

The Musical Tradition

PLU musicians perform in Hawaii, Kingdome, Pantages Center



PLU began its musical tradition in 1896 with a small band. A photo in the PLU archives shows the band in 1897 performing on the slopes of Mt. Rainier!

PLU still has a band. Two, in fact. The Symphonic Band, directed by Roger Gard, performed several times on campus. The Jazz Ensemble featured works by student composers Dan Gailey, Dave Bullock, and Dave Sorey, as well as by established writers.

The ensemble performed at Sonics' and Mariners' games and at the Pantages center with two other area jazz groups. The Jazz Ensemble often performed with the Vocal Jazz Ensemble, directed by Marc Hafso.

The PLU Vocal Jazz Ensemble's highlight was a workshop led by respected jazz artist Phil Matson.

The Choir of the West performed pieces from baroque and romantic works to contemporary literature. When singing under the direction of music professor Maurice Skones, said one member, "every performance is a highlight." The choir performed the American premier of Krystof Penderecki's "Angus Dei," and was the first group ever to perform a piece written by PLU music Professor Cindy McTee. Skones will return after this year to Arizona State University, where he worked with graduate students while on sabbatical during the 1981-82 academic year.

Pat Michaels directed the Concert Choir, which was composed of female singers. Concert Choir performed "A Festival of Carols," with University Chorale at Christmas time.

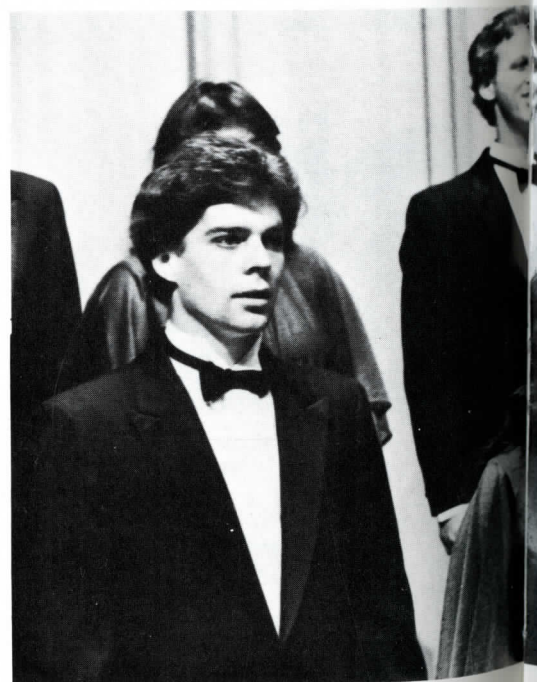
Associate Professor Edward Harmic's University Chorale basked in the warm sands of Waikiki while on spring tour. In addition to the Hawaii tour, Chorale traveled to Portland, Spokane and Seattle for a series of concerts with Choir of the West. One singer

remarked that the 1982-83 Chorale was a "very friendly bunch, and task-oriented."

Under Associate Professor Jerry Kracht, the University Symphony Orchestra premiered composer and soloist William Hibbard's Concerto for Viola and Orchestra. The Orchestra also performed the Northwest premier of Ingvar Lidholm's "Kontakion." Harry Davidson, a former director of the Cleveland Symphony, conducted the orchestra as Kracht took a sabbatical second semester. The year's high point was a concert with renowned pianist Robin McCabe at the Pantages Center during the spring.

Baroque flute artist Jeffrey Cohen performed with the Early Music Ensemble. This group also hosted gamba player Fred Inman during the fall. These early musicians received a donation of funds to have a harpsichord built.

-Charlotte Wessitsh





OPPOSITE PAGE: Maurice Skones ended 19 years as director of the Choir of the West to take a position at the University of Arizona. THIS PAGE ABOVE: The University Symphony Orchestra premiered works by established composers and performed with renowned pianist Robin McCabe. LEFT: The Choir of the West performed for audiences nationwide, and was filmed as part of a German television documentary.