

# THE TRIANGLE

## of MU PHI EPSILON

### Artistry ACTION:

Mu Phi Epsilon International Convention Jacksonville, FL · July 30-Aug 2, 2008

## Stellar Lineup of Convention Artists

Christine Brewer, Ruslan Biryukov, Mary Au head outstanding roster



Soprano **Christine Brewer** (*Sterling Patron*) joins us at Convention immediately after performing as soprano soloist in Mahler's Symphony of a Thousand at Chicago's Ravinia Festival. Among her many other 2007-08 appearances were performances at the Gewandhaus Leipzig, Dresden Staatskapelle, and Toulouse Orchestra; soloist for Verdi's *Requiem* in Florence and Dallas; and her company debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Ms. Brewer will give a vocal master class at the convention and perform at the closing banquet. [www.christinebrewer.com](http://www.christinebrewer.com)

As winner of the 2007 Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition, **Ruslan Biryukov** (*Mu Nu, Los Angeles Alumni*) will play several times during the convention, including the showcase International Competition Winner's Concert when he will perform works by Popper, Schumann, Davidov, Chopin, Luxemburg, and Shostakovich. He will also co-present a workshop for instrumentalists. visit [www.celloart.com](http://www.celloart.com)



In addition to appearing as collaborative artist with Ruslan Biryukov, pianist **Mary Au** (*Mu Nu, Los Angeles Alumni*) has been appointed official pianist for the entire convention, including Christine Brewer's vocal master class. Mary has performed nationally and internationally, including invited appearances in China. A former executive of the GRAMMY Awards, she is dedicated to crossing cultural boundaries and sharing her music with audiences worldwide. [www.aumary.com](http://www.aumary.com)

Visit [www.muphiepsilon.org/convention2008.htm](http://www.muphiepsilon.org/convention2008.htm) to read complete biographies of all convention performers and presenters.



# Mu Phi Epsilon Treasures

## Chapter Scrapbooks at Convention

Be sure your delegate brings your chapter's scrapbook to convention! Looking over scrapbooks on display is always a fun part of convention and a great way to learn what other chapters are doing. Please note that scrapbooks will not be judged this year, so just bring, display, and enjoy.

## Collect Original Work by Mu Phi Members

CDs, books, and music produced by Mu Phi members will be available for purchase at the convention. Don't miss this opportunity to collect some great, hard-to-find materials for your own library. Payment by cash or check.

## Silent Auction Surprises

Another great way to collect music- and Mu Phi-related memorabilia, decorative items, and music materials is the silent auction going on throughout the convention. See full story, back cover, for all the details.



## A Mu Phi Moment

By Eleanore Kane, *Gamma, Los Angeles Alumni*



I'm at a chapter meeting, waiting for the musical program to start. Our hostess Deon is also today's main performer, along with her clarinetist son Berkeley, also a Mu Phi. She sits at her concert grand and waits for him to set up his five clarinets of different sizes, the largest almost six feet tall. They will play Deon's own composition describing a Chinese feast; each section names a dish such as "Slippery Shrimp and Broccoli." They perform it again this spring in Beijing, where works by five of our chapter's talented composers will be performed at the International Congress on Women in Music.

As I listen, I wonder how many Mu Phi meetings I've attended in all these years. It must be at least five hundred. I've been a Mu Phi since my sophomore year of college. When I studied music education at University of Michigan, my piano teacher Ava Case was the national Mu Phi president. Of course she encouraged me to become a member, and I was happy to join. Imagine a naïve small-town girl dressed up in evening clothes – galoshes over shoes to tramp through the snowdrifts – attending an evening meeting at an alumna's palatial home. I still remember how glamorous and grown-up I felt.

I lost touch with the sorority during the early years of my first marriage, but when I moved to California I rediscovered Mu Phi through a music teacher at the school where I taught. At the first *San Fernando Valley Alumni Chapter* meeting I attended, there was Renee, whom I had helped install as a new member back in Michigan! We've been close friends ever since. After that chapter merged with *Los Angeles Alumni*, I've held several offices. And now there's a special symbol next to my name in our yearbook signifying "member for sixty years or more."

After the program at Deon's house, the newest member Linda sings *Our Triangle* in a gorgeous soprano voice. Yes, the words are old-fashioned – corny, even – but as she sings, I furtively wipe a tear.



# Harmony Campaign Donors Make a Difference

by Frances Irwin, International President

In 2005 Harmony Chairman Nancy Zschietzschmann wrote that each of us has the power to make a difference in the life of our Fraternity – *If it is to be, it is up to me*. Since then many members have accepted her invitation to give, and their thoughtful commitment to Mu Phi Epsilon’s continued excellence *has* made a difference. Donations to the Harmony Campaign have made possible several initiatives: improvement of our official publication *The Triangle*, expansion of our web site, establishment of an International Committee, contacting lapsed members, and enhancing the benefits of membership.

The next International Executive Board will decide whether to continue this annual giving campaign. Future initiatives yet to be undertaken are additional support of chapter projects on the local level, improved leadership training for district directors, and an “angel fund” to help a chapter or member in immediate need. The most desired long-term outcome of the Harmony Campaign is to establish a permanent home office where our treasured Mu Phi history and artifacts can be properly stored and displayed. Such a center of operations would also enable Mu Phi to conduct leadership training on a regular basis.

The Fraternity expresses sincere gratitude and appreciation to all who have given to the Harmony Campaign in 2007-2008. A list of donors will appear in the Fall 2008 *Triangle*.

## Final Note

Past International President **Eleanor Hale Wilson** (*Tau* 1926, *Seattle Alumni*) died April 14, 2008, at the age of 101. Eleanor was a guiding force as Mu Phi Epsilon evolved throughout the twentieth century, serving in many other offices including several times as Convention chairman. She also was active all her life in the *Seattle Alumni* chapter and was always willing to help promote the Fraternity with expert advice and a delightful sense of humor. She was known for an astute head for business, a high level of energy (a real “ball of fire”), and was filled with wonderful ideas.

A prestigious new award introduced at the 1998 Tacoma convention was named for Eleanor and her successor as international president, Rosalie Speciale. The Wilson-Speciale Award, presented only at conventions, recognizes longtime loyal members for lifetime achievement in the work of Mu Phi Epsilon. Eleanor was present for the announcement of the award’s creation and its presentation to the first recipient.

Mu Phi Epsilon mourns Eleanor’s passing, but it is fitting that at this year’s convention we also have the opportunity to celebrate her life and her contributions to our fraternity.

*This short Final Note is excerpted from a full obituary contributed by Final Notes editor Wynona Wieting Lipsett, which will appear in the Fall 2008 Triangle.*

## Applause

**Martha MacDonald** and **Lee Clements Meyer** (both *Phi Xi* and *Austin Alumni*) received awards of recognition at the recent SC-I district conference for their service to the Fraternity. Lee is a past International President, Martha is the current Second International Vice President/Collegiate Advisor, and both have held numerous other Mu Phi leadership positions

Composers **Deon Neilsen Price**, **Berkeley Price**, **Adrienne Albert**, and **Carol Worthey**, all members of *Los Angeles Alumni*, traveled in April to Beijing, China for the International Congress of Women in Music. The trip was underwritten in part by a Helen Haupt Chapter Grant from the Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation to the Los Angeles Alumni chapter. More about their adventure, next issue.

**Christina Thayer Fox** (*Gamma*) recently won second place in the Third International Piano Competition in Santorini, Greece, and second place in the Music Teachers National Association Competition for the state of Michigan. Christina completed her DMA in May.

## Encore

Many congratulations to **Mu Chi** on the occasion of its reactivation on April 20. More next issue, with photo.

Congratulations also to **Dayton Alumni**, who in May celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their chapter’s founding. Watch the fall *Triangle* for a full story with photos.

**Lambda** is proud to announce the launch of its new web site, [www.muphiepsilon.org/lambda](http://www.muphiepsilon.org/lambda). Check it out! Has your chapter launched or redesigned its web site recently? Let the *Triangle* know so we can invite all Mu Phis to visit.

*The Triangle invites submittals of chapter and individual member news for “Applause and Encore.” Deadline for the Fall 2008 issue is July 31. Please e-mail items to [editor@muphiepsilon.org](mailto:editor@muphiepsilon.org).*



# everything you need to know about Silent Auction at Convention

Going to Convention? Interested in bringing back a keepsake? Looking for a small gift for a friend or fellow Mu Phi? While at Convention, come visit the Silent Auction and see what's available!

**When and where will the Silent Auction take place?** The auction will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel from the start of Convention until the end, with bidding closing at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 2.


**How does it work?** Items for auction will be displayed for all to see and bid on. A starting bid will be written next to the items, with space below for subsequent bids. Write down your bid, then check periodically to see if someone else has bid more. The person with the highest bid claims the item.

**What items are being auctioned?** A host of items made and/or donated by Mu Phi Epsilon members: compact discs, books, clothing, jewelry, and other assorted accessories and merchandise—most of which can be easily packed for your trip home!

**How do I pay for my item?** Please be prepared to pay for your item at Convention. Cash or checks are accepted. Make checks payable to Mu Phi Epsilon.

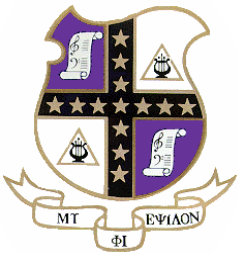
**Please contact Marcus with any questions or if you have items to donate for auction.**

Marcus Wyche, 2729 Nicholson Street, #103, Hyattsville, MD 20782  
(301) 484-3652      VideoAuth@aol.com



## Notice of Change of Address or Name

*Click on Alumni Update Form at [www.MuPhiEpsilon.org](http://www.MuPhiEpsilon.org)*



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