MTU BAND NEWS

The latest from the Tech Band & Orchestra
Summer 1994
Year-end Round-up

From the Podium

My grandmother had a needlepoint verse on her wall that said, "If you want to know how sweet a home can be, just go away, but keep the key." I learned how true that old saw was this year when I attended a conducting course in Europe.

Some money for "professional development" came with the teaching award that was given to me during the Mid-Year Commencement. I used it to travel to the Czech Republic this March to participate in a 10-day, all-Beethoven conducting workshop. I was there with 11 colleagues from around the world, working with a professional orchestra in the historic spa town of Marienbad. I had the time of my life, and certainly benefitted as a musician and conductor, but I benefitted in another way as well. As I spoke to my colleagues, mostly professional conductors and conducting students, I realized how happy I am to be at Michigan Tech. Not one of the other conductors could honestly say that their musicians approached music-making with such joy and abandon as mine.

Each year at commencement I look around at the students that I have been working with during the past few years. I realized how much I will miss those that are graduating. It gets harder each year to see students leave, though I wish them only the best. It prompts me also to think about the high and low points of my career, and to be grateful for the students, colleagues, and loved ones that have been there through it all.

Thanks to all of you who have made, and continue to make this job one of the best in the world.

Rowe Inducted

Dr. Ken Rowe, member of MTU's Board of Control, became an honorary member of the Huskies Pep Band this season in a Blue-Line ceremony. Earlier in the season Dr. Rowe had been inducted into the Huskies Hall of Fame.

Dr. Rowe, a Calumet physician, is actually an alumnus of the Huskies Band. After beginning college at Tech in 1948, he transferred to NMU for his B.S., and attended med school at the University of Michigan. He played reeds throughout college.

Milwaukee Survives Husky Terror

In fact they even kind of enjoyed it! When the WCHA held their playoffs in Wisconsin’s biggest city, the Hockey Huskies made their presence known...and so did the Husky Band!

There was something missing though. Director Jeff Bell-Hanson was in Marienbad in the Czech Republic, blissfully ignorant of events at home, so Student Director Todd Sattersten took the badger by the ... hockey stick, and organized a road trip. He had help from Gayle Isaacson in the Fine Arts Office, Mitch Nelson, the Associate Student Director, Brian Wright, the Band Manager, the DaWGs officers, Athletic Director Rick Yeo, and SDC Ticket Office Manager Dale Hanes, who carried the bail money.

The trip was a smashing success for the band, including the extra performance at the Brookfield Square Mall. Listeners were so impressed that

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Music's Hot Tickets

Ticket sales for all of Michigan Tech's musical ensembles have been going through the roof this year. Though the jazz ensembles have had sell-outs in past seasons, the other ensembles are beginning to experience the same kind of interest.

The Wind Symphony had its first sell-out in recent memory this fall with "Love and Marriage, Showbiz Style," a musical entertainment that combined a comic script, stage action, and great music. Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra ticket sales have more than doubled this season. Choral ensembles have experienced a rise of at least 20% in concert attendance.

Why the sudden success? Individual factors explain parts of the phenomena, such as the KSO's move back to the Calumet Theatre. Location is part of the secret to the Wind Symphony's success as well. "We designed a program for the students, and held it on campus at a time that the students would come," says Bell-Hanson.

Whatever the individual factors, it all adds up to a concerted effort (no pun intended) to package and market concerts in a way that appeals to audiences.

The "Wind" Changes Direction

The Wind Symphony (formerly the Symphonic Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble) has changed more than its name. Last fall it began offering "entertainments" rather than just concerts. Seeking a way to generate some excitement within and around the ensemble, the group's conductor, Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, began planning a program around music that has been a hit consistantly for more than 200 years, Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro." Out of that grew the concept for a program entitled "Love and Marriage - Showbiz Style."

Sue Stephens and members of the Troupe, her

New Student Directors for PB

With Todd Sattersten's impending graduation, the Band had another opportunity to choose a Student Director. Mitch Nelson, Associate Student Director for the past two seasons, will become a full Student Director. Mitch is also principal tubist in the Wind Symphony and a former member of the champion Cadets of Bergen County.

Some additional funds have allowed us to add a second full Student Director for the coming year. The Band chose Brian Wright, currently Pep Band Manager and principal horn with the Wind Symphony.

This step is one taken in consultation with the last two Student Directors and the Head of the Fine Arts Department, Milt Olsson. It allows the band to be student-led more of the time. "I find that the Student Directors are so good at generating the energy needed at gametime, that my efforts are better spent on supporting them, rather than my own performance," remarks Bell-Hanson. "Though I will always be at the center of shaping the band musically, my role as a tenure-track faculty member in a brand new department demands more of my energy than in the past."

The additional funding, coming from Athletics and the Provost, will also help pay for new music, and badly needed instrument maintenance.

The budget increase is a sign of the respect that the Huskies Pep Band has earned in the university community over the years. The coaches, athletes and fans have all come to regard The HPB as an important part of the athletic program, and campus life in general. The members of the Pep Band will be further trading on that regard as they help raffle off Husky Hockey Jerseys at the games in the coming season. The raffles will be a joint fundraiser for the Pep Band and the Blue-Line Club. Last season Members earned several hundred dollars for the PB in just two weekends.

Julie Nash, engineering student and KSO Season Ticket Holder, won the chance to conduct the KSO as "Maestro-for-a-Moment" at the Spring Ball. The event, which featured dance music by the KSO and Jazz Lab Band, raised money for both groups.

Improvisational theatre group, joined in to provide stage action to parody the story of the opera, and thread together other pieces of music related to the theme. Steve Hovey, a saxophonist in the Jazz Lab Band and frequent halftime announcer for the Huskie Pep Band, narrated the program. It included "commercials", slapstick sight gags, and no shortage of double entendre.

There was plenty of good music-making too. The WS played works of Richard Wagner, Leonard Bernstein, Morton Gould, Mozart and Prokofiev. They even found room for a new arrangement of music from "Aladdin," destined to become a hit for the rest of the season.

The sell-out success of the performance has lead to another collaboration between The Wind Symphony and The Troupe for Fall 94. Stephens and Bell-Hanson hope to integrate the theatre and music even more completely as they take on the music of Disney for the November 4 and 5 performances.
President's Corner

Hello, All, from the DaWGs and the Huskies Pep Band!
What an exciting year we had! But first maybe I should introduce
the new officers elected this year:

President: Bill LaPal
Vice-President: John Lenore
Secretary: Scott Withrow
Treasurer: Matt Zander

This year started out with the Pep Band traveling to
Minneapolis, MN to play at the Hall of Fame game. This was the
first game played in the Minnesota’s new hockey arena. After the
game we received many compliments, and many Minnesota fans
asked us to come back next year.

Next came Winter Carnival, where the Pep Band fared
better than the hockey team. Again this year the DaWGs entered
themselves into such events as broomball and the beard contest,
but we did not seem to do all that well in these events as we did in
some other events. Our all-nighter snow sculpture took fourth; it
was a scene from Jurassic Park. The snow-volleyball team ended
up with second place. We also took places in the skating and
dogsled race. Overall the DaWGs finished in sixth place. Next
year we shoot for the top!

Spring term eventually came, and along with it came the
play-offs and a couple of firsts in sports history. The first history-
making event came during the first week of classes, when the first
round of the Women’s NCAA Basketball Play-offs came to Tech.

The second event came from our hockey team during the first
round of the WCHA play-offs. You see, our team did not fair
all that well this year and ended up in tenth place. So when the
play-offs came no one expected to see Tech there; they were
wrong. For the first time in WCHA history the tenth place team
defeated number one, Colorado College, and it was off to

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Guest Artist Residencies Continue

In spite of the recent shortage of state funding for arts
programs like the guest artists at MTU, the Fine Arts Department
continues to bring professional artists to the area for lectures,
recitals, masterclasses, and performances with MTU ensembles.
This year’s roster included two vocalists, a cellist, and a trumpet
player.

Both vocalists were part of the KSO’s quadrennial
production of Handel’s Messiah, performed in the Calumet
Theatre on December 11 and 12. (See “KSO Hits the Airwaves.”)
Soprano Elizabeth Harrison of Cincinnati, and Tenor Everett
McCorvey of Toledo brought significant experience in both
oratorio and opera to the Calumet stage. McCorvey performed
with the MTU Chamber Chorus in a recent trip to Mexico City.
Harrison has worked with Music Director Jeffrey Bell-Hanson at
the Bay View Music Festival.

Ross Harbaugh has visited the Copper Country many
times as cellist with the New World String Quartet. His perform-
ance of the beloved Concerto for Cello in B Minor by Dvorak
on February 13 was his first as a soloist here. Harbaugh is on the
faculty of the University of Miami.

Trumpeter Kevin Thews of Detroit was in the Keweenaw
for the first time in April when he performed the Anutian
Trumpet Concerto with the KSO and From the Shores of the
Mighty Pacific by Herbert L. Clarke with the Wind Symphony.
Both Harbaugh and Thews offered masterclasses to area students
during their residencies.

Next season’s concert schedule includes appearances by
pianoforte artists Penelope Crawford and Nancy Garrett,
complete with instruments, and a quartet of vocalists for the
premiere of a mass by 19th-century Copper Country composer,
Gustav Gundlach. Noted American composer Samuel Adler will
be in residence for a week in April to conduct rehearsals and
concerts with both the KSO and Wind Symphony, as well as
lectures about his music and his career as a composer. Dr. Adler
is appearing with the help of the Bosch Foundation.

KSO Welcomes Two New Concertmasters

Arie Yaacobi, Concertmaster of the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra for the past 4 seasons, will be leaving for
greener pastures this August. He and his wife, conductor Malka Sverdlow, will be heading to New England where she will
be conducting at Tufts University, and he will be pursuing a doctoral degree at either the New England Conservatory or the
Hart School of Music. Mr. Yaacobi has brought a new standard of excellence to the orchestra during his tenure, and will be
missed.

The Fine Arts Department and the Copper Country Suzuki Association have collaborated to bring two new profes-
sional violinists to the area. They will administer the CCSA, split the string teaching load, serve as Co-Concertmasters of
the KSO, and teach Music History and Music Appreciation at MTU.

Cynthia Lang comes to the Copper Country from the University of Nevada at Reno where she has been teaching
violin and Music Theory for the past four years. Ms. Lang, a Kalamazoo native, has had an extensive performing career,
most of it in Europe, and is looking forward to returning to the Midwest.

Stephan Schoeman is originally from South Africa. He has studied and performed in Europe and in the United
States, and has degrees from the University of Michigan and Michigan State. His professional resume includes orchestras
from around the world, and a 4-year tenure as concertmaster of the Midland Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Schoeman has been
in the Copper Country since January teaching for the CCSA.

The pair will be introduced to the Keweenaw audience in early October when they perform the Bach Concerto for
Two Violins.
B & O Briefs

If you catch a little warm tropical breeze at a Husky hockey game during the next season, it may be Don Keranen’s new Carribean Quiklies. Don wrote a set of four just for the Huskies Pep Band recently.

Walker Phase II (or the “Performing Arts Center,” as it’s now called) got a big boost in late May with the announcement that James Klangness, MTU alum and co-chair of the PAC fundraising campaign, announced his $1,000,000 pledge to the project. The total now stands at $5.5 million in the $18 million project.

Director of Band and Orchestra Jeff Bell-Hanson was presented with the Distinguished Teaching Award for an Assistant Professor or Lecturer during the Mid-Year Commencement in November, 1993. Prof. Peck Cho won the Distinguished Teaching Award for Associate Professor.

It’s final! Fine Arts is now a department headed by Milt Olsson. Very little has changed for the students at this point. The changes will start to become visible in the fall as curriculum revisions in Fine Arts and the Humanities kick in, and our students begin to register for “FA” courses instead of “HU” courses.

The Wind Symphony has been invited to take part in a downstate concert series next March. The Crawford AuSable Community Education program sponsors a series at Grayling High School that features university ensembles from around the state. The invitation was extended after a tour performance at Grayling in March, 1994.

The Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra took part in an award-winning TV special last fall when it performed excerpts from Handel’s Messiah for WNMU’s cameras. The special, “A Superior Celebration of Structure and Sound,” received the Best Cultural Performance award at the Central Educational Network’s Awards Competition in May, as well as a Michigan Emmy for producer Mike Settles.

What’s New...

• The old Conn Recording Bass that’s been hanging on the wall for years had to be put in service this season because of our wealth of good tubists. It has now been traded in for a new, four-valve Ceremony tuba from the Czech Republic.

• A used Conn Alto Sax was purchased jointly between the Band and Jazz Studies programs. There are lots of sax players around these days.

• A new Macintosh LCIII in the Jazz Studies Office means that a Mac SE has become available for use by the Music Librarian. Our current Librarian Kurt Madsen got a start on computerizing our library this spring. The project is likely to take several years.

• We will soon be taking delivery on a new bass drum stand. The old one just got a bit too rickety. We also expect to have some newymbals and some refurbished stands by the fall term.

• 12 new Manhasset music stands were added to the inventory last fall. The additional stands have made it possible to move one ensemble out for a performance and continue to rehearse with the others.

• Mu Beta Psi financed a facelift for the jazz fronts (design and labor by Steve Hovey), and this year’s pledge class inventoried, cleaned-up, and reorganized the rehearsal room. It will have a whole new look in 94-95. Stop by and see it.

• As an experiment, Alumni that use E-mail, and would like to hear what the Pep Band or the teams are up to any weekend of the year, or offer questions or comments, drop us a line electronically. Send your E-mail address to <lapalm @ mtu.edu>. If the response is great enough, the DaWGs will keep this service going.

Thanks for your continued support of the band and orchestra program. Your gifts make all of the above, and many activities during the year possible.

Alumni News

Debbie Todey Mulrooney (trombone) has made a couple of big changes in the last year. First, her marriage to Rob Mulrooney, resulting in the new name, and then a move to Charleston, West Virginia where she continues to work for DuPont. Welcome to the family, Rob!

The Pep Band has been playing match-maker again! Mike Richardson (BA!) and Tacy Keen (a vocalist in the KSO) tied the knot on May 28, 1994 at the Peninsula Christian Church in Dollar Bay. Mike proposed to Tacy at a hockey game, complete with a “Sunshine” serenade by the men of the Huskies Band. Talk about romantic!

Julie Chapman, first President of the DaWGs, ring-leader of the Consecration Section, and a regular at the Mosquito Inn, graduated last fall and headed for greener pastures at Caterpillar in Peoria, IL. Marcia Pettit, piccolo in the Wind Symphony, and Gabe Nehmer, cornet in the Pep Band and the E-Band have also been alums for several months. I’m not sure where Marcia and Gabe landed. Keep in touch, guys.

Peg Earl came visiting this season with Andy Peed and Dwayne Forsyth. They stopped by for some playing time during Winter Carnival. All three are working at Motorola in Arlington Heights, IL.

Warren and Maxine Brown (band alums from 1979 and 1976 respectively) wrote recently of some of their Tech memories. (See “Milwaukee…” ) They are living in Baraboo, WI where Warren works for the Olin Corporation and Maxine works for the Baraboo School District.

Hornist Dusty Tyler is at Case Western Reserve uncovering the mysteries of life. He also plays with a wind ensemble and a chamber orchestra at the university.

In case you haven’t had a chance to see the newest Turkam yet, here is a photo of Nicholas Michael and his dad, Jeff (Student Director 89-92). It’s kind of an old picture, so when you read this Jeff and Susie, send a new one!

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Milwaukee for the Pep Band. As the team stepped out on the ice to face Northern, they were greeted with chants of, “WE’RE NUMBER TEN!” from the Pep Band. The hockey team defeated Northern, but eventually lost to Minnesota and Wisconsin. Even so, it was a great trip.

A few weeks later, the DaWGs had their first fund-raising event. Sloppy joes were sold at Spring Fling, and the booth was a success. Nearly $100 was raised for the DaWGs fund.

What does the future hold for the DaWGs and the Pep Band? Well, such things as a top ten list t-shirt, being offered to our Alumni in this newsletter, more fund-raising, and more social events to allow the Pep Band members to get to know each other.

I will wrap this up by congratulating our fearless (?) leader Jeff Bell-Hanson on winning the Distinguished Teaching Award this year.

That’s about it for now. I am looking forward to hearing from everyone.

Bill LaPalm, President of the DaWGs

A Stripe of a Different Color?...Never!

Artist Bob Slater, of MTU’s Publications and Photo Services Department did some dreaming on his computer (at Jeff Bell-Hanson’s request) about what the Pep Band might look like in the late ‘90’s. He came up with a number of different thoughts, all within the framework of the bib overalls.

Which one do you suppose the current Band members responded to most favorably? If you guessed C), you were right. Though it doesn’t show up in black and white, this design keeps the trademark vertical stripes, but casts them in gold, black, and silver. The new Huskies Pep Band logo, a not-yet-completed design reflecting the recent Athletic logo change, may even appear on the new stripes. You can look for a full color print in an Alumnus Magazine soon.

This design is going to manufacturers for bids. It may have to be modified to match available fabric designs. The stripes will probably be debuted sometime in 1995.

All of this poses an interesting problem: what to do with the old stripes. Suggestions to date have ranged from selling them as souvenirs to hanging them along the M-26 and US-41 to psyche out approaching goalies. What are your suggestions? Send them to John Lenore; c/o The Pep Band; 209 WAHC; MTU; 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931.
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Support the DaWGs! Get your "Top-Ten" T-shirt today. See the order form on this sheet.

The Latest from the MTU Band and Orchestra...

Attention Pep Band Alumni

Ever wonder what "DaWG's" (Our Student Organization's name) stands for? You can get a Top-Ten list of meanings provided by actual Pep Band Members! Here are just a few...

"Darn "We Wanna Win" Games Guys With Dyslexia Da World's Greatest

As a Bonus: This shirt will be the first item produced with the NEW PEP BAND LOGO! Wow!

Plus, 50¢ of each order will be donated to the DaWG's' Activity Fund

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