

Notes

International Adventist Musicians Association



WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MUSIC BUILDING

The construction of a new music building at WAU (formerly Columbia Union College) will begin following an April 9 groundbreaking ceremony during the school's annual homecoming weekend. When completed, the two-phase project will satisfy a half-century need and dream for adequate facilities to house the music program.

The first phase of the project, which will cost six million dollars, will be a three-story building constructed on the site of the present primary building for the department, which now conducts its program in four different buildings. Although at street level it will appear to be two stories, the building site is on the crest of a hill that drops sharply and facilitates a third basement-level floor with full daylight exposure and walk-in access.

The building will include five teaching studios, a large two-story

instrumental rehearsal area for band and orchestra, a large classroom, two large practice rooms suitable for chamber music ensembles, three medium-sized practice rooms, and a percussion studio/practice room. Other features include a music library and three ensemble libraries, a chair's office, administrative offices for the music program, a robing room, and storage for private and university instruments.

The choir will continue to rehearse at an atrium located in nearby Sligo Church. The atrium, which seats 150 and can be expanded for overflow audiences, is conveniently located diagonally across the street from the present music building. An aesthetically attractive setting with marble surfaces, excellent acoustics, and a grand piano, it will continue to serve as a recital hall until phase two

of the music building is completed. The recital hall in the phase-two building, which will be located adjacent to the phase-one building, will include a pipe organ and serve as the choral rehearsal area.

Placing the new building at the location of the present music building provides easy access to a nearby large parking area that will provide adequate parking for students, faculty, and concertgoers who attend programs in the present atrium and the future recital hall.

The building, designed by the architect firm Imai Keller Moore in Boston, draws minimally on preliminary architectural plans from past work (size of rooms, scope of the project) done by another architectural firm in the late 1990s. IKM's principal architect for the project, Martha Ondras, who is

Continued on page 3

WAU . . .

married to Martin Pearlman, founder and director of the Boston Baroque, an international known early music ensemble, is intimately aware of the concerns of musicians and the requirements associated with music facilities.

Funding for the new building is coming from two sources. The state of Maryland is providing 2.5 million with the understanding that the school will match that amount and it will be completed within a year. The university board voted that amount and an additional million. Although initially half a million dollars was to be used for purchase of instruments and furnishings, it was decided to use the full allotment of funds to gain additional space and cover increasing construction costs.

As the first new building in thirty years and hopefully the first of several needed to upgrade the campus and its facilities, the music project is creating excitement and optimism at the

university about the future. In the 1970s and 1980s, there were serious questions about the school's survival because of enrollment declines and its location, which led to an actual proposal to merge CUC with Atlantic Union College and relocate to another area.

Changes in college and music leadership in the 1990s, however, led to a renewal of commitment as the school celebrated its centennial in 2003 and 2004, with music playing a major role in improving the school's image in those years and in celebrating that important milestone.

In this current year, a 47% increase in the freshman class and a 19%

A CULTURAL ADVANTAGE . . .

Washington Adventist University, founded in 1904, was the ninth college to be established in America by the Seventh-day Adventist church. Initially named Washington Training College, it was renamed Washington Foreign Mission Seminary in 1907, and, in 1914, Washington Missionary College. The name was changed in 1961 to Columbia Union College and its present name was adopted in 2009.

From the beginning, even with a program meant specifically to train persons for mission service, the importance of music was stressed. By the time the school was reorganized in 1914 as Washington Missionary College and began offering college level work, music had become a popular area of study.

That fact and the cultural offerings in the Washington area, easily reached with a five-cent trolley car ride, were listed in promotional articles about the school. The school's location led to an enviable ongoing cultural advantage that has benefited the college's music program for over a century. Today the music ensembles at WAU have become an important part of musical life in the nation's capital, frequently performing in the most distinguished venues in the city.

MUSIC FACILITIES AT WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY THROUGH THE YEARS

In its beginnings, music at what is now Washington Adventist University afforded limited opportunities in keyboard, group experiences, and music instruction. As the program evolved, it was finally given a home in 1919 in a building called the "Sunshine Cottage," a small, noisy building on the far edge of campus. Ensembles rehearsed in the auditorium of Columbia Hall, the main college building located on the other side of campus. In the 1927-28 school year, the basement of Central Hall, a large wooden building in the center of

the campus, was renovated to include a rehearsal and classroom area, studios, and practice rooms.

This arrangement continued for two decades, until a Music Studio Annex became the building for music, with the choir rehearsing in nearby Sligo church, finished three years earlier, in 1944. The Annex, later called the Music Hall, has been in use for more than 60 years. It, with a former residence now known as the Music Annex, an atrium in Sligo church, and a wing of the men's dormitory house the music program.



The Music Hall

Notes

increase in overall enrollment, the largest ever at WAU and the

largest this year within the circle of Adventist colleges and

universities, have energized the school.
Dan Shultz



The Washington Adventist University choir and orchestra in a recent performance

THE CHORAL TRADITION AT WAU

From the beginning of the WAU music program in the first decade of the 20th century, choirs have played a critical role, providing a thread of continuity in music for over a century. That role will be celebrated during this year's alumni weekend when members of past choirs return to join with the present choir to form an ensemble directed by three of its most recent directors. The following persons have directed the primary choral groups at the university.

Clemen Hamer*	1908-17	Oliver S. Beltz*	1946-52	Larry Otto*	1977-79
Frances Perce Stratton	1917-19	Minnie Iverson-Wood*	1952-55	Robert Young	1979-84
James W. Osborn*	1920-28	Elmer Testerman*	1955-58	Leland Tetz	1984-90
Victor Johnson*	1928-34	Glenn Cole	1958-62	Jon Gilbertson	1990-92
Williard F. Shadel*	1934-37	Paul Hill*	1962-70	Paul Hill*	1992-94
George W. Greer*	1937-43	Lyle Jewell*	1970-74	James Bingham*	1994-
Minnie Iverson-Wood*	1943-46	Leland Tetz	1974-77		

*biographies at www.iamonline.com

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AT WAU

Although instrumental music offerings at the WAU have varied and had an uneven history in the past century, they have played an important role in the music program. The following is a listing of key persons in instrumental leadership at WAU.

BAND & ORCHESTRA

Victor Johnson*	1928-34
Williard F. Shadel*	1934-37

ORCHESTRA

Raymond Casey*	1938-40
George Wargo*	1942-55
Jane Summerour Ralls*	1955-61
Edward Lindquist	1961-63
Edith Eckenroth Gates*	1963-71
Robert Walters*	1971-74

Edith Eckenroth Gates*	1974-
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BAND

Minor Day Plumb*	1951-57
Norman Krogstad*	1957-62
Frederick L. Lorenz	1962-65
Adell Haughey Claypool*	1965-78
Robert Tennyson	1985-93
David Workman	1994-97
Bruce Wilson*	1998-

ORCHESTRA

New England Youth Ensemble
New England Symphonic Ensemble
1994-
Virginia-Gene Rittenhouse* &
Preston Hawes*
Conductors

*biographies at www.iamonline.com