Piano Quartet compact discs can be purchased directly from members of the Quartet, from Amazon.com, or other retail music outlets. □

From the Chair

Continued from page 2

October 21, 2007. We look forward to creating another great 150 years.

Lastly, we want to know what YOU are doing. Please complete the Alumni Update Form and let us know what is happening in your professional and personal life. We are proud of our alumni and we are gratified to share your accomplishments.

We are proud of our past, enthusiastic with our progress, and excited about our future.

With all best wishes,

Michael Golemo, D.M.A.
Chair, Department of Music and Theatre

Alumni Update

We love to hear from our alumni. Please take a few minutes to keep us current. Pictures will be used on a space-limited basis.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City State Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Email _____
 Iowa State Music Degree(s) _____
 Graduation Date(s) _____
 Activities/Events _____

Please return to:
Department of Music
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011
or email information to w david@iastate.edu

Edmondson receives Etzel Scholarship

Jennifer Edmondson, a sophomore music major, has been awarded the Etzel College Scholarship by the Iowa Composers Forum. Edmondson won the award for her 2006 composition *Three Preludes* for solo piano.

"This was the first

competition I've entered since starting college, so winning was very exciting," Edmondson said. "The scholarship will be a great help with college this year."

Edmondson studies composition with **Christopher Hopkins**, and enjoys the support she receives from the faculty and students at ISU. She has also studied with **Jeffrey Prater**.

"My professors have been

especially helpful," she shared. "They work really hard to equip us for a life of music."

The Etzel College Scholarship is awarded annually to help students study composition at an Iowa college or university. To be considered for the scholarship, students must submit an essay regarding their future plans in music and a sample composition. □

faculty

Gerrard joins music faculty

Distinguished vocal coach **Gordon Gerrard** has joined the Department of Music faculty this fall.

A graduate of the master's degree program in vocal accompanying at the Manhattan School of Music, Gerrard maintains a busy schedule as a recital partner, vocal coach and conductor.



He began his studies in Brandon, Manitoba and completed his undergraduate degree in solo piano performance at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Gerrard is heard frequently in recital, and is equally at home with both opera and art song literature. When not performing, Gerrard works as a vocal coach, and most recently was a répétiteur for Vancouver Opera. Before that, he held the position of Associate Music Director of the Manhattan School of Music Undergraduate Opera Studio, as well as Chorus Master for that school's productions of *Die Zauberflöte* and *Madama Butterfly*. Gerrard's conducting credits include six seasons with Opera Nuova (Edmonton, Alberta), as well as several projects for The Opera Project (Vancouver).

As a recitalist, Gerrard was awarded a fellowship with the New Triad Foundation's Art Song Seminar, and presented recitals for that organization throughout New York City. In the fall of 2005, he was invited to attend the *Académie musicale de Villecroze* in France for a series of classes with master teachers Elly Ameling and Rudolf Jansen. In March of 2007, Gerrard will be assistant conductor for Opera Lyra (Ottawa) in their production of Verdi's *Otello*. □

Holiday Classics with *Simon Estes*



featuring the
Iowa State University Wind Ensemble
Ames Piano Quartet

Holiday recording with Simon Estes

Simon Estes, the F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist-in-Residence and internationally-acclaimed bass-baritone, has recently released *Holiday Classics with Simon Estes*.

This compact disc recording features 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.

"This is a very exciting project," said **Michael Golemo**, chair of the Department of Music and director of bands. "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."

Holiday Classics with Simon Estes is available online for \$15 at www.music.iastate.edu under "Special Interest," 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. □

Bringing ISU music to South Africa

William David and his fellow members of the Ames Piano Quartet have performed throughout the world.

A couple of years ago, the ISU resident chamber ensemble even performed in Cuba.

But nothing prepared David and the other Iowa State musicians for what they experienced in South Africa.

“Cuba wasn’t as poor or desolate as South Africa,” David said. “In Cuba, the students we worked with had well trained music teachers and, despite the decrepit equipment they had, the kids could really play the string instruments and piano.

“In Cape Town there were very few decent instruments,” he continued. “Most of the students we worked with didn’t know how to read music. The facilities were pretty primitive.”

The Ames Piano Quartet (David, Mahlon Darlington, George Work and Jonathan Sturm), together with two faculty in the Department of Music’s vocal division, Donald Simonson and Mary Creswell, were invited to perform concerts and teach in Cape Town, South Africa by Simon Estes, the F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist in Residence. Estes accompanied the six faculty on the trip and collaborated with them on a series of concerts.

The Iowa State contingent gave formal and informal



concerts at the Simon Estes High School for both students and the general public. Estes established the school in 1993 and has passionately led efforts to sustain it in the years since its founding.

“The school’s choir there is spectacular. The kids have voices to die for,” Simonson said. “Most of the students live in the townships, and it’s at least an hour bus ride for them.

“Simon is absolutely loved there. He’s a real father figure to many of the students.”

When the Iowa State group arrived at the Cape Town airport, the high school choir was waiting for them and sang for Estes and the Iowa State group.

“The students were wonderful,” David said. “They wanted to learn everything we could teach them, and they wanted as much time from us as

possible.”

In addition to teaching the students, the Iowa State contingent brought along a large amount of music and other music supplies. They also handed out Iowa State t-shirts and other clothing.

The six music professors and Estes were featured in a benefit concert for the high school in a Cape Town suburb. They also performed at St. George’s Cathedral in Cape Town, the home church of Bishop Desmond Tutu (see top photo).

“We had the honor of meeting with Bishop Tutu. He introduced all of us at the morning service that we attended at his church and joined us afterwards for breakfast,” David said. □

Like the wind

Although the latest exhibition at the Brunnier Art Museum is entitled “Obsessed: Images of Weather,” there is one special aspect of weather that Christopher Hopkins has highlighted in his musical composition commissioned for the exhibit.

“Within the very first minute of discussing participation in the exhibit, I knew what the focus of my contribution would be,” he said. “I thought it was fitting to do a composition that went beyond imitation of the natural sounds to represent how these sounds inspire the mythic and poetic imagination.

“Very soon in the research phase of composition I knew that the wind would be the subject as well as one of the sources for the sound itself.”

Hopkins, assistant professor of music, completed *The Animus Winds* in both a concert version for flute and electroacoustic sound and a longer stand-alone version installed for exhibit’s run through mid-March.

“The composition is metaphorically related to the interpretation of wind,” he says, “especially in the aspect of personifying the wind, of finding voices and motivating affections in the wind. Yet it also considers the purely sensual and autonomous affect of the wind. These I related to the psychological themes of animus and anima.”

Art and aesthetics meet science and research in “Obsessed: Images of Weather.” The exhibition features the works of five regional artists whose art repeatedly explores sky. The artists were partnered with Iowa State atmospheric scientists exchanging concepts, imagery and philosophies.

For his part, Hopkins worked with technology to create virtual musical instruments that would transform field recordings of wind under control of a musical score. This allowed musical structures to be created from the sound qualities and rhythm of the wind itself.

Hopkins also used musical sources he recognized as sharing qualities with the wind, notably music written for the Shakuhachi, the Japanese end-blown bamboo flute.

“To me that music sounds a lot like the wind,” he says. “The instrument’s sound aesthetic was a big influence on my composition, in addition to the instrument’s vocal qualities.”

In fact, Hopkins says he often conceives of



The latest exhibit at Iowa State’s Brunnier Art Museum features an original composition by Christopher Hopkins.

musical contrasts in terms of phonetics, rather than in traditional musical terms.

“This seems a natural fit for a composition that would give a musical voice to the wind,” he said.

For the concert version of *The Animus Winds*, Hopkins chose the alto flute, which has sound qualities that are more “windy” and more voice-like tone. Sonja Giles, assistant professor of music, was the flutist featured in the premier given at the exhibition’s opening reception.

Although eventually wind instruments, real and virtual, enter the composition, the wind as a philosophical theme based on personal experiences remained the impetus for creative ideas.

“The composition is a collection of experiences I’ve had,” he said.

One occurred when Hopkins was camping alone above 9000 feet in the White Mountain Wilderness Area of New Mexico.

“I had the wilderness seemingly all to myself,” he said, “and I could hear this wind coming across the distant forests, approaching me. It took several minutes to actually get to me and then brushed across my face for only a moment before continuing past me.

“That experience has left quite a lasting impression, and while it doesn’t in a literal way enter my composition, both its sensual and imaginary qualities not doubt have had a subliminal effect. I hope after hearing *The Animus Winds*, people will come away listening to the wind differently than they have before. Hopefully they will hear the wind in a more poetic way that is not always brought into our consciousness.” □

Faculty activities

During fall of 2006 the Ames Piano Quartet (**Mahlon Darlington, Jonathan Sturm, George Work, and William David**) performed in Litchfield and Storrs Connecticut, as well as at Susquehanna (PA) University. For the third consecutive summer, they gave two concerts and served on the faculty at the Madeline Island (WI) Music Festival, after returning from South Africa (see separate story).

In the July 2006, **Paula Forrest** was the coordinator of the chamber music program, and staff pianist at the Amalfi Chamber Music Festival in Italy. At this 12-day festival in the small town of Vietri-sul-Mare, string players, flutists, clarinetists, and pianists (amateur and semi-professional) gathered to work with renowned teachers and coaches from the United States, including members of the Fine Arts Quartet.

James Hannon was recently named Music Director/Conductor of the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra (ND). The appointment followed a two-year search process. Of the over 100 applications from throughout the United States and around the world, five finalists were chosen to guest conduct a concert with the orchestra. Hannon's audition concert occurred in January 2006 and the final candidate conducted in April. When the GGFSO Search Committee met in early May, Hannon was the first choice and the orchestra board unanimously agreed. His debut concerts took place Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Sylvia Munsen conducted workshops focusing on music literacy and listening lessons with colleagues from the Kodály Educators of Iowa (KEI) for the Iowa Music Educators Association State Conference in 2005 and 2006. She conducted a demonstration workshop with the Concert Choir of the Ames Children's Choirs (ACC) for the Kodály Educators of Iowa Fall Workshop (October 28, 2006) and at the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) National Conference in Omaha (November 9, 2006). The demonstration session focused on developing expressive and independent singers in choirs and the general music classroom. In addition, the ACC Concert Choir performed the opening-night concert at the AOSA Conference.

As a follow up to his semester at Immanuel Kant Russian State University in Kaliningrad during a Fulbright Lecturing Fellowship in Fall 2005, **Jeff Prater** returned to Russia in September 2006 for a week of lecturing on the topic 'Musical Culture in the United States.' He presented six lectures from selected vignettes of American musical history to third- and fourth-year English majors at IKRSU. All his lectures incorporated the use of PowerPoint audio and video technology. Prater also has been invited to return to Russia this coming winter to participate in two separate research projects. His hour-long composition *Veni Creator Spiritus* will be performed on February 25 in Saratov by the Chorus of the Saratov Governor's Theater and the Saratov Russian Conservatory Orchestra, conducted by Arkadi Feldman. Jeff also plans to make a stop in Kaliningrad on his way back to the U.S. to present several more lectures at IKRSU.

Donald Simonson was elected Vice-President of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). His duties will include serving on the Executive Board of Directors for the Association and coordinating and conducting the biennial NATS Artist Award Competition. He assumed office in July 2006 for a two-year term.

Earlier in the year Simonson was also named a Master Teacher by NATS. Fewer than 1% of the members of NATS have been designated Master Teachers. Each summer newly designated Master Teachers are paired with a highly select number of young college/university voice faculty members in an intensive two-week internship program. This year's Intern Program was held at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. While there Simonson lectured on voice science, voice acoustics, performance practice, and pedagogical methodology.

In spring 2006, **Jonathan Sturm** was soloist with the Bemidji (MN) Orchestra and also presented a recital of virtuoso violin music in Ames, Des Moines and Norfolk, VA.

During the summer of 2006, **Tin-Shi Tam** presented a lecture "Bells and Bell Music in China"

at the 15th World Carillon Congress in Gdansk, Poland. The Congress is a bi-annual meeting of the World Carillon Federation, which comprises guilds of carillonners and carillon associations around the world. This lecture was chosen as the best presentation at the Congress. Dr. Tam also performed carillon recitals in Denmark, including Helligaandskirken and Vor Frelers Kirke in Copenhagen, Brondby Strand Kirke in Brondby, and Sct. Nicolai Kirke in Vejle, and at the Berea College in Berea, KY.

During the summer of 2006, **James Tener** served as accompanist for Sondheim's *Into the Woods* at the Story City Playhouse.

May Tsao-Lim completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance and pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma this past summer. Her dissertation title was "The Implementation of Technology into the Curricula of Selected Independent Piano Studios."

The summer of 2006 included a wide variety of teaching and performing venues for **George Work**. Following the Ames Quartet's one-week residency at the Madeleine Island Music Camp in June, he taught and performed at the Texas Music Festival in Houston, a program geared towards intensive orchestral training and performance. While at the Texas Music Festival, Work appeared in concert with violinist Andre Grabjiec and pianist Timothy Hester in Houston, at College Station and on Houston Public Radio. (ISU cello major Erin Gaherty also attended the Texas Music Festival.) Immediately following the end of the Texas Music Festival, Work returned for his fourth summer of teaching and performing at the Schlern Music Festival in the Italian Alps. Marking the Shostakovich anniversary year, Work appeared in performances of the composer's 7th and 8th String Quartets and the *Romantic Suite* as well as chamber works by Dohnanyi, Beethoven, and Brahms.

Lynn Zeigler presented a solo organ recital at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Fontanelle, IA, on July 23, 2006. She also presented a workshop the same afternoon on the subject of Hymn Playing. □

Munsen conducts at Carnegie Hall

Sylvia Munsen was invited to be the conductor of a Children's Choir Festival, which performed a concert at Carnegie Hall on May 27. The festival was produced under the auspices of MidAmerica Productions.

Choirs participating in the festival included:

Crowley Independent School District Honor Choir, Kathy Chiles, Conductor (Burleson, TX), Carl Sandburg Children's Choir, Paula Helle, Conductor (Galesburg, IL), Owen Sound Children's Chorus - Chamber Choir, Nancy Stewart, Conductor (Ontario, Canada) and New Jersey Children's Choir, Lourdes Armada, Conductor (Upper Montclair, NJ).

The festival choir performed music by Vivaldi, Rossini, Bernstein, Rutter, Chilcott, and Mozart (in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his birth) with the New England Symphonic Ensemble.

The choir also sang an arrangement of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" by Munsen and **Michael Golemo**.

The festival choir of 155 singers prepared the 35-minute program based on rehearsal notes by Munsen and then rehearsed as an ensemble for three days before the performance at Carnegie Hall. □



student news

Translating operas

If one of her music professors had given Cathy Compton a blank sheet of paper and asked her to write up her ideal internship, it's doubtful she could have imagined one quite like she participated in this past summer.

"It's an independent study, but it's an independent study for the Metropolitan Opera," the senior music education and vocal performance major said excitedly, "and I get to live in New York City."

This summer Compton interned with the Metropolitan Opera Guild in their educational department. The department offers different programs for New York schools in an effort to build new audiences for opera.

Part of that program is a series of 20 operas the Metropolitan Opera performs every year at Lincoln Center. Students ranging from third grade to high school seniors in high school attend the final dress rehearsal.

In preparation for those shows, the Metropolitan Opera Guild prepares study



Cathy Compton spends summer working on opera study guides.

guides for each of the operas.

That's where Compton comes in.

As part of her internship, the senior compiled study guides for elementary and high school students for six different operas by such composing luminaries as Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Puccini and Handel. She also developed classroom activities that New York City elementary school instructors will utilize this year.

"La Boehme' is performed every year so there is no need for a study guide for that opera," Compton said. "So I had to write study guides for some lesser known operas."

Obscure operas such as "Simon Boccanegra," "La Gioconda," "I Puritani," "Eugene Onegin," and "Giulio Cesare."

Not exactly household names – even for an opera buff like Compton.

Compton researched the operas and eventually wrote a synopsis of the plot for each. She read over the libretto and translated text of the opera and then listened to a recording with the libretto.

Then she would research the historical perspective for each opera.

"The New York Public Library had a wonderful performing

arts section and the Met has a ton of resources I was able to use," she said. "It was really cool to explore the big themes of the opera and relate it back to the plot in the study guides. It was enjoyable for me to learn about the operas, especially breaking down the plots to the level of elementary and high school students."

The internship also gave Compton what she wanted – a foot into the door of arts administration.

"It's a really tough industry," she says. "I know I want to work in the arts - if not as a performer than in creating audiences for the arts." □

Still marching with the band

Editor's Note:

Three years ago Iowa State University chronicled Ted Brimeyer's first days as a freshman member of the Cyclone Football "Varsity" Marching Band. As he entered his senior year, Iowa State revisits Brimeyer, now one of three drum majors in the marching band. An excerpt from the series is printed. *Look back at Brimeyer's first days in marching band at www.las.iastate.edu/brimeyer1103.shtml.*

Life as a drum major.

There was no question what ultimate job Ted Brimeyer wanted in the marching band.

"I knew when I was a freshman I wanted to be a drum major. It looked like a lot of fun," he said.

A former high school drum major, Brimeyer made the final cut for ISU's drum major after his freshman year. He was not selected, but came back to try out again after his sophomore season. Now he's in his second year as one of the band's drum majors.

And while Brimeyer says it's still a lot of fun, he has a much different perspective on the job.

"I laugh a lot at every rehearsal and have a lot of fun – probably more than I should. But there are parts I thought were going to be the most fun that are actually the hardest part of the job," he said.

The job of the drum major is much more than it appears from the stands. Prior to the beginning of rehearsals in mid-August, the drum majors arrive a week early to prepare for band camp.

"We serve as a liaison between the band and the directors. It's important for us to know the band's temperament," he said.

Read the whole series at www.las.iastate.edu/newnews/brimeyer.shtml. □



Pictured: Ted Brimeyer at a marching band rehearsal prior to school beginning and at the first home football game at Jack Trice Stadium.

alumni news

Two receive music alumni awards

Two music graduates will be honored this Homecoming by the Department of Music.

David DeVenney (B.Mus. '80), director of choral activities at West Chester University in Pennsylvania, has been granted the department's Outstanding Music Alumni Award.

Pam (Myatt, Quick) Crawford (B.Mus. '72), choir director and vocal music instructor at Maquoketa (IA) High School, will receive the Outstanding Music Educator Alumni Award.

The pair will be honored by the department throughout the Oct. 20-21 weekend including a Friday night banquet and awards ceremony sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

DeVenney is an internationally recognized composer, arranger, conductor and scholar of choral music. His choirs have toured throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe, receiving acclaim for their carefully prepared and musically exciting performances from audiences and critics alike.

His repertory is vast, including nearly 100 major works with orchestra and two dozen operas and musicals. He regularly collaborates with professional groups, most recently with the Brandywine Ballet, and has conducted the Reading

Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Classical Symphony, the Pottstown Symphony Orchestra.

He is the author of twelve books including a five-volume annotated bibliographic guide to American choral music.

DeVenney is currently developing a documentary film history of choral singing in this country.

In addition to his degree from Iowa State, DeVenney holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati.

A 2004 inductee to the Iowa High School Hall of Pride, Pam Crawford has taught at Maquoketa High School for 34 years.

She has served as president and as an executive committee member of the Iowa High School Music Association (IHSMA). Crawford was also the chair of the 50th anniversary of the IHSMA and has been actively involved with the Iowa All-State Music Festival.

While at Iowa State, Crawford had majors in piano and voice performance. She also holds a master's degree from Drake in vocal performance.

This is the third year that the Department of Music has



David DeVenney



Pam Crawford

recognized outstanding music alumni with its alumni awards program. □

Still having fun

Carey Erdman's still singing after all these years.

A resident of Boston since the mid-'80s, Carey Erdman worked for the first U.S. company to make spy cameras for use in space.

For ten years he was president of a firm that sold satellite images and remote sensing software. While he's no longer with the company, he's still on the firm's board of directors.

Now he's made a major career switch and is a division manager of Webster & Company, a family-run business in the Boston Design Center.

To prepare him for these careers Erdman majored in biology and environmental studies at ISU.

Oh, yeah. He was also a fixture in several ensembles offered by the Department of Music.

"In high school I was in a ton of music classes and groups," Erdman remembers. "It was always just for fun."

As a freshman in the mid-'70s Erdman joined the Iowa State Singers and added the Cardinal Key Notes (show choir) his sophomore year. Even though he wasn't majoring in music, the department became the highlight of his college career.

He wasn't content just singing either. Erdman took his involvement to another level.

"My sophomore year the Iowa State Singers were going to tour California for the first time and



we had to raise a lot of money in order to make the trip," he said. "Then the fundraising chair quit and I volunteered when no one else would. The tour was in danger. This was the first of many situations where I found I could do a whole lot more than I thought I could."

Erdman helped raise \$16,000 for that tour and in the process "really got to know everyone in the group." His junior year as president of the Iowa State Singers he helped the music department organize its first VEISHEA open house complete with informational displays and two days of non-stop performances.

During his senior year he led the fundraising efforts that saw the group tour England for 10 days after graduation. This time he led the raising of \$60,000.

"Being in the choirs was an amazing experience for me," Erdman said. "I made so many friends. I really credit the music department on so many levels in my life. But it was solely for fun."

Erdman is still singing for fun – only now he's performing with some of the most prestigious vocal ensembles in Boston.

"Boston is blessed with so many

performing arts organizations. There is so much happening here," he said.

Soon after he moved to Boston, Erdman auditioned for, and was selected to sing with, the Cantata Singers. He's now in his 23rd year with the ensemble and performs on a regular basis in addition to serving on the board.

But Erdman's love of music couldn't be satisfied with one vocal group. Just over 12 years ago he was asked to join the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, the ensemble that supports both the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Boston Pops.

Whether he's performing in Boston's Symphony Hall, at Tanglewood, on television or even at Carnegie Hall, the conductors, venues, guest artists, and repertoire run the gamut.

Erdman doesn't get paid for his talent – all singers are volunteers and it can be time consuming. Most music is memorized and there is little rehearsal time before a performance.

"I'm singing the master works with some of the world's best conductors and soloists," he said. "I'll continue as long as it's fun."

Given Carey Erdman's history, he'll be singing for a long time. □



Heigh-ho, heigh-ho

*It's off to work at
Disneyland for music
alumnus Roger Bissell.*

As one of Iowa State's very first music majors, Roger Bissell (B.S. '70) didn't participate in the marching band.

He also didn't have time for the pep band.

"I was too busy," Bissell says. "There was this one time when I substituted for a trombonist in the basketball pep band.

"I felt like a fish out of water."

Bissell was involved in virtually every other instrumental ensemble at Iowa State - the wind ensemble, the jazz band and symphonic orchestra. He even sang in a choral group.

But the marching band. Forget it.

Funny how things work out.

These days Bissell spends most of his mornings dressed in a traditional marching band uniform. It's something he's been doing for the past 21 years as a member of the Disneyland Band.

If you get to Disneyland early Bissell and his group will greet you with some famous Disney tunes before the park opens. His group plays in the Main Street section of the park before splitting into three small groups.

This year, Bissell has performed in the New Orleans section of the park in the afternoon but in the past, among other duties, he been a "lost archeologist" at the Indiana Jones Adventure.

"I'm an entertainer who not only gets to perform great music but helps people (in the park) have a good time," he says.

Playing in the Disneyland Band has also allowed Bissell the opportunity to work on other things.

"We'll do a very intense 30-minute performance and then we have 30 minutes off where you can work on your own projects," he said.

Over the years, Bissell has been involved in a variety of projects - first in Nashville where he moved after graduating from Iowa State, and now in Los Angeles.

In Nashville, Bissell performed on a number of recordings - everything from major artists to commercials. He worked with such recording artists as the Oak Ridge Boys and Barbara Mandrell.

He also appeared on a number of television shows (including

the two-hour Lucille Balle special, "Lucy Goes to Nashville") and worked with country musician Boots Randolph six nights a week at his club in Printer's Alley

The economics of the business was rapidly changing however and he sought a new opportunity.

"I was every bit as busy but I was making about half as much money as I had been a few years before," Bissell said. "So when the opening in the Disneyland Band was available I thought it would be a great chance to maybe also work in the Los Angeles recording scene."

In addition to his Disneyland gig, Bissell has joined the Side Street Strutters in L.A., a Dixieland jazz and swing ensemble, which just finished a CD. He is featured with pianist Ben Di Tosti in another CD, "The Art of the Duo," which was released this past year.

He has also found work playing at the taping of such television shows as "Seinfeld" and "The Nanny."

"Through the Disneyland Band, I've made a lot of connections with different band leaders in L.A.," he said.

But the Disneyland Band has been his bread and butter for over 20 years. Through Disney he has been able to travel to perform as well. When the animated feature "Pocahontas" was released, Bissell traveled to New York City and played in Central Park during the movie's premiere.

"Over the years, there has been a large amount of variety in what we play," he says. "It keeps you fresh and on your toes. □"

Alumni news

Michael Atkinson (B.Mus. '06) is Director of Jazz at Jefferson City (MO) High School.

Matthew Cameron (BA Mus. '02) earned his Master of Music degree from the University of Illinois in May 2006. He is currently the low brass instructor at Grinnell College and Principal Trombone in the Cedar Rapids Symphony. In June he married Courtney Miller, a violinist who is a member of the Cedar Rapids, Dubuque and Des Moines Symphony Orchestras. They now live in Tiffin.

Samantha Danielson (B.Mus. '05) is entering her second year of medical school after transferring from Creighton University to the University of Iowa.

Danny Dickinson (BA '05) has finished his Fulbright in Switzerland and is currently attending Stanford working towards a PhD in microbiology.

Mindy (Wilson) DeVries (B.Mus. '03) and husband Russ announce the birth of their son, Brayden Jay DeVries on July 20th. Mindy reports: "He has been such a good baby in the first days of his life. I'm glad to say I think he has more of Russ' easy going temperament than mine (that can change I guess!)."

Nora Epping (B.Mus. '06) is Director of Instrumental Music in the Graettinger (IA) public schools.

Ben Harper (B.Mus. '06) is Director of Bands at Humboldt (IA) High School.

Steve Hovey (B.Mus. '05) is Director of Bands at Twin River Valley (IA) High School.

Michelle (Kudym) Juon (B.Mus '98) is serving as the Project Manager of Orchestra Omaha's inaugural Youth Concerto Competition this fall. Orchestra Omaha is a not-for-profit community ensemble that performs four free concerts per year to the public. Michelle is a member of the orchestra's cello section, and also writes the program notes for each concert.

Walter Reed (B.Mus '06) and **Kelly Carlson** (B.Mus '06) have accepted graduate assistantships to study

trumpet at the University of Illinois, Champaign, Urbana. Walter Reed's assistantship is in the Jazz Department where he performs as lead trumpet with the top jazz band. Kelly Carlson's assistantship is as a performer in the music school's new music ensembles. Both Mr. Reed and Ms. Carlson are currently studying trumpet performance with Professors Ronald Romm and Michael Ewald.

After completing a master's degree at Oklahoma State University, **Steve Smyth** (B.Mus. '98) has accepted a position as associate director of bands at Central Arkansas State University.

Peter Thompson (B.Mus. '01) and his wife **Holly (Messenger)** (B.Mus. '01) are expecting their second child in November.

Joanne (Wilson) Tubbs (B.Mus. '94) is currently the Music Curriculum Coordinator for the Des Moines Public Schools and was recently appointed State Manager for the Iowa Music Educators Association. □

Estes Fund established by Department of Music

The Department of Music has announced the creation of the "Simon Estes Fund for Musical Outreach."

The fund will be used by the department to provide financial assistance for music scholarships and travel for deserving students and faculty.

Simon Estes is the F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist in Residence in the Department of Music faculty. He is an internationally-renowned opera star.

Individuals interested in contributing to the Simon Estes Fund for Musical Outreach should contact **Stephanie Greiner**, LAS director of development, at 294-8868 or at sgreiner@foundation.iastate.edu. □



Simon Estes performs with the Ames Piano Quartet at the "reopening" concert of the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall.

Alumni conduct teaching standards seminars

Iowa State's Music Education students must begin to travel the path towards their chosen profession (of teaching) during their freshman year. Students work closely with their advisors and the music education coordinator to plan a course of study that includes all of the requirements for a program approved by the State of Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and the National Association of Schools of Music, which leads towards licensure as a teacher.

At Iowa State, a seminar has been conducted each fall since 2004 for all music education students regarding the process of achieving the standard teaching license.

At the seminars, the department has featured recent graduates from a variety of school districts who have earned the standard teaching license. These teachers prepare a handout providing an overview of how the process was conducted in their

school district. They also bring their portfolio for review by our students.

ISU graduates who have conducted these seminars so successfully include:

Heather Conley in 2004 (B.Mus. '02, currently teaching instrumental music at Northeast, East, and Southeast Elementary Schools in Ankeny)

Hannah Keeling in 2005 (B.Mus. '03, currently teaching choral music at Johnston Middle School)

Arkay King Brown in 2005 (B.Mus.'03, currently teaching instrumental music at Dallas Center Grimes High School)

Wendy McCay Nutini in 2006 (B.Mus. '03, currently teaching instrumental music at South Hamilton Junior High School)

The Department of Music wishes to congratulate and thank these outstanding teachers who are representing ISU so well in the teaching profession. □

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Making a difference: Become a Friend of Music

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 program into the future, support for the department is essential. Funding is required to aid the program in developing new opportunities in technology, continuing 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 below and mail to: ISU Foundation, 2505 Elwood Drive, Ames, Iowa 50010-8644.

For more information about making a gift to the Department of Music or including ISU in your estate plans, please contact Stephanie Greiner at 515-294-8868, greiner@iastate.edu.

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- Student scholarships
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Music Today

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Iowa State University
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Ames, IA 50011

Upcoming events

november

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
November 2-4

ISU Opera Studio & ISU Theatre
“Marriage of Figaro”
Fisher Theater
7:30 pm \$

Sunday, November 5
ISU Opera Studio & ISU Theatre
“Marriage of Figaro”
Fisher Theater
2 pm \$

Sunday, November 5
Robert Chappell, percussion
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
6 pm



Saturday, November 11
ISU Band Extravaganza
Stephens Auditorium
7:30 pm \$

Sunday, November 12
Cantamus
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
2 pm

Sunday, November 12
Iowa Statesmen
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
4 pm

Tuesday, November 14
ISU Flute Choir
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
7:30 pm

Wednesday, November 15
ISU Jazz Ensembles I & II
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
7:30 pm \$

Wednesday, November 29
ISU Small Jazz Ensemble
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
5:30 pm

Wednesday, November 29
ISU Percussion Ensemble
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
7:30 pm

december

Friday, December 1
ISU Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band & Concert Band
Ames City Auditorium
7:30 pm \$

Sunday, December 3
ISU Holiday Festival
Stephens Auditorium
3 pm \$

Sunday, December 3
Off the Record
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall
7:30 pm

january

Friday and Saturday, January 12-13
Madrigal Dinner
Great Hall, Memorial Union
5:30 pm \$

Saturday, January 27
Big Band Era Jazz Concert featuring ISU Jazz Ensemble I
Ames City Auditorium
7:30 pm \$

\$ Admission charged