WKU Spirit Gets A Facelift

KMEA Highlights

All-Collegiate Choir
Leigh Anderson (Bowling Green, KY), alto; Will Armour (Bowling Green, KY), bass; Tyler Ayers (Smiths Grove, KY); bass; Caitlin Dereman (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 (Brownsville, AL), oboe; Ashley Grueter (Ashland City, KY), cello; Chuck Jewell (Eastview, KY), tuba; Keith Koster (Franklin, KY), trombone; Catherine Larson (Bowling Green, KY), viola; Troy Puckett (Bowling Green, KY), trumpet; Natalie Riley (Bowling Green, KY), oboe; Kallie Rogers (Henderson, KY), viola; Phoebe Simpson (Lexington, KY), violin; Rachel Stewart (Central City, KY), clarinet; Steven Wade (LaGrange, KY), double bass; Andy Webber (Mayfield, KY), viola; Aaron West (Ulster, KY), violin; Megan Wheat (Scottsville, KY), oboe/English horn

Intercollegiate Jazz Band
Matt Adams (Greensboro, NC) and Jeremy Durst (Jacksonville, OR) on saxophone; Liv Meeks (Bowling Green, KY) on piano; Zachary Slay (Bowling Green, KY) on drums; and Cody Gilstrap on bass

Scholarships & Awards of 2007-2008

Jerry Baker Scholarship
Amberly Bush, Bowling Green, KY
Aaron West, Utica, KY

Bennie Beach, Jr., Memorial Scholarship
Chris Osborne, Springfield, TN

Athena Cage Scholarship
Laura Beth Calpeau, Russellville, KY

Dr. Kent Campbell Scholarship
Rachel Stewart, Central City, KY

Howard Carpenter String and Piano Scholarship
Lindsay Hamed, Lebanon Junction, 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 Siena, Louisville, KY

D & S Vitale String Scholarship
Ashley Guerter, Ashland City, TN

Nelle Gooch Travelstede Scholarship
Will Armour, Bowling Green, KY

Ohm Pauli Scholarship
Susan Abell, Bowling Green, KY
Amberly Bush, Bowling Green, KY

Kelly Lafliff Scholarship
Catherine Larson, Bowling Green, KY
Aaron West, Utica, KY

Edward J. Pease Memorial Scholarship
Erin Goad, Brownsville, AL

Dr. Samuel W. and Jeanne Payne Tinsley Music Scholarship
Phoebe Simpson, Lexington, KY

Martha Hawley Travelstede Scholarship
Tony Richardsdon, Scottsville, KY

Seymour Spiegelman Scholarship
Bronson Murphy, Bowling Green, 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.

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 asbestos 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 addition. 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. For more information on the renovations at Van Meter, contact Mark Gut, Facilities Services Director.

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 in-service professional development conference, held on February 7, 2008.

In the Department of Music, students were selected based on academic achievement, community service, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. This year’s Spring Gala, held on March 21, 2008, featured the WKU Wind Ensemble, 2 were selected for the Intercollegiate Band, 10 were selected for the Intercollegiate Choir, 20 were selected to participate in the All-Collegiate Choir, and 10 were selected for the Intercollegiate Orchestra. Seven WKU students were bade adieu, as 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.

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
Aly Bogaeh (Scottsville, KY), bass clarinet; Laura Beth Calpeau (Russellville, KY), bassoon; Geoffrey Gensler (Eden, KY), clarinet; Rebecca Harlow (Versailles, KY), horn; Kara Oglesby (Austin, KY), clarinet; Paul Rotramel (Lexington, KY), trumpet; Matt Sheets (Bowling Green, KY), tuba; Jonathan Reynolds (Reynolds Station, KY), trumpet; Jim Stites (Bowling Green, KY), tuba; Chris Westover (Bowling Green, KY), alto saxophone

Van Meter Steinways leaves for a refurbishing vacation.
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.

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

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).

Department of Music 2007-2008 Graduates

Bachelor’s Degree

- Jessica Broady, BA
- Corey Bryson, BA
- Johnathan Cline**, BM
- Matt Devore, BM
- Jennifer Demsey***, BM
- Amy Farrell***, BM
- Heather Haim, BM
- Bonnie Hughes, BM
- Meredith Lopez*, BM
- Christina McCarr, 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 Ensley
- Selina Johns
- Matt Shores
- Cynthia Sopko

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 (tuba), Jeremy Durr (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 Gaitley (piano), Standing: Amberly Bush (strings), Parker Scinta (guitar), Courtney Greenfield (woodwinds), Chuck Jewell (tuba); Preston Neal (percussion) *winner
Glasgow, Kentucky. The basketball band
Butler Traditional High School in Louisville,
The athletic
Music Education as a Career,” published in
Camp and taught at the Tennessee Valley
and Murfreesboro Youth Orchestras, co-
School of Music in Washington, D.C. Berry
with WKU faculty colleagues, performed
Sarah (Boronow) Berry,
was released this spring.
Steelband. The Steelband CD,
served on the faculty of the Tennessee Valley
Evansville (IN) Philharmonic Orchestra and
this year to WKU cello teacher, Sarah
Mark Berry,
performed

Faculty Footnotes
Mark Berry, percussion, was married this year to WKU cello teacher, Sarah Boronow. He continues to perform with the Evansville (IN) Philharmonic Orchestra and Owensboro Symphony Orchestra and 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 Messiaen’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-
the 2004 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, “Interpreting the Music” in
Bluegrass Music News, as well as three book reviews in The Clarinet. Cipolla formed Silly Sponges for saxophone and piano with Don Freund, guest composer at WKU, presented a solo recital at Chickering Hall and 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 Messiaen’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 for Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Anna Cromwell, violin, gave a lecture recital on Kodály at the 2008 College Music Society SuperRegional Conference in Gettysburg, PA, and presented a paper and poster on Martini at the 2008 Music Teachers National Association Convention in Denver, CO. This past year, she played the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the Bowling Green Symphony Orchestra and performed with her Violin-Cello Duo at St. Olaf College, WKU, and UNC Charlotte. She returned to 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 New York. Her first solo CD, Light Wraps You, was released in November on MSR Classics compact disc, and has gained much 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 Lied Academy Kodaly 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 curricula. Floyd completed her Ph.D. in music education at 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 Hordop, director of choral activities, enjoyed guest conducting opportunities in Louisville (Downtown 12th Street Festival), Ballard High School Major Works Festival and in Alabama (Quad Cities Music Festival), a guest clinicship 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. Hordop will be a clinician on innovative rehearsal methods and will perform 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, premiered at a workshop of the International Horn Society at Columbus University State To celebrate their fiftieth anniversary, he was invited to perform his Electric Opera, INTO THE DEEP, for the College Music Society National Conference this summer. 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, as section coach for the Commonwealth and All-State Orchestra and performed with the Marshall Scott/John Martin Jazz Duo, the Michael Gough group, and the John Martin Trio. The Martin/Gough duo placed first in the Kentucky Blues Society Competition in October of 2007 and competing in the 2008 International Blues Championships in Memphis, TN.

Heidi Pintner, flute, released her debut compact disc, Flute Chamber Works by Michael Kallstrom, with WKU colleagues Speicher, Fiala and Cicippola 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 2008 KMEA All-State Band auditions and for the 2008 Flute Society of Kentucky Competitions. With M. Fiala, Peinter 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 Bartolone Gone Rad, and appeared with WKU Visiting Artist, Gerald Simpson, in collaboration with colleagues Fiala and Peinter on Michael Kallstrom’s GOYARDIAN. 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 in conjunction.

Bill Scott, orchestra director, 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 performed two workshops, 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 Rimes. Martin has maintained his status as an artist for Godin guitars and GIT grams, regularly performs with the Marshall Scott/John Martin Jazz Duo, the Michael Gough group, and the John Martin Trio. The Martin/Gough duo placed first in Kentucky’s first Collegiate 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 playing ensemble for the 2008 (American String Teachers Association) National Convention which will be held in Toronto, CA. 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 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 Schuman’s Piano Quintet, Op. 47 with guest violinist Jonathan Chu, Greg’s Sonata for Cello and Piano with cellist, Sarah Berry, and Greg’s Messaen’s Quartet for the End of Time with faculty members S. Berry, Cromwell, and Cicippola. 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 40 countries were represented. GIA Publications published her research project regarding music listening assessments for Pre-K and early childhood music education, showcasing it at the MENC biennial conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April. KMEA recognized her as the 2008 College/University Teacher of the Year. From 2007-2009, Dr. Swanson was Vice Chair of the ISME Special Interest Group, one of four Leadership Faculty Fellows.

Mary Wolinski, music history, organized trips for students and faculty to see Saint- Saëns’ 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 Gregorian Chant,” at the 2008 International Conference of Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference in Vienna in August, 2007, as well as the paper, “Fanfare for the Noble Couple: The Paillard of Arnold Ruman 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 work with John Martin at the University of Liverpool where 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*, 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.

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 rehearsers, 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 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: Jazzy 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).

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

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.

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.

Quintessential at the Visual and Performing Arts Library Grand Opening
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.

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

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

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

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:
Dear WKU Alums,

This year brought improved student achievement, three visiting professors (Kojo Sepulveda, Kent Ehleman 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 Choir, 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 chamber opera production (I Puritani). For the first time in the Department of Music's history, we have a new travel policy that allows us to accept only those who have been contributors to the Department of Music, and to keep an estimated number of ten to see us on any given year. We hope to see many of you on Topper turf this year. Visit www.wku.edu/music for this year's calendar of events.

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 to our students for their support.

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 at IU Bloomington. During that time, he also directed the Idelwild Presbyterian Church Music Ministry and served as a graduate assistant for the clarinet studio and also held responsibilities in the music education department. He is an active solo, orchestral, and chamber musician.

Doug Van Fleet, '63, teaches at the University of Memphis and working for the Idlewild Presbyterian Church Music Ministry. He is also studying with WKU alum, Amy Tate Williams, in Nashville.

Wesley Mayhew, '01, is a percussionist in the West Point Band in New York. He plays in The Hellcats, who have been invited to present a clinic/Performance at PASG this November in Austin, TX.

Mary Alice (Ratzlaff) Kolko, '06, is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Music Education 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 a chamber group as well. 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.

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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 and internationally renowned pedagogue Maria Farnsworth in New York City. His organ studies were with Wayne Hobbs in Kentucky and Michael 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 St. Luke’s 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 batons of Riccardo Muti, with the New York Philharmonic under the batons of Raphael Kubelik and Kurt Masur, 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 Juke 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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Ted Barr

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Lowell & Carolyn Guthrie

Bill Klapheke & Suzanne Vitale

Linda & Don Vitale

Linda & Don Vitale
Big Red attends the 2008 Topper Clarinet Summer Camp, planned by John Cipolla.

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.

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.