

# MMC

FROM PAGE 1

director's favorites over the years as well as some more recent works.

"I don't do a theme for my concerts," he said. "For Sunday night's concert, we'll play a few pieces from long ago that people have enjoyed through the years. And we'll do a few newer numbers."

The program will include "Parade of the Tall Ships," written for America's bicentennial celebration in 1976; "Dedicated Overture," a Clifton Williams classic; "Selections from The Phantom of the Opera," very emotional music written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, "Jubilation," with the Weed Brass Quartet playing a swing tune by Lennie Niehaus; "Sky Bound," a new, energetic work by Todd Stalter, and more.

"Picking concert music is the hardest thing for me every semester," he said. "I try it and see if I like it. I also try to pick something that the audience and the band would enjoy. It's tough to do, but I try to come up with a nice mix."

The upcoming finale concert isn't the only highlight for Rettedal this spring. Last week, he was surprised during a concert to receive the Spirit of Orpheus Award. The honor, presented by the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity, was given for "significant and lasting contributions."

### HEADING TO THE MOUNT

Rettedal, a Scotland native, received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. After teaching band for grades 5-12 in Centerville, he returned to earn his master's degree at USD. He then taught high school band at Emmetsburg, Iowa.

At that point, he made a major life decision which brought him back to Scotland and eventually to MMC.

Rettedal and his wife, Karen, purchased the town's clothing store in 1979 and later added his father's shoe store. While busy with the store, Dean still felt a calling for his music career.

He didn't want to take on a full-time teaching load at the K-12 level. In addition, he wanted to direct college bands, so he considered applying for positions at MMC, Yankton College and USD-Springfield.

"Then I heard from Jack Lyons (at MMC), whose first trumpet player was in a car accident and had broken a front tooth. I filled in for him at that concert," Rettedal said. "During that time, Jack and I had a conversation, and I learned Mount Marty's band director was leaving. The position had been full-time, but they changed it to a part-time job by shifting courses to someone else."

Rettedal applied and was hired for the part-time position. "As it turned out, that was a good choice as both YC and USD-Springfield closed (in 1984)," he said.

At MMC, Rettedal started as an instructor and now holds

the position of associate professor. He teaches classes and also directs the concert band, pep band, jazz band and the Weed Brass Quintet.

The latter is a select group of brass players that receive scholarship money from the J. Laiten Weed fund at the Yankton United Church of Christ (UCC) Congregational. The fund is named for the director of the Yankton College Conservatory of Music and one of the first professional string teachers in South Dakota.

Because of the demands of his clothing store and the commute from Scotland, Rettedal compresses his MMC teaching and conducting schedule into Mondays and Wednesdays. However, he makes additional trips to Yankton to play in and conduct concerts as well as the pep band at basketball games.

"I also try to get to plays and other activities where the students are involved," he said. "I try to be part of what they're doing."

Amazingly, only one time in 33 years has bad weather forced him to stay overnight in Yankton.

The schedule has kept his cars' odometers spinning, he admitted. "I have a 2000 model car with 229,000 miles and a 2006 model car with 180,000 miles on it. I think it's time for a new one," he said with a laugh.

Not all of Rettedal's miles have been accumulated on the road. He took the MMC Jazz Band on a nine-day tour to Germany in 1997, performing at the city of Dingolfing outside Munich. Rettedal had met a number of the townspeople when they previously visited Menno for that community's Oktoberfest.

"Our trip was sponsored by the German government," he said. "We played in front of a school, and they came out and told us, 'You have to play inside!' By the time the Jazz Band played, the (German school) teachers were dancing."

While in Dingolfing, the MMC Jazz Band played at a soccer match and wore scarves with the soccer team's colors. Rettedal showed a platter, kept in his office, presented in appreciation by the Germans.

### TEACHING, DIRECTING

Rettedal has seen a number of changes during more than three decades on stage and in the classroom.

"There are fewer music majors. There are jobs out there. Music majors don't have a problem finding jobs," he said. "One other trend you're seeing, the schools in South Dakota and Nebraska generally are getting smaller. And as the schools get smaller, they're combining positions and having just one band and vocal director."

Thanks to new technology, he has also changed the way he communicates with today's students.

"The kids stay the same, and that's what I'll miss the most. But the way that I contact them has definitely changed," he said. "Now, you use cell phones and texting. And if they have a free minute, they're on the phone all the time."

Rettedal has also adapted rehearsal times not only for himself but for the diverse schedules of his students.

"At MMC, we have band rehearsals at 6:30 p.m. Monday and at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The 6:30 time works for the non-students who are part of the band. We want our students to be the nucleus of the group, but sometimes we need others to cover some of the parts," he said.

"This has never been a college-community band where just anyone can play, but I do reach out to certain people to help us out. We also have Mount Marty staff and the Benedictine Sisters who love to play in the band. The Sisters are big supporters of Mount Marty College."

Rettedal enjoys the fact that the MMC bands draw from a wide variety of students and majors.

"They find enjoyment in it, and it's a complete break from what they're studying. For majors like nursing and pre-med, it's a good release for a lot of those students," he said. "The parents enjoying coming to Mount Marty concerts and seeing their kids sing or play an instrument."

However, the students' rigorous academic schedules also mean shorter music tours, Rettedal said. The college also takes smaller groups on its spring tour so it can use one bus and hold down expenses, he said.

"We schedule the jazz

band and choir tour for two days, and we're usually out (of Yankton) for one night. That's really all we can do, with the students needing to be back on campus for classes and labs," he said. "With that schedule, we can only get out so far when it comes to distance. We have played around the area, including Nebraska towns like Hartington, O'Neill and Madison."

### MAKING AN IMPACT

Rettedal has worked with a number of MMC colleagues over the years. Currently, he works closely with Kenneth Tice, chair of the MMC music department and director of choral activities.

Tice noted the band director has become an integral part of the college for decades.

"Dean Rettedal has been an institution here at Mount Marty College as Director of Bands for 33 years," Tice said. "He has welcomed countless students and community members into his bands, and (he) entertained a myriad of visitors to our campus as well as schools and organizations on spring tours."

Rettedal's impact will continue to be felt in music classrooms and band rooms for years to come, Tice said.

"Dean has prepared generations of music educators who are teaching all over the Midwest," he said. "We wish Dean well, and look forward to seeing him in the audience of future performances."

Rettedal's musical presence hasn't been limited to the

MMC campus. For decades, he has directed and played with Yankton's Summer Band, which plays free concerts Tuesday nights at the Riverside Park amphitheater. The band also holds a winter concert at the Summit Activities Center theatre.

In addition, Rettedal has played Taps during the National Day of Prayer ceremony, which honored veterans and was held in front of the Yankton County Government Center. He sings in the choir and plays trumpet as a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland, and he also plays with the Tabor 1890 Band.

"I'll stay interested in music, just not as a job," Rettedal said.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Rettedal will turn 66 in July, and he sees it as time to slow down. He and his wife will continue owning their clothing and shoe store, and he remains grateful that MMC made it possible for him to continue both his business and his music career.

As he prepares to retire, Rettedal noted the generational change during his tenure on the MMC campus.

"I had certain students when I first started and now, several years later, their children are here (at MMC) and performing in the band. The first time that happened was really strange," he said. "Still, it's amazing how much has stayed the same. The students' enthusiasm seems to be the same, and they come here so

full of energy."

Rettedal said he hasn't changed how he teaches students.

"The emotion is always there, and we're always trying to create something (with our music)," he said. "The thing about college band is that nobody has to be there. They're in band because they want to be there. That's a great teaching situation."

Rettedal said he will miss that interaction.

"It's just the work with the students that's so gratifying. That will be what I miss the most," he said. "I enjoy the collegiality with people here at Mount Marty, and the students really keep you going."

He looks forward to more free time as he switches from two jobs to one. He can now handle the store's bookkeeping duties during the day rather than at night, and he's also available for any other daytime business needs.

But first, he will take to the conductor's stand, baton in hand, to direct Sunday's concert literally ending his MMC career on a high note.

"When we have the final concert Sunday, I'll have trouble getting through it," he said. "I hope it doesn't get too emotional."

Follow @RDockendorf on Twitter.

Celebrate Women 2015

Bring Mom For A Special Day of Fun!

Pour Your Heart into Life

Celebrate Women 2015

with Event Speaker Julie Clark

NEW Location!

Saturday, May 9th, 2015

NFAA Easton Archery Complex

Doors Open at 11:00 am

Lunch Served 12:30pm-1:45pm

Door Prizes & Inspirational Speaker 2pm

Booths Open at 11am

Advance Tickets Only \$20

Tickets available at Yankton Hy-Vee, Press & Dakotan & the Broadcaster

her voice

Experience... the Difference!

1st FIRST DAKOTA NATIONAL BANK

YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC, P.C.

Yankton's Primo Women's Event!

HyVee

EMPLOYEE OWNED

2100 Broadway St  
(605) 665-3412

MONDAY MADNESS

Monday, April 27th ONLY 5am - 12am

17 Hour Sale

while supplies last

Storewide Fuel Saver Sale

no rainchecks

EARN 50¢ OFF PER GALLON

Save 50¢ per gallon with \$50 purchase

limit 1 per customer  
some exclusions apply

Maxwell House Wake Up Roast Coffee 30 oz.

\$4.48

Jumbo California Oranges

69¢ lb.

Bakery Fresh Hotdog Buns 8 ct.  
Brat Buns 6 ct.

\$1.88

Sheboygan Skinless Weiners 20 oz.

\$3.99

When using \$1.00 Off Attached Coupon

Bellatoria Premium Thin Crust Pizza 12" 5 Flavors

Reg. \$9.99

\$3.99

REGISTER TO WIN OUR SUMMER FUN PACKAGE

Paddle Boat, Gas Grill, Patio Set, Meat Bundle, Max Cold Cooler

Our Annual Springtime Party Celebration Starts Monday April 27 - May 3 • WINNER TAKES ALL!

\*pick up registration slip when checking out\*

Thurs - Fri - Sat • April 30, May 1 & 2

Ribfest Weekend

Fresh Off Our Smoker

Hormel Extra Meaty Ribs Full Slab Ribs

\$15

Fresh off our smoker

Pulled Pork Sandwich, Chips & Pop

\$5.00

served in Hy-Vee's Kitchen

Hormel Extra Meaty Ribs 1/2 Slab Ribs

\$8

Fresh off our smoker

Chef Staci Calico Beans

\$4.99 lb.

delicious warm or cold

Chef Staci Potato Salad

\$5.99 lb.