

## Futrell hits right note

Keisandra Henderson

Reporter

Vocalist, trumpeter, writer, arranger and producer are just a few of Stephen Futrell's titles. Futrell is an assistant professor of music and director of choral activities at Elon, running Chorale, Camerata and Elan. He is also the editor of the newsletter published by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

"My goal was to ultimately earn a doctorate of musical arts in choral conducting and acquire the position of director of choral activities at a college or university," he said.

Futrell has always wanted to know what he has wanted to accomplish, and he has done so.

Futrell has a very extensive history with music and performance and has worked professionally in studios for more than 25 years. He earned his doctorate of musical arts in choral conducting from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Conservatory of Music and bachelor and master degree in music education from Louisiana State University.

Before coming to Elon, Futrell taught music in East Baton Rouge Parish schools in Louisiana and has also held the position of interim director of choral activities at the University of Louisiana, Shepherd College and Southeastern Louisiana University. He has been the staff conductor and chorus master of the Baton Rouge Symphony Association and has worked with the Arts in Education program in Baton Rouge.

Futrell also gained international experience by working as a music producer

for Dreamworks movie studio. He has conducted in Europe, appearing with the Sinfonia Dell' Arte di Arezzo in Italy. Futrell's vocal talents have also given him opportunities to perform on stage throughout the Gulf Coast region.

Futrell's interest in music started at a very young age. He began playing the trumpet in the fifth grade and was an active participant in school productions by the fourth grade. His interest in music and performance continued throughout high school and stayed with him as he left for college.

Futrell has taken advantage of Elon's new digital recording studio and given students experience in professional recording by helping elan put together a CD. Elan is Elon's only choral group that explores and teaches vocal technique in relation to popular music styles including pop, jazz, rock, Broadway and gospel, among other styles. Another large part of elan's musical efforts includes commercial application such as singing in the studio and voice-over and on-screen work.

Thanks to Futrell, Elon's music groups are also getting a chance to travel.

"Our ultimate goal regarding touring is to tour domestically at least every other year, and tour internationally every three to four years," said Futrell.

This school year, both Camerata and elan will be going to Vienna and Prague. Futrell says that touring is a necessary part of any choral group and says he wants this trip to bring Elon up to par with other collegiate groups nationally.

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Bridgette Guedri / Photographer

Futrell conducts a chorale rehearsal in preparation for their next concert. Futrell, assistant professor of music and director of the choral activities runs Chorale, Camerata and Elan. He has worked professionally in music studios for over 25 years, earning his doctorate in musical arts conducting.

**HURRY! Ends November 16th!**

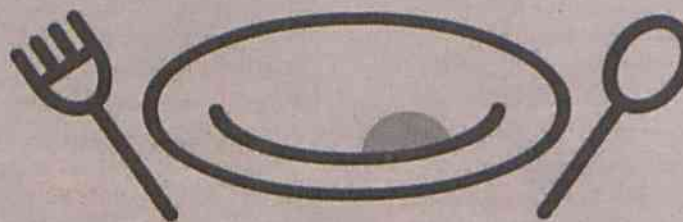
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