



fall 1999

**The Newsletter of the Department
of Music and Art at Tennessee
Technological University**

From the Chair (Past and Present)

Greetings from the Department of Music and Art. This academic year promises to be one of great accomplishment. The department welcomes the largest freshman class in recent years, with over ninety incoming students. Two new options join curricula in music education, music therapy, jazz studies, instrumental performance, and piano performance to make Tennessee Tech one of the most comprehensive schools of music in the Southeast.

This is my final column as chair for the department [July, 1999]. I have missed being in the classroom and my request for an instructional assignment was granted. It has been a privilege and an honor to lead this outstanding group of faculty and students for the past five years. Despite the most difficult of financial times for the university, the department has seen numerous successes. This is only possible because of the professionalism and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students. Tennessee Tech is an extraordinary university, with a commitment to quality education and a strong tradition of supporting the arts. I look forward to a fantastic year ahead, and to a great future for music and art at Tennessee Tech.

Greg Danner

As your new year begins, many new beginnings are happening at Tennessee Tech, as well. We have one less member (Dr. Brahmstedt), two more (Jeanne Brady, art; James Spinazzola, music), and two new degree options within the Music Performance degree (Voice and Composition). This brings up a new tier of challenges for the Department, abounding with a new choral ensemble (Women's Glee), a healthy scramble of nightly concerts, and a continuous flow of art exhibits.

The art faculty's presence is being seen in exhibits around the region, state, and nation. The music faculty is busy performing in town and out, on stage, and in public schools.

Many dedicated professionals on this faculty, for whom I have a great respect, orchestrated the legislated funding of the Appalachian Center for Crafts. I anticipate an ever-increasing impact on education and artistry from this faculty in the Upper Cumberland for years to come.

M. D. Moon

New Faculty Members

Jeanne Whitfield Brady is already hard at work as assistant professor of fibers at the Appalachian Center for Crafts. Born in San Diego, she received her BFA in Printmaking and Drawing in 1977 and her MFA in Surface and Textile Design in 1996, both from East Carolina University. "Much of the textile work I do involves manipulating fabrics and dyes to symbolically speak of my enjoyment and deepening respect for the natural world in a personal quest to explore the spiritual interrelationship of people and the landscape they live in. My primary love is the North American landscape. Most of my work, is inspired by observations made of the places I live, and while hiking, camping, and rock climbing in various environs. What I now know as 'wilderness' I wish to eventually know as Home." Jeanne comes to TTU from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, where she taught fibers and design courses.



The University welcomed Mr. **James Spinazzola** this fall as its new Associate Director of Bands and Saxophone Professor. James's responsibilities will include directing the Golden Eagle Marching Band and the Concert Band, and instructing the saxophone studio. Prof. Spinazzola holds the Master of Music degree in wind conducting from the University of Colorado, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Prior to arriving at TTU, James taught as a graduate assistant at the University of Colorado, and was a director of bands at the high school level. He has also served on the adjunct faculty of West Virginia University. An active saxophone performer, he has appeared in a variety of venues throughout the country.



Howard Brahmstedt Retires

Howard Brahmstedt, music history, retired in December, 1998 from his full-time position at Tennessee Tech University. In addition to performing, teaching, and doing field research in China each year since 1992, he has worked there the last two years in cultural exchange projects with musicians from Europe and Australia. Last spring he also performed in trumpet ensembles for a concert at the International Trumpet Guild Conference at the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Brahmstedt came to Tennessee Tech in 1969 as Professor of Trumpet and Music History and Literature and performed in the TTU Brass Quintet, the Bryan Symphony Orchestra (BSO),



presented biennial solo trumpet recitals, and coached student groups. For the next few years, Dr. Brahmstedt has a special post-retirement agreement with TTU to continue performing with the BSO and to teach two courses each fall, including a World Music and Culture class. In addition to continued professional endeavors, Howard and his wife Pat plan to spend more time visiting their three children and two grandchildren in Minneapolis and Washington state. He looks forward to having more time to pursue his outdoor passions of downhill skiing, long distance running, and mountain hiking. He always enjoys hearing from TTU alumni he has worked with over the last 30 years, and wishes them happiness and success with their jobs and families.

TTU Trumpet and Trombone Arrangements Performed at National Convention

Three arrangements for the Tech Trumpet and Trombone Ensemble were performed at the National Trumpet Competition in Washington, D.C., in March. The event is the largest trumpet competition in the world. TTU trumpet alumnus Jeremy Martin's arrangements of John Williams' scores to the films "Super-

man" and "Saving Private Ryan", along with alumnus Wayne Robbins' transcription of "Sunrise from Thus Spake Zarathustra" by Richard Strauss were performed by leading trumpeters from across the U.S. in a concert with the Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra.

Takolas Trio Premieres Song Cycle by Gregg Smith

The Takolas Trio, with soprano Linda Ferreira, clarinetist Dan Hearn, and pianist Catherine Godes, in January premiered "Fallen Angels", a song cycle written for the Trio. The cycle is based on texts by poet Kim Rich. Composer Gregg Smith is conductor of the Gregg Smith Singers in New York City.

performance projects that encourage the development of singing skill at an early age in the classroom and will incorporate teaching ideas that relate to the National Standards for music education. The group presented a session at the 1999 TMEA In-Service Conference in Nashville.

Project Sing! Research Group Formed

A research group to study the development of musicianship in public school classrooms has been formed by Upper Cumberland music specialists. The group is building on an eight-year model Project Sing! developed by the group and coordinated by Profs. Mitzi Groom and Linda Ferreira, the Tennessee Arts Commission, and a TTU grant. The research group uses

Bachelor of Music in Performance Degree now includes Composition

Beginning this fall, the Bachelor of Music degree in Composition is offered as an option within the performance area. Prospective students should be prepared to provide examples of previous efforts in composition such as short works and/or arrangements. Longer compositions are helpful, but are not necessary. For more information, contact composition Prof. Robert Jager at (931) 372-3625, or email: rjager@tntech.edu

Faculty News

In April, **Michael Clark**, Director of Music Therapy, served as the Southeastern Regional Coordinator for the AMTA National Satellite Broadcast: "Music and Medicine." Mr. Clark is involved in several ongoing projects involving the World Wide Web. The Clinical Training Information Database (CTID), hosted by Tennessee Tech, a searchable database of music therapy internship sites utilized by music therapy students all over the U. S., is in its fifth year of operation. Prof. Clark serves as webmaster for the AMTA Southeastern Region and for the Department of Music and Art. To reach him via the web, use one of these addresses:

mclark@tntech.edu, or <http://www.tntech.edu/www/acad/music/therapy/>

The Cumberland Quintet: **Roger Martin**, flute; **William Woodworth**, oboe; **Dan Hearn**, clarinet; and **James Lotz**, bassoon; performed the world premiere of hornist **Greg Danner's** "Mary's Little Lamb—Illustrating Music and Emotion for Young Audiences" to great success at performance for the National Flute Convention in Atlanta in August.

Greg Danner, professor of theory/composition, presented a paper entitled "Approaches for Integrating Non-Western Music in the College Music Theory Curriculum" at the Southern Chapter meeting of the College Music Society. His "Vaudeville", for wind quintet, was performed by the University of Central Florida faculty quintet at the conference. Danner served as resident composer and adjudicator for the Southeast Missouri Music Academy in April.

Charles Decker, trumpet, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the National Trumpet Competition, held annually in Washington, D.C. In March, he was a jury member for the 1999 competition where he performed with colleagues from throughout the U. S.

Articles by **Francis Elliott**, violin, are to be published in the Tennessee Musician on issues of string pedagogy. He has also been active



Members of the new TTU Horn Club are pictured in front of the School of Music at Louisiana State University after their performance at the Southeast Horn Workshop in March. From left to right are: Kathy Koff, President Chris Dollar, Ben Reagh, Melissa Guimarães, Justin Hageman, Megan Taliaferro, Staci Weber, and Stuart Womble.

as a consultant with several new string programs in the state.

"I Dream of Peace", by composer **Robert Jager**, a work for children's chorus and orchestra, received performances this past season by the Bryan Symphony Orchestra with the Cumberland Childrens Chorus at TTU, the Virginia Symphony and Virginia Children's Choir in Norfolk, and at the Astoria Music Festival in Oregon. The work was also featured at the national convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Chicago in February. Three compositions by Jager received premieres during 1999. "Joan of Arc" was commissioned by the Tri-Lakes Band Directors Association and premiered by the

Tri-Lakes Festival Band. "Dialogues for two Pianos" was premiered in March by Herman and **Catherine Godes** of the Tech faculty, who commissioned the work. "Shindig" was premiered by the Lawrence County High School Band.

Following eye surgery in 1998, **Frederick Kennedy**, tenor, was back teaching full time last semester. In the spring, he gave recitals at Cumberland College in Kentucky, at the University of California-

Long Beach, and at Fisk University in Nashville. Prof. Kennedy made his Italian singing debut at the OperaEstate Festival this past summer in Rome in the role of Camille in Lehar's "The Merry Widow." He also participated in concerts of Broadway excerpts in both Rome and Levanto, Italy for the festival. As part of the international faculty, Kennedy was one of the voice teachers for the students who participated in the month-long event.

Wayne Pegram, music education, led the 1999 Tennessee Ambassadors of Music on a summer tour to London, Paris, Montreux, Innsbruck, and Rothenberg. The Ambassadors band and a choir, TTU alumni and

chaperones, totalled 155—the largest yet. In other activity, Prof. Pegram was an adjudicator for marching festivals and competitions including the Upper Cumberland Invitational (music alumnus Steve Tinnel in charge), the Colt Classic in Nashville, and FiestaVal in Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg, and Atlanta. Dr. Pegram has completed commissioned works for the Mastersingers (Cookeville's community chorus), for the E.T.S.B.&O.A., and for Neil Kjos Music Publishing. He still sings and arranges for the Mastersingers and St. Michael's Episcopal Church choir. and plays ride tenor in the Big Band Sound, a regional dance band, which includes many TTU alumni.

Carol Ventura, art history, taught at several conferences, including: "Chain Link '99," for the Crochet Guild of America, in Seattle, where she gave tapestry crochet workshops, August 21-22, 1999; "Reflections and Projections," for the Midwest Weavers Association in Indiana, where she presented two tapestry crochet workshops in July; and "Southeast Fiber Forum '99," in Jackson, Mississippi, a two-day backstrap weaving workshop, May 22-23, 1999.

Undergraduate News

■ **Beth Whitaker**, a music education major, was selected to perform with the Monterrey Symphony in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, this past summer for its nine-week summer season as principal flute. And she had only just completed her sophomore year at TTU! Beth performed with many different international conductors and musicians. "The challenge was to enter a different culture where I didn't speak the

language and pick up the lead for my section with new music, a new conductor, and only have four days to get ready for the first concert," she commented. Beth is from Cleveland, Tennessee.

■ Two horn students achieved special honors over the summer of 1999. **Stuart Womble** of Thomasville, Georgia, was one of four international finalists in a orchestral mock audition in May at the *International Horn Society annual Workshop* at the University of Georgia. And at the *Kendall Betts Horn Camp* in New Hampshire in June, **Justin Hageman** of Rogersville was named Most Outstanding Collegiate participant from among 20 international students in attendance.

■ Prof. Linda Ferreira, soprano, took students to New York City during the 1999 fall break to attend opera performances, visit art galleries and take part in a vocal masterclass taught by Eleanor Clark.

■ The TTU Trumpet Ensemble, directed by Charles Decker, was the winner of the college trumpet ensemble division of the Tennessee Trumpet Competition in January. Also in January, junior **Bryan Crisp** toured Florida with the professional ensemble King's Brass, and also played their two-month summer tour of the Eastern U.S. Juniors **Doug Clark**, **Bryan Crisp**, and **Shane Joyce** were cornet soloists in Walter Smith's "Three Kings" with the TTU Symphony Band for the Festival of Wind and Percussion in February, 1999. The 2000 Tennessee Trumpet Competition and Trumpet Seminar will be held in January. For more information go to its special website www.tntech.edu/www/acad/music/trumpet/ttccpage.html. For information on annual trumpet studio activities one can visit the website www.tntech.edu/www/acad/music/trumpet/trumpet.html.

ALUMNI NEWS

'75

D. Lynnwood Belvin
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Lynnwood received the doctorate from UT-Knoxville in Educational Technology & Instructional Design and has spent the past five years as Tullahoma City School's Director of Technology. He recently accepted a position as Director of Educational Technology and Asst. Professor at Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia starting in July. He writes, "I still have opportunities to play and am looking forward to moving, in that Rome has an orchestra and numerous other musical opportunities."

'77

Jim Tipps

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Associate professor and Coordinator of Music Education at

Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, where he teaches conducting, methods classes, graduate research and conducts choral ensembles. He also serves as state advisor to the Collegiate Music Educators Association and on the editorial board of *Contributions to Music Education*. Jim received the doctorate from Florida State in Choral Music Education in 1992.

"I very much appreciated the solid foundation I received at Tech!! Love to hear from old friends."

'80

Kelley Lane

Kelley is in his eleventh year in the Floyd County School System and his fourth year as the Director of Bands at Coosa Middle School in Rome, Georgia. In 1997, Coosa Middle School was one of three middle schools in the state to be named as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

Kelley is also a certified piano tuner/technician and operates his own piano servicing business. He has a 10-year-old son named Andrew and a 6-year-old daughter named Sarah.

'81

Rod M. Chesnutt

Started work on July 1 as Director of the Famous Maroon Band at Mississippi State University. Rod has held similar positions at the University of Nebraska and Florida State University.

'82

David L. Esleck
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Received the D.M.A. from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in May. His son, Boyd, age 4, calls David "doctor Daddy" already!



Some of the TTU tuba and euphonium graduates who were in attendance at the 1998 International Tuba/Euphonium Conference last June at the University of Minnesota are pictured there with tuba/euphonium professor R. Winston Morris. They are (l-r): Charles McAdams (1980, now a professor at Central Missouri State University), Mike Dunn (1983, a professor at the University of Alabama), Richard Perry (1987, on the faculty at Montevallo University), Tim Northcut (1983, professor at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music), Morris, Joe Murphy (1986, a faculty member at Cumberland University), and Lloyd Bone (1995, who recently completed a masters degree from Cincinnati).

Katie (Braun) Pennell

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Graduated from Miami University in May with a Masters in Education Degree, in Educational Leadership. "I even enjoyed pursuing the degree! I teach at an intermediate school (grades 5-6) in Fairfield, Ohio and am also assistant band director with the Fairfield High School Marching Band. Hope to hear from some 1982 alumni!" She and husband John have two daughters, Cynthia and Melissa.

'83**Kim (Ballard) Duggins**

Had her second child, Andrew, on Easter Sunday!

Carol Frierson-Campbell

Recommended by the music education faculty at the Eastman School for a DuPont Pre-doctoral Fellowship at Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Virginia. Carol is working toward the PhD. in music education at Eastman. "I've been more active than usual as a hornist. Last December, I performed with the Cornell (NY) and played Mozart's Third Horn Concerto in May with the Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes."

Alicia (Brahmstedt) Mueller

Alicia and husband Kurt are celebrating the first birthday of daughter Nicole Marie. Alicia is assistant professor of music at Washington State University in Pullman.

'84**Kelly Fulks**

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Now working as an intranet application programmer and web

administrator for Huntsville Hospital System. Jackie (Nursing '87), Stephen, and I added Rebecca Ann to our family on October 30, 1998.

Sabra (Stubbs) Park

e-mail: HealthAssc@aol.com

Vice President of Operations, Health Associates, Inc. Married to Roger Park, three sons Hunter, Houston, and Haden. Masters in Psychology UT Chattanooga, 1998. "I feel I owe most of my success in life to Dan Hearn's Theory VI class. I knew if I passed that, I could do anything (A joke! My classmates considered me 'German 6th challenged'). I would love to get e-mail from fellow alumni..."

"Da Capo is always a surprise, since I seem to get one about every 17-23 months and can't figure out when my next one will surface. Hmm, must be published by someone who likes to compose in 5/4 time, maybe?" [No, but I don't always know when we'll publish either! We just publish as often as we can. Ed.]

Dawn (Striker) Allan

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Transferred from the Air Force Band of the West at Lackland AFB in 1996 and currently playing oboe/english horn (and occasionally singing) with the Air Force Band of Mid-America at Scott AFB, Illinois. Married in '96 to Todd Allan. Dawn and Todd live in Belleville, Illinois. Dawn was the featured soloist in the TTU Symphony Band's appearance at the Tennessee Music Educator's Association annual In-Service Conference in Nashville in April. Prof. Joseph Hermann conducted Dawn and the band in the "Concerto for Oboe and

Winds" by 1975 music education alumnus **Aldo Rafael Forte**.

'86**Amy (Deyton) Williams**

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"After reading the last Da Capo, Steve (Music Ed. '87) and I realized how we look forward to hearing about Tech and our old friends. Steve and I have been married for 12 years. I finished my MA in Curriculum and Instruction at TTU in 1991 and Steve and I teach in Pulaski. We have two wonderful children, Emilee Caroline who is 7 and Benjamin Deyon, 3. We would be glad to hear from old friends."

'88**David G. Boggs**

Formerly director of bands at Rolling Meadows (Ill.) High School, where he coordinated activities of the marching band and served as Executive Director of the Jazz in the Meadows Festival, David is now director of the McKendree College (Ill.) Marching Bearcats.

'89**Lauren (Diehl) Burton**

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"After graduation, I worked in Nashville for a few years as a music therapist, went back to school for an M.Ed. in special education at Peabody College, Vanderbilt, and moved to my husband's home town of Knife River, Minnesota. I am in my second year of teaching in special education in Two Harbors, Minn. We have two children, Emma, and

Isaac. I am a member of the Arrowhead Chorale, a professional choral ensemble in Duluth (Minn.). Last December, I released a recording of eclectic lullabies called 'Songs for Bedtime.' I am now completely acclimated to the arctic air in northern Minnesota, where the summers never pass 70 degrees and the winters frequently reach 20 below zero. I do miss the lush springtime in Tennessee, while we endure the cold rains and late snowstorms in April!"

'91**Joseph Skillen**

Professional-in-Residence at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, was the subject of a three-page interview in the Winter, 1999, TUBA Journal. Said Joe, "I chose to attend Tennessee Tech rather than some other, more 'high-powered' schools because R. Winston Morris took an interest in me and knew me as a high school student. I wanted to study music education, and felt that TTU was a good place for me to gain knowledge and experience as a future student."

'93**Susan (Ross) Rimmer**

Susan and Joe, of Dandridge, Tennessee, are celebrating the birth of their second son, James Arthur Rimmer (Jay), born June 22, 1999. Jay was 5 lbs., 15.5 oz., and 19.75 inches long.

'94**Kevin Fletcher**

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kfletcher@wyatt.edisonproject.com
Music Specialist at Wyatt

Edison Charter School in Denver Colorado. Kevin has already established a children's choir at Wyatt Edison School and is the assistant director of Young Voices of Colorado Children's Choir. He is singing with the St. Martin's Chamber Choir, a professional choir in Denver.

'95

Shelby Lewis

An adjunct faculty member at Motlow State (TN) Community College. He was an adjudicator and performer for the Tennessee Trumpet Competition and Seminar in January, 1999.

'96

Wayne Robbins

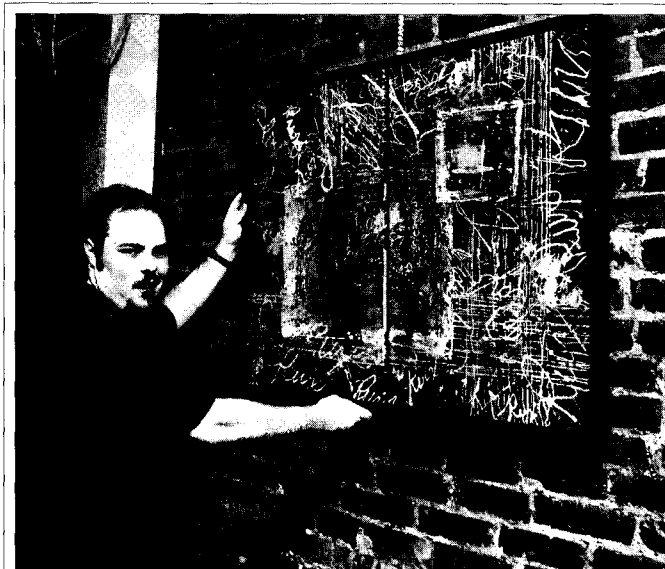
DMA candidate in trumpet performance at the University of Texas at Austin, was an adjudicator and performer for the Tennessee Trumpet Competition and Seminar in January, 1999. His transcription of "Sunrise from Thus Spake Zarathustra" by Richard Strauss was performed at the National Trumpet Competition in Washington, D.C., in March, 1999.

'97

Stephen Collins

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Has completed the M.M. in trumpet performance at the University of Kansas in May, 1999. In June 1999, Stephen and wife Melody celebrated their first wedding anniversary. This fall, he begins his second season with the St. Joseph (MO) Symphony, and will begin playing with the Kansas City Civic Orchestra.

Bruce Cook



(Photo by Shawn Sidwell of the Herald-Citizen)

Rux McClain hangs one of his paintings on the wall at the Magic Bean Café in preparation for the opening of his February exhibition.

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After graduation, Bruce took a position at Father Ryan High School in Nashville. "After that year, I took a position in Trousdale County as the county's elementary music teacher, beginning, intermediate, and high school band director. I teach k-12. I am still composing and arranging music for various ensembles. Bruce and his wife welcomed their second child, Aaron Brady, on April 26.

'98

Jeremy Martin

Band director at Shelbyville (TN) High School, had his arrangements for trumpets and trombones of John Williams' film music "Superman" and "Saving Private Ryan" performed by professionals in Washington, D.C. in for the National Trumpet Competition in March, 1999.

Rux McClain

Paintings by Rux McClain were on display at the Magic Bean Café in Cookeville during the month of

February. McClain was the first painting major to earn his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from TTU last May. McClain's new works demonstrate his interest in controlled abstract expressionism, where he uses a method of layering which takes many hours of drying time between each coat. During April of 1998, McClain was awarded Best of Show for his painting in the student art exhibit at the Joan Derryberry Art Gallery. The award for that honor was the exhibit at the Magic Bean (above).

Jesse West

Is the new band director at Oakdale (TN) High School.

'99

Karen Riggsby

Teaching her first year at Lakeside Park Elementary School in Hendersonville. Email: kkrmusic@aol.com

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Two alumni have been active on a global scale recently and we are particularly proud of their accomplishments.

Blanton Alspaugh (music education, 1981) is now an independent recording producer/engineer. Recent projects include national broadcast series for LA Philharmonic, concert recordings for New York Philharmonic, CD releases with Houston Grand Opera, Utah Symphony, National Symphony, and Houston Symphony. Blanton writes, "Yeah, doing all right—just putting one gig after another—you know the freelance drill. I will be [in Washington] for an extended period in May/June [1999] doing a Christmas CD with Choral Arts Society, and two CDs with the Paul Hill Chorale, with their new conductor, Don McCullough. And if I'm lucky, sandwiched between those gigs will be a Montreal Symphony CD for Philips and some more work with the New York Philharmonic. I spent a couple weeks [in New York] before Christmas recording their Gershwin Celebration, with Bobby McFerrin conducting Porgy and Bess, and Sylvia McNair singing Gershwin songs.

"Leann and I are planning a move back to the East this fall; we would love to return to the South, but it'll probably be Boston," Blanton writes wistfully. He may be contacted at:

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Craig Terry (music education, 1996) received a Masters' Degree in Vocal Accompanying and Chamber Music at Manhattan School of Music as a scholarship

