

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

# the *Score*

Department of Music  Alumni Newsletter  
Spring 2008

Musically  
sound

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# the Score

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Music  
Michael Golemo, chair  
Editor: William David  
Features and Photos: Dave Gieseke  
and Steve Jones  
Design: Sheena Lara

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

Please address all correspondence to the editor:  
wdavid@iastate.edu

www.music.iastate.edu

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



## On the cover

Although not a program needing to “toot its own horn,” the Department of Music’s recent external review was a success with reviewers impressed with the quality of the program.

*Photo by Dave Gieseke*

## On the back

The Iowa State Singers and Conductor James Rodde.

*Photo by Dave Gieseke*

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We are pleased to offer you the latest edition of *the Score*, which recounts activities from our Department of Music for Spring, 2008. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni, and know that you look forward to keeping up with your alma mater and former classmates. These accomplishments reflect and contribute to the important legacy and presence of our program.

You'll be pleased to know that our department received an extremely favorable review from four outside evaluators this past March. Preparing for this review was quite time-intensive, but provided tangible evidence and affirmed our belief in the quality of our program. You can read more about this external review in this publication.

The mission of our department attempts to provide a comprehensive program of professional studies for students who wish to prepare for careers in music, including teaching, performance, and composition, and for students who plan to pursue graduate studies in music.

This mission would be impossible without the support of our alumni and friends. We are grateful for the support that we have, but we continually seek additional financial support which allows us to enhance the quality of our program and recruit more talented students. This is the top priority in our department and we need your help in addressing this issue.

Creativity, talent, dedication and hard work abound within our department. We are justifiably proud of our students, faculty and alumni, and we are committed to providing experiences and opportunities for our students to help them experience and appreciate a lifetime of music.

Though we engage our budding young professional musicians with the concept that the enrichment of one individual's life in and through music should be their goal, it is clear that music does not just make individuals' lives better. It makes the world a better place in which to live.

One recent success to be featured in our next newsletter is the recent final approval of our Minor in Music Technology. Although this minor is not intended for music majors, it will provide opportunities for the study of computer music applications in composition, performance, and sound design. This program will benefit a large number of students in a wide variety of disciplines, including Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Journalism and Mass Communication, Mechanical Engineering, and Art and Design. We are very excited to offer this new program, and we have already had one student graduate last month with this minor.

Finally, we hope that you will visit us when you have an opportunity and attend some of our 200+ annual concerts and recitals. If you cannot attend in person, then we invite you to join us for a live webcast. You can find information about programs that are webcast on our website at [www.music.iastate.edu](http://www.music.iastate.edu) by looking under "Events." And please do write us to let us know that you were listening.

We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,  
Michael Golemo, Chair  
Department of Music

**“Preparing for this review was quite time-intensive, but provided tangible evidence and affirmed our belief in the quality of our program.”**

## Ames Quartet featured on well known radio program

A recording of a live performance by the Ames Piano Quartet, resident chamber music ensemble at Iowa State University, was broadcast in March on the nationally syndicated radio program *Performance Today*. The concert took place in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall in 2003 and featured the Paul Juon *Rhapsody*, a three-movement 20-minute composition. *Performance Today* is produced by American Public Media.

The group's members include ISU music department faculty William David, piano; Mahlon Darlington, violin; George Work, cello; and Jonathan Sturm, viola.

The Quartet's performance at the University of Kentucky in February received a lengthy standing ovation. The group also recently appeared at Graceland (Iowa) University and the Des Moines Art Center.

The APQ's twelfth CD, featuring works by Spanish composers, will be released by Albany Recordings later this year.

## Jazz ensemble receives gift

The jazz ensemble received a gift of four valuable guitars and guitar accessories from the estate of Kent Peterson. Kent's wife Barbara informed the department last December that it was the wish of her late husband, a jazz guitarist in the Chicago area, to give the Iowa State University Jazz Program his equipment.

Kent Peterson was born in 1962 at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Oscoda, Mich. He grew up in Michigan, California, Massachusetts, and New York as his father completed a career in the Air Force. The family then returned to St. Olaf, Iowa. Kent graduated from Central Community High School, Elkader, in 1980 and completed his B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State in 1985. He lived and worked in Maryland as an electrical engineer at COMSAT until he returned to the Midwest in 1990. Kent died on December 27, 2006 from leukemia/lymphoma.

## 2008 music student award winners announced

At the spring music convocation, several students were recognized for their leadership and contributions to the music department. In addition to this recognition, each student received an honorarium.

**Hamilton Outstanding Senior Award:** Cathy Compton and Stacey Goodman

**McCowen Award (outstanding music students who are not seniors):** Hien Nguyen, Samantha Deaton, Burton Hable, Madeline Oglesby, Shannon Rabideau, Sarah Hambleton, Melissa Wilson, Jeff Schmitt, Karina Snider

**Koepke Award (outstanding music participation by an engineering student):** Grant Furguiele



## Student teaching in Norway

ISU music students Cathy Compton and Ayrton Hyatt student taught in Rosendal, Norway this spring. Dr. Sylvia Munsen coordinates this international student teacher exchange. Compton taught general music in the elementary school and English conversation in the middle school. Ayrton taught general music and English conversation at the middle school.

These two students performed at a concert on March 13 in the Kvinnherad Church in Rosendal, a magnificent stone church built in 1250. Katherine Munsen (ISU '43) the mother of Sylvia Munsen, also performed three selections on violin. Katherine was one of the first students of legendary ISU violin professor Ilza Niemack.

The concert was very well received; Cathy and Ayrton were thrilled to sing an encore for a full house. The concert was previewed and reviewed in *Grenda*, a regional newspaper in the Kvinnherad District on the Hardanger Fjord in Southwest Norway.

Last year Josh Deutmeyer (B.Mus.'07) was the first music education student to student teach in Rosendal. He was active as a trombonist performing in three area bands and for special events in Rosendal.

## Recording for the big screen

Last summer, four members of Musica Antiqua spent 13 hours at Winterland Studios in Minneapolis recording musical excerpts for the animated movie, *Dragons of the Autumn Twilight*. This movie is based on the first book in the Dragonlance series of fantasy novels.



Music Antiqua member Dee Dreeszen shown playing the gemshorn.

The 88-minute score was written by Hollywood composer Karl Preusser, who visited Ames in October 2006 to discuss the project and become acquainted with the uniqueness and limitations of medieval and renaissance instruments.

The novel, *Dragons of the Autumn Twilight*, was published in 1984 by Tracey Hickman and Margaret Weis and spent several weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The Paramount Pictures film was released on DVD January 15, 2008. It is directed by Will Meugniot and features the voices of Lucy Lawless, Kiefer Sutherland and Michael Rosenbaum.

The excerpts recorded by Musica Antiqua have been inserted into the score, which was recorded by the Warsaw Philharmonic. They represent various characters in the production.

Musica Antiqua is an ensemble dedicated to recreating the music of the Renaissance and Middle Ages, led by Carle Bleyle, Emeritus Professor of Music. Music Antiqua members involved in the recording include Bleyle; Alan Spohnheimer, ISU graduate in music; Dee Dreeszen, ISU graduate in art; and Steve Kelleher, former ISU student in education.

For more information about Musica Antiqua, please see its website, [www.musicaantiqua.org](http://www.musicaantiqua.org).

## New Faculty

**Joshua Grunmann** joined the Iowa State University music department faculty this January as vocal coach and accompanist. He holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Piano Performance and a Bachelor of Arts in French from the University of Western Ontario, as well as a Master of Music in Piano Performance from l'Université de Montréal. He was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Scholarship and the Ontario-Quebec Exchange Fellowship.



As a vocal accompanist, coach and répétiteur, he has had the privilege of working with some of the finest singers in Canada including Theodore Baerg, Irena Welhasch Baerg, Mary Lou Fallis, Nathalie Paulin, Jackalyn Short, Sean Watson, Laura Whalen and others. He was the répétiteur for Orchestra London's presentation of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'amore* in 2001 and a répétiteur at the Banff Centre in 2002 and 2003 for the Opera as Theatre Program and for the first Banff Centre production of the opera *Filumena* by John Estacio.

At Songfest, in Malibu, Calif., he premiered *Songs of Wood and Water*, a cycle by Vancouver composer Dorothy Chang, and he participated in a workshop with composer John Harbison on his work, *Milosz Songs*, premiered in February 2006 by Dawn Upshaw and the New York Philharmonic. As a faculty member for the training program for young singers at Songfest, Grunmann has performed in the *Live from Los Angeles* series on K-MZT, Southern California's largest classical radio station. During Songfest's residency at the Icicle Creek Summer Music Festival, he gave faculty concerts with such artists as soprano Juliana Gondek and violinist Maria Newman.

Grunmann has recently performed recitals at the Wolf Performance Hall in London, Ontario, with Anita Krause, Andrew Tees and the Madawaska string quartet, as well as a recital at Baruch College in New York City with Monica Whicher. In 2006-07, he organized and accompanied recitals with soprano Nathalie Paulin and tenor John Tessier with his wife, soprano Sherry Steele, to inaugurate the first season of his series, Larksong Recitals.

Grunmann has studied vocal accompanying with Steven Blier, Denise Massé, John Hess, Elizabeth Upchurch, Graham Johnson, Rudolf Jansen and Elly Ameling.

## Faculty News

(Editor's Note: Portions of this column were inadvertently omitted from the fall '07 issue of *The Score*. Consequently, news items dating to summer 2007 are included.)

Professor emeritus **Carl Bleyle** has been awarded the 2008 Learning Abroad Leadership Award by the ISU chapter of Phi Beta Delta. PBD is a national honorary fraternity whose mission is to "recognize and encourage high professional, intellectual and personal achievements in the field of international education." Dr. Bleyle created and directs the popular Tones of Florence two-week summer program, as well as a semester abroad program in Italy. In addition to a plaque the award includes paid membership to Phi Beta Delta for 2008-09 and a \$500 professional development award. He received the honor at the ISU Phi Beta Delta annual meeting in April.

**Kris Bryden** recently was awarded a patent for "Creating Realtime Data-driven Music Using Context Sensitive Grammars and Fractal Algorithms." She developed this invention in collaboration with Daniel Ashlock, (mathematics, University of Guelph in Toronto, Canada) and Kenneth Mark Bryden (mechanical engineering). The computer algorithm described in the patent creates music in response to numerical data. It is based on Lindenmayer-systems – a grammar consisting of a set of replacement rules that create a string of symbols and an interpreter. For this algorithm numerical data drives the choice of rules, and the resulting string of symbols is interpreted as MIDI data.

Last November Dr. Bryden presented this invention at the Artificial Neural Networks in Engineering (ANNIE) conference in St. Louis. Dr. Bryden has also been selected to be the banquet plenary speaker for the Artificial Neural Networks in Engineering (ANNIE) 2008 conference, which will be held in St. Louis next November. The title of her talk is "Using Narrative as a Metaphor for Exploring Creative Processes in Music Composition and Engineering Decision Making."

**Mary Creswell** recently completed her 20th summer of teaching at the Interlochen Arts Camp in Northern Michigan. Interlochen is the oldest and most successful fine arts camp in the country. Many of Creswell's former Interlochen students are having successful Broadway and operatic careers. Michael Arden who studied with Creswell for three consecutive summers, recently finished a European concert tour with Barbra Streisand, and sang lead roles in *The Times They are a'Changin* and *Big River* on Broadway. Creswell was recently tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at Iowa State.

**William David** taught at the Madeline Island Music Camp in Wisconsin last summer. His colleagues at the camp included members of the Pacifica String Quartet. Dr. David continues to serve as editor of *The Iowa Music Teacher*, the quarterly journal of The Iowa Music Teachers Association (IMTA). IMTA was recently

named "2007 State Affiliate of the Year" by its parent organization, Music Teachers National Association (MTNA). In presenting the award, MTNA's executive director Gary Engle cited "the extremely high quality of its publications."

Music Department accompanist **Paula Forrest**, in her role as artistic director of the Ames Town & Gown concert series, produced the annual fundraising Town & Gown Musicales for the 19th time. This event, held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ames, featured seven present and former members of the ISU Music Faculty, four ISU music students, and seven members of the larger Ames arts community, as well as the Ames Children's Choir. They performed for the largest audience ever for this event, and exceeded their goals in raising funds for the next Town & Gown season.

**Michael Golemo** was recently inducted into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. He has served as a guest conductor for several honor bands and festivals, including events in Decorah, Omaha, Miami and Columbia, South Carolina. He also served as the conductor of the Nebraska All-State Band last November. The ISU Wind Ensemble, which he conducts, has been invited to perform in St. Petersburg, Russia, for their international festival of music in March of 2009.

Recently Dr. Golemo has had two articles published in *The Instrumentalist* and has had three works published for band. He is the state chair for the National Band Association, the College Band Directors National Association and continues to serve on the board of trustees for Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity. This summer, he will begin his sixth season as Director of the Ames Municipal Band.

**Christopher Hopkins** was selected as the 2007 CEAH (Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities) Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research Fellow with Kenneth Mark Bryden (mechanical engineering). The \$10,000 award funded a summer research stipend and two research assistants for the project "Mapping Sound to 3-D Virtual Materials: A Real-time Touch Sensitive Instrument for Virtual Engineering and Electroacoustic Music." During summer 2007 the research team constructed a prototype virtual environment in which the metrics of shape, color, and surface features (like friction) were assigned to virtual objects. These objects are assigned properties of force such that one may use a force-feedback stylus to interact with the objects using a sense of touch. This interaction is then assigned to elements of sound synthesis to create and shape sound, so creating an abstract virtual musical instrument. The project was presented at a reception for CEAH fellows in October.

Dr. Hopkins also attended the NIME (New Instruments for Musical Expression) conference at NYU in May, and received invitations to the Spark Festival and to premiere a new work as a guest artist-lecturer at the Musikhögskolan i Piteå (Sweden).

**Barry Larkin** performed in the pit orchestra of the musical *Spamalot* last summer during its two week run at the Des Moines Civic Center.

Dr. Larkin spent a day at Garner High School in February. He played a marimba recital, taught private lessons and appeared with the Garner High School band that evening on their winter concert. The following day he performed at Southwest Webster High School.



Barry Larkin in the pit

The Concert Choir of the Ames Children's Choirs (ACC), conducted by **Sylvia Munsen**, was selected to perform for two prestigious conferences this past year: Midwest Kodály Music Educators of America Conference in St. Louis in October, and the North Central–American Choral Directors Association (NC-ACDA) Conference in Fargo, N.D., in March. In addition, Dr. Munsen was selected to conduct an interest session at both conferences: "Developing Expressive Singing and Independent Musicianship in the Rehearsal." The Concert Choir served as the demonstration choir for these sessions. At the NC-ACDA conference, the choir was chosen as one of 15 from six states and was only one of two choirs representing Iowa.

Dr. Munsen also conducted the Southwest District Iowa Choral Directors Association 5th-6th Grade Honor Choir last March in Atlantic. The Chorale of the Ames Children's Choirs was the featured performing at the Central District Iowa Choral Directors Association 5th-6th Grade Honor Choir Festival last March in Boone.

**Jeff Prater** returned to Russia in May and October 2007. He taught for several weeks at Immanuel Kant Russian State University in Kaliningrad, where he was a Fulbright senior lecturer in fall 2005. Since then Dr. Prater has been regularly invited to present lectures in Kaliningrad on various topics related to musical culture in the United States. During the summer of 2007, he began a new work for symphony orchestra entitled *A Russian Overture*, which he completed in September. The premiere of *A Russian Overture* took place in Kaliningrad in October by the Kaliningrad Symphony Orchestra. The new work was dedicated to Arkadi Feldman (the

conductor of the KSO) and the orchestra to honor the 20th year since the founding of the ensemble.

Dr. Prater recently celebrated his 60th birthday. Students secretly filled his office waist-high with cardinal and gold balloons to "help him celebrate."



Jeff Prater

**James Rodde** has maintained an active schedule as a guest conductor. In 2008 he will conduct the Colorado and Nebraska All-State Choirs and the Minnesota ACDA Mixed Honor Choir. In June he will serve as Kingsway International's guest conductor for the American Men's Choral Salute to The Olympic Games in Beijing, China, an event that will feature men's choirs from the United States.

During the summer of 2007, **Tin-Shi Tam** performed carillon recitals at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Alfred University, Rochester University, The Riverside Church in New York City, Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville, N.Y., Pennsylvania State University at Erie, the University of Michigan and St. Mary's Church of Redford in Detroit.

**Jonathan Sturm** performed chamber music recitals in Des Moines at the Salisbury House, the Art Museum and the Historical Center over the past six months. In October he performed Ralph Vaughan-Williams' *The Lark Ascending* with the Central Iowa Symphony. Additionally, he wrote four articles for an upcoming publication of a new encyclopedia: *Musicians and Composers of the 20th Century* to be published by Salem Press in 2008.

**James Tener** served as music director for the ACTORS of Ames production of *Ruthless! The Musical* during May and June with nine shows. He coached the singers and played one of the two piano parts. Tener also taught a three-week CYTAG course in music theory, composition and technology. The closing recital included a full hour of compositions by the students, who also printed off all their works on Finale music software.



# Musically sound)))

Department comes through external review with flying colors.

photos by Dave Gieseke

The days, weeks and months leading up to an external review of an academic department can be tense, hectic and unnerving – all rolled into one big wrapper.

That feeling doesn't change much when the reviewers are on campus, going over the academic offerings and quality of your department.

The Department of Music, its students, faculty and staff went through such a feeling earlier this year when Iowa State's mandated seven-year external review took place.

But by the end of the two-day process, those feelings changed to excitement and joy.

"The external review went very well," said Michael Golemo, department chair. "The process is a basic assessment of where the department has been, where it is and where it is heading."

Four reviewers from peer institutions (Oklahoma State University, Ohio State University, Texas Tech University and the University of South Carolina) spent two days on campus looking over both the music and theatre components of the department.



In the end, Golemo says the reviewers left impressed with the quality of Iowa State's Department of Music. Specifically a number of the department's strengths were cited, including:

- The quality of instruction offered to the undergraduate majors of the department;
- The extensive offerings and quality of the instrumental and vocal ensembles;
- The high level that the department's faculty and staff are engaged in, and how committed they are to, the undergraduate process.

Golemo says the external review is a good barometer to gauge the level of quality and progress the department has made in the last few years.

"The reviewers took special note of some of the areas that we as a department have worked hard on recently," he said. "Additionally, they noted the renovations to the (Martha-Ellen Tye) recital hall, our increase in scholarship money being offered to our students, and the recently approved minor in music technology."

The department has also worked to increase the funding for tenure track faculty members travel to conferences and conventions.

"We've made it a point to support our junior faculty members so they can present and perform at conferences which is vital in the tenure process." Golemo said.

Visitors to the Music Hall will also notice improvements to the building, including painting and new carpet.

Golemo noted that campus efforts have also made the use of Stephens Auditorium and Fisher Theater more affordable.

"All of these things have made it easier for us to continue to attract quality students, both as majors and non-majors," Golemo said.

"We've been able to accomplish many goals and things are going well because we have a lot of dedicated faculty and staff who are working really hard," Golemo said. "I like the spirit among our faculty. They are committed to high standards and excellence in undergraduate instruction."

The department currently has 130 majors. Thousands of additional students are connected with the program through performing ensembles, theatre productions, private lessons and courses. In the band program alone, over 700 students participate.



Golemo anticipates that the number of majors will remain relatively constant in the coming years but that the number of students involved with the department will continue to grow.

So what does the future hold for the Department of Music?

With approximately half of the

department's current majors earning a teaching licensure as well, Golemo hopes to provide additional faculty support in this area in the coming years.

"Our majors in music education are slowly but steadily rising," he said. "I think our students have had such a wonderful experience in high school that teaching is something they want to pursue as a way to share their

love of music."

"It's a great way for them to continue to stay in Iowa and make a difference."

But the non-majors have been, and will continue to be, a vital part of the program.

"We have a lot of talented non-majors," Golemo said. "That has been fairly typical of Iowa State for a number of years. I think being a bright student goes hand-in-hand with being a good musician."

The Department of Music is fully accredited through 2013 through the National Association of Schools of Music. Golemo sees continuing changes in the department, including the recently approved minor in music technology.

However he says the basic mission of the department will remain the same.

"We're very comfortable with who we are and what we do," he said. "I don't see that changing." **DG**

# All the right notes

Enthusiasm, hard work, keeps Sonja Giles' flute studio in harmony.

When Sonja Giles joined the Iowa State music faculty in 2003, most of the top flute students had graduated.

In sports it would be termed a rebuilding year.

Today, the number and quality of participants in the flute studio has increased since her initial year on campus. It's a reflection of the assistant professor's teaching style, enthusiasm and hard work.

In what is a first for Iowa State, Giles' students will perform at the National Flute Association annual convention in August as one of the featured ensembles. Their audition tape was top-notch.

"We must have done a good job," Giles said, "because we've been asked to give an entire spotlight recital. Most flute ensembles get to share a recital and play only a few pieces."

That means the dozen ISU students (all but one are music majors) will have to learn about three times as much music. Giles knows they are up to the challenge.

"This is my strongest flute studio yet," she said. "They're all so good."

Giles works hard to bring the best out of her students.

"I find that building a rapport with each individual student is so important – what motivates them, what inspires them, what gets them into that practice room working," she said. "And I'm always looking for new teaching techniques."

"To be the best teacher I can for my students, I try to find as many possible ways to teach so I can reach each student."

Giles also has structured more performances into the curriculum.

"Each semester we give a studio recital. This gives each student the chance to play a solo piece on our wonderful Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall stage," she noted. "I find that by having these goals, the



students work harder."

It wasn't until the sixth grade in her native Mississippi that Giles first picked up the flute. She didn't have a flute lesson until entering the University of Alabama on a scholarship.

"My undergraduate teacher, Dr. Sheryl Cohen, was very patient with me," said Giles. "She tried to change everything about my playing the first semester because I was basically self-taught. I had a lot of bad habits."

Giles spent her first two years in college playing the flute as a music major, but she was unsure of her future in or out of music. Then one day Cohen sat her down.

"She told me, 'Sonja, you need to find the practice room.' She had me give a recital, and once I started practicing, I found out that I really enjoyed it. That was a

turning point for me."

Giles' career blossomed and she earned a master's degree at the University of Iowa and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at the University of Minnesota.

She credits all of her teachers for providing her with an array of teaching techniques and styles.

"My former teachers are some of the best pedagogues in the flute field," Giles said fondly. "I truly lucked out and was able to study with the best teachers and role models."

Giles sees the number of participants in the flute studio holding steady, but she wants to continue building quality. She will work to attract experienced musicians, but it doesn't mean she won't work with other students.

"I've taken on students who aren't as experienced because I, too, had not taken private lessons. **SJ**

# Musical education



## Sylvia Munsen sings the praises of the music education program and the Ames Children's Choirs.

Sylvia Munsen's work helps educate many young vocalists and musicians in Iowa. Associate professor and chair of music education in the Department of Music, she guides her college students in accepting teaching positions throughout the state. As the founder and conductor of the popular Ames Children's Choirs (ACC), she works closely with 85 to 90 boys and girls.

Not coincidentally, several of her former Ames singers have also gone through her ISU music education program.

Each year some 65 students are in music education. Munsen arranges their state-mandated practica to observe public school music educators, oversees their student teacher sessions and handles other licensure requirements.

However, all musicians want to perform, and Munsen - who has been on stage as a vocalist, flutist and pianist - uses conducting as her "performance instrument" these days.

"It's my passion," she said.

Munsen founded the Ames Children's Choirs upon her 1995 arrival in Ames. The program includes three choirs for boys and girls ages 8-16. It focuses on the development of self-esteem through artistic performance.

Munsen has conducted the ACC in New York's Carnegie Hall, Washington, D.C., the Czech Republic and Canada, besides Iowa and the midwest. She also has conducted more than 40 honor choirs including two all-state choirs and a festival in Carnegie Hall.

In early March the ACC's Concert Choir was honored as one of 15 choirs from six states chosen to sing at the North Central American Choral Directors Association Conference in Fargo, N.D. In addition, the choir was featured in a conference session conducted by Munsen demonstrating rehearsal techniques.

"Performing at a regional or national American Choral Directors Association conference is regarded to be the highest honor any choir can receive," Munsen explained.

Running the ACC is not simple, and Munsen relies on several "apprentices" from the music education program to help. It is great experience for the future teachers, and it meets their state requirement for observing students in an 80-hour practicum. Of course, the apprentices are more than observers.

"They are involved in exactly the same thing they will do as teachers," Munsen explained, "from conducting sectionals to conducting one piece in a concert."

Munsen has come full circle in Story County. She left hometown Story City for Northfield, Minn., and sang in the highly regarded St. Olaf College Choir for conductor Kenneth Jennings. Next came three years teaching elementary school music in Minneapolis and seeing up to 1,200 students a week. It was challenging but educational.

"I learned so much in those three years," said Munsen.

It was also after college that Munsen and two other St. Olaf Choir alumnae appeared regularly over a four-year period on a fledgling Minnesota radio variety show.

Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* had yet to gain a national following, and sometimes those on stage outnumbered the audience. Yet Munsen and her friends, in long gowns, auditioned as the Prom Trio, which Keillor renamed "the Chenilles."

"We were the resident 'Andrews Sisters' on the show," Munsen recalled. "It was so much fun."

Munsen finished graduate school at the University of Illinois and moved about the country for different faculty positions. During an earlier stop in western Maryland she experienced a "life-changing event" when she worked with a boys choir. Ever since she has enjoyed the rewards of conducting children's choirs.

"It's not just working for a single performance, but a process to help establish those habits that reinforce excellence. That's what's important." **SJ**



## Jennifer Edmondson

Award-winning student  
excels in composition  
and at the piano

and if a performance or competition is looming, she might even spend more time in the practice room.

“I really practice as much as I can,” added Edmondson, who also represents the Music Department on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Council.

At Iowa State she performs in small ensembles. It gives her the opportunity to play various forms of music, and even venture away from the piano. In a recent duet, she and another musician played baroque music for the harpsichord and recorder.

“The harpsichord is a very big change from the piano,” she noted.

Edmondson received the 2008 Bruce Benward Theory-Composition Student Honorarium, presented by from the Music Analysis Creative Research Organization, headquartered in Wisconsin. The award, which comes with a \$1,000 honorarium that can be used for her music education, recognizes her abilities in composition and music theory.

Edmondson also has received other composition awards including the 2006 Iowa Composers Forum’s Marilyn Etzel College Scholarship Competition. The work submitted to the competition, *Three Preludes* for solo piano, was selected for performance at the Iowa Composers Forum’s 20th Anniversary Festival of New Music in November 2007. In 2008 her work, *Passacaglia* for solo piano, was selected as winner of the Iowa State Music Department Composition Competition.

She also captured two recent concerto competitions, which qualified her to perform with the Des Moines Symphony and the Fort Dodge Area Symphony.

After Iowa State Jennifer is eyeing graduate school for a master’s or a doctoral degree to teach music composition or piano. “My biggest goal is to keep composing and performing,” she said, “and an academic position would allow me to do that.” **SJ**

For a person with a passion for music, Jennifer Edmondson has never played anything but the piano. The Iowa State music student acknowledges that most musicians have played at least one other instrument, if only for a short time, during childhood.

“I never have played anything else,” admitted the junior from Ames who added with a laugh, “And I don’t sing very well, either.”

Edmondson is a pianist and a good one. She can play the harpsichord and has dabbled with the organ, but her fingers were meant for the piano, which she began playing at age 6.

“I always liked playing the piano,” she said, “but as I got older practice was something I liked to do as opposed to something I had to do. My passion for the piano really kicked in when I was in high school.”

Edmondson is a music major with emphases in piano performance and music composition. She studies piano with William David, and composition with Jeff Prater and Christopher Hopkins. She’s at the piano many hours a week,

# March Madness



No basketballs involved in the month when Alan Greiner schedules 18,000 festival musicians

**M**arch Madness has a different meaning for Alan Greiner. For three weeks in March, the executive director of the Iowa High School Music Association sees 18-hour days. And no basketballs are in sight. Greiner, a 1985 Iowa State music graduate, hand schedules the 18,000 entries in Iowa's solo and small ensemble festivals.

"It's a three-week period when it's nuts," laughed Greiner. "Everything else is on hold."

From a two-room office suite in the Iowa High School Athletic Association building in Boone, Greiner leads the organization that is the "state agent for high school music festivals." He administers a series of seven annual state music events which include all-state auditions, the all-state festival, and numerous competitions, including those for marching band, jazz band, show choirs and jazz choirs, piano, large groups (concert band, orchestra and choir), and the solo and ensemble series.

"What I love about my job is that I basically do the same thing once a year," said Greiner, entering his ninth year at the IHSMA in fall 2008.

Each festival takes time, but none compares to the scheduling of the solo and small ensemble contests. For example, Cedar Rapids is the largest site with 18 centers – which means he juggles 18 judges and a throng of young musicians from two classes in 18 different rooms.

"It takes me six and a half hours to build this one site," he noted.

With so many festivals, he's in regular contact with Iowa's music instructors. "I have probably spoken with every music teacher in the state," he added.

Greiner came to the IHSMA in 2000 after a 16-year career as an Iowa band director, the first two at the Northwest Webster schools in Barnum. "I did every thing – all instrumental music, grades 5 through 12." The next 14 years he was at the Prairie school district (now Prairie Valley) in Gowrie.

Over time he became more involved with IHSMA activities, serving on committees, including one with then-executive director Everett Johnson, and doing the

organization's web site. When Johnson announced his retirement, Greiner was encouraged to apply.

"This was not on my radar screen," said Greiner, only the IHSMA's third executive director. "I was not thinking of this job at all."

When he's not scheduling festivals, certifying festival judges or choosing the national anthem singers for the state athletic tournaments, Greiner deals with "the issues." Like any administrator, he makes the hard decisions that he believes "are right for all students." Sometimes students are declared ineligible, and he must handle disputes involving teachers. It comes with the territory.

"I'm not alone," he explained. "I sit in a building with colleagues (from the Iowa High School Athletic Association) who deal with the same issues."

An all-state vocalist from Story City, Greiner first played the flute until switching to the bassoon in eighth grade. He was unsure what musical direction to take in college – vocal, instrumental or piano – until Kevin Schilling of the Iowa State music faculty invited Greiner to study the bassoon with him.

Under Schilling, Greiner's skills flourished, and he played in the ISU Wind Ensemble and the orchestra. After Iowa State he became the principal bassoonist for the Fort Dodge Area Symphony then held the same chair with the Central Iowa Symphony for 15 years. Now he enjoys playing the flute and the saxophone for a contemporary service in his church.

In 2005, Greiner was also the first recipient of the music department's Outstanding Alumni Award in Music Education.

Music has been good to Greiner, and he works to ensure young Iowans have similar opportunities to perform. Not long ago, he said, nearly 75 percent of Iowa high school musicians were in both band and choir. "We now think that number is less than 25 percent."

He blames increased graduation requirements and the unintended consequences of federal education mandates requiring students to load up on courses other than music.

"That's a concern for us, especially if we believe music is truly an intelligence," Greiner noted. "We believe in educating the whole child."

SJ

# Alumni News

**Matt Cameron** (B.A. Mus. '02) is teaching low brass at Grinnell College and is the principal trombonist with the Cedar Rapids Symphony Orchestra. He is a member of "The Archipelago Project," which performs throughout Michigan during Archipelago's summer music festival. He recently returned from Innsbruck, Austria, and Nuremberg, Germany where the group recorded a CD and presented clinics in music.

**Anna Hersey** (B.A. Mus. '03) has completed the Master of Music degree at the University of Minnesota and will enroll in the Doctor of Music program in the fall of '08 at the University of Miami. This summer she is performing the role of the Countess in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* in San Francisco. She will compete in the national semi-finals of the NATS Central Award Competition in Nashville later this summer.

**Carly Huhn** (B.Mus. '06) is teaching music at an international primary school on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. The school has 440 students from 14 countries. Carly teaches students ages 3-11. She reports that she loves what she's doing and that her island home is GORGEOUS.



Carly Huhn

**Amy Jenkins** (B. Mus. '07) has accepted the position of General Music Teacher at Maple Grove Elementary School in Waukee. She was previously teaching general music, dividing her time between Eason and Brookview Elementary Schools in Waukee.

**Dan Jones** (B.Mus. '06) has accepted the position of Director of Instrumental Music at Saydel Middle School near Des Moines. He previously was band director at Southeast Webster-Grand High School.

**Steph Kasper** (B.A. Mus. '05) is enrolled in the Master of Music degree program at Duquesne University and performing with the Pittsburgh Opera.

**Ann Kostelnick** (B. Mus. '04) has accepted a position as Director of Bands at Waterloo East High School. She previously was Director of Bands at Central Springs Middle School in Nora Springs.

**Ruth (Engle) Larner** (B.Mus. '85) lives with her family in Fort Collins, Colo. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, which serves North, Central and South America.

**Austin Longnecker** (B. Mus. '08) has accepted a position as General Music Teacher at Ames Middle School.

**Nathan Newhard** (B. Mus. '04) has accepted the position as Director of Bands at Ogden High School. He was previously teaching band with the Pekin Community Schools.

**Pavithra Rajagopalan** (B.A. '07) is enrolled in the Master of Music degree program at the Boston Conservatory and is singing with the Boston Opera.



## Carillon society rings a bell with alumni

Iowa State alumni who studied the carillon during their college years now have their own organization.

The purpose of the Society of ISU Carillon Alumni and Friends is to bring together people who are passionate about carillon music and its tradition at Iowa State.

"It's an outlet for alumni to come together and continue being part of our carillon program," said Tin-Shi Tam, university carillonist and associate professor of music. Tam added that students from many majors studied the carillon while on campus, and the society will provide them and others with network-building opportunities to remain close to carillon activities.

In addition to networking, the society will help increase awareness among students of carillon lessons available on campus and ensure the Campanile and carillon remain prominent icons at the university.

The carillon society was chartered at the February meeting of the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The inaugural carillon society event will be June 21, 2008, which coincides with the first performance in the ISU Summer Carillon Concert Series on campus. The featured performer that day is Laura Ellis of the University of Florida, whose free concert begins at 3 p.m.

For more information or to join the Society of ISU Carillon Alumni and Friends, contact Amy Brandau at [abrandau@iastate.edu](mailto:abrandau@iastate.edu) or the Iowa State Alumni Association at [www.isualum.org](http://www.isualum.org).

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## Making a Difference

The Department of Music at Iowa State University is committed to providing outstanding opportunities for the university community. In order to have the resources necessary to take the music and theatre programs into the future, support for the department is essential. Funding is required to aid the program in developing new opportunities in technology, continuing and advancing outreach activities, maintaining and expanding current performance and educational opportunities, and supporting students and faculty. These services are crucial as the Department of Music strives to keep up with the student demand for these experiences and advance the study of performing arts. To help make a difference, simply fill out the form, drop it in the mail (ISU Foundation, 2505 University Blvd, Ames, Iowa 50010-8644) and check our next newsletter.

For more information about making a gift to the Department of Music or including ISU in your estate plans, please contact College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Development Office at 515-294-3607 or Erin Steinkamp at [estein@iastate.edu](mailto:estein@iastate.edu).

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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Department of Music

149 Music Hall

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