



# the quarter note

A newsletter for the friends and families of Lawrence Arts Academy

## Choices, Change and Chutzpah

By Fred Snyder

Yup, that's me. Cute, eh? Ten years old and hard at work practicing for an upcoming recital. Music was central in our home. We regularly attended concerts as a family at the University and the expectations to behave and listen were made quite clear! Not only did we have A piano, we had TWO, plus a Hammond organ with a huge Leslie speaker—all in the living room (there were no "family rooms" in those Dark Ages). My favorite piano to practice on was an old honky-tonk with the "guts" removed—painted

bright chartreuse! Everyone played something and evenings frequently turned in to extended "jam sessions" playing songs from Dad's fakebook—you know the ones; *I'm Gettin' Sentimental Over You* and the like. My big brother got me started on clarinet but sitting in the back of the third clarinet section was not particularly motivating. I tried alto sax in the high school big band but was lousy at improvising.

My sophomore year our high school acquired a brand new German-made bassoon. Now this thing looked really cool and I just had to take it for a spin. I fell in love with the bassoon and was privileged to study with the bassoon professor at the local university. Then senior year came along and a close friend suggested my auditioning for someplace called Northwestern Uni-

versity. Being from western Montana, I assumed it was in the northwest, right? Wrong. I saved my shekels and boarded the Northcoast Limited, arriving at Chicago's



Little Freddie Snyder, concentrating hard on his piano lesson, typifies the hundreds of Missoula children who will join in the city's observance of National Music Week, beginning today.

Union Station some 36 hours later. Somehow this greenhorn managed to find the "El" and headed to Evanston where I auditioned the next day for John Paynter, the "big man" of Northwestern bands. Let me tell you, this kid from the boonies was scared to death but managed sufficient chutzpah to play like never before—and to be given a 4-year full-tuition scholarship on the spot! And all because of my love affair with the bassoon.

While at Northwestern, Lyric Opera of Chicago called needing a contrabassoon player. Not having a clue what a contrabassoon was and desperately needing money, chutzpah once again prevailed as I accepted the gig. I checked out a moldy, smelly, huge case containing this mystery instrument and immediately fell in love for the second time in my life. The rest is history as that opportunity led to my joining the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra—as contrabassoonist. [In case you are wondering what a contrabassoon is, it is the lowest instrument in the orchestra; twice as big, twice as low, twice as ugly and twice as expensive as a regular bassoon!]

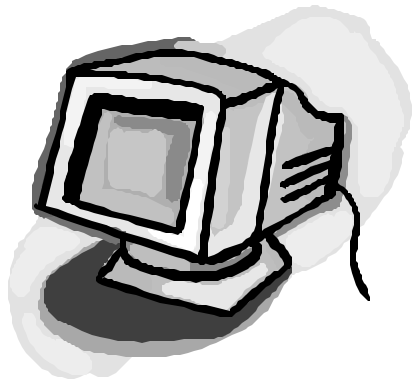
Why share all of that? Because I'm talking about CHOICES, CHANGE and CHUTZPAH, just like here at the Academy. From my short tenure here, I have discovered to my absolute delight, a committed, highly-qualified and motivated group of colleagues

that you should cherish as teachers and mentors for your children. They are alive to innovation, open to new possibilities and willing to shift old paradigms as we seek to grow this marvelous, old institution; raising the bar, as it were, providing a credible, consistent program worthy of your trust and investment. We are exploring ways of appropriately compensating our trained specialists while remaining affordable and reachable by all.

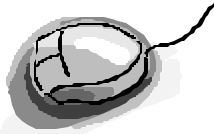
What else is on the horizon? In this issue we announce an expanded season for both HONORS BAND and WIND ENSEMBLE. Patricia DeCorsey is returning from London this August and our EARLY CHILDHOOD program will gear up for some new ventures. We are exploring a new JAZZ component to our program as well as a DALCROZE eurhythmics emphasis for elementary children on Saturday mornings. The summer day-camps, ODYSSEY 2002, are being expanded considerably this year and preliminary plans are underway exploring residential camps for the summer of 2003. The YOUNG PERFORMERS program will be enhanced to encourage, challenge, mentor and recognize those who choose to take their musical pursuits to a higher level. We will pursue additional qualified STAFF to further diversify our offerings and accommodate our waitlist. I call it our "womb to the tomb" approach! Starting with a music program for the unborn, LOVENOTES, for children minus 6-months old and providing age-based challenging and exciting opportunities clear through the senior years. Speaking of seniors...any big band aficionados out there? Get that tenor sax out of the attic and start building up your chops!

I'm exhausted just writing about it and fresh out of space. Next issue I think we will add to CHOICES, CHANGE and CHUTZPAH a real biggie...

CHALLENGES!



## We're on the Web!



Need an audition date? Looking for the name of a music instructor? Check the Arts Academy's web site for the answers! Click on [www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts\\_academy](http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts_academy) for the latest information on

- ? Adult Classes
- ? Early Childhood Classes
- ? Youth Classes
- ? Calendar
- ? Ensemble Auditions
- ? Odyssey Summer Camp
- ? Music Lessons and Instructors
- ? Policies and Guidelines

Sign up for Odyssey camp at

? [www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts\\_academy/campform.html](http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts_academy/campform.html)

or ensemble auditions at

? [www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts\\_academy/form3.html](http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts_academy/form3.html).

When you register online you will receive an e-mail confirmation. We cannot yet take payment online, but you can register and then phone us with your credit card information or send payment to the Arts Academy.

The Arts Academy now accepts VISA and MasterCard for registration fees and tuition.

## String Project Musicians Perform in Lawrence Chapel

By Sarah Heyden

"Sit proud and tall! Pretend you're a professional orchestra!" Immediately, students place their feet flat on the floor, straighten their backs, and hold their instruments just a little higher. In preparation for their March 24 concert with the Academy String Orchestra and the Academy Chamber Ensembles, Lawrence student teachers participating in the ASTA String Project have challenged their students to play and look like professional musicians. The concert, the first large public performance for the Project's Dolce and Allegro String Orchestras, was a thrilling experience for both the students and teachers. The orchestras have performed end of the term concerts for family and friends at the Emmanuel United

Methodist Church, but the March concert provided the kids with their first opportunity to perform in the grand setting of the Lawrence Chapel.

For the past two months, students in the Dolce and Allegro orchestras have prepared new music and refined old pieces. The Dolce Orchestra consists of beginning, first-year string players and includes violins, violas, cellos, and one bass. The Allegro Orchestra includes second-year violins, violas, and cellos. The groups combined for several pieces, and the Allegro Orchestra also performed solo selections.

Prior to the March 24 concert, the ASTA String Project's Dolce and Allegro Orchestras performed at the Arts Academy's Open House on Sunday, March 17 to a packed house.

## Master Class Catherine Kautsky

By Nell Buchman

Catherine Kautsky, chair of the piano department at Lawrence University, will offer a master class for Arts Academy students on Tuesday, May 21 in Harper Hall. Ms. Kautsky holds a master of music degree from the Juilliard School and a doctoral degree in performance from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where she studied with Gilbert Kalish.

Performing throughout the United States and abroad as a recitalist, soloist and chamber musician, Ms. Kautsky has most recently performed in China and Korea. Her tenure at Lawrence has taken her to Paris where she played French and American music, some of which was recorded on a Vox Classics recording. She was also director of the Lawrence University London Center in 1997-98 and will be teaching and playing in South Africa this spring. A wonderful colleague and friend to the Arts Academy, Ms. Kautsky's CD, *Babar The Little Elephant*, will be awarded to elementary level winners of the 2002 piano festival.

We are excited to have such a wonderful opportunity and hope to see everyone in May!

## Opera Outings

Each year the Arts Academy sponsors three trips to Milwaukee to attend the Florentine Opera season productions. This coming year's offerings include: George Bizet's well known *Carmen*, Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men* (an adaptation of the Steinbeck classic) and Verdi's incomparable *Rigoletto*. Our popular voice specialist Carol Jegen will once again preview the three operas and host the outings. Special pricing includes opera tickets, preview classes and coach bus transportation to the Sunday matinee performances at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in Milwaukee. Enrollment is limited based on bus occupancy and seating availability.

Whether you are a seasoned opera fan or relatively new to this beautiful, multifaceted art form, we guarantee you a theatre experience that you will not want to miss! Call Kathy Kennedy for information (832-6632). Deadline: tax day—April 15!



# Family Spotlight

## The Flaherty family of Neenah

By Sara Rezin with Beth Flaherty

Music in the Flaherty home is a given—like reading and math. Music always played a large role in Beth Flaherty's life and she likewise developed a strong belief in its importance as an aspect of her children's education. Beth started piano lessons at age 4 and continued through high school. She resumed in 1998 at the Arts Academy with Larisa Topolkaeva. In addition to studying piano, she teaches piano to three students. The Flaherty children participate in music as well: Joseph plays piano and cello, Grace studies piano and violin, and Bridget studies violin.

"The ability to play an instrument provides an individual with the means to express the human spirit in a way words could never do. The study of an instrument develops personal discipline and teaches children the rewards of hard work and practice. The study of music also enables an individual to more thoroughly incorporate into his/her life an appreciation of the arts which is such an enriching part of life. Also, we do not have to leave the home for daily practice! The mastery of an instrument provides self-esteem as well as self-confidence on a stage. Finally, instruments can provide a healthy social outlet for children as well as adults."

The commitment is not without challenges, though. Rewards are long term, and children do not want to practice daily, so it takes a lot of discipline, creativity and work for mom!

Beth hopes to have everyone in the family (maybe even Dan



Dan and Beth Flaherty at home with Curren (10 mos.), Bridget (5), Joseph (9) and Grace (7).

someday!) working at an instrument through high school. "With everyone involved, especially beginning at a young age, it becomes part of our daily life—just like brushing our teeth— and the rewards of a new piece, a great performance and the mastery of a difficult passage are exciting!"

In addition to music, the family enjoys downhill skiing, soccer, swimming, football, basketball, ballet, and tap dancing, horseback riding and various YMCA sports.

## "Note" - able!

**Congratulations** to Jane Han, first place winner, Catherine Smith, second place winner, and Sarah Redding and Ryan Prijic, finalists of the Fox Valley Symphony Youth Soloist Competition. Kudos to Jacob Ertl, winner of the Neale-Silva Concert of Young Musicians Award, sponsored by Wisconsin Public Radio and to Deanna Talens, one of 60 cellists worldwide invited to Moscow to compete in the XII International Tchaikovsky Competition this June.

Congratulations also to Laura Hauer who received an honorable mention at the Rising Stars Tri-State Concerto Competition on January 19, 2002 in LaCrosse, WI.



Nate Bachhuber, a senior at Appleton West high school, spent this past summer taking in the sights of Lennox, Massachusetts while participating in Boston's Tanglewood Festival. Summer highlights included Nate singing the bass solos in their performance of Mozart's Coronation Mass in the Seiji Ozawa Hall and performing in two Ravel operas, "L'Enfant et les Sortilèges" and "L'Heure Espagnole." This past fall Nate won first place in the Wisconsin State National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition. Nate, who studies

with Bryan Post, was also a finalist in last year's Fox Valley Symphony competition.

Nate aspires toward a performance degree in voice and enjoys singing opera and recital repertoire.

**Honors Recitals:** Our judges, Linda Sparks and Laura Snyder, heard 32 entries on January 27th. Following considerable deliberation, the judges chose a slate of nine for each of the two recitals. Congratulations to our winners:

Alaina Albaugh	Jonathan Kieffer
Allyce Albaugh	Kristen Lease
Laura Asma	Joe Loehnis
Richard Belgado	Charlotte Maclet
Sarah Bellmore	Vinodh Muthiah
Annika Bloomberg	Stephanie Powell
Sam Bockenhauer	Anna Reiser
Maggie Chou	Lars Ribbens
Jonathan Eddy	Sopen Shah
Tadhg Farnen	Catherine Smith
Jennifer Kanzelberger	Stephanie Smith



# Springtime is Audition Time!

The Arts Academy has nine large ensembles, including five girl choirs, two bands, and a string orchestra. Membership in the ensembles is determined by auditions held each spring. To register for an audition time, please fill out the form on page 6 and send to the Arts Academy by the ensemble deadline.

Registrations may also be completed online by visiting our website at [www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts\\_academy/form3.html](http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts_academy/form3.html). Please be sure to note individual ensemble registration deadlines! You will receive a postcard confirming your audition time.

## Girl Choir Program

The Girl Choir Program seeks to provide quality choral opportunities for girls in the Fox Valley region. Through the study and performance of the highest quality music, the girls develop vocal technique, music reading skills, creativity, expressive artistry, and an awareness of various cultures.

The Girl Choir Program strives to create an atmosphere that encourages girls to respect the uniqueness of others, to take risks that foster individual growth, and to continue their development into self-assured young women.

Currently there are over 200 girls singing in the Girl Choir program, representing over 50 schools from throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. The full Girl Choir program gives two public performances annually, held in the Lawrence Chapel in December and March or April.

**Primo** An entry level, auditioned choir open to girls in third and fourth grades in 2002-2003. Concentration is on unison singing using the best-quality music literature appropriate for children. A local half-day tour is taken in the spring.

*Conductor:* Molly Tomashek

*Auditions:* May 15 & 16

*Application Deadline:* May 3

*Rehearsals:* Mondays, 4:30-5:30 pm, beginning September 16

*Fee:* \$135 per year, payable in installments

**Allegretto** Open by audition to girls in fourth and fifth grades in 2002-03. The girls receive training in Kodály and basic singing techniques including tone, vocal production, and breathing. Concentration is on unison and simple two-part singing using the best-quality age-appropriate music. A local half-day tour is taken in the spring.

*Conductor:* Cheryl Meyer

*Auditions:* April 29 and May 1

*Application Deadline:* April 19

*Rehearsals:* Mondays, 4:30-5:45 pm, beginning September 16

*Fee:* \$170 per year, payable in installments

**Intermezzo** Open by audition to girls in fifth, sixth, and seventh grades in 2002-03. Musical goals of this choir include development of singing technique, including multiple part-singing, using the best-quality age-appropriate music.

*Conductor:* Molly Tomashek

*Auditions:* May 8 & 9

*Application Deadline:* April 19

*Rehearsals:* Mondays, 6:30-8 pm, beginning September 16

*Fee:* \$200 per year, payable in installments



Cantabile members warm up before their December concert.

**Cantabile** Open by audition to girls in seventh, eighth, and ninth grades in 2002-03. Goals include three- and four-part singing, study of vocal technique both in rehearsal and small group lessons, and performance of advanced repertoire. Several performances annually and tour opportunities.

*Conductor:* Karen Bruno

*Auditions:* April 23 & 24, 2002

*Application:* Deadline April 15, 2002

*Rehearsals:* Mondays, 6-8 pm, beginning September 16

*Fee:* \$290 per year, payable in installments

**Bel Canto** Open by audition to girls in ninth through twelfth grade. Goals include performance of advanced four-part literature and preparation for High School Honor auditions. Bel Canto may have several public performances annually.

*Conductor:* Karen Bruno

*Auditions:* May 6, 2002

*Application Deadline:* April 19, 2002

*Rehearsals:* Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm beginning September 15

*Fee:* \$265 per year, payable in installments





ASTRO members perform in the Lawrence Chapel during their November, 2001 concert.

## Academy String Orchestra



The Arts Academy String Orchestra (ASTRO) is an ensemble of about 50 players, grades five through eight, interested in preparing and performing orchestral music at a high level. Emphases include the development of reading and beginning ensemble skills. ASTRO meets weekly for two 10- week semesters with conductor Linda Calhan.

*Conductor:* Linda Calhan

*Auditions:* May 14, 2002

*Application Deadline:* May 4, 2002

*Rehearsals:* Tuesdays, 4:30-5:45 pm beginning September 10

*Fee:* \$120 per year, payable in installments

## Honors Band and Wind Ensemble

YOU ASKED FOR IT-AND HERE IT IS!!

Honors Band and Wind Ensemble will each expand their seasons to two 10- week semesters starting this fall. By popular request, these two groups will adopt a similar schedule to the Academy String Orchestra (ASTRO) with each ensemble performing at least twice a year and enjoying touring opportunities and coached sectional rehearsals. The expanded season will allow for increased musical development both individually and as an ensemble.

When asked about the benefits of an expanded season, Mike Ross was enthusiastic: "... the amount of fine wind literature available is somewhat challenging, if not inaccessible, to many high school bands due to the difficulty of the works and/or limitations in instrumentation. The extended season gives the students an opportunity to explore some of the most beautiful and artful music written for wind groups and expose our audiences to works they may never have a chance to hear.

"We have many of the finest high school musicians in the state within a 50-mile radius of Appleton. When we put together 70 to 75 of these students we are performing at a very high level (a level which rivals many college bands) and we owe it to the students and the community as well to develop the organization as much as possible throughout the year."

The Honors Band and Wind Ensemble include public, parochial and home-schooled students from the Fox Valley and surrounding communities. Honors Band auditions are open to students who are currently in grades six through eight. Wind Ensemble auditions are open to students who are currently in grades eight through eleven. Auditions for both Honors Band and Wind Ensemble are Monday, April 29 at Wilson Middle School, Appleton.



Conductor Michael Wagner leads the Honors Band during their dress rehearsal in November.

### HONORSBAND (GRADES7-9)

*Conductor:* Michael Wagner

*Auditions:* April 29, 2002

*Application Deadline:* April 12, 2002

*Rehearsals:* Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm beginning September 10

*Fee:* \$120 per year, payable in installments

### WIND ENSEMBLE (GRADES9-12)

*Conductor:* Michael Ross

*Auditions:* April 29, 2002

*Application Deadline:* April 12, 2002

*Rehearsals:* Mondays, 7-9 pm, beginning September 9

*Fee:* \$150 per year, payable in installments

# Audition Registration Form

Please fill out the form on this page and send to the Arts Academy to register for your ensemble audition. Please note the registration deadlines on pages 4-5. Indicate the half-hour time slot you prefer by numbering your first three

preferences (1 = first choice, etc.). You will receive a postcard confirming your audition time and location. You may also register online at [www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts\\_academy/form3](http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts_academy/form3).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in 02-03 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Music Director \_\_\_\_\_

Private Music Instructor (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

## *I am auditioning for:*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Honors Band** \_\_\_\_\_ **Wind Ensemble**

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been playing your instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

Auditions will be held at Wilson Middle School from 6:00—9:30 p.m. on Monday April 29.

6:00-6:30\_\_\_ 6:30-7:00\_\_\_ 7:00-7:30\_\_\_

7:30-8:00\_\_\_ 8:00-8:30\_\_\_ 8:30-9:00\_\_\_

9:00-9:30\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Academy String Orchestra**

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been playing your instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

Auditions will be held at the Lawrence Arts Academy, 100 Water Street, Appleton, Tuesday, May 14.

4:00-4:30\_\_\_ 4:30-5:00\_\_\_ 5:00-5:30\_\_\_

5:30-6:00\_\_\_ 6:00-6:30\_\_\_

## GIRL CHOIR

\_\_\_\_\_ **Primo**  
(grades 3 & 4)  
\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, May 15  
\_\_\_\_ Thursday, May 16

\_\_\_\_ 4:30-5:00  
\_\_\_\_ 5:00-5:30  
\_\_\_\_ 5:30-6:00  
\_\_\_\_ 6:00-6:30  
\_\_\_\_ 6:30-7:00  
\_\_\_\_ 7:00-7:30

\_\_\_\_\_ **Allegretto**  
(grades 4 & 5)  
\_\_\_\_ Monday, April 29  
\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, May 1

\_\_\_\_ 4:30-5:00  
\_\_\_\_ 5:00-5:30  
\_\_\_\_ 5:30-6:00  
\_\_\_\_ 6:00-6:30  
\_\_\_\_ 6:30-7:00  
\_\_\_\_ 7:00-7:30

\_\_\_\_\_ **Intermezzo**  
(grades 5, 6 & 7)  
\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, May 8  
\_\_\_\_ Thursday, May 9

\_\_\_\_ 4:30-5:00  
\_\_\_\_ 5:00-5:30  
\_\_\_\_ 5:30-6:00  
\_\_\_\_ 6:00-6:30  
\_\_\_\_ 6:30-7:00  
\_\_\_\_ 7:00-7:30

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cantabile**  
(grades 7, 8 & 9)  
\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, April 23  
\_\_\_\_ Wednesday, April 24

\_\_\_\_ 4:30-5:00  
\_\_\_\_ 5:00-5:30  
\_\_\_\_ 5:30-6:00  
\_\_\_\_ 6:00-6:30  
\_\_\_\_ 6:30-7:00  
\_\_\_\_ 7:00-7:30  
\_\_\_\_ 7:30-8:00  
\_\_\_\_ 8:00-8:30

\_\_\_\_\_ **Bel Canto**  
(grades 9-12)  
Monday, May 6

\_\_\_\_ 5:00-5:30  
\_\_\_\_ 5:30-6:00  
\_\_\_\_ 6:00-6:30  
\_\_\_\_ 6:30-7:00  
\_\_\_\_ 7:00-7:30  
\_\_\_\_ 7:30-8:00  
\_\_\_\_ 8:30-9:00

Please send completed form to Lawrence Arts Academy Ensembles, PO Box 599, Appleton, WI, 54912-0599

# Odyssey 2002

Odd-duh- what? One of Webster's definitions says...*any extended wandering or journey*. That's the idea behind our 4 age-based weeks of summer day camps to be held on the campus of Lawrence

University—a music and arts journey as we explore jazz, creative writing, visual art, theatre and dramatics, chamber music, singing, eurhythmics, music fundamentals and more. A most gifted, energetic and enthusiastic staff has been assembled to motivate, teach, inspire and challenge your child as we all learn together in a relaxed, safe and fun environment.



Robert Felton works on his masterpiece during last year's camp.

Here's the scoop on each camp:

## **ARTS EXPLORATION 101** (formerly *Kaleidoscope*)

An introduction to four engaging arts disciplines: creative dramatics, visual arts, creative writing and music. Designed for primary elementary students approximately 8 – 10 years old, this Odyssey is sure to spark a lifelong love of the arts. **July 29 – August 2, 8 a.m. - noon.**

## **ARTS EXPLORATION EXPANDED**

You requested it—here it is! This Odyssey delves deeper, as we pursue an expanded version of the popular Arts Exploration 101 half-day camp. For intermediate elementary students, approximately 10 – 12 years old. Campers will enjoy longer sessions exploring creative dramatics, visual arts, creative writing and music. The midday breaks will include lunch at Downer Commons followed by recreational activities such as volleyball, swimming at the Rec Center pool and disc golf.

**July 22 – 26, 8:30-4 p.m.**

## **METAMORPHOSIS**

Movement, rhythm, the human voice and creative drama are all explored as campers morph into young adults. A zany, energetic and motivated staff will challenge and encourage middle schoolers, approximately 12 – 14 years old. Midday breaks include lunch at Downer Commons followed by recreational activities such as swimming at the Rec Center pool, disc golf and hiking along the Fox River Trail.

**June 24 – 28, 8:30-4 p.m.**

## **THE HIGH ROAD**

The final Odyssey in our series, a camp for high schoolers, offers the option of pursuing one of two tracks: jazz workshop or chamber music. Theory and music fundamentals, history and basic keyboard skills are also explored to help prepare for the next big journey, *college!* Lunches at Downer Commons and midday snacks included.

**June 24 – 28, 8:30-4 p.m.**

**Jazz Workshop** Students will receive hands-on experience with jazz improvisation in small-group settings. Sessions will focus on developing aural, theory and compositional skills. In addition, students will have master classes in jazz history and jazz performance. Special topics will include: world percussion, playing with a rhythm section, transcribing solos and a session highlighting instruments not typically associated with jazz. All instruments are welcome—campers just need to be actively playing any instrument or singing!

**Chamber Music Workshop** Experience the “champagne of music” as we explore repertoire from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Students work with expert coaches in small groups ranging from Baroque trio sonatas through classical and romantic string quartets, piano trios, quartets or quintets. Come discover some of the most beautiful music ever written. Open to students actively playing violin, viola, cello, string bass and piano.

So there you have it! We are going to have a grand time—**GUARANTEED**—and hope your child will join us on our arts ODYSSEY—*any extended wandering or journey*, remember? Brochures are hot-off-the-press. Enrollment is limited as we are committed to workable small groups of excited campers. Call the office at 832-6632 for a brochure, or visit our website and register at [www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts\\_academy/campform.html](http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts_academy/campform.html).



# Meet the Staff

## A Tradition of Music

### Muriel Merbach

With grandparents who met at a recital and a mother who performed with the Lawrence Symphony at age 7, Muriel Merbach was destined to live a musical life. Her mother,



Muriel's mother, Mabel Look Mongin, at age 10 dressed as Mozart for a costume recital.

Mabel Look Mongin, began playing piano at age 3 and was accompanist for her music classes at age 7.

Mabel and most of her seven brothers and sisters studied in the preparatory music department of the Lawrence Conservatory. One of Muriel's aunts, Elsie Mae played the organ in a movie and was also the organist on the TV show, "Queen for a Day." Another aunt, Norma, graduated from Lawrence in 1924 with a degree in music and taught in the Los Angeles school district all her life.

Muriel remembers climbing onto the piano bench at age 4 and trying to plunk out melodies. Her mother gave her lessons until age 8 when Muriel began studying piano in Lawrence Conservatory's preparatory department. The prep department, predecessor to the Arts Academy, was located where the Appleton YMCA now stands. Her mother thought it was important that she follow the family tradition of music study at Lawrence.

She continued her music lessons there through high school, when she decided to enroll in the Conservatory. At that time Lawrence offered music degrees in either performance or education, so Muriel made the "practical decision" to obtain her teaching degree, with a piano major and organ minor. She planned to teach classroom music once she graduated, since she knew she would never want to teach piano lessons!

After teaching music for two years at Xavier High School, Muriel took a year off, and then decided to try teaching piano lessons. She was hesitant to begin teaching one-on-one, but soon learned she could have a profound effect on her students by working with them individually. The uninterrupted time spent with a student can lead to some

amazing conversations and relationships. She has been teaching piano lessons ever since, both out of her home, and at the Arts Academy since 1987. She also taught in the preparatory program at UW Green Bay for three years. She believes so strongly in the benefits of teaching piano lessons that in 1976 she helped form the Fox Valley Keyboard Teachers Association. She is also an active member of the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association and adjudicates for district and state auditions. Muriel is currently an accompanist for the Arts Academy Girl Choir program. She is also an accompanist in the Little Chute school district for their choral department and at solo/ensemble competitions.

To truly learn to be a musician, Muriel stresses the importance of listening. Anyone can strike a piano key and make a sound, but students need to listen for differences. "If ten kids play the same piece each one should sound different." Interpretation and listening determine whether or not a piece is artistic. She encourages students to think about the composer's ideas when learning a piece. She also stresses the importance of daily practice. We are used to an instant society where students sometimes think a quick practice the night before the lesson is sufficient. Muriel tells them, "What do you do everyday? Comb your hair, get dressed, eat meals, and play piano! Don't put your head on the pillow at night until you've spent time at the piano. If I have to practice, you do too!"



The tradition of music continues with Muriel's children and her grandchildren. Her daughter Anne Krautkramer and sons Michael and Daniel studied piano for many years with their Grandma Mabel. Anne's children, Stephanie and Julia are currently enrolled in violin lessons and Music and Movement at the Arts Academy. Even her son Michael knew when he purchased his home that he needed to have a place in the living room for a piano. Michael's two children Louis and Alexis now study piano with Muriel as does 4 year old Julia. Stephanie has heard playing her violin pieces on the piano by ear, so the tradition of music in the family will continue!

When she's not at the piano, Muriel is an avid Packer fan—she's attended every home game since age 8! She also enjoys snowmobiling with her children and grandchildren at their cabin in Florence county.

-Sara Rezin



# String Parent Meeting

By Ardern Lambert

On February 2, 2002, the Arts Academy's first string parent meeting was held. After a social "getting to know you" time with coffee, tea and delicious banana bread, the exchange unfolded with a panel of parents: Beth Flaherty, Carolyn Baird and Brenda Albaugh. They shared their experiences and reasons for having their children study music, and described how they handled the daily practice and commitment required, despite sickness, exams, field trips, and busy schedules.

The common thread that emerged throughout the exchange was each family found a way to create a musical environment and focus. Regular listening is done, both by going to concerts and by having CDs of standard repertoire

available. Practice routines are devised that suit the child's needs and changes. All the hard work is rewarded by special dinners, events or one's own successful concert performance.

The recipe for success seems to be one where parental intuition plays the biggest role in designing this enriching life-long musical education and experience for all. A big thank you to Beth Flaherty, Carolyn Baird and Brenda Albaugh for sharing their very compelling and different family musical experiences and for reminding us all how purposeful and rewarding these efforts are.

Please mark your calendar for the next parent meeting on Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. - noon, in Room 156, Shattuck Hall. Refreshments will be served.



The instrument petting zoo was a favorite attraction at the Open House.

## Did You Know?

- ? Arts Academy Specialists combined teach a total of 349 hours each week
- ? LU Conservatory faculty teach Academy students 28.5 hours a week
- ? LU Conservatory student teachers teach a total of 73 hours a week
- ? The TOTAL private lesson teaching hours for the Academy = 450 hours each week!
- ? There are 1,832 individuals currently enrolled in our programs representing 1,574 families!

By the end of our current program year, the Academy will have presented

- 12 Girl Choir concerts
- 10 instrumental group performances
- 5 masterclasses
- 4 faculty recitals
- 48 student recitals

How many  
did you attend?



## Open House

On Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Academy hosted its first annual OPEN HOUSE. What a smashing success it was with the place packed to the gills all afternoon. Lawrence catering provided incredible treats and goodies, including green punch and green cabbage centerpieces—all in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Many folk were overheard "ooo-ing and aah-ing" over the facility upgrading—including colorful, child-oriented artwork, reorganized display areas and newly reupholstered lobby furniture.

Thanks to all you parents who delivered your kids to be live guinea pigs for the numerous demonstrations. Of special interest was the collection of old organ pipes displayed by Naomi Rowley, Academy organ specialist.

Forty-four door prizes included gift certificates for the Academy, Heid Music and Conkey's Bookstore as well as *Babar* CDs and Academy T-shirts. Truly a grand time was had by all!

We're on the Web!  
[www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts\\_academy](http://www.lawrence.edu/dept/arts_academy)

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## Mark Your Calendar...

GIRL CHOIR CONCERT. Sunday, April 14, 3 p.m. Lawrence Chapel.

STRING GROUP RECITAL. Thursday, April 18, 5 p.m.,  
Emmanuel United Methodist Church Auditorium.

PIANO FESTIVAL. Saturday, April 20, Lawrence Conservatory.

GIRL CHOIR CANTABILE AUDITIONS. Tuesday and Wednesday,  
April 23 and 24, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

PIANO RECITALS. Tuesday and Thursday, April 23 and 25,  
4-7 p.m., First English Church.

PARENT MEETING. Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-noon, Shattuck Hall  
Room 156.

PIANO FESTIVAL RECITAL. Sunday, April 28, 3 p.m. Harper Hall.

HONORS BAND AND WIND ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS. Monday,  
April 29, 6-9:30 p.m., Wilson Middle School, Appleton.

GIRL CHOIR ALLEGRETTO AUDITIONS. Monday and Wednesday  
April 29 and May 1, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

PIANO RECITALS. Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5,  
12:30-5 p.m., Harper Hall and Shattuck Hall Room 156.

STRING GROUP RECITAL. Sunday, May 5, 2 p.m. Lawrence Chapel.

GIRL CHOIR BEL CANTO AUDITIONS. Monday, May 6, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

GIRL CHOIR INTERMEZZO AUDITIONS. Wednesday and Thursday,  
May 8 and 9, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

STUDENT RECITALS. Sunday, May 12, 12:30-5 p.m., Harper Hall,  
Shattuck Hall Rooms 156, and 163, Lawrence Conservatory.

ACADEMY STRING ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS. Tuesday, May 14,  
4:00-7:00 p.m., Lawrence Arts Academy.

GIRL CHOIR PRIMO AUDITIONS. Wednesday and Thursday,  
May 15 & 16, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

CANTABILE GIRL CHOIR PERFORMANCE. Saturday, June 1,  
4:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT with Girl Choir. June 8.

ODYSSEY METAMORPHOSIS CAMP. Monday-Friday, June 24-28,  
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

ODYSSEY HIGH ROAD CAMP. Jazz *or* Chamber Music Workshop.  
Monday-Friday, June 24-28, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

ODYSSEY ARTS EXPLORATION EXPANDED. Monday-Friday,  
July 22-26, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

ODYSSEY EXPLORATION CAMP. Monday-Friday, July 29-  
August 2, 8:00 a.m.-noon.

