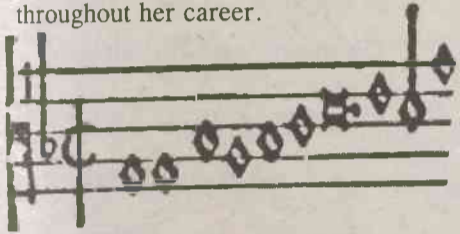


# Features

## Still strikes up the band

**George Spitzer**  
Design/Layout Editor

Excellence, inspiration, and musical marvel are just a few words that accent Ms. Ruth L. Still. She has worked with some of the most well-known composers, performers, and conductors of the twentieth century. Aaron Copeland, Fred Mills, Fred Fennel, and Robert Shaw are just a few legends she has worked with throughout her career.



Still has been involved with many people she considers mentors. "William Vacchino, Nadia Boulanger, and Vincent Persichetti have been three of the most influential people in my music career," Still commented.

"They always demand excellence in music and also very high personal ethics and values. Results of their teaching and inspiration have taken me to places I once only dreamed about."

The new Mexico Brass Quintet is currently performing a composition written by Still. She entitled it "Prayer's From The Ark." "That was the beginning of the piece," Still exclaimed.

Selection for the piece was interesting. "Somebody gave the New Mexico Brass Quintet the score for my music. They read it, and now it is being performed in China," Still said. Not only have her compositions been performed in China, they have also been performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.



Still's advice to any who plan to pursue a career in music composition is: "Listen to as many works as possible, especially the great works from all periods of music. Be open minded to many different types of music and learn the craft. Music composition is the only field of work where all the teachers of the past are still alive." Still explained.

When asked how it felt when finishing a composition, still had some input. "It is a thrill for me after I am done with a work of music. I have never had any interest in promoting my work. My pieces seem to have their own way of finding where they belong," Still commented.

This past semester her students performed a movement of her Noah's Ark piece. "I am very proud of my students performing a piece as difficult as this one. They have never let me down," Still said.

Her work has been highly acclaimed by many different music critics. "A piece I wrote called Triplex was given outstanding reviews by the Los Angeles Times," Still exclaimed.

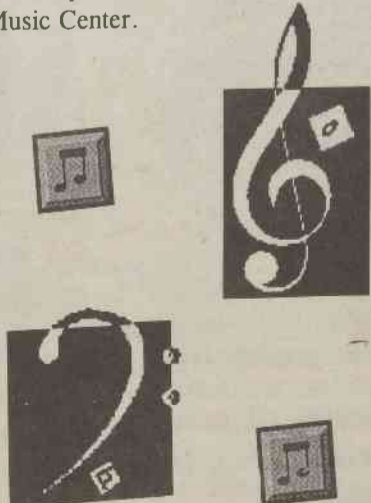
Still has also commented that a lot of her works have been inspired by one force alone. Music clearly has soothed

*"Music composition is the only field of work where all the teachers of the past are still alive."*

*Ruth L. Still*

the soul for Still. "God has been the biggest influence on everything I have written," Still remarked.

In addition to her work in composition, Still also has an intense background in brass studies. Many of her former students have been highly successful in this field, such as Adel Sanchez, principal trumpet for the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C.; John Schnell, principal trumpet, Portland, Maine Symphony, and Mark Schubert, Hawaii Symphony. Mark is also currently on the faculty of the Brevard Music Center.



*While enjoying some time off, Still cuddles with her dog, Bartok. She has accomplished many things in her music career.*

Special to *The Clarion*



### Brevard College Cultural Events Calendar October 1996

Tuesday, October 8, 8pm  
**BREVARD FACULTY RECITAL**  
Dr. David Kirby's performance features classical and new works for the clarinet.

Thursday, October 10, 7:30 pm  
**POETS AND WRITERS AT BREVARD**  
Gil Allen reads from his works of poetry and short fiction. An English professor at Furman University, he recently won two major awards-the 1995 Robert Penn Warren Prize for poetry and the 1995 Porter Fleming Award for short story.

Saturday, October 12, 8 pm  
**AUTUMN CHORAL CONCERT**  
Alfred Calabrese presents his first concert in his new community.

