



School of Music, Watson Hall



# In Tune

School of Music Newsletter  
September 2010

*Editorial Staff: Martha Urbanik & Katherine Taylor*

## Welcome Dean Weast!

Following an intense two-year search the School of Music is happy to welcome our new dean, Wade Weast. Dr. Weast was Director of the School of Music at the University of South Florida prior to coming to UNCSA. We asked him to share some things about himself that cannot be found in his curriculum vitae currently posted on the main Music page at the school website.

### **In Tune: How did you spend your summer?**

**WW:** Most of the summer was spent moving to and getting settled in Winston-Salem. However, I was fortunate to attend the International Trumpet Guild (ITG) conference in Sydney, Australia in July. For many years I have served as the chair of the scholarship competition for the ITG, which allows me to stay connected to the trumpet world by matching individual and corporate donors with deserving trumpet students who would otherwise not be able to attend the conference. While at the conference I heard many fine performances, including UNCSA's trumpet faculty member **Judith Saxton's** fine premiere performance of Terry Mizesko's *Lamento for Don Quixote*. After Australia I went on vacation in New Zealand and, aside from the three days I spent on airplanes, it was a great trip!



**In Tune: What do you like most about living in Winston-Salem?**

**WW:** The terrain is beautiful and I have found the people to be very friendly. I love that I don't sit in traffic jams all the time and I am looking forward to enjoying all four seasons again, something not possible in Florida.

**In Tune: What first attracted you to a career in music?**

**WW:** I was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade when I began trumpet in a public music school program in Oklahoma. I pretty much knew right away that I wanted a career in music. At first, like many students I suppose, I wanted to be my music teacher.

**In Tune: Have you always lived on the East Coast?**

**WW:** No, actually I was born in San Diego, California and moved around a lot as a Navy brat. I went to grade school in Tennessee and middle and high school in Oklahoma, before moving to New York for undergraduate and graduate school. Every so often people tell me they can hear traces of my Oklahoma dialect and I have already alerted the Chancellor's office that I am happy to serve as a dialect coach for UNCSCA's production of *Oklahoma!* if needed.

**In Tune: Do you still perform?**

**WW:** Yes, though my interest in administration has meant that I have had to scale back somewhat over the years. I have continued to take on a few performing projects including this past summer a quintet job at Radio City Music Hall in NYC. My plan is to first get my feet on the ground as UNCSCA's new dean. My guess is that by fall I will be itching to perform again.

**In Tune: Do you have any other talents?**

**WW:** I do okay in the kitchen, though I have heard there are music faculty that rival Julia Child so I am hesitant to brag.

**In Tune: What do you do in your spare time?**

**WW:** Spare time, what's that? I am a baseball junkie and have recently discovered the Dash – Winston-Salem's single-A baseball farm team for the Chicago White Sox – and their beautiful new stadium. I am also a news junkie and enjoy reading about politics, the economy, and (of course) the arts. I am currently finishing Anthony Bourdain's book, *Medium Raw*

**In Tune: What is your favorite television show?**

**WW:** I am currently hooked on *Top Chef* but *Meet the Press* is a close second.

**In Tune: What do you listen to in the car?**

**WW:** Usually NPR, but I am also a fan of XM radio's Metropolitan Opera channel.

**In Tune: Any pets?**

**WW:** Two Chihuahuas, Marco and Diego, both of whom speak Spanish. Marco was a rescue dog and so we are still trying to decipher the various issues from his past. Diego has learned several tricks and is clearly gifted (okay, a little spoiled too).

## Welcome New Faculty

**Robin Driscoll** joins the music faculty this year as interim oboe instructor following the retirement of John Ellis. Robin is an alumnus of the high school program at UNCSA and holds a double bachelor degree in Oboe Performance and Mathematics from Case Western Reserve University and a Master of Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He also teaches at the University of Pittsburgh, Chatham University, and is a guest lecturer at West Virginia University. Robin performs as Principal Oboe for the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre Orchestra, Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, and the Sewickley BachFest of Pittsburgh. To add to his talents Robin has mastered the metal machining techniques necessary for the development of a new oboe cane gouging machine that he has patented called the Opus1 Gouger.



**John Ilika**, Principal Trombone of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra, Opera Company of North Carolina, and North Carolina Ballet, succeeds James Miller as trombone instructor this year. In addition to a prolific performing career he has taught at Eastern Music Festival, Lehigh University, and other schools in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Venezuela. John is a frequent master class and recital guest artist, and has performed on several classical and jazz recordings, and many background recordings for commercials, singers, and jingles with artists such as Aretha Franklin, and NFL Films. John plays alto, tenor, and bass trombone.

Clarinet students will remember **Robert Listokin** as a revered former instructor and frequent guest artist in their studio. Mr. Listokin will serve as interim while the school searches for a new clarinet faculty.



Dr. **Thomas Swenson** rejoins the faculty this year to teach college prep aural skills. Dr. Swenson is the Director of the Community Music School and Assistant Professor of Music at Salem College and has also taught piano, piano pedagogy, and music theory at UNCSA. He completed his Ph.D. in Music Education with emphasis in Piano Pedagogy at the University of Oklahoma and has also studied at Minnesota State University (Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance), the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Master of Music in Piano Performance). He is an active solo and collaborative pianist.

**Matthew Troy** is well known to UNCSA faculty, staff and students as the Assistant Conductor and Education Director of the Winston-Salem Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Winston-Salem Symphony Youth Orchestra. Matt will teach instrumental conducting and will join the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra to conduct their November concert. He has extensive conducting experience including the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Wake Forest University Orchestra, Salisbury Symphony and Youth orchestras, Portland Symphony Orchestra, and Greensboro Symphony Youth Orchestra and Greensboro Ballet Company, in addition to being a guest lecturer and clinician.



## Special Guest Artist

The School of Music will host a special guest appearance in November by well known Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Fredericka Von Stade. Ms. Von Stade will perform a recital at the Stevens Center on November 10 and give a master class in Watson Hall on November 11. A fundraising event for the A. J. Fletcher Opera Institute and School of Music scholarships will also be held during her time in Winston-Salem.



## September Performances

***music@watson:* Musicians of the Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival**  
(Sat) Sept 18, 7:30 p.m., Watson Chamber Music Hall

Six summers after its founding by UNCOSA artist faculty Kevin Lawrence, Green Mountain Chamber Music has become a centerpiece of the musical life of Burlington, VT. This program brings a festival concert to Winton-Salem, with Green Mountain artists Lawrence on violin, Sheila Browne on viola, Brooks Whitehouse on cello, and David Russell, distinguished professor of violin at UNCC, joined by UNCOSA flutist Tadeu Coelho, playing quartets by Mozart, Dvorak and Steven Mackey, and the flute quintet of Amy Marcy Cheney Beach. \$12 adults / \$10 seniors and students