PREPARING CHRIST-CENTERED MUSICIANS
THE MUSIC EXCELLENCE OF HOBE SOUND
Ministry of the Word through Music

“In this issue of ‘The Torch’, the reader will find that the excellence of music at Hobe Sound is unique.”

Since its inception, Hobe Sound Bible College and Christian Academy have been known for music excellence that exalted and glorified Christ. Founder and president Dr. S. D. Herron was widely known as the powerful preaching voice that lifted up Christ in a way that penetrated the hearts and souls of his audiences across the country. But the message and ministry of Hobe Sound was made complete when coupled with the voices of singing groups, choirs and instruments under the direction of Archie Coons and the host of others who have followed him in that capacity.

In 1997 Dr. Paul Peake was minister of music at Hobe Sound Bible Church and Music Department chairman at Hobe Sound Bible College. He had a vision to expand the music ministry of Hobe Sound to impact the Treasure Coast of Florida. He began setting up risers in front of the old Barnett Bank on the corner of US 1 and Bridge Road in Hobe Sound and taking his choir to perform Christmas carols in the open air. The event eventually was moved to the H. Robb French Tabernacle. This past season the Singing Christmas Tree drew a record crowd of over 8,000 patrons. Dr. Peake also was responsible for bringing together the Piano Extravaganza performance with six grand pianos on one stage played by up to twelve musicians from the student body, music faculty and staff.

In this issue of ‘The Torch’, the reader will find that the excellence of music at Hobe Sound is unique. It starts at one end of Gomez Avenue in the classrooms at Hobe Sound Christian Academy, continues on through Hobe Sound Bible College, and includes the greater Hobe Sound community. We will also be saying a huge thank you to Music Chairman Dr. Randall McElwain and College Choir Director Mr. Mark Going for their leadership and contribution in continuing the tradition of excellence at Hobe Sound. We are introducing Mr. Lucas Ryder who is transitioning to fill their roles. Last but not least, we will be featuring the many talented men and women of the music faculty who pour themselves selflessly into their students and make up the vital core of music excellence at Hobe Sound.
From my earliest memories there was music in our house! My father hummed, sang, or whistled almost constantly as he went about his daily activities. That is not surprising since he had grown up in a family in which music held a very prominent position. All but one of the nine children in his family played the piano “by ear,” all of them sang parts, and none of them ever had any formal training. So in our family music was king!

Everytime we got in the car, we sang. All of us learned to sing parts during those impromptu musical training sessions. One of the first substantial purchases my parents made for their home was a piano. It was not at all unusual to see my father playing the piano and singing.

At a very early age, my brother David and I began singing in three-part harmony with our dad. All our singing was a cappella, and we sang in various places. I remember the first time we sang for a larger congregation. We were small enough that my dad felt he needed to place a box behind the pulpit for us to stand on so we would be clearly visible to the congregation.

We were eventually able to gain access to music lessons through an unusual chain of events at the Christian school we attended. One of our teachers decided her class needed training in a musical instrument. So she arranged for us all to buy inexpensive recorder-like instruments called “fluraphones.”

My brother and I soon discovered we could play harmony parts on those little instruments. Our first song was “Lead Me To Calvary.” When we played our song for the teacher, she liked it so well she arranged for us to play at the monthly Parent Teacher Association meeting. A piano teacher was present at that meeting. Afterward she came to my parents and offered to give us free piano lessons. My mother saw this as a direct answer to her prayers. She not only accepted the offer, she drove us like a slave-driver to make sure we got our practice in each week. Did that make me hate piano lessons? Sure! But it also paid big dividends by promoting musical development in our lives.

During my high school years, I came under the influence of Dr. John Enyart who encouraged, instructed, and challenged me to even greater musical involvement. I continued piano lessons, learned to play the (continued on pg. 15)
From its earliest beginnings, music has been a vital part of the DNA at Hobe Sound Bible College. The year after the school began, Mr. Archie Coons came to create a music department and literally changed the course of the institution. Mr. Coons said, “I started in one room. Then later, I bargained and got another room. Then I had the nerve to ask Sis. Geraldine French if there was any way possible I could use the old tabernacle for a music building. (She said,) ‘Why, Bro. Coons, I think that’s the most wonderful thing I’ve ever heard. To think that that old tabernacle could be making music. Yes, let’s do it.”’ She gave her blessing and became one of his most enthusiastic supporters.

More faculty were added to teach voice, instruments, and theory as the vision of the school grew and as God began leading young people to study under the capable leadership of Mr. Coons. President Stetler has credited Mr. Coons as “putting Hobe Sound Bible College on the map” with his Spirit-filled choir directing that lifted the hearers into the very presence of God. The tradition of music excellence established by Mr. Coons in training vocal and instrumental musicians has continued as God has blessed Hobe Sound with Christian musicians who have a passion for quality. Each successive generation of outstanding music department leaders at HSBC have taken their place to build on the solid foundation that was laid. We are eternally indebted to the labors of Dr. John Enyart, Dr. Leroy Adams, Melvin Adams, Dr. Paul Peak and Dr. Randall McElwain.

Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Peak, unique musical opportunities were developed that have expanded the role of music at Hobe Sound. In 1997 the Singing Christmas Tree was presented for the first time by the Hobe Sound Bible College Choir to a limited number of people. Since that first event, the production has expanded to include drama, vocal, choral and instrumental music from the academy, college and church community. In its twenty-first year, the annual Christmas performance has continued under the capable leadership of Mr. Mark Going and has become a festive tradition for over 8,000 devoted patrons from across the Treasure Coast of Florida. In 2004 Dr. Peak also started the Hobe Sound Winter Concert Series which features nationally-acclaimed artists and HSBC music faculty and students. This past year the Singing Christmas Tree and the Concert Series drew over 15,000 guests to our campus to experience the music and performances.

This summer marks a significant transition in the Music Department at HSBC as Music Department Chairman Dr. Randall McElwain shifts his focus to teaching in the Bible Department of the college and taking a leadership role at the Palm Beach Chinese Chapel. We honor Dr. McElwain for devoting the last nine years of his career to leading the Music Department with excellence. Under his leadership twenty-one of twenty-seven recent graduates have been directly placed into music ministry or professional music. As we look to the future, we thank God for Mr. Lucas Ryder who will assume the responsibility of leading the Music Department. Mr. Ryder holds a bachelor of arts in Christian school music education from God’s Bible School & College and a master of music in piano performance from Indiana State University. This summer he plans to begin pursuing a doctor

BY PATRICK DAVIS AND LUCAS RYDER
of musical arts in church music with a concentration in worship and hymnology.

The mission statement of the HSBC music department is, “The HSBC Music Department seeks to prepare God-called, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled musicians within the Wesleyan tradition for effective ministry in churches and schools.” Mr. Ryder shares his vision for fulfilling that mission.

The HSBC Music Department seeks to prepare...

Through a rigorous curriculum that includes the traditional elements of a degree in music (music theory, music history/literature, applied instrument study) combined with elements of music education (classroom and instrumental methods, conducting, and student teaching) and music ministry (hymnology, music of the Bible, music philosophy), our students are given the tools they will need to be successful in whatever area of musical service God calls them. Highly qualified and experienced faculty hold our students to a high standard of excellence that ensures their readiness for service, employment, or further education.

...God-called, Christ-centered, and Spirit-filled musicians within the Wesleyan tradition...

The objectives of the HSBC Music Department are only worthwhile or attainable with the help of God. We acknowledge that our goals for our students are much greater than their ability to play their instruments well or teach a flawless lesson. Throughout each of our classes is woven a consistent thread of Christlike submission to the will of God. As we faithfully respond to the mandates of scripture concerning worship and excellence, we know our best human efforts will fall woefully short. But through Christ’s sacrifice and the Spirit’s enablement, we can present our God with a sweet-smelling fragrance of praise.

...for effective ministry in churches and schools.

HSBC Music Department graduates are scattered around the country and around the world fulfilling their God-given calling. We thank God for the time they spent on our campus preparing and sharpening their gifts and abilities. We thank God for their hearts for music and for ministry. We thank God for continuing to send us students who have the same gifts, though still developing, and the same calling, though yet not entirely clear, as we continue to faithfully play our small part in their preparation for what we pray will be lifetimes of service for our Savior.

The HSBC Music Department offers numerous opportunities for students to develop and mature their talents. Auditioned groups include Chapel Choir and Celebration Orchestra, Sanctuary Strings, and quartets and trios. Students provide music for local churches (Hobe Sound Bible Church and Spanish churches specifically) and children’s ministries, and may participate in TLC musical teams (Ireland and Eastern Europe). During the year they perform in the Singing Christmas Tree, Piano Extravaganza, musical, Spring Choral Showcase, and the Treasure Coast Youth Symphony. The department also participates in service projects throughout the year, convocation recitals, and trips to places such as Washington, D.C., New York City and Chicago to visit museums, symphonies and other musical presentations.

Over the past fifty-six years, God has used His servants to develop a quality, Christ-centered program for training Spirit-filled musicians. Now He has brought Mr. Ryder to continue that tradition of excellence in the HSBC Music Department. For more information on obtaining a bachelor or attainable with the help of God. We thank God for their hearts for music and for ministry. We thank God for continuing to send us students who have the same gifts, though still developing, and the same calling, though yet not entirely clear, as we continue to faithfully play our small part in their preparation for what we pray will be lifetimes of service for our Savior.

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For music to actually become beautiful, all the right components must come together with the correct timing and be trained, honed and sharpened. It begins at an early age as soon as a young person can hold a violin or be taught how to hold a note. To create a culture of music excellence at Hobe Sound, we begin in PreK at Hobe Sound Christian Academy and carry that process through to maturity at Hobe Sound Bible College. In 1969 Mrs. Ann French began teaching music. She was asked to write the first music curriculum in the academy. Music teachers like Mrs. French, Hattie French, Barbara Capps, Donna Peak, Dr. John Enyart, Dr. Paul Peak, Carla Case and many others have contributed to the music excellence that has been characteristic of HSCA as the school has placed in top honors in regional and state competitions across the years.

Today making beautiful music for the glory of God in Hobe Sound happens under the instructional and prayerful teaching ministry of the following quality Christian musicians whom God has called to make a difference in the lives of young people.

I started with a small role in the music department—teaching private voice, piano, and violin lessons, and working to get an academy string program off the ground. This past year I began teaching all the music classes in grades PreK, Music Appreciation, and Junior High Choir, along with my private lessons and continuing to grow the violin program. My goal from the beginning has been to develop quality little musicians at HSCA. I teach them that everything they do should be done with excellence—especially music—because it brings so much glory and honor to God. We put a lot of hard work into our classroom music, and our special programs, including a Thanksgiving program, the Singing Christmas Tree, Junior Fine Arts Competition, Easter programs, and other small performances. Seeing their hard work pay off is a payday in and of itself! I thank God for the opportunity to impact their lives!

HSBC 2014 BA Music Education

Martin Luther said it best when describing the influence of music, “For heights and depths no word can reach, God gave men music, the soul’s own speech.” One of life’s greatest joys is having the opportunity to mold and train young Christian musicians. As an instructor, I believe the students in my classes and teaching studio are there by Providential appointment. Therefore I pray for them and endeavor to influence their lives not only musically, but intellectually and spiritually. I sometimes refer to my students as my “children”, for my desire and prayer is that the Spirit of God will enable me to impact their lives for this world and the world to come. As our students graduate and begin to serve as Christian educators and church musicians, this brings genuine fulfillment and a sense of satisfaction that our efforts are bearing fruit and the harvest investment is eternal.

HSBC 1984 BA Music Education; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Master of Music; additional coursework at Pittsburg State University

BY PATRICK DAVIS | EDITOR
My primary motivation as a college teacher is to prepare graduates for successful careers in music teaching and church music ministry. Music Theory fits into that by helping church musicians develop creative arrangements and by helping them understand how music “works.” I am thrilled to see our graduates teaching in Christian schools, playing piano or organ and directing choirs at churches, and faithfully serving God as Christian musicians. This is what the Hobe Sound Bible College Music Department is all about!

College of the Ozarks 1979 BA Music. Florida Atlantic University, MA Teaching

Esther Easley
HSCA Music Faculty

For the last three years I have had the privilege of teaching the High School Choir. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to challenge young people to strive for excellence. It has been one of the most rewarding things in my life to push students to do their very best and see them achieve success! As a Christian school choir teacher, it is my responsibility to make sure my students are communicating the truths (often sacred Truths) of the text they are singing with good diction and unanimity of sound. I work hard to inspire my students to sing with the spirit and sing with the understanding also. My prayer is that my students get to experience what true worship is as we perform. Through the process and hard work of rehearsal, I pray that Christ shines through me.

HSBC 2011 BA Vocal Performance—Choral Conducting Emphasis

Matthew Stence
HSCA Music Faculty

For thirteen years I have had the privilege of serving on the music faculty of HSBC, endeavoring to train students to have a passion for music ministry, who also have a desire for excellence, tempered by godly humility.

In my experience, I have learned that more is “caught than taught” in the classroom, so it is vitally important to lead by proper example if we intend to pass our values and our “craft” on to the next generation. The words of one song writer resonates, “May the fire of our devotion light their way.” It has been very rewarding to see many of our students go on to have successful ministries in schools and churches around the world.

God’s Bible School & College 1990 BA Music Education; Pensacola Christian College 1996 MA Church Music

Mark Going
HSBC Music Faculty
Director Singing Christmas Tree

As an HSCA music faculty member, I have the privilege of teaching the fourth and fifth graders band instruments, to direct the middle school Concert Band, and the High School Symphonic Band. We lead these groups in a variety of fall and spring performances as well as regional and state competitions. FACCS competitions include solo, duet, small and large ensembles, and the Concert Band. In addition to doing what the other bands do, the High School Symphonic Band also takes a fall trip to minister to other churches.

My role as an HSBC faculty member includes directing the college Celebration Orchestra which plays for the Singing Christmas Tree, church offertories, Sea Breeze Camp Meeting, and the Masterworks Spring Choral Showcase. I also teach private lessons, elementary through college, on a weekly basis. One of the highlights of my year is to host the Treasure Coast Band Camp each summer. The camp is open to beginner to advanced music students ages 5-17 and is in its eighteenth consecutive year.

Pensacola Christian College 1992 BS Music Ed.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary MA Church Music

Luke Ryder
HSBC Music Faculty

When we moved to campus in August 2014, I knew that I was stepping away from my true love of teaching music to fill the role of college registrar.

(continued on pg. 15)
Brent Vernon was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but his family moved to Hobe Sound in 1978 when his father George accepted the dean of students position at the college. Brent attended the academy from 1981-1994 (K-12). He took one year of college classes at HSBC, specifically focusing on Bible and music courses.

Today Brent is a full time singer-songwriter and ventriloquist as well as a children’s author and illustrator. He is involved in approximately 120 concerts or presentations each year. Most of these are church-related, but he’s also privileged to share character-building assemblies in both private and public schools. He often uses his puppet Sam and characters from his children’s books. Additionally, he does freelance artwork and book layout for other independent publishers from time to time. Visit Brent’s Facebook page to see his travel itinerary.

When Brent is not on the road, he attends Hobe Sound Bible Church where he was raised. He has also regularly been discipled for a number of years by a pastor friend who lives in Stow, Ohio—a tour pastor of sorts.

Brent shares, “I have a heart for children and especially value my years at the academy. My teachers took such interest in my love for the creative arts. They were wonderful about giving me opportunities to use and grow my skills as an artist, writer and musician. I am deeply grateful to have been raised in an environment that emphasized the importance of loving God, loving each other, and fostering excellence.”

BY FAITH TOFTE
Elena Grant Cragun grew up in Hobe Sound. Born in Stuart, Florida, to Rev. Sidney and Gretal Grant, she attended the academy through all of her grade school years and continued on in the college, earning an AA in Preprofessional Studies in 2006. She furthered her education at Palm Beach Atlantic University, graduating in 2009 with a BS in Psychology and a minor in Spanish. During her time at school and beyond, Elena worked for FEA Ministries for ten years, serving as Secretarial Assistant to Spanish Ministries and as receptionist.

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Jordan grew up in Ponchatoula, Louisiana. In 2006 he came to HSBC and met Elena. They were married December 18, 2009. Jordan earned a BA in Ministerial Studies from HSBC in 2011.

The Cragun home has been blessed with two children, Scarlett Shye and Grant Ray. They live in Felicity, Ohio, and attend Bethel Nazarene Church.

Today Jordan and Elena are gospel musicians. They tour the world with their family group called The Craguns. They are committed to providing Spirit-filled, Christ-honoring musical excellence for people of all ages. You can visit their website at www.thecraguns.com.

Elena and Jordan appreciate the time they spent at Hobe Sound. Elena says, “Hobe Sound will always be home to me. I learned so much there—not just from school but also from the community and church. My heart is grateful, and I consider myself blessed for having been raised in Hobe Sound.”

Jordan adds, “Hobe Sound impacted my life in a very positive way. I will be forever grateful for the investment made into my life by so many. I went to Hobe Sound as an immature teenager. I was shown much love and learned much wisdom that still benefits me today. I am forever grateful.”

Check out their website and visit The Craguns when they are near you.
BACCALAUREATE & COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
MAY 10, 2017

College Graduates
Bachelor of Arts
Joel Mark Veyon, Valedictorian
Colin Robert Gardner, Salutatorian
Joylene Budensieh
Kathy S. Cachowski
Jeannetta Cole
Cassandra Rae Conner
Jason Mark Conner
Justin Richard Crooks
Debbie J. Douglas
Pedro W. Heredia, Jr.
Lori Anne Hovey
John A. Krieger
Roger J. O’Connor
Sheila Leann Shelton
Mahayla Lynn Taylor
Jerald A. Wade, Jr.
Arthur W. Thomas, Sr.

Associate of Arts
John H. Beardslee
Stephen B. Bowen

Daniel Lee Carpenter, Jr.
Richard Elmore
Erik Justin Grant
Jonathan E. Sarver
Jesse Lee Teal

Associate of Science
Ceswick Winston Kemp

High School Graduates
Janessa Renae Beardslee, Valedictorian
Macaylan Gabrielle Alexander, Salutatorian
Letha Kathleen Barr
Samuel D. Bozone
Nicole Jamieson Gaziano
Melinda Lee
James Wesley Payoure
Serge Junior Privert
Ashley J. Robledo
Fredler Simeon
BACCALAUREATE & COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES | MAY 10, 12
BIRTHS

Matt & Tracy (Hobleman) Bowen
Asher Finley, Feb. 3, 2017

John & Becca (Kline) Enyart
Felix Arthur, Feb. 7, 2017

Kylie & Katie (Webster) Wagner
Grant Joshua, Feb. 21, 2017

John & Abigail (Miller) Bray
Nicholas Jack, Feb. 28, 2017

Brandon & Marianne (Morgan) Mills
Chase Brandon, Mar. 7, 2017

Lute & Ally (Lavy) Brinkmann
Ross Edward, Apr. 13, 2017

Charlie & Morgan Jamison
Chloe Joy, May 14, 2017

Caleb & Priscilla (Lefever) Carroll
Stephen Robert, May 16, 2017

Josh & Amy (Jamison) Curell
Asher Flynn, May 17, 2017

Caleb & Hannah-Marie (Stence) Hinton
Mar. 25, 2017

WEDDINGS

Andrew & Jessica Halstead
Aug. 13, 2016

Ben & Heather (Pepple) Joslin
Feb. 18, 2017

Leslie & Tamara (Mahoney) Crawford
Mar. 4, 2017

Caleb & Hannah-Marie (Stence) Hinton
Mar. 25, 2017

MEMORIAL

Marilyn J. Willett
Marilyn Willett, 69, passed away on March 17 in Mercy Medical Center, Carrollton, Ohio. Marilyn was born in Mercer, Pennsylvania, on November 26, 1947, a daughter of the late Leroy and Beulah (Brock) Pears. She was a member of Wesley Community Chapel in Carrollton.

Marilyn worked for over forty years as a registered nurse in various positions, of which labor and delivery and newborn care were her favorite. She treasured her family and friends and was loved by so many people throughout the years and all over the country in various states where she lived and traveled. She was known for her kindness, great sense of humor, and love of coffee and flowers. While her loved ones grieve her loss, they rejoice in great hope for eternity, knowing that she trusted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

Marilyn is survived by her husband of fifty years, Ronald Willett; children Charles and Andrea Willett, Kenneth and Jodi Willett, MariLee and Eric Parrish, and JoAnne and Doug Simmons; and grandchildren Andrew, Jake, Anya, Jodi, Alex, Lily, and Jesse. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, and brother.

Funeral services were held at Wesley Community Chapel on March 22 with Rev. Gordon Warner officiating. Burial was in Moultrie Chapel Cemetery.

ELEME NTARY TEACHERS NEEDED

The Independence Bible School, located in Independence, Kansas, is in need of three dedicated and qualified elementary school teachers for grades 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and 5 and 6. IBS is an entity of the Bible Holiness Church. For more information, please contact Principal Matt Brewer at 620-331-3780 or 913-406-7629. You may also contact Board Chairman Stephen Douglas at 620-228-1749.
Graduates
Baccalaureate for Hobe Sound Bible College and Hobe Sound Christian Academy was held Wednesday, May 10. **Academy Principal Brent Jones**, soon to be Dr. Jones, spoke, encouraging the graduates to reflect God’s light to a needy world. On Friday, May 12, the college and high school held their graduation ceremony. Seventeen students earned bachelor of arts degrees. Associate of arts or science were awarded to eight graduates.

Ten high school students turned their tassels. The speaker was alumnus **Rev. Howard Russell**, president of Christian Healthcare Ministries.

Hobe Sound Christian Academy eighth grade held their celebration Thursday, May 25. **Rev. Nathan Becker** challenged the students to go forward in God. Five of the twenty-two graduates have attended HSCA since kindergarten. **Morgan Uber** was valedictorian and **Sarai Santiago** salutatorian.

The highlight of graduation season is always the kindergarten ceremony. Led by **Mrs. Alanna Ryder**, twenty-one little bubbly students presented their “garden” as they showcased what they have learned this past year. Then they donned miniature blue robes and marched across the stage to receive their diplomas. Congratulations, graduates!

Van Added to HSBC Fleet
This spring a 2016 Chevrolet 15-passenger van was purchased for school use. The funds to acquire the vehicle were donated by the Chatlos Foundation. Chatlos has been a wonderful support in keeping the school fleet up to date. Since 2002 they have provided funds several times for vehicle purposes.

Band Concert
The 2017 Band Concert was presented Friday, May 5. **Mr. Doyle Bozone** led the fourth grade band, fifth grade band, middle school Concert Band and high school Symphonic Band in a rousing performance. The highlight each year has become the number performed in the dark with glowing bands of light attached to the instruments. Mr. Bozone does an amazing job within one school year training students with no instrumental background to the point where they can perform before an audience. Congratulations to the director and students for their hard work.

Choral Concert
The HSBC and HSCA Music Departments presented the annual Spring Choral Showcase entitled “All Nature Sings” on Tuesday, May 2. The Masterworks Chorale and Celebration Orchestra performed selections from F. J. Haydn’s *The Creation*, as well as a number of contemporary classics and spirituals. **Mr. Lucas Ryder** directs the Masterworks Chorale. Due to a death in his family, **Miss Esther Easley** led the performance. Numbers were also presented by the High School Choir and Ensemble led by **Mr. Matthew Stence**, the Junior High Choir led by **Mrs. Julia Cole**, and the Caroliers led by **Mrs. Carla Case**. The concert culminated in a mass choir and orchestra performance by all of the choirs of *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*. 
Faculty and Staff Recognitions

Hobe Sound Bible College and Christian Academy has been richly blessed by faithful faculty and staff. On May 5 several were honored during chapel for their decades of service to Hobe Sound. Serving thirty years are Esther Easley and Frances Fuller. Dalbert and Sharon Walker have been at HSBC twenty years. Brad Hawn and Paul Stetler have served for fifteen years, while, Brent Jones and Kelly Stetler have been here ten years.

The happiness was mixed with some sadness as we say goodbye to others. Joy Budensiek is moving on to pursue her writing. Mark Going will no longer be directing the Chapel Choir. He will continue to work for Hobe Sound Bible Church and direct the Singing Christmas Tree. Dr. David Bubb is going back into pastoral ministry. Dr. Fred Wingham is retiring a second time due to health issues. Thank you to each of these for their dedicated work at HSBC and HSCA.

Piano Extravaganza

The annual Piano Extravaganza was held Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1. There was a full house each night to hear up to twelve pianists play at one time on six grand pianos. The selections ranged from sacred to patriotic. The pianists were all faculty, staff, or alumni of Hobe Sound Bible College. Former Music Department Chairman Dr. Paul Peah supervised moving and tuning the pianos. The program was arranged by alumnus Brandon Glick.

FACCS Competitions

Each year HSCA participates in state competitions held by the Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools. This year the students did an excellent job competing in multiple areas. On the high school level the following won first place: Kyle Yan – woodwind, Kelly Bradley – strings, High School Choir, Symphonic Band, Letha Barr – sculpture, Serge Privet – topical preaching, Alaina Bulson – religious interpretation, Rebeca Pascual – Spanish testing, Andrew Ciotti – physical science science fair. The junior high first place winners were Elementary Woodwind Ensemble, Middle School Woodwind Choir, Andrew Mayes – brass, Joseph Bozone – brass, and Payton Huff – piano.

Hobe Sound Christian Academy is proud to announce that Principal Brent Jones has completed his doctorate of education in educational leadership. Dr. Jones earned his degree from Nova Southeastern University. Congratulations, Dr. Jones!

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Learn more by contacting Patrick Davis in the Office of Advancement @ 772.546.5534, or patrickdavis@hsbc.edu
string bass, sang in choirs and quartets, and even joined the college quartet when I was still a junior in high school.

So when it came time for me to enter college, it seemed very natural to become a music major. It was what our family did. It was what I was already deeply involved with, and it just seemed like the natural major for me to choose.

After singing with school groups for a few years, my brother David and I began singing with our younger brother Darrell with David playing the piano, and the Stetler Trio was born. We traveled thousands of miles, made two LP albums, and paid our school bill through the proceeds from our weekend ministry efforts.

Toward the end of my sophomore year in college, something happened that started a process of change in my life. Phil Newton and Mark Vernon came to GBS and spoke in chapel about Bahama Missions. Phil concluded his portion of the service by paying me anything, but we will give you plenty of work and plenty to eat.” I was strongly moved upon in that chapel service. I wasn’t sure what God wanted, but I sensed He was giving me some new directions for changes in my life.

I went to the Bahamas that summer and was deeply impacted by the experience. I returned in the fall for another year of singing with the Stetler Trio and my third year of studies in music, but the following summer I returned to the Bahamas. It was during this summer that I was asked to speak on several occasions. I began to sense that perhaps God had something besides music for my future.

When I returned to enroll for my senior year of college, I felt I should changed my major from music to Bible and theology. I then discovered that I only lacked three courses to finish my music major. So I completed those classes and graduated with a music degree in 1974. I finished my Bachelor of Theology degree in 1975, and the central focus of my life since then has been preaching, not music.

So what about all those courses, those years in music? Was that time wasted? No, a thousand times NO! As a pastor, I used my musical training to help me lead singing, sing special songs, and direct Christmas and other musical programs. I served as church pianist for a time when we had no one else. I formed a singing group with some of the men of our church.

Music has obviously been a very important part of the life of my family. Three of my four daughters have majored in music education. My fourth daughter who was an elementary education major has served as church pianist, done special music, and led numerous musical programs both in her church and in the local Christian school. My son is the music minister at a church and leads the preparation of our PR musical teams from HSBC.

The new Stetler Trio has sung to thousands of people, made CDs, and traveled thousands of miles. Music is a major factor in every part of our lives.

No, I didn’t waste a single day! I’m glad I majored in music. It is a gift from God that has enriched my life!
Some people let the world know “I was here” by etching their name in a tree, leaving handprints in concrete, or painting their initials in artwork on the side of a building. Christians leave their mark on the lives of others by the choices they make and the purpose that motivates and guides them. Joy Budensiek has spent the last forty years of her life at Hobe Sound leaving her mark on young people as a world changer for Christ.

Given up at birth, she was adopted by an older Christian couple from Pennsylvania stationed in the US military in Newfoundland. Later the family moved to the Pittsburgh area where she attended Brownsville Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Camp at Stoneboro. While she always had a heart warmed toward God, Joy recalls, “I was a typical rebellious teenager and didn’t get truly saved until I was in the seventh grade.” She graduated from Brownsville High School in 1971, went one year to Salem Bible College, and then attended Penn Commercial Business College in Washington, Pennsylvania. Joy graduated with a two-year business degree. She thought she was supposed to be a secretary to a banker, but God had greater plans for her. Penn View Bible Institute called and said they needed someone to teach high school business classes. After her first year teaching, she married her teenage sweetheart John Budensiek. They spent three years at PVBI, then moved to Hobe Sound where John became the college band director and Joy taught academy business classes. At Hobe Sound she earned a BA in Business Education and this year a BA in Counseling.

Business classes in those days consisted of typing, accounting, office machines and shorthand. It was in those formative years teaching classes in the academy that she made an impact on students like Brenda (Olsen) Dickerson—executive director at LAHIA; Senator Joe Negron—president of the Florida State Senate; Gary Uber—past president of the Hobe Sound Chamber of Commerce and Martin County business leader; Nagi Hanna—businessman; Dr. Steve Whitaker—headmaster of The First Academy in Orlando; Dave Capps—businessman; and many others.

When asked who was one of the greatest inspirations in her life, Joy quickly points to former Hobe Sound Christian Academy Principal Dr. Connie Palm. While Dr. Palm inspired her to teach and instilled in her the importance of regularly changing bulletin boards, a statement from a faculty session made a life-changing impact on Joy. Dr. Palm told of watching a train go past loaded with junk cars. She said at one time someone had valued those cars as a great investment, but now they were going to be scrapped. How much more important it was to invest in the lives of young people who would live eternally. Investing in the lives of young people has been the driving passion of Joy’s life here at Hobe Sound.

While God used Joy in the classroom at HSCA to impact young people across the years, another ministry was born in her heart during that time as well. When her daughter Julie was in the seventh grade, son John in the fifth grade and son Jim in the third grade, Joy was active in Hobe Sound Bible Church as the Sunday School Coordinator. During that timeframe, the Budensiek family took a trip to visit Joy’s in-laws who were missionaries serving in Guatemala. She came back from that positive experience and thought, “Wow, I wish my high school kids could enjoy this!” Between the excitement of Joy’s children who thoroughly enjoyed their experience in Guatemala and the youth leadership of the church who wanted to get involved in a short-term missions trip, the life-changing ministry of Touching Lives for Christ was started. TLC is now in its twenty-ninth year of exposing young people to the opportunity to serve Christ on mission fields at home and abroad for several weeks in the summer.

Over time the ministry of TLC grew, and Joy became much more interested in teaching missions classes than business. In the good providence of the Lord, there was an opening for a chairperson of the Missions Department at Hobe Sound Bible College, and she expressed an interest in the position. Dr. Ed Palm was the academic dean at the time. He said, “Joy, you don’t have the right degree—you need to further your education.” The teaching opportunity motivated her to go on to get a master in ministry degree.
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The years of her involvement in missions training has produced obvious lasting and untold eternal fruit through the students who passed through her classes. Hope International Missions African Field Directors Glenn and Stephanie Gault, Bible Methodist Missions Director Tim Keep, and Hope International Missions President Harold Martin and his wife Kayla are just a few of the many students who are world changers making an eternal difference in the lives of others as a result of missions classes with Mrs. B.

As she leaves the role of classroom professor, God continues to open doors for Joy to be a world changer. She says she was just “minding her own business” when the first opportunity presented itself for her to write a book. Her first book, Reconnected, has opened numerous doors for her to share the story of her adoption and the journey of finding her birth mother. That writing experience led her to begin her popular By The Way series of children’s books. The colorful, geographically-based books make it easy for kids and parents to connect with God and scripture. Joy’s passion for the books are born out of the staggering negative statistics of Christian parents who are not sharing their faith with their children. “Nineteen out of twenty Christian parents don’t talk to their children about God. We will lose an entire generation of young people if we don’t pass it on.” Motivated by this burden, Joy has just published book number eight and plans to write and publish the series fulltime with the goal of printing 100 books. You can read more about the By The Way series by visiting her website at www.bythewayseries.com.

Wife, mom, “Grammie,” teacher, author, speaker, and friend. Joy’s life verse describes her walk of faith and passion to please her Savior: “The steps of a good man (woman) are ordered by the Lord and He delighteth in his way (Psalms 37:23).” Thank you, Joy Budensieh, for being a world changer at Hobe Sound for the last forty years!
S
ometime in the next twelve months, I will celebrate twenty years of being a brass player. At the age of ten I was given a trumpet that belonged to my grandparents’ neighbor. Much to the chagrin of my two older sisters, I began to explore. I remember being excited about the myriad sounds I could make on my own, and I quickly discovered a love for being part of the band. Thus began my participation in bands and orchestras. Although I eventually left the trumpet section and joined the true musicians in the French horn section, I have never lost the love for and enjoyment that comes from being part of an instrumental ensemble.

Over the course of those years, I have had the wonderful privilege of sitting under the direction of some phenomenal conductors. Each of them brought something unique to the podium, and each challenged the members of their ensembles to give their very best. As I think about the future of the Hobe Sound Bible College Music Department and my role in it, my thoughts have turned to God as our Great Conductor: leading, guiding, cueing, and even correcting as we seek to prepare music and musicians that will bring glory to Him.

Being in any musical ensemble, but especially an orchestra or band, requires a great deal of trust. The ensemble members only see their specific part on the music placed in front of them. However, one participant in the rehearsal or performance has an intimate knowledge of each section’s responsibility. The conductor has access to specially prepared music called the conductor’s score. Each section’s part is laid out side by side, allowing the conductor to see the whole picture at a glance. This enables him or her to direct all the different parts to play together in perfect harmony. He can give a cue for the cellos to enter at just the right moment. He can ensure that a percussionist who has been counting forty-two measures of rests is adequately prepared for that essential triangle solo. He can guide the entire ensemble to swell with volume and energy to create an exquisite climax. It is the job of each musician to trust the conductor and to keep their eyes on him throughout the performance. He has the score; he sees the entire picture. Similarly, God is the master conductor of each of our lives. He sees the plan perfectly. He knows just when to give us a divine cue to move or to stay. We must keep our eyes fixed on Him and trust Him enough to respond to His loving direction in all areas of our lives.

Another component of being a member of an instrumental ensemble is the necessity of preparation for excellence. Oft times the musical elements assigned to one section of the orchestra or band are not covered in another section. It is each section’s responsibility to be prepared not just to play the part, but to play it with excellence. Here, too, the conductor plays a vital role. He must inspire the individual musicians to play their very best.

One might wonder why the greatest orchestras in the world still have conductors. Surely the best violists and oboists are capable of counting rhythms and interpreting dynamic markings. Yet the conductor is there to encourage and inspire the musicians to corporately create that ensemble’s highest level of musicality. Throughout scripture, God is shown choosing to use highly skilled and prepared musicians who can minister before
Him with excellence. From the Levites in Nehemiah to Chenaniah in I Chronicles to David in I Samuel and the Psalms, God has inspired mankind to serve Him with music. Each of these Biblical musical patriarchs was marked by excellence in musical preparation and was therefore used powerfully by God. God as the Great Conductor is still calling and inspiring musicians to excellence today. Our duty is to respond to that call and prepare for Him our highest musical offering.

I have spent my orchestral and band career entirely in the brass section. I do not pretend to have expertise beyond beginning competence in any of the other sections of the orchestra. Consequently, I am completely ill-equipped to play the first violin part, the bassoon solo, or the timpani roll. I would be out of place to question or doubt the performance of one of those individuals on his or her part. Instead, each member of the ensemble must focus on doing the job he or she has been given. Imagine if the entire band played the piccolo part of Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever” or if each section of the orchestra played the iconic opening trumpet solo of Gustav Mahler’s “Fifth Symphony.” Surely neither of those pieces would be considered the masterpieces that they are. Many of the greatest composers throughout history were also conductors. They not only chose the individuals to play each part, but they had crafted each part as well, sometimes with specific musicians in mind. God our Great Conductor has also composed a masterpiece for each of our lives and has prepared the perfect part for each musician in His divine orchestra. He knows where each person could be used best. He is still filling seats in His kingdom orchestra today for church musicians, music teachers, performers, song evangelists and many more.

As the Music Department of Hobe Sound Bible College enters a new season, we are doing so under the watchful eye of our Great Conductor. As we remain committed to following His faithful leadership, I am confident He will continue to guide as He has in the past. We will strive to continue the tradition that has been passed down to us of excellent preparation—not for the accolades of men, but for the joy and glory of our divine maestro. With God on the podium of our lives, we will seek to fill each position as He directs. With His hand holding the baton, we know all of our musical offerings will be pleasing in His sight.

Mr. Lucas Ryder

Legacy Quartet – Tyrel Hurst, Tim Anderson, David Yancey, Ben Deeter
Harmony Trio – Andrea Case, Trae Bates, Julia Cole – Pianist, Eileen Cole
Renewed – Mr. Paul Stetler – Pianist, Joel Veyon, Silas Nix, Bryan Robledo

Summer VBS Team – Maria Juan, Julianna Bozone, Ilbia Perez, Joana and Jonathan Stratton
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FEBRUARY 2 - 3
Honoring the Classes of ‘68, ‘78, ‘88, ‘98, ‘08

Come join us for the 2018 HSBC and HSCA Homecoming. There will be lots of fellowship and reminiscing.

The school service will be Friday, February 2, followed by an afterglow in the cafeteria. On Saturday we will have our annual alumni service in the CEC Auditorium after which we will gather at Olsen Field for lunch and a softball game. Decade classes will also be holding individual reunions.

For more information, contact us at faithtofte@hsbc.edu. See you there!