

## Julie Fortney: A Blend of Creative Teaching And Contagious Enthusiasm

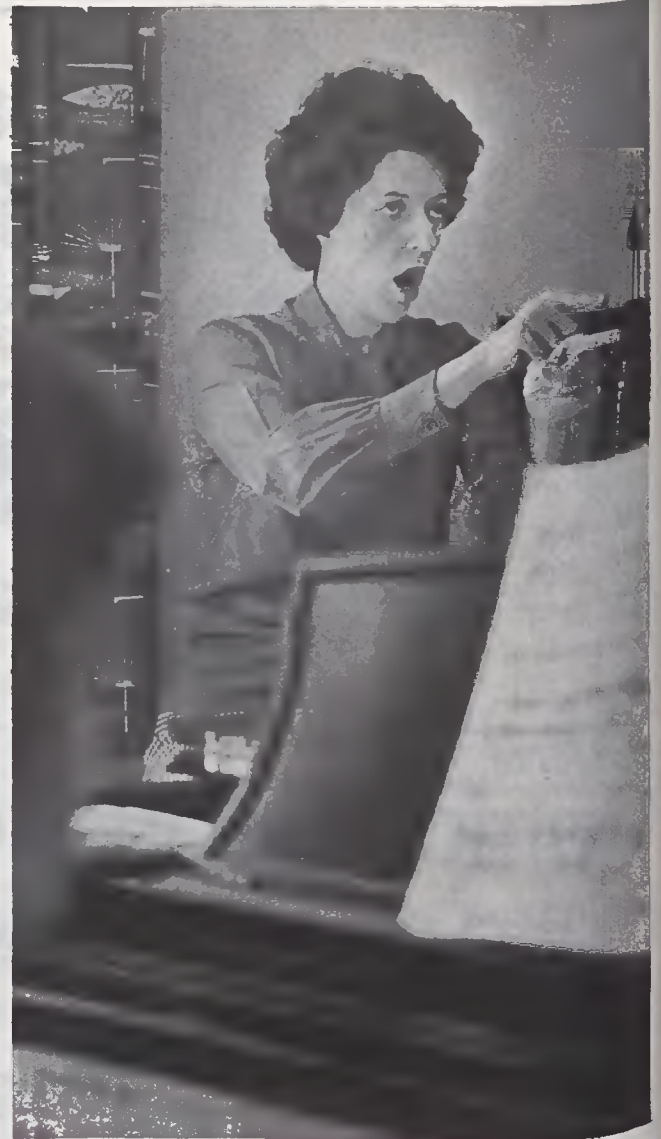
Dr. Julie T. Fortney, assistant professor of music, is a very alive individual, possessing a contagious enthusiasm about the whole range of human experiences. She holds a B.A. from Mundelein College in Chicago, a M.M. from Indiana University, and a D.M.A. from the University of Colorado. At present, she teaches applied voice and aesthetics, but she has taught mini-mesters on everything from the performance of popular songs to the principles of ornamentation in Baroque music. In addition, she has served as musical director for *The Rivals* and *The Boyfriend*, and as musical consultant for the opera *The Old Maid and the Thief*. She is currently chairperson of the aesthetics division of General Studies and program coordinator of the General Education Program in the Department of Music.

Since Dr. Fortney came to Mars Hill in 1972, two things have changed. One is the Music Department itself: she introduced group voice instruction into the curriculum, giving the student a chance to triple his repertoire and to become more familiar with other voices than his own. This also reduced the professors' teaching load giving time for continued professional development and, most importantly, for outreach toward the general college student. The second is a change in herself: she has changed her approach to teaching in her applied discipline through her work in the aesthetics program here at Mars Hill. Dr. Fortney says her work in aesthetics has been "a source of personal satisfaction" to her and has given her "a new appreciation of the nature and value of evaluation in affective learning."

Dr. Fortney is seriously committed to furthering quality music education at Mars Hill. She agrees with Carl Rogers who says: "I see the facilitation of learning as the aim of education, the way in which we can learn to live as individuals in process," and "If I trust the capacity of the human individual for developing his own potentiality, then I can provide him with many opportunities and permit him to choose his own way and his own direction in learning. If I distrust the human being then I must cram him with information of my own choosing, lest he go his mistaken way."

However, Dr. Fortney not only believes in helping the student to form a "comprehensive view" of his own special field, but to develop a solid foundation for his future life. She is especially concerned with the outreach of the Music Department to the general college student. Her work with aesthetics and her attempts to reach out to all students (voice classes for non-majors as an example) prove her deep commitment to the liberal arts tradition at Mars Hill.

Finally, Dr. Fortney comments: "I deliberately chose to come to a liberal arts college...because I wanted to work in an environment committed to fostering intellectual development, insight concerning man's development throughout history, and appreciation of man's creative achievements. But I chose to come to Mars Hill for another reason as well. Somewhere along the line, when one's formal education is finished, the doctorate is in hand, and one's life-style is established, there is a need to be-



Dr. Julie T. Fortney, assistant professor of music, demonstrates the correct facial position in forming a vowel for her voice students in group lesson.

Photo by John Campbell

gin to experiment with one's discipline, to taste success, to fail and pick up the pieces, to change again and again, and, finally, to explore new possibilities for bringing one's discipline to the attention of other learners. This is the environment which exists at Mars Hill College. It is a rare and delicate thing it seems to me, and I want to be a part of keeping it alive."

## Williams Takes First Place In Organ Competition

It is easy to understand why senior organ performance major Steve Williams has a "sense of accomplishment" about his showing at the North Carolina Music Teachers Association's College Division Competition on October 15. Taking first place in organ when matched against both undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the state is certainly quite a feat. Yet, though Mr. Williams considered the atmosphere of competition good, he also liked the exchange of ideas with other students and their professor made possible by the Music Teachers' meeting.

A student of Donna Robertson, Mr.

Williams is the third Mars Hill student to win first place in organ, and claims the honor after third and second place finishes in 1974 and 1975 respectively. To capture this year's top prize, he performed a wide range of selections including "Suite on the First Tone" by Nivers, Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major" (St. Anne), Tournemire's "Choral Improvisation 'Victimas-Paschali'," and "Sounds" by Wishart. The judge for the organ division competition was Fenner Douglass, former professor at Oberlin Conservatory and now professor of organ at Duke University.



Steve Williams spends many hours of practice at the organ. Photo by Hall

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