

Music Today

Spring 2006 at Iowa State University

The ISU Wind Ensemble conducted by Michael Golemo. ISU alumnus and U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser.



ISU sound Omaha bound

Third ISU President's Concert to feature world premiere of alumnus' poem set to music.

The piece isn't very long, only about four minutes. But it's a composition that James Rodde, the Louise Moen Professor of Music and director of choral activities, feels will stay with individuals for a long time.

"I can see this poem in a beautiful new light," Rodde says. "It's a well-written, expressive composition."

The piece is a new work by René Clausen entitled *The Early Bird*. It is a setting of a poem by Ted Kooser, current U.S. Poet Laureate and 2005 Pulitzer Prize winner, and was commissioned by an anonymous Iowa State alumnus through the Department of Music. It will be performed by the Iowa State Singers.

Kooser is a 1962 Iowa State alumnus from Lincoln, Neb.

The world premiere of *The Early Bird* will be a featured attraction during Iowa State's

third President's Concert on Sunday, March 26. A biennial event, this year's President's Concert will be held at the new Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha, Neb.

"The President's Concerts have spread interest for the music program across campus," Rodde said. "It's nice to have other University-wide activities surrounding this event and realize the Department of Music is the catalyst that will draw the ISU colleges and alumni together."

"It shows that the department plays a vital role in student life on campus both now and in the future."

While *The Early Bird* will be a highlight of the President's Concert, it will be just one of several memorable moments. In addition to the Iowa State Singers, performances by the ISU Wind Ensemble and the ISU

Symphony Orchestra are also on the program. The Wind Ensemble will premiere an original fanfare composed by Jeffrey Prater, professor of music. Simon Estes, the F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist-in-Residence, will be featured with the Symphony Orchestra and Wind Ensemble.

The concert gives students in the three ensembles an opportunity not only to give a joint concert but also to perform in an outstanding new facility.

"One of the real thrills for me and our students is to be able to perform in such a beautiful hall," Rodde said. "Like our previous President's Concerts in Minneapolis and Chicago, this performing arts facility is also considered world-class."

The Iowa State Singers have been rehearsing *The Early Bird*
Continued on page 3

From the Chair

The Department of Music celebrates its role as a vital part of Iowa State University. We are also celebrating our 25th anniversary of the Music Hall, and pleased to announce that the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall will be completely renovated this summer. In the pages ahead you will appreciate the international scope of the music faculty, students and alumni who extend the boundaries of music making beyond our campus, city, state, region and nation. We are making a difference.

As I type this, we are beginning our weekend scholarship audition process for prospective students. We have nearly 120 students auditioning for approximately 30-40 undergraduate openings. We will, of course, continue to hear additional students throughout the semester. Our future is very bright.

Our current students continue to excel in both the classroom and in performance. We are justifiably proud of the education and opportunities our students receive, both from our faculty and guest lecturers. This semester alone we have provided masterclasses or clinic sessions from no fewer than a dozen "guest" world-class artists, including the Pacifica String Quartet, maestro David Becker, tuba soloist Patrick Sheridan, trumpeter David Birkman, and composer Libby Larsen. Our students are very fortunate that our faculty and university strive to attract such influential and eminent guest artists.

We want to hear from our alumni. Please e-mail us with

your career information and personal updates. We take great pride in your accomplishments! It is important that we stay connected to our alums, and that you are aware of what is happening at Iowa State.

We have had two major gifts to our department in recent years. One of these gifts, from Deloris Wright, will allow us to purchase and install a digital video camera in the back of our recital hall. This video web-cam will allow anyone to view concerts, recitals and presentations in the recital hall, in real time. Ms. Wright's gift is also providing some very special enhancements to our electronic music studio.

Our other special donor, Ms. Ellen Walvoord, recently made a generous pledge of one million dollars. Although a portion of this donation will likely go to enhance our scholarship fund, our faculty will collectively



decide where this unrestricted money will be best used. These two generous gifts are making a major difference in our department. It is important that you, our alumni, understand the importance of all gifts, no matter how large or small.

The Department of Music is educating young people to use their talent to change the world. We hope you will join us in turning our vision into reality.

Sincerely,
Michael Golemo, D.M.A.
Chair, Department of Music

Music Today

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**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

department news

Libby Larsen residency includes concerts, lecture

Renowned American composer Libby Larsen will visit the Department of Music from April 6-8.

During her three-day stay, Larsen will give a lecture, "The Concert Hall That Fell Asleep and Woke Up as a Car Radio," and will take part in two concerts featuring a variety of her compositions.

The concerts will feature the ISU Wind Ensemble, Ames Children's Choir, ISU Symphony Orchestra, the Ames Chamber Artists (a community vocal ensemble) and Department of Music faculty.

The concerts will be held

April 7 and 8 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall.

The lecture is also scheduled for the same time and location on April 6.

Larsen is one of America's most prolific and most performed living composers. She has created a catalogue of over 200 works spanning virtually every genre from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral and choral scores.

She is sought after for commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles and orchestras around the world.

Larsen's visit to Iowa State is



co-sponsored by the Department of Music, the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities and a grant from Sigma Alpha Iota philanthropies.

President's Concert features world premiere

Continued from page 1
for several months and plans to perform it during a spring semester tour.

"One student wrote me a letter telling how she felt about the piece. She described what she was seeing when she was singing the lyrics and what the poem meant to her," Rodde said. "The students really enjoy singing it. In fact, one, who has been in the Singers for two years, told me that it's the favorite work he has sung with the choir."

Rodde says *The Early Bird* is the type of composition that will stay with the students long after they finish their collegiate



singing careers.

"If they hear the music when they are 70, they'll be able to

remember and sing the lyrics," he said. "René's composition etches the poetry into the singers' minds."

In addition to the 3 p.m. performance, the ISU Alumni Association will hold a reception beginning at 1 p.m.

ISU President Gregory Geoffroy and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Michael Whiteford will speak at the concert and attend the reception.

Concert tickets are \$15. A combination concert/reception ticket is \$25 for ISUAA members and \$30 for non-members. Ticket information is available through the Department of Music.▲

Iowa State Singers to tour China

The Iowa State Singers are preparing for a performance tour in China, May 14-24, 2006.

The group will sing concerts in Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. In each of the cities, the Iowa State Singers will perform also with choirs from area Chinese universities.

"The Singers will concertize with their full program from Bach to contemporary composers, yet part of their experience will be to fully prepare and perform Chinese pieces that their international audiences will quickly recognize," said **James Rodde**, the group's director. "The choir's challenge will be to learn the pronunciation of the Chinese language."

Rodde feels strongly that the 52 singers going on the tour will learn more than just music on their journey.

"This tour will help support diversity in our university



community and will help prepare our students for lifelong, productive participation in a global society," Rodde said. "In all probability the knowledge the students will gain from this cultural exchange will help improve the quality of life now and in future generations."

In addition to preparing their music, the singers are working hard to raise funds for the trip. Contributions in any amount to

help these students with this once-in-a-lifetime experience would be greatly appreciated.

Rodde says the Moen-Hamilton Endowment from the Department of Music's Choral Activities will contribute \$500 to each participating student.

Donations may be sent to: **ISU Foundation, 2505 Elwood Drive, Ames, IA, 50010. Account # 1916912.**

Statesmen selected for IMC national seminar

The Iowa Statesmen, Iowa State's popular men's choir, has been selected to perform at the biennial National Seminar of the Inter-Collegiate Men's Choruses (IMC).

The ensemble will perform a 25-minute program at the

conference on Friday, March 17, at 7 p.m. at Normandale Lutheran Church in Edina, Minn. The Statesmen will share the program with the Eastview High School Men's Chorale.

The IMC national meeting draws men's choirs from around the country including groups from Michigan State University and Ohio State. The event will conclude with a concert by the U.S. Army Male Chorus.

The Iowa Statesmen sing a variety of repertoire ranging from standard classics to

contemporary compositions and folk songs. Their appearance at the IMC national meeting is part of a two-day tour of the upper Midwest.

This is the third straight year that a Department of Music ensemble has been selected to perform at a national or regional convention. Previously Cantamus women's choir and the Iowa State Singers have been recognized.

Music contingent to perform in South Africa this summer

The four members of the Ames Piano Quartet, resident chamber music ensemble of Iowa State University, (William David, Mahlon Darlington, George Work and Jonathan Sturm), together with two faculty in the Music Department's vocal division, Donald Simonson and Mary Creswell, have been invited to perform concerts and teach in Cape Town, South Africa. The trip's dates are May 23 through June 6, 2006. Simon Estes, F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist in Residence at Iowa State, conceived of the visit. Estes will accompany the

six faculty on the trip and collaborate with them in the concerts.

The Quartet, Creswell and Simonson will perform 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 lead efforts to sustain it in the years since its founding. The Iowa State music contingent will be bringing a large amount of music and other musical supplies for use by the students.

In addition to teaching individual lessons and master



classes, the group will present concerts at St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town, the home church of Bishop Desmond Tutu (who may attend the concert), and the University of Cape Town.

ISU announces Carillon Festival, composition competition

The ISU Carillon Festival 2006 will be held Saturday, April 8, 2006. Guest carillonneur will be Todd Fair from the University of Denver, Colorado. Fair has taught at the Netherlands Carillon School in Amersfoort and the Scandinavian Carillon School in Copenhagen. He will conduct a carillon masterclass and perform a recital at the Festival.

The festival will take place concurrently with Libby Larsen's residence at Iowa State. (See



story on page 3) Larsen will present a seminar titled "The Anticipation of Bells." She will discuss from a composer's point of view, how sound, operating in

time and space, deeply affects the individual sense of being human. Her carillon composition *Pealing Fire* will also be featured.

As part of the Carillon Festival, a Carillon Composition Competition will be held to encourage the writing of original carillon compositions by young composers under age 35. Prizes include one cash award of \$500 and the premiere performance of the winning composition

at the Festival.

For more information, visit the web: www.music.iastate.edu/carillon or contact ISU Music Department at 294-3831.



Department chair Michael Golemo sits between the old seats and future seats in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall.

also plays host to a variety of events every weekend.

“The room sees an incredible amount of use.”

The new acoustical banners can be moved electronically to enhance the sound of any performance. The replacement of the seats, carpet and banners is scheduled to begin as soon as classes end this semester. The total project is budgeted at approximately \$220,000.

Funding for the project has been made available through University funds and a private donation by Ellen (Molleston) and Tom Walvoord, 1961 Iowa State graduates.

There will be another new addition to the recital hall when classes begin next fall. Thanks to a donation by Iowa State alumna Deloris Wright ('73) of Colorado, a digital video camera will be mounted at the rear of the facility. Through remote control, all events in the facility will be made available on the Department of Music's web site (www.music.iastate.edu).

Individuals with a password will be able to view not only performances, but classroom lectures, guest speakers and rehearsals in real time.

“This will be a wonderful addition to our department,” Golemo said. “It will allow the department to broadcast or record a concert and make it easily available to others.” ▲

New furnishings

The Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall undergoes a facelift complete with new seats (that don't squeak), carpet and acoustical banners. And it won't be orange any more!

The lifespan of the seating in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall has exceeded everyone's estimation.

“I think every seat in the house squeaks,” says Michael Golemo, associate professor and chair of the Department of Music. “When we have a performance it's really embarrassing.”

Golemo says 25 years of usage of the seats will come to an end this semester when the recital hall will undergo a facelift. The facility will get new seating, as well as other improvements. Acoustical banners will be replaced, and new carpet will be laid.

And it won't be the orange motif that has permeated the facility since it was built in the

late 1970s. Instead the color blue will be prominent throughout the Music Hall in future years.

“What was hip in the '70s isn't hip today,” Golemo said. “This is going to look fantastic when it's completed.”

“The new seats will include an oak finish which our acoustical engineers say will improve the sound of the recital hall even more.”

The seats will also include a lapboard on every seat, which will fold out like a table.

“This was an important feature because the recital hall is home to quite a few large music history classes,” Golemo said. “I think the hall is used almost every hour of every day, plus nights and weekends for performances. The department

Faculty activities

Dorian Recordings will release a compact disc of three Czech piano quartets by the Ames Piano Quartet (**Mahlon Darlington, Jonathan Sturm, George Work, and William David**) in March of this year. This CD, the Quartet's ninth commercial release, will include works by Novak, Suk, and Martinu. The Quartet has already embarked on its next recording project, a two CD set of English piano quartets, which will be issued by Albany Recordings, probably late in 2006. The Quartet's new CD of three contemporary American works, entitled *Dark Rosaleen*, recently received an extremely positive review in *The American Record Guide*: "The performances are committed, and so is the music. This is a fine program."

Christopher Hopkins heard the premiere of his new orchestral work *Fanfare and Fantasies* performed by the Central Iowa Symphony in early October. The conductor was **James Hannon**. Hopkins presented a paper "Soundfont Banks as a Compositional Utility for Voicing Inharmonic Pitch Structures" at the Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art in Minneapolis Feb. 24. He has received a commission from University Museums for an electroacoustic sound installation, to be part of the exhibition *Obsessed: Weather in Art* at the Brunnier Art Museum Aug. 22, 2006 – March 18, 2007, as well as two compositions for soloist and electroacoustic sound to be premiered in Fall 2006 and Spring 2007.

Sylvia Munsen was a

clinician at the Iowa Music Educators Association State Conference in November as part of the Kodaly Workshop. She will conduct a children's choir festival at Carnegie Hall on May 27, 2006.

James Rodde served as guest conductor for the 2005 Wisconsin and 2006 Texas All-State choirs and will conduct the South Dakota and Iowa All-State honor choirs in the coming year.

Donald Simonson was elected National Vice-President of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). He will serve a two-year term starting in July. His duties will center on administering the NATS National Artist Award

Student news

Music major **Tyler Brown** and **Christopher English** (journalism and mass communications) produced the sound track for the 2006 ISU College of Agriculture recruiting video. The music was upbeat, combining popular dance orchestration with electronic music accents. Tyler and Chris are among the first wave of advanced students in the emerging music technology program in the Department of Music, which will enhance opportunities for music majors and offer an option for a minor in the subject to non-majors.

ISU freshman music major **Jennifer Edmondson** was awarded third place in the Senior Division of the 2005 Iowa Composers Forum Student Composer Competition for her chamber orchestra composition *Rondo (Hope)*. She studies

Competition. In addition to serving as Vice President, Simonson has been named a Master Teacher by the association. As such he will be featured in the NATS Intern Program to be held at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory from June 13-23. While there he will supervise intern voice teachers and present lectures and master classes.

Jonathan Sturm presented a session at the national convention of the American String Teachers Association in March. He performed a solo violin recital in Des Moines in February and in Norfolk, Va., in April. Sturm also performed as soloist with orchestra at Iowa State in February, and in Bemidji, Minn., in March.

composition with **Jeffrey Prater** and **Christopher Hopkins**.

The following voice students were award winners in the 2005 National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions held on Nov. 4-5, 2005.

Brianna Weis Honorable Mention-Freshman Women

Ayron Hyatt - Honorable Mention-Sophomore Men

Lindsay Smith - Honorable Mention-Junior Women

Kelly Kruse - First Place-Junior Women

Samantha McCurry - Honorable Mention-Sophomore Women

Sarah Thompson - First Place-Senior Women

Over 450 student singers from Iowa colleges took part in the annual auditions, which were held at Simpson College in Indianola. A total of 17 ISU students participated.

student news

Majoring in the band

Cyclone Marching Band features female drum major.

It's not unusual for the Cyclone "Varsity" Football Marching Band to have a female drum major.

But it's not that common either.

For the 2005 fall season, the band welcomed Elizabeth Farrington to the role. She was the first female drum major for the marching band since 1997.

Farrington says her role was a challenge – just not the challenge you would think she would face.

"I was a little nervous before the season began wondering what people would think about a girl drum major," the junior animal science/pre-vet major said. "The drum majors are the 'poster children' of the band, and I was worried not only being a female but also as a woodwind player, that maybe I didn't live up to that image.

"But people were very supportive and I didn't have any troubles in that regard."

Farrington says she's "sports challenged." That's despite attending countless football games since she was a drum major at Des Moines North High School and during a two-year stint as a piccolo player in the Cyclone Marching Band.

There were times when she had to glance at the video board at the end of Jack Trice Stadium to see when it was time to lead the band in a brief song during a game.

"I'm not really a sports person so I had learn when it was appropriate for the band to play during a game," she said. "Mr. (Matt) Smith (the band's director) was very helpful with that."

Smith and Farrington's fellow drum majors (Nathan Bong and Ted Brimeyer) were also helpful in helping Farrington meet her other "challenge."

"The main problem was that I wasn't the strongest conductor," she said. "I really had to work on my conducting. But we worked well with each



other and they (the other drum majors) helped me out."

Farrington's favorite moment as a drum major is when the band's three leaders lead the ensemble onto the field for the pre-game show

"It's an exhilarating feeling when the three of us come onto the field," she said. "The crowd is so loud, anticipating the start of the game, and you know that 40,000-plus pairs of eyes are on you."

The attitude of the members and staff of the Cyclone Marching Band and the support of the fans led to an enjoyable experience for Farrington. It's the same type of feeling she's had since she first joined the group.

"It's worth all the effort," she said. "My time with the marching band has always been an enjoyable experience and this year was just as great.

"What I enjoy most about being in the band is that everyone wants to be there. This is something that you really want to do." ▲



Perfect voice

Music major finishes first in vocal music competitions all four years at ISU.

Move over Cael Sanderson. Iowa State has another perfect undergraduate. While Sanderson never lost a wrestling match at ISU, Sarah Thompson equaled that with four perfect years in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions.

And to think at first the competition didn't even interest the music major.

"On my college visit while in high school I listened to a music student talk about the competition," Thompson said. "I remember thinking that this didn't sound like much fun."

At the encouragement of music professor Donald Simonson, she decided to give it a shot.

As a freshman, Thompson didn't give herself much of a chance at advancing at the auditions, let alone winning. She prepared three pieces, an art song which she sang in a foreign language, a 20th century American piece and an aria.

In the competition's first round, singers perform all three songs in front of a group of three judges. The semi-finals are held late at night where the competitors sing two pieces. Three finalists are then selected and perform one song in a concert.

The auditions are held every fall and bring over 400 college voice students from across the region together to compete. Students are divided

according to gender and year in school.

"My freshman year I didn't think I would do well," Thompson recalled. "But I kept advancing and advancing and I thought that was a little weird. When I won it was really a big surprise."

The music student who didn't want to compete was hooked.

"As a sophomore I thought 'now I have to live up to something,'" she said. "I didn't go with a goal of winning but with a goal of performing like I knew I could."

While her freshman year victory was a surprise, her win the following year came as a shock.

"I didn't think my repertoire was all that impressive," she said. "I was singing two English pieces, including a Gilbert and Sullivan, and I thought I would be blown out of the water. I thought there was no way I would win again."

With three consecutive wins under her belt, Thompson was a little nervous heading into last fall's competition.

"I thought to myself 'I hope I don't lose now. That would really stink,'" she said.

But Thompson was far more confident about winning the NATS. The selections she chose to perform were much more difficult than any other pieces she has undertaken while at Iowa State.

"The music I've selected to perform has changed quite a bit since my freshman year," Thompson said. "This year was such a huge undertaking. The piece I did in the finals was a seven-minute aria which is a long ways from the short German art song I performed as a freshman.

"I've been working on this selection for the last year and a half. I was really proud of my final performance, which showed how much I have grown as a singer and a performer."

Thompson says she enjoys every time she takes the stage with the Iowa State Singers, in the Department of Music's Opera Studios or in SOV productions including portraying Eliza Doolittle this April in "My Fair Lady."

The senior, who will graduate this May, sometimes reflects on why all this has happened.

"I work hard," she says, "but there are a ton of people I know that work hard. But since I've been at Iowa State I have found a passion for my art that I didn't know even existed in me before I came here. I have really developed a deep love for music and performing. Discipline, passion and hard work - that has made the difference for me." ▲

alumni news

Returning to march

Halftime of the Homecoming football game was a special occasion for alumni of the ISU Cyclone Football "Varsity" Marching Band.

Over 250 alumni members of the group celebrated their 25th anniversary with a performance on Saturday, Oct. 22, at Jack Trice Stadium. The Alumni Band has performed annually during halftime of the Homecoming game each year since 1981.

To help celebrate the Alumni Band's 25th anniversary, many former directors of the Cyclone Marching Band were in attendance and were recognized at halftime including **Will Rapp**, **Dan Phillips**, **Roger Cichy**, **Martin Province**, and **Dustin Seifert**.

"To celebrate the classic nature of the anniversary, the halftime show concluded with an arrangement of the 1812 Overture performed by the combined members of the alumni and current band," said **Matthew Smith**, director of the Cyclone Marching Band. "The performance was accented by live cannon blasts, provided by the 194th Field Artillery Battalion of the Iowa Army National Guard."



Late bloomer

A teacher for most of her career, Carol Wilson is now singing in one of Germany's foremost opera houses.

When Carol Wilson graduated from Iowa State in 1970 as one of Iowa State's very first music majors she had no plans to become a professional artist.

That was true when she received first a master's degree from the University of Nebraska two years later, and in 1983 when she earned a Doctor of Musical Arts from The Yale School of Music.

No, Carol Wilson was a teacher, a member of the voice faculties at prestigious private institutions of higher learning – Vassar, Sarah Lawrence, Mt. Holyoke and Carleton. She also taught at the Westminster Choir College and Washburn University.

It was by chance that Wilson was “discovered” while living in New York City.

“I was running a concert series in Manhattan and I was practicing one day when I was ‘discovered,’” Wilson says.

An agent, Alan Green, from Columbia Artists Management, one of the world's largest talent agencies, happened to hear Wilson sing that day. Green asked her to come by the agency's offices to sing for him.

“At first I didn't know who he was,” Wilson recalled. “I had heard of an agent by that name but I didn't think he was that Alan Green.”

With little performing background, Wilson didn't take the offer too seriously. She says it took her a year to “get up the courage to sing for him.”

But she did make an appointment with Green and as a result he sent her to Düsseldorf for an audition with the Deutsche-Oper-am Rhein.

“That was my first stage audition,” Wilson said. “I was scared out of my mind. Alan had psychologically prepared me for it but as I looked out in the theatre there were four people listening to me I had to ask myself if ‘this was for real?’ ”

It was real, and almost 30 years after graduating from Iowa State Wilson was hired immediately by the opera house, where she has been a principal soloist since 1998.

During her stay in Düsseldorf, Wilson has performed such roles as Eva (*Die Meistersinger*), Senta (*Der fliegende Holländer*), Elisabeth (*Tannhäuser*), Leonore (*Fidelio*), Ariadne (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Gräfin (*Capriccio*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), Agathe (*Der Freischütz*), and Alcina, Alice Ford (*Falstaff*).

She has also performed with the Royal Opera Stockholm, Vancouver Opera, at the Savonlinna Festival (Finland), Staatsoper Stuttgart, Oper Frankfurt, and Staatstheater Bonn.

In the U.S., Wilson has appeared in performances of Handel and Haydn operas with the St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra, highlights from *West Side Story* at the Connecticut Early Music Festival, and concert performances with the Brooklyn



Philharmonic.

She has also performed throughout the U.S. in repertoire ranging from medieval to contemporary with The American Symphony Orchestra, St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, The Boston Masterworks Chorale, The Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, the Yale in Norfolk Chamber Music Series, the Connecticut Early Music Festival, the Rocky Mountain Festival for Contemporary Music, and the International Congress for Medieval Music.

Not bad for someone who didn't get her start performing until she had taught for 20 years.

“People often write off singers past 35 or 40 years old,” Wilson said. “Many are not really interested in hiring you. My voice had a chance to mature without having burned out at a much younger age. Your voice can last – mine did because I didn't use it as an opera singer. My voice is still fresh.

“If you're good, people will want that, especially if you have a presence on the stage.”

A gift of \$10,000 has been recently donated in Wilson's name by the John R. and Eloise Mountain Wright Foundation. ▲



Paul Bro, Wayne Bailey, Alan Greiner (seated), Jay Kawarsky.

Better late than never

Four distinguished alumni return to campus for awards, special alumni concert.

A late decision turned out to be a good one for the Department of Music.

In the fall of 2004, the department's faculty selected Jay Kawarsky as its first alumni award recipient.

But the selection process came too late to include Kawarsky in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences alumni awards celebration during Homecoming that fall. The department decided to wait and honor the composer a year later.

That's when everything started to fall into place for a special alumni concert to conclude the department's Homecoming activities in the fall of 2005.

"Bill (David, professor of music) called to tell me that I was going to be honored but it was too late to make the arrangements to come back to Ames," said Kawarsky ('81), who

is a professor of music theory and composition at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, N.J.

"But Bill said they knew who the department was going to honor the following year and wondered if I would like to write a piece to be performed back at Iowa State."

The department was also honoring Paul Bro ('80), a long-time colleague and former classmate of Kawarsky both at Iowa State and Northwestern University. Bro is a professor of music at Indiana State University and a professional saxophonist.

"I was planning on writing a piece for saxophone and winds but hadn't finished it yet," said Kawarsky, who as a composer has written for all genres including solo instrument, orchestra, band, choir, voice and music theatre. "When Bill told me that Paul was also being honored I knew it was

the perfect piece for this concert."

Bro and the ISU Wind Ensemble performed the world premiere of "Fastidious Notes." The ten-minute work, which alternates rather agitated rhythmic sections with more serene sections, was the concluding event of the Department of Music's alumni activities during Homecoming.

"It's a very lyrical piece that has a couple of outbursts of virtuosity that come out of nowhere," Bro said.

Bro and Kawarsky weren't the only music alumni honored by the department. Wayne Bailey ('77), director of the School of Music at Arizona State University, and Alan Greiner ('85), executive director of the Iowa State High School Music Association, were also recognized. The two participated in the concert by serving as guest conductors of the ISU Wind Ensemble.

"I was here the whole weekend," said Bailey, who also participated in the 25th reunion of the Alumni Marching Band. "I saw people, including a fellow former drum major, I haven't seen in 20 years."

Greiner reflected back on his days as a member of the ISU Wind Ensemble.

"I can remember playing in this ensemble and where my relationship with my (future) wife was fostered," he said. "It's a dream come true to conduct this group and a very special honor to be recognized by the department."

Kawarsky, Bailey and Bro each received the department's Outstanding Music Alumni Award, while Greiner received the Outstanding Music Educator Alumni Award.▲

Inspiring others

Walvoords hope million dollar gift will encourage others to give.

Ellen (Molleston) and Tom Walvoord would like to start something exciting.

The Illinois couple hopes their recent commitment of \$1 million to the Department of Music will inspire others to support the arts.

The idea is to call attention to an area that brings vitality to campus and community yet is often overlooked by private support.

“Music and theatre tend to be like athletics in terms of extended impact on the university, community and state,” Ellen says.

Yet music and theatre may not be the first areas that come to mind when considering where to designate a gift.

The Walvoords have been supporters of Iowa State for many years and recently decided that one more gift – to music and theatre – was an important one.

“I have had an association with the department since age six, when I began piano lessons with Ira Schroeder,” Ellen said.

She was also rehearsal accompanist for the Iowa State Singers during her college years.

“My years of interactions with Ira and later, Bob McCowen, who headed choral music, are among the highlights of my memories at Iowa State,” Ellen said.

Ellen believes the



appreciation of music and theatre on campus runs deeper than those who major in the areas.

“For a science and technology university, participation in music and theatre by non-majors is outstanding – from the marching band to Stars Over VEISHEA to the classroom.”

For many months prior to designating a gift, Ellen explored the department’s needs and quality level.

“I read strategic plans, accreditation reviews and met with faculty,” she said. “The artistic and operating performance levels are so high and funding is so low that the decision became easy for Tom and me.

“It seemed to us that a sizable gift would say to the Iowa State world ‘music and theatre are worthy of significant giving.’ You don’t have to major in music or theatre – and we didn’t – to appreciate what they mean to the campus and region.”

With a \$500,000 deferred gift plus a \$500,000 current gift, the Walvoords hope to assist the department both now and in the future.

“We feel comfortable that the

department will be wise in how it uses the money,” Ellen says.

“They can use it in every corner of the department.”

Michael Golemo, associate professor and chair of the Department of Music, says the department’s faculty is beginning to meet and discuss how to use the Walvoords’ gift.

“We’re looking at what the priorities of the department are and what needs we have that this gift can go towards,” he said.

Those needs could range from scholarships to equipment, electronic technology, faculty positions, physical improvements to the Music Hall or even a “flex” spending plan for faculty members.

“The Walvoords’ generous gift has allowed the department to dream a little bit,” he said. “We can create a vision and know with this funding, that the vision can become a reality.

“Over the years, the department has had other sizeable gifts for specific items.

But it’s great to have this unrestricted gift that we can put in the area or areas of our greatest needs.” ▲

Alumni news

Kylie Behm (B.A. '05) was married to **Nate Newhard** (B.M. '05) on July 30, 2005.

Elise Benzing (B.M. '05) was married to **Dennis Rodenberg** on July 16, 2005. Elise is teaching band at HLV Community School in Victor. Dennis, a percussionist, works as a logistics manager for CRST Trucking.

For the past ten years **David DeVenney** (B.M. '80) has been a member of the faculty of West Chester (Pennsylvania) University, and conductor of the Reading (Pennsylvania) Choral Society. After graduation, he earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, where he was a pupil of the late Robert Fountain; and a doctorate in conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Complementing his primary work as a conductor, he has made many contributions to scholarship in American choral music through his ten books and over four-dozen articles. In addition to a five-volume annotated bibliographic guide to American choral music, he has also written the first historical survey of this repertory, as well as books on opera, musical theatre, and cultural studies. He serves as general editor of the *Research Memorandum Series* of the American Choral Foundation.

Maureen (Hurd) Hause (B.M. '94) reports that she and her husband Evan welcomed their daughter **Elena Claire** on Oct. 21. Maureen is currently an assistant professor of clarinet at Rutgers University, and head of the woodwind division. She was a featured performer at the International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest in Tokyo on July 23, 2005.

Nick Hoover (B.M. '03) was married to **Mary Thimmesch** (B.S. Anthropology '03) on May 29, 2005. Nick is currently teaching instrumental music at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines. Mary was a member of the ISU Wind Ensemble and Orchestra.

William Neve (B.M. '02) completed his M.Mus. in trumpet at Wichita State and is pursuing a doctorate in trumpet performance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. In 2003 and 2005 he played with the Ohio Light Opera Company and is currently performing with the

Chicago Reading Symphony. He is studying with two retired members of the Chicago Symphony, Adolph Herseth and Will Scarlett.

Jennifer Porto (B.M. '00) writes that she spent last Christmas Day Service at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, the church where Bach served as organist. Porto is currently studying in Germany as a Fulbright scholar.

Rose Rumohr (B.M. '05) is the new Director of Bands at United Community Schools in Boone.

Ann Tiggess (B.M. '00) is currently working at K-Mart and is singing in church and in her local community chorus. She hopes to become active in Carroll Community Theatre. She can be reached at 335 W. Bluff Street, #2, Carroll, IA 51401.

Wayne Tigges (B.M. '96) recently performed in Santa Fe with the Cleveland Orchestra under Pierre Boulez. His future appearances include singing with the Los Angeles Opera, San Diego Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Liceu (Barcelona), Opera Pacific, Opera du Rhin (Strasbourg), St. Louis Opera, and at Glyndebourne. He appeared this spring in the Lyric Opera of Chicago's staging of Michael Tippett's "Midsummer Marriage."

Joanne (Wilson) Tubbs, (B.M. '94) is the music supervisor for Des Moines Public Schools, where she oversees the vocal, band, and orchestra programs for 32,000 students in 65 schools, grades K-12. She is a festival conductor and judge throughout Iowa, and plays percussion with a variety of local groups. Her husband **Peter** (B.S. '92, music minor) works as a videographer for Iowa Public Television. They reside in Dallas Center, with their two children, Julia (4) and Carl (1).

Wendy McCay (B.M. '03) was married to **Daniel Nutini** on August 6, 2005. Wendy is teaching instrumental music in the Southeast Hamilton School District.

Michael Wilder (B.M. '77) is Chairman, Division of Fine Arts, at Friends University in Wichita, Kan.

Sarah Wright (B.M. '05) is the new Director of Bands at Northeast Hamilton High School in Blairsburg.

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Wright honored for philanthropy

Deloris Wright, a long-time supporter of the Department of Music, was named the recipient of the LAS Dean's Arts and Humanities Medal.

Wright ('73, Ph.D., economics) was recognized during Iowa State's 2005 Homecoming celebration.

The Dean's Arts and Humanities Medal is awarded to LAS alumni who have enhanced the appreciation of the arts and humanities on a local, state, national or international scale.

A managing partner with Analysis Group in Golden, Colo., Wright has also served as vice president of Charles River Associates of Boston, an economics consulting firm. She has funded endowed chairs in economics and finance at Iowa State through a deferred gift. She has also supported the Carrie Chapman Catt Center and the Legacy of Heroines Scholarships on campus.

Wright is also a patron of the arts. At Iowa State, she has funded a multimedia classroom in the Music Hall, providing state-of-the-art computers and software programs for musicians. She also provided funds for a beautiful Lyon and Healy concert harp that allowed the Department of Music to offer harp lessons. And in the fall of 2004, Wright's generous gift allowed the top performing ensembles at Iowa State to travel to Chicago and present the second annual President's Concert in Chicago's magnificent Orchestra Hall.

This year, Wright has contributed to the purchase of a digital video camera in the Martha- Ellen Tye Recital Hall that will be used to videotape performances and classroom lectures to be placed on the web.

For information about ways to financially help the Department of Music, contact Melissa Johansen at 515-294-8868, mjohans@iastate.edu.

Music Today

Department of Music
Iowa State University
149 Music Hall
Ames, IA 50011

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, 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, drop it in the mail (ISU Foundation, 2505 Elwood Drive, 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 Melissa Johansen at 515-294-8868, mjohans@iastate.edu.

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