



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

the
Score

Department of Music & Theatre Newsletter – Spring 2011

the *Score*

The Score is published once a year for the alumni, friends, and faculty of the Department of Music & Theatre at Iowa State University, an academic department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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Greetings from the Chair

I am pleased to present to you the Spring 2011 edition of *The Score*. This is our “year in review” for the music area of the Department of Music and Theatre. The stories and pictures contained in this publication capture highlights, events, activities and accomplishments from our esteemed faculty, talented students and illustrious alumni.

I can tell you that the only constant in our department is change. We have had, and will continue to have, faculty and staff retirements. New people bring new ideas and different teaching styles to our program. We continue to upgrade the quality and offering of our facilities, technology and live concert webcasts (you can now also access these from your iPhone, iPod Touch, or your iPad). We also continue to acquire quality instruments for our student ensembles, and have had many wonderful instruments donated to our department, including the donation this week of a grand piano.

Like every academic department at Iowa State, we continue to have budgetary concerns and uncertainties. We have combined sections of some academic courses, and are doing our share to balance our budget without the need for reducing course offerings or eliminating degree programs within our department. Change is inevitable, but we continue to be committed to the highest standards of teaching and performing music.

In spite of budget concerns, we continue to enjoy a robust enrollment of talented, intelligent and motivated students. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences enthusiastically supports our programs, and graduates and friends of the school are stepping forward in helpful ways to ensure that we continue to thrive in the years ahead.

Much credit for our successes belongs to the members of our faculty, who are energetically devoted to giving our students a high quality education. We also have a support staff that deserves our thanks for their professionalism. I always look forward to visiting with prospective students and their parents because I can speak with unbridled enthusiasm about our program. Our faculty and staff exist at a level of excellence and dedication that is unsurpassed.

If there is a theme to this newsletter, it might be the large number of international trips within our department. Within this newsletter you'll read about past visits to Russia and Norway, and learn about upcoming tours to South Korea, Germany and Austria. It is worth noting that we currently have two visiting



scholars associated with our program -- Fernando Bravo from Argentina and Zhou Liang from China.

I also want to thank our many loyal alumni and dedicated friends who have contributed to our department this year. Many of our successes and programs would not have been possible without your generous support. Your gifts have a significant impact on our offerings as they motivate our faculty, staff and students to achieve the highest levels of musical excellence.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of *The Score*, and find yourself newly inspired by the accomplishments of our faculty and students. It is obvious to see that we have a very positive future!

Please visit us at any time, be it live or via one of our many concert webcasts, and share your concerns and suggestions with us.

With gratitude and all best wishes,

Michael Golemo, Chair
Department of Music & Theatre

Iowa State Singers to perform in South Korea

The Iowa State Singers will be traveling internationally again, when members of the mixed choral ensemble perform in South Korea this May.

"Many of our students developed an interest in traveling to Korea," said James Rodde, the Louise Moen Endowed Chair in Music and Director of Choral Activities at Iowa State. Rodde also took the Singers to Scandinavia and the Baltic nations in 2003 and China in 2006.

Rodde said Korea is known for having some of the best choirs in the world. "Korea has quite a number of large choral programs, and each major city has its own professional choir. Their wonderful singing tradition helped draw us to Korea," he said.

The ensemble will go to Incheon for a clinic with famed choral director Hak Won Yoon and will sing with his well-known Incheon City Chorale. The Iowa State Singers crossed paths with the Incheon Chorale two years ago at the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Oklahoma City, where both groups performed.

"We were so highly impressed with them," Rodde said. "Our

students were buzzing about their performance. Then later we found out they were also impressed with us!"

The Iowa State Singers are a select group of 70 voices that perform literature from classical to contemporary. Approximately half of the group will travel to Korea.

The 11-day itinerary also includes performances at various locales, sightseeing tours, a home stay with a Korean family, a night at a Buddhist temple and a visit to the demilitarized zone between South and North Korea.

Singers, Cantamus performed at ACDA

The Iowa State Singers and Cantamus were both honored with performances at the Divisional Convention of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) last March at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis. The ensembles, selected by a listening committee of regional choral conductors, enjoyed standing ovations from appreciative audiences of about 1,000.

The choirs are conducted by James and Kathleen Rodde.



Music Department Advisory Committee members Dennis Wendell and Carol Johnson helped to host an elegant Halloween reception following the Ames Piano Quartet's concert in October.



Pictured above are Sue Proescholdt and Jeff Prater being serenaded by members of "Shy of a Dozen" at their retirement reception last April. "Sue P." served as the music department administrative assistant for fifteen years. Dr. Prater began teaching music theory and composition at Iowa State in 1977, and was also known as the third graduate of the music program from 1969.



New Scholarship Fund Created

Professor Simon Estes is shown presenting a \$10,000 check to Michael Golemo, Music Department Chair, for the creation of the “Simon and Ovida Estes Music Scholarship Fund.” These funds are the result of the “Roots and Wings Tour” which has Simon Estes performing recitals in every county in the state of Iowa.

Estes has a new CD available, “Save the Children, Save their Lives” which features 20 of his most popular selections. The title track was premiered by Estes and students from his Cape Town school choir at the World Cup Soccer Games this past July during the opening “Tribute to South Africa” at the FIFA Gala Concert in Johannesburg, South Africa by Estes.

Student News

Last spring **Fernando Bravo**, a graduate interdisciplinary electronic arts major from Buenos Aires, Argentina, received a \$1,500 Fulbright Summer Research Grant. His animated short film *Puzzle Man* won the YouTube Competition Award at the Annecy International Animation Festival (Annecy, France). Bravo studies music composition and interactive sound design with Christopher Hopkins.

Bryanne Presley, an oboist from Nevada, Iowa, appeared on NPR’s nationally broadcast show, “From the Top.” Bryanne was a student of Kevin Schilling for eight years, beginning as a fourth grader and continuing under his tutelage until she enrolled this fall as an oboe performance major at the University of Minnesota. She performed the first movement of the oboe concerto by Vaughan Williams, accompanied by the host of “From the Top,” Christopher O’Riley. The program was taped in Ames on May 18, and broadcast in June and November. She was the soloist in the same piece on a concert by the Des Moines Symphony Youth Orchestras in which she was principal oboe.

Bryanne participated in All-State band and orchestra, including principal oboe in the orchestra her senior year (2009). As part of the honor for being chosen to participate in “From the Top,” she also performed in two performances of renowned opera singer Simon Estes’s “Roots and Wings” tour. These performances were in Vinton, Iowa on October 30, and Manning, Iowa on November 13.



At this year’s Gold Star Hall Ceremony in the ISU Memorial Union, **Justin Smiley-Oyen**, senior music major, played *Taps*. Justin is also a member of the Iowa National Guard-34th Army Band. Gold Star Hall is the “memorial” in the Memorial Union. When the Memorial Union opened in 1928, the names of Iowa State students who died in World War I were carved into the walls. Over the years, names of other casualties during other military conflicts have been added to the walls of the north entry to the Memorial Union.

Faculty News

Janet Alcorn has been named the Sponsoring Teacher in Voice for the Andover Educators, an organization that teaches Body Mapping for musicians. She will be responsible for the training of all singers who wish to be certified to teach the course “What Every Singer Needs to Know about the Body.” For the third consecutive summer, this workshop for music teachers and choral directors will be offered for credit at ISU. Alcorn is also a contributor to the new edition of David Blair McClosky’s classic book *Your Voice at its Best*, which will be published by Waveland Press in early 2011.

In addition to its trip to Russia (see separate story) concerts in Utica, New York; Wichita, Kansas; Batesville, Arkansas; Iowa City, Des Moines, and Athens, West Virginia filled out the **Ames Piano Quartet’s** busy touring year. Additionally the ensemble recorded two new compact discs for the Dorian/Sono Luminus label. The first includes music by Beethoven, Mozart, Hummel. It was released in January 2011. The second features works by early twentieth century French composers Reynaldo Hahn, Florent Schmitt, and Theodore Dubois. The Quartet’s eight-CD boxed set, which includes many of its recordings made between 1989 and 2009, is receiving many positive reviews. MusicWeb International wrote: “It consolidates twenty years of recording activity that reveals consistency, tonal homogeneity and a probing attitude to the repertoire, as well as a dignified approach to the established canon.”

Christopher Hopkins’ composition *Touché* was performed at the SEAMUS National Convention in April and ClarinetFest (the annual meeting of the International Clarinet Association) in July. During March, his work *The Animus Winds* was performed by the Da Capo Chamber Players at the Ammerman Center’s 12th Biennial Symposium on Arts and Technology, and by Margaret Lancaster at the New York City Electronic Music Festival. In January he presented a paper “Sound Shaping from Virtual Touch Surfaces: designing haptic-rendered virtual reality scenes for sound control and musical performance” at the 2011 SEAMUS National Convention at the University of Miami.

Gregory Oakes’s first solo CD, *New Dialects*, has received acclamations from the musical press following its April release. *American Record Guide* exclaims “Oakes is the rare player who has both excellent classical training and a mastery of the otherworldly procedures demanded by non-traditional repertoire.” *Fanfare Magazine* concludes their pair of glowing reviews with the following sentence: “Gregory Oakes obviously has a formidable technical armamentarium at his command, and the laudable curiosity to extend his repertoire...and ours as well.” *New Dialects* is a CD of pieces for unaccompanied clarinet based on non-Western and folk influences.

Donald Simonson was elected and installed as the President of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) at the conclusion of the Association’s 2010 National Conference in Salt Lake City. With over 7,000 members from

college, conservatory, university faculty and private studios, NATS is the world’s largest association of voice teachers. NATS is also the founding member of the International Congress of Voice Teachers (ICVT). Prior to assuming the office of President, Simonson served as Vice President for Artist Awards, Regional Governor, District Governor, and member of the National Board of Directors. In 2006 NATS named Simonson a Master Teacher, a designation bestowed on less than 1% of the association’s membership.

Dr. Simonson has accepted an invitation to join the jury of the 2011 Concours de Geneve: International Music Competition. The Concours de Geneve is the second oldest international music competition in the world. In November of 2011 the jury, headed by Teresa Berganza, will gather in Geneva, Switzerland to adjudicate the four rounds of the competition culminating in a final round with accompaniment by the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. Previous winners of this competition include the elite of the international music world, such as: Maurice André, Martha Argerich, Victoria De Los Angeles, Georg Solti, and José Van Dam.

Last May, **Kevin Schilling** was the oboe soloist with the Central Iowa Symphony in *Down a River of Time* by Eric Ewazen. This work, which is huge in scope compared to the typical oboe concerto, can be described as a contemporary romantic composition. Schilling found the work particularly suited to the oboe with its (as described by the composer) “Alternately wistful and joyous contemplation on the memories of the happy and sad times of life...”

Jonathan Sturm had a busy year performing and writing. In January he was Artist-in-Residence with the Des Moines Symphony, which involved performing Astor Piazzolla’s *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* with the symphony, working with music students in Des Moines area schools and performing additionally with the Des Moines Youth Symphonies. In May he performed the Piazzolla again in Cleveland, Ohio. During June he was invited as guest violist to Stringwood chamber music camp in Minnesota, where he taught a master class and joined the Artaria String Quartet to perform Mozart’s G minor String Quintet. He encored that performance with the Artarias in September in St. Paul. October saw the premiere of three of his own arrangements of violin showpieces in Des Moines.

Dr. Sturm’s musicological writing during the year included three articles for a new encyclopedia on African Americans in music, a book review of a recent Cambridge University Press monograph on Jews in Haydn’s music, and a chapter on Louis Spohr’s early opera *Faust* in a forthcoming book on the topic of *Faust in Music* to be published by Oxford University Press. During the fall of 2010, Dr. Sturm was also visiting professor of chamber music at Drake University.

In August 2010, **Tin-Shi Tam** was invited to perform carillon recitals at the University of Chicago, Chicago Botanic Garden, and the Millennium Carillon in Naperville, IL.

Musician Michael Bagby enjoys a range of music



Michael Bagby enjoys music. When asked if he had a favorite and a least favorite type to play on the piano, his answer was the same. “Not really.”

Bagby is an accomplished musician who enjoys playing all kinds of music. At Iowa State the Dubuque native studies piano under Professor William David and studies organ performance with Professor Lynn Zeigler. He also sings with and accompanies various Iowa State choruses.

In January, Michael performed with his high school choir at Carnegie Hall. He also played one of his own piano compositions.

It's the piano where Bagby's passion lies. Growing up in a family that enjoyed music, he began formal piano lessons at age 6. However, his mother says he tried playing commercial jingles by ear on his little toy keyboard at age 3. “Give me a break. Give me a break. Break me off a piece of that Kit Kat Bar!”

Bagby enjoyed practicing as a youth, worked hard and honed his skills. “Which means repetition, repetition,” he said. He became good enough to accomplish the rare feat of qualifying to accompany the Iowa high school all-state chorus all four years in high school.

During this time he met some of the Iowa State music faculty, including David. He also worked with Professor James Rodde, director of Choral Activities at Iowa State. When he started looking at where to attend college, Iowa State rose to the top.

“I could envision myself here at Iowa State for four years,” he recalled saying during high school.

A double major in piano performance and vocal education, Bagby stays busy. In addition to practicing his craft and performing with various choirs, he performs at his church and sings with the Iowa State Singers, a mixed chorus of the best student voices. Professor Mary Creswell is his voice teacher. He also has studied composition with Professor Christopher Hopkins and has performed with a jazz combo.

Bagby's post-college plans are up in the air. “Graduate school, however, is definitely the next step,” he said. “Where and in what are the questions.”

As skilled as Bagby is with the keyboard, he's modest and not likely to show off his stuff. Yet once on vacation, at the urging of his family and a waitress at the well-known Red Dog Saloon in Juneau, Alaska, he pounded out some ragtime tunes on an old honky-tonk piano.

Someone asked for classical music, so he played a piece from the *Mephisto Waltz* by Franz Liszt. Moments later a grease-stained cook exited the kitchen and said, “There have been a lot of people play that piano, but that's the first time I've ever heard anyone play the *Mephisto Waltz* before.”

“It showed me,” Bagby said, “that no matter where you go, you'll find all tastes in music.”

From Field of Dreams to Pipe Dream



Organists (from left to right): Jodi Jurgemeyer, Brad Van Horn, Jackie Burk, Cindy Hemm, Charles Sukup.

Sheffield, Iowa. Small? You bet. Rare? It most certainly is. Loud? It will be.

Five organists coming from small-town, North Iowa farms have a lot to offer and are about to make some noise.

These college-trained, classical organists from the Sheffield area presented an organ recital at the Iowa State University Department of Music's 24th Annual "Organists of Iowa" Concert Series, supported by the Sukup Manufacturing Co. on the exceptional mechanical action Brombaugh Organ. The event featured Brad Van Horn, Jodi Jurgemeyer, Charles Sukup, Cindy McLeod Hemm, and Jackie Sheahan Burk. All five were fortunate enough to study under organ professors who have played in previous "Organists of Iowa" Concerts.

Sukup lives near Sheffield at the

same farm on which he was raised. He is President of Sukup Mfg Co, which makes grain bins and drying equipment. Sukup serves as organist for Zion - St. John Lutheran Church in Sheffield. Over the years, he has been extremely generous in supporting both the concert series and the maintenance of the Brombaugh organ.

Van Horn graduated from Central College and studied organ with Dr. Davis Folkerts. He farms near Sheffield, was the Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City, and is currently the Pastor of Connecting at Faith Baptist Church in Hampton. Burk grew up in Sheffield and studied organ under Dr. Mary Lou Kratzenstein at UNI where she graduated with a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Music Education. She now lives on a farm near Goodell and teaches

at Belmond-Klemme School and is an organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in Belmond. Hemm, who was raised in Belle Plaine, majored in organ at Drake University under Dr. Carl Staplin and graduated with a degree in Applied Church Music and Music Education.

Jurgemeyer currently works at the Association of Boards of Certification in Ames and is an organist at Memorial Lutheran Church. Both Jurgemeyer and Sukup were active in Iowa State's Music Department and studied with Lynn Zeigler, who is responsible for creating the concert series as a way to showcase the talents of the many organists in Iowa, from college professors to church musicians.

Contributed by the *Hampton Chronicle*

Ames Piano Quartet adds Russia to list of international visits

Chalk up another international visit for the Ames Piano Quartet.

Iowa State University's resident chamber ensemble traveled to Kaliningrad, Russia, in March for a pair of concerts and furthered a relationship with the director of the Kaliningrad Symphony Orchestra.

The quartet consists of Iowa State music faculty William David, piano; Mahlon Darlington, violin; Jonathan Sturm, viola; and George Work, cello. The foursome, which has been together except for one personnel change for more than three decades, has previously traveled the world: Europe, Taiwan, South Africa, Cuba, throughout North America.

Despite 30 hours of travel each way and some language hurdles, "It was an extremely rewarding experience," said Sturm. Kaliningrad is a Russian exclave, a state on the Baltic Sea between Poland and Lithuania some 200 miles west of the Russian border.

The quartet performed together with the Kaliningrad Symphony Orchestra, a professional ensemble, which rehearses three times a week and presents weekly concerts. The concert included the Beethoven Triple Concerto, featuring Sturm, David and Work; the Shostakovich Piano Concerto No. 2, featuring David; and the Dvorak *Romance*, featuring Darlington. The concert was topped off with a backstage tradition—swallowing a couple sardine-like "oily" fish followed by a shot of vodka.

Arkadiy Feldman, a long-time colleague and friend of recently retired ISU music faculty member Jeffrey Prater, conducts the Kaliningrad orchestra. Feldman visited Ames in 2008 to conduct two orchestral concerts in a visit that led to the quartet's trip.

The Ames Piano Quartet also performed its own concert for an enthusiastic audience in a refurbished concert hall, formerly a cathedral in pre-communism days. One of the hall's unusual stipulations requires an organ to be included in each performance. Sturm



The Ames Piano Quartet performs in Kaliningrad. From left, Mahlon Darlington, Jonathan Sturm, William David and George Work.

played one piece with the organist.

"Viola and organ. That's not a common combination," Sturm said, yet he found a few suitable pieces of music for the two instruments.

Getting their musical instruments into Russia was a bit of challenge, taking about two hours at the border. "It was a time-consuming adventure," said Sturm. "We almost missed our connecting flight to Kaliningrad."

Members had to go to a small room at the airport, open their cases and show photos and appraisals of their instruments. Russian officials don't want less expensive foreign instruments exchanged for quality Russian ones. "I think they want to make sure no Russian antique artifacts are removed from the country," Sturm said.

The quartet's international travel has included other memorable experiences. The 2003 Cuban trip was the first by an American chamber ensemble in more than 40 years. In addition to performances, the quartet taught gifted, enthusiastic but underprivileged students playing

dilapidated, second-hand instruments.

"They were like sponges, taking in everything we told them," recalled David.

The ensemble's 2006 South Africa visit with Simon Estes, distinguished artist-in-residence at Iowa State, and ISU vocal faculty Donald Simonson and Mary Creswell, was an eye-opener. Once they gave lessons in a school converted from a prison still surrounded by barbed wire.

Another time they arrived for a performance at a small church in a crime-ridden shantytown to find no piano. A frantic search turned up a small Casio electric keyboard with a half-sized keyboard. David did his best in a shortened program as Sturm's wife Julie turned the pages and operated the volume knob, because the instrument had no other means of dynamic control.

"There were pieces we couldn't play because of the limitations of the keyboard," David explained, "and I obviously didn't do any solos." He was, however, able to accompany Estes on *Ol' Man River* for the appreciative audience.

Ames Children's Choirs tour Norway

The Concert Choir of the Ames Children's Choirs (ACC) celebrated its 15th Anniversary with a special performance tour to the southwest coast of Norway June 10-22, 2010. Dr. Sylvia Munsen is the ACC Founder and Conductor. Mason Conklin, ISU lecturer in music, served as the choir's accompanist. The choir was invited to perform concerts in prestigious performance halls, for special events and with local choirs. Performances in or near Bergen included: Troldsalen Concert Hall at Troldhaugen (Edvard Grieg's home), Bergen Domkirke (Cathedral), Ole Bull Villa & Museum, Birkeland Church, and Fana Church. Other performance venues include the Kvinnerherad Church in Rosendal, Sandnes Church, and Stavanger Domkirke. The Concert Choir performed with and was hosted by several children's choirs in Bergen (Jentekoret Høgskolen and Bergen Gutekor) and Sandnes (VIVA-Sandnes Musikskoles Cor).

The year 2010 is the 200th Anniversary of violinist Ole Bull and composer Robert Schumann. The choir's performance at the Ole Bull Villa & Museum was incorporated into a lecture presentation by Dr. Munsen on "Ole Bull in America" which was part of the special events planned for the bicentennial. The choir performed Norwegian folk music and music by Ole Bull and Edvard Grieg both in Norwegian and English. The rest of the tour program included music by J.S. Bach, Robert Schumann, César Franck, Bob Chilcott, and René Clausen. The choir also sang American patriotic, folk songs and spirituals, and a choreographed salute to songs by Irving Berlin as well as folk songs from Canada, Israel and South Africa.

In addition to remarkable performance invitations, the choir toured many museums and historic sights in Bergen including: Fantoft Stave Church, Gamlehaugen, Mount Floyen, Bryggen, Håkon's Hall, and Rosenkrantz Tower. In



The choir at the Ole Bull Villa.

Rosendal the choir toured The Barony, The Stone National Park, and the Folgefonna National Park. In Stavanger, the choir toured the Oil Museum.

Dr. Sylvia Munsen, the ACC Founder & Conductor and Chair of Music Education at Iowa State University (ISU), is proud to be 100% Norwegian-American. She first traveled to Norway

in 1971 to study at the University of Oslo International Summer School while she was a student at St. Olaf College. In 2001 she established a student teaching program for ISU in Rosendal and travels there each year for the program. She is author of *Cooking the Norwegian Way*, part of a series of ethnic cookbooks for children and *Kids in the Kitchen* (Viking, February 2008).

ISU Music Department Receives Valuable Clarinet Music



Drs. Gregory Oakes and Joseph Messenger

Professor Emeritus Joseph Messenger began playing clarinet in 1951 and spent the next 56 years, until he retired in 2007, acquiring music to use in his own performance and as teaching materials for two generations of students. For the last 25 years of his career, he was also Editor of Reviews for the journal of the International Clarinet Association, and as he received copies of new publications which were sent to other clarinetists for review, he purchased copies for himself, as well. His music library ultimately totaled almost 2500 clarinet compositions, including many manuscripts and compositions that have long been out of print.

After retirement, he decided that the best use for the music he had collected over the years would be to make it available for use in the performance and teaching venues in which he would no longer be involved. The clarinet music library was donated

to the Music Department and is housed in Music Hall so that it can be accessible for the ISU music community. Included is pedagogical music, music for solo clarinet, 1-3 clarinets and piano, ensembles of 2-6 clarinets, ensembles with other winds and/or strings, clarinet with orchestra and band, first clarinet parts for most of the standard orchestral repertoire, and more than 300 compositions for clarinet choir.

According to Gregory Oakes, Assistant Professor of Clarinet at Iowa State, "Having such an extensive collection of all the standard literature as well as many rare or out-of-print pieces is a tremendous resource for the students at Iowa State. Most full music libraries don't have nearly this deep of a collection of clarinet music. We are very lucky to be the beneficiaries of one of the most carefully curated collections of clarinet literature in the country."

ISU Wind Ensemble to tour Europe

This May, 52 members of the ISU Wind Ensemble will spend 11 days on a tour of Germany and Austria. This will be the fourth European tour for the Wind Ensemble since 2003.

The Wind Ensemble will have overnight stays and performances in Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Rothenburg. The group will visit the Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, where Joseph Haydn served as a court musician. They will also visit the Abbey of Saint Florian outside Linz, where the composer Anton Bruckner lived and worked for most of his life.

According to Director of Bands Michael Golemo, "We are all thrilled about this tour. Many of the cities and sites that we will be able to visit are so important in the history of classical music. To be able to visit the home where Mozart was born and see his piano and personal possessions, gives you a unique understanding to this composer and the era that produced him. This will be an exceptional trip."

Faculty soloists for this tour include Sonja Giles, flute; Michael Giles, saxophone; and Donald Simonson, tenor. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the members of the Wind Ensemble for their upcoming trip, please contact the ISU Band Office at 515.294.0400.



Wind Ensemble members visit Paris in 2007.



The Wind Ensemble will be performing a free concert at the Christ Church (at left) on May 14 at 7:30 pm in Salzburg. In the background is the Salzburg Cathedral, where both Mozart and his father worked as chapel musicians.

Tempo setter

Jacob Harrison conducts the academically diverse Iowa State Symphony Orchestra

Jacob Harrison had been in music since age 3, but it wasn't until he was 12 when he discovered conducting. He was at a concert listening to Beethoven's 9th Symphony when the "conducting bug" hit him.

"That's when I really discovered I loved conducting," said the director of orchestral activities and assistant professor of music at Iowa State. "I really got bitten by the conducting bug. I thought it was the coolest thing ever."

Harrison recalls when he grabbed a chopstick from a leftover Chinese meal, put on a Beethoven CD and "started swinging my arms in front of the CD player. And it kind of all started from there," he said.

Today he uses his baton as he conducts the Iowa State orchestra, an ensemble of more than 70 talented musicians from throughout the university.

Harrison started playing violin via the Suzuki method at age 3. He added piano and trombone later, and continued all three in high school in Russellville, Ark. It kept him busy as a youngster when he also participated in soccer, swimming and tae kwon do. Music, however, was always there.

"I can't remember a time when I wasn't involved in music," he said.

He received a bachelor of music degree in trombone performance from the University of Texas-Austin, and later earned his doctor of musical arts in orchestral conducting from Arizona State University. While at Arizona State, Harrison became actively involved in several orchestras and ensembles on campus and in the Phoenix area.

"I had an amazing amount of conducting opportunities," Harrison recalled.

He was director of Arizona State's Sinfonietta Orchestra, music director of the North Valley Chamber Orchestra, was



a conductor and assistant conductor of Arizona Lyric Opera Theatre productions and worked with several other ensembles and music festivals.

With a wealth of experiences, Harrison came to Iowa State in 2009, and he immediately was impressed with the academic diversity of his musicians. These talented performers come from all of Iowa State's colleges, representing some 30 different majors.

"I'm fascinated with what they are doing in engineering, mathematics, the sciences and other programs," he said. "Being in the orchestra is really a creative outlet for them."

Harrison is working to increase the size of the orchestra, and he has a lot to sell including tradition. The Iowa State Orchestra is more than 100 years old.

"I tell the students that they will have a musical home at Iowa State," Harrison said. "They will work directly with outstanding faculty members who will get to know their students quickly."

Harrison reminds students they will play the same repertoire as the world's best-known orchestras. "Students have the opportunity early on to become involved with our orchestra and work with other creative students while keeping up with all their courses."

Alumni News

Sarah Baldus (B.Mus. '09) is currently teaching grades 5-12 instrumental music in the Twin River Valley and Gilmore City-Bradgate Schools

Arkay (King) Brown (B.Mus. '03) and her husband **David Brown (B.Mus. '01)** announce that James R. Brown was born on October 24th at 3:10pm. He is 7 pounds 3 ounces, measuring 20 inches long.

Lindsey Bruner (B.Mus. '09) is teaching general music, grades K-8, at St. Theresa School in Des Moines

Allen Chace (B.Mus. '10) is currently substitute teaching in the Minneapolis area

Stacy Cullison (B.Mus. '00) is in her eighth year working as a fundraiser for the San Francisco Opera Company. She is responsible for approximately \$5 million in annual contributions. In 2006, she secured a \$35 million gift for the SFO, the largest donation of its type ever given to an American Opera at the time.

Chris Ebke (B.Mus. '10) is currently working at the Council Bluffs Schools .

Burton Hable (B.Mus. '09) is the band director at Waterloo West High School.

Sarah (Hambleton) Howell (B.Mus. '10) is teaching general music grades 5-8 at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Des Moines

Sarah (Law) Johnson (B.Mus. '04) is proud to announce the birth of Joshua William Johnson on Saturday, September 25. He weighed in at 8 pounds 9 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.

Michelle (Kudym) Juon (B.Mus. '98) completed her first year as the Director of the International Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota. She is on the Board of Directors for Orchestra Omaha (a community ensemble) and also serves as the ensemble's principal cellist. Michelle was recently accepted to graduate school at Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska, and will begin work on a Master of Arts degree in Communications this fall.

Sarah Madsen has decided to pursue a career in teaching English to English language learners. She has spent the past five years working in the Harvard College Libraries and as a free-lance trumpeter in the Boston area. In the summer of 2003 she took part in a service-learning trip to Bolivia where she taught music and tutored children at a boys' orphanage.

Sonia (Goodrich) Johnson (B.Mus. '96) and husband **Chris Johnson (B.Mus. '00)** are happy to announce the birth of their third child, Ian Xavier, born October 27. He weighed in at 8 pounds 9.5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Ian's brothers are Eli (4) and Hezekiah (22 months).

Jessica (Hightshoe) Rosenhauer (B.Mus, '01) is working as a pharmacist at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames.

Jeff Schmitt (B.Mus. '10) is teaching grades 7-12 instrumental music at North Linn Community School District in Troy Mills

Aaron Schuck (B.Mus. '10) is currently a long-term substitute at Gilbert (IA) Middle School, teaching instrumental music.

Paul Sibbel (B.Mus. '07) teaches grades 5-8 instrumental music at West Marshall and Marshalltown (IA) schools. His wife, Marin is a biological illustrator. They have two children, Hailey (5) and Daniel (2).

Andrew Sprung (B.Mus. '07) has begun work on his D.M.A. in clarinet performance at Michigan State University in East Lansing. He married Audrey Norby last December.

Chris Truckenmiller (B.Mus. '10) is teaching vocal music, pre-K - 8 at Sacred Heart School in Boone

Ben Varner (B.Mus. '10) is the band director at Prairie City-Monroe (IA) Schools

Brianna Weis (B.Mus. '09) is currently teaching grades 6-8 vocal music at Lenahan Intermediate and Miller Middle Schools in Marshalltown, Iowa.

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