UAH Music News, 1993

University of Alabama in Huntsville

Follow this and additional works at: https://louis.uah.edu/music-news

Recommended Citation
https://louis.uah.edu/music-news/2

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Music at LOUIS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newsletters by an authorized administrator of LOUIS.
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

We have reached, in the past few weeks, a true milestone in the life of our department, one which carries with it a measure of sadness and nostalgia - the retirement of our colleague, Marx Pales. For more than twenty-two years, Dr. Pales has pursued musical endeavor, both here at UAH and out in the community, with an energy and enthusiasm that has inspired many students to greater heights. His uncompromising devotion to the art of music has served us well.

We all will have an opportunity to express our appreciation to Marx on October 21st, in a concert given in his honor. This performance will feature a number of Marx's friends and former musical collaborators in a concert of chamber music. The proceeds from ticket sales will benefit our growing Alumni and Friends scholarship fund - a fitting tribute to a professional career that has been devoted to imparting to students not only the technical means for musical expression, but the truly compelling need to perform. I hope all of you who have been Dr. Pales' students, colleagues and friends will join us.

Although we will miss Marx's enthusiastic pursuit of musical activities on a day-to-day basis, I know that he will continue to perform and to participate in the musical life of the community. We look forward to his continued support and wish him many, many years of happy music-making!

(continued on page 3)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

On Thursday, October 21, 1993, the Alumni and Friends of the University of Alabama in Huntsville Department of Music will present a Chamber Music Concert in honor of Dr. Marx Pales who has recently retired after 22 years as Professor of Music at UAH. The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Frances Roberts Hall on the UAH Campus. Proceeds will be used to support the Alumni and Friends Music Scholarship Fund, established in 1992.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Pales has enjoyed a celebrated career as a performer, conductor and teacher. He earned a Bachelor of Music from Baldwin Wallace College Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music, Professional Diploma, and Doctor of Education degrees from Columbia University with additional study at the Juilliard School of Music. Further study included conducting with Max Jacobs of New York City and Ladislav Slovak of Bratislava, Slovakia, and violin with famed artist Joseph Szigeti in Switzerland and Kato Havas in England. After a 23 year career with the University of Arkansas where he established the string department and the University Symphony Dr. Pales came to UAH as a full professor in the Department of Music. At UAH, Dr. Pales established the string department and taught conducting. Working through this department, he initiated the "String Along Project" which eventually led to the teaching of stringed instruments in the Huntsville and Madison County Public Schools. As music director and conductor of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra from 1971 until 1988, Dr. Pales worked with a number of internationally acclaimed artists such as Yehudi Menuhin, Beverly Sills, Hans Richter-Haaser, Jerome Hines and Benny Goodman. He has also served as conductor of the Huntsville Youth Orchestra and the Huntsville Chamber Orchestra. An active performer himself, Dr. Pales promoted the performance of chamber music through his affiliation with the Pales-Contreras violin and piano duo as well as with other UAH music faculty and community musicians.

The Chamber Music Concert will feature the music of Liszt, Smetana, Hans Hautz and Chopin and will spotlight the following performers who have worked previously with Dr. Pales:

The Contreras Trio consisting of Dr. Frank Contreras, piano, UAH Music Faculty member; Barbara Poularikas, violin, A&M Music Faculty member and former student of Dr. Pales at the University of Arkansas; and Veneta Billmayer, cello, a member of the UAH Music Faculty.

Ginger Beazley, soprano, a member of the Oakwood College Music Faculty. Ginger has performed with the Huntsville Opera Theater and the Pales-Contreras Duo.

(continued on page 2)
FACULTY NOTES

Editor’s note: The Department of Music is proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Les Hutson to our faculty. As an alumnus of UAH and as a part-time instructor, he has made many significant contributions to the department in the past, and is continuing his positive efforts this year as a full-time professor.

I was asked to write something about myself for the Newsletter. I hate writing about myself so I will write about the music I have written in the last two years. Significantly, these last two years have been spent working on my DMA at the University of Alabama. Happily, I will be finished this fall with a DMA in Composition.

Two summers ago, I found myself in Tuscaloosa without a job and a negative value in my bank account. Sound familiar? Anyway, I applied for a job at a truck stop washing dishes. To my surprise I was given the job and was immediately handed a food stained apron. I worked there about a month washing dishes and yes, cooking. So, you say, what does this have to do with music? I was so inspired by this experience that I decided to write an opera, “I-59,” which turned out to be my dissertation.

In the last couple of years I have written a number of theater pieces, using various ensembles, singers, dancers, vocalists and dramatists. Having a minor in English and Philosophy, I have supplied my own words.

My subjects are realistic, one piece entitled “To Sarah” for piano and dramatist was performed in Tuscaloosa with great success. It was about a girl growing up and her relationship with her mother. Another piece entitled “Mystic Circles,” for percussion, 2 clarinets, cello and 3 vocalists is about a dancer who wishes to dance beyond her earthly restraints. Another work entitled “Urban Renewal,” for singer, percussion, tape and piano, is a set of five songs depicting ghetto images of a large city. One song is in Latin, and one song is in French based on an old French “Gais”, meaning curfew.

This brings me to the opera. It is about a cross section of humanity, from a wealthy lady dripping with jewels who is having an affair with a trucker, to a trucker who is on the edge of religious fanaticism and because of his tragic past, falls over the edge and commits a crime that is both accidental and insane. The antagonist for the opera is an egotistical newspaper reporter who wants nothing more than a human interest story for the front page of the local paper.

Phil Weaver and Ingrid von Spakovsky

Phil Weaver and Ingrid von Spakovsky (Consonare, Weaver-von Spakovsky guitar-piano duo) have had a busy spring and summer performing and touring. A four concert tour of England was capped off with a performance for the Nonesuch Guitar Society in the London area. In the audience was John Mills, professor of guitar for the Royal Academy of Music. He met with the Duo after the concert and was very enthusiastic about their program. The tour also included a live radio interview for the BBC in York.

Phil and Ingrid also toured with Los Angeles flutist, Pamela Whitman. They headlined the classical stage at Birmingham City Stages Festival again this past June. Other performances include the concert series at Wallace Community College in Selma, Truett McConnell College in Georgia, and the Chamber Ten Festival in Huntington, West Virginia. This November they will be in concert at the Wayne Concert Series in Philadelphia.

SPOTLIGHT (continued)

Jane Rice Holloway, a native of Huntsville, currently on the music faculty of the Jacksonville State University. Jane performed extensively with the Huntsville Chamber Orchestra conducted by Dr. Pales. She will be accompanied by Dr. Kenneth Turvey, organist for the First Methodist Church in Huntsville and the Director of the Huntsville Community Chorus.

The piano-guitar duo “Consonare”, with Phil Weaver and Ingrid Von Spakovsky, both UAH Music Faculty members.

Beatriz Pilapil, pianist, who has performed extensively with Dr. Pales as a soloist with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and the Huntsville Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Pilapil is a longtime friend and former faculty member of the University of Arkansas Music Department. She has recently retired and resides in Detroit.

The concert will be hosted by Mr. Tom Gale. Mr. Gale was the manager of the Huntsville Chamber Orchestra and plays string bass with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. He is also a former member of the UAH Music Faculty.

Tickets for the concert are $10 for adults; $6 for students and senior citizens. They are available at the UAH Department of Music, AB Stephens Music and at the door. Following the concert, ticket holders are invited to a reception for Dr. Pales adjacent to the recital hall. The concert is being coordinated by Alumni and Friends Board members Chris Jackson and Cynthia Geis.

The Alumni and Friends of the UAH Department of Music was established in 1992 to provide support for the activities of the department, both in the areas of service and financial assistance. Membership in the organization is open to department alumni as well as friends interested in supporting the UAH Department of Music. For additional information about the concert and the organization please call 895-6436.
CHAIRMAN (continued)

It seems somehow fitting in our time of transition that our newest faculty member, Mr. Les Hutson, is a graduate of our program and one of our "success stories." Les joins us as on a one-year appointment and is teaching several sections of our general education offerings. Later this year, he will teach music theory as well. In addition to his UAH undergraduate degree, Les holds the M.M. from Memphis State University and is expecting to complete his D.M.A. in composition this fall at the Tuscaloosa campus. Those of us who live on the second floor of the music portion of Roberts Hall are being treated to the sounds of his doctoral composition, an opera entitled "I-59." We are not only pleased, but also a little proud to have him with us this year!

We look forward to another exciting year of musical activity here at UAH - come to see us often!

David Graves

ACTIVITIES

On Saturday, October 23, at 8:15 p.m. soprano Charlotte Regni will give a recital of songs about birds. She will be joined by other faculty members, Evelyn Loehrlein, flute; Robert West, clarinet; and guest artists Mary Ann Bishop, piano and harpsichord; and Desiree Juricic, cello. The recital will be held in the Roberts Recital Hall, UAH campus.

Wind Ensemble and Choir to present Fall Concert...

The UAH Wind Ensemble and UAH Concert Choir will continue what has become a tradition of presenting joint concerts in the fall term. This year's concert will be on Friday, November 12, 1993, at 8:15 in the Recital Hall.

The Wind Ensemble, under the direction of David Graves, will build its program around the Symphony No. 3 by Alfred Reed, and will also perform the Three Dance Episodes by Khachaturian and "Jupiter" from the Planets by Gustav Holst. The Concert Choir, directed by Bonnie Borshay Sneed, will perform works by Schutz, Handel and Hanson, and will be assisted by flutists Tina Jones and Marjorie Johnston in Telemann's Psalm 117. In addition to these works, the choir will be featuring twentieth-century folk songs from eastern Europe, England and America.

The public is invited to this concert free of charge.

Choir News...

Great things are happening in Concert Choir! We have 33% more people in the choir, which means 9 new people have joined compared to Fall of 1992. The choir is in the process of learning Slovak in preparation for singing the Bartok Four Hungarian Folksongs on our November 12th concert with the Wind Ensemble. We will also be performing other folksongs from around the world in addition to more classical selections by Telemann, Schutz, Handel, and Howard Hanson. Hope to see many of you there.

The Chamber Choir has begun its second year of existence and will be part of the November 12th concert. They will be singing madrigals of di Lasso, Marenzio and Morely. Performances for the Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Clubs have already been scheduled. If you are interested in hiring them to come sing for Christmas parties, please contact Dr. Sneed as soon as possible at 895-6436 or 464-6434.

Camerata going strong...

The third year of the Camerata Music Service Club begins with a look at past accomplishments. This group has become responsible for providing ushers at most events in Roberts Hall, hosting auditions in the Winter for incoming students, and helping to improve the general atmosphere of our building.

Projects for this year include purchasing posters and artwork to be placed around the building, ushering, and setting up a Music Department display booth at the UAH Open Houses scheduled for Oct. 30th and Nov. 20th. Anyone interested in donating artwork to the department, please call us!!

Daniel Beck is first Alumni and Friends Scholarship recipient

Freshman music major Daniel Beck is the first recipient of an Alumni and Friends Scholarship. Daniel is receiving a half-tuition award for the 93-94 academic year.

Daniel is a graduate of Arab High School, where he began his study of the saxophone and was a member of the Arab High Band, under the direction of Mr. Greg Faulkner. He is the son of James and Susan Beck, and lives in the Union Grove community. At UAH, Daniel is a saxophone student of Mr. Donald Adams, and is a member of both the UAH Wind Ensemble and the UAH Jazz Ensemble.
Angie Barnhart, a sophomore music education major, has been named recipient of two awards. One is a scholarship presented annually by the Huntsville chapter of the American Association of University Women and presented to a female student who exhibits outstanding academic achievement and makes significant contributions to the university and community. The other is one of the first awards from the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Scholarship fund, established by Dean Jack Ellis subsequent to college fund-raising efforts last fall.

Angie Barnhart, a sophomore music education major, has been named recipient of two awards. One is a scholarship presented annually by the Huntsville chapter of the American Association of University Women and presented to a female student who exhibits outstanding academic achievement and makes significant contributions to the university and community. The other is one of the first awards from the College of Liberal Arts Alumni Scholarship fund, established by Dean Jack Ellis subsequent to college fund-raising efforts last fall.

Angie is a vocal student of Ms. Charlotte Regni and intends to become a music teacher. At UAH, she is in her third year as an active member and officer of the UAH Concert Choir, and is also Vice President of our student service club, Camerata. We are pleased to be able to recognize Angie’s outstanding talent, as well as her significant contributions to the Department of Music, in this way.
FACULTY NOTES (continued)

Gjnfnnia A 7 by Johann Endler. This edition has been accepted for publication by Musica Rara, one of the leading publishers of baroque and classical period music. Sanders also traveled to Chicago in July to take a private lesson with Arnold Jacobs, retired tubist with the Chicago Symphony and well-known brass pedagogue.

Sanders has been active in various performing activities, and was recently appointed principal trumpet with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. Her faculty recital is scheduled for February 4th at 8:15 p.m.

Upgrading your computer?

Our department has recently added a new and vastly improved computer, but in order for it to live up to its full potential, it needs companions! All our other computers are of the XT variety, and budget constraints make it unlikely that we will be able to upgrade soon. We use our computers for a great variety of chores, not the least of which is keeping up with our growing mailing lists and recruiting databases. If you are upgrading your system (or know of someone who is) and have a 286 or higher computer you would like to write off, give us a call!

Homecoming Activities Planned

ATTENTION alumni! It's just about the time of year again to pull those horns from the closets and to practice those old vocalises. The Alumni and Friends of the UAH Music Department will again congregate for Homecoming fun and festivities in February, in conjunction with the university-wide homecoming activities. The Homecoming Committee is hard at work preparing this event and will provide a schedule of dates and activities by mail prior to the Christmas holidays. Pass the word and plan to attend.

If you have any questions, or would like to assist the Homecoming Committee, please call the Music Department or Committee Chairman Mark Phillips at 772-9781. Hope to see you there.

ALUMNI NEWS!

Vivienne Atkins named Music Educator of the Year

Last spring's Newsletter ran a feature article about the many accomplishments of our graduate, Vivienne Atkins, just days before a Huntsville Times article announced her selection by the Huntsville Youth Orchestra of her selection as the first recipient of the Harold J. Wilson Music Educator of the Year Award.

This award was established in honor of the late Harold Wilson, who was a member of the HYO Board of Directors and Dean of the College of Science at UAH. The Times article cited her outstanding success during 17 years as choral director at Lee High School and her numerous Broadway musicals presented by the choral department there.

Congratulations to Vivienne on receiving this honor!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UAH DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Yes, please include me among the Alumni and Friends. My tax deductible check is enclosed.

Make check payable to UAH Department of Music, and mail to:
UAH Development Office, 122 Alumni House, Huntsville, AL 35899

Member $15 to $25
Donor $26 to $99
Patron $100 or more

Amount enclosed $ ____________________________

Name: ____________________________ Telephone: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________________________ Zip: ____________________________

Please print your name (and your spouse’s, if you want) exactly as you would like it to appear on our list of contributors:
Roberts Hall
Huntsville, Alabama 35899

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UAH DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

PATRONS
Dr. D. Royce Boyer
Mr. and Mrs. William I. Dale
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony DiCerbo
Frank and Judy Franz
David and Yvonne Graves
Mr. and Mrs. George Hoffmeister
Margaret and Bill Lindberg
Mrs. Linda J. Smith
Ingrid von Spakovsky Weaver and Phillip Weaver

DONORS
Dorothy L. Adair
Ms. Ina B. Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Chan
Mrs. Harry E. Grissett
Mr. Chip Gulbro
Dr. and Mrs. Charles A. Lundquist
John S. and Carol T. Mebane
Edward and Barbara Saba
Richard and Bonnie Sneed
Dr. Scott W. Sproles
Ms. Josephine M. Stroud
Ms. Donna Seely Ulloa
Carolyn and John White

MEMBERS
Anonymous
Eliette T. Flores
Mrs. Helen L. Garrett
Mr. and Mrs. Heinz H. Hilten
Mr. Ron Huber
Ms. Linde F. Lynn
Dr. and Mrs. Everett C. Mosley
Ms. Delores Peck
Sue Reid
Mrs. Edith L. Richards
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin P. Schwemmer
(Frances)
Mrs. R. I. Strickland