



Alan Malpass rehearses with his trumpet in one of the Practice Rooms near the Music Room. PHOTO: VOICE STAFF

## Student fills in at last minute for Master Class

By JOY COX

Alan Malpass, WCC College transfer student and music major, learned on Sunday, March 18, 2001, from William Stone, renowned opera singer, that singing is a hands-on experience.

Stone was conducting a Master Class, an opportunity for singers to perform and participate as Stone critiqued their performance. About 100 persons attended the event.

At 5 minutes before the program began, Malpass was asked to replace Walter Hardy, sophomore music major at Mount Olive College.

Malpass is studying to receive his associate degree in fine arts in music at WCC where he works as a practice room monitor for the Music Department.

Malpass started taking piano lessons at 7 years of age. He played in the band at North Duplin in the sixth grade.

He plays the trumpet, percussion, piano, and recorder, being currently in WCC's recorder ensemble. His voice teacher is Kathleen Warren.

Stone told Malpass and other participants in the Master Class that singing involves the mouth, tongue, throat, vocal chords, the diaphragm—in fact, the whole body.

“You must feel as if you are a column of air. Singers are a wind, stringed instrument.”

After Malpass had sung “Old Man River,” Stone pointed out correct breathing by having Malpass place his hands on Stone’s diaphragm. Stone told all the singers to sing down into the body and push the air through, using the support that the diaphragm offers.

Stone advised the singers that they must “sing into the mask” to achieve resonance. “The gathering of sound happens in this resonance box.”

He said that if singers open their throats, all the vowels are in place. “Hook into your body,” “Don’t stop the sound,” “Use the tongue for correct diction,” and “Drink the sound back in” were phrases he iterated.

Local singers who after auditions were accepted for the Master Class included Rebecca Fordham, former WCC and Mount Olive College student now a music teacher at Wayne Country Day School; Jamie Britt, a sophomore music major at Mount Olive College; Patrick Finan, a junior at Wayne Country Day School and member of StageStruck Theater.

Also, Sarah Edwards, junior at Eastern Wayne High School and member of StageStruck Theater; Nikki McLawhorn, a junior music major at Mount Olive College; and Sharon Zirkle, senior music major, Mount Olive College.

Accompanists for the performers were Dianne Finan, Tom Casey, Alan Armstrong, and Nancy Whalan.

Five members from the National Opera Company participated in the Master Class scheduled to run from 1 to 4 p.m. but actually not ending until after 5.

Stone thanked the singers and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to hear fine musicians.

For Malpass, the full day of song and commentary had ended with everyone more conscious of the training necessary to produce a resonant, articulate voice.

## Student heads business to help women gain workplace confidence

By TORKESHIA BELLE

Dress for Success of North Carolina, (DFS, NC) a nonprofit 501C-3 tax deductive organization, was the vision of WCC student Carolyn Glenn, CEO and Director.

Glenn founded DFS, NC in 1999 to provide women with the necessary tools for the workforce, to increase self-esteem and to help them become self-sufficient.

DFS, NC assists low-income women who are looking for employment. Glenn said, “Entering the job market can be intimidating for low-income women who do not have the proper attire or skills.”

DFS, NC offers several services to women only, such as classes and workshops that cover an array of interviewing and job retention skills.

Professional advisers help clients in handling various issues related to finances, family relations, and physical and emotional balance.

Job referrals are given by social services, churches, and other organizations to help women find suitable employment.

Each client is given one set of professional attire to wear to an interview. Another set of clothing is given if the client receives the job.

In 2000, 89 women gained employment and received clothing courtesy of DFS, NC.

DFS, NC, located at 515 East Ash Street, Goldsboro, NC, is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The e-mail address is

[www.2.esn.net/dress](http://www.2.esn.net/dress).

Donations of appropriate clothing for job interviews are welcomed. Clothing can be dropped off or picked up.

All donations are used on the local level to help women of the community and all monetary donations are tax deductible.

Glenn said she owes much of her success to the WCC Small Business Center where she gained information on how to start her own business from Lalie Cobb, Associate Director of Marketing.

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