

CHANCE ENCOUNTERS

A Story of Music that Struck a Chord

Last year, **Ann Field Bell** '48E and **Dorothy Merriam Happel** '48E came across the story "No Retirement from Music" (*Rochester Review*, May-June 2014). The story, shared by **Alice Pillischer Kujala** '48E, told of her reunion with **John Fuyuumu** '48E, '50E (MM) and **Horace (Hap) Apgar** '49E at the Shannondell retirement community in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. It prompted Ann and Dorothy to get together to share their own, similar story. Dorothy writes:

"By happenstance, Ann Field Bell and I met at the Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community in Asheville, North Carolina. Ann and her husband, Mason, moved to Deerfield in 2002. I moved from New York to Deerfield in 2012. My husband, John, died in 2001. Ann and I had not seen each other since graduating from Eastman.

"Ann was a piano major. After graduation, she worked at the Carl Fisher Music Publishing Company in New York. She then taught piano and music appreciation at Greenbrier College for Women in Lewisburg, West Virginia. Ann and Mason were married in July 1951 and have lived in 10 states, all east of the Mississippi River. Wherever they lived, Ann volunteered with the local symphony orchestra. In Greenville, South Carolina, she volunteered with the Guild of the Greenville Symphony, a fundraising source for the orchestra. In Atlanta, she volunteered in the office of conductor Robert Shaw's executive secretary, Nola Frink. She has enjoyed living these past 12 years in Asheville with its wonderful climate and artistic ambiance.

"I graduated from Eastman as a student of violinist Jacques Gordon and continued my study with Louis Persinger at Juilliard. In 1948, I was the winner of the Naftzger Award, administered by



OLD FRIENDS: Bell (left) and Happel, 1948 graduates from Eastman, reunited at a North Carolina retirement community.

the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, given to the most outstanding young artist of Kansas. In New York, I won appearances through the Concert Artists Guild and the American Artists Series at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and gave the first performance of a plastic violin in recital at Weill Hall.

"For 25 years, I was concertmaster of the Greenwich Symphony with **David Gilbert** '57E, '58E (MM), conductor, and with the Greenwich Symphony Chamber Players. I've been a soloist with more than a dozen symphony orchestras. Since leaving Eastman, I've had rewarding musical collaborations with more than 25 Eastman friends.

"Ann and I agree we're very fortunate to be Eastman alumni." 

of bassoon and music theory at Michigan State University, died in January, his son, Lee, writes. Lee adds that Edgar played with the Richards Quintet, the woodwind ensemble-in-residence at the university. "Throughout its 25 years, the quintet included four Eastman grads: my dad, **Elsa Luewig-Verdehr** '58 (MM), '64 (DMA) on clarinet, **Dan Stolper** '57, '58 (MM) on oboe, and **Douglas Campbell** '46 (MA), '57 (PhD) on horn. Alas, the group was never able to land an Eastman flute player."

1946 Douglas Campbell (MA), '57 (PhD) (see '45).

1948 Ann Field Bell and **Dorothy (Dottie) Merriam Happel** write that, after not having seen one another since their Eastman graduation, they've reunited at the Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community (see sidebar, above). . . . **Edgar Kirk** '59 (PhD) (see '45).

1957 Douglas Campbell (PhD) (see '45). . . . **David Gilbert** '58 (MM)

(see sidebar, above). . . . **Dan Stolper** '58 (MM) (see '45).

1958 David Gilbert (MM) (see sidebar, above). . . . **Elsa Luewig-Verdehr** (MM), '64 (DMA) (see '45). . . . **Dan Stolper** (MM) (see '45).

1959 Edgar Kirk (PhD) (see '45).

1964 Elsa Luewig-Verdehr (DMA) (see '45).

1966 Joyce Malicky Castle (MM), University Distinguished Professor of Voice at the University of Kansas, has a new recording, *The Hawthorn Tree* (Americus Records). The music was composed by William Bolcom in honor of Joyce's 40th anniversary as a performing artist. . . . **Chuck Daellenbach** '71 (PhD), cofounder of the Canadian Brass, has received the Canadian government's highest civilian honor, Member of the Order of Canada.

1968 Bill Cahn writes that Nexus, which also includes **Bob Becker** '69, has been performing with Persian

classical vocalist Sepideh Raissadat. They performed together at the 2014 Open Ears Festival of Music and Sound last June and at the University of Toronto's 2014 Concert Series last October. In March, Nexus and Raissadat recorded a video program of five classical Persian songs. The video will be broadcast over Voice of America.

1969 Bob Becker (see '68).

1970 Geary Larrick (MM) writes that he performed a program of music by George Gershwin in January on marimba in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. In February, he performed a program of music by African-American composers. He also reviewed the biography *Beethoven: Anguish and Triumph* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) by composer and author Jan Swafford in the winter 2014-15 issue of the *National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors Journal*.

1971 Chuck Daellenbach (PhD) (see '66).

1979 Pianist **Richard Steinbach** (MM), professor of music at Briar Cliff University, will perform his solo debut at Carnegie Hall in June. He'll premiere his latest recording, *Fusion: New Music for a New Age* (Self-published).

1980 Dave Ratajczak (see '85).

1982 Brett Blankenship (MM) has been elected president of the National Association of Wheat Growers. Brett, who studied piano performance and literature at Eastman, has been farming wheat full time since graduation.

1985 Trombonist **John Fedchock** (MM) writes that he's released *Fluidity* (Summit Records), his seventh album as a band leader. Drummer **Dave Ratajczak** '80, who died last October, performed on the recording.

1990 Linda Day writes: "After 22 years in the Austin Symphony, I have retired and moved to Monson, Massachusetts, with my husband, John. Since then, I have finished