

Augustana College
Chapel of Reconciliation

“Harry ‘Doc’ Krueger: A man of faith and music”

Heritage and Hope at Augustana

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28 Feb 2011

I was recently at Des Moines Science Center where my family and I experienced a WONDERFUL exhibit of Leonardo da Vinci’s creative output. As you all know, this great Renaissance master was more than just a painter: he was a scientist who experimented with physics and made significant discoveries in anatomy, an inventor (including flying machines hundreds of years ahead of their time), he was a philosopher, and even a musician who played the violin. At this exhibit I was startled to read a da Vinci quotation in Renaissance script above one of the stations:

“The poet ranks far below the painter in the representation of visible things, and far below the musician in that of invisible things.”

Of course, the veracity of this statement is up to debate. But, my mind latched onto Da Vinci’s statement “the musician (represents) that of invisible things.”

There is truly a spiritual and emotional world that music provides unlike any other discipline. Harry Kreuger is one such great Augustana professor who has spent his entire life in pursuit of this ephemeral art form that brings us closer to the spiritual world.

Harry, or “Doc” as most people in our community affectionately call him, is an Augustana musical icon. He is identified with the “brass sound” that has made Augie unique among our schools. My friend and colleague, James

Johnson, tells me that the Brass Choir actually became the most prestigious ensemble on campus, with a sound that was unique and “orchestral.”

Born in the small Minnesota town of Wabasso, Minnesota, Harry went to school in Red Wood Falls, Minnesota, where his hero was his high school band teacher. Following his teacher’s lead, he decided to choose a career in music and attended Luther College where he studied with Weston Noble. Following graduation, he married his college sweetheart Phyllis (Phil), and they had four children: David (part owner of K&M Music—as in “K”reuger), Mark (a band director in Boise), Tim (a banker here in Sioux Falls), and Tom (a teacher here in Sioux Falls).

Harry began teaching in public schools in Iowa and Minnesota, and later became a professor at St. Cloud State Minnesota.

This last place of employment is the most significant, because while Harry was working at St. Cloud, his boss, Dean Charles Balcer, was hired to be the next president of Augustana College. Before leaving his position at St. Cloud, President Balcer told Harry that there was a new music position for a brass player at Augustana, and perhaps he would be interested. Ironically, at the same time that Harry was offered this music position at Augie, he was also offered a position at the “other” Augustana in Rock Island. Fortunately, Harry chose the better of the two offers.

“I took a real paycut when I moved to Augie,” Harry told me. “I made almost twice the amount of money at St. Cloud, and I was scared about uprooting my kids and family. But when I arrived at Augie, I never looked back. The Good Lord took care of us.”

This attitude of Harry’s has been an inspiration to countless students. Music isn’t about money—it’s about art and spirit.

Harry was on faculty at Augie from 1965 until his retirement in 1993. “Retirement” is always a misnomer at Augie, and Harry has continued to be a musical force in our community. My first contact with Harry was at Augustana Orchestra concerts. He attends all the major ensemble concerts, supportive of the music faculty. Following concerts, he is always complimentary and happy to see all the Augie students and community members succeed. Sometimes, he will even give me a report on students who are not playing in orchestra, whom he might espy at an SDSU or USD concert when the orchestra directors there need to hire extra musicians (of

course, they check out our Augie talent). “They should be playing in Augie Orchestra first!” he will tell me.

Throughout his time at Augie, Harry remained very active as a professional musician. He continued to play trumpet with the SDSO (then known as the Sioux Falls Orchestra, which was originally Augustana Orchestra).

Throughout a band and orchestra there are certain personality traits or expectations about trumpeters: mostly they tend to be very confident and loud. There is an old joke: how many trumpet players does it take to turn a light bulb? 4! One to turn it, and three to say how much better they could turn the same bulb. Harry’s son David tells a fun story about his dad. David would sit next to his dad in Municipal band concerts. Sometimes these concerts would be during very humid weather of our Sioux Falls summers, and everyone’s spirits would be a little drained after playing the same concert 30 times. Just to irk the conductor, Harry would hold the trumpet note ever longer than the rest of the group at the end of a piece, just to make the group laugh! That is a little musician humor.

Harry told me about the difficulty of rehearsing with Augie students, who are so talented, but stretched so thin with their time. The Brass Choir featured the top brass students from the band, many of whom had other majors. Of course, these players were in demand in other ensembles too. In the end, Harry had to contend with some of the most difficult rehearsal times imaginable: 5:30-6:30 time slots on Tuesdays and FRIDAYS!

Nevertheless, he said all the students played and stayed on campus for that Friday evening rehearsal. What a great testament to the Augie students and to Harry’s ability to teach. Harry’s attitude about these rehearsals is something that I continue to remember with the orchestra: “We all need to learn to give and take.”

Harry says that the most memorable part of his time at Augie was the five international tours he made with the Brass Choir. The Augie Brass Choir was one of the first groups to play behind the iron curtain. Harry said that it showed the students that “our way isn’t the only way; yet no matter who you are we all share the same love for music.” The Brass Choir also made an unforgettable trip to Belgium in celebration of the anniversary of the Belgian liberation from Nazi Germany. The Brass Choir played with the Belgian King and Queen in attendance while the American Air Force flew ceremoniously overhead.

There were many other remarkable events: Harry commissioned a whole library of original music for this unique ensemble, with pieces by Dave Euber, Gene White, and Donald Erb. Harry says that the highpoint of the year for him was when the Brass Choir accompanied the entire Viking Varities Show.

Coda: Today, Harry continues to be an inspiration to former students, current students, and faculty alike. Harry's simple humility and love for music inspires us all. In conclusion, I want to share these words that Harry stated to me in our conversations: "Every step of the way the Good Lord had a reason for putting me where I belong."

HERITAGE AND HOPE AT AUGUSTANA

Monday, February 28, 2011

Prelude

Welcome/announcements

Invocation

Psalm 150 read responsively by half verse from ELW

Prayer

Hymn *“Praise to the Lord”* ELW #858

Scripture Luke 2: 13-14

Message Christopher Stanichar, Music

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *“Praise to the Lord”* Paul Manz

CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING SEMESTER SERVICE LEARNING - Student participants and leaders are sought for these service learning trips next spring. Costs are reduced for leaders willing to help with recruitment and planning. *See Pr. Paul or Carol if you are interested.*

March 18-21 - Joy Ranch, Watertown. Cost is \$25 for gas

March 24-27 - Pine Ridge Reservation. Cost \$130

May 22-26 - New York City. Cost is \$800 including flight, housing, most food and Broadway play ticket. **Full payments for Joy Ranch and Pine Ridge, and \$300 deposit for NY due by Feb. 28th - TODAY.**

SERVING THE 'BANQUET' - Campus Ministry will be serving the Banquet on Thurs., March 10th. Prep shift starts at 2:00 pm, serving shift starts at 5:15. Sign-up sheet is on the Narthex table.

***30 HOUR FAST *** - In order to better understand and serve those who are hungry, we are having a 30 hour fast, starting at 11 am on Ash Wednesday, March 9. Anyone who is able will break their fast by serving at the Banquet on March 10. You do not have to be able to go to the Banquet to participate in the fast. If you are interested in joining us, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Tuesday (1 st)	Roman Catholic Mass, 10 am - Fr. Joe Vogel
Wednesday (2 nd)	Holy Communion, 10 am - Bill Tesch, ELCA Synod; Augustana Orchestra
Friday (4 th)	Worship, 10 am - Brynn Muir, Sr. Spkr.
Sunday (6 th)	Distinguished Scholar Worship, 9 am - Morning worship, 11 am - Sweet Fellowship Outreach Team
Monday (7 th)	Organ and Poetry Reflections, 10 am - Marilyn Schempp, organ/Sandra Looney, Engl.