7-28-1967

UA68/9 History of Department of Music

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From the time of the founding of Western Kentucky State Normal School in 1906, there were modest beginnings in music. A few students took Public School Music. A teacher in applied music gave instruction in piano and violin and equipment consisted of two grand pianos and three uprights. An effort was made with an orchestra of six to eight pieces.

The first records of the Music Department started two years later in 1908. The following courses were offered: Sight-singing, Choral Society, Glee Club, Normal School Orchestra, Special Music Courses, Piano, Voice, Harmony, Composition and History of Music and Violin. The teachers in the department were: Miss Irene Russell, Miss Mary Potter, W. L. Gebhardt and Miss Pauline Drake. Mr. W. A. White was Dean of Music. A teacher of national reputation, the author of "Harmony and Ear Training" he had been, for several years, head of the music work at the Agricultural and Mechanical College and the State School for the Blind in North Carolina; head of the Department of Theory at Clavier Piano School in New York City, and Professor of Music in the Teachers' College of Syracuse University.

In 1909 the curriculum included Public School Music, Public School Music Supervisors and Teachers' Certificate Course. Miss Nancy E. Price, Miss Mary Potter, Miss Pauline Drake and Mr. W. A. White were the faculty members. The following persons completed the Intermediate course and were awarded a certificate which permitted them to teach anywhere in Kentucky for a period of four years, Paul Seay, Warren County and Nancye Shehan, Washington County.

Professor Franz J. Strahm became the Dean of the School of Music in 1910. Professor Strahm was a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Sonderhausen, Germany; the Catholic School of Music, Freiburge, Baden; a pupil of Alfred Reisenauer, Carl Schroeder, Adolph Schultze, and Wilhelm Popp, President, Vienna Conservatory. Courses offered in 1910 were: Public School Music, Public School Music Supervisors, Regular Conservatory Class, Piano-preparatory Class, Teachers' Certificate Class, Graduating Class, Pipe Organ, Theory and Harmony, Voice, Violin, and Chorus.

Mrs. Marshall Settle, Miss Nell Dickey and Prof. Strahm were the faculty and the Department of Music occupied Cabell Hall, one of the handsomest buildings in the South. Mrs. Marshall Settle and Prof. Strahm were the only faculty members in 1911-12.

In 1914 a course of Study in Guitar and Mandolin was added to the previous classes. Mrs. Frances Morton-Crumme, Miss Freda Surrall, Miss Sallie Rodes and Miss Louise Strahm joined the faculty. An editorial written in the Nashville Banner noted that the May Music Festival of which Prof. F. J. Strahm was the able director, was a brilliant success and Prof. Strahm proved anew his title to be considered one of the best musical conductors of the country.

In 1915 the course in Guitar and Mandolin was dropped from the curriculum. Miss Elinor Beach, Mrs. Nell Travelstead and Miss Sallie Rodes were the members of the faculty with Prof. Strahm as Head of the Department.
There were two curricula offered in 1920-21. They were the Public School Music and the Conservatory of Music programs.

Public School Music Program offered 11 courses:

Music 1 Rote songs and harmony
Music 2 Sight-singing and rote songs
Music 3 Advanced sight-singing and dictation
Music 4 Advanced sight-reading, theory and harmony
Music 5 Music History from primitive to 16th Century
Music 6 Music History from 16th Century to 19th Century
Music 7 Study of contemporary musicians
Music 9 Music Appreciation
Music 12 Elem. Harmony
Music 13 Av. Harmony
Music 14 Counterpoint

Conservatory of Music program offered 8 courses:

Regular Conservatory Course
Teachers' Certificate Class
Pipe Organ
Theory and Harmony of Music
Violin
Voice
Sight-reading

The State Normal School presented each year a large array of talent in its public programs. Many of the best attractions obtainable were presented to the students every year. For nine years the institution had maintained an annual Music Festival of great excellence given in May. Many of the greatest musical celebrities and organizations of the country were imported for these programs.

New courses offered in 1924 were Methods in Appreciation, Composition, Orchestration, Choral and Orchestra Conducting, Theory and Analysis, Methods, History-Musical and Solfeggio. Miss Lenore Wilson joined the faculty and some departmental clubs were organized. The Ladies Glee Club, Male Glee Club, School Orchestra and Oratorio Society, consisting of all music students met once a week for the study of some large choral work presented at the annual May Music Festival.

By 1925 the curriculum offered 27 courses:

Music 100 Public School Music
100a Music Methods
101 Music Methods
102-3
104 Elementary Harmony
105 Harmony
106 S.S. and Ear Training
107 Continuation of 106
108 Choral Conducting
109 Appreciation Methods
110 History of Music
111 High School Music

Music 111 Advanced Harmony
112 Advanced Harmony
200 Sight-singing and Ear Training
201 Continuation of 200
202 Elem. Counterpoint
203a Counterpoint
203b Counterpoint
204 Composition and Orch.
205 Orch. Conducting
206 Keyboard Harmony
207 Theoretical Harmony
208 Form and Analysis

Applied music was offered in violin, voice and piano.
Helen Cameron graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. Prof. Strahm was Dean of the Music School until 1935. In 1926 there were 26 courses offered in the department. Miss Wilson, Mrs. Travelstead and Miss Rodes were the teachers. Joyce Felts and Mrs. William C. Lee graduated with their Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. In the years 1927-28 the music curriculum expanded to 35 courses. Some of the new courses added were 2nd year violin, 2nd year piano, Instrumental Ensemble, Advanced Instrumental Ensemble, Band and Advanced Band. Miss Rodes, Mrs. Travelstead, Miss Wilson and Prof. Strahm were once again the only faculty members in the department. Martha Agnes Hampton received her BA degree in Music. Mr. Orr joined the faculty in 1928-29 and the graduates were Elizabeth Stokes Vaughn, Robbye Jane Williams and Vivian Ann Wilson. Thirty-seven courses were offered in 1929-30 and Mr. Hugh Johnson Miss Josephine Mitchell and Miss Simms joined the faculty. Miss La Follette joined the faculty in 20-31 and the curriculum included 38 courses. The music club met once a month with all music majors being required to attend. Marguerite Gooch, Elizabeth Leiper, Naomi Allen, Clifton Simpson, Clara Olmstead, Wilma Vandiver and J. W. Wood graduated.

In 1931-32 Prof. Strahm, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Travelstead, Miss Simms, Miss Elledge and Miss Hurd were members of the faculty. Mrs. Herbert Foster, Mrs. Mildred Parkhurst, Gladys J. Felts, Kathryn Duncan, Margaret Wilson, Mary Williams, Louise Pickles, Mary Brunson and Mrs. Nina Jenkins, graduated with a BA degree in Music in 1931 and in 1932 Lula Felts, Lena Adams, Beatrice Billings, Laura Ankerson, Avis Downey, Louise Jackson and Elizabeth Mitchell graduated.

In 1933-34 the curriculum changed somewhat. Courses offered were as follows:

Music 100 Rote songs
Music 101 Music, methods and material for Primary Gr.
102 Music, methods and material for Intern. Gr.
103 Harmony
104 Harmony
106 Sight-singing and dictation
107 Sight-singing and dictation
112 Beginning Chorus
118 Beg. Band.
119 Intern. Band
204 Music Appreciation
210 Sight-singing and dictation
211 Adv. part singing
212a Adv. Chorus
213 Adv. Harmony
214 Adv. Harmony
217 Advanced Orch.
219a Adv. Band
220a Girls Glee Club
300 Super. of Music in Grades
301 Methods of Teaching Jr. & Sr.
305 History of Music
307 Counterpoint
308 Counterpoint
311a Func. and Teach. of Music Inst.
311b Orchestration and Composition

Applied music in voice, piano, violin, band and orchestral instruments.
Prof. Strahm, Mrs. Travelstead, Miss Allen, Miss Elledge, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Perry were the faculty members. Inez Johnson, Margaret Royster, Aileen Babb, Elizabeth Cherry and Alma Flener graduated with BA degree in Music in 1933 and Sarah Price, Mamie Sticham, Mabel Lyng, Myra Brown, Mary Lucas, Ethel Whitlow and Marita Hawley in 1934.

In 1935, Dr. J. D. Richards, Ph.D Trinity College became head of the department of Music. The courses offered numbered 42 and Dr. Richards, Prof. Strahm, Miss Allen, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Perry and Mrs. Travelstead composed the faculty. Marian Singleton, Roxie Gibbs, Mary Martha Deimer, Mary Brownlee, Lucille Wright and Len Sisk received their BA degree in Music in 1935 and Ruth Baack, Rhoda Blossom, Wanda Hater, Virginia Nicoll Chaney, Ruth Weldon, Margaretta Werner, Louise Lerman, Thelma Stuart, Evelyn Perkins, Dorothy Spickard, Charles Maguerenan, Mary Bradley and Elinor Steward received their BA in Music in 1936.

In 1937 Dr. Richards became ill and Dr. John Vincent assumed headship of the Department of Music. Dr. Vincent was a graduate of New England Conservatory of Music, had a B.S. and M.A. degree from George Peabody College for Teachers. Graduate study at Harvard University; John Knowles Pimentel; L'Ecole Normale de Musique, Paris, France and Ph.D. Cornell University. The curriculum included 47 courses and faculty members were Dr. Vincent Prof. Strahm, Mr. Perry, Mr. Chester Channon, Miss Gibbs, Mrs. Travelstead and Mr. Hugh Johnson. Students graduating with their BA in Music were Dorothy Pembroke, Virginia Covington, William Herriman, Alice Hart, Owen Seitz, Margaretta Ramsey, Elizabeth Edwards, Roy Twombly and William Luke. In the school year 1939-40 the curriculum was divided into certain areas of study, such as: Public School Music, Music Education, Theory, Music for General Culture and Applied Music. The faculty roster remained unchanged during these years. Juanita Wallace, Kendall Bryant, Cecil Barnes, R. D. Chenoweth, John Farris, Helen Albritton, Helen Redfield, Leona Vandusen, Elsie Cox, Mary Gera, Barbara Ford, Frances Meisel, Katherine White, James Arnold, Norma Larguera, Homer Ahleager and Jake Evass graduated with their Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. In 1940 Frank Baird, Melvin Breidenbach, Ida Claypool, James Duniff, Kenneth Emory, Barbara Felts, Frances Goldberg, George Maguerenan, Katherine McGehee, Walter Morris, Anne Robertson, Laura Salt, Gilbert Scarborough, Joe Vance, Raymond Anderson and Mrs. Weldon Hart graduated.

Until 1946 Dr. John Vincent was head of the Department. Several new faculty members were added, Miss Mary Chisholm, Dr. Hugh Gunderson, Mr. Weldon Hart, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Massinger. The curriculum for the years 1941-42 and 42-43 were the same as preceding years with some courses added. Group Piano III, Lab. Band, 119; Song and Singing Games, 190; El. Theory, 105 and Instrumentation 311.

Charlotte Baltes, Allene Brownfield, Veda Coleman, Jane Gillespie, Coralie Jones, Elizabeth McChesney, Anthony Maestrolo, Harold Miller, Marie Quisenberry, Victor Showalter, Dorothy C. Taylor, Jean Tucker, Lemuel Turner, Minerva Wason, Ida Claypool were graduated with their BA in Music in 1941. In 1942 the following people were graduated, Eva Clar, Dessie Barrow, Mary Johnson, Henry Wagner, Vivian Neely, Conway McMullen, William Humphries, Dorothy Tarr, Charles Smith, Rogers Magee, Waverly Lee, Betty Miles, Anna Nelson.

Dr. Vincent, Mr. Channon, Miss Chisholm, Mr. Gunderson, Mr. Hart, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Sidney Dalton and Mrs. Travelstead were members of the 1943-45 faculty and there was little curriculum change.
1943 graduates were Martha Speer, Porter Napier, Melvin Farris, Frances Stone, Bertram Shearer, Marjorie Parker, Sue Smith, Meredith Armstrong, Martha Jones, Janice Rhea and Martha Baxter. Emily Ogden, Fred Becker, Gwendolyn Beiler, Dorothy Grise and Jean Payne graduated in 1944.

1945 faculty members were Mr. Henderson, Miss Chisholm, Mr. Channon, Mrs. Travelstead and Mr. Sidney Dalton, the curriculum was unchanged and Martha Jay, Bettie Bryant, Dorothy Coke and Helen Watson graduated with BA degree in Music.

In 1946 Dr. R.R. Willman became head of the Department of Music. The teaching staff included Miss Chisholm, Mr. Daggit, Mr. Claude Rose, Mrs. Travelstead, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Otto Mattei. Doris Darter, Waverly Lee, Frank Long, Marlon Patterson and Virginia Price graduated. Choral Techniques 301; Analysis of Musical Form 313; Investigations in Music Education 420; Problems in Music Education 421 and 330 Music Literature were among the courses added to the curriculum.

Dr. Weldon Hart, Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music became Head of the Department in 1947. Faculty members added were Miss Olga Eitner, and Mr. Richard Shell. Hugh Allen, Lucille Brown, Marjorie Hanks, Martha Stevens, Frances Hildreth, Leroy Fritz, William McDaniel, Lillian Martin, Talbot Mansfield, and Lloyd Tritz received their degrees in Music.

On January 18, 1948, Mr. Claude Rose started the first Music Educators Club at Western. Judy Stevens, Mary Larkin Spears, Sara Moore, Raymond Makeever, Hope Wilkey, John McCullough, Anita Beiler, Nicholas Koenigstein, Rachel Crotwell, Leslie Woelflin, Betty Porter, Jean Elaine Jones, A.E. Paluzzi, Lynn Mitchell and Devon Cunningham, Ida Weldeman received their degrees. Miss Emily Porter, Mr. Phillip Gustafson and Mr. Adon Foster joined the faculty in 1949 and graduates were Steely Yeach, James Clark, John Lawson, Margaret Hampton, Anne Barlow, William Combs, Dennies Lilly, H.L. O'Hara.

In 1950, Dr. Hugh Gunderson, Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, became head of the Department of Music. Miss Porter, Mrs. Rose (part time), Miss Chisholm, Miss Gertrude Bale, Miss Barlow (part time), Johanna Harris (part time), William Baxter, Robert Chenowith, Mr. Rose, Mr. Foster, Mr. Roy Harris were faculty members. Graduates were Elmo Barry, Gregory Colson, Wayne Fors, Wesley M. Gragson, Jo Gragson, Jo Gragson, Joe Jackson, Charles Hudson, Charles Lively, Andrew McCarty, Jean Naron, Oleta Lawson, Amelia Tate, Samuel Wilson, Wanda Aspely, Wayne Wilson graduated with BS degrees in Music. Dr. Gunderson remained head of the department until 1957. In 1951 three courses were added to the curriculum, Instrumental Methods 201; Orchestration 312a and Music in the Grades 191. Mr. Al Siegel joined the faculty and Marion Adams, Richard Borchardt, Steve Combs, Elizabeth Fugate, James Galbreath, Carl Gibson, Jr., Gene Hoggard, Debelon Isaac, David Livingsdon, Owen Mcpeek, Harold Phillips, Elizabeth Reeves, Eugene Steinquest, Wenonah White, Mary Wycoff and Edgar Minor graduated.

Dr. Steven Barwich, Miss Chisholm, Mr. Foster, Miss Porter, Mr. Rose and Mrs. Travelstead were faculty members in 1952. The curriculum was changed extensively then, the degree being changed to Bachelor of Music.
Grades were Edward Bridges, William Field, Clarise Miller, Jack Valz, Jeanne Perkins.

In 1953 Mr. Bennie Beach, Mr. Robert Pearson, Dr. Howard Carpenter and Mr. Donald McMahan joined the faculty. Only one new course was added to the curriculum, A Cappella Choir. Charles Ball, Nancy Bridges, Jo Ann Dent, Walter Greer, Jean Hall, Anabelle Jensen, James Jensen, Gene Lawton, Jenny Lysle, William Miller, June Mitchell, Dickie Rainey, William Rutherford, Brian Scott, Seymour Spiegelman, Martha Wace, Alma White and Marcia Winfrey, received their BS degrees in Music.

Dr. Leo Smit joined the faculty in 1954 and Mr. Earl Boardman in 1955. One course, 158, Jr. or Sr. Recital was added to the curriculum. Graduates in 1954 were Robert Brown, Betty Dalton, George Disney, Joe Ferguson, George Gillespie, Pat Mastroleo, Billy McCloud, William Link, Virginia Palmer, Caesar Ricci, Jeanne Warren, Pat Horn, Patricia Yeiser, Catherine Winfrey and 1955 graduates were Charles Black, Jerald Dotson, Harold Jaggers and Beverly Magon.

Mr. Ohm Pauli and Mr. Joseph Running joined the faculty in 1956. Bill Brogan, Gerry Coppack, Wendell Counts, Barbara Eubanks, Geraldine Humphries, Barbara A. Marsh, Earl Pettey, Bill Rideout, Norma Ruble and Jerry Wetzel were graduated.

Mr. Edward Knob joined the faculty in 1957 and graduates were Susan De Vasier, Floyd Farmer, Carolyn Fodd, Betty Gardner, Norman Hopper, Jean Jennings, Elaine Kelly, Joseph Lippd, Lowell McClure, George Mills, Jane Steward, Joanne Wilson.

In 1958, Dr. Thomas J. Stone, Ph.D. from Florida State University, became the new head of the Department of Music. Miss Bale, Mr. Beach, Dr. Carpenter, Miss Chisholm, Mr. Knob, Mr. Pauli, Mr. Rose, Mr. Thaden and Mrs. Travelstead were members of the faculty. Macaulay Arthur, David Barker, Nila Chinn, Beverly Harper, Gordon Hendrix, Debbie Long, Margaret Lyons, Daphne McCord, Jeannette Sallee, Don Trivette, Jerry Williams and Marcia Williams graduated with a BM degree in Music.

Mr. James Godfrey joined the faculty in 1959 while Mrs. Nell Travelstead retired. Three courses were added to the curriculum, Jr. High School Music 201; Instrumental Techniques, 202; and Theory II, 104. Pam Hurt, Hilda Mohler, Larry Taber, Gerry Webb, and Francine Walker were graduated.
There were no changes in the faculty during 1960-63. On May 20, 1960 an honorary professional music fraternity for men, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, was formed. The founding sponsor was Mr. Bennie Beach. December 9th, 1961, an honorary professional music fraternity for women, Delta Omicron, was started. Miss Bale was the founding sponsor.


New courses in 1962 were Seminar, 303; Classic Era, 181; Romantic Era, 182; Opera 183; Piano Literature, 184; Music Since 1900, 185; Renaissance, 331; The Symphony, 332; Modern Music, 333; Wind Ensemble, 121-221; Chamber Music, 122-222; Group Woodwinds, 115; Group Brass, 116; Group Percussion 117; and Group Strings, 118; Organ, 153.


Dr. and Mrs. Edward Pease and Mr. Virgil Hale joined the staff in 1964-65. 1964 graduates were Linda Ashby, Genevieve Boyken, Karen Bozarth, Doris Butler, Philip Cooper, Jean Fuller, Janet Hugues, Barbara Johnson, Ronald Johnson, Stephen King, John Larkin, Paquita McHatton, Carol Meyer, Arthur Monroe, Carmela Overton and Dennye Vanarsdale.

In the school year 1965-66, Dr. Howard Carpenter, Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, New York, became head of the department of music. Dr. Jack Benis and Mr. David Livingston were added to the teaching faculty. 1965 graduates were Sharon Beals, Richard Baillford, Patricia Burkhead, Mary Cooper, Jerry Dozer, Patricia Huggins, Wayne Hunter, David Keller, Patricia Keltner, Lorna Patterson, Lucian Priole, Julie Thompson, Lillian Wilson and Sandra Wilson. Marc Ball, Nancy Bentley, James Crowley, Peggy Downing, Charlene Dunn, Kenneth Van Gilder, Cynthia Veitschegger, Paul Maupin, Mike Maurer, David Martin, Lonnie Pollard, Elizabeth Summers, Mary Spottswood, Jo Westray and Steve Wheaton were graduated in 1966.

Mr. Edward Largent and Dr. Russell Pugh and Miss Dorothy Dooley joined the faculty in 1966-67. Graduates were Toyo Brown, Pamela Buchanan, Charles Cron, Barbara Ecton, Pamela Martin, Marilee Robey, Dorothy Rogers, Ellen Schumann, Patricia Smith, James Stuppy, Juanita Weiss, Rosemary Elzen, Mary Jo Johnson and Pat Thomas.

Interesting informational facts:

There have been several distinguished members of the music faculty in the field of creative work through the years. Among them was one of America's most outstanding composers, Roy Harris, who taught during the seasons of 1950-51. Mrs. Johanna Harris, widely known Canadian concert pianist, also taught at Western during the same period. Two other nationally known composers served as Head of the Dept. of Music. Dr. John Vincent, presently at the University of California and Dr. Weil Hart, deceased. At the present writing, five faculty members, an unusually
percentage, are active in the field of creative composition or musicological research. Mr. Bennie Beach and Mr. David Livingston have several published works for various media and Dr. Edward Pease has several published articles. Another promising career in the field of creative work was cut short by the early demise of the composer, Lyndol Mitchell, graduate of 1948. Numbered among its graduates have been several outstanding musical performers, both instrumental and vocal. In the vocal field, the regional contests sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing have long been a criteria for establishing standards of excellence. Jeannette (Rider) Sailee was a winner in 1957. A record was established in 1966 when three of the four winners in this contest were student of Western faculty member, Mr. Ohm Pauli.

Mention should be made of one indefatigable champion of the cause of good music in Bowling Green, Mr. Will Hill. Though not connected formally with the Department of Music, he served as impresario for many years bringing most of the great names in the field of concert music to Bowling Green. The warmth of his personality was attested by the fast friendships formed with the artists. The third floor recital hall in the Music Building was formally christened the Will Hill Recital Hall by President Kelly Thompson in 1960. At the same time, President Thompson signally honored one of the distinguished faculty members in the Music Department, Mrs. Nelle Travelstead, by dedicating the Music Department Library as the Nelle Travelstead Music Library. Mrs. Travelstead, who served from 1915 until 1959, built an enviable reputation as one of Western's outstanding teachers.

During the departmental aegis of Dr. Hugh Gunderson, the second performance of Berlioz's Symphony for Band and Chorus was given in America by the Western Concert Band and Chorus. The first performance having been given by Edwin Franko Goldman in New York. Dr. Gunderson wired for the parts which were immediately forwarded and the concert took place shortly thereafter.