

A Legacy of Music & Centenary



The Hancocks & Scarlatos

Left to right: Stephen Scarlato '08, Michael Scarlato '77, Deborah Scarlato '78, George Hancock '88, Thomas Scarlato '06, and Emily Boykin '76

A recent study from the Music Empowers Foundation found that children who receive music instruction for just 15 months show improvements in attention, self-control, cognitive ability, and spatial-temporal reasoning.

These findings come as no surprise to Deborah Scarlato '78, whose family is steeped in a rich tradition of music and education. Over 20 family members play at least one musical instrument, and an equal number have attended Centenary College.

"Learning happens through music," said Deborah. "When I was teaching music, there was an English teacher who was having trouble getting her students to learn new spelling words, and I offered to help. I taught the children to clap rhythms so that the letters became syllables in a song. The tests

were not silent, by any means, but the children did very well."

Deborah has served Centenary for 13 years and is currently the Assistant Director of Re-Enrollment. As an undergraduate, she studied music education and played the double bass.

Before she ever arrived at Centenary as a freshman, Deborah was already familiar with the campus. Her grandparents were Centenary alumni from the 1920s. Her grandmother was named *Yoncopin* Beauty, and her grandfather remains

a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame. Dr. Alton Odell Hancock '54, Deborah's father, served as a Professor of History from 1964-1999. Deborah's siblings also attended Centenary.

Having all of her family on campus led to some unique experiences:

"When I played in the pit orchestra for Centenary summer musicals, we performed *The Sound of Music* one particular summer. My brother, George, played flute, and my sister, Emily, was a young nun on stage. That was a wonderful experience to share such a great show with my brother and sister."

The love of music that led her to attend Centenary was also instrumental in meeting her husband of 35 years.

"I remember it was All Campus Weekend in September 1976," said Deborah. "I was sitting on the wall in front of the Hurley School of Music watching the faculty beat the students again in the Beer Bicycle race. Mike Scarlato came and sat beside me. He asked me to go to a movie with him, and it was *Murder on the Orient Express*. I said 'yes,' and I have never gone out with anyone else. We got married in Brown Chapel on August 6, 1977."

Michael Scarlato '77 is a Centenary Adjunct in Music and an accomplished trumpet player. His father, William Scarlato, also served Centenary as a trumpet instructor in the 1980s.

"For me, Centenary is the intellectual and cultural center of the Ark-La-Tex area," said Michael. "This is enhanced by Centenary's willingness to share itself with the local community. This commitment to community flows from a deeper commitment to family. This abiding sense of family is evident in the legacies of many generations of families who have been educated at Centenary. I am proud that our family is part of a Centenary legacy that spans five generations."

Michael and Deborah's son, Stephen Scarlato '08, chose Centenary for the theatre department and stayed because he found it such a good fit.

"It's a shared experience—like being part of a club. We know that other members have certain ways of thinking that Centenary fosters," said Stephen. "I sat with my girlfriend in the same spot where my dad asked my mom out for the first time. I stood in the spot where he married her. This place is a huge part of my life. It, like music, is a way to interact with my family's history."

The Centenary experience combined with music creates a strong bond for the Scarlato family—one that Stephen finds hard to describe.

"People who do not grow up in a musical family don't understand," said Stephen. "When you grow up with music, when it puts food on the table, it is just a part of you. It's like a second language in the home—you naturally speak it. It's just what we do."

Archives & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Mrs. Jane Barnette Hancock '72, Dr. Alton Hancock '54, and Centenary Archivist Chris Brown '01.

The Centenary Archives and Special Collections is pleased to announce one of its recent acquisitions – The Barnette Family Papers – a donation from Mrs. Jane Barnette Hancock '72 and Dr. Alton Hancock '54. This collection contains materials about the personal and professional lives of Judge Chris T. Barnette '25 and his wife, Sue Cupples Barnette '28. It includes correspondence, photographs, clippings, printed items, and written judicial opinions. The collection documents the Barnette Family's connections to Centenary and Louisiana Methodism as well as Judge Barnette's work for the Juvenile Court of Caddo Parish and the Louisiana Courts of Appeal in both New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

The Centenary Archives is currently processing this collection. Upon completion, it will be available for researchers in the Archives and its finding aid will be added to the Archives' online catalog at <http://archive.centenary.edu>. If you have any questions about the collection, please contact the College Archivist Chris Brown at 318.869.5462 or archives@centenary.edu.



Members of Centenary's class of 1928 at Baccalaureate Service occurring at First Methodist Church in Shreveport. Left to right: Amy Lou Tatum, Alvern Adams Davis, Clifford Cook, Emily Sue Cupples Barnette, Ottice Jordan Swanson, and Gertrude Alverson Henderson.

Antecedents and Descendants of Deborah Ann Hancock Scarlato

CLASS	NAME	RELATIONSHIP
1925	Chris Thomas Barnette	Maternal Grandfather, Alumni Hall of Fame
1928	Emily Sue Cupples Barnette	Maternal Grandmother, <i>Yoncopin</i> Beauty
1954	Alton Odell Hancock	Father, Centenary History Professor, 1964-1999
1955-1956	Ruth Ann Barnette Pierce*	Maternal Aunt
	William Carl Scarlato	Father-in-Law, Centenary Trumpet Instructor, 1980s
1969	Clara Sue Barnette Watts Driftmier	Maternal Aunt
1972	Betty M. Cupples Hamrick	Cousin
1972	Emily Jane Barnette Hancock	Mother, B.S. Education
1976	Chris Williamson Barnette	Cousin
1976/1978	Emily Frances Hancock Meyers Boykin	Sister, B.S. Education, M.Ed. 1978, Violin
1977	Michael Victor Scarlato	Husband, B.M., Graduate Education Teacher Certification, Centenary Trumpet Instructor
1978	Deborah Ann Hancock Scarlato	B.M., Double Bass, Employee since 1999
1988	George Hamilton Hancock	Brother, B.M., Flute
1987-1990	Irene Lillian Scarlato Hudson Medlin*	Sister-in-Law, Vocal music
1999-2002	Austin Logan Meyers*	Nephew, Violin in Centenary Suzuki School
2006	Thomas Patrick Scarlato	Son, B.S. Business, Trumpet in Middle/High School
2008	Stephen Nicholas Scarlato	Son, B.A. Theatre, French Horn in Middle/High School, M.A.T. in progress

* Non-degree alumna