

Spring 1989

UA68/9/1 Western Minstrel

WKU Department of Music

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Alumnus of the Year Award

Lt. Col. Ronald O. McCown is the first recipient of the "Alumnus of the Year Award". He was presented a plaque at the University Concert Band concert on April 12, 1987, where he served as guest conductor. A native Kentuckian, Lt. Col. McCown graduated from Western in 1962. He taught in the Kentucky public school system and, since entering active Army service in 1963, has appeared as a conductor with many military and civilian musical ensembles. He became Commander/Bandmaster of the United States Military Academy Band in August, 1979 following 17 years of similar assignments in the United States and Vietnam. During his assignment to the United States Military Academy Band, the band has appeared in Canada and



Japan, presented performances in Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall in the Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Tanglewood, and other major performing arts facilities in the Northeastern United States; and he has appeared on all major television networks in America plus the British Broadcasting System, the Canadian Sports Network, the Japanese Television System, and the Spanish International Network. Additionally, under LTC McCown's direction, the USMA Band has appeared in two documentary films and has also provided musical support for ceremonies honoring Presidents, Heads of State, Kings, Queens, and senior civilian and military officials from nations around the world.

The United States Military Academy Band is the oldest unit at West Point, New York, and is the oldest military band in continuous service in the United States. In striking contrast to the groups of fifers and drummers and an eight piece "Band of Musick" of the early days, the present strength of the USMA Band is 96 enlisted members and 3 officers. Today's band consists of four components: The Jazz Knights, The Field Music Group ("Hellcats"), The Concert Band, and The Marching Band.

For over 170 years, the Band has served the Army, the Military Academy, and Corps of Cadets with distinction realizing the value of music to the military service so well defined in an historical order book:

Music regulates the soldier's waking and sleeping, spurs him on in marching and fighting and accompanies him on occasions of joy and sadness.

Editor's note: Since this award was presented, LTC McCown has left the Army and his position as Bandmaster of the West Point Band. He now resides in Satellite Beach, Florida.

The alumni have selected Lt. Col. Ronald O. McCown for the Alumnus of the Year award.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES



Western Kentucky
University
Department
of Music
NEWSLETTER
for Alumni,
Students
Colleagues, and
Friends

SPRING SEMESTER 1989

lee's fanfare

Since July, 1987, I have had the unique pleasure of serving as Interim Head of the Department of Music. I say unique because I am an American historian who never dreamed that his future would include chairing a music department. During the past several months, I have been greatly impressed by the dedication and commitment displayed by the students and faculty in our program. The work of this department is marked by enormous creativity and vitality, and we relish the contact between ourselves and the graduates of our program. Our continued success is closely linked to your help. Please keep in touch with your suggestions and encouragement.

Let me bring you up to date on the search for a permanent department head. During the past year, the search committee interviewed several candidates for the position, but ultimately their hard work did not result in the appointment of a new head. The committee has diligently renewed its efforts this fall, and the position has attracted a large pool of applicants. We hope to be able to announce the appointment of a new department head in the next several months.

Occasionally graduates of our program and other friends of the department in the community ask me about procedures for contributing money to the department. Such contributions might take several forms. Many people like to contribute to the various music scholarship funds established in the College Heights Foundation. These gifts assist students in furthering their education and enable many students to remain in school who could not continue their education without financial assistance.

I would especially like to invite contributions to the Music Department Development Fund. As all of you know these are lean days in public higher education in Kentucky, and our budget allocation simply does not cover our needs. Under these circumstances, the Development Fund is enormously valuable as a source of funds for projects we could not otherwise undertake. It has enabled us to purchase equipment, make repairs, and entertain guests, projects we could not have undertaken without the Development Fund. If I can provide you with additional information about gifts to the Development Fund, please contact me at the Department of Music.

Let me close by thanking you for your help in another area, namely recruiting. This fall, the department enrolled 47 freshmen and transfer students in its programs. Naturally we are delighted by this success, and we realize the important role that alumni play in recruiting new students. Your help with our recruiting contributes immeasurably to the department. Thanks again for your continuing support.



David Lee, Interim Head

WKU Alumni Sweep 1988 Phi Beta Mu Awards

Phi Beta Mu, a professional bandmaster's fraternity, presented their two annual awards at the KMEA All-State Band Concert at the KMEA In-Service Conference in February. **Richard Borchardt** (BM '52) was honored for long and distinguished service to bands in Kentucky. **David Hutchinson** (BM '82), currently band director at Daviess County High School, was named "Kentucky's Outstanding Young Band Director."

Several members of the Western Family are prominent in service to the Kentucky Music Educators Association. **Joe Allen** (BM '60) is beginning a two-year term as Band Chair; **Mary Anne Davenport** (BM '73, MM '80) will serve as Chair of General Music (K-5); **Doug Van Fleet** (BM '63) will be Orchestra Chair, and **Gary Graves** has been President of the Collegiate M.E.N.C. **Hazel Carver** (BS '38, MS '60), Editor of the *Bluegrass Music News*, won the 1987/88 M.E.N.C. State Journal Award. Hazel's daughter, **Jean Spanko** (BS '64), successful author and general music authority, was a featured clinician at the recent KMEA Conference in Lexington. **Bill McCloud** (BM '54), KMEA president in 1977-79, is President elect of M.E.N.C.'s Southern Division. At present he is Dean of Fine Arts at Appalachian State University.



Don Wilkinson

Robyn Kay Swanson was awarded a Doctor of Music Education degree, with an emphasis in Special Education, from the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado in 1986. Robyn earned a Master of Music degree from Mankato State University, Mankato, Minnesota in 1970 and received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa in 1968.

Her professional experience includes various music positions in elementary and secondary schools as well as higher education. Robyn was an associate professor of music

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Robyn Kay Swanson

I'm Teaching What?

Submitted by Don Wilkinson

Moving to a new school is always full of surprises which I'm sure all of you have experienced. My first big surprise came as I read my assignment for the year; there it was—"JAZZ ENSEMBLE". Since jazz band had always been an important part of my instrumental programs in public schools and I had also taught jazz band at Hastings College, I turned from surprise to anticipation as to what could be done with jazz at Western.

Only time would tell; and as the year progressed I found a young, eager group that progressed rapidly with much enthusiasm. A great deal of this enthusiasm was generated by the great variety of high quality charts available today. The new charts swing harder than ever before, the ballads are tastier, and the jazz fusion and funk-rock tunes really get you moving. This is a different world from "Embraceable You" that was the norm when I was in high school in 1963.

JAZZ, the "only true American art form", is a new experience for a great many of Western Kentucky's Jazz Ensemble musicians, and teaching jazz at the university level requires a completely different set of tricks than teaching jazz in junior high and high school. At Western, we have students with advanced techniques which enable us to develop a good ensemble sound in a limited amount of time playing professional level charts. On the other hand, we have to start at the beginning with improvisation, which is actually much easier to teach at the junior high and high school levels. This makes for quite a challenge, which is what teaching is all about.

To meet the challenge of teaching improvisation, we use newly purchased "jazz aids" that are available through James Aebersold, and also a few traditional tricks that have worked for years. The band's first assignment was to learn "Mary Had a Little Lamb", "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and "Joy to the World", BY EAR. This seems at first to be quite easy, but try it in twelve keys and you have a first class challenge, especially if you've mainly played with the aid of written music. Controlling the instrument by ear is the

first and foremost task in teaching improvisation (and also, the most important element in becoming a musician of any kind).

Jazz is such an exciting medium to use in teaching music because it requires different attitudes and skills than the traditional concert band and orchestra. My primary goal in teaching the ensemble aspects of jazz is to develop the ability to read music, a feeling for the basic styles and spontaneity. To have a successful jazz program it is important not to over-rehearse (some tunes do take a great deal to work out). A feeling of newness and that "spark of spontaneity" can only happen when the groups learn to listen to the rhythm section, the lead players and each other—quickly reacting to what is happening around them on an intuitive level. Reading at a high level as well as listening and reacting to each other at the same time helps the ensemble find the groove as a group. Add the excitement and spontaneity of the jazz soloist and you have a great jazz band. It is to these ends that we labor in the name of Jazz.

We hope you will have a chance to hear the band this year. We have two formal concerts planned during the year, one in November and the other in May. Both will be held in the Downing University Center and will feature guest artists from the Nashville area as well as our own Western faculty. The band will also play at the Mall each semester on a Friday night, on the Downing University Center steps on a "beautiful sunny afternoon" and for the students at the band clinic in January. We are also planning several Friday afternoon outings into the schools of Kentucky.

Don Wilkinson, woodwinds specialist (plays flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, and bassoon!), from Nebraska was the first recipient of a DMA in Woodwinds Performance from Arizona State. Don's wife, Judi, is also an excellent musician who has joined our part-time faculty as an accompanist and piano teacher.

faculty notes

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and coordinator of elementary music education at Black Hills State College, Spearfish, South Dakota and is presently an associate professor of music and Music Education Coordinator at Western Kentucky University. Prior to becoming a university instructor, she was employed by the Cherokee Public School District, Cherokee, Iowa, as a middle school vocal instructor and curriculum director, and by the Sterling Unit District #5 System, Sterling, Illinois, as an elementary vocal specialist and music supervisor.

Robyn's credentials include state and national Music Educators National Conference presentations, publications and guest lectures in special music education and elementary education. She has also served as vocal adjudicator, vocal clinician, public and private school special education and music education consultant, voice and piano instructor, vocal recitalist and opera performer, musical director, and member of district and state music committees.

Robyn joined the WKU music faculty in January 1988. A long term goal for the music education area is the inclusion of a special music education emphasis in both undergraduate and graduate music education degree programs. She is looking forward to meeting music educators throughout the state and joining in support of music as an essential within the school curriculums of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. "A brand new world opens" to those who are involved in meaningful musical experiences. Music education is vital in the total growth and development of all individuals.

Betty Pease performs as violinist with the Collegium Musicum, a chamber group. This relatively new faculty ensemble plays formal concerts and at social functions. As many of you know, Betty is an accomplished painter and her paintings are a welcome addition to the music office.

Barry Johnson, composition, band, theory, and music appreciation joined the faculty in the fall of 1987 under the Junior Black Faculty program. Barry received Bachelor



Colleen Reardon

Colleen Reardon, the most recent addition to the Music Department faculty at WKU, comes to Kentucky from the shores of California. She completed all of her university work at UCLA, where she received many honors and awards in the course of her scholastic career. Most recently, Colleen was recipient of a Fulbright-Hays fellowship for research in Italy. During the academic year 1985-86, she studied and transcribed hundreds of documents from numerous Italian archives and libraries for her dissertation, "Agostino Agazzari and the Performance of Sacred Music at the Sienese Cathedral during Early Baroque." Colleen is the author of an article on parody technique in the late Renaissance Magnificat and is currently working on several projects involving sacred music in early Seicento Siena. She teaches music history, music literature and voice in the Music Department at WKU.

and Masters Degrees in Composition from the University of Louisville. Presently a doctoral candidate at the University of Kentucky, Barry served on the music faculty at Savannah State College in Georgia, and was a part-time interim band director at Kentucky State. Before becoming involved in music academia, Barry gained extensive experience as a commercial musician as a performer/arranger/composer.

Sylvia Kersenbaum continues to perform extensively. Last year she was featured soloist with the Buenos Aires Philharmonic, performing the Schumann Piano Concerto. At present she is preparing to record a program of Argentine piano music to be released this year in South America, and later in the United States. In Bowling Green she performs regularly on campus and at the Capitol Arts Theater. Recently she appeared as Guest Artist at the University of Kentucky. In addition to solo performances she spends much time accompanying faculty recitals and adjudicating piano competitions.

Not only does Sylvia excel on keyboard instruments but has become somewhat of an expert on the harp. In this capacity she performs with the WKU Chamber Band and the Bowling Green-Western Symphony Orchestra.

Joe Brooks, woodwinds specialist (plays clarinet, oboe, flute, and saxophone), teaches clarinet, music appreciation, woodwind methods, and chamber music. He joined the faculty in the fall of 1987. Joe has an M.M. degree in woodwinds from the University of Oregon and is former Director of Bands at Walla Walla College in Washington. He was solo clarinetist with the Continental Army Band for four years, clarinetist with the Army Band Woodwind Quintet and a member of the saxophone quartet, and formerly was oboist with the woodwind quintet, *Les Cinq Classiques*. With such a background, it should surprise no one that Joe is a particularly ambitious performer and appeared on at least four concerts and recitals his first semester at Western!

Kent Campbell, WKU Director of Bands, has been chosen President-Elect of the Kentucky Music Educators Association, an organization representing 1,000 music teachers in the state. After two years service in this position, Kent will assume the Presidency of KMEA for a two-year term beginning in 1989 and will have primary responsibility for the 1990 and 1991 In-Service Conferences. He will then become Vice-president and continue as a member of the Executive Committee for the years 1992-94. Talk about a "long-term commitment!"

Stained Light

Submitted by Michael J. Kallstrom

When I talk about music, I usually delineate three primary aspects of that art: creation, performance, and education. Of course, these aspects overlap and each contains elements of the others. Creation, for me, means the act of musical composition and as a composer I seek to communicate with audiences in many different genres. Last March I chose opera as my creative vehicle when I sang the premier of *STAINED LIGHT*, my chamber opera for bass voice, electronic tape, and video tape. As a vocal performer, my intention was to write a work in which the soloist would not require the collaboration of an accompanist or supporting cast—in essence, a one-man show. Therefore, the accompaniment was created with synthesizers recorded on tape which the soloist starts and stops on stage as part of the action. Video tapes are also cued by the soloist and he controls the lighting as well. The opera, which is in two acts, involves spoken dialogue with the audience, a puppet, and other characters portrayed by the soloist. There are props as well, including placards announcing each section of the opera, large drawings, "work balloons", flat two-dimensional instruments, and a hanging cloth backdrop with the clothes of three characters sewn to it who are all portrayed by the soloist via face and arm holes cut in the backdrop. The opera provides no narrative or story but is instead a series of reflections, fantasies and satires on different aspects of music (i.e. rock and roll, opera, the avant-garde, etc.). Besides the premier at Western, I have performed the opera at the University of North Carolina at the request of their opera director and in conjunction with a series of new opera performances that took place there in April. This year, I hope to be performing at the KMTA convention at Morehead State University, Murray State University, and Centre College.

I am also beginning a new work for Spring 1989 which will involve computer-generated artwork from Western's Art Department. While the performance location has not yet been fixed, Hardin Planetarium is being considered. The piece will be scored for soprano, bass, horn, percussion, "live" synthesizer, and tape.



Michael J. Kallstrom

Education, the third aspect I mentioned, is the thread that assures a continuing stream of new compositions, new performers, and new music educators who will spread the experience of the arts in society. Hopefully, my efforts as a composer, performer, and educator serve to stimulate students of music as well as members of the community who enjoy and support the arts.

Michael Kallstrom, music theory and composition, joins the Western faculty after serving on the faculties of Westminster Choir College, and Florida A & M University. He received degrees from the University of Miami, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Doctor of Music in Composition from Florida State University. His compositions have been performed on New Music Festivals at Memphis State University, Florida State University, and Southeastern Composers' League Forums. His awards include the 1987 Hoboken Chamber Orchestra New Works Competition and the 1986 Alienor International Harpsichord Composition Contest. Michael is also an active vocalist (bass-baritone) and performs his own works on solo recitals which include electronic tape, video tape, costumes and staging.

instrumental area

Kentucky High School Marching Band Championships

The 1988 Kentucky State Marching Band Championships were held this year at Western's stadium. The two previous championships were held at U.K. and at Louisville's Fairgrounds Stadium. With the installation of lighting at Western, the Marching Band Board of Control was quick to accept Kent Campbell's invitation to hold the event at Western.

Prelims were conducted during the day at Western and at Bowling Green High School. The finals, comprised of the top four bands in four classes, appeared under the lights at Western's Smith Stadium. Over eighty bands and an audience of over 15,000 people attended the event.

Band Festival and Honors Bands

This event, held the third week in January, has continued to be very successful. Because of increasing applications the format changed slightly in 1987 to incorporate a third student band, which of course, allows more students to attend. About forty different high schools participate in the festival each year. Conductor for the select band in 1989 will be Lt. Col. James M. Bankhead, Commander and Conductor of the United States Air Force Band.

Concert Bands

Beginning in the 1987-88 academic year the concert band was divided into two groups. A smaller group with controlled instrumentation has been named the "Chamber Band" and is conducted by Kent Campbell. While the Chamber Band meets all year, the Concert Band, conducted by Joe Stites, begins meeting after Football Band season ends.

Chamber Band's campus concerts for this year are December 6, January 20, and April 23. A southern tour concluding in Florida is planned for the first week of January, and at least two one day "run-outs" to Kentucky high schools are set for late in second semester.



Chamber Band to Perform at Epcot Center

The forty-eight member Chamber Band, under the baton of Kent Campbell, is to perform at the EPCOT Center in Orlando, FL. This appearance by invitation will be held at the "American Garden" and is to be the highlight of a tour that will include concerts at Dalton and Conyers, GA—courtesy of alumnus Jeff Burton; and Moultrie, GA—courtesy of alumnus Johnny Mashburn. The successful season will conclude with a concert in Van Meter Auditorium in April.

WKU Students Perform in Kentucky All-Collegiate Band

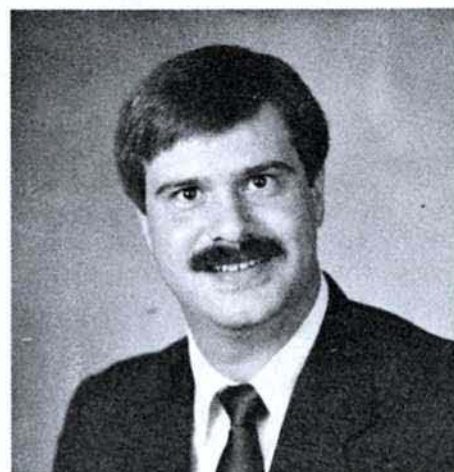
The following WKU students performed recently in the 1988 Kentucky All-Collegiate Band: Janet Allen and Christy Chamberlin, flute (first and second chair respectively); Kim Hoffman and Lisa Murrell, clarinet; Teresa Armstrong, bass clarinet; Kevin Briley, trumpet; Charles Curry, trombone; David Johnson, percussion; Keith Guier, French horn; and Doug Sell, tuba.

The "Big Red" Band

Submitted by Joe Stites

The "Big Red" Band enjoyed a very busy and successful Fall season. Our season opened with a pre-game performance at the Heritage Bowl on August 20th. Five home football games and a trip to the University of Louisville game were to follow, but there were still other events in store for us. On Tuesday, September 20th, Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts appeared in Van Meter Auditorium and, of course, the "Big Red" Band was there to greet him. Then, on Friday, October 21st, President Ronald Reagan made a speech to a capacity crowd of 13,500 people in Diddle Arena. The Western Kentucky University Band, along with five area high school bands, was there playing for the crowd. High points included the massed bands performing "My Old Kentucky Home" and the Western Band's playing of "Ruffles and Flourishes" and "Hail To The Chief" as the President of the United States entered the arena.

Joe Stites, marching band and basketball pep bands, earned a Bachelor of Music Education from



Joe Stites

Western Kentucky in 1977 and completed the Master of Science at the University of Illinois in 1978. A magna cum laude graduate in music at WKU, Joe is former band director at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, and more recently the Lone Oak High School, Paducah, Kentucky. In addition to his responsibilities in the band area, he also is active in high school workshops and recruiting. Joe is married to a Western alumna, Pamela Napier.

Trumpet Ensemble

Submitted by Mary Lazarus

In March, 1988, the WKU Trumpet Ensemble departed Bowling Green for their first out-of-state appearance at the 16th Annual New York Brass Conference for Scholarships held in New York City. The group performed the world premier of WKU's Barry Johnson's work, "For Those Who Walk Uphill." This composition was especially written for the Trumpet Ensemble's New York concert and was dedicated to Dr. Charles Colin, founder of the New York Brass

Conference for Scholarships.

The Trumpet Ensemble also participated in a large brass choir conducted by Mel Broiles, principal trumpet of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. The group presented an open concert that afternoon.

The New York Brass Conference for Scholarships is an extremely unique conference in that it offers opportunities for students to attend concerts and workshops by great players and to meet them on a one

to one basis. Our students were able to hear and work with players such as **Roger Voisin** (Boston Symphony), **William Vacchiano** (New York Philharmonic), **Marvin Stamm** (New York studio musician), **Jon Faddis** (New York, Los Angeles studio musician), **Lew Soloff** (Blood, Sweat and Tears).

In September of 1987 Western Kentucky University's first Trumpet Ensemble was founded by Mary Lazarus. This ensemble is a non-auditioned group open to all university trumpet players.



Mary Lazarus

Mary Lazarus, trumpet, comes to us from Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music where she is a doctoral candidate in trumpet performance. Mary also received her Bachelor's Degree from Cincinnati and the Master of Arts in Performance from George Mason University in Virginia. Still a very active performer, she is former trumpet soloist with the United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own") where she has the distinction of being the first woman brass player in the history of the band. Her other professional positions also include principal trumpet with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra and the American Symphony League. She has appeared as soloist with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and other orchestras throughout the country. She has taught at Xavier University, Wake Forest University, North Carolina School of the Arts, and Western Carolina University.

Education and Audience Appeal

Submitted by Christopher Norton

Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Hindemith, Mozart, Prokofiev . . . these are just some of the composers whose music is played by the Bowling Green-Western Symphony Orchestra.

The orchestra opened its 1988-89 season with Wagner's *Prelude to Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg*, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*, and Hindemith's *Symphonic Metamorphoses*. Soloists for the Mozart were Western faculty members Donald Wilkinson (oboe), Joseph Brooks (clarinet), Leslie Norton (horn), and Larry Long (bassoon). The performance was well-attended and enthusiastically received.

The day after the season premiere, the orchestra sponsored its first Young Artists Concerto Competition. The winner was Beth Mount, a senior clarinet player at Bowling Green High School. As part of her award, she performed on the November Children's Concert with the orchestra. Also on the program: a slide show, dancers, and new and familiar times with the theme "Animal Crackers" which captivated the interest of children and adults.

In the spring semester, the orchestra will play a Valentine Pops Concert and will conclude its season with another classical concert. The latter, set for April 9, will offer Mozart's *Overture to The Magic Flute*, Kodaly's *Harry Janos Suite*, and Franck's *Symphony in D Minor*. Some members of the orchestra will also participate in this year's operatic production, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

The orchestra has a unique and diverse composition of students, faculty, and citizens from the Bowling Green community. Additionally, due to the shortage of advanced string players in South Central Kentucky, the orchestra must hire professional musicians from Nashville in order to augment the string section at the time of the concert. A Board of Directors comprised of volunteers from the community raises funds to cover the cost of hiring extra musicians. Also, admission is charged for orchestra performances.

The difficulty of programming for such a diverse group is to find music that audiences will enjoy and that will challenge the students and offer them opportunities for growth as

musicians. Recent programs have accomplished this twofold purpose.

During the 1987-88 season the orchestra presented two classical concerts and a Valentine Pops Concert. The first classical concert included Berlioz's *Hungarian March*, Bizet's *Carmen Suite No. 1*, and Dvorak's *Symphony No. 8*. The orchestra performed Rossini's *Overture to The Barber of Seville*, Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kije Suite*, and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5* for the second classical concert.

Christopher Norton, percussion, conducting, and theory, completed the Doctor of Musical Arts in Applied Percussion at Louisiana State University. He holds the Master of Arts in Theory from the Eastman School of Music, where he taught freshman and sophomore theory. As an undergraduate, Christopher won the Eastman concerto competition and performed the Creston marimba concerto with the Eastman Philharmonia. His experience includes twelve commercial recordings (percussion), performances with the New Orleans Philharmonic, Rochester Philharmonic, and the Eastman and Louisiana State University Wind Ensembles. Christopher's wife, Leslie, is the part-time horn teacher and plays in faculty ensembles. She is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and is former principal hornist with the New Orleans Symphony.



Christopher Norton

Whatever happened to...?

Laura Nealy, BM '85

We have learned that Laura Nealy is married to Steve Burks, Director of the Hendersonville, TN Arts Commission. Laura is employed in the Development Office of Vanderbilt Hospital.

Linda Harmon, MM '84

Linda teaches part-time at Belmont College in Nashville, and is assistant director of music at Valley View Baptist Church. She continues to perform solo and chamber music programs. Recently she returned to Western in a performance with Renee Hale, a Louisville violinist. Linda and her husband Ken are expecting their first child early next year.

Monte Chance, BM '74

Monte no longer directs the Warren Central Band and has moved up to Principal at Drake's Creek Middle School. He still keeps his "finger" in music by playing the string bass in Warren's musicals.

Phil Ashby, BM '71

Phil is in his third year as director of the band program at Warren Central.

Bob and Melinda Hare, BM '76

Bob and Melinda (Sears) live in Columbia, South Carolina where he directs the band in a large suburban high school.

Tom Stites, BM '81

Tom is the new band director at Science Hill High School in Johnson City, TN. This just happens to be his wife Debbie's (Pritchard) home high school.

Don Marsh, BM '76

Don is Minister of Music at the Calvary Assemblies of God Church in Hampton, Virginia where he directs the music program and teaches instrumental music.

John Stroube, BM '76

John has returned to Kentucky to head up the band program at Murray High School. Prior to this he was in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Keith Campbell, BM '80

Keith decided to leave the directorship and become a band salesman. He lives in Burlington, North Carolina where he sells band uniforms and accessories for "the Bandman's Co." He and his wife, Anita, have a baby daughter, Amanda.

Guitar and Early Music Ensembles

Submitted by David Kelsey

Our Guitar Ensemble and Early Music Ensemble have been active groups on and off campus. Our guitarists are in demand for many university functions that require pleasant background music. The guitar is also a fine alternative accompaniment instrument for voice and some of the lighter instruments such as flute, oboe, etc. The Early Music Ensemble and Chamber Singers have been a fine working team for many years with our successful madrigal dinners and early music concerts. All of the Early Music Ensemble members are developing proficiency on the various instruments in order to better prepare themselves for developing their own ensembles in future years. Such strange instruments as lutes, viols, sitars, and hurdy-gurdys have found their way on to the recital hall stage producing music from medieval dances to Indian ragas for interested listeners. Graduates of the guitar and early music area continue to find success in their fields. **Steve Webber** (MM '87) is now a faculty member at Austin Peay State University (TN) as well as co-owner of a new record company with Western's David



Kelsey and Sharon Law (BM '84, MM '85). Two fine albums have been produced thus far, with many more planned.

David Kelsey has a Master's degree from Western and has been a member of the Music faculty since 1977.

Amy Tate, BM '85

Amy completed two masters degrees from Florida State—one in Performance and the other in Accompanying. This past summer she worked as Assistant Music Administrator for the Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, New York. This year she will be accompanying the Nevada Opera. By now she is the accompanist-coach and tour manager for the Des Moines (Iowa) Opera.

Mary Beth (Hancock) McCandless, BM '86

Mary Beth has tied the knot—married Murray McCandless in September, 1988. They are both students at the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville. This past December she was a soloist in Western's authentic rendition of *Messiah*.

Emily (Tate) Taylor, BM '79

Emily teaches private voice and piano in Cincinnati. She performs regularly on Christian Television and in her church. She has two children.



Mary Beth (Hancock) McCandless

Deena (Martin) Jenkins, BM '81

Deena works as Supervisor of Staffing Systems at Baxtor-Travenol in Deerfield, Illinois. She still sings at the First Presbyterian Church in Evanston.

Steve Wheaton, BM '66

Steve finally became known to us through one of our faculty members who is playing at Opryland. Steve is the director-conductor of the "Way out West" orchestra at that well-known theme park in Nashville.

Tim Simpson, BM '84

Tim recently signed a contract to sing the lead lyric tenor roles for the Bremmerhaven Opera House in West Germany. After receiving his Master's Degree from Eastman School of Music he appeared as guest soloist at the American Music Festival at the University of South Florida and with the Youngstown Symphony. He also attended the International Opera Center in Zurich, Switzerland.

WKU Choir Performed at ACDA, Southern Division

The University Choir was selected through a rigorous audition procedure to appear at the Southern Division American Choral Directors Association Convention in Winston-Salem, N.C., in February of 1988. Included on the program was a composition by Samuel Adler commissioned by the Western Kentucky University Choir. Dr. Adler was in the audience for the premier and spent time with the students discussing the work.

In October 1987, Donald Neuen, Director of Choral Activities at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., was on campus and directed a choral workshop for students and choral directors through-

out the state. He used the University Choir for illustrations and demonstrations of procedures, lecturing to over a hundred workshop participants. This workshop was sponsored jointly by the WKU Department of Music and the Iota Mu Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

The University Choir Presented The Authentic Version of Handel's Messiah

This monumental project was designed to provide the students with the opportunity to hear and work with Dr. Alfred Mann, musicologist and professor emeritus of the Eastman School of Music, who served as the music advisor. Dr. Mann

was on campus for an entire week while he worked with the chorus, orchestra and soloists. The orchestra was assembled from WKU music faculty and students as well as students from Indiana University. The soloists were: Elizabeth Volkman, soprano; Mary Beth Hancock, alto; Virgil Hale, tenor; and Michael Kallstrom, bass-baritone. Kenneth Davis, Director of Choral Activities conducted the performance.

This past summer the department sponsored a High School Choral Workshop. This four day workshop was attended by more than forty-five high school students from around the state, and Indiana. Ken plans to offer this workshop each summer. Please contact the music office for details concerning the workshop for Summer 1989.



What's Going on at Western?

This seems to be the most outstanding question in music education circles (or squares) as the case may be. I was recently asked, "What's going on? I hear the whole music department left!" In all honesty, there have indeed been a number of changes, none of which are alarming. In fact most of us view these changes as positive; a new life.

This is an exciting time at Western for the music department. There were more faculty recitals given on campus last year than any other year in recent memory. New faculty members have given the entire department a real "shot in the arm."

Following the departure of Gary Dilworth, who left to take a position with California State University, Sacramento, much attention centered on acquiring a proficient conductor and trumpeter. Christopher Norton, whose majors include percussion, conducting, and theory, became the Bowling Green-Western Symphony Orchestra conductor and percussion instructor. His wife Leslie, a hornist and former principal hornist with the New Orleans Symphony, teaches part time and plays with the Barren River Woodwind Quintet, a faculty ensemble group.

Wayne and Chris Hobbs, former department head and music education professor respectively, went to Lubbock, Texas, where Wayne took the position of department head at Texas Tech University.

Last spring Robyn Kay Swanson became music education coordinator. She has proven to be a real treasure. Her students love both her and her teaching methods.

The trumpet position has been filled by Mary Lazarus who comes to us from the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music. Her military background, trumpet soloist with the United States Army Band, has added a new dimension to the department ... discipline!

Steve Bruns received his doctorate last spring, and is now teaching theory at the University of Colorado. Dr. Michael Kallstrom is the new coordinator of music theory and composition. Michael has proven to be an interesting person. Not since the departure of Ed Largent in the late 1960s have we had an active composer on staff. Ed is still teaching at Youngstown University in Ohio.

Tom Watson, decided to retire in the summer of 1987 and now resides in Houston, Texas where he continues to take life easy.

Joe Brooks teaches clarinet, while the double reed position has been filled by Donald Wilkinson. These

faculty members are introduced more fully in another section of this publication.

Last year was marvelous for the music department. Under the baton of Ken Davis, our choirs gained national recognition. The bands are making great strides with the guidance of Kent Campbell.

The Early Music Ensemble with the expert leadership of David Kelsey continues to make Western's Music Department a special one that offers something for everyone.

With the successful production of *West Side Story* last spring, the opera/musical program has become revitalized. Since 1965 the two departments, Music and Theatre and Dance have joined forces to perform major musical dramatic works.

This spring, the major musical is to be the noteworthy opera by Mozart, *The Magic Flute*. Already, much work has gone into this full-scale production with the anticipation that it will add to our already successful tradition.

To say that nothing is happening at Western is far from accurate. We are in a transitional period right now, but the outlook is excellent. In fact, one might view these changes as a much deserved and timely "face lift".

—Editor

We Want to Hear From You

If you are a WKU alumnus, please let us know about your activities by completing the form below. Suggestions and comments about *Western Minstrel* are also welcome.

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Spouse's Name _____ WKU Grad? _____
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Send to: Virgil Hale, Editor, *Western Minstrel*, Department of Music, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 42101

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BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101

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