

The American Band College of Southern Oregon University

Now in its twenty-third year of operation, the American Band College began as a summer workshop for school band directors. In 1992 a masters degree program was implemented in which 6 candidates enrolled. Today, there are over 200 band directors from more than 40 states and three foreign countries enrolled in this Sam Houston State University masters program. This summer 62 will complete the degree requirements bringing the total number of graduates in the first 18 classes to 643.

The teaching faculty for ABC includes 24 of the world's finest teachers, conductors, and composers. Each summer a new faculty is presented so that attendees are exposed to the expertise of more than 60 teachers during their 3 summers in Ashland. Local faculty include Scott McKee (Managing Director), Paul Kassulke (Director of Operations, 1994 ABC grad) and Max McKee (ABC Executive Director). ABC Graduates on the staff include Cathi Leibinger (Florida 1999), Ted Burton (Oregon 2000), Elizabeth Loneran (Oregon 2002), Jay Jones (California 1998), Matthew Arau (Colorado 2003), Marianne Robison (Oregon 1997) and Tracy Wright (Georgia 2004). Nel McKee (Financial Manager). Additional operations staff include Kay Kassulke (Special Services), Angel McDonald (ABC Center for Research) as well as Carolyn Accatino (Concord, California) and Amy Wright (Chickamauga, Georgia).

When candidates first enter the program (nearly 50 new ones this year), the American Band College faculty administers two extensive entrance exams measuring 40 areas of teaching (instrument fingerings, embouchure development, percussion instruments and techniques, conducting, band literature and many others) as well as music theory. From those results each of the candidates develops a course of study that concentrates only on his or her 7 to 20 areas of weakness. This includes annual written exams, video assessments and the completion of 6 special thesis projects.

During their on-campus time each summer, candidates attend more than 70 sessions (covering many facets of band directing) while playing 3 hours a day in the ABC Directors' Bands. In these ensembles, candidates sightread more than 75 new compositions and also prepare 40 compositions for the two major public performances under 8 guest conductors and 2 world-renowned soloists. This year over 125 second and third year masters candidates serve as preparation conductors for the guest composers and directors. This is part of the American Band College evaluation process at Sam Houston State University of Huntsville, Texas.

Guest conductors for this year's Ginger Rogers Craterian Theater concert include Peter Boonshaft (, Frank Ticheli (American composer), Robert Ponto (University of Oregon), Al Wright (National Band Association founder), Gladys Wright (Women Band Directors International founder) and soloist ensemble, Boston Brass.

The ABC Directors' Band also participates in the Ashland Fourth of July parade and then presents a two-and-a-half hour Fireworks Concert at Ashland High Football Stadium beginning at 8:00 p.m. (pre-concert music and special activities begin at 7:00 p.m.) Guest conductors for this year's July 4th concert include Col. Arnald Gabriel (USAF Commander ret), Robert W. Smith (American composer) and Mike Bankhead (USAF Band ret., and Master of Ceremonies). Guest soloist ensemble is the renowned Boston Brass.

The American Band College at the Crate A Night to Remember



Frank Ticheli • Peter Boonshaft
Robert Ponto • Boston Brass
Honoring Al & Gladys Wright

Saturday, June 25, 2011
Ginger Rogers Craterian Theater
Medford, Oregon



Frank Ticheli is Director of Pre-Tertiary Studies at the Griffith University Queensland Conservatorium. A well-known composer of band music, he is a two-time winner of Yamaha's Most Outstanding Composition Award at the Australian Band and Orchestra Clinic. In 2005, he was presented with prestigious International Award at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. He travels throughout the world as a guest conductor and clinician. He has been a featured composer/conductor at our Western International Band Clinic on three occasions. This is his fourth appearance as an faculty member of the American Band College.



Peter Boonshaft holds bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees from the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. He served on the faculty of Hartt School of Music in the 1980s and has been Director of Bands at Hofstra University in New York since 1990, where he also serves as Director of the Graduate Wind Conducting program. He travels extensively as a keynote speaker and guest conductor through the United States.



Boston Brass Performing over 100 concerts a year, the members of Boston Brass have dazzled audiences at concerts and jazz festivals around the world in such cities as Tokyo, Singapore, Taipei, Macau, New York, Portland, Seattle, Philadelphia, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and many more.

They have conducted master classes at the Eastman School of Music, Peabody Conservatory of Music, the University of North Texas, University of Michigan and UCLA to name just a few. They have appeared twice at our Western International Band Clinic convention in Seattle, Washington and this is their second visit to the American Band College.

Tonight's setting of Caravan was set especially for Boston Brass and full band at WIBC. The Malagueña arrangement for Boston Brass and full band was set by former BB member, J.D. Shaw, especially for tonight's concert.

The American Band College Directors



Max and Scott McKee Paul Kassulke

Paul Kassulke is the latest full-time member of our staff and serves as Director of Operations for the American Band College and Western International Band Clinic. He also serves as Associate Editor for Bandworld Magazine.

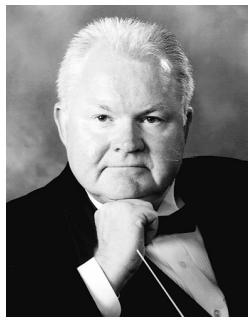
He taught band in the Lutheran high schools of Wisconsin and Minnesota for thirty years. He is a member of the first graduating class of ABC (1994) and joined the summer staff in 1999. Now living in the Pacific Northwest, he and his wife, Kay, enjoy their 8 grown children and 14 grandchildren.

Scott McKee is Managing Director of the American Band College and Organizing Chairman of Western International Band Clinic (now in its 33th year). In 2004 he was elected as an Associate Member of the American Bandmasters Association and is co-editor of Bandworld Magazine. He served as a band director in the public schools of Oregon from 1995-2002 and created the Siskiyou Symphonic Band, a 75-piece honor group comprised of students from southern Oregon high schools; three years ago he formed the Willamette Valley Honor Band in the Eugene area. He has 5 children and lives in Springfield, Oregon with his wife, Stacy Swartout-McKee, who is Choir Director at Springfield High School.

Max McKee and Tim Lautzenheiser founded the ABC Summer program in 1989. Max taught at Southern Oregon University from 1967-1997 but continues to serve as Executive Director of ABC. He is co-editor of Bandworld Magazine and Board Chairman of Western International Band Clinic. In 1981 he was elected to membership in The American Bandmasters Association and served on its Board of Directors; he is currently on the John Philip Sousa Foundation Board. In 1998 he received the Sousa Foundation's highest award, The Medal of Honor. In 2003 he was inducted as an honorary member of Phi Beta Mu, in 2005 received the Midwest Clinic's Music Industry Award, and in summer 2006 the American School Band Directors Association A.A. Harding Award. He has been married to Nelwyn Spicer McKee for 49 years and has 4 grown children as well as 9 grandchildren.

Honoring ABC's great friend, Bruce Dinkins

April 12, 1951-June 22, 2011



Bruce Dinkins just completed his 11th year at James Bowie High School in Austin, Texas. Previously he had taught in Irmo, South Carolina and North Gwinnett High School, Georgia State University and Emory University. His groups have appeared at Bands of America, numerous divisional MENC conferences and the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago. His bands have been grand champions of the Smokey Mountain Music Festival and first place at the National Adjudicators Invitational on four separate occasions. He was an elected member

of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and appeared on numerous occasions at both WIBC and ABC in recent years. Bruce passed away in his sleep during his stay in Ashland this week.

Beginning in 1999 Bruce started coming to Ashland for ABC periodically as a guest conductor or as an assessment faculty member for candidates in the American Band College masters degree program. During that same period of time his superb high school bands came to our Western International Band Clinic in Seattle as featured groups on evening concerts.

The Wrights: Celebrating 181 years of life!

Gladys Stone Wright

Born 1925 in Lebanon, Oregon.
Grad of Lebanon (Oregon) H.S. (1943)
Bachelors & Masters: Univ. of Oregon

Women Band Directors International:
Founding President
Phi Beta Mu: Hon. Member (1st woman)

Elected to ASBDA (3rd woman)
Elected to ABA (1st woman)
Member ABA Board of Directors
Sudler Order of Merit Gold Medal

Taught Elmira High School (Oregon)
Taught Otterbein School (Indiana)
Taught at Klondike High School (Indiana)
Taught Harrison High School (Indiana)

Al Wright

Born 1916 in London, England
Graduate of Pontiac (Michigan) H.S. (1933)
Bachelors & Masters : University of Miami
Doctorate: Troy State Univ (Honoris Causa)

Florida Orchestra Association, President
Florida Bandmasters Association, President
Florida Music Educators, President
ASBDA Charter Member
American Bandmasters Assoc., President
ABA Honorary Life Member
NBA Founding Member & President
John Philip Sousa Foundation, Pres. & CEO
McDonald's All-American Band, Co-founder

Taught at Miami High School (Florida)
Taught at Purdue University (Indiana)



Robert Ponto Director of Bands at the University of Oregon, Robert Ponto previously taught at Oberlin Conservatory, East Carolina University, Pacific Lutheran University and in the public schools of Minnesota. He has also served as conductor of the Eugene Symphonic Band and as a faculty member at the University of Oregon Summer Camp. In addition, he is an elected member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association.



Gladys Stone Wright grew up in Oregon and received bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Oregon. She began teaching in Elmira and after her marriage to Al Wright moved to Indiana. There her Otterbein High School Band was selected for and performed at the Midwest Band Clinic in 1960. Later her Harrison High School received the Gold Medal at the World Music Contest in Holland. She was the first woman elected to the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and is the founding president of the Women

Band Directors International. She and Al were on the faculty of the American Band College in 1989, its first year and returned again in 2005 and 2008. On this evening's concert she will conduct The Klaxon March by famous composer and close friend, Henry Fillmore.



Al Wright began his teaching career at Miami High School in Florida where his band was selected to perform at the famous Midwest Band Clinic in 1951. He then moved to Purdue University where his marching band, Golden Girl and the World's Largest Bass Drum became famous. The Purdue bands performed at Radio City Music Hall and in the Rose Bowl. He was founder or co-founder of important band organizations as the National Band Association, the American School Band Directors Association, the MacDonald's Band and the John

Philip Sousa Foundation. He is past president of the American Bandmasters Association and for over 30 years operated the United States Collegiate Wind Band European Concert Tours with wife Gladys. This evening Al will conduct Henry Fillmore's Rolling Thunder March with ABC, which has been proud to help him celebrate his 95th birthday.



— Program —

Springtime Madrigal Claude LeJeune
arr. M. Max McKee
The combined bands of ABC with The Boston Brass

The Redwoods Rossano Galante
Peter Boonshaft, Conductor

Rest Frank Ticheli

Cajun Folk Songs 2 (2nd mvt.) Frank Ticheli
Frank Ticheli, Conductor

Once More Unto the Breach Stephen Melillo
1. Speed of Dark
2. I Shall Hear
3. Unto the Breach
Peter Boonshaft, Conductor

The Klaxon. Henry Fillmore
arr. Frederick Fennell
Gladys Wright, Conductor

Caravan Duke Ellington
arr. J.D. Shaw
Robert Ponto with Boston Brass



— Intermission —

The Boston Brass On Stage

Simple Gifts Frank Ticheli
1. In Yonder Valley
2. Dance

San Antonio Dances Frank Ticheli
Frank Ticheli, Conductor

Celebration Fanfare Steven Reineke

Song for Lyndsay Andrew Boysen

Raise of the Son Rossano Galante
Peter Boonshaft, Conductor

Malagueña Ernesto Lecuona
arr. J.D. Shaw
Robert Ponto with The Boston Brass

Rolling Thunder Henry Fillmore
arr. Andrew Glover
Al Wright, Conductor

A Special Tribute to Al & Gladys Wright A Night to Remember