



Thursday, January 31, 2002

MTD department achievements

In 2001, MTD received three separate accreditations from the National Association of Schools of Music, the National Association of Schools of Theatre, and National Association of Schools of Dance. This makes OU one of the few universities in the country to receive accreditation in music, theatre and dance in the same year.

Majors in the performing arts areas have grown from 171 in the fall of 1995 to 476 in the fall of 2001, an increase of 271 percent.

Graduate programs in music have increased 311 percent from the fall of 1995 to the fall of 2001.

Over 1,500 students annually take courses in the performing arts areas.

Over 100 non-majors participated in departmental ensembles and performances in 2001.

170 grade and middle-school students took part in Youth Arts Camps held at OU in 2001.

Over 10,800 students and members of the community attended MTD performances last year, both on and off-campus.

In 1998, MTD and Meadow Brook Theatre, the university's professional theatre, collaborated for the first time on the production of the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play "Angels in America, Millennium Approaches." The collaboration between MTD and MBT is unique in its involvement of undergraduate students.

Faculty achievements

In 2001, OU named the first recipients of the Doris and Paul Travis Professor Program, the first such endowment in the College of Arts and Sciences. The award honors one faculty member from Music, Theatre, Dance and Art and Art History. The four recipients are selected for their outstanding accomplishments in teaching, research and/or professional services. Each receives an annual salary supplement of \$5,000 and a faculty development fund of \$1,700 per year for three years. The 2001 MTD Travis professors are John-Paul White, professor of Music; Michael Gillespie, associate professor of Theatre; Laurie Eisenhower, professor of dance; and Jan Schimmelman, department of Art and Art History. The endowed professorships were made possible by a generous gift from Doris Travis and the estate of the late Paul Travis.

Lettie Alston, associate professor of music, and Terry Herald, lecturer, each won the 2001-2002 ASCAPLU\$ Standard Award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). In 2001, Alston produced a CD recording of her music along with many other artists to recognize the Detroit Tricentennial. She also participated in an international symposium on composition in Africa and the Diaspora at the University of Cambridge in London, where she had a premiere performance of her work "Journey: The Longest Mile." Herald produced music for the PBS special "Lionel Hampton: Back to Paradise," composed music for the PBS series "Washington Week in Review," composed and produced music for the NBC special "Not Without Hope," and the award-winning PBS special "Air Force One: The Planes and the President." He also composed the theme for the Mr. Wizard Nickelodeon series "Teacher to Teacher."

In 1999, four Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians, Kimberly Kaloyanides and Hai Xin Wu (violin), Glenn Mallow (viola) and Debra Fayroian (cello) performed as part of MTD's Professional Artists Series, and assumed positions as applied faculty, joining a number of other DSO musicians in teaching and coaching OU students in solo and chamber music performances.

Applied Voice Instructor and Lecturer Barbara Bland sings regularly with the Michigan Opera Theatre and has been in productions such as "Carmen," "The Magic Flute," "La Traviata," "Rigoletto," "Aida" and "Madame Butterfly."

Director of Musical Theatre and pianist James Wells has performed extensively and been heard on national and international National Public Radio affiliates as well as on the Canadian Broadcast Corporation.

In 2001, John-Paul White, professor of music and voice instructor, was chosen to sing Mozart's "Requiem" and Beethoven's "Mass in C" at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City. He has also sung bass in challenging roles for other well-respected and recognized companies such as the San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Cleveland Opera Company, Grand

Rapids Opera Company and the Michigan Opera Theatre.

David DiChiera, former chair of the Music department and general and artistic director of the Michigan Opera Theatre, was awarded an honorary doctor of arts degree in 2001 for his civic and artistic leadership. DiChiera had an active role in establishing the Meadow Brook Music Festival and also created the Overture to Opera program series, which developed into the Michigan Opera Theatre. He also spearheaded the creation of the Detroit Opera House, which opened in 1996.

Student achievements

Jacquelyn Wagner, a vocal performance major and MTD scholarship recipient, won the highly competitive Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra's Mozart Vocal Competition, held last November. She will perform at the "Mozart Birthday Bash" on Saturday, Jan. 19 at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

A two-person play, "Oleanna," performed by Angel MacClean (CAS '93) and Associate Professor of Theatre Michael Gillespie in the fall of 2000 was the first academic performance to receive a four-star rating from the Detroit Free Press.

Theatre major Esau Pritchett was one of two 1996-97 Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTF) national winners of the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. Pritchett was nominated for his portrayal of Joe Keller in Arthur Miller's "All My Children," directed at OU by Associate Professor of Theatre Michael Gillespie.

Gayelynn McKinney, CAS '89, recorded and toured with "Straight Ahead," an all-female jazz group she helped found in 1984 as an OU student. The group recorded several albums for Atlantic Records and earned several national and local awards.

Corey Skaggs, CAS '94, landed the second male lead in a 1996 production of "Sunset Boulevard" on the West End, London's equivalent to Broadway.

The student production of "Cloud Nine" was selected by the American College Theater Festival as one of the six best in the nation for 1993 and earned the cast and crew of MTD the honor of performing at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

SUMMARY

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