Remembering Director Roger Stephens

The School of Music mourned the loss of their devoted leader, Roger L. Stephens, who died Sunday, February 20, 2011 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Professor Stephens had a rare combination of talent, creativity, and leadership that inspired those whose lives he touched. During his tenure, he worked to address faculty, student and staff needs as well as to obtain resources, equipment and space for the School’s programs. He will be remembered for his unrelenting pursuit of excellence and his visionary leadership role at the University of Tennessee as Director of the School of Music where he was recognized as the ‘heart and soul of the School of Music’ by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Stephens’ legacy includes a wide-ranging list of contributions and accomplishments that most notably

UT Breaks Ground on the New Natalie L. Haslam Music Center

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, celebrated the breaking of ground November 10, 2010, on the Natalie L. Haslam Music Center, a new, technology-enhanced building for the UT School of Music. The UT Pride of the Southland Marching Band concluded the event with a surprise appearance performing “Rocky Top” and other popular UT songs.

The proposed four-floor, 123,000-square-foot building is named for Natalie Haslam, a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences and a music and arts enthusiast.

“Natalie Haslam’s love of the University of Tennessee and its cultural arts truly make her our first lady of music,” said UT Knoxville Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek. “As we celebrate this building, the Natalie L. Haslam Music Center, it’s a great honor that it’s named for her and what she represents.”

In 2006, Natalie and Jim Haslam, co-chairs for the Campaign for Tennessee, and the Haslam Family Foundation gave the University of Tennessee $32.5 million. The largest allotment of this money, $10 million, went to the UT School of Music, which dedicated the funds for the construction of a new facility.

“We have wonderful students, and they deserve a fine building,” Natalie Haslam said. “And having a fine building will help even [more] raise the caliber of students we have at UT.”

continued on p. 2

Pictured from left to right are Chair of the School of Music’s Board of Advisors Peter Acly, School of Music Director Roger Stephens, Jim and Natalie Haslam, Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek, Interim UT President Jan Simek and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Bruce Bursten.
Groundbreaking continued

After several years of planning, the facility built in 1964, was demolished in the summer of 2010 to prepare for construction of the new building, which will be completed in late 2013. The state of Tennessee allocated $30 million for the building in 2007.

It will house a new recital hall, a music library, rehearsal rooms for band, chorus and orchestra, computer labs, a recording studio, 40 performance studios/offices and a variety of technology-enhanced practice and rehearsal rooms.

Natalie Haslam has served on the boards of the Knoxville Symphony Society and the Knoxville Arts Council and has been a member of the Tennessee Arts Commission and president of the Tennessee Presidents Trust. Additionally, she has been involved in community activities such as the United Way of Knoxville, the East Tennessee Foundation, the East Tennessee Historical Society, Knoxville Garden Club, the Knoxville Zoo and the Wellness Center. She is a founding member and major supporter of the Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Jim Haslam is a graduate of the College of Business Administration and the founder of Pilot Corporation and chairman of Pilot Flying J. In 2009, the new business building was named the James A. Haslam II Business Building in his honor.

The Haslams have been generous UT supporters for years, having dedicated gifts to a wide variety of programs across campus.

Their gift was part of the university’s $1 billion fundraising campaign, the Campaign for Tennessee. The most ambitious effort in the university’s history, the campaign places UT among the ranks of the nation’s largest public and private institutions that have sought this level of private support.

Adapted from http://www.utk.edu/ntoday/2010/11/10/natalie-haslam-music-center-groundbreaking/

From the Interim Director

Welcome to the Summer 2012 edition of Noteworthy. As alumni and friends of the School of Music, we hope you will enjoy this capsule view of some of the activities over the past few years from our faculty and students.

Elsewhere in Noteworthy, you will find many changes that have occurred with our School of Music. We were deeply saddened at the loss of our Director, Professor Roger Stephens after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He came to the university in 2001 and worked tirelessly to make a difference as director of the School of Music. Collaborating with alumni and development staff, he sought support for new space for the School of Music. He refused to allow his long struggle with the disease to undermine his commitment to his work and his artistic expression. Perhaps his proudest moment was the groundbreaking ceremony for the Natalie L. Haslam Music Center held November 9, 2010. The beautiful building is now under construction slated for completion in the summer of 2013.

In March, 2011 we lost one of our faculty icons, Professor Emeritus and jazz legend William Scarlett. Two months later, Professor Calvin Smith (French horn) passed away after a brief illness. His generosity of spirit is greatly missed. In April, 2012, we learned of the death of former music education professor Dr. Jim Mintz. Although rocked by these significant losses, the faculty and students of the School of Music have magnificently responded to the challenges.

It has been my distinct privilege and pleasure to serve as Interim Director upon Roger's passing and I look forward to continuing my service to the School as Associate Director under the leadership of our new Director, Dr. Jeffrey Pappas. I have certainly enjoyed meeting the legions of alumni and supporters of our School!

Please let us know if we can provide any other information on the School or its activities, and special thanks to each of you for your continued support and dedication to the University of Tennessee School of Music.

Dr. Angela Batey, interim director
University of Tennessee School of Music

This edition of Noteworthy includes news from Fall 2009 through Spring 2012. So many exciting things have been accomplished. We hope you enjoy this small glimpse into the UT School of Music.

You can find more in-depth stories, and download our digital version of Noteworthy at www.music.utk.edu/news

Noteworthy was produced by Hundley Design, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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Dr. Jeffrey Pappas

We are pleased that Dr. Jeffrey Pappas will be joining us on August 1, 2012 as the new Director of the School of Music!

Dr. Pappas comes from Marshall University where he has been Chair of the Department of Music. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Northern Kentucky University, a Masters of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois, and the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa.

Prior to his appointment as the Department Chair at Marshall University, he was the Director of Choral Activities and Coordinator of Ensembles and Conducting at Ball State University. He has also served in positions at Mississippi State University, Clarke College, and Otterbein College.

We look forward to his leadership!

The Walls Came A-Tumb-a-lin’ Down!

We watched with mixed emotions as the old Music Building was demolished. Sadness, as the site of many good memories was taken down, mingled with understanding that the School of Music had long since outgrown the old building. Joyous expectation follows as we wait and watch the new state-of-the-art facility begin to take shape, with capabilities and capacity that had only been dreamed of.

The band room was the first to “see daylight,” followed by the auditorium and choral room. The Chamber Singers sang as the walls came “a-tumbling down.”

Then the classrooms came down. Soon there was just a large hole. Then pylons were driven, walls began to reach up, floors and ceilings were added.

Wonderful music-friendly spaces began to take shape. The highest beam was raised into place (see page 20), and the dream is halfway to reality!

You can follow our progress on facebook at UTK School of Music
Coleman elected President of Piano Technicians Guild

A UT School of Music staff member has been chosen by his peers to serve as president of the world’s largest piano technician association—the Piano Technicians Guild (PTG). The Piano Technicians Guild grants the Registered Piano Technician (RPT) credential after a series of rigorous examinations that test skill in piano tuning, regulation and repair.

Jim Coleman, Jr., RPT, was elected President in July 2011 during the 54th annual PTG Convention in Kansas City. As president, Coleman will represent the interests of almost 4,000 piano technicians around the world. Coleman joined PTG in 1969 and has previously served as a regional vice president and secretary/treasurer.

The Piano Technicians Guild promotes the highest possible standards of piano service by providing opportunities for professional development, by recognizing technical competence through examinations and by advancing the interests of its members.

As UT’s resident piano technician, Coleman maintains more than 90 pianos for the School of Music, which will soon have the distinction of being an all-Steinway school.

He also runs Coleman’s Tools, a supplier of innovative tools for the piano trade and Coleman’s Piano Service. The Coleman family has a long history in the piano industry. Coleman’s grandfather was a piano technician, along with his father and several brothers.
The UT School of Music’s Board of Advisors hosted three fundraisers during the 2010-2011 school year, which raised over $44,000 for student scholarships. The events were the Tellico Musicale in August, the Holiday Musicale in December, and the Spring Sensation—a gala event in April which combined a gourmet dinner, a live auction, and musical entertainment by our talented students and faculty. The Board of Advisors also established the Roger L. Stephens Memorial Scholarship.

Their first fundraiser of 2011-2012 was An Evening of Wine and Culinary Magic, a delightful wine dinner, held at Cherokee Country Club. In December, long-time board member Fuad Mishu and wife Layla hosted the Holiday Musicale in their lovely home. The Board of Advisors presented Showcase 2012: Soundsation!—a wonderful evening of visual art, music, wine, dinner and an auction—on April 14, 2012, at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

The Board of Advisors wishes to thank Pilot Corporation for their sponsorship of the 2011 Spring Sensation, An Evening of Wine and Culinary Magic, and Showcase 2012: Soundsation!

The Board of Advisors for 2011–2012 includes Chairperson John Neal, Vice-Chair Sheena M. McCall, Peter A. Acly, Edmund L. Bolt, Mary Helen Byers, Dr. Mary F. Cushman, Dr. Jack Fellers, Mark Hill, Glorietta Klarich, Brenda Maupin, Daniel F. McGhee, Fuad Mishu, Judy Morman, William Rukeyser, Theresa Stone, Sandra Trout, and Gaye Whittaker.
UT Opera Welcomes Award-Winning Director

The University of Tennessee School of Music is pleased to welcome James Marvel to our distinguished faculty as Director of Opera Theatre. Marvel is a stage director known for traditional and avant-garde stagings of operatic productions, and was named Classical Singer’s “2008 Stage Director of the Year.” Since his professional directing debut in 1996, he has directed over 80 productions in the United States, England, Scotland, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

In the program notes for his UTK debut, Gian-Carlo Menotti’s The Medium and Giacomo Puccini’s Suor Angelica, he writes, “I have one goal. That goal is to create a world-class training program for opera singers at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I want the singers in this program to receive a level of acting training that does not exist at any other institution in the United States or abroad. The world of opera is drastically different than it was a decade ago. The aesthetics of the public taste have changed tremendously (and) economic conditions have made competition within the arts more challenging than at any other time in recent memory. It is my goal to equip each of these young artists with the necessary tools needed to excel in this market. I have challenged each of them to define what it means to be a consummate artist. Helping them to become one is not just my goal, but rather, my expectation.”

Alan Sherrod of Metro Pulse was “overjoyed to see that Marvel embraced the idea of projections as a scenic device...for conceptual abstraction. Katy Tucker gave the productions beautifully kinetic video images as a significant reinforcing background,” and praised the “depth of soprano and contralto talent” in the split cast. An audience member new to opera commented that “the music, drama, makeup, acting, vocal talent, attention to detail, backgrounds projected onto screens—were all contemporary, creative, excellent—this is opera for today’s audiences.”

The Marriage of Figaro was hilarious as “Mozart’s only opera about Elvis!” In UT Opera Theatre’s Spring production, Mozart’s classic comedy, The Marriage of Figaro, was hilarious as “Mozart’s only opera about Elvis.” Under the baton of Maestro Kevin Class and the direction of James Marvel, this updated version of the timeless classic featured appearances by Elvis Presley, Jackie Onassis, and Liberace.

Cordelia Lyons of Oak Ridge wrote, “I have to give a great big standing ovation to the University of Tennessee Opera Theatre’s interpretation of The Marriage of Figaro. My face has never hurt from laughing through an opera before. Not only were the voices and orchestra enjoyable, but the acting really added to the show.”

“That’s the kind of atmosphere we are trying to create,” Marvel said. “We are trying to create a community where opera theatre becomes one of the best tickets in town.”

A New Resource for Music Education

Dr. Maravelene C. Moore, professor of music, has published a volume of essays referencing traditional and contemporary thought on theory and practice in music education for all age groups, from the very young to the elderly. Critical Essays in Music Education spans a broad range of subject areas from history and philosophy to art and music, and addresses issues such as curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and evaluation, as well as current issues in technology and performance standards. Written by leading researchers and educators from diverse countries and cultures, this selection of previously published articles, research studies, and book chapters is representative of the most frequently discussed and debated topics in the profession. This volume, published in January 2012 by Ashgate Publishing, documents the importance of lifelong learning. It is an indispensable reference work for specialists in the field of music education.
Clarinet Choirs in China

On March 10–21, 2011, the UT Clarinet Choir, led by Clarinet Professor Gary Sperl and Assistant Director of Bands Michael Stewart, toured the People’s Republic of China. The choir performed at the Beijing University Concert Hall, Shandong Concert Hall, Qingdao Arts Center, the International Peach Blossom Festival, and Chengdu Concert Hall.

The trip was the result of an invitation from Dr. Song Yang, vice chairman of the United States–China Cultural and Educational Foundation, which sponsored the event along with the UTK School of Music and College of Arts & Sciences.

Sperl stated, “It was a great trip—the students all had a great experience. The trip began in Beijing where we performed at two different universities. The sight-seeing between performances was amazing—the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the 2008 Olympic venues. We then took an overnight train to Xian. We played a concert at the Xian Conservatory of Music and the following day visited the site of the Terra Cotta Warriors. We then flew to Chengdu and had several concerts; one of which was part of the opening of the International Peach Blossom Festival, which was televised live. While in Chengdu, we visited the Panda Preserve and for a donation to the Preserve, several of us got our pictures taken alongside a real live panda—what else can I say—that was AWESOME!”

Two pieces of the Clarinet Choir’s repertoire were written specifically for this trip: William Mark Harrell’s Study Number 1 for Clarinets based on Washing Silks by the River and The Parting Cup, and Suite of Old Chinese Folk Songs arranged by Matt Johnston.

“This was a great musical, educational, and cultural experience for these students,” said Stewart. “Our goal was to perform at the highest level possible and represent the University of Tennessee and the School of Music in a positive manner.”

Chamber Singers Going to Ireland

The Chamber Singers of the University of Tennessee, under the baton of Dr. Angela Batey, interim director of the School of Music, have been invited for a Summer 2012 choral residency and public concerts in historic Dublin, Republic of Ireland and Belfast, Northern Ireland. The ten-day residency includes rehearsals and singing at Choral Evensong services of Christ Church, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and Downpatrick Cathedral, as well as presenting public concerts at St. Nicholas’ Parish Church and Bangor Abbey. The Chamber Singers were selected for this prestigious honor due to their high level of artistic excellence.

The BBC plans to record and broadcast a concert of the University of Tennessee Chamber Singers, along with interviews of Dr. Batey and our students, on Radio Ulster Sunday Sequence, a popular morning program. This broadcast will be available worldwide through the BBC internet site.

To prepare for this trip, the students were offered an academic course, Cultural Studies of Ireland, in which they explored the economic, political, religious and philosophical differences between the United States, Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. They also studied the development and function of the artistic genre of Choral Evensong and Psalmody within the structure of the United Kingdom.

The capstone experience of Cultural Studies of Ireland will be the Cathedral Choral Residency in Ireland. The students will be lodging in the residence halls of historic Trinity College in Dublin (est. 1592) and Queens University in Belfast (est. 1845 by Queen Victoria). The residency will also include a variety of recreational and cultural activities to complement the musical activities and help our students gain a worldview that recognizes, understands and celebrates the complexity of the cultures and people of both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Gregory Tardy has performed on every continent except Australia and worked with artists who have a variety of musical styles, ranging from traditional to avant-garde. In every instance, Tardy, a jazz saxophone assistant professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, strives to accommodate each musician’s flair while maintaining his own voice and making the experience as enjoyable as possible for the player and the listener. It is a lesson he continually emphasizes to his students.

“I’ve known musicians that have been world-class musicians but people didn’t want to work with them because they were so hard to deal with as people,” he said. “I try to teach my students to be flexible and to be able to adapt to different musicians. It helps them, work-wise. It’s respecting other musicians.”

Tardy, who came to the UT School of Music in 2010, teaches undergraduate and graduate saxophone students and two ensembles. He has played with renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, the Neville Brothers, and Elvin Jones. The list includes Bill Frisell, Andrew Hill, Tom Harrell, Dave Douglas, and Nicholas Payton. He has also recorded nine CDs, including one for the storied Impulse Records. He recently released a CD entitled Monuments.

The married father of two came to the university after an invitation from Mark Boling, UT associate professor of music and coordinator of the jazz program. The two first met in 2004 when Tardy was in town to perform and record with the Knoxville Jazz Orchestra. Vance Thompson, the orchestra’s founding director and a UT jazz lecturer, introduced them.

Tardy has performed at large and small sites, from New York City’s Carnegie Hall to Knoxville’s Square Room. He has played from Los Angeles to Boston, Chicago to Philadelphia, and just about everywhere in between. He has also played all the major historic jazz scenes in New York City, including the Village Vanguard, the Blue Note, Birdland, Sweet Basil, Bradley’s and the Iridium. He has toured in Angola, Israel, Japan, and Russia. He has played in the Jazz Festival in Winnipeg, Canada.

Tardy has encountered interesting venues along the way. He was at the Umbria Jazz Festival in Orvietto, Italy, a gorgeous village on top of a plateau in the mountain region, when the millennium switched from 1999 to 2000.

“It was pretty amazing; great music, great food!” he said.

At the Jerusalem Theatre, he performed Moroccan Jewish music with Rabbi Haim Louk and bassist Omer Avital.

“I also played at a kibbutz in Israel where we had to hike into this wooded area and then when you came through the trees, there was a small clearing to play in,” he said. “That was pretty cool.”

“One time I played a gig with Elvin Jones in the Sequoia National Park. That was amazing—with all these huge trees around you, filling the air with music.”

Tardy enjoys the “aha” moments with his students when he sees them grasp a new concept. Another highlight of his UT career was playing a gig at the Square Room with one of his ensembles where the band played some challenging music written by Wynton Marsalis. He has also enjoyed playing faculty concerts and teaching at high school music clinics.

“Music played such an important role in my life when I was growing up, and I always love a chance to inspire others in their musical aspiration,” he said.

When Tardy arrived in Knoxville, he was impressed with the level of depth of UT’s music staff, he said.

“When thinking of jazz schools, people think New York, Chicago, or New Orleans,” he said. “They don’t often think of some of the small cities like Knoxville. The level of sophistication of the program here is on the same level. A person coming here is definitely going to get what they need.”
Julian and Sousa Receive Honors

On March 24, 2011, famed University of Tennessee Director of Bands Emeritus Dr. WJ Julian was inducted into the Educators Hall of Honor, housed in the UTK College of Education, Health and Human Sciences. The Hall of Honor praises professionals who have established themselves in their field and mentored students.

Homecoming 2011, on November 5, celebrated WJ Julian’s 50 year association with The University of Tennessee Band Program. A Tennessee native, Julian was hired as director of bands at The University of Tennessee in 1961. Under his direction, the bands grew in size, prestige, and reputation, and adopted traditions such as the “T,” Circle Drill, and “Rocky Top.” To ensure that the tradition of excellence lives on, UT alumnus H. Lee Martin and his wife, Carla Martin, made a lead gift to establish an endowed professorship, the WJ Julian Professor of Bands. 147 alumni and supporters of the band made additional gifts to build the professorship fund to a fully endowed level. The professorship—the first ever in the history of the UT School of Music—was awarded to the current director, Gary Sousa.

Sousa has been the Director of Bands and Professor of Music since 1997. In this role, he conducts the wind ensemble, teaches graduate courses in conducting and repertoire, directs the masters program in wind conducting and oversees the entire band program, consisting of concert bands, athletic bands and the Pride of the Southland Marching Band. Under Sousa’s leadership, ensembles have received critical acclaim from both composers and conductors alike. He maintains an active schedule as guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States and Canada.
On February 7-12, 2011, Vienna Philharmonic trombonist and University of Tennessee School of Music alumnus Jeremy Wilson returned for a week-long residency as guest artist for the UT Trombone Symposium, a workshop for trombonists featuring masterclasses, lectures, recitals, and chamber music coaching sessions.

Wilson joined the Wind Ensemble and its conductor, Dr. Gary Sousa, in a memorable concert February 10. He was featured on Eric Ewazen's Concerto for Trombone and was then joined by his former trombone professor Don Hough and current UT trombone professor Dr. Dan Cloutier to perform Michael Daugherty's Rosa Parks Boulevard. The UT Trombone Choir joined the three soloists and the Wind Ensemble to close the concert with a rousing rendition of Henry Fillmore's Lasus Trombone.

The next evening, Wilson gave a solo recital accompanied by Judith Bible, about whom he blogged, “Judith is a kind and sweet person who just happens to be a wonderful musician—I enjoyed every second.”

The final evening, Wilson performed with the UT Symphony Orchestra, led by Maestro James Fellenbaum. Wilson was the featured soloist in Danish composer Launy Grondahl's 1924 work Concerto for Trombone.

The Gamma Rho Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota—50 Years!

Sigma Alpha Iota at UTK celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Gamma Rho and Knoxville Alumnae/Patroness chapters on April 23, 2010.

A luncheon was held in celebration, at which the chapter was rededicated and charter member Fran Cartier Creasy spoke.

“All Things Bright and Beautiful,” a composition by charter member Dr. Betty Bertaux, was performed by current members of Gamma Rho and the Alumnae chapter.

Three World Premieres for Bassoon Ensemble

The 13 bassoonists who comprise the University of Tennessee Bassoon Ensemble—BeaUTiful Bassoons—performed the world premieres of three compositions for bassoon ensemble at the International Double Reed Society Conference at Arizona State University on May 31, 2011.

“These three pieces significantly increase the repertoire for bassoon ensemble” stated UT Professor of Bassoon Keith McClelland.

The compositions were Fusion of Four by UT Assistant Professor Dr. Brendan McConville; A Bushel of Baked Bassoons, Op.59 by Timothy Lee, a UT alumnus and freelance composer residing in New Jersey; and Music for Earthworms: A Darwinian Odyssey by Dan Welcher, Professor of Composition, University of Texas.

The name of Welcher's composition was inspired by the story that, in his later years, Charles Darwin was obsessed with earthworms and had his son Francis play loud and deep notes on the bassoon to find out whether his worms could hear.

On October 31, 2010, the UT Symphony Orchestra put on a Halloween Spooktacular. Cox Auditorium was decorated to the hilt for this spooky, creepy—and often funny—concert. Director James Fellenbaum, in four distinct transformations, dramatically led the costumed orchestra. The Stokowski arrangement of the famous Toccata and Fugue in D Minor by J. S. Bach began the program, which was constantly interrupted by a stubborn “Phantom” playing the Cox Auditorium Toccata. Mystical dancers joined the UTSO for Saint-Saëns' Danse Macabre, just before piano virtuoso Ying Feng took the stage for Franz Liszt's Totentanz. Eric Whitacre's October began the second half, followed by movements from Hector Berlioz' Symphonie Fantastique.

Each November, the UT Chamber Orchestra joins with the Oak Ridge Civic Ballet Association to present Tchaikovsky’s famous ballet, The Nutcracker. For tickets, see orcha.org.
2009–2010 Season

9/27/2009 .............. A Few Words about Music
Included Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf, narrated by Daniel Berry, and Benjamin Britten’s Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra.

11/1/2009 .............. Music of Great Britain
Four Scottish Dances by Arnold, featured Mark Zelmanovich and Miroslav Hristov, violins. Edward Elgar’s masterpiece, the Enigma Variations was performed.

11/13/2009 .............. UT Opera
Robert Ward’s The Crucible, directed by Carroll Freeman, conducted by Dr. Kevin Class.

11/22/2009 .............. UT Chamber Orchestra
2/14/2010 .............. Orchestral Romance
Faculty clarinetist Gary Sperl performed the Mozart Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra on an extended range bassett clarinet. Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 2 was conducted by UT student Rachel Grubb.

3/21/2010 .............. Concertos and Classics
Featured the winners of the annual UT Concerto Competition: Lyndon England, countertenor; Tiago Ellwanger, violin; Micah Layne, flute; Bonnie Farr and Rachel Grubb, oboe and violin; and Lin Tian, piano.

4/8/2010 .............. UT Chamber Orchestra and Choirs
Maurice Durufle’s incredible Requiem was conducted by Dr. Angela Batey.

4/23–26/2010 .............. UT Opera
A double-bill of one-act operas: Puccini’s Gianni Schicchi and The Village Singer by Stephen Paulus.

2010–2011 Season

9/26/2010 .............. American Spectacular
Copland’s Billy the Kid Suite followed KSO’s Lucas Richmond’s The Kisses of a Pearl (orchestration world premiere) featuring faculty tenor Andrew Skoog.

11/11–13/2011 .............. UT Opera
Celebration of the centennial memorial anniversary of Gustav Mahler (1860–1911) with his Symphony No. 1 in D Major, Titan.

11/11–13/2011 .............. UT Opera
A double-bill of one-act operas: Gian Carlo Menotti’s The Medium, and Giacomo Puccini’s Suor Angelica directed by James Marvel, conducted by Dr. Kevin Class.

3/11/2012 .............. Concertos and Classics
Featured the winners of the annual UT Concerto Competition: Kathryn Salo, flute; Theresa Dunigan, soprano; Shinyoung Kim, piano; Thomas Lovett, violin.

4/15/2012 .............. The Messiah
UT Chamber Singers, Concert Choir and Chamber Orchestra presented a complete performance of Handel’s Messiah, conducted by Dr. Angela Batey.

4/20-22/2012 .............. UT Opera
The Marriage of Figaro, presented as “Mozart’s only opera about Elvis” was directed by James Marvel, conducted by Dr. Kevin Class.
For almost a year, longtime supporter of the University of Tennessee Jim Powell worked on a secret project that would honor Sandy, his bride of almost 55 years.

He finally told her what he had been up to: he made a $1 million gift commitment to establish the School of Music Excellence Endowment as a tribute to his wife. In recognition of his gift, the School of Music and the University of Tennessee recommended naming the state-of-the-art, 400-seat performance venue in the new Natalie L. Haslam Music Center the Sandra G. Powell Recital Hall. The recital hall will be the “jewel” of the Haslam Music Center, scheduled for completion in 2013.

Powell then went a step further. Since the interest income generated from the new Music Excellence Endowment would take about a year to build, he made an additional commitment of $50,000 so the School of Music could access funds immediately to recognize outstanding faculty members. James Fellenbaum, associate professor and director of the UT Symphony Orchestra, and Andrew Skoog, associate professor of voice, became the first recipients of the Sandra G. Powell Excellence Professorships.

Even with these commitments, Powell still had more to do for the School of Music. The Powells are leading the School of Music’s Steinway Initiative, a $3.5 million project to become designated as an All-Steinway School. It is a mark of excellence that is known internationally.

To gain the distinction, 90 percent of the pianos at the UT School of Music must be Steinways. This means the school needs to purchase 61 Steinway pianos to either replace or add to its existing inventory, said Cathy Dodge, senior director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Powells have committed $1 million toward the effort.

“(Being an All-Steinway School) is a big boost and it attracts the better students,” Sandy Powell said. “I look forward to seeing the quality of the students that come here.”

In a ceremony to thank the Powells for their longstanding support of the university, UT officials planted a “Wolf Eyes” Chinese dogwood at UT Gardens. The Powells are the first university donors to be commemorated with a tree planting there. Only two others—retired plant science professors—have been recognized in the same way, according to James Newburn, the assistant director of UT Gardens.

Powell, who founded Johnson City-based Powell Companies, which deals in construction, said he wants students to have the same opportunity he did.

In 1955, he enrolled in UT as a freshman, thanks to a $200 scholarship.

“No matter what I do, I’ll never be able to pay that $200 off,” he said.

Sandy Powell didn’t attend college—a priceless opportunity that is at the heart of “why we absolutely love giving students a chance to go to college.”

Students who have been beneficiaries of the Powells’ generosity often ask them what they can do in return.

“We have always responded: ‘Some- time down the road when you’re able, help one other person,’” Sandy said. “Keep the gift of giving going.”
The School of Music is honored to have the philanthropic support of so many friends and alumni. Your gifts make a difference to our students and faculty, improve our programs and facilities, and enhance the excellence of our overall efforts. We appreciate your annual and ongoing generosity!
Dr. Alexander VanHook
Mr. Frank F. Venable, Jr. & Mrs. Jane H. Venable
Mrs. Tracy M. Viles & Mr. Michael Viles
Mr. Gilbert Volk & Mrs. Edie Volk
Mr. James B. Wager & M. Agnes Wager
Mr. William R. Waldrop & Mrs. Marjorie K. Waldrop
Mr. H. Kreis Weigel & Mrs. Nancy Overton Weigel
Mr. Robert Wertz & Mrs. Donna Wertz
Mrs. Sandra M. Westfall & Mr. Phillip K. Westfall
Mr. William G. Whitaker

UT Wind Ensemble Recording Released

Hal Leonard, one of the nation’s largest music publishers, has included a live performance recording by the UT Wind Ensemble in its internationally released 2011 concert catalogue. The work, written by noted American composer, Kathryn Salfelder, is entitled “Crossing Parallels,” and was commissioned by the American Bandmasters Association.

“Following our performance of ‘Crossing Parallels’ in 2010, I sent Kathryn Salfelder a recording of our concert,” said Gary Sousa, Director of Bands. She was elated by the Wind Ensemble’s performance, and asked if she could use our recording to help promote the work. In 2011, Hal Leonard added the work to their catalogue and have included UT’s performance in their international promotion. We are honored by the opportunity for band directors around the globe to hear our students.”

Remembering Roger continued

includes his unyielding drive to advocate for a new music building at UT. He worked closely with the architects on meticulous details to ensure that the new facility will meet the needs of the faculty, staff, and students. It was indeed his vision of excellence—his energy, passion and his spirited vision that helped to bring about the groundbreaking in November of 2010. This event was indeed one of his proudest days at UT.

His colleagues speak of his hard fought fight, noting that he was working in his office just days before his death. Roger refused to allow the disease to rob him of his faith, optimism, spirit, enjoyment of music and love of life. A gifted vocal performer, Professor Stephens also used his vocal talent to entertain and lift the spirits of both the medical staff and his fellow patients at the chemotherapy center where he received treatments. He continued, as well, singing the national anthem at graduation, where his commanding baritone voice filled Thompson-Boling Arena.

In December 2010, the school’s faculty and staff demonstrated their appreciation of his leadership, presenting Stephens with the text for an engraved plaque to be placed in the new Natalie L. Haslam Music Center in his honor. This plaque will serve as a permanent reminder of his place in the history of the School of Music and the university.

Roger’s greatest joy was his family: wife, Marjorie; children, Mollie Weikert and husband, Scott (Maryland); Kristin Stults and husband, Ryan (North Carolina); Ryan Stephens and wife, Miriam; Rebecca Stephens (Washington); grandchildren Bronwyn, Ella, Charlotte (Weikert), Calvin, William, Sara (Stults) Rayna, Lizzie (Stephens); mother, Betty; brother Phil Stephens and wife Linda (Ohio). The family requests that memorials in his honor be made to:

University of Tennessee
(checks should have memo line notation: Roger Stephens)
2438 Dunford Hall
915 Volunteer Blvd.
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4040

The university community hosted a celebration of the life of Professor Stephens on September 6, 2011, which featured spoken and musical reflections. Linda Davidson, Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs, announced that as a result of generous memorial contributions in conjunction with the request of the family, the UT Orchestra Library Collection will be named in honor of Roger L. Stephens. He is greatly missed.
School of Music Honors Convocation Awards

|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Student Research Contest in Music (Musicology) | First Place: Christina Hastie  
Second Place: Anna Eschbach | First Place: Paula Propst  
Second Place: Emily Wuchner | First Place: Kevin O’Brien  
Second Place: Jordan Baker |
| Music Study Club Scholarship               |                                    | First Place: Evan Middleton  
Second Place: William Crowe |                                    |
| Celebration of Excellence Competition/EURÉCA | Tyler Dietrich, Rachel Grubb and  
Bonnie Farr (Phi Kappa Phi Award),  
Robyn VanLeigh | Travis Jones and Rachael Morey,  
Dustin Lin, Adara Towler, Jenna  
Weaver | William Crowe, Inna Karsheva (Phi Kappa Phi  
Award), Amanda Tittle |
| School of Music Student Ambassadors        | William Crowe, Taylor Green, Alicia  
Keener, Anne Buckle, Kristin Arp | William Crowe, Adam Ford, Taylor  
Green, Alicia Keener, Amanda Tittle | William Crowe, Adam Ford, Megan Brooker, Liza  
Cooper, Hilary Reese |
| Sigma Alpha Iota Awards                    | Scholastic Award: Jamie Newell  
Collegiate Honor Award: Cheri Elkins;  
Scholastic Award: Emily Wuchner | Collegiate Honor Award: Al Harper;  
Scholastic Award: Elliot Devore | Collegiate Honor Award: Andrew Denton  
Scholastic Award: Mark Walker |
| Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Awards               | Christopher Gratton, Brian Jennings,  
Paul Lee, Cassandra Pierce | Collegiate Honor Award: Al Harper;  
Scholastic Award: Elliot Devore |                                   |
| Gerald W. Barnes Woodwind Award            | Bonnie Farr                        | Heather Nagy                       | Devon Pope                        |
| Phi Kappa Lambda Honor Society             | Drew Buckner, Frank Zimmerer,  
Timothy Cooper, Andrew Gilchrist,  
Liahna Guy, Ally Tarwater | Christopher Gratton, Brian Jennings,  
Paul Lee, Cassandra Pierce | Jordan Baker, Blair Boyd, Alex Caselman, Sarah  
Compton, Rachel Dennis, Alex Denton, Emily  
Emadian, Adam Ford, Mariana Garcia-Godoy, Alicia  
Keener, Meagan Langford, Amanda Dawn Lovell,  
Laura Mason, Alessandro C. McDonald, David  
McLendon, Kevin S. O’Brien, Justin Rayna, Valerie  
Reese, Christopher M. Sharpe, Emmanuel Joshua  
Stokes, Adrienne Tabor, Emily Whilden |
| Presser Scholar                           | Anne Buckle                        | Andrew Laprise                      | William Crowe                      |
| Outstanding Graduating Seniors             | Alex Denton, Music Education;  
Glenn Kahler, Music Theory/  
Composition | Chris L. Adams, Theory/Composition;  
Cody Boling, Voice; Anne Buckle,  
Music Education; Nathan Stewart,  
Performance (organ); Frank  
Zimmerer, Studio Music and Jazz | Jennifer Darden, Music Education; Dustin Lin,  
Performance (keyboard); Crystal Muckle, Performance  
(woodwinds); Nicholas Powell, Theory/Comp;  
Daniel Shifflet, Studio Music and Jazz |
| Others                                    | Barry MacDonald Memorial Jazz  
Scholarship: Thad Brown and Frank  
Zimmerer |                                   | College Music Society Southern Chapter:  
First Place: Alex Denton  
Honorable mention: Drew Buckner |

Faculty Distinguished Teaching Award

The Faculty Distinguished Teaching Award was established in 2004 by the Student Council and is presented annually to recognize outstanding teaching by a member of the faculty as recommended by the students of the School of Music. The Faculty Distinguished Teaching Award was presented to Marjorie Bennett Stephens in 2009-2010, Andrew Skoog in 2010-2011, and Dr. David Royse in 2010-2012.
**Student News**

**Louis Diez** (MM viola) won a summer 2011 internship at the Mostly Mozart Festival in Lincoln Center. Diez and **Anileys Bermudez** (MM violin) were invited to perform a guest duo recital at the University of Madrid.

**Timothy Cooper’s** (MM music composition, 2011), composition **Canaan Heights** was performed at the 2010 Regional Conference of the Southern Chapter of the College Music Society (CMS). Cooper participated in “Student Forum on Preparing the Academic Résumé” at the 2010 CMS National Conference.

**Alex Denton** won first place in the College Music Society Southern Chapter Student Paper Contest at the CMS Regional 2012 conference in Tampa, Florida. **Drew Buckner** earned an honorable mention.

**Bianca Griffin** (BM vocal performance) was awarded a $2000 Phyllis Dobbins Holt Scholarship from Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies. She won the title Miss Black and Gold 2010 in the Mu Iota chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Scholarship Pageant.

**Alicia Keener** (BM viola) won a UT Undergraduate Research Award to study chamber music. She was accepted into the prestigious International Round Top Music Festival, joining other student violists from Juilliard, Oberlin, Northwestern, and the San Francisco Conservatory.

**Chris Miller** (BM cello) and **Chris Gratton** (MM cello) participated in the 2010 Hot Springs Music Festival.

**Ally Tarwater** (MM music education, 2010) presented a paper entitled “Instrumental Gender Association and its Impact on Beginning Band Instrument Choice by Maryville City School Band Members” at the 2010 CMS Regional Conference.

**Jeremiah Welch** (BM cello) was selected to perform at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day program May 9, 2012, at the Lisner Auditorium in Washington, D.C. He was featured as one of the youth performing in tribute to the heroes of hope—family, friends and providers—who have helped young people who have experienced trauma. His story was selected because it conveyed his strength and resilience in facing life’s challenges.

**Jill Way** (BM, viola) was accepted into the graduate programs at both the Peabody and Lynn Conservatories. She will attend Lynn Conservatory on a full scholarship.

In May 2010, the **UT Horn Ensemble** performed the Star Spangled Banner before a Knoxville Smokies baseball game at Smokies Park in Sevierville. The ensemble consisted of current, former, and prospective UT horn students. Former UT horn professor, **Calvin Smith**, conducted.

**The UT Trumpet Ensemble**, conducted by **Dr. Cathy Leach**, was invited to perform at the 2012 International Trumpet Guild Conference. The trumpet ensemble performed *Ars Prostera*, composed by UT trumpet alumnus **Bobby L. Collins**, and commissioned by Dr. Leach. While attending the ITG Conference, the UT trumpet studio will have the opportunity to hear the finest trumpet players in the world, attend clinics and masterclasses by renowned pedagogues, and meet and mingle with students, teachers, and performers from all corners of the globe. The UT Trumpet Ensemble, also provided music for the UT College of Arts and Sciences Commencement ceremony Friday May 11, 2012 at Thompson Boling Arena.

The National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Competition Finalists—2010 Regional (Mid-South): Freshman Women—3rd, **Murrella Parton**. Senior Men—1st, **Lyndon England**; 3rd, **Cody Boling**. NATS 2010 Tennessee State Competition: Freshman Women—1st, **Katie Merrell**; 2nd, **Hana Lamb**; 3rd, **Madison Witt**. Freshmen Men—1st, **Jeremy Brooksbank**; 2nd, **Patrick Hughes**. Sophomore Women—1st, **Jenna Weaver**; 2nd, **Hillary Reese**, Junior Women—1st, Amanda Tittle; 2nd, **Adara Towler**. Senior Women—1st, **Ksenia Berestovskaya**; 2nd, **Cara White Kitchens**; 3rd, **Bethany Maples**. Senior Men—1st, **Seth Maples**. Advanced Women—1st, **Corrine Stevens**. NATS 2011 Regional Competition: Freshman Women—2nd, **Maddy Witt**; 3rd, **Hana Lamb**. Sophomore Women—1st, **Jenna Weaver**. Junior Women—1st, **Adara Towler**. Senior Women—1st, **Ksenia Berestovskaya**; 2nd, **Cara White Kitchens**. NATS 2012 Regional Competition: Freshman Men—1st, **David Buchanan**. Sophomore Men—1st, **Jeremy Brooksbank**; 2nd, **Alex Ward**. Sophomore Women—2nd, **Hana Lamb**. Musical Theater –1st, **Alex Ward**, Junior Men–1st, **Jenna Weaver**, Senior Women–1st, **Lauren Brown**. Advanced Women–1st, **Linda Briner**; 3rd, **Sarah Fitch**. Advanced Men–1st, **Boris Van Druff**.

**Doc Severinsen Visits**

Award-winning trumpeter and former Tonight Show band leader Doc Severinsen joined UT trumpet professor Dr. Cathy Leach, renowned trumpeter Vince DiMartino and the Pride of the Southland Band at halftime at the UT vs LSU football game on Saturday, October 15, 2011.

Severinsen also visited UT School of Music on Monday, Oct. 11, 2010 for “Trumpet Talk with Doc,” and made a surprise visit to Cox Auditorium March 19, 2011 to perform with the Airmen of Note, the premier jazz ensemble of the U.S. Air Force.
Dr. Wesley Baldwin, associate professor of cello, was awarded an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Tennessee Arts Commission and received the 2010 Outstanding Teacher Award from the Tennessee Governor’s School for the Arts.

John Brock, professor of music, organ, performed guest recitals at Stetson University and the University of Louisville (KY).

Lorraine DiSimone, associate professor of voice (mezzo-soprano), taught in Vietri sul Mare, Italy, at the Amalfi Coast Summer Festival. DiSimone, and Andrew Skoog, associate professor of voice (tenor), and Andrew Wentzel, professor of voice (bass), were the soloists in Mozart’s Requiem with the Knoxville Symphony and Chorus.

Dr. Leslie Gay, associate professor of musicology, is a member of the editorial board of the journal Jazz Perspectives. He presented a paper entitled “Cultural Policy, Danish Subjectives, and the Boundaries of Rytmisk Musik” at the 54th Annual Conference of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM). He served on the Program Committee for the 55th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles (2010) and the Waterman Prize Committee for the Popular Music Section (2008-2010). He currently serves on the SEM Advisory Council of the Southeast and Caribbean Chapter of the Society.

Hillary Herndon, associate professor of viola, performed with the Felici Piano Trio on their Southern California concert series. Her pedagogy articles were published in American String Teacher and Journal of the American Viola Society. In April, 2012, Herndon was elected to the American Viola Society’s National Executive Board for a 4 year term.

Dr. Kenneth Jacobs, professor of music theory/composition, had his composition, Fantasy Etude, performed by Allinas Przgintas, piano, at the 2010 Regional Conference of the College Music Society.

James Marvel, associate professor and director of the UT Opera Theatre, made debuts with the following companies: Austin Lyric Opera, Austin, Texas, November 2011; Carnegie Hall, New York City, February 2012; and Theatre des Varietes, Paris, March 2012.

Sean McCollough, lecturer in musicology, is hosting “Kidstuff,” a weekly radio show for children on WDVX. He has recorded a children’s record, This Is Our House, which was given a Parents’ Choice recommendation.

Dr. Brendan McConville, assistant professor of music theory/composition, has composed a new work, La Pioggia nel Pineto, scored for soprano, piano, and mixed percussion, that is featured on a CD release from Navona Records entitled Rapport: Vocal Chamber Works. The work received its world premiere this summer at Villa Communale, Roseto degli Abruzzo, Italy, performed by UT Assistant Professor Lorraine DiSimone and others. The work was commissioned to celebrate the poetry of Gabriele D’Annunzio, the internationally renowned poet from Abruzzo. McConville also presented a paper entitled “Unpacking a Set of Russian Dolls: a Discussion of Charles Wuorinen’s ‘Nesting Method’ and a Formal Paradigm in Cello Variations” at the 2010 Regional Conference of the College Music Society. McConville has been appointed to the executive board of the College Music Society Southern Chapter, representing Music Theory.

Dr. Barbara Murphy, associate professor of music theory, and Dr. Brendan McConville presented a paper entitled “Musician, Meet the Social Networking Classroom: Facebook as a Pedagogical Tool for Music” at the 2009 National Conference of the Association for Technology in Music Instruction (ATMI); a paper entitled “Facebook vs. Blackboard: Results of a Study Comparing Course Management Tools in Undergraduate Music Theory Courses” at the 2010 ATMI National Conference; and a paper entitled “Collaborative Theory Online: Using Noteflight and Skype in Music Theory Courses” at the 2011 ATMI National Conference. They were featured on the UT Innovative Technology Consulting Spotlight in 2011 for their Blackboard vs. Facebook research. Murphy also presented a paper entitled “21st Century Solutions on an 18th Century Budget: Using Web-Based Technologies to Communicate, Advertise, and Recruit” with Jeremy Hughes, web designer, and Donna Hundley, graphic designer/publicist, at the 2011 ATMI National Conference.

Dr. Marvelene Moore, professor of music education, chaired a session entitled “A Multidisciplinary Panel of Student Academic Outreach and Scholarly Engagement” at the Poverty and the Politics of Outreach and Engagement Program at the Howard Baker Center on the University of Tennessee campus in February 2010. The program was presented by the UT Academic Outreach and Engagement Council.

Named as “Most Memorable Classical Music Performances” by Alan Sherrod in Metro Pulse

2009—James Fellenbaum, Miroslav Hristov, Gary Sperl, Wesley Baldwin, David Brunell, and UT Chamber Singers
2010—Miroslav Hristov, Denisha Ballew, Faculty Chamber Series, UT Chamber Singers and Concert Choir, James Fellenbaum and UT Symphony Orchestra
2011—Jeremy Wilson, UT Symphony Orchestra
**Faculty News continued**

Dr. David Northington, professor of piano, was selected by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi as the 2010-2012 Phi Kappa Phi Artist for his accomplishments as a pianist, professor, and campus and community volunteer. Northington was the headline guest artist for the Georgia Music Teachers Association, presenting a recital and master class in 2009. In 2010, he performed a concert for Wind Ensemble, Chorus, and Soloists at Columbus State University’s Conductor’s Symposium.

Andrew Skoog, Associate Professor of Voice, appeared as tenor soloist in the world premiere performance of Christopher Theofanidis’ “The Here and Now” for Wind Ensemble, Chorus, and Soloists at Columbus State University’s Conductor’s Symposium.

Gary Sperl, professor of clarinet, was on sabbatical for the academic year 2011-12, teaching at Makumira University College in East Africa. You can follow his adventure in his blog, thetanzanianexperience.wordpress.com.

**Alumni News**

Jesse Ayers (BM 1974, MM 1980; DMA from UK) won the 2011 American Prize for Orchestral Composition. In fall 2010, he was awarded a MacDowell Fellowship. During the fellowship he worked in the same studio—and maybe at the same piano—where Bernstein composed his MASS in 1970.

Ben Boone (BM Theory, BM Studio Music and Jazz 1987; MM Composition from Boston University 1991) professor at California State University, received the “Provost’s Award for Distinguished Accomplishment” in 2010. His CD, “The Benjamin Boone Quartet: LIVE” is being aired on over 30 radio stations nationally. His musical, CON-MAN: The Musical, directed by David Schweizer and starring John Fleck, was sold-out in Los Angeles.

Doug Brown (BM Music Education 2004) won the Ultimate Music Room Make-over essay contest sponsored by In Tune Monthly Magazine. As a result, his middle/high school program at William Campbell Combined School in Naruna, Virginia, has been chosen to receive over $40,000 of new equipment.

Soprano Jessica Cates (MM Vocal Performance, 2010) completed a highly successful run as Yum-Yum in the Fort Worth Opera production of Gilbert and Sullivan’s Mikado in June 2011. Ms. Cates was cited in one review as the “find of the evening” for her up-beat portrayal of the central love interest in this classic tale. The highly unusual production was the vision of director John de los Santos and featured wild costuming and wigs, contemporary dancing and characters Gilbert and Sullivan would never have imagined but probably would have enjoyed. Joining Jessica in the cast was baritone, Joel Herold (MM Vocal Performance, 2008).

William J. Cowart (BM 1970), 63, died March 26, 2011 of complications related to cancer. Bill studied horn with William Bommelje at UTK, and played in the Knoxville Symphony. After four years with the U.S. Marine Band in Washington, DC, Bill joined the horn section of the Milwaukee Symphony in 1976 and continued to play with the MSO for 25 years.

Chris Gratton (MM cello, 2011) is an adjunct professor of cello at Anderson University and cello coach and music librarian for Greenville County Youth Orchestra, Greenville, South Carolina.

Dosia McKay (BM Theory/Composition, 2009; MM Music Theory/Composition • Scoring for Film and Multimedia, New York University 2011) is working in New York as a composer and conductor for film, multimedia, and concert hall. Her original score to The Bubble Tree, an animated film by Ran Jing, won the Skirball Competition, and was premiered by the New York University Symphony Orchestra. Farewell Dream Garden for soprano, flute, and string orchestra won the second prize in the International Music in the Garden Composers’ Competition Wroclaw–Kraków 2010/2011, and premiered in Poland by the Orpheus Orchestra. Unveiling, a work for string orchestra, was premiered by the North/South Consonance in New York City.

Larry Murphy, UT Band alumnus, has written and compiled an exciting new book, History of the University of Tennessee’s Pride of the Southland Marching Band. The coffee-table styled book is a comprehensive look in words and pictures at the celebrated one hundred and forty-three year history of “The Pride.” Murphy calls the book a “labor of love, giving back to the ‘life changing’ program he continues to love and live by.” The book is available at the UT Campus Bookstore or online at www.eventbrite.com. Book sale proceeds go to the UT band for student scholarships.
Priyeshni Peiris (MM 2007, Piano) completed her DMA in piano at Texas Tech University. In 2008 she returned to Sri Lanka to perform an invited recital at the American ambassador’s residence. She was the first person in Sri Lanka to pass the Fellowship of the Royal Schools of Music (FRSM-UK) exam. Her research was presented at the 2009 New Zealand Music Teacher’s Conference and the National Conference of Keyboard Pedagogy, Chicago. She performed with the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka in August, 2010.

Valerie Sanders (BM Music Education/Clarinet and BA German, 2000) won an ADDY award for music she composed for the 2011 YWCA awards video. She is a band director at West Valley Middle School in Knoxville, and composed the theme music for the Vol Network. She is married to Mischa Goldman (BM Studio Music & Jazz/String bass performance, 2007).

Jennifer D’Agostino Sams (MM Vocal Performance, 2006) served as faculty for the Madison Early Music Festival in Wisconsin. She completed her dissertation in Troubadour Music for a DMA in voice at University of Wisconsin—Madison. She toured with the Opera for the Young during their 2010-2011 season, playing ‘Ruth’ in The Pirates of Penzance. In Spring 2011, she played the role of ‘The Mother’ in Menotti’s The Consul. She is married to Aaron Sams (BA Anthropology, UTK, 2008).

Slade Trammell (MM Piano Performance, 2009) was the piano soloist for a special 75th Anniversary celebration of the Knoxville Symphony. He performed Mozart’s D Minor Piano Concerto, K. 466, in the Bijou Theatre with the Knoxville Symphony Chamber Orchestra, Lucas Richman, conducting. Trammell is a piano faculty member at Roane State Community College.

Dr. Wesley Baldwin, associate professor of cello, has released a new CD on the Albany label, featuring works for cello by American Composer Alan Shulman. He is joined on this CD by Assistant Professor of Collaborative Piano Dr. Kevin Class and others. One review states that “Baldwin manages to draw the purest and sweetest sounds with his bow, and hits every note with pitch-perfect intonation” and “pianist Kevin Class...makes an inestimable contribution to this program with exceptionally refined and sensitive playing.”

Alumnus Keith Brown (MM Studio Music & Jazz, 2011) released an album called Sweet and Lovely April 15, 2011. The album was recorded in France by Space Time Records. A review in the London Evening Standard praised it as “one of the most enjoyable debut albums for quite a while”.

Alumnus Joseph Patrick Moore (BM Studio Music and Jazz, 1991) released a CD in May 2010 titled To Africa With Love on Blue Canoe Records. A review states that “Moore’s articulate playing and strong sense of melody speak to his talent as a bassist and composer.” In 2011, Dr. David Northington, professor of piano, launched his survey of Copland’s solo piano music on Centaur Records with the first of three CDs, Copland: Complete Solo Piano Works, Vol. 1. Northington’s exemplary work is given “a strong recommendation for the serious Copland fan.”

Gregory Tardy, assistant professor of jazz saxophone, released an album called Monuments in 2011 on the SteepleChase label. “Saxophonist/composer Gregory Tardy’s latest album reunites him with pianist George Colligan whom Tardy has collaborated on a number of remarkable recordings. Since his return to the active performing scene a couple of years ago Gregory Tardy is today a full time member of the elite jazz circle.” —Jazz Lofi

Connie Steigenga (MM Music Education/Elementary Instrumental, UTK) received her Masters in Library Science degree from University of Tennessee in Spring 2011.

Wendel Werner, director of UT Singers, Tim Paul, and Dave Slack, UT alumnus, recorded Nothing Personal, a jazz album that was released in January, 2010. It can be found at www.cdbaby.com/cd/nothingpersonal
B. Hill

Topping Ceremony for New Music Center

The final steel beam was placed on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville’s new Natalie L. Haslam Music Center on, April 25, 2012, in a ceremony marking the midway point for construction.

Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek joined philanthropist Natalie Haslam, for whom the center is named, students, faculty, and administrators in signing the twenty-foot steel beam before it was set over the building’s north entrance. Cheek said the project set the course for the School of Music’s bright future.

“The support of Jim and Natalie Haslam was critical to this. Today, we celebrate Natalie’s love for music, the arts, literature, and her university,” Cheek said.

“I am quite honored and humbled to be here in this capacity,” Natalie Haslam said. “Jim and I are very proud of the University of Tennessee.” She noted the university’s journey to becoming a Top 25 institution.

“The final beam on the new Natalie L. Haslam Music Center is hoisted into place.

Natalie Haslam, along with students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and friends signed the beam.

“I hope a building like this will make that realization true,” she said.

Angela Batey, interim director of the School of Music and director of choral activities, noted that it will help enhance graduate programs, and make a difference in recruiting talented musicians.

“They’ll walk in and see themselves on the stage, and they’ll say, ‘This is a place where I can hone my craft.’” Batey said, “The building also will be a community asset, which all lovers of music and the arts will enjoy.”

The new center replaces a facility that was constructed in 1964 to accommodate 100 students. The School of Music now has 400 students. The $40 million project began in 2010 and the building will open to students in fall 2013.

BarberMcMurry Architects and Blankenship and Partners designed the center and Johnson and Galyon is the contractor.

The four-floor, 123,000-square-foot facility will include the Sandra G. Powell Recital Hall, named for another donor. The orchestral library will be named for Roger Stephens, the late director of the School of Music, who was a driving force in the planning for the facility.