De Mol to Serve as General Manager
By Leah Zuidema

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Dr. Karen De Mol has agreed to serve as NISO General Manager. De Mol, who is Professor of Music Emerita at Dordt College, is well acquainted with the orchestra: she was the principal clarinetist from the beginnings of the Sioux County Orchestra in 1984, and when the ensemble became the Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra, she continued in that musical role until 2010.

(continued on page 4)
NISO’s Celebrity Conductor Fundraiser

By Shirley Matheis

NISO’s second Celebrity Guest Conductor Fundraiser will be held on February 2, in connection with the Winter Pops Concert. Area individuals were invited to compete for the honor by soliciting donations for NISO from family and friends. Each dollar donated will constitute one vote. The winning candidate will demonstrate his skill after the intermission.

**Dave Bloemendaal** (Orange City) is an Iowa farm boy who spent his early years in Newkirk and Hartley. He found a wife at Dordt College while earning a degree in secondary music education; Joyce was the accompanist assigned for his voice lessons. After six years of teaching vocal and instrumental music at Southwest Christian High in Edgerton, MN, Dave returned to Orange City, where he is now assistant manager at Bomgaars. He has been involved with choral and instrumental groups throughout his life. He has directed and performed in many Tulip Time productions and has directed the church choir and the men’s chorus. Dave would be honored if he were selected to direct a first-class orchestra like NISO.

**Jack Schreurs** (Sheldon) is currently Director of Human Resources at Rosenboom. Ever since he joined the school band in 1960, he has been playing in instrumental groups. He was first trumpet for NISO’s forerunner, the Sioux County Orchestra. Now he plays with the Koinonia Brass Quintet, which also includes his daughter and son-in-law. After earning a degree in K-12 music education from Dordt College, Jack taught instrumental music at several schools: Hull Christian, Western Christian High School, Dakota Christian, and Sheldon Christian. Jack has been a church choir director since 1972, currently at Immanuel CRC in Sheldon. He and Kathy have four married children, three living nearby. This Wisconsin native hopes that his childhood dream of conducting a major symphonic orchestra like NISO will be fulfilled this Groundhog Day.

**Dennis Walstra** (Sioux Center) came from Chicago to attend Dordt College, and he never left the area. Owner and operator of Walstra Plumbing and Heating since the mid 1980s, Dennis has a long history of service to church and civic organizations in Sioux Center: Covenant CRC Council, City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Sioux Center Board of Adjustment, Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce, Sioux Center Centennial Committee, Dordt College Board of Trustees, Sioux Center Christian School Board, and others. He has been mayor of Sioux Center since 2003. He currently serves as President of the Policy Maker’s Council of the American Public Power Association and serves on the Energy, Environment and Natural Resource Council of the National League of Cities. Denny and Donna have three married children and five grandchildren. Dennis’s musical history includes playing trumpet in the high school band. *(Photo by Sioux Center News)*

**Denny Wright** (Hull) grew up in Laurens, Iowa, and taught social studies at Boyden–Hull until retiring in 2004. He was the athletic director and girls’ track coach for almost thirty years, and he also was a baseball and softball umpire in NW Iowa for forty years. His community service includes: Mayor of Hull, County Supervisor, Ambulance Squad member, Sioux Center Hospital Board member, American Reformed Church council member, and Kiwanis President. Denny has received numerous awards: Hull Citizen of the Year, Employee of the Year, IHSAA Administrator Award (2005), and induction into the Iowa High School Athletic Directors Hall of Fame (2005). Although he knows next to nothing about music--beyond a mediocre job on trombone in high school--Denny is hoping to take up the NISO baton on February 2 and add yet another feather to his cap.

To register a vote for your favorite “conductor,” contact that individual, or send a donation in his name to NISO, 498 Fourth Avenue, NE, Sioux Center, IA 51250.
Where Do Budget Dollars Go?
By Norma Snyder Jones

As noted in the previous issue of *NISO Notes*, we are fortunate that our orchestra is in good financial health, and we are grateful for the generosity of our community. NISO friends and contributors sometimes ask how the budget dollars are used. As a general overview of the finances, the expenses range from artistic to administrative, legal, and advancement costs.

As might be expected, our largest financial output (about 60% of our budget) is for artistic expenses, including funds to pay our conductors, our principal players and “ringers,” individual guest performers, and our guest concert musicians (such as the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra). The other major expenses are each in the 8 to 10% range. Legal items include our auditing, insurance, and performance rights. Advancement costs include our newsletter, postage, advertising, grant writing and website work. Administration monies cover our paid positions and board expenses.

Our financial stability can be attributed not only to our generous friends and contributors, but also to NISO’s strong Board of Directors, which benefits from members with well-defined responsibilities, broad expertise, and contagious passion for the orchestra. Your continued support is so greatly appreciated.

Omaha Sends its Finest
By Amber Vis

Once a year, NISO includes an outstanding outside guest or ensemble in the musical season. This year, we are honored to invite the Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra to Dordt College for a concert that you won’t want to miss. The concert will be conducted by Ernest Richardson, who has been with the Omaha Symphony for 20 years. Richardson also leads the successful Symphony Pops series, as well as the Symphony’s outreach and education programs.

Ernest Richardson began studying the violin at the age of three with his father, Dr. Vernal Richardson. He continued his string education at Indiana University with Tadeusz Wronski, later concentrating on the viola at the University of Michigan. His compositions and arrangements for orchestra have been performed by the Phoenix Chamber Players, the Phoenix Symphony, and the Omaha Symphony. Richardson’s chamber music has been performed throughout the United States.

Comprised of the Omaha Symphony Orchestra’s core of 40 full-time musicians, the Chamber Orchestra performs a wide range of repertoire not otherwise included in the symphony’s regular schedule. In addition to their regular concert season, the Omaha Chamber Orchestra has performed for choral conferences, collaborated with the Cathedral Arts Project at St. Cecilia Cathedral and Sacred Arts Council Lincoln, and made appearances at several colleges and other special events.

The program for the Sioux Center performance includes *The Hebrides, Op. 26, “Fingal’s Cave”* by Felix Mendelssohn, *Beyond the Odyssey* by Steven Laven, and *The Frontier* by Dave Heath. There will also be a performance of Franz Schubert’s *Symphony No. 4 in C Minor, D. 417, “Tragic.”* NISO’s conductor, Stanichar, noted, “This is a great opportunity for the audience to hear a great regional orchestra.”

The Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra will perform on February 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium at Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. This concert is generously sponsored by the Sioux Center Recreation and Arts Council and is included in the NISO season ticket. Tickets are also available for purchase at the door.
The Northwest Iowa Symphony Organization has great diversity amongst its orchestra members. According to Bradley Miedema, NISO's Music Director (and also Director of Instrumental Music at Dordt College), the orchestra is composed of professional musicians who serve as teaching principals—along with community musicians and students from Augustana College, Dordt College, Northwestern College, and University of South Dakota. In addition, there are high school students in the orchestra who benefit from playing with seasoned players.

There is a wide range of educational backgrounds and music interests among NISO musicians. Many of them attend college or teach band and orchestra at the elementary, high school and college levels, while others members have non-music-related jobs during the day. Let’s get to know three NISO musicians who have unique and diverse backgrounds: John Casey, Richard Bogenrief, and Anna Davis.

John Casey, NISO bass player, attended the University of Minnesota and obtained a bachelor’s degree in music education. He attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and received a master’s degree in bass performance. He has professional experience from playing for five years as assistant principal bass player for the Phoenix Symphony. For the past 25 years, he has lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and is working in business in the computer programming field. He also is a member of the South Dakota Symphony and the Sioux Falls Symphony, and is a part-time adjunct at various colleges. Casey commented, “Although I found my aptitude for music during college studies, it is not my primary living, although I am fortunate to still be part of area symphonies.”

NISO trumpet player Richard Bogenrief was raised on a farm and attended the University of Iowa. He auditioned for The United States Army Band and played with them for twenty-one years as a trumpet and bugler. After returning to Merrill, Iowa, he taught music in four different schools and has played with NISO for the past twenty-two years. Currently he is doing administrative work at the Sioux City Symphony. Bogenrief stated, “Music has been a leading part of my life since high school. I have been a performer, teacher, and manager, all within the field of music.”

A new orchestra member for NISO is Anna Davis, who currently lives in Spencer, Iowa. She received her undergraduate degree at Luther College and later attended Texas Tech University to obtain master’s degrees in music education and flute performance. She currently teaches band for grades 5-12 at St. Mary’s school, gives piano lessons, and is the choir director at the First Congregational Church in Spencer. Davis asserted, “I have been in music education all my life and am happy to be a part of NISO.” Recently she acquired an accordion and is teaching herself to play it.

It is evident that these three orchestra members bring their unique musical backgrounds and work experiences to enhance their performance with NISO. We’re pleased to share a bit about them, and we look forward to featuring other NISO musicians in future issues of NISO Notes.