

A CENTURY OF SOUND



Newberry College has a rich history in vocal and instrumental performance dating back over 100 years. With revitalized visions for both areas of study, the college is poised for great, continued progress and outstanding achievement.

The first reference of campus organized vocal presentations actually dates back to 1833. Though Newberry College was chartered in 1856, its founding school, the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, has historical records which state, "On Saturday evening there shall be exercises in singing, at least for one hour; all students are required to attend them for improvement in singing, unless, in the opinion of the professors, they should be destitute of all musical talent."

The first time a musical ensemble is referenced in college archives is in a memorial publication following college president George Holland's funeral in 1895, which stated, "The service was in the College Chapel (which was in Keller Hall) . . . there was appropriate music by the College Choir; the service was solemn and impressive." In 1904, an instrumental gift enabled the school to expand beyond choral studies. The student publication, *The Stylus*, wrote,

Original group of Newberry College Singers 1932



"Newberry ought to provide opportunities for general musical culture. Consequently we have recently been provided with high-grade instruments from the warehouse rooms of the Cable Piano Company. . . Little impromptu concerts are frequently given in Holland Hall by means of these remarkable instruments."

Much progress was made in the school's vision and ability to develop ensembles in the early 1900's. In 1905, the Orchestra, the first formal musical group, was established. Additionally, a 25-member Glee Club performed at the Newberry Opera House under the direction of the college's baseball coach. In 1907 the Glee Club was formally organized under the direction of science professor Dr. Roy Z. Thomas.

Recurring music courses began being offered during the 1926 academic year when Summerland College, a Lutheran Women's College in Batesburg, South Carolina, began a merger process with Newberry College. The 1926-27 Newberry catalog listed 19 musical courses and two music faculty. When the merger was completed in the early 30's, the college began offering its first major in music as Dr. Paul Ensrud, renowned Norwegian Lutheran composer, author and former Professor of Music at Concordia, was brought to Newberry. He quickly set a high standard of excellence in vocal performance and led the choir to receive regional high praise.

Also in the 1930's the school's orchestra, known in the town and surrounding counties for playing outdoor concerts, had picked-up on the cultural momentum that jazz and big band styles of music

had gained nation-wide. In 1938, the College "N" Orchestra's jazz and big band styles garnered critical acclaim in *Metronome*, a New York-based modern music magazine.

During the WWII years, particularly from 1943-1945, many of Newberry's jazz big band instrumentalists were servicemen in the legendary V-12 Naval Trainee program. More than 800 servicemen spent some time on campus in various tenures of study. Among these were outstanding musicians who would later be celebrated for more than their love for making music. One such individual was Harold Thomas Pace Hayes, editor of *Esquire* magazine 1963 to 1973. Considered by many as the main architect of the New Journalism movement, Hayes was a great trombonist who continued his love for jazz and playing the trombone beyond his time at Newberry.

It was in 1956 that a major turning point in the school's musical history took place. A 1950 alumnus and highly respected United States National Guard band leader, Charles "Chief" Pruitt, left teaching band in the public secondary school sector to return to his alma mater to formally organize and direct the college's jazz, marching, and concert bands. The Newberry College marching band, which has been in existence since that time, is now one of the most unique aspects of Newberry College's music program. Newberry is one of the smallest colleges in the country with a marching band program, and it is the only Lutheran college in the country with such.

Also in 1956 Pruitt established an annual jazz festival at Newberry College which is considered to be the second oldest jazz festival in the nation. Every year regional high school bands come for jazz workshops featuring well-known professional jazz musicians.

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V-12 Navy Band



Newberry College Singers late 1960's



Jazz Band, 1969

Big Band 1963



“Chief” Pruitt directed Newberry College’s bands for 32 years before retiring in 1989. Finding his faculty replacement was not an easy task. However, in 1992 a native Midwesterner from the Black Hills of South Dakota with a great reputation like Pruitt for recruiting and teaching in public schools, was found. Bill Long saw the opportunity at Newberry to take his passion and skills to a higher, even more challenging level of leadership. His oversight immediately began to reinvigorate the deeply rooted legacy of instrumental performance at the college.

For the next 21 years Professor Long would not only rebuild the college’s band programs significantly, but continue the reputation of recruiting and developing exceptional jazz/big band talent. Such was proudly proven when renowned master saxophonist, Skipp Pearson, who has worked with many legendary jazz musicians was asked to put together a jazz ensemble to play for “The Grits and Granite Inaugural Ball;” South Carolina and New Hampshire’s Presidential Ball in January 2009. One of the first places Pearson traveled to select talent for this prestigious honor was Newberry College. He selected two musicians; trumpeter Robbie Madison and pianist Shannon Pickney. These two young men would not only join the rest of Pearson’s professionals for that D.C. gala, but both students’ performances made such an impression there that each was invited to display their instrumental talent weeks later in New York’s Lincoln Center.

For more than half a century, Pruitt and Long, two iconic musicians held the reigns of the Newberry College bands while directing the only marching band at a Lutheran college in the U.S. Both leave behind a legacy that will echo through the future classes of music students.

Vocal and instrumental music at Newberry College have long been important parts of the school’s culture and solid reputation. Newberry now hosts over 50 musical performances on campus every school year in addition to regional tours for the Singers and the Jazz Big Band.

The Department of Music now offers majors in music with an emphasis in either Church Music or Music Theory, Musical Performance, and Musical Education. In addition, minors in music, jazz studies, and church music are also offered. The department has eight full-time and ten part-time faculty members.

It is our pleasure to officially announce the appointment of two new Band Directors for Newberry College starting this Fall:

Dr. Arthur Haecker, Director of Bands (Interim), and
Dr. John Roberts, Assistant Director of Bands.



Bill Long Retirement and Tribute

In the spring of 2013, Professor Long announced his retirement as the Director of Bands.

To celebrate his college achievements, Long was granted the title Professor Emeritus at Commencement and received a standing ovation from his peers and all in attendance.

Many students enjoyed working and learning under the direction of Long and will miss the life he brought into the music building.

“ Every day he encouraged, inspired and taught me. He served as a role model and mentor to all. All of his students were important to him as he was important to us. He’s a magnificent, one-of-a-kind man and is the most passionate musician I know.”

– Alisa Dunovant
Newberry College Student



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC UPDATES

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Bachelor of Music in Music
Education with Performance
Honors (Trumpet) from
Syracuse University

Master of Music from George
Washington University in
Music History

Ph.D. in Music Education with
an emphasis in Conducting
from the University of Florida.

Newberry College welcomes Dr. Victor Vallo as the new Chair of the Music Department. Dr. Vallo will continue in Dr. Sally Cherrington Beggs legacy of progress and outstanding achievement.

Since arriving at Newberry College in August 2012, I constantly enjoy working with the faculty and staff as well as starting and facilitating new initiatives to aid in the growth and development of the department. Through teamwork with the faculty and staff, we:

- 1) Developed a "Friends of Music" society
- 2) Created two new ensembles: Newberry College Chamber Orchestra (Spring 2013) and the Newberry College Wind Symphony (Fall 2013)
- 3) Established plans for Newberry College to become an All-Steinway School
- 4) Created the Assistant Director of Bands position (Fall 2013)
- 5) Purchased modern desk-tables for the AMC music classrooms
- 6) Purchased new posture enhancing Choir Chairs for the choral room
- 7) Established plans to upgrade the acoustics of the AMC Recital Hall
- 8) Purchased a state-of-the-art SMART Board for the Music Building and upgraded the computer software in the Music Tech lab with Finale 2012
- 9) Established plans for a Master of Music Education program and a Music Business minor

It has been and continues to be exciting for my wife and I to be a part of such an incredible place to live and work at Newberry College. When you're back in town, please come by and say hello!



Dr. Sally Cherrington Beggs Memorial Music Award

The Music Department and the Cherrington Beggs family are pleased to announce the establishment of the Dr. Sally Cherrington Beggs Memorial Music Award to honor the memory of "Dr. Sally" who lost her three-year battle with a rare sinus-brain cancer in March 2012. During the last 12 years of her life, Dr. Sally served Newberry College as the Chair of the Music Department and College Organist. Dr. Sally represented Newberry College nationally as a recitalist and workshop clinician. Her deepest passion was the integration of music into the worship of the Church. The award is intended to honor her memory and to promote the cultivation of promising organists/musicians who are dedicated to using their talents to enrich the worship life of the Church. For more information about this award please contact, Dr. Victor Vallo.

Campus News

CREATIVE ENDEAVORS



Please join us this fall as Newberry College is filled with the soothing melodies of the College's jazz band and spectacular live performances.

**NEWBERRY STUDENTS AND FACULTY LET
THEIR TALENTS SHINE!**