

THE WESTERN  
*Minstrel*



*Department of Music*  
Summer 2008  
[www.wku.edu/music](http://www.wku.edu/music)



# WKU Spirit Gets A Facelift

Construction is on the horizon in the guise of Van Meter renovation and the Fine Arts Center addition. As shown on the front cover, Van Meter Hall's renovation began in June 2008, with an aggressive as-



*Bare auditorium floor prepared for facelift.*

bestos removal plan. Just prior to that, the two native Van Meter grand pianos were bade adieu, to begin their journey of refurbishment and repair. When they return to us, these two familiar Steinways will be like new instruments,

debuting in a new hall. The construction time is anticipated at 20 months, with 2010 being the projected conclusion to this story.

Much water has gone over the dam, but has finally resulted in preliminary meetings with architects and planners for the FAC ad-

dition. Included in this addition will be a renovated rehearsal hall for use by the choirs, a new instrumental rehearsal hall, percussion suite, faculty offices, and storage for instruments that are in many unusual places in the FAC. If you include the upgraded and cleaned ductwork and air handlers, the new classroom air units, the new roof, the new Recital Hall stage floor and the new elevator, the FAC will have a facelift that be able to meet the demanding needs of music students and community patrons alike. The



*Van Meter Steinway leaves for a refurbishing vacation.*

facilities issue was identified by a visiting, reaccreditation team from the National Association of Schools of Music in 2001, and has finally come to fruition. With FAC design plans afoot, construction is anticipated to begin Summer of 2009.

# Scholarships & Awards of 2007-2008

## **Jerry Baker Scholarship**

Amberly Bush, Bowling Green, KY  
Aaron West, Utica, KY

## **Bennie Beach, Jr., Memorial Scholarship**

Chris Osborne, Springfied, TN

## **Athena Cage Scholarship**

Laura Beth Galipeau, Russellville, KY

## **Dr. Kent Campbell Scholarship**

Rachel Stewart, Central City, KY

## **Howard Carpenter String and Piano Scholarship**

Lindsay Harned, Lebanon Junction, KY  
Aaron West, Utica, KY

## **Blanche and Austin Duckett Strings Music Scholarship**

Natalie Riley, Bowling Green, KY

## **Walter F. Harter Scholarship**

Cody Gilstrap, Bowling Green, KY  
Steven Lopez, Franklin, KY

## **Mitzi Groom Scholarship**

Megan Wheat, Scottsville, KY

## **Hugh F. Johnson Scholarship**

Aaron West, Utica, KY

## **Sylvia Kersenbaum Scholarship**

Rachel Stewart, Central City, KY

## **Music Department Faculty Scholarship**

Melissa Gensler, Rockfield, KY  
Cody Gilstrap, Bowling Green, KY  
Parker Scinta, Louisville, KY

## **D. & S. Vitale String Scholarship**

Ashley Grueter, Ashland City, TN

## **Nelle Gooch Travelstead Scholarship**

Will Armour, Bowling Green, KY

## **Ohm Pauli Scholarship**

Susan Abell, Bowling Green, KY  
Amberly Bush, Bowling Green, KY  
Kelly Lafferty, Shelbyville, KY  
Catherine Larson, Bowling Green, KY  
Aaron West, Utica, KY

## **Edward J. Pease Memorial Scholarship**

Erin Goad, Brownsboro, AL

## **Seymour Spiegelman Scholarship**

Bronson Murphy, Bowling Green, KY

## **Dr. Samuel W. and Jeane Payne Tinsley Music Scholarship**

Phoebe Simpson, Lexington, KY

## **Marita Hawley Travelstead Scholarship**

Tony Richardson, Shelbyville, KY



*Of the nineteen WKU students who were selected for the national listing in the 2008 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, there were five students selected from the Department of Music. These students were selected based on academic achievement, community service, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. L to R, front row, Jim Stites, Megan Wheat; back row, Bronson Murphy, Natalie Riley and Amberly Bush.*

# KMEA Highlights

## **All-Collegiate Choir**

Leigh Anderson (Bowling Green, KY), alto; Will Armour (Bowling Green, KY), bass; Tyler Ayers (Smiths Grove, KY), bass; Caitlin Denman (Bowling Green, KY), soprano; Erin Newman (Bowling Green, KY), soprano; Chris Powell (Bowling Green, KY), tenor; Jacob Sensenig (Oakland, KY), tenor

## **Intercollegiate Orchestra**

Susan Abell (Bowling Green, KY), cello; Jessica Ausbrooks (Scottsville, KY), clarinet; Amberly Bush (Bowling Green, KY), double bass; Zach Culp (Bowling Green, KY), double bass; Melissa Gensler (Rockfield, KY), flute; Erin Goad (Brownsboro, AL), oboe; Ashley Grueter (Ashland City, KY), cello; Chuck Jewell (Eastview, KY), tuba; Keith Kinder (Franklin, KY), trombone; Catherine Larson (Bowling Green, KY), viola; Troy Puckett (Bowling Green, KY), trumpet; Natalie Riley (Bowling Green, KY), harp; Kallie Rogers (Henderson, KY), flute; Phoebe Simpson (Lexington, KY), viola; Rachel Stewart (Central City, KY), clarinet; Steven Wade (LaGrange, KY), double bass; Andy Webber (Mayfield, KY), viola; Aaron West (Utica, KY), violin; Megan Wheat (Scottsville, KY), oboe/English horn

## **Intercollegiate Jazz Band**

Murf Adams (Greenville, KY) and Jeremy Durst (Jacksonville, OR)

The Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) 50th Annual In-Service Professional Development Conference, held on Feb. 6-9, 2008, in Louisville, Kentucky, again featured Western Kentucky University music students who auditioned for these high honors.

University and college students from across the Commonwealth auditioned for places in the Intercollegiate Band, the All-Collegiate Choir and the Intercollegiate Orchestra. Seven WKU students were selected to participate in the All-Collegiate Choir, 10 were selected for the Intercollegiate Band, 2 were selected for the Intercollegiate Jazz Band and 19 were selected for the Intercollegiate Orchestra. This high number of WKU music students selected for these coveted ensembles is a direct reflection of the rigor of performance expectations in the Department of Music. These students assembled on February 6 for intense rehearsals under guest conductors that culminated in public concerts on the KMEA performance stage on February 7, 2008.

## **Intercollegiate Band**

Ana Bogach (Scottsville, KY), bass clarinet; Laura Beth Galipeau (Russellville, KY), bassoon; Courtney Greenfield (Elkton, KY), clarinet; Rebecca Harlow (Versailles, KY), horn; Kara Oglesby (Auburn, KY), clarinet; Paul Rotramel (Lexington, KY), trumpet; Matt Shores (Bowling Green, KY), tuba; Jonathan Staples (Reynolds Station, KY), trumpet; Jim Stites (Bowling Green, KY), tuba; Chris Westover (Bowling Green, KY), alto saxophone



*Two WKU music faculty members were honored at this year's KMEA Conference. Robyn Swanson received the 2008 College/University Teacher of the Year Award and Joe Stites received the 2008 Citation for Service Award and the Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity Outstanding Contribution to Bands Award.*



*Cody Gilstrap, Alex Downing (College Heights Foundation President), Steven Lopez*



Photo by Hunter Wilson  
Park City Daily News

*Sarah Berry conducts the Fourth Grade Orchestra at the 2008 Strings Finale Program in Diddle Arena in May.*

# In Tune Finales

About 300 students from Warren County Schools and Bowling Green Independent Schools filled Diddle Arena, playing music ranging from classical Bach to contemporary Green Day. Starting with 21 students at Natcher Elementary School in 2004, the program now has students from 10 schools, as well as an Orchestra Director for the Bowling Green Schools. Patrick O'Rourke has taken the helm as Orchestra Director for Bowling Green Schools, taking his Sixth Grade Orchestra and Seventh/Eighth Grade Orchestra to District Festival this year, and receiving a Superior Rating. This is the fastest growing public school strings program in the state, and has been supervised by WKU Orchestra Director, Bill Scott, the Jerry Baker Professor in the Department of Music.

## Department of Music 2007-2008 Graduates

### Bachelor's Degree

Jessica Broady, BA  
Corey Bryson, BA  
Johnathan Cline\*\*, BM  
Matt Devore, BM  
Jennifer Denney\*\*\*, BM  
Amy Farrell\*\*\*, BM  
Heather Heim, BM  
Bonnie Hughes, BM  
Meredith Lopez\*, BM  
Christina McCarl, BM  
Gregory McCord\*\*\*, BA  
Meghan Montemayor\*\*, BA  
Bronson Murphy\*\*\*, BM  
Rachel Norton\*\*\*, BA  
Chris Osborne, BM  
David Phillips\*\*, BM

Jon Porter, BM  
Troy Puckett\*\*, BM  
Natalie Riley\*\*\*, BM  
Jason Smith, BM  
Hannah Somers, BM  
Adam Vincent\*, BM  
Chris Westover, BA

### \*cum laude

### \*\*magna cum laude

### \*\*\*summa cum laude

### Master's Degree

Jason Gibson  
Stephanie Hensley  
Selina Johns  
Matt Shores  
Cynthia Sopko



*Pi Kappa Lambda inductees were selected by the Department of Music faculty. The Theta Eta Chapter at WKU, a chapter of this national honorary music society, has been in existence since 1996. Membership is an honor based on academic achievement, musical skill and stellar character, and is extended to the highest ranking students from senior and graduate classes. The ceremony of induction occurred in May 2008 at the Kentucky Museum. L to R, front row, Lindsay Ross (voice graduate), Jim Stites (tuba), Gregory McCord (voice); back row, Christi Bryan (trumpet graduate), Megan Wheat (English horn/oboe), Erin Goad (oboe).*

### Fall 2007 Performers of the Semester



*L to R, seated: Ashley Grueter (strings), Parker Scinta (guitar); Middle row—Lindsay Harned (piano), Caitlin Denman (voice); Back row—Troy Puckett (brass), Jeremy Durst (woodwinds), Matt DeVore (percussion), Bronson Murphy\* (voice) \*winner*

### Spring 2008 Performers of the Semester



*L to R, seated: Barry Blair (voice), Erin Newman (voice), Allison Gailley (piano); Standing: Amberly Bush (strings), Parker Scinta (guitar), Courtney Greenfield\* (woodwinds), Chuck Jewell (brass), Preston Neal (percussion) \*winner*



# Faculty Footnotes



Front row, L to R: Anna Cromwell, Sonja Sepulveda, Mary Wolinski, Michele Fiala, Nancy Cron, Heidi Pintner

Second row: John Cipolla, Robyn Swanson, Mitzi Groom, Beth Pope, Wayne Pope

Back row: Kent Eshelman, Bill Scott, Joe Stites, Jeff Bright, Paul Hondorp, John Martin, Marshall Scott, Mark Berry

**Mark Berry**, percussion, was married this year to WKU cello teacher, Sarah Boronow. He continues to perform with the Evansville (IN) Philharmonic Orchestra and the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra. He served on the faculty of the Tennessee Valley Musical Festival in Huntsville, AL, and hosted a first-ever, combined concert with the WKU Steelband and the Vanderbilt University Steelband. The Steelband CD, *Red Hot Steel* was released this spring.

**Sarah (Boronow) Berry**, cello, along with WKU faculty colleagues, performed Messaien's *Quartet for the End of Time*. She was a clinician and guest artist at the Levine School of Music in Washington, D.C. Berry presented masterclasses for the Owensboro and Murfreesboro Youth Orchestras, co-directed the 2008 String Explosion Summer Camp and taught at the Tennessee Valley Music Festival in Huntsville, AL.

**Jeff Bright**, associate director of bands, recently had an article, "Factors Influencing Outstanding Band Students' Choice of Music Education as a Career," published in *Contributions to Music Education*. The athletic bands under his direction have continued a busy performance schedule including marching band exhibition performances at Butler Traditional High School in Louisville, KY, and Barron County High School in Glasgow, Kentucky. The basketball band

traveled to support both the women's and men's teams in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in Mobile, AL, and continued to support them in the NCAA Tournament in Palo Alto, CA, Tampa, FL and Phoenix, AZ.

**John Cipolla**, clarinet/saxophone, published an article, "Internalizing the Music" in *Bluegrass Music News*, as well as three book reviews in *The Clarinet*. Cipolla performed *Sky Scrapings* for saxophone and piano with Don Freund, guest composer at WKU, presented a solo clarinet recital at WKU and chamber recitals at Murray State University with the Commonwealth Clarinet Quartet (comprised of clarinet professors from University of Louisville, Murray State, and Eastern Kentucky University) and Messian's chamber piece, *Quartet for the End of Time*. While in New York City this Christmas Season, he recorded an NBC television special of the Radio City Christmas Show (November 2007), a DVD of the 2007 Christmas Show with the Radio City Orchestra, and music for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

**Anna Cromwell**, violin, gave a lecture recital on Kodaly at the 2008 College Music Society SuperRegional Conference in Gettysburg, PA, and presented a paper and poster on Martinu at the 2008 Music Teachers National Association Convention in Denver, CO. This past year, she played the Mendelssohn *Violin*

*Concerto* with the Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra and performed with her Violin-Cello Duo at St. Olaf College, WKU, and UNC Charlotte. She returned to UNC Charlotte as a guest clinician in January 2008. She will be teaching at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and at the Tennessee Valley Music Festival in Alabama this summer.

**Michele Fiala**, oboe/bassoon, performed this summer in Novara and Udine, Italy, and at the International Double Reed Society Conference in Utah. Her first solo CD, *The Light Wraps You*, was released in November on MSR Classics compact disc, and has gained media attention in New York, Utah, and Arizona. She was invited to perform as a guest artist at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and at the Mid-South Flute Festival in Memphis.

During the 07-08 academic year **Eva Floyd**, choir and music education, studied choral conducting, music pedagogy, and solfege methodology at the Liszt Academy Kodály Pedagogical Institute of Music in Kecskemet, Hungary. Floyd is currently researching differences in musicianship, music theory, and aural skills training in American and Hungarian undergraduate music education curriculums. Floyd completed her Ph.D. in music education from the University of Kentucky and presented the results of her

dissertation entitled "The Effect of Pentatonic Versus Diatonic Study on Elementary Education Majors' Sight-singing Skills" at the 2007 International Kodály Symposium held in Columbus, Ohio.

**Paul Hondorp**, director of choral activities, enjoyed guest conducting opportunities in Louisville (District 12 Honor Choir and Ballard High School Major Works Festival) and in Alabama (Quad Cities Music Festival), a guest clinicianship at the University of Arkansas, and a reading session presentation at the ACDA Southern Division Convention as ACDA Southern Division College/University Repertoire and Standards Chair. Hondorp will be a clinician on innovative rehearsal methods and will lead several reading sessions at the Taipei International Choral Festival in July.

**Michael Kallstrom**, composition /theory, had two compositions, one for solo horn and one for horn choir, that were premiered at a workshop of the International Horn Society at Columbus State University. To celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, he was invited to perform his Electric Opera, *INTO THE DEEP*, for the College Music Society National Conference in Salt Lake City. His work for solo horn, *SHINING MOMENT*, was performed at several concerts in Wales, United Kingdom.

**John Martin**, guitar, has continued to tour nationally with country artist Michael Scott, who is currently signed to Tracy Lawrence's record label. He spent Thanksgiving 2007 in Iraq, performing for 6,000 troops, on tour with the Michael Scott Band, who has shared stages with stars such as Brad Paisley, George Jones, Chubby Checker, Trisha Yearwood, and Leann Rhimes. Martin has maintained his status as an artist for Godin guitars and GHS strings, regularly performs with the Marshall Scott/John Martin Jazz Duo, the Michael Gough group, and the John Martin Jazz Trio. The Martin/Gough duo placed first in the Kentucky Blues Society Competition in October of 2007 and competed in the 2008 International Blues Competition in Memphis, TN.

**Heidi Pintner**, flute, released her debut compact disc, *Flute Chamber Works By Michael Kallstrom*, with WKU colleagues Speer, Kallstrom, Berry, Fiala, and Cipolla on the Centaur Record Label in 2007. She hosted the 2008 Flute Society of Kentucky

Festival at WKU with guest artist, Michel Debost, and served as an adjudicator for the KMEA All-State Band auditions and for the 2008 Flute Society of Kentucky Competitions. With M. Fiala, Pintner performed at the Mid-South Flute Society Convention in Memphis, TN, and at the International Double Reed Society Festival in Salt Lake City, Utah. She also served as an Advanced Placement Music Theory Reader for Educational Testing Services in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**Wayne Pope**, voice, performed Beethoven's *Mass in C Major* with the Bowling Green Western Choral Society, solo recital entitled *Baritones Gone Bad*, and appeared with WKU Visiting Artist, Gerald Stroup, in collaboration with colleagues Fiala and Pintner on Michael Kallstrom's *OZYMANDIAS*. His opera/theatre work included directing *Servants and Masters* and *Sweet Charity*, presenting an Auditions Workshop for the Youth Theatre of Hardin County and working with area high school musicals. Pope was appointed to the KY National Association of Teachers of Singing Executive Committee, is serving on the Governor's Advisory Committee for NATS Mid-South Chapter, and continues to chair the Sinfonia Education Foundation Scholarship Committee, which awards over \$10,000 in annual scholarships.

**Bill Scott**, orchestra director, guest conducted the Alaska All-State Orchestra on November 14th - 17th in Anchorage, Alaska. For the fourth consecutive year, he served as section coach for the Commonwealth and All-State Orchestra's Double Bass Section. He organized and implemented Kentucky's first Intercollegiate String Orchestra last year and this year transitioned that orchestra into a full symphony orchestra with winds, brass, and percussion. Scott has served as the University/College Representative for the planning committee for the 2009 ASTA (American String Teachers Association) National Convention which will be held in Atlanta, GA. He traveled to Brazil in April to initiate preliminary work for Western's Internationalization Program.

**Marshall Scott**, trumpet, directed the Jazz Band in performances for the President's Gala, a Valentine's Day Dance, a concert in November that was aired on WKYU Public Radio in December, and a spring concert featuring the Greenwood High School Jazz Band, Patricia Johnson guest vocalist, and guest trumpeter from Washington, D.C.,

John Blount, retired from the U.S. Navy Commodores Jazz Band. Marshall Scott and John Martin, performing regularly as a Jazz Duo, were featured in a recital, aired on WKYU, and in various school clinics.

**Donald Speer**, piano, has maintained an active recital schedule this past year, including collaborative performances of Schumann's *Piano Quartet, Op. 47* with guest violist Jonathan Chu, Grieg's *Sonata for Cello and Piano* with cellist, Sarah Berry, and Messaien's *Quartet for the End of Time* with faculty members S. Berry, Cromwell, and Cipolla. He completed a tour of Italy with faculty oboist, Fiala, in May, and was also selected to teach piano/chamber music in the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts for summer 2008.

**Robyn Swanson**, music education, presented a workshop entitled "A Creative Arts Curriculum for Pre-School Children with Developmental Delays" at the International Society of Music Education (ISME) in Bologna, Italy, July 20-25, where more than 80 countries were represented. GIA Publications published her research project regarding music listening assessments for P-12 students in *Assessment in Music Education*, showcasing it at the MENC biennial conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 2008. KMEA recognized her as the 2008 College/University Teacher of the Year. From 2007-2009, Dr. Swanson will serve Western Kentucky University as one of four Leadership Faculty Fellows.

**Mary Wolinski**, music history, organized trips for students and faculty to see Saint-Saens' *Samson et Dalila* and Gilbert & Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* performed by the Nashville Opera. She presented the paper, "Arms and the Lady: Flemish Court Liturgy and the Psalter of Louis de Male," at the Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference in Vienna in August 2007, as well as the paper, "Plainchant and the Aspirations of a Noble Couple: The Psalter of Arnold of Rummen and Elisabeth of Lierde," at the 43rd International Conference of Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, MI, and at the Celebration of Edward Nowacki at his retirement at the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, both in May 2008. This summer she will be traveling to the Hague, Dijon, and Lille to study medieval manuscripts, and she will be reading a paper at a conference on editing music in Utrecht.

# Department of Music Welcomes New Faculty



Dr. Liza Kelly, mezzo-soprano, has performed opera, musical theater, oratorio, various concert works as well as recitals and master classes nationally and internationally. Her operatic and theatrical roles include Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*, the Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas*, Nireno in *Giulio Cesare*, Chairman Mao's Secretary in *Nixon in China*, the Widow in *The Boor*, Theresa in *Casanova's Homecoming*, Mary Warren in *The Crucible*, Ma Moss in *Tenderland*, Hattie in *Kiss me Kate*, Cousin Hebe in *H. M. S. Pinafore*, Mrs. Malloy in *Hello, Dolly!*, and many more. She has performed as a soloist under the baton of James Conlon and Markus Huber with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and has been a resident artist with Glimmerglass Opera, Cincinnati Opera, and Opera Theater of Lucca. Kelly is the recipient of the Norman Triegle Corbett Opera Competition Award, the Arden J. Yockey Award for Voice, and the Rebekka Coolidge Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Award. She received her Bachelor of Music in voice performance from Georgia State University, and both her Masters of Music in voice performance and Doctorate of Musical Arts in voice performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



Dr. Gary Schallert is the newly appointed Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at Western Kentucky University. Prior to this appointment at WKU, Schallert served on the music faculty at Belmont University, the University of Missouri and the University of Tennessee. He earned his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from New Mexico State University, and Doctor of Arts degree in Wind Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado. Schallert maintains an active schedule as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the United States. He has conducted touring ensembles in Europe and Australia, including a performance with the University of Missouri Wind Ensemble at the famed Sydney Opera House. In the summer of 2008, Dr. Schallert served as a guest conductor and presenter at the Costa Rican International Band Festival in San Jose, Costa Rica.

*Malcolm Dalglish, internationally renowned dulcimer player, in clinic session at WKU in April.*



# Ensemble Initiatives

A new Student Chamber Ensemble Music Entrepreneurship (SCEME) Program began in the Spring of 2008, which is a student engagement initiative that is a musical rite of passage into the real world. Students learned to be leaders, be team players, developed communication skills, developed the ability to recognize musical and personal problems and solve them, developed a heightened sense of work ethic, learned to be dependable, and developed a mutual respect for their peers. Students were the leaders, the rehearsalers, the correctors, the conductors, the organizers, the planners and the marketers for each of the ensembles that they formed, with minimal help from a faculty coach. Their responsibilities were to have weekly rehearsals, perform on one student recital, perform at one campus/community/regional event, and provide a written assessment of their



*Quintessential at the Visual and Performing Arts Library Grand Opening*

time spent together. Their scheduled outside events were performances at a middle school, a wedding/reception, Capitol Arts concert, a chamber music competition, a church service, a WKU library grand opening, and the Gatton Academy commencement. Upon program requirement completion, each musician received a departmental SCEME stipend of \$125. Thirty-two students, including one home-schooled and one Gatton Academy student, participated in the inaugural semester for this program. This volunteer project for student musicians was a watershed experience for many of its participants and will be continued. The seven SCEME ensembles were: Jazz Combo (quartet), Picardy 3 (piano, violin, cello), Bella Voce Madrigals (women's vocal sextet), Quintessential (undergraduate brass quintet), No Strings Attached (flute, violin, cello, viola), Western Winds (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, piano) and G Five (graduate brass quintet).



*Choral ensemble offerings included two new choirs this year, one of which was the Men's Chorus, conducted by Paul Hondorp, with an inaugural semester boasting 45 male singers. A new tradition has begun.*

# WKU Chorale Tours Northern Italy

The Western Kentucky University Chorale, the flagship choral ensemble, concluded its inaugural season with a tour of northern Italy in late May 2008. This tour, which was a credit-bearing study abroad opportunity, included four major performances and a handful of other informal performances. The students performed as a part of a mass service at the monumental Basilica San Antonio in Padova, and gave full length concerts in Bussolengo, Montecatini and Bologna. The latter concert was an invited performance in the Bologna Music Festival. Other participants at this festival included

choirs and orchestras from universities in Paris, Berlin, Innsbruck, and the U.S. (WKU and Yale University).

In addition to performing, the choir visited some of northern Italy's most culturally prominent cities: Milan, Venice, Florence, Verona and Sienna. A unique element of this tour was the inclusion of nine WKU alumni and other members of the Bowling Green Western Choral Society, who were wonderful traveling companions to the ensemble and great fans! They rode, ate and toured alongside the students and created unique bonds with the ensemble.



WKU Chorale and Alumni travelers overlooking Florence, Italy, May 2008 Study Abroad Performance Tour

In Bussolengo, a small hill town in the Verona region, we shared a concert with a local community chorus. The concert and subsequent reception seemed to be, universally, a peak experience on the trip. The story is best told in the students' own words, via journal entries and reaction papers:



It was almost overwhelming to communicate with the people of Busselengo through song alone in our evening concert here. They shared their music, and we shared ours, and we showed our appreciation for each other through smiles and applause. The reception after the concert involved much singing and drinking and eating. We fumbled our way through "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "When the Saints Go Marching In," all with the help of an accordion, of all things. There was one Italian woman who had such zeal for [all of us] singing American and Italian songs together. One photo I took captured her wide open mouth and the intensity with which she sang. If such passion for life and beauty is characteristically Italian, then perhaps these people should make disciples of the less exuberant people...like me. They were undignified, un...self-conscious, gloriously and recklessly abandoned.

**Erin Newman, BM Senior**

I have recently returned from an eleven-day tour of Italy with 32 of my closest friends. It was the kind of tour that changes your life because you learn so much about yourself, so much about the world and people around you, and most importantly you learn how you fit into that world. I have always known what I was meant to do in this world, but this trip solidified it in my mind and my heart. I am meant to teach and perform music, and share the joy it brings with people everywhere no matter what language they speak: everyone can understand music.

**Ellen Murrey, BM freshman**



From a student whose memorable 19th birthday fell on the evening of the concert:

... A diminutive Italian man with glasses came over and kissed my cheek. His excitement was contagious. An older woman grabbed my hands and kissed me twice on the cheek, asking in Italian how old I was...Soon after the "Happy Birthday" was over, the accordion began playing classic Italian tunes as the whole room began singing along. For many of us in the group, I believe this was the "truly Italian" experience we had wanted to be a part of. To be celebrating with such a welcoming and joyful group of people was the best memory of the trip.

**Haley DeWitt, BM freshman**



# Alumni Accolades

Dear WKU Alums,

This year brought improved student achievement, three visiting professors (Sonja Sepulveda, Kent Eshelman and Gerald Stroup), two faculty searches (Voice, Director of Bands) and opportunities to help in the planning and design for the music facilities construction upgrades. Our noteworthy initiatives this year yielded the formation of seven student chamber ensembles (SCEME Project), the formation of a Men's Chorus, a Study Abroad Performance Tour to Italy by the WKU Chorale, a Topper Clarinet Summer Camp, a Strings Explosion Summer Camp, an FAC Recital Hall stage floor replacement, the renovation beginning of Van Meter Auditorium, and the design phase onset for the FAC Addition.

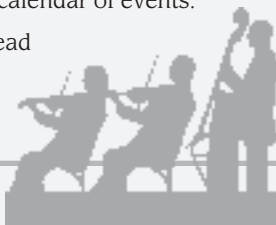
We welcomed twenty-one guest artists to our stages and masterclasses this year, as well as a world-class male *a cappella* vocal ensemble, Cantus. I hope that you will be able to come back and help us celebrate the Centennial of the



Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra, the oldest continuously operating symphony orchestra in the Commonwealth, or attend a recital in our Faculty Artists Series, or hear the faculty in performance at the Autumn Collage on October 19. The Department is constantly changing to better prepare our students for the world in which they will actually live, and our faculty aggressively continue to be agents of these changes.

We want to hear from you, so please send us accounts of your activities, concert reviews, digital photos and news of important events in your life. I extend our deepest thanks to those who have been contributors to the Department of Music, and hope to see many of you on Topper turf this year. Visit [www.wku.edu/music](http://www.wku.edu/music) for this year's calendar of events.

Mitzi Groom, Department Head  
Department of Music  
[mitzi.groom@wku.edu](mailto:mitzi.groom@wku.edu)



**Beth Alexander**, '06, is pursuing a Master's degree at the University of Louisville.

**Melissa Bailey**, '07, is pursuing a Master's degree in vocal performance at the University of Memphis and working for the Idlewild Presbyterian Church Music Ministry. She is also studying with WKU alum, Amy Tate Williams, in Nashville.

**Brad Baumgardner**, '03, has been teaching Ensemble Scoring I & II as an adjunct lecturer at the University of Louisville this year. During that time, he commissioned 7 new works for the bass clarinet and presented them in a world premiere recital last November. Among those pieces was one that incorporated found percussion and a hybrid bass clarinet constructed from a vacuum cleaner attachment and plumbing parts. Baumgardner has been accepted into the DMA composition program at UMKC and will begin studies Fall 2008.



Grant & Courtney Calvert

**Sharon Burchett**, '01, has completed her second year as the music teacher at Robert F. Woodall Elementary School in White House, TN. In September 2007, she became the director of the school's first-ever choir of 42 members.

**Grant Calvert**, '07, taught at Hiseville Elementary School in Barren County this year, teaching general music and arts and humanities. He also served as an Assistant Director with Barren County High School. He married Courtney Greenfield in May 2008.

**Jessica Carmichael**, '06, is at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory pursuing two masters degrees (music history and performance), and has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant for 2008-09.

**Jennifer Cromer**, '07, was mysteriously omitted from the graduation list in last year's Western Minstrel. Our apologies to

her for this omission as she begins work on her Master's degree in Library Media. She has completed an Associate's degree from Penn Foster College in Veterinary Technology



Jeremy & Mary Alice Kolko

**Mary Alice (Ratzlaff) Kolko**, '06, is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in flute performance at California State University, Chico, studying with Yael Ronen, and is involved in the band program as a graduate assistant. She performed with the North State Symphony, is involved in the CSUC Wind Ensemble and flute choir, and formed a duo with a local harpist. The duo performed a full recital at Chico State and will perform again in summer of 2008. She participated in the CalCap Chamber Music Workshop at CSU, Sacramento, in the summers of 2007 and 2008.

**Meredith Lopez**, '08, will be a K-5 General Music Specialist this year at Nokesville Elementary School in the Prince William County School District in Nokesville, Virginia.

**Wesley Mayhew**, '01, will be moving to Connecticut to play bass trombone in the US Coast Guard Band. He was selected from an audition pool of thirty-six following three rounds of orchestra and band excerpts, sightreading, section playing and an interview. He is looking forward to joining this fine low brass section, and to continuing his musical career with them.

**Jeff Phillips**, '86, has returned to Hendersonville High School, Hendersonville, TN, teaching band and orchestra. He also teaches trombone, directs the trombone ensemble and plays in the Faculty Brass Quintet at Belmont University. He is serving as President-Elect of the American School Band Directors Association.

**Andrew Porter**, '99, is a percussionist in the West Point Band in New York. More information can be found at the "Field Music" and the "Personnel" sections of the band's website, [www.usma.edu/band](http://www.usma.edu/band). He plays in The Hellcats, who have been invited to present a clinic/performance at PASIC this November in Austin, TX.

**Magie Smith**, '01, joined the faculty at Eastern Illinois University in Fall of 2006. She holds a Master's in Clarinet Performance from The Ohio State University, where she is also currently a doctoral candidate. While at Ohio State, Ms. Smith served as the graduate teaching associate for the clarinet studio and also held responsibilities in the music education department. She is an active solo, orchestral, and chamber musician.

**Doug Van Fleet**, '63, traveled to Rome and Vatican City with his high school choir, attended a Papal audience and sang for a mass in St. Peter's Basilica. They also sang for a mass at the home church of St. Francis of Assisi. The St. Mary Orchestra performed at the KMEA convention in February, and traveled to Chicago and New York in the spring for orchestral competitions. His summer performances include a concert band, jazz band, Dixieland band, polka band and a brass ensemble that plays throughout the year, comprised of adult musicians from a 4-state area.

**Mark Walker**, '97, will be moving to Louisville to be the Director of Music at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, and the Assistant Conductor of the Louisville Bach Society. He and his wife, **Selena (Greenwell) Walker**, '00, have recently celebrated the birth of their second child.



Jonathan & Ada

**Courtney Wright**, '06, graduated in May 2008 from Bowling Green State University in Ohio with a Master of Music in Music Education degree.

**Ada Yau**, '05, is to be married on September 20, 2008. This Fall she will be teaching at a secondary school in Hong Kong, in the Shamshuipo district, the United Christian College, where her students are 12-14 years old.

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## 2007 Wall of Fame Honoree Ted Barr



Ted Barr, WKU '84 alum, is a musician of widely varying skills. Trained as an organist and holding an advanced degree from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, he has also studied voice extensively with internationally renowned pedagogue Maria Farnworth in New York City. His organ studies were with Wayne Hobbs in Kentucky and McNeil Robinson, chairman of the organ department at the Manhattan School of Music. Having spent more than sixteen

years teaching in higher education, Barr currently devotes his energies to organ performance and choral music as a full-time church musician and organ recitalist. He is director of music and organist at Trinity Presbyterian Church (USA) in Cherry Hill, NJ, where he leads a music ministry program and community concert series for a suburban Philadelphia congregation of 1,100 members. Barr's recent organ performances include the Church of St. Mary the Virgin (New York City), National City Christian Church (Washington, DC), and multiple performances in Westchester County, NY, and Monmouth and Camden Counties in New Jersey.

Barr served on the voice faculties of Westminster Choir College,

Rutgers University (on both the New Brunswick and Newark campuses), and Wagner College on Staten Island. His students have appeared in the Broadway revivals of *Follies*, *Nine*, and *Big River*, in addition to appearing in both the Moscow and Broadway productions of *42nd Street*. His students have also appeared with the Cleveland Opera, the Cleveland Orchestra, and the Staten Island Symphony. His organ students include internationally recognized organist F. Anthony Thurman of New York City, formerly of Bowling Green, KY.

Barr has been tenor soloist with choral societies and opera companies in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. As a choral singer, he has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the baton of Riccardo Muti, with the New York Philharmonic under the batons of Raphael Kubelik and Kurt Mazur, with the St. Moritz Festival Choir (Switzerland) and the Hungarian Philharmonic conducted by Sir Neville Marriner, and with Westminster Choir under the direction of Joseph Flummerfelt.

Also a composer and arranger, Barr's works have been performed at the United States Military Academy's Cadet Chapel (West Point, N.Y.), in various churches throughout the Northeast, and at New York City's Snug Harbor Cultural Center. His choral arrangements of Shaker spirituals have been recorded by the South Union Quartet on the Julep Music label. He is an active member of the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.





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Big Red attends the 2008 Topper Clarinet Summer Camp, planned by John Cipolla.



The WKU Steelband, Mark Berry, director, has been in high demand since its beginning in 2004. This CD features eight tunes that are repertoire staples for this ensemble, including *Matilda*, *Yellowbird*, and *I Shot the Sheriff*.



Michele Fiala's new CD features recordings of seven diverse, contemporary works for oboe. Collaborative recording artists include faculty colleagues Donald Speer, Heidi Pintner and John Cipolla.



Heidi Pintner's CD, published on the Centaur label, features four pieces of music written by WKU's resident composer, Michael Kallstrom. Collaborative recording artists include faculty colleagues Donald Speer, Michele Fiala, Mark Berry, John Cipolla and Kallstrom.