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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
IN HUNTSVILLE

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII, NO. 1
FALL 1998

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Each year in the UAH Department of Music brings new faces – both students and faculty, and new challenges. We have a large group of new music majors this year, and they are already making themselves heard around the department. They are a talented group, and

DONALD BOWYER A GREAT ADDITION

Joining our Department of Music faculty this fall is **Donald Bowyer**, Instructor of Music. Mr. Bowyer has completed the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Trombone Performance at West Virginia Wesleyan College and California State University, Northridge, respectively, and is near completion of the Doctor of Arts degree in Trombone Performance and Jazz Studies at the University of Northern Colorado. Mr. Bowyer previously served on the music faculty at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, and has taught kindergarten through high school levels in the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Sweden.

At UAH Mr. Bowyer will provide instruction and leadership for our programs in Music Tech-



nology. He has considerable experience and expertise in this area, including authorship of *Dolphin Don's Music School* (www.dolphindon.com), an educational computer game that teaches music reading and ear training. He will also conduct the UAH Jazz Ensemble and teach studio instruction in the low brass area.

Mr. Bowyer has performed widely on five continents, with a diverse array of artists.

We welcome Mr. Bowyer to our very active and talented faculty.

TWO NEW BUNDLES!

The Music Department has grown by two small bundles of joy! **Karl Philip Schneider**, son of oboe instructor Lisa and her husband Kevin, arrived on April 2nd. Karl weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Karl is the Schneider's first child and was warmly welcomed by Betty the Cat.

Shannon Elizabeth Sneed, daughter of choral conductor Bonnie Borshay Sneed and husband Richard, arrived June 5th at the beginning of her mother's sabbatical. Shannon weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces and was also 19 inches long. She joins her big brother Andrew and cats Tail, Fog, and Pearl.



promise to contribute significantly to the musical life of all of us.

We are delighted to have a new faculty member, Donald Bowyer, who has assumed leadership of the Jazz Ensemble, and will also lead our fledgling program in Music Technology. He is a wonderful jazz musician, and with his expertise in the music technology area, gives our faculty a new dimension. We anticipate that our program in music technology will continue to grow under his leadership, and serve as a connection between the arts and

SANDERS ON THE GO

Dr. Carolyn Sanders has just returned this semester from her spring sabbatical, where she spent much of her time preparing Baroque music manuscripts for publication. During this period, she was able to secure copies of several original compositions by well-known Baroque composers, to be published by Musica Rara, a notable European publisher of Baroque and Classical music, later this year. Dr. Sanders also wrote several music reviews which will be published in the upcoming

edition of the *Journal of the International Trumpet Guild*.

In addition, Dr. Sanders attended the International Trumpet Guild Conference in Lexington, Kentucky, along with two UAH students, **Mark Blackburn** and **George Thompson**. Also in attendance was another student Huntsville engineer **Jim Weaver**, who is pursuing his lifelong love of trumpet playing. While there, Dr. Sanders performed with the Florida State University Alumni Trumpet Ensemble, under

the direction of Bryan Goff, consisting of approximately fifty trumpet players who are holding professional music positions throughout the country.

Finally, she arranged time during her sabbatical to study with Jim Thompson, former Principal Trumpet of the Atlanta Symphony, now Professor of Trumpet at the Eastman School of Music.

Fall is proving to be a busy time for Dr. Sanders. Highlights include traveling to Delta State University, in Cleveland, Missis-

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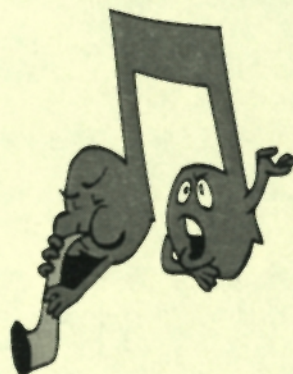
CHOIRS MEET THE BIG APPLE

Plans are underway for the UAH Choirs to travel to New York City in May. Possible concert venues include the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Other plans for the tour include stops in Boston and Philadelphia, and a special concert in Brunswick, Maine at the home of UAH music alumnus **Chris Donley**. Any UAH alumni who live in these areas or have friends or relatives there are encouraged to contact Bonnie Borshay Sneed for

more information. We would love to see you at our concerts! Anyone wishing to provide financial assistance may send checks to the UAH Music Department.

Spring 1998 saw the beginning of a fourth choral

ensemble in the department. The UAH Women's choir met for the first time in January and performed at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in May in a joint concert with the Tenor-Bass Chorale. Their performance included music by Debussy, Weelkes and two contemporary women composers, Eleanor Daly and Nancy Telfer. Anyone interested in more choral information should contact Sneed.





SMITH AND LIBAL BUSY WITH RECITALS

The current year has been one of concentrated research for **Professor David Kenneth Smith**, as he completes the final chapters of his doctoral dissertation on little-known British song composer Ivor Gurney. Between marathon sessions of interpretive analysis Smith found time to sing for the Music Appreciation Group and appeared in May with *Consonare* in the City Lights & Stars Concert series. Accompanied by pianist **Marie Libal-Smith**, he performed songs of love and loss by Clara Schumann, a few Broadway favorites, and the Italian pop song, *O sole mio*. He closed with a special dedication to **Ingrid von**

Spakovsky's mother, who was celebrating her birthday, by singing the beloved Robert Schumann song *Widmund* (Dedication).

The fall semester has been filled with conducting the UAH Concert Choir during the sabbatical of **Dr. Bonnie Borshay Sneed**, a task as full of hard work as it is with sheer joy. The Concert Choir will perform on November 20 and December 5.

Professor Smith is planning a recital for Thursday, March 25, on campus, followed by a repeat performance in Bloomington, Ind. Featured composers will be Gurney, Duparc, Bellini, and Clara Schumann.

This past summer, pianist Marie Libal-Smith ac-

companied a chamber opera by Menotti which was presented by the Renaissance Theatre, and performed several times for the Music Appreciation Group. In July she played a recital with guest artist **Katherine Nevins-Moore**, soprano. Ms. Libal-Smith is planning two winter concerts with guest artist **Sharon Stanis**, a violinist in the Lafayette String Quartet from the University of Victoria. The UAH performance will be on Thursday, January 21 in Roberts Hall, to be followed by an engagement in Cleveland, Ohio.

the hi-tech community on our campus.

Our piano program will benefit tremendously from the presence this year of *Yakov Kasman*, the Van Cliburn Piano Competition Artist in Residence at UAH. Many of you will remember the exciting performance last year of the Van Cliburn silver-medallist, brought to us by the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild. Thanks to the generosity of several patrons in our area, led by *Bill and Margaret Lindberg*, we are able to have Mr. Kasman with us for the entire year. His expertise has al-



WEDDING BELLS RING



The end of the summer, August 29, marked the occasion of a most important event in our Music Department: The marriage of UAH piano professor, **Dr. Margery McDuffie** to **Terry Whatley**, Doctor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Faculty in the department were most thankful to Margery and Terry, since attendance at a most delightful series of pre-nup-

tial events filled summer social calendars to the brim!

The wedding, held in Margery's hometown of Macon, Ga., was fantastic in every respect. Over 500 were in attendance at the wedding, with a much larger number present at the lavish reception held at the Macon Country Club. Huntsville was very well represented; most of the

music for the wedding was provided by UAH faculty members and friends, including **Wilson Luquire, Ron Roberts, the Consonare Duo**, featuring **Ingrid von Spakovsky** and **Phil Weaver**, and **Carolyn Sanders**. Other performers included her brother, violinist **Robert McDuffie**, Margery's longtime



ready been put to use in our first regular Thursday morning piano class, where he worked with several of Margery McDuffie's students. During the year, he will work with our students in piano classes and master classes, many which will be open to the public. He will also perform several times on campus and throughout the Huntsville area. Don't miss the first of these performances, with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, presented by the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild on November 4th!

Sanders

(Continued from page 2)

sippi to present a master class as well as to perform a guest-artist recital with **Bryan DePoy** and **Bart McMillan**, also graduates of Florida State University.

Sanders will be presenting her own faculty recital on December 11, at 7:30, as part of the newly-formed recital series at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Huntsville. Selections will include standard works for trumpet and organ, as well as Christmas works for both trumpet and organ, and

chamber choir. Sanders will be accompanied at the organ by Dr. Ann Knipschild of Auburn University, as well as vocalists from the community.

Dr. Sanders has been recently appointed Director of Educational Activities in conjunction with the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild (HCMG). Presentations by featured HCMG artists have been arranged for regional high school and college students, as well as residents of the Mason Court community, and have been enthusiastically received!



Wedding

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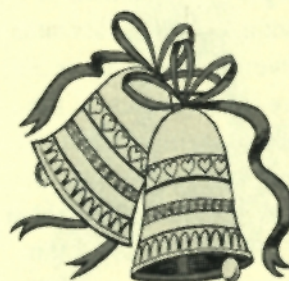
friend **Rei Janello Hottoda**, and soprano **Phoebe Odom Settles**.

In addition to the musicians, there was a large contingent of Huntsvillians present at the wedding, including Department Chair David Graves, his wife, **Yvonne**, and Music Department Staff Assistant **Cil Spina**.

The terrific honeymoon included a sunny trip to the Cayman Islands. Margery even donned snorkeling gear and mingled with herds of undersea creatures...

We are thrilled that Margery has chosen to marry an established resi-

dent of Huntsville, and look forward to sharing many happy social occasions with the couple in their splendid Monte Sano residence. As soon as Margery gets the house in order and finishes practicing the piano, she promises us that she will learn to cook!



BELLS RING... AGAIN!

For the first time in recent history of the UAH Choir, two choir members were married.

Joanna Rogers was married to **Jason Miller** in a beautiful wedding on July 18th. The wedding took place at Calvary Bible Church in Huntsville, with twenty members of the UAH Choir performing. The choir performed under the direction of **Dr. Bonnie Borshay Sneed**.

We wish them many happy years together.



MCDUFFIE TICKLES THOSE IVORIES

Pianist **Margery McDuffie** has been busy practicing for an exciting array of upcoming concerts.

On October 23, she performed to a full house with her brother, internationally acclaimed violinist **Robert McDuffie**, as part of the Huntsville Chamber Music Guild's season. Other performances with Robert McDuffie include recitals in Georgia, Virginia and Illinois.

On February 27 she will collaborate with trumpeter **Bibi Black** and trombonist **Harry Watters** at Decatur's Princess Theatre for the

Decatur Concert Association. Also in February she will perform solo recitals at Miami University in Ohio and at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music. Her faculty recital on March 13 at Roberts Recital Hall will feature works of Beethoven, Chopin, Brahms and Prokofiev.

McDuffie's 1998 year began with solo recitals at UAH and at Youngstown State University. In the spring she performed recitals with violinist Isabel Trautwein in Huntsville as part of the Lindberg Farm Series and with violinist Robert McDuffie in Georgia. She soloed with the Dekalb Symphony Orchestra in Atlanta as well as with the Macon Symphony Orchestra, per-

forming the Grieg *Piano Concerto*.

In February, 1998, Margery McDuffie released her first CD: *Piano Reflections - Encore Favorites*. Fanfare Magazine states "...there's enough steely music to keep you on edge - and even the softer repertoire is often energized by interventionist performances, notable for their pungent accents...the program as a whole is a most attractive one, and makes one eager to hear McDuffie in more extended repertoire. Recommended!"

ACCLAIMED RUSSIAN PIANIST IN RESIDENCE

The UAH Music Department is delighted to have Russian pianist **Yakov Kasman** as the Van Cliburn Foundation Artist-in-Residence for the 1998-99 school year. Kasman arrived in Huntsville in early September from Moscow with his wife **Tatiana**, a musicologist and organist, and 3 year old daughter **Alexandria**.



While making his first appearance in the U.S., Kasman walked away with the silver medal in the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. In addition to winning the medal, he was awarded two years of concert engagements and career management, a compact disc recording of his

(Continued on page 6)

Our faculty continue to distinguish themselves in many ways. I am especially pleased to congratulate Dr. Carolyn Sanders on her selection last spring for the UAH Distinguished Teaching award.

Our calendar of events for this year is already crowded with nearly forty events, and will get more so as all our faculty and students complete their plans for the year. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities afforded by this exciting array of performances. We are now updating our web site on a weekly basis, so



you'll always find the most current information about concerts and recitals. We invite you to join us often to share in our musical life.

Visit our Web site at <http://www.uah.edu/Departments/Music> for the most up-to-date information about our program, our faculty, and current events.



VOICE AREA ABOUNDS WITH RECITALS

The 1997-98 school year was a busy one for those studying voice at UAH. In addition to the numerous appearances in Voice Performance classes and Department recitals, there were six degree recitals – three junior, three senior, and one additional recital.

The junior recitalists were mezzo-soprano **Ashley Byler**, soprano **Christie McCleary**, and mezzo-soprano **Africa Patterson**. On the senior recital front, we heard from soprano **Nicole Curtis**, tenor **Greg McAmis**, and mezzo-soprano **Karen Young Taylor**.

Baritone **Chris Donley**,

a Music Education major, gave a recital which featured arias by Purcell, Handel, and Mozart.

In February, **Justin Smith** won first place in his classification at the Alabama auditions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in Mobile.

This year, the Voice faculty began holding voice class every Thursday, to provide additional opportu-

nities for performance experience, sight-reading, vocal technique and pedagogy. Some provocative class discussions have included "Nerves & Butterflies: Cures & Remedies," "Stage Deportment: Bowing, Clapping, Where to Stand, What to do with My Hands," along with comparing different famous singers performing the same aria.

We are delighted with the splendid work of these young singers and look forward to even more success with our students this year.



Kasman

(Continued from page 5)

award-winning Cliburn competition performances for the *harmonia mundi* label, and a New York recital debut.


A top prize winner at the 1992 Arthur Rubinstein Competition, he also won second prize at the 1995 International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg. He has performed recitals in

Paris, Tel-Aviv, and Avignon, and has appeared with the Orchestra of Radio France, the Athens State Orchestra, and the Moscow State Orchestra at Tchaikovsky Hall.

Immediately following the Van Cliburn Competition, Mr. Kasman was invited to perform with the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, the Orchestre de Lille in

France, and the Abilene Philharmonic, Fort Worth Symphony, Memphis Symphony, and Syracuse Symphony Orchestras. He was also featured in recital with the University of Vermont Lane Series, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Savannah Onstage festival, and in Milan and Moscow.

(Continued on page 7)



WHILE THE CAT'S AWAY...

This fall, with **Dr. Bonnie Borshay Sneed** on sabbatical, **Professor David Kenneth Smith** has been conducting the UAH Concert Choir. The choir benefited from a generous influx of strong new voices this semester, and shows great potential for making beautiful music together!

A knockout picnic on Monte Sano and a volleyball & pizza party went a long way toward helping new members and new conductor fit in well with the core of veteran choristers.

Big plans are afoot! The Concert Choir will be performing their Fall Concert on Friday, November 20 at



University Baptist Church, 809 Jordan Lane, at 7:30 p.m. Featured in the Fall Concert will be the Brahms motet *Create in Me a Pure Heart*, along with the Alabama premier of three of Clara Schumann's only choral pieces (a particular favorite of the conductor),

as well as works by Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Thompson, Hindemith, and Monteverdi. The Choir is also planning a Christmas Concert for 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 5 at Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Drive.

A choir retreat is on the schedule for Friday, January 8, to get a head start on new music and provide an opportunity to welcome back Sneed! In the meantime, the Choir is planning a spring tour to the East Coast from May 4 to 13.

CONSONARE ON TOUR

Consonare, featuring **Phil Weaver**, guitar, **Ingrid von Spakovsky**, piano, has been touring to promote their new CD on ACA Digital. Performances include Birmingham City Stages Festival, the Music Pier at Ocean City, New Jersey; Midsummer Macon, Macon, Georgia; Decatur's Princess Theatre, the Sundilla Acoustic Music Series in Auburn, Alabama, and Huntsville's City Lights Concert Series at the Burritt Museum.

Consonare was recently interviewed on Temple Public Radio in Philadelphia on the show "Crossover" which was broadcast to a radio audience of 400,000. While performing in Atlanta at the Rialto Theatre for the Southern Arts Exchange, Phil and Ingrid were interviewed by Winston King for Peach State Public Radio.

Consonare's CD is available at Blockbuster Music, The Fret Shop, Theatre 'Round the Corner, and the UAH Music Department.

ties to hear Yakov Kasman in a variety of venues, including his performance of Shostakovich's *Piano Concerto No. 1* with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra at the VBC Concert Hall on November 4, and a solo recital at Roberts Recital Hall on April 8.

Mark your calendars!

Kasman

(Continued from page 6)

This season includes performances with the Singapore Symphony, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, as well as with several U.S. orchestras; recitals will feature appearances at the new Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Tonhalle in Zurich.

His recording of

Prokofiev's complete piano sonatas, which received the *Grand Prix de la Nouvelle Academie du Disque Français* in 1996, is one of seven CDs he has recorded. Mr. Kasman is currently on the faculty at the Moscow Conservatory.

Students and members of the community have already had the opportunity to hear this fine artist, and will have many opportuni-



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UAH DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC COMING EVENTS

- | | | | |
|------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| Nov. 7 7:30 P.M. | Faculty Recital by Don Bowyer, trombone with Marie Libal-Smith, piano | Feb. 20 7:30 P.M. | Cultural Entertainment Committee Saffire, The Uppity Blues Women ASB Chan Auditorium |
| 13 7:30 P.M. | UAH Wind Ensemble Fall Concert David Graves, Director | 28 3:00 P.M. | Huntsville Chamber Music Guild Martinu String Quartet |
| 20 7:30 P.M. | UAH Concert Choir Fall Concert David Kenneth Smith, Conductor University Baptist Church | Mar. 6 7:30 P.M. | Student Recital by Africa Patterson, mezzo-soprano |
| 21 7:30 P.M. | Student Recital by George Thompson, Jr., trumpet | 13 7:30 P.M. | Faculty Recital by Margery McDuffie, piano |
| Dec. 4 7:30 P.M. | UAH Jazz Ensemble Fall Concert Don Bowyer, Director | 16 8:00 P.M. | Huntsville Chamber Music Guild American String Quartet |
| 5 7:30 P.M. | UAH Concert Choir Christmas Concert David Kenneth Smith, Conductor Faith Presbyterian Church | 19 7:30 P.M. | UAH Wind Ensemble Spring Concert David L. Graves, Director |
| 7 4:30 P.M. | UAH Wind & Jazz Ensembles present a Christmas concert for faculty, staff & students | 21 3:00 P.M. | Student Senior Recital by Ashley Byler, soprano |
| 11 7:00 P.M. | Faculty Christmas Recital by Carolyn Sanders, trumpet Church of the Nativity Episcopal | 25 7:30 P.M. | Faculty Recital by David Kenneth Smith, tenor with Marie Libal-Smith, piano |
| 21 7:30 P.M. | Recital by guest artist Sharon Stanis, violin University of Victoria School of Music with Marie Libal-Smith, piano | Apr. 16 7:30 P.M. | UAH Concert Choir Spring Concert Bonnie Borshay Sneed, Conductor |
| 22 7:30 P.M. | Cultural Entertainment Committee Tin Roof Tango, Music from Five Continents ASB Chan Auditorium | 18 3:00 P.M. | Pops in the Pines UAH Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Choir |
| 29 8:00 P.M. | Huntsville Chamber Music Guild | 19 7:30 P.M. | Cultural Entertainment Committee "It's All Done With Mirrors" with Anthony Zerbe, actor ASB Chan Auditorium |
| | | 24 7:30 P.M. | Student Senior Recital by Christie McCleary, soprano |



INSTRUMENTAL CONCERTS



The UAH Wind Ensemble, under the direction of David L. Graves, will perform its annual fall concert on Friday, November 13, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall. The group will perform a variety of works for concert band and wind ensemble, including Percy Grainger's masterpiece, *Lincolnshire Posy*, a setting of six British folksongs. Grainger's *Molly on the Shore* will also be included, along with works by Bach, Wagner, and Al-

fred Reed.

Of special interest is a new work by contemporary American composer Stephen Mellilo, entitled *DAVID*. This work is will feature soprano Charlotte Regni, a member of the UAH voice faculty.

The UAH Jazz Ensemble, directed by Don Bowyer, will perform its fall concert Friday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m., featuring trumpeter Ken Watters performing as guest soloist. Watters has performed and recorded with headline jazz and Caribbean bands

such as Frank Sinatra, Eartha Kitt, Mingus Big Band, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Steel Pulse, and Tabou Combo. He received his education at The University of North Texas, The Banff Center, and Manhattan School of Music. The new modern jazz CD entitled "Brothers", features Ken and his trombonist brother Harry with a New York-based rhythm section.