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Mars Hill, North Carolina

Springtime Means Tour Time

"We want this music to be musically pleasing and personally enjoyable for whoever performs it or hears it," said Mars Hill College Band Director Dr. Pete LaRue.

Springtime in the music building at Mars Hill means it is time for the annual Spring Band Tour. If you were to visit the vicinity surrounding the band rehearsal room around four o'clock each day, you probably hear bits and pieces of music that will eventually be glued together to entertain music lovers from Atlanta and back. The band tour starts on February 26 to March 1, and the band will be performing at nine schools on their way to Atlanta.

The band tour is the event of the year that each band student looks forward to with much anticipation. Junior band player, Michael Vaughn, said, "The band tour each year is the time we have the opportunity to visit different communities, allowing us to see what the music department at Mars Hill has accomplished and what it can accomplish in the future."

Band students consider this tour an opportunity to understand what it takes to travel with a band. Most students in the band have a specific job that they must perform when the bus arrives at each school. There are jobs such as unloading equipment, setting up the stage, and these jobs are carried out and done by the students. "Each student does what he or she was assigned to do, then our operation has been a success," said Dr. LaRue. Dr. LaRue and the members of the

concert band and the jazz band have been working very hard since Christmas break to polish and prepare for this tour. The concert band practices as a whole group three times a week and breaks off into sectional practices twice a week. The jazz band practices twice a week. These practices usually last around an hour and a half, and as one student expressed it, "These rehearsals are intense from the moment we start until Doc says that time is up."



The concert band will be playing selected pieces from three British composers: Holst, Grainger and Alford.

When you hear some of the pieces that the concert band is playing, it will absolutely cause your spine to tingle. "It

takes more than knowing how the music is played; it takes thoughtful feeling and feelingful thought," said Dr. LaRue. The jazz band will be playing a variety of music from the Big Band Era.

The band tour has been perceived in the past to be an opportunity for the students to miss some classes and take it easy for a week, but Dr. LaRue and the students have worked this year to remove that stereotypical idea from the mind of the faculty and staff at Mars Hill.

Tim McCoy
Guest Writer

The band tour is expected by Dr. LaRue to be in "good standings" with his or her professors and to know what he or she is responsible for upon return.

"The band tour is not necessarily relaxing because it is a mind game of total concentration," Vaughn says. "Once things are right it creates a natural high for all of us. It is like building a house, you start with nothing and something beautiful is the result."

The image of the Mars Hill College band program has changed tremendously over the past year, and this band tour promises to be one of the best in the history of the annual Spring Band Tour.

The one thing that Dr. LaRue expects from his students on this band tour and any time the Mars Hill College bands perform is that after each performance they are able to say, "I did the very best that I could do."

If you have the chance to hear these bands, take it. These students are a devoted group who care about making music that touches the emotions of the audience, as well as their own emotions. As Dr. LaRue said, "Our task is to make music that is musically rewarding and personally enjoyable." With such a director and such fine young artist, it will be.

The bands will be playing at Owen High School on Feb. 25; Hendersonville H.S., Enka Middle School, Robbinsville H.S. and Wren H.S. on Feb. 27; in Atlanta on Feb. 28; and at East Henderson and A. C. Reynolds H.S. on March 1.

John T. Oertling: "Greedy for a Month"

Lester
Writer

"The Miser, the next show to be produced by the Theatre Department, is a hilarious look at greed, represented in a leading character, Harpagon. Playing this demanding role is Arts Professor, Director and Director, John T. Oertling. Mr. Oertling received an M.F.A. in directing from the University of Michigan, a B.A. in Acting from the University of Orleans.

Although directing and scene design what he is primarily known for on stage, acting was originally his first love. Since his last stage role was in the college's production of *A Raisin in the Sun*, playing Harpagon invites Oertling back on stage as an actor, and away

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from the sometimes overlooked job that the director takes on!

With over twenty years of theatre experience, performing in *The Miser* gives him the task of working with a cast of students. However, this poses no difficulty because he sees it as not only an opportunity to teach, but also as an opportunity to learn.

Another advantage of this production is having guest director Dr. William Martin here from New York City. John sees working with Dr. Martin as a wonderful opportunity, describing him as well-prepared and willing to challenge the actor to do the best job possible.

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Quad Buildings Receive Needed Repairs

Tammy Condrey
Co-editor

Marshbanks, Owen, Founders and Spilman are getting make-overs! The renovation project on the three buildings was started a couple of weeks ago. Repairs planned include new roofs, exterior painting, and gutter and eaves repairs.

Marshbanks Hall will also receive a complete renovation on the inside. It will become the headquarters of the business department.

Owen will be worked on internally and Founders will be completely renovated—inside and out.

According to Bob Merrill, Chairman of the MHC Board of Trustees, "If left for a few more years, the buildings will need considerably more work. So, it has to be done now, and by doing the way we're doing it, we're saving forty to fifty percent of the cost. I estimate that were saving at least \$150,000."

Merrill, who works in the construction business, was able to contract workers for a lower price. He also donated the use of several pieces of equipment, such as the large fork lift which saves considerable time by lifting men and materials to the roofs of the buildings.

Marshbanks Hall will be worked on in the summer, while Founders may be started before the year is out. Look for the changes on the Quad during the days ahead and next fall.