

# Guest artists explore the music and life of German composer

JAMIE TUNNELL  
NEWS EDITOR

## Music symposium brings life and works of German composer to Meredith community.

The music department of Meredith College has designated this school year as the "Year of Music".

One of the first events is the Kurt Weill Symposium that is going on this week.

Kurt Weill (1900-1950) was a German composer who came to America during World War I and became one of the key figures in musical theatre.

After working in Paris and Germany in his early career, his shock at a pro-Nazi demonstration led him to flee to Louveciennes in 1934.

Weill traveled to New York in September of 1935 and remained in the United States in the theatre scene to bring *Johnny Johnson* and *Knickerbocker Holiday* to the stage. His first American song "Setempler Song" was produced shortly after.

After that point, Weill produced anti-war musical plays, political satires and patriotic pieces contributing to the war effort.

In the post-war years, Weill produced *Street Scene*, *Love Life*, *Lost in the Stars* and *Down in the Valley*.

Two guests artists, Dirk Weiler of New York City and Patricia Martin of Essen, Germany, are visiting this week to

share their expertise and knowledge on Weill's works and life.

Martin teaches in Germany and has conducted different small-scale orchestras.

Weiler was a student of hers and came to New York to study. He won the international Lotte Lenya Vocal Competition, a program in honor of

Weill's wife.

He is extremely knowledgeable in Weill and joins the music department to provide leadership this week on and off stage.

Wendy Sims, a senior music major, comments that Weiler is "so amazing when he is lecturing and performing."

"You're almost embarrassed

to say that you are studying it once he's shown what he can do," she said.

The symposium focuses on Weill's German and American works.

Another focus of this week is Bertolt Brecht.

Brecht's relationship to Weill was to be a poetic source and theatrical innovator.

Since they worked together over the years, Susan Borwick of Wake Forest University will lecture on their collaboration this Thursday, Sept. 13, 2001 at 7 p.m.

Lectures and extensive rehearsals have been going on all week to bring you two performances this week.

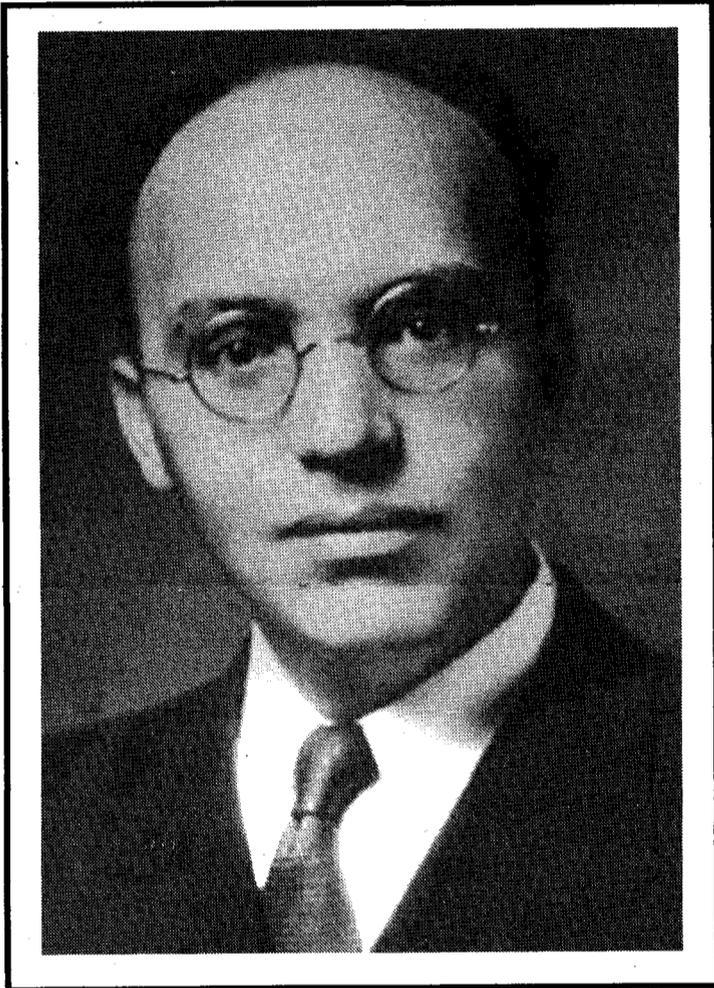
A performance of Weill's early works will take place at 8:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium.

This will cover his time in Germany and have an underlying theme of the political struggles of World War I.

On Friday night, the second portion of the program will show Weill's American works in the final years of his life. This performance will include the lighter works and post-war show tunes that he produced.

Meredith Mabe, another senior music major, will be singing Weill's "I'm A Stranger Here Myself" from his Broadway musical *One Touch of Venus* for the Friday performance. She plays Venus, the Goddess of Love, who gets rejected for the first time.

"I think it will be a good show," she said. "I learned a lot about the character I am portraying and Weill's work."



Guest artists celebrate the life and works of German composer Kurt Weill in a music symposium this week.

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## Campus Briefs

### Meredith Ranks in Top 10 Best Master's Universities in the South

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Meredith College is one of the Top 10 Best Master's Universities in the southern region, according to the *U.S. News & World Report* 2002 America's Best Colleges rankings.

Meredith tied with Centenary College of Louisiana for the 10th place. Meredith has risen from its 2001 ranking of 17th. The College has consistently ranked among the Best Regional Universities of the South since 1997, and this year's 10th place ranking is Meredith's highest to date.

In the *Best Value* category, Meredith tied for 4th among the master's universities in the South. Academic quality, net cost of attendance, and the average level of financial aid were among the factors considered in ranking the colleges and universities that offer the best value.

Meredith (#4) and Queens College (#11) are the only two N.C. master's institutions to be ranked by *U.S. News* as *Best Values of the South*.

Meredith was also recognized as one of the five master's universities in the South whose 2000 graduates carried the lightest debt loads among those ranked.

*U.S. News & World Report* places colleges and universities in one of four categories derived from those established by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching National Universities.

The 573 master's universities are divided into four geographical regions: North, South, Midwest, West.

Rankings are based on attributes such as academic reputation, average freshman retention rate, graduation rate performance, financial resources, student selectivity, student-to-faculty ratio, and alumni giving rate.

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## Officer Training

2001 Officer Training Workshops

Please plan on attending if you have not done so already:

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2001

6-7 p.m. General Session, Oak Room

7-8 p.m. Officer Workshops, Wainwright Suite

These workshops are designed with you in mind, therefore, your presence is required. Manuals will be distributed at the General Sessions. Light refreshments will be provided between sessions.