

# Music Today

at Iowa State University

Spring 2007



Michael Golemo, chair of the Department of Music, with copies of the new Iowa State compact disc and the sheet music of the fight song and alma mater - all just in time for the celebration of the University's 150th anniversary.

## Department celebrates ISU's 150th

The Department of Music is sponsoring two exciting projects in conjunction with Iowa State University's upcoming sesquicentennial celebration (1858-2008). The 150th anniversary will officially be celebrated from VEISHEA 2007 through 2008.

The department is releasing a new compact disc in honor of the anniversary. The CD, entitled "A Sesquicentennial Sampler," showcases student ensembles and music faculty. In addition, a new

edition of the Iowa State alma mater and fight song has been published.

The CD includes performances by the Iowa State Singers, the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble I, the Symphony Orchestra, Lynn Zeigler performing on the Brombaugh organ, Tin-shi Tam playing the Stanton Memorial Carillon, the Percussion Ensemble, Simon Estes, the Ames Piano Quartet, Sonja Giles, composers Jeff Prater and James Tener, and the "Cyclone"

Marching Band.

The sheet music includes newly arranged versions of both "The Bells of Iowa State" and "Iowa State Fights."

Both the CD and the sheet music can be obtained by contacting the Department of Music at 515-294-3831 or by using the web site at [www.music.iastate.edu](http://www.music.iastate.edu).

The department will also host The President's Concert during the sesquicentennial celebration.

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## From the Chair

Warmest greetings once again to all alumni and friends of the Department of Music! The exciting work and dynamic activities of the students, faculty, and alumni of our program continue to be incredibly impressive. Music Hall continues to be a hive of study, energy, practice and performance on the Iowa State campus. We continue to make a difference.

This newsletter will hopefully provide you with a snapshot of some the activities and individuals connected with our department. There is much to celebrate as we advance the art of music through providing the finest education possible for our talented students.

Our students are fully engaged. Upon graduation, they continue to thrive and remain successful, be it seeking a position as a music educator or being accepted into a first-rate graduate program in music. Our students are being well prepared.

Our faculty continue to excel and do more than just teach music. They continue to model for our students the dedication and passion needed for making music an important part of one's life. They serve as mentors and truly care about our students.

One of these "mentors" will be retiring at the end of this academic year. Joseph Messenger is retiring after 38 years in our department. Joe has served as the unofficial elder statesman of our department. We wish him much happiness in his retirement.

As part of the sesquicentennial anniversary of Iowa State, the music department has produced two items to help celebrate significant milestone. We have

published sheet music for our two school songs in a special edition, and we have produced a "Sesquicentennial Sampler" CD which features several of our faculty and student ensembles. Let me encourage you to support our department by purchasing these items. The CD details the history of our music department, but is also a powerful way to hear the excellence, scope and diversity of our program.

Proceeds from the sale of these two items will go towards our music scholarships endowment.

On a personal note, I have agreed to continue as department chair for the next five years. I find this position to be challenging, yet rewarding in the opportunity to lead and work with so many students, faculty, alumni, and friends who all support music at Iowa State. I hope that we can continue the brilliant trajectory that continues to distinguish our program.

There are many to thank for



our continuing success. Once again we recognize in this newsletter the many generous donors who included our department in their giving this past year. Your gifts directly support our students through scholarships, special equipment, instruments, and travel. The extent of this support is truly remarkable and further distinguishes our department. We are most grateful.

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

# Music Today

Michael Golemo, chair  
William David, editor  
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# department news

## Golemo elected to American Bandmasters Association

Michael Golemo, director of bands and chair of the Department of Music, was recently elected to membership in the prestigious American Bandmasters Association.

This organization is dedicated to increasing standards of artistic excellence in the field of concert band. An invitation to membership recognizes outstanding achievement in this area.

"I am truly honored and humbled to become a member of this historic organization," Golemo said. "In the world of concert bands, the members of this organization are the true leaders and legends of our profession."

Golemo has been director of bands at Iowa State since 1999. He previously served as director of bands at Albion (MI) College and assistant director of bands at The University of Akron.

He is a past national president of Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity and a past president of the Big Twelve Band Directors Association. He is currently serving as chair of the board of trustees for Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity.



## Wind Ensemble to tour Europe

In May 2007 the ISU Wind Ensemble will be touring Europe for the third time since 2003. The 54 members of this group will be on a twelve-day trip, visiting Brussels, Paris, Ulm, Salzburg and Rothenburg.

"The band is really excited about this trip," said Michael Golemo, director of ISU Bands and conductor of the ISU Wind Ensemble. "We are visiting culturally and historically important cities - and performing exciting, diverse, and appropriate programs of both American and European wind music."

"We are, of course, playing some Mozart for our concert in Salzburg, and Franck for our concert in Brussels," Golemo continued. "We are sharing our concerts with other bands, including community bands and a high school band which is a Department of Defense American school. We are also performing in a beautiful baroque cathedral in Southern Germany for the morning mass on Mother's Day. This will be an incredibly memorable experience for everyone and we are proud to be representing Iowa State University as musical ambassadors."

Among the numerous sites the band members will visit include Hitler's Eagle's Nest retreat in the Alps of Berchtesgarten, and the Schloss Neuchwanstein of King Ludwig II, known as the "Sleeping Beauty" castle after which Disney modeled his theme park castles. Sonja Giles, assistant professor of flute, will be featured as piccolo soloist with the Wind Ensemble for this trip.

If you would like to support the Wind Ensemble's upcoming trip to Europe, please contact Samara Garton of the ISU Foundation at [sgarton@iastate.edu](mailto:sgarton@iastate.edu) or at 515.294.8418.

# On-campus events

## Department enters national spotlight with SEAMUS 2007

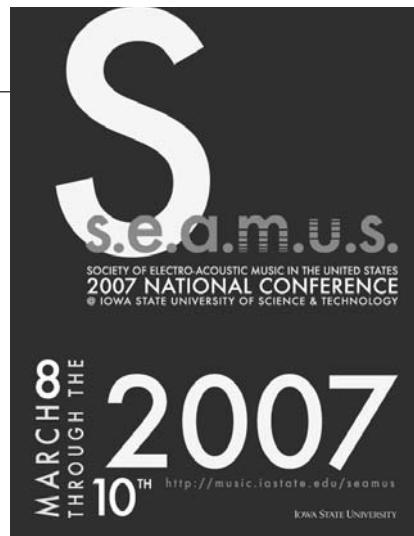
Early this March, the department of music hosted the 2007 National Conference of the Society of Electroacoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS). SEAMUS is the national professional organization for the composition and performance of electronic and computer music. Hosting the conference brought national recognition to the department and its emerging technology program.

From March 8-10 conference attendees heard fourteen concerts, audited four paper sessions, dined at an Awards Banquet, and held meetings both formal and informal on the progress of work in the field. A wide variety of music was presented, from pieces written for electroacoustic sound alone, (very often spatialized into as many as eight speakers), to pieces written for a collaboration of instrumental and vocal performance with electronics, to those for electronic sounds combined with video. Papers were presented on topics of new programming approaches for computer music, specialized recording techniques, and topics of historical importance in electronic music. The Awards Banquet was a sumptuous affair held in atrium of Howe Hall, with the C6 virtual reality enclosure as the backdrop.

Two special events headlined the conference. Joel Chadabe received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his

pioneering work in interactive performance systems. Two new works commissioned from Mario Davidovsky were premiered at the conference. These were two new *Synchronisms*, a series begun in the 1950's, that combine orchestral instruments in solo performance and chamber groups, with electronic sounds. This is a seminal series of works in the genre, and the addition of two new *Synchronisms*, No. 11 for Clarinet and Electronic Sound, and No. 12 for Contrabass and Electronic Sound is especially significant.

One hundred and forty-five members of the society traveled to Ames to attend the conference, from as far away as British Columbia and Great Britain. In addition to the many first and second-generation leaders in the field, there were approximately fifty students representing the new generation, four of whom were finalists in the ASCAP/SEAMUS student commission contest. Many outstanding performers from New York to San Francisco traveled to Ames to perform the works for instruments and electronics. ISU faculty members Mike Giles, Sonja Giles, Barry Larkin, and George Work received widespread praise for their excellent performances, as did current students Tyler Brown, Kelly Kruse, Wilber Lio, and Elliot Smith. Another "star performer" in the conference was the newly improved speaker and



projection system in Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall.

The conference was uniformly regarded as one of the best ever, and the credit goes to a fine conference staff, notably Tammy Krock, Sue Proescholdt, Larry Curry, Jared Wachter, and Tyler Brown. Alumnus Chad Jacobsen was technical director for the conference, acting as a concertmaster for the events. Notable assistance from the College of Engineering was provided through Mark Bryden and Kris Bryden.

The conference was organized and headed by Christopher Hopkins, assistant professor in composition and music technology.

## 150th celebration

*Continued from page 1*

The biannual concert is typically held off campus but next year's event will take place Sunday, Oct. 21, at Stephens Auditorium as the concluding event of Iowa State's Homecoming celebration.

Scheduled to perform are the ISU Wind Ensemble, the Iowa State Singers and the ISU Symphonic Orchestra along with several special guests.

# Chilcott to hold residency with choirs, children's choir festival

Robert Chilcott, one of the most active composers and choral conductors today, will conduct a residency with ISU Choirs on April 25-26 and will be the guest conductor of the Midwest Children's Choir Festival (MCCF) on April 27. While at ISU, he will work with the Iowa State Singers, Statesmen, Cantamus and Lyrica.

The 2007 MCCF concert will be held on Friday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. at Stephens Auditorium in Ames and will include music by living composers. Known for his compositions for children's choirs and commissioned by Ames Childrens Choir (ACC), Chilcott has written a new work *All things pass* for the festival mass choir and will conduct its world premiere.

Featured choirs for MCCF 2007 include the Carl Sandburg Children's Choir (Galesburg IL), the Treble Choir of the Honors Choirs of Southeast Minnesota (Rochester MN), and host choir – the ACC Concert Choir. These three choirs will perform separately on the first-half of the concert and join select Iowa singers to form the MCCF Mass Choir of 400 singers for the second half of the program.

Chilcott has been involved in choral music most of his life, as a chorister and Choral Scholar at King's College, Cambridge, and then as a member of the British vocal group The King's Singers. Since 1997 he has been a full-time conductor and has poured



his time and energy into promoting choral singing. As a conductor, Chilcott has worked extensively with choirs and festivals throughout the world. For seven years he was conductor of the Chorus at the

Royal College of Music and now is Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers with whom he works regularly in studio recordings and concerts. He appears regularly as a conductor, workshop leader, and choral clinician at major international festivals and choral events throughout Europe, Canada, the United States, and Japan. In 2003 Chilcott was the first non-American conductor to conduct a National Honor Choir for the American Choral Directors Association and in 2004 was the first foreign conductor for the Song Festival in Tallinn, Estonia.



## Air force band

During the fall semester, the U.S. Air Force Band from Washington, D.C. performed in Ames and was sponsored by the Department of Music. The group's musicians, including the "Singing Sergeants," provided several masterclass sessions for Iowa State music students. Michael Golemo, chair of the Department of Music, served as a guest conductor during the ensemble's evening performance.

# faculty

## A good impression

**T**here are two recitals you worry most about," says Joseph Messenger, professor of music. "One is your very first recital because you want to make a good impression. The second is your last recital because you want to leave a good impression."

After 38 years on the music faculty, Messenger is preparing for his final Iowa State recital. It's a performance he says he's been kicking around for the past year.

"At this point in my career I don't have anything to prove on the instrument, so I looked at the music I wanted to play," he said. "I gave a lot of thought to the pieces I wanted to do."

Deciding on the titles has been a lot easier than coming up with the musical arrangements. Only one of the pieces Messenger plans to play at his Sunday, April 29 recital is still in print. The rest he has had to beg, borrow and almost steal to get.

"I've managed to find copies of all the compositions," he said. "One piece though was never published – never released by the composer's family. A friend of mine had a copy and I had to promise that I wouldn't ever tell where I got it. I probably have one of a dozen copies in existence."

The recital may be Messenger's farewell to the Department of Music, but he won't be on the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall stage by himself.

"As much as I like the clarinet, listening to an hour and a half to two hours of only the clarinet is a punishment that shouldn't be inflicted on anyone," he said.

So Messenger has enlisted fellow faculty members William David, Sonja Giles, Mahlon Darlington and George Work to perform with him. It is just the latest in a series of collaborations that Messenger has done in his 38 years at Iowa State.

He took a chance when he came to campus in the fall of 1969. The Department of Music was just in its third year of offering a major.

"I had a chance to get in on the ground floor," he said. "I thought this was a good place to go and it has been a good place to be."



Long-time music faculty member Joseph Messenger in his Music Hall office.

"I could have gone and taught at university that offered a doctoral program but I really didn't want to spend my time reading dissertations."

Some of the things Messenger wanted to do was teach and perform. He has also been instrumental in other departmental activities including serving on the building committee when the Music Hall opened in 1980.

Messenger also helped coordinate the approval of a Bachelor of Music degree at Iowa State, the first professional degree of its kind on campus.

A long-time member of the Des Moines Symphony, Messenger plans to continue to play with that professional group. He says it's the teaching he doesn't really want to leave behind.

"I get to work with really, really bright kids," he said. "I'll miss the students the most."

"One of the things that is a concern about retirement is now I'm going to be largely associated with a different age group. The students keep you on your toes. I hope to find a way to continue teaching. That keeps me young." □

# Fountain of music

**T**here was little time that Jeffrey Prater could devote to the project.

But then again, he was so taken by the idea there was no way he could say no.

"There was a short turnaround time on this commission, and I was preparing to travel professionally to Russia for several weeks," the professor of music says. "But I couldn't say no."

Prater accepted the commission from University Museums for a musical composition to premiere at the opening of the new Christian Petersen Art Museum in Morrill Hall. The museum opened March 22 and featured two performances of Prater's original composition, *Footprints of the Seasons*.

"As an undergraduate music major at Iowa State, I took many classes in Morrill Hall and I have a lot of fond memories of the building from those days. Between that and my interest in Christian Petersen's artwork, I enjoyed working on this commission very much," he said.

The composition sets to music the Osage Nation text that originally inspired Petersen to install the *Fountain of the Four Seasons* at the north entrance to the Memorial Union. Prater's piece attempts to represent, with music and dance, aspects of the Native American love and reverence for the seasons of the year.



Jeffrey Prater's latest composition will help open the new Christian Petersen Museum in Morrill Hall.

Prater says that the music, which is scored for four women vocalists, four modern woodwind instruments and tom-toms, "attempts to evoke a sense of Native American aesthetics without attempting to directly imitate the style or materials of Native American music."

"Each of the four seasons is portrayed in a different way," Prater says, "and the principal sections of the work attempt to reflect the aesthetic differences of the seasons as set forth in the Osage text. I employed a single woodwind instrument and a single female voice to represent each season."

"The four principal sections of the piece and the refrain that connects them all feature a prominent part for the tom-toms."

Each of the short movements in *Footprints of the Seasons* includes an important interpretive dance component, choreographed and directed by Valerie Williams.

"The dances add powerful visual and kinesthetic components to the work," Prater said. "Both music and dance provide a close sense of connection between Petersen's *Fountain of the Four Seasons* and the Osage Nation text."

Prater says he decided to use both Petersen's fountain and the Osage text as points of inspiration and departure for this new musical work.

"The fountain seems to be a central focal point of Petersen's many artworks on campus," he said. "In my opinion, the fountain is the most familiar Christian Petersen artwork on campus. It is a place where so many students, alumni, faculty and staff have gone to sit, read a book, enjoy the day or simply meet friends." □

# Three decades of chamber music

You couldn't blame the Ames Piano Quartet's members if they would want to stop and rest on their laurels just a little bit.

After all, the group has been together for 30 years now and have performed countless concerts across the world.

But Iowa State's resident chamber music ensemble isn't about to stop and smell the roses.

"We're taking a little time off this summer but we're already talking about another recording, a possible new commission and we've got a full slate of concerts scheduled next fall," said William David, pianist and an original member of the Ames Piano Quartet.

Even that little time off concerns Jonathan Sturm, the group's violist.

"We recently took a little time off and didn't (even) rehearse," he said. "I have to admit I'm a little lost. I miss that musical interaction."

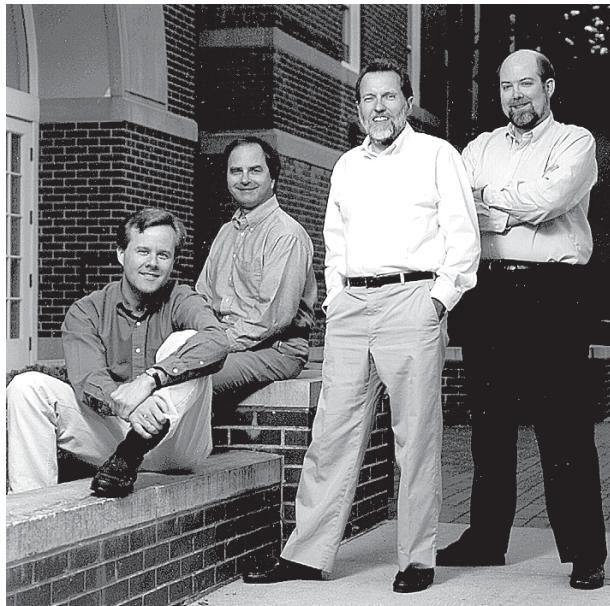
The Ames Piano Quartet has been busy lately. They just finished a two CD set recording of British piano quartets for Albany Records and have actually released two different discs this past academic year. This is the tenth recording the group has made since its first release in 1988.

"We're the most recorded piano quartet in the world, to the best of our knowledge," David said.

The quartet is also talking with an up-and-coming composer for a new commission. If approved, the commission would be funded by a grant from Chamber Music Association, the flagship organization for chamber music in the United States.

The quartet has already commissioned several piano quartets, including one commissioned by Ames Town and Gown by American composer Lee Hoiby entitled *Dark Rosaleen* that can be heard on its *American Piano Quartets* disc.

Although David and another original member Lawrence Burkhalter were a part of a quartet in the mid-'70s, the Ames Piano Quartet didn't officially begin until violinist Mahlon Darlington came to campus in 1976. Cellist George Work joined the group in 1981. Sturm became a Quartet member in 1998 following Burkhalter's



Ames Piano Quartet celebrates its 30th anniversary with tenth recording retirement.

Each say the lure of playing in the Ames Piano Quartet was the reason why they choose Iowa State.

"I had just left Drake and I knew the reputation of this group," Sturm said. "Here was a chance to play chamber music at the highest level – what (classically trained) musician doesn't want that?"

The first years of the group were a little tough according to David. Initially the ensemble played primarily on campus with an occasional nearby concert.

The quartet's first big break came when Allied Concert Services, a professional booking agency, signed them in 1980. For the next three years, the Ames Piano Quartet relied on the agency to book them into concert venues in an eight-state region.

"We were ambitious and wanted to break out of the standard faculty playing together mode," Work said. "We were trying to move past that."

So the Quartet started writing letters to national managers, asking them to represent the group. In 1983, a Philadelphia agency - Joanne Rile Artists Management - set up an audition and eventually signed the Ames Piano Quartet to their roster of performers.

Now the Quartet play as many as 30 concerts a year – primarily on college campuses or in museums or as part of a chamber music series.

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## **Jeff Prater return to Russia for performance, teaching**



Jeff Prater, music department alumnus (BS, 1969) and current professor of music, recently returned from Russia, where his hour-long oratorio *Veni Creator Spiritus* was performed by the Saratov Symphony Orchestra and the Saratov Governor's Theater Chorus.

Prater was asked by the concert organizers to bring soloists from the US, so joining him were alumna soprano Amy Wagar Newton (BM in vocal performance, 1992) and flutist, Kimberly Helton (flutist with the Cedar Rapids Symphony and music faculty member at Simpson College).

The concert took place on Feb. 25, 2007 at the Saratov Conservatory of Music, the third most prestigious national conservatory in the Russian Federation. The performance of *Veni Creator Spiritus* was on the final concert of a three-day international choral festival held at the conservatory.

Prater served as one of five judges for the festival competition, which included over thirty choirs from Russia and countries of the former Soviet Union. This trip to Saratov was made possible, in part, by a generous grant from the J.W. Fisher Endowed Arts Outreach Fund at ISU.

The Saratov concert was conducted by Arkadi Feldman, director and principal conductor of the Kaliningrad Symphony Orchestra. This was the fourth performance of *Veni Creator Spiritus* for Feldman. Two earlier performances (including the premiere) took place during Expo-2000 (June, 2000) in Hannover, Germany, with the Kaliningrad Symphony Orchestra, the ISU Chamber Singers in combination with a German choir, and American soloists. These concerts were benefit events for the rebuilding of the Koenigsberg Cathedral (located in

Kaliningrad, Russia).

A subsequent performance then took place inside the newly rebuilt Koenigsberg Cathedral in August, 2005 during a festival commemorating the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the city of Koenigsberg-Kaliningrad. Performing on that concert were the Kaliningrad Symphony Orchestra, the Saratov Governor's Theater Chorus and American soloists.

After spending a week in Saratov (about 500 miles SE of Moscow on the Volga River), Prater traveled to Kaliningrad (on the Baltic Sea between Lithuania and Poland). In the fall 2005, Prater had served there as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer at Immanuel Kant Russian State University. During this most recent trip, he presented a lecture on the music of Stephen Foster and a lecture on American popular music during World War II.



## **Holiday signature**

Simon Estes, the F. Wendell Miller Distinguished Artist-in-Residence and internationally-acclaimed bass-baritone, signed copies of his newly-released CD, *Holiday Classics with Simon Estes*, recently in the Music Hall lobby.

The 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. *Holiday Classics with Simon Estes* is available at several Ames locations including online at [www.music.iastate.edu](http://www.music.iastate.edu) under "Special Interest." Prior to last Christmas, over 1,200 copies of the CD had been sold.

# Faculty notes

In July **Kris Bryden** presented the paper "Using a Human-in-the-Loop Evolutionary Algorithm to Create Data-driven Music" at the 2006 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers World Congress on Computational Intelligence in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Early this year, **James Bovinette** served as a clinician for the Northern Iowa Area Community College Jazz Festival and the Central College "Jazzmania". Dr. Bovinette also performed works by Tartini, Hovhaness, and Mendez at the Ames High School Orchestra Fall Festival.

**Mary Creswell** performed at the Sanibel Music Festival in March. She and pianist Andrew Adams (formerly ISU vocal coach) performed works by Quilter, Brahms, Donizetti, and Poulenc. Professor Creswell joins a roster of performers such as Olga Kern, Emerson String Quartet, The Borealis Wind Quintet with Leon Bates, and other internationally renowned musicians who have performed at the festival.

In January **William David** and **Jonathan Sturm** participated on a panel discussion at the national conference of Chamber Music America in New York City. The topic was "Discovering Forgotten Small Ensemble Repertoire."

**William David** performed a thirty-minute recital during the 2007 Terrace Hill Piano Competition for broadcast statewide on Iowa Public Television. His program included works by Schumann and Scriabin. The performance will be aired June 6, 2007, at 9:30 p.m.

**Michael Golemo** composed a work entitled, "Suite Feelings," which was commissioned by the Flat Rock (GA) Middle School Concert Band. Golemo conducted the premiere of this work with the Flat Rock band at the Georgia Music Educators Association convention in February, 2007. Golemo's composition will be published in 2008 by Daehn Publications.

Golemo has served as the conductor for several honor bands, and served as guest conductor at Humboldt High School for a concert that involved

two of his compositions. The Director of Bands at Humboldt High School is Ben Harper (B.M. '06). Golemo is also serving as an adjudicator for the state of Illinois concert band festival, held at Illinois State University. This summer he will begin his fifth season as conductor and director of the Ames Municipal Band.

In January, **James Hannon** and the ISU Symphony hosted the second Annual ISU Honor Orchestra. The event brought some 100 top-level high school instrumentalists for rehearsals, master-classes and performances. The guest conductor for the event was Matthew Hazelwood from the Interlochen Arts Academy. Professor Hazelwood also conducted a performance with the ISU Symphony of the Bartok Piano Concerto No. 3 with **William David** as soloist. Mr. Hannon continues his appearances as music director/conductor with the Central Iowa Symphony (CIS) and the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra with whom he conducted a premiere of Joan Tower's new work *Made in America*. Additionally, he appeared in April as guest conductor with the Quincy (IL) Symphony. In May Hannon also performs as viola soloist with CIS.

*Sonata of the Seaven Teares* by Christopher Hopkins was performed by George Work and William David at the Grinnell Festival of New Music in February. This was the second performance of this work commissioned by the Music Teachers National Association and the Iowa Music Teachers Association. Also in February Dr. Hopkins presented a paper "Soundfont Banks as a Compositional Utility for Voicing Inharmonic Structures" at the fourth annual Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art in Minneapolis. In April he participated in the national conference of the Society of Electroacoustic Music in the United States at the University of Oregon and hosted the March 2007 national conference (see page 4).

In August, he participated in the national Conclave of the Viola da Gamba Society of America. With Sonja Giles premiered *The Animus Winds*, a new work commissioned for the exhibit Obsessed: the Weather in Art at the Brunnier Art Museum. A version for electroacoustic installation accompanied the exhibit through March 2007. In December Hopkins, together with Kenneth Mark Bryden (Mechanical Engineering), was awarded the 2007 collaborative research fellowship of the Center for

Excellence in the Arts and Humanities for “Mapping Sound to 3-D Virtual Materials: a real-time touch sensitive instrument for Virtual Engineering and Electroacoustic Music.” This project is housed in the Virtual Reality Applications Center and creates electronic musical instruments that change their sound in response to touching virtual objects. The aim is to provide a tool for musical creativity and aural interpretation of engineering models.

Immediately after performing the News Year’s Eve concert with Des Moines Symphony, Barry Larkin began preparation for eight performances of the Broadway show “The Light in the Piazza” at the Des Moines Civic Center. In February, Larkin was called to substitute for a stranded percussionist in a performance of “The Phantom of the Opera” with no rehearsal. He also performed Leonard Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms* with Des Moines Choral Society. During the 2007 State of Iowa Days of Percussion at Northwestern College in March, he performed David Gillingham’s *Five Fantasies of Natural Origin* with Iowa State colleague, Sonja Giles. Gillingham was in attendance for the performance.

Sylvia Munsen conducted the Sixth Grade Honor Choir for the South Central District of the Iowa Choral Directors Association on April 10.

James Rodde has maintained an active schedule as a guest conductor. In 2006 he conducted the All-State Choirs in Texas, South Dakota, and Iowa. Under his direction, his new arrangement of Allegri’s *Miserere Mei, Deus* for men’s voices was premiered by the Texas Men’s All-State Choir. Rodde, in conjunction with Kingsway International, is currently organizing a men’s choir festival for Beijing, China in June 2008, an event that will serve as part of the cultural celebration leading up to the Summer Olympic Games. James and Kathleen Rodde, together with 11 music education students, attended the American Choral Directors Association National Convention in Miami, March 7-10. Two of Rodde’s editions, Sweelinck’s *Pseaume 43* and Dubra’s *Oculus non vidit* were performed by the Florida State University Singers. The Sweelinck works, along with his Allegri arrangement, were also selected for the convention’s reading session.

**Donald Simonson** was named a Master Teacher by the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) during the summer of 2006. The Master Teacher designation has been given to fewer than 1% of NATS members. As a Master Teacher, Simonson was invited to work with twelve young voice teachers at the 2006 NATS Summer Intern Program. During the two-week program Simonson presented lectures and masterclasses, and worked with the interns to hone their pedagogical skills in the studio.

In the summer of 2006, Simonson assumed the position of Vice-President of NATS. His duties in that office include running the association’s biennial Artist Award Competition. One of the major voice competitions in the world, the NATS Artist Award winner receives over \$10,000 prizes and is also given a New York debut recital in Carnegie Hall.

## Three decades of chamber music

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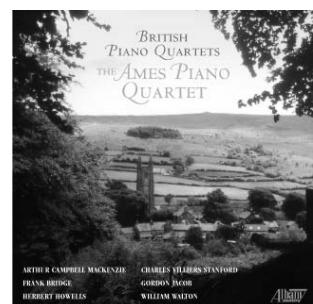
They have also had several international opportunities – playing in Mexico, South Africa, Taiwan, Canada, Austria, Cuba and France. That’s on top of concerts they given in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Denver, San Diego and Washington, D.C.

And despite the break they plan on taking this summer, it appears the Quartet will be together for a long time to come.

“We love playing chamber music and we respect each other both professionally and personally,” Darlington said. “I had a father of a student ask me recently why we do what we do. I think we play for ourselves. We make some really good music. If I would just wait for a concert then I would miss out on the enjoyment of all the music we as a group play in rehearsals.”

Sturm agrees.

“When you’ve got a great thing going, why break it,” he said. “To the extent we do that, we’re living our dream.” □



# alumni news



## Alumni honors

Two music graduates were honored last Homecoming by the Department of Music. Receiving the department's Outstanding Music Alumni Award was David DeVenney (above) (B.Mus. '80), who was honored by College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Dean Michael Whiteford and Donald Simonson, professor of music. DeVenney is the director of choral activities at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. Pam (Myatt, Quick) Crawford (right photo) (B.Mus. '72), received the department's



Outstanding Music Educator Alumni Award. She was presented the award by Sylvia Munsen, associate professor of music, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Michael Whiteford. Crawford is the choir director and vocal music instructor at Maquoketa (IA) High School.



## Alumni notes

**Dan Jones** (B.Mus. '06) has accepted a position as Director of Bands at Southeast Webster-Grand High School in Burnside, Iowa.

**Adam McDonald** (B.Mus. '06) was one of 20 students selected from 120 applicants for admission to the piano performance program at the Boston Conservatory. Adam will begin work towards his master's degree this fall.

**Jennifer Porto** (B.Mus. '00) was named a Fulbright Scholar during the 2005-2006 academic year. She spent the year in Leipzig, Germany at the Hochschule für Musik und Theatre Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. In 2007 Porto made her European operatic in Hamburg, Germany, singing *L'Orfeo* with the Music Theatre von Morteverdi.

**Melanie (Wilson) Sponheimer** (B.Mus. '06) has accepted a position as 7th and 8th grade band director with the North Polk Schools in Alleman.

**Wayne Tigges** (B.Mus. '96) will make his Metropolitan Opera debut in April, singing the role of Achilla in Handel's opera *Giulio Cesare*. Recently, Tigges appeared as Figaro in the Chicago Lyric Opera's production of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Other performances have taken him to venues as

## Alumni band

The Society of the Alumni Band representative Mark Sobek signs the ISU Alumni Association's Special Interest Society charter as ISUAA President Jeff Johnson and ISUAA Board of Directors Chair Kevin Drury look on. Alumni who participated in specific activities while attending Iowa State can form a Special Interest Society in an effort to stay connected to the university and with other alumni who share the same interests and experiences.

diverse as Santa Fe; Austin; Barcelona, Spain; and Parma, Italy.

**Joey Wilgenbusch** (B.Mus. '05), pursuing the masters degree in vocal performance at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, was one of only three tenors accepted into the program this year. He has performed in *Norma* and has recently been cast in the Eastman Opera Program's production of Steven Sondheim's *Assassins*.

# student news

## Student news

Ted Brimeyer has been named a 2007 Student Sensation by the ISU College of Human Sciences (CHS). The award recognizes a select group of outstanding students who are making a positive impact at ISU and throughout the greater community. Only 11 of the 2,643 undergraduate students enrolled in CHS programs have been singled out for the award. This is the first year the honor will be bestowed.

**Josh Deutmeyer** has accepted a position as Director of Bands at Montezuma High School in Montezuma, Iowa beginning in September 2007.

**Megan Eagen** has been accepted to the graduate program in musicology at the University of Chicago.

**Jennifer Edmundson**, a sophomore piano and composition major from Ames, was recently awarded second place in the Iowa Composers Forum 2006-07 Student Composer competition. The first and second prize winners in each age category will have their works performed at the ICF's spring Festival of New Music held at the University of Northern Iowa. Jennifer is a composition student Christopher Hopkins.

**Jane Flook** has accepted a position in instrumental music at Ogden Middle School.

**Dan Krumm** will enter the master's degree in percussion performance at the University of

Wisconsin this fall.

**Elizabeth Neuerberg** has been accepted master's degree program in voice at the University of Nebraska.



## Children's choir

The Concert Choir of the Ames Children's Choirs, Sylvia Munsen, conductor, was selected to perform at two national conferences this year. Munsen conducted a choral demonstration session with the choir and the opening night concert for the American Orff-Schulwerk Association in Omaha on Nov. 9.

On March 24, the choir performed a solo concert for the Organization of American Kodaly Educators in Chicago. The Concert Choir was one of only three or four choirs selected to perform at each of these prestigious conferences.

# 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 [wdavid@iastate.edu](mailto:wdavid@iastate.edu)

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 Collin Hobert  
 David & Willa Holger  
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 Stephen & Elizabeth Howell  
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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](mailto:greiner@iastate.edu).

Name(s)

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\_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of Gift \_\_\_\_\_

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# Music Today

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

## Special events: fall 2007

### september

Friday, September 7, 7:30 pm  
“Fanfare” Scholarship  
Benefit Concert  
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall  
\$

Friday, September 14, 7:30 pm  
Organist of Iowa Series  
**Gregory Peterson**  
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall

### october

Sunday, October 14, 3:00 pm  
Collage of Choirs  
Stephens Auditorium \$

Sunday, October 21, 3:00 pm  
**President’s Concert**  
Stephens Auditorium \$

Sunday, October 28, 3:00 pm  
Band Extravaganza  
Stephens Auditorium \$

### november

Friday, November 9, 7:30 pm  
ISU Symphony Orchestra  
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall

### december

Sunday, December 2, 3:00 pm  
ISU Holiday Festival  
Stephens Auditorium \$

\$ Admission charged