School of Music Working to Strengthen International Ties

Life in a global society brings with it not only more responsibilities, but more opportunities. Those opportunities have become a major focus for David G. Woods, dean of the Indiana University School of Music.

"I believe that we can no longer just focus on educating our music students in Bloomington, with some exposure in New York and Europe," says Woods. "Instead we need a total internationalization of the Indiana University School of Music. We are leaders in the world in training young musicians, with an international faculty and students from 35 countries. Our programs, curricular as well as outreach programs, should embrace an international perspective."

One of the first things Woods did when he became dean in 1997 was to apply for a Strategic Directions Grant for an interactive video distance learning project with the Royal Academy of Music in London. That collaboration is just the first of several exciting international projects that are in the works. Additional projects are described below.

**Collaboration with the Royal Academy of Music in London**

Woods has been working with Curtis Price, the principal of the Royal Academy of Music and one of the most progressive leaders in conservatory training in Europe today, to develop ways to join the two schools to enhance the experiences for both schools' students.

"In our discussions we explored the possibility of setting up a distance learning project where our students could take lessons, master classes, participate in lectures and demonstrations at the Royal Academy. And the students at the Royal Academy could do the same here. We experimented with this on April 30 and we were astounded to note the incredible quality of sound, which had been one of our worries," Woods says.

Miriam Fried, professor of music, taught a senior level violinist at the Royal Academy by instant interactive video. "The lesson was superb," says Woods.

Sebastian Bell, a well-known flute performer in London and head of the flute faculty at the Royal Academy, taught one of the School of Music's doctoral students in flute. That lesson was also very effective, said Woods.

**At the Lilly Library signing of the Salamanca agreement are (left to right) David Woods, Milagros Sánchez de la Blanca, Ignacio Berdugo, and Gonzalo Gómez Dacal.**

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While both were one-on-one lessons between instructor and student, many more students benefited. "There was an audience observing and thus one could call this a master-class setting," says Henry Upper, associate dean of external relations for the School of Music. "And often a master class is just as ben...

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Woods and his colleagues learned a lot during the first session—about the possibilities as well as the limitations. Both the School of Music and the Royal Academy are currently putting together specially equipped studios from which regular broadcasts will be beamed back and forth across the Atlantic to enhance learning. Once these studios are complete, the dean envisions a quite active exchange between the two schools which will change the way music is taught and learned in the future.

"There is no reason that we won't be able to link up with a number of other important musical institutions around the world and have the opportunity to have a very free exchange of these kinds of musical ideas," Upper says. "This is again proof that music is truly an international language."

Woods and his colleagues have also begun to explore the possibility of an exchange of students and faculty with the Royal Academy of Music.

On June 1, 1998, an historic agreement was signed between the two schools that allows their students to study in Bloomington and IU's students to study in London. A faculty exchange will begin this spring with Mauricio Fuks, IU professor of music, teaching at the Royal Academy for the spring semester.

### The Exchange with Spain

An agreement of cooperation between the School of Music and the Ministry of Education and Culture of Spain was signed by Woods in Bloomington on Oct. 28 (see Dec. 1998 issue of OIP Newsletter).

The first Spanish university to take advantage of the exchange is the University of Salamanca, an agreement for which was signed in Bloomington on Dec. 4 between the Spanish ministry, represented by Counselor for Education Gonzalo Gómez Dacal, the University of Salamanca, represented by Rector Ignacio Berdugo and Vice Rector Enrique Cavero, and Dean Woods.

This exciting exchange of faculty and students will begin this summer when Janos Starker, distinguished professor of music and world famous cellist, and Martina Arroyo, distinguished professor of music and world renowned opera singer, go to Salamanca to teach a series of master classes to outstanding students from Spain and throughout the world. Upper is excited about the selection of the University of Salamanca.

"The University of Salamanca is the third oldest university in all of Europe...begun in the 13th century...I think we have the opportunity to have some extraordinary classes in what is a rather unusual setting for music instruction. The European tradition for teaching the performance of music has always been the conservatory," Upper says. In addition, in 2003 the School of Music will take a major performance to Salamanca for what will be a summer festival sponsored by the European Union.

### Vienna Semester Abroad

The idea for School of Music juniors to be able to spend a semester abroad studying in Vienna was brought to the school by Patricia Wise, professor of music. "Patricia lived her entire professional life in Vienna though she is American born and trained. She sang with the Vienna State Opera and all the major opera houses in Europe before coming to teach in Bloomington," Upper says.

When she returned from a recent visit to Vienna, she found that it had rekindled many of the great musical experiences that she had while she was there. She explained to Woods that Vienna is one of the great music capitals of the Western world and that IU students

IU's Miriam Fried teaches a senior-level violinist at London's Royal Academy via interactive video connection.
should have an opportunity to see first hand the places where the great composers lived, worked and performed, and to live in the environment that stimulated them.

The school has put together a program with the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) that will offer courses in English ranging from German to humanities and social sciences to highly specialized music courses that will count toward their degree at IU. They will also be able to study their instruments with extraordinary musicians and to hear countless numbers of the world’s greatest performers.

“We envision that between 20 and 30 students will go each year and we are very enthusiastic about what we feel the students will get through their opportunity to live the life of a musician outside the United States. One can’t overemphasize the musical heritage a classical musician feels in such an environment. Though we are expanding our interest in music beyond the boundaries of the European tradition, those traditions are still the central basis of everything we do musically,” Upper explains. The program, which is expected to begin in fall 1999, will be open to any junior who is an accepted music major.

International Performances

Woods says that not only does the school want to share educational and pedagogical experiences but needs to continue its international performance schedule.

Last May he visited France and met with Thierry Fouquet, the director of the Bordeaux Opera regarding the the School’s Philharmonic Orchestra performing in May of next year as a part of the opera and symphony schedule in Bordeaux in 2000. On May 24 the IU Ballet will perform in Bordeaux as well. The orchestra then travels to Clermont-Ferrand where it will perform two concerts, goes on to Lyon for one performance and then back to Paris, where it has been invited to perform at the Festival D’Auvers-sur-Oise, a major festival in France, on June 3.

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Woods says the School is also exploring the possibility of performing its opera program in London in 2002. The performance would be in conjunction with the Royal Academy of Music, which would provide the orchestra.

Most recently Woods has been in touch with the Belgian government and has arranged for the Belgian Military Band to participate in Bloomington’s summer arts festival.

In addition to the above programs, the IU School of Music has faculty members teaching, as individuals, virtually around the world, Upper says. The new programs that are being developed will emphasize the School of Music working in collaboration with its faculty members and students in international settings.

One new venture being explored is an exchange with the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, one of the very best conservatories, Upper says. Mauricio Fuks, professor of music, and Lawrence Hurst, professor of music, will both teach master classes in Shanghai in the late spring of 1999.

– Ruth Albright
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