

BCU Music News

Spring 2010 | No. 47

A Publication of Briar Cliff University's Department of Music

Dear Alums and Friends,



This year, Briar Cliff's "theme" for the 2009-10 academic year is "Care for Creation." On this "almost May" day, as I begin this newsletter, maintenance workers are caring for the grounds, and it is not difficult to "go green" when green is all around us. The fragrant red and white blossoms and the lilacs on the hill are at their best. Some students (and teachers) are counting the days until graduation—the year has gone by quickly.

Around the Department

It has been a year of many performances. The "REQUIEM" by Faure featured the Cliff Singers and soloists and was performed at First Presbyterian Church in Sioux City. Additionally, the performance featured a group of students from Western Iowa Tech, members of the Siouxland Choral Artists and the Orchestra Pro Cantores. Alums William Darwin, Jr., '08 baritone, Ellen Osborn '99, soprano, and Jayne Koch '87, organ, completed the ensemble. Sister M. Arnold played a prelude of three short French pieces in the program presented in memory of Dorothy Berens, a 1946 graduate of Briar Cliff's Music Department.

"To many people, this was a well-known work, and our music-making was good," remarked one choir member.

The Choir Tour this year took about 40 students plus several faculty and guests to Hawaii. Jamie Schmidt, accompanist for the group, commented especially on Briar Cliff being the first choir to sing at the new Pearl Harbor Center. It was an emotional experience for singers and the audience. Another special memory was

the Sunday Mass at Saint Rita's Church, where the students saw "actual Hawaiian life"—not the "tourist" side of it.

Other activities of the Cliff Singers and Chamber Choir included performing with the Mt. Zion Consecrated Choir at the Martin Luther King Celebration in chapel and the *Voices of Earth* winter choral concert. The latter featured a work by Paul Carey, "Voices of Earth," commissioned for the BCU Singers in celebration of this year's theme, "Care of Creation." May performances included the Honors Convocation on May 6 and the BCU Baccalaureate Mass on May 14.

"Opera Scenes" this year is entitled "Mozart, Sondheim, and More"; the program was presented twice on May 2 in the Theresa Dee Meis Recital Hall. Briar Cliff students and alumni performed arias from several Mozart operas, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, and Stephen Sondheim's musicals. Staging was by Sister Mary Day and 2003 alum Angela McDermott Iversen.

Recitals, Recitals

Friday afternoon programs at 3:10 in the recital hall several times during the year kept BCU piano and vocal students “on their toes.” The Jazz Ensemble finds its popular place of performance at El Fredo’s Pizza in Sioux City.



“Three Wise Men” was presented in April by the three members of our music faculty: Robert Gibson played two selections on trumpet, Dr. Richard Steinbach provided unusual (and instructive) entertainment with several pieces by George Crumb played on the inside of the piano, and Dr. Sean Burton surprised the audience by singing, instead of conducting, French songs by Maurice Ravel.

Sister M. Arnold played an organ recital on the rather new organ at Epiphany Cathedral in March and another on the Briar Cliff organ shortly after Easter. Chamber Choir assisted at the BCU recital.

Richard Steinbach performed a solo concert and presented a master class in Colorado in February. This concert was presented in his hometown of Sterling, where he was given the Outstanding Alumni Award at Northeastern Junior College. He also performed a guest concert with violinist Dan Auerbach in the Quad cities on April 29. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation, this concert featured traditional Jewish, Hebrew, and Israeli melodies, including some popular Klezmer music.

William Darwin, Jr., ‘08 performed his graduate vocal recital at the University of South Dakota in April. On occasion, Junior comes back to Briar Cliff to help out at liturgy or in music department programs. The Opera Workshop this year welcomed back Christopher Kopel ‘09, Angela McDermott Iversen ‘03, Ellen Daniels Osborn ‘99, and Cheryl Smith Tatro ‘07.

About the Faculty

Sister Mary Day continues to be involved with NATS activities. During this past year, she has served as National Vice President for Discretionary Funds & Field Activities. Three of her students took part in the NATS auditions at WIT this spring; BCU students Micaela Ten Hoven and Lina Luangrath advanced to the second round in the competition.

Dr. Richard Steinbach will return to South America once again this spring to perform in the International Music Festivals in Lima, Peru and Quito, Ecuador.

Dr. Sean Burton published a compact disc review in the March 2010 issue of the *Choral Journal*, a periodical of international renown. He guest conducted the South Dakota Music Educators Association’s elementary Festival Choir in Madison, S.D. in March. He also served

as an invited guest clinician at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn., where he worked with a choir on Mozart’s *Requiem*, led a conducting master class and presented a lecture titled “French Connections: Exploring the Unaccompanied Choral Music of Pierre Villet” in March. In addition, Dr. Burton was one of only five people worldwide chosen to participate in the Vancouver Chamber Choir’s National Conductors’ Symposium, May 2-9, 2010. At the symposium, Dr. Burton engaged in a weeklong residency in Vancouver, where he worked with the all-professional Vancouver Chamber Choir. The experience culminated with a performance on May 8, during which Dr. Burton conducted excerpts from J.S. Bach’s “St. John Passion” and Haydn’s “Creation” live in concert with the Vancouver Chamber Choir.

Photos from the 2010 Holy Hawaii Choir Tour



Save the Date

CHRISTMAS AT THE ORPHEUM: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 17, 2010

PRE-ALL STATE CAMP AT BCU: Aug. 1-4, 2010 with a closing concert at Grandview Band Shell, weather permitting.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Music Department at Briar Cliff University. This will be my last edition of "Music News." As of June 2010, my new address will be Mount St. Francis in Dubuque, where I hope to continue to make music and help with the liturgy. We wish God's blessings to you and yours as this academic year comes to an end.

The Music Department at Briar Cliff
(S. M. Arnold Staudt, ed.)
Email: staudtma@osfdbq.org.



Music Department

3303 Rebecca Street

PO Box 2100

Sioux City, IA 51104- 0100

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 722
SIOUX CITY, IA