

Greetings

I have the pleasure of offering both greetings and a farewell to you from my interim position as Chair of the Department of Music and as Director of the School of Fine Arts. By the time you read this, the transition to the new department chair and director will be completed.

I wish to thank all of the people who have made my tenure as chair and director a rewarding experience. It has been a pleasure to work with the talented students, faculty, and staff of the department and the school. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to become reacquainted with our distinguished alumni. Although I am delighted to be returning full time to my teaching and performance of 'cello and membership in the Esterhazy Quartet, I am glad to have had this opportunity to see the department and the school from a different vantage point. Again, I offer my gratitude to all who have made this a rewarding year for me.

I welcome Dr. Melvin Platt to our department as chair and to our school as director. I know that he will find his association with all of you to be rewarding and that he looks forward to meeting as many alumni as possible in the coming year.

I believe that the accomplishments of the music department and the establishment of the School of Fine Arts under the leadership of Don McGlothlin have been reinforced during this past year, and that Dr. Platt will build further upon that firm foundation. I think Mizzou's music department can anticipate continued growth through the coming years, and I look forward to contributing to this development as an active member of the faculty.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Carleton B. Spotts

Music at Mizzou

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Introducing Dr. Melvin Platt

Dr. Melvin Platt, newly-appointed Chair of the Department of Music and Director of the School of Fine Arts, joins the University of Missouri-Columbia faculty after fourteen years of service at the University of Oklahoma as Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Music and Head of Music Education. Prior to joining the Oklahoma music faculty, he served as Head of Music Education at Kent State University (1972-77) and the Catholic University of America (1968-72), and as instrumental/choral music teacher in the Armada, Michigan, schools. During his service as graduate coordinator at Oklahoma, all graduate degree programs were revised, the Doctor of Musical Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degree programs were expanded and strengthened, and specialized study in piano pedagogy, vocal pedagogy, and Kodaly methodology were added. Also, graduate student enrollment in music increased by 23 percent, and the number of students receiving graduate assistantships grew by more than 15 percent.

Dr. Platt has been actively involved in state and national music education professional organizations since 1968. While teaching in Ohio, he served as

editor of *Contributions to Music Education* (the Oklahoma Music Educators Association research journal), as chair of the OMEA Higher Education Committee, and member of the OMEA Board of Representatives. In Oklahoma, he has just completed a two-year term as president of the Oklahoma Music Educators Association. In recent years, he has been active as chair of the OkMEA Government Relations Committee, Oklahoma representative to the MENC Council of Music Teacher Education, Vice-President for Higher Education, and President-Elect, and as an Executive Board member of the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education.

In addition, he has been actively involved as a member of two Oklahoma State Department of Education committees, one that prepared program standards in music education for Oklahoma colleges and universities and the other that advised on the development of statewide music teacher certification examinations. He has repeatedly represented music education concerns to members of the Oklahoma Legislature, especially during the spring of 1980 when the legislature was considering a far-reaching bill, now



Dr. Melvin Platt

signed into law, that mandates teacher testing, teacher education redesign, and professional development programs for in-service teachers.

Dr. Platt is principal author of the new Oklahoma music curriculum guide titled *Music: Suggested Learner Outcomes and Suggested Conditions for Learning*, published by the Oklahoma State Department of Education in 1989. More than 7500 copies of the guide have been printed and distributed to Oklahoma music teachers, school administrators, music teacher educators, and future music teachers for use to the year 2000.

At the national level, Dr. Platt served as National Chair of the MENC Music Education History Special Research Interest Group from 1984 through 1986 and recently completed a four-year term as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Music Educators Journal* that has a circulation of 60,000. He is currently serving on the Editorial Board of the *Bulletin of Historical Research in Music Education*. He has written articles on a variety of topics that have been published in the *Music Educators Journal*, *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Contributions to Music Education*, and the *Oklahoma School Music News*.

In January 1990, Dr. Platt was named Outstanding Music Educator by the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association and the National Federation Interscholastic Music Association for his service and contribution to interscholastic music programs in Oklahoma. Later, in October 1990, he received the Governor's Arts and Education Award for exceptional service to music education in Oklahoma. The award was given by the State Arts Council of Oklahoma and presented by Governor Henry Bellmon.

A native of Kentucky, Dr. Platt received his bachelor's and master's degrees at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and his doctorate from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Platt's wife Mary holds degrees in piano performance and vocal music education from the Cincinnati Conservatory. They have two children, Melvin III, a junior in mechanical engineering at the University of Oklahoma, and Carol, an entering freshman in vocal music, also at OU.

Honor Roll of Department of Music Chairs

1907-1922	William Henry Pommer
1922-1936	James T. Quarles
1936-1966	Rogers Whitmore
1966-1976	Charles Emmons
1976-1990	Donald E. McGlothlin*
1990-1991	Carleton B. Spotts*
1991-	Melvin C. Platt*

*Since 1986, these chairs also have held the position of the Director of the School of Fine Arts.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble Selected by Toshiba-EMI

The MU Symphonic Wind Ensemble is one of only twenty university bands that have been invited to audition for participation in a recording project sponsored by the Toshiba-EMI Corporation of Japan. Those bands chosen from the twenty will be featured on compact disc recordings of many styles of the repertoire for bands. Toshiba-EMI will provide all recording, production, and world-wide distribution services. Watch for further information in future issues of *Music at Mizzou*.

Editorial Commentary

With this edition of Music at Mizzou, the music department has joined the expendable-resources movement of the '90s. We have changed from an 80 pound coated virgin paper to a 70 pound recycled paper with at least ten per cent post-consumer waste, and from a petroleum-based ink to a soy-based ink. We hope that the difference in appearance will meet with your approval. This publication in turn is more recyclable than its predecessors. We urge you, if you find it necessary to dispose of it, to deposit it with your local recycling facility.



Music Department and Lee School Join as Partners in Education

The Department of Music is pleased to announce a Partners-in-Education affiliation with the music department of Lee Elementary School. Lee School, led by principal Dr. Ron Schlimme, has an innovative Expressive Arts Program, the only such designated fine arts school in the Columbia Public School System. Lee School also has a Partners-in-Education affiliation with the Central Columbia Association and Stephens College.

The MU music department looks forward to exchange concerts, cooperative research, enrichment classes, and other activities. Coordinators for the affiliation will be Mizzou faculty member Wendy Sims and Lee School music teacher Susan Altomari.

On November 5, Missourians will have the opportunity to voice their opinion on the funding of educational institutions in the state. Proposition B, the education tax and reform package approved by the legislature last spring, would provide \$190 million for equipment, research, and scholarships for higher education, and would allow \$35 million in bonds for maintenance and repair of college buildings. Additional funds for elementary and secondary schools in the state also would be raised. We encourage you to inform yourself about the tax initiative, be sure you are registered to vote by October 16, and VOTE. The results of the election will affect higher education, including the MU music department, for both the short- and long-term future.

-J. Wenger, editor