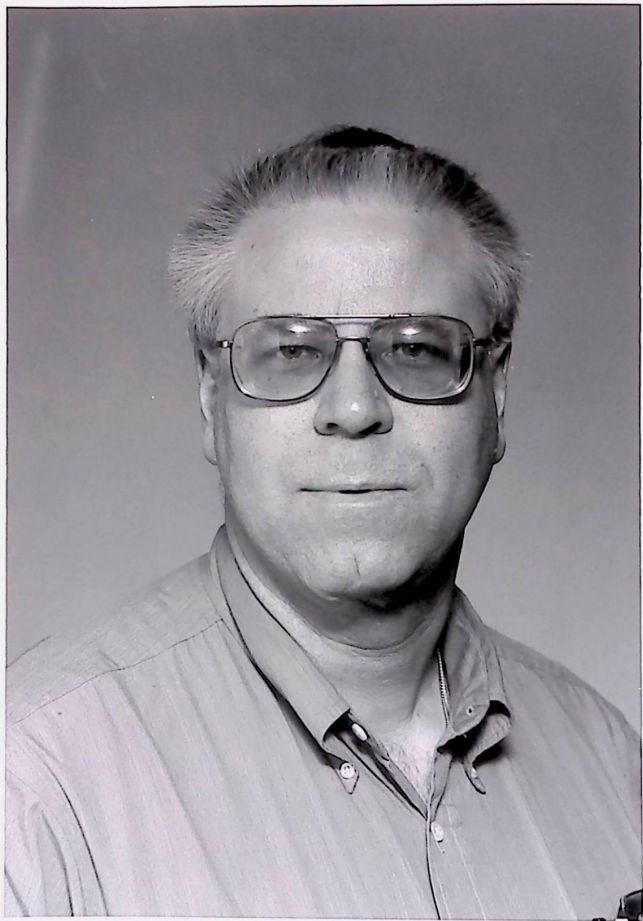






ANDY MATKO/Staff Photos

Samuel S. Koury, right, demonstrates the finer points of drumming for student Ronald F. Paul, 13, of Gordon, at his Shenandoah music store.

The BEAT goes on

Practice remains key to playing drums, longtime Shenandoah instructor believes

BY STEPHEN J. PYTAK
Staff Writer
Special to Pottsville and its area

He's the best drummer there is — he'll tell you so.

Samuel S. "Sammy" Koury is a confident man, obviously. And there's a reason he should be: Since he picked up a pair of drum sticks 44 years ago, he's practiced an hour every day.

Take a listen to how he sounds now. He'll make you a believer.

Koury, 55, has been teaching students out of his music store at 229 E. Centre St., Shenandoah, for the past 31 years.

And every day, he still takes a seat, pulls out a thick pair of drum sticks and goes to work on a rubber-surfaced wooden block affixed to a metal stand.

This is the same drum pad his parents bought him when he started out. The wood has been chipped by repeated beatings and the rubber strip has been glued down again and again.

It's no wonder why. Like well-oiled gears, his wrists propel his sticks to hammer the rubber and the wood.

Even though the year 2000 with all its technological advances is upon us, Koury maintains the belief that practice makes a drummer, not tech-

INFO
CONNECT
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DRUM ROLL:
Samuel S. Koury offers a sample of his talent.

nology, according to Robert A. Nowak, 47, of Shenandoah, one of Koury's former students who is now a drum teacher himself.

"The whole music business has changed. Sam hasn't," he said. "He's like a dinosaur. He's still doing what he did in the 1960s and 1970s and he's really not making a lot of money from it."

On the good side, the 1960s and 1970s were good times for music, Nowak said.

"He still has a lot of that experience and a lot of that sound. Unfortunately, time doesn't stand still."

"I'm up on everything. He's dead wrong. If I have to, I'll go out and play rap, man," Koury countered.

"Everything changes," he said, "but you still have to know the basics. Just like a computer. If you don't know your field, what good's your computer?"

For years, Koury has been trying to teach his students about the value of practice, but, time and time again, he doesn't feel he's getting



Koury, who first picked up drumsticks 44 years ago, still practices an hour a day

Please see DRUMS page 42.

Shenandoah drummer says practice is key

DRUMS/From Page 41

through. And society isn't doing much to help, he said.

Drummers are facing a dark time, Koury said, looking ahead to the year 2000. Today, they have no real role models. Many of the drummers heard on new recordings are just there to accompany lead singers. And in many cases, there are no drummers; just drum machines.

No matter how good the technology is, Koury said, "You still have to know music. You still have to be able to play. If nobody's practicing, they're not good."

A lot of students don't put time into practice today, he said. "Now, they don't have time. It takes too long."

The world was much different when he was growing up.

Koury was born in May 18, 1944, in Shenandoah to Sam Koury Sr., who died in 1981, and Sadie Ann Koury, who died four months ago.

He has two brothers, Joseph J. 65, of Allentown, and John J. 61, of Shenandoah.

Their parents ran Sammy K's Luncheonette, which was located where the music store is now.

As a boy, young Sammy was very hyperactive. "The family doctor said I should do something to get my energy out," he said.

When Koury was 11, his brother, John, was forming a band, The Flames, and needed a drummer. That's when he picked up the sticks.

He started taking drum lessons from George Hassel, Shenandoah, in 1959.

That same year, his parents bought him his first drum pad from Jasper Collura's music store, Foltzville. The wooden block cost about \$5. The stand for it cost about \$8.

There were no drum machines back then. To sound good, a drummer had to apply wrist power.

Growing up, Koury practiced in his parents' luncheonette on the counter with the pad. He'd come home from school, throw his school books in the corner and pick up the sticks.

Graduating from Shenandoah Catholic High School in 1962, he decided to pursue a career playing drums and traveled to learn from master musicians.

In particular, Koury went to

Boston, Mass., to take lessons from George Lawrence Stone, author of the drum-rudiment bible "Stick Control for the Snare Drummer."

"I accepted everything the teachers told me," he said. "I did it and I liked it."

In 1963, Koury began giving drum lessons to students out of his grandparents' house on White Street in Shenandoah. "When The Beatles came out, everybody wanted to learn. They started calling me like crazy and I started teaching," he said.

In 1965, the luncheonette closed and in 1967, he opened the music store. In 1968, he married the former Sheila E. Kuehneld, who died three years ago.

Today, he lives alone, running the music store, as well as the Treasure Hut-Tropical Fish Pet Shop next door. He is also a musician with the Tony Karper Orchestra of Shenandoah.

Looking ahead, he said it's not going to be easy for drummers at the start of the new century.

Right now, there are no idols in the spotlight for them to look up to.

Drummers he looked up to through the years included the late Buddy Rich, who found fame in the 1950s, and Neil Peart, who played with the band Rush on memorable drum-laden tunes including "Subdivisions" off the 1982 album "Signals."

Now, Koury said, drum teachers have to be the role models. To do it right, he said, "They have to give kids what they want, then try to weasel in the better stuff."

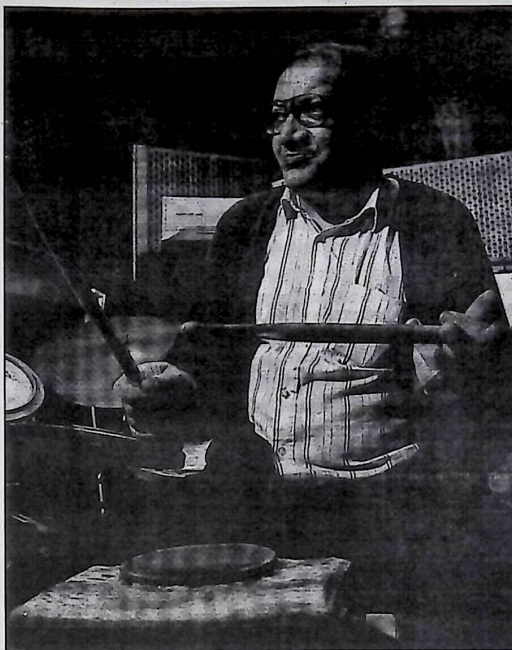
He has forever taught his students the right way to play drums — to use their wrists and fingers to manipulate their drumsticks to make a plethora of sounds, from rolls to taps to bangs.

"I think I would have more students if I had the kids on the drums banging their brains out," he said. "But they wouldn't be getting anywhere."

Today he has about 20 students. Among them is Ronald F. Paul, 13, of Gordon, a seventh-grade student at North Shenandoah High School, Fountain Springs.

"He starts out off with the easy stuff and he gradually works you up until you're good," Paul said.

Right now, Koury is teach-



Samuel S. Koury, Shenandoah, still practices on the same worn drum pad he as had since age 11.

ing the boy to play "Wipe Out," the famous drum-whacking tune by The Surfers.

Among the more successful of Koury's students is Nowak.

Nowak teaches percussion at Lebanon Valley College, Annville, and Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre; he also gives local lessons in Shenandoah; he's the percussion instructor for the marching bands at Pottsville Area High School and Williams Valley High School.

He's also principal percussionist at Pennsylvania Northeastern Philharmonic, Wilkes-Barre, and Reading Symphony. He took lessons from Koury for six years, starting at age 11.

"Sammy was a step and he was a good step," Nowak said. "He opened my eyes to a lot of things and I was able to go away to school and find more things. But without him, I wouldn't have had that initial step."

"Sam's a classic," said Wil-

liam J. "Billy" Mallick Jr. of Shenandoah, another of Koury's former students.

Mallick, 43, is a drummer who recently played in the Shenandoah Valley Alumni Band and was former drummer with the local rock band Kings & Queens.

"I've gone to a couple of different people for lessons. And, I mean, there's only one Sam. He's absolutely the best teacher that I've encountered."

Mallick said Koury drilled practice into him, but said, "he also told me to have fun, to really relax and enjoy what I was playing."

David G. Drumbusky, 34, of Shenandoah, is another of the many students Koury had over the years. Today, Drumbusky is a disc jockey, "The Captain," who runs Drumm D.J.s.

Drumbusky took lessons from Koury while he was in the Shenandoah Valley High School Band, playing snare

drum and bass drum.

Koury taught him how to play waltzes, polkas and tangos on the drums. But the most important thing he learned was that practice makes perfect.

"You don't just come here for a lesson and play for a half an hour," Koury told him again and again. "Practice! Practice! Practice!"

"He couldn't drill that enough into me," Drumbusky said.

Even though he's not playing drums for a living today, Drumbusky said he's never forgotten what Koury taught him.

When Drumbusky picks up his drum sticks now, he's able to do a left-handed TAP-TAP-TAP-TAP-TAP... at a pretty good pace.

After years of practice, he said, "even if you hang your sticks up, you still don't lose it."

ANDY MATEKOS/STAFF PHOTO

DAILY NEWS

LEBANON, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 25,000

WEDNESDAY
NOV 29 1995

231 BURRELLE'S ZA
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Percussion ensemble to give concert

Lebanon Valley College's Percussion Ensemble will perform on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m. in Lutz Hall of the Blair Music Center. The concert, which is under the direction of Robert A. Nowak, adjunct professor of music, is free and open to the public.

The program will feature "In the Hall of the Mountain King" by Edvard Grieg, "Londonderry Air" arranged by Gordon Peters and Peter Tanner, "Serenade for Strings in C" by Tchaikovsky, "Bonham" by Christopher Rouse, "Mountain Dance" by Dave Gru-

sin, "Past Midnight" by Tom Gauger and "Samba Macabre" by C. Saint-Saens.

Nowak is also a faculty at Wilkes University and serves as a percussion consultant for Pottsville and Williams Valley High Schools. In addition, he is the principal percussionist of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestra and is a percussionist with the Reading Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with Johnny Mathis, Natalie Cole, Bob Hope, Debbie Boone and Tony Bennett.

REPUBLICAN
POITTSVILLE, PA.
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FRIDAY
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Tim Leedy/Staff Photo

Accomplished percussionist Robert A. Nowak prepares to crash his cymbals in the studio at his Shenandoah home.

Sounds fascinate drummer

Music an adventure for accomplished Shenandoah percussionist

By Kathryn Campomizzi
Staff Writer

SHENANDOAH — Making music has adventures beyond a series of notes on sheet music.

Just ask Robert A. Nowak of Shenandoah, a percussionist who performs with several ensembles, including the Reading Symphony Orchestra and the Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic.

ARTS & LEISURE

He called a few years back working with the Reading Symphony director in recording Mahler's Sixth Symphony.

The piece called for two hammer notes and the two men worked all day to determine what to use that would produce the correct sound.

Their resulting "instruments" were a small wooden box, a 2-by-6-foot sheet of wood and two sheets of 3/4-inch plywood. Their drumstick was a 20-pound sledgehammer.

Sounds as loud as the note created by the sledgehammer intrigue Nowak. They have since he realized his musical talents at age 11.

"I was fascinated by sounds, and I still am," he said. "There are tons and tons of things."

He played in the Shenandoah High School band and went on to earn a



Nowak bange out a piece on the kettle drum.

bachelor's degree in music education at the former Mansfield State College.

Nowak also earned a master's degree in performance at the University of Miami in Florida.

After graduate school, Nowak learned of an audition in Wilkes-Barre, and, on the spur of the moment, tried out for the Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic.

The audition earned him a call to play, and he has been a member of the orchestra for 20 years.

Nowak also performs with the Grammy-nominated Jan Lewan Orchestra of Hazleton. He hooked up

with Lewan several years ago while touring with singer Bobby Vinton.

Last year, when rock's famous Moody Blues performed at Montage Mountain, Nowak and the philharmonic accompanied the seven-member band.

With his years of experience and fascination with sounds came a plethora of instruments that fill his home.

A xylophone, marimba and vibraphone stand in the middle of his small studio. Kettle drums are covered and off to the side.

Sets of colorful mallets rest in holders on one wall, each set of two with differently sized heads to produce different sounds.

Taking a set in each hand and spreading them into a V-figure, Nowak strikes the marimba, producing a harmonious sound without looking at a sheet of music.

Though not a composer, he does compile musical pieces for drum sections of high school bands, particularly Pottsville Area and Williams Valley high schools.

"He's a real professional," said Richard D. Fries, director of Pottsville Area's band. "He really has tremendous ability."

Fries said Nowak usually spends about a week in August working with the marching band's percussion section to prepare for the marching season.

Please see DRUMMER/Page 18

Shenandoah drummer is intrigued by sounds

DRUMMER/From Page 17
son, and another week with the band.

Nowak helps the percussionists prepare cadences and some of the music needed for field shows and parades, Fries said.

Besides helping the high schools, Nowak teaches students on the college level at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre and Lebanon Valley College in Annville.

"I'm all over the place," he said.

When he travels, many instruments go with him, and so does a know-how for making and repairing the instruments he plays.

He makes mahogany drums that produce sound with the thumping of the fingers, and goose-neck stands for cymbals.

"If you don't have something readily available, you're making them," he said.

JAN 26 1995

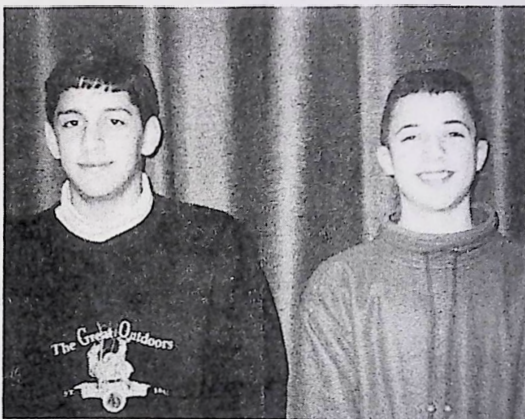
542 BURRELLE'S EM
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Wms. Valley students chosen for District 10 music festivals

Christopher Coles, a sophomore, and David Sonnenberg, a junior at Williams Valley High School, have been selected to participate in the 1995 District 10 music festivals.

Son of John and Nancy Coles of Wiconisco, Christopher placed first as a percussionist following auditions at Parkland High School on Dec. 3. As a result of this audition he will participate in both District 10 Band and District 10 Orchestra. Chris studies privately with Robert Nowak, adjunct professor of percussion studies at Wilkes College and Lebanon Valley College.

David made a clean sweep of the District 10 festivals. Following District 10 chorus auditions in October he was elected to participate as a second tenor in the chorus festival which will be held at



CHRISTOPHER COLES AND DAVID SONNENBERG

Wilson Area High School today and Friday. He was selected from a field of 850 students who auditioned for 200 positions in the chorus. As a trombonist he placed third at the district level. David will participate in District 10 Band as well as District 10 Orchestra.

James Erdman, adjunct professor of trombone at Lebanon Valley College, is his private teacher. David is the son of the Rev. Arthur and Linsy Sonnenberg.

District 10 Orchestra was held Jan. 12 to 14 at Exeter High School with John Bailey as hosts director.

District Band will be held Feb. 9 to 11 at Boyertown High School with David Benn serving as host director.

Wilkes percussion ensemble to play

The Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble will present its fall concert tonight (Nov. 15) at 8 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center, South and River Streets.

Program will include *Forest Rain* by Neil De Ponte, *Sonatina* by Fisher Tull (conducted by Wilkes' senior percussion major Daniel Moyer) and a three-movement Toccata by Carlos Chavez. Following intermission, the concert will continue with *Concerto for Timpani and Percussion Ensemble* by John Beck, featuring Moyer as timpani soloist.

Robert Nowak, director of the Wilkes Percussion Ensemble and adjunct faculty member, will direct the concert. Nowak is principal percussionist with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic and a percussionist with the Reading Symphony.

In addition to Moyer, the percussion ensemble includes William Bratten, Michael Haggerty, Shawn Hart, Bradley Timbrell, Brian Siegel, Michael Welsh and Shawn Whitebread.

Concert is open to the public. For more information, call 831-4428.

CV 11/15/94



Members of the Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble are, from left, Michael Haggerty; Robert Nowak, adjunct professor of music and

director of the ensemble; Michael Welsh; Daniel Moyer; Brian Siegel; William Bratten and Shawn Whitebread

Wilkes ensemble performs today

The Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble will present their fall concert today at 8 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, South and River streets, Wilkes-Barre.

Works included in the program are "Forest Rain," by Niel De Ponte, "Sonatina," by Fisher Tull, and a three movement Toccata by Carlos Chavez. The Fisher Tull piece will be conducted by Wilkes University senior percussion major, Daniel Moyer. Following intermission the program will continue with "Concerto for Timpani and Percussion Ensemble," by John Beck. Moyer will once again be featured in this work as timpani soloist.

Additional compositions will be "Ceremonial, Opus 103," by Paul Creston, and the concluding piece, "Spectrum No. 1 Green," by Arthur Lauer.

Robert Nowak, director of

Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble and adjunct faculty member, will direct the concert. Nowak is principal percussionist with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, and is a percussionist with the Reading Symphony.

In addition, he teaches in Shenandoah and performs frequently throughout the state with some of the leading touring performers.

Members of the Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble are: William Bratten, Michael Haggerty, Shawn Hart, Daniel Moyer, Bradley Timbrell, Brian Siegel,

Michael Welsh and Shawn Whitebread.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Wilkes University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, 831-4428 or 1-800-WILKES-U, ext. 4428.

Wilkes University News

Christine Liberaski
Communications Assistant
University Relations
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18766
(717) 831-4773

WILKES UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM

Wilkes-Barre - - The Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble will present their Fall concert on Tuesday, November 15, at 8 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts, South and River streets.

Works included in the program are "Forest Rain," by Niel De Ponte, "Sonatina," by Fisher Tull, and a three movement Toccata by Carlos Chavez. The Fisher Tull piece will be conducted by Wilkes University senior percussion major, Daniel Moyer. Following intermission the program will continue with "Concerto for Timpani and Percussion Ensemble," by John Beck. Moyer will once again be featured in this work as timpani soloist. Additional compositions will be "Ceremonial, Opus 103," by Paul Creston, and the concluding piece, "Spectrum No. 1 Green," by Arthur Lauer.

Robert Nowak, director of Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble and adjunct faculty member, will direct the concert. Nowak is principal percussionist with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic,

-MORE-

1ST ADD - - WILKES UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM

and is a percussionist with the Reading Symphony. In addition, he teaches in Shenandoah and performs frequently throughout the state with some of the leading touring performers.

Members of the Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble are: William Bratten, Michael Haggerty, Shawn Hart, Daniel Moyer, Bradley Timbrell, Brian Siegel, Michael Welsh and Shawn Whitebread.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Wilkes University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at 831-4428 or 1-800-WILKES-U, ext. 4428.

PHOTO, left to right: Michael Haggerty, Philadelphia; Robert Nowak, adjunct professor of music, Shenandoah; Michael Welsh, Mountaintop; Daniel Moyer, Frackville; Brian Siegel, Port Jervis, NY; William Bratten, Harrisburg; and Shawn Whitebread, Berwick.

DAILY NEWS

LEBANON, PA
DAILY & SUNDAY 25,000

MONDAY

APR 18 1994

231 BURRELLE'S ZA
cec.

Percussion ensemble schedules concert

The Lebanon Valley College Percussion Ensemble, featuring guest musician Stephen Fidyk of The Volunteers Show Band, will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, in Lutz Hall of the Blair Music Center. The concert, which is free and open to the public, will be directed by Robert Nowak, adjunct instructor of music.

The program will include the Hawaiian war dance "Ku-Ka-Ilimoku" by Christopher Rouse, "Extremes" and "Suite for Solo Drumset and Percussion Ensemble" by David Mancini, "First Movement of the Sereenade in C for String Orchestra" by Peter I. Tschalkowsky, and "Portico" by Tom Gauger.

Fidyk tours throughout the United States and internationally with The Volunteer Show Band, a five-member component of the U.S. Army Field Band from

Washington, D.C. He also serves as an independent artist with Drum Workshop Inc. in California and Baltimore Drum U.S.A. in Maryland and teaches percussion both privately and in master classes at major universities. Fidyk has played in backup bands for Joan Rivers, Steve Landesburg and Roger Williams.

Nowak is the principal percussionist of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic Orchestra and percussionist with the Reading Symphony Orchestra. In addition to teaching at Lebanon Valley, he is a faculty member at Wilkes University, and a percussion consultant for Pottsville Area and Williams Valley High Schools. Nowak has performed with Johnny Mathis, Tony Bennett, Bob Hope, Rosemary Clooney, Debbie Boone, Natalie Cole and Ann Jillian.

APR 3, 1994

SUNDAY DISPATCH
PITTSBURGH, PA

SUN - 54,000

Old Forge Resident To Perform At Wilkes Day Of Percussion

David Gambal, of Old Forge, will be a featured clinician at the Percussive Arts Society Annual Spring Day of Percussion, which will be held Saturday, April 9 in Wilkes University's Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

For the past 13 years, Gambal has performed and taught marching percussion throughout the northeastern United States. He has served as a percussion judge for Drum Corps Associates and as a percussion and visual adjudicator for the National Judges Association. He also serves as percussion coordinator at Lake Lehman, Montrose and Dallas High Schools.

Gambal began his marching career with the Minute Men Drum and Bugle Corp and the Royal Brigade Drum and Bugle

Corp.

He has served as an instructor for the Bridgemen Drum and Bugle Corp, the Westshoremen Drum and Bugle Corp, Pittston Area High School Marching Band, and the Greater Nanticoke Area High School Marching Band.

Gambal is a member of the Percussive Arts Society, the International Association of Rudimental Percussionists, and the International Drummer's Association. He is also co-founder of Gambal Manufacturing, which produces percussion accessories.

Other clinicians for the Day of Percussion include New York City recording artist Mike Freeman on mallet percussion, U.S. Army Show Band percus-

sionist Stephen Fidyk on drum set, Penn State Professor of Music Daniel Armstrong on orchestral percussion, and world percussion expert Geoffrey Dent.

The program begins with registration at 11 a.m., followed by clinics from 12 to 5 p.m. and a Percussive Arts Society state meeting at 5 p.m. A catered banquet will begin at 6 p.m., and an evening concert featuring Mike Freeman on vibes and marimba, Stephen Fidyk on drum set and Paul Rostock on bass will begin at 8 p.m.

The day is being held in conjunction with the Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble Concert which will be held on Friday, April 8 at 8 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

For more information or to register for the Day of Percussion, contact the Wilkes University Department of Music at 831-4420. 725FF

APR 5, 1994

EVENING HERALD
SHENANDOAH, PA

PM - 10.300

ROBERT NOWAK

Shenandoah percussionist to host annual 'Day of Spring Percussion'

■ Robert Nowak has performed with Johnny Mathis, Tony Bennett, Bob Hope, Rosemary Clooney, Debbie Boone, Natalie Cole, Ann Jillian and the national tours of "Grand Hotel," "Chorus Line," "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Peter Pan." *225FF*

WILKES-BARRE — A Shenandoah man will host the Percussive Arts Society annual spring day of percussion to be held Saturday, April 9, in Wilkes University's Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

Noted Shenandoah percussionist Robert Nowak has been a member of the Percussive Arts Society (PAS) since 1968 and has served as first vice president of the Pennsylvania State Chapter and was a member of the planning committee for the 1990 International Convention Marimba Orchestra, conducted by Joel Leach with guest conductor Clair Omar Musser.

Music degrees

Nowak earned a master's degree in percussion performance from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., and a bachelor's degree in music education from Mansfield State College in Mansfield. He is a member of the music faculties of Lebanon Valley College in Ahnville and Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, where he teaches percussion, percussion methods classes and directs the percussion ensembles.

He also serves as percussion consultant for Pottsville Area and Williams Valley High Schools.

Nowak is principal percussionist of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic and is a percussionist with the Reading Symphony Orchestra.

He is also a free-lance percussionist, performing at the State Theater, Easton; the Rajah Theater, Reading; the Scranton Cultural Theater; the Hershey Theater; the F.M. Kirby Center, Wilkes-Barre; and the Valley Forge Music Fair, Devon.

With top stars

Nowak's recent engagements included performances with Johnny Mathis, Tony Bennett, Bob Hope, Rosemary Clooney, Debbie Boone, Natalie Cole, Ann Jillian and the national tours of "Grand Hotel," "Chorus Line," "Bye Bye Birdie" and "Pete Pan."

In addition to his performance schedule, Nowak teaches privately and manufactures log drums and goose neck cymbal stands for use by major orchestras and schools.

Highlighting the PAS Day of Percussion events will be a series of educational clinics and master classes featuring New York City recording artist Mike Freeman on mallet percussion; Penn State Professor Dan C. Armstrong on orchestral percussion; U.S. Army Show Band percussionist Stephen Fidyk on drum set; marching percussion instructor David Gambal; and world percussion expert Geoffrey Dent.

The program will begin with registration at 11 a.m., followed by clinics from noon to 5 p.m. and a Percussive Arts Society state meeting at 5 p.m. A catered banquet will begin at 6 p.m., and an evening concert featuring Mike Freeman on vibes and marimba, Stephen Fidyk on drum set and Paul Rostock on bass will begin at 8 p.m.

Ensemble concert

The day will be held in conjunction with the Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble Concert scheduled for Friday, April 8, at 8 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

For information or to register for the Day of Percussion, contact the Wilkes University Department of Music at 1-800-WILKES-U, extension 4420.

Wilkes University News

Stephanie Simmons
Assistant Director of University Relations
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18766
(717) 831-4772

WILKES UNIVERSITY PERCUSSIONISTS DRUM UP FALL CONCERT NOVEMBER 16

WILKES-BARRE -- The Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble will present their fall concert on Tuesday, November 16 at 8 p.m. in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts.

The ensemble is directed by Wilkes faculty percussionist Robert Nowak. A graduate of Mansfield University and the University of Miami, he is principal percussionist with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic and performs with the Reading Symphony and other regional orchestras. He is also an active free-lance musician who performs in shows throughout Eastern Pennsylvania. Nowak also maintains an active private studio in Shenandoah.

The entire first half of the program will feature "Los Dioses Aztecas" (The Aztec Gods), by Gardner Read. Following intermission, the ensemble will perform "Introduction and Rondo," composed in 1984, by Elliot del Borgo. This work will be conducted by Wilkes senior percussion major, Keith Nichols. Mr. Nowak will return to the stage to conduct "Duo Chopinesque" by Michael Hennagan. The concert will conclude with "Jazz Variants" by John Beck.

Members of the Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble include William

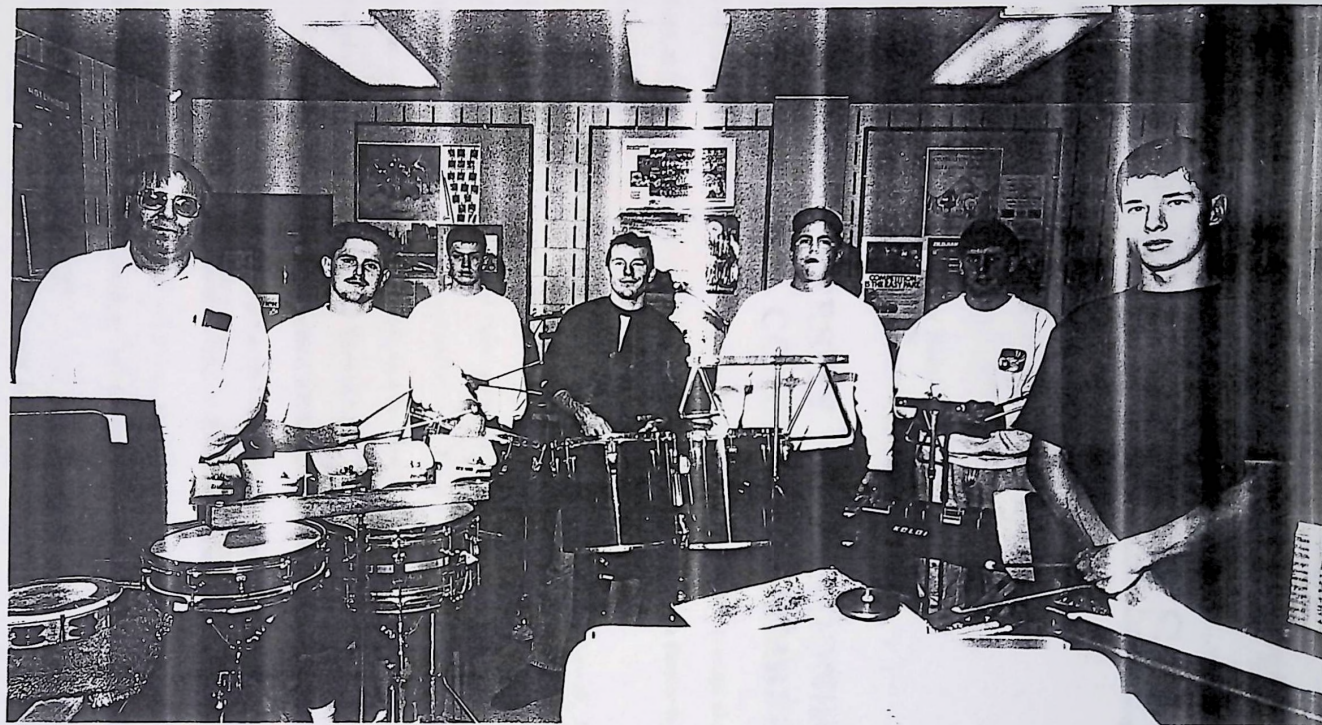
-MORE-

1ST ADD WILKES UNIVERSITY PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Bratten, Stanley Griffis, Michael Haggerty, Shawn Hart, Anthony Lessing, Michael May, Daniel Moyer, Keith Nichols, Bradley Timbrel, Michael Welsh, and Shawn Whitebread.

The concert is free and open to the public. For further information concerning the Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble concerts and other university concerts, call 831-4428.

PHOTO: The Wilkes University Percussion Ensemble is shown during a recent practice session for their concert on November 16. From left: Robert Nowak, Percussion Ensemble director; Shawn Whitebread, Michael Haggarty, Daniel Moyer, William Bratten, Bradley Timbrell, and Shawn Hart.



Faculty Resume Information Sheet

Full Name Nowak Robert A
Last First M.I.

School or College and Department College of Arts & Sciences Music Department

Age as of September 1, 1988, Date of Birth 36

Academic Rank Instructor

Full-Time ☐ Part-Time ☒

Non-Wilkes College Teaching, If Part-Time Lebanon Valley College

Earned Degrees	Name of Institution	Location	Area, Field or Major	Degree Received	Date Conferred
	Mansfield State Col.	Mansfield, PA	Music Ed.	BS	1973
	University of Miami	Green Gables, FL		MM	1975
			Percussion		
			Performance		

Teaching Experience Incl. Wilkes	Name of Institution	Location	Subjects/ Fields Taught	Full or Part-Time Rank	Dates of Service From - To
	Wilkes College	W-B	Percussion	PT Instr	1983-
	Lebanon Valley Col.	Annville, PA	Percussion	PT instr	1988-

Non-Teaching Experience

Full-Time	Firm or Organization or Self-Employed	Duties	Title	Dates of Service From - To
Part-Time	Northeastern PA Phil-harmonic	Percussionist	Principal Percussionist	1975-present
	Reading Sym. Orchestra	Percussionist	Percussionist	1976-present

List Major Consulting Activities

<u>East Stroudsburg High School</u>	<u>1981-present</u>	<u>Percussion</u>
<u>Pottsville Area High School</u>	<u>1981-present</u>	<u>consultant in</u>
<u>Williams Valley High School</u>	<u>1987-present</u>	<u>each of the schools</u>
<u>Danville Area High School</u>	<u>1981-present</u>	

Bibliographic Citation of Principal Publications - Last Five Years

Memberships in Professional and Scientific Societies

Scope:

Local, State,

Offices

Organization Name	Regional, National	Held
Percussive Arts Society	National	1st Vice Pres. for
American Federation of Musicians	State	PA. chapter
		None

Teaching at Wilkes 1988-89 (including teaching overloads)

Course Title	Hrs. of Lecture per Week	Hrs. of Recitation per Week	Contact Hrs. of Laboratory per Week	# of Day Sections; Enrollment	# of Evening or Weekend Sections/ Enrollment
Fall '88 Applied Percussion	2		10		
Total of					
Students					
Taught					
13					
Spring '89					
Anticipated					
Total of					
Students					
Projected					
13					

Other Duties Performed for Base Salary, 1988-89 (Full-Time Faculty)

Duty/Activity	Hours per Week	# of Advisees:
Advising		
Research/Scholarship		
Committee Work		
Department Chairperson		

Other Duties for Extra Compensation, 1988-89 (Full-Time Faculty)

Duty/Activity	Hours per Week

esc

9-26-88

Wilkes University News

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Wilkes University's Encore Performing Arts Camp Announces Renowned Artist Faculty

Wilkes-Barre -- Twenty five of the world's most renowned artist-faculty in music, theatre, and dance have been appointed to the staff of Wilkes University's Encore Performing Arts Summer Camp, which runs from Sunday, June 27 - Saturday, August 7, 1999.

Nationally acclaimed, Encore provides instruction and education of the arts to area students, ages 13 to 18. The camp is directed by Nina Davidowitz, of Kingston, Pa., former director of the Wilkes Community Conservatory (WCC). Prior to joining the Wilkes staff, she ran a successful arts school and studio-gallery in her hometown.

Associate director for Encore is Charles Turner, assistant professor of music at Wilkes. He has 19 year's experience as a performing arts camp administrator and will also serve as camp tubist. Turner is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and holds additional degrees from the University of Indiana at Bloomington. He taught at both institutions and Moorehead State University.

-MORE-

1st Add: Wilkes University's Encore Summer Arts Camp

Among the guest conductors for this year's festival is Canadian Richard Niezen, current conductor of the Cleveland Institute of Music's Youth Orchestra. He will teach conducting classes at Encore and will conduct faculty ensembles.

Romanian conductor and cellist Dr. Ovidiu Marinescu will also serve as an instrumental conductor. He has conducted youth orchestras in the Northeast United States and is music director of the Manalapan Battleground Orchestra in New Jersey. Since 1997, he has been the conductor of the Goppisberg Festival in Switzerland. He is a member of the Adirondack Ensemble with which he shared a Lila Wallace Reader's Digest grant, awarded by Chamber Music America.

Stephen Holgate, a professional tuba performer in Illinois with extensive conducting experience of brass and wind ensembles, will also be a guest instrumental conductor.

Wilkes faculty member Robert Nowak is one of Eastern Pennsylvania's most prominent percussionists. He will conduct the percussion ensemble, as well as teach percussion with fellow faculty member Geoffrey Dent. Dent, a specialist in world and contemporary music, holds degrees from Wilkes and the California Institute of the Arts. He was the recipient of the Damisiswa Grant from the Indonesian Government for a two-year study of exotic instruments.

The guest choral conductor heading the vocal program for this season is Argentinean Martin Benevenuto, a doctoral candidate at Boston University. He holds degrees from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J.

-MORE-

2nd Add: Wilkes University's Encore Summer Arts Camp

Encore gathered some of the world's most accomplished instrumental faculty for this season. Cellist Jeffrey Phelps has performed throughout the U.S. and was awarded "Most Outstanding Orchestral Musician" by the Eastern Music Festival in 1994.

Wilkes faculty clarinetist David Sapadin will be in residence for the program. He holds degrees from Mannes School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music in New York City and the University of Southern California. He performs frequently with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, and the Manhattan Chamber Orchestra.

Flutist Anita Thesen and guitarist George Sprengelmeyer are doctoral candidates at the Peabody School of Music in Baltimore, Md. Sprengelmeyer is a Wilkes faculty member and also teaches for the WCC and College Misericordia, Dallas, Pa.

Canadian French hornist, Dr. Judith Ekstrand, has an international performing career and is on the faculty of Dickinson College. French hornist Jack Masarie is a graduate of the Juilliard School and is on the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's School of Music.

Pianist Jenny Mitchell holds degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and Magill University in Montreal, Canada. She is a founding member of the Hepworth Trio and has performed in Europe, the United States, and Canada.

-MORE-

3rd Add: Wilkes University's Encore Summer Arts Camp

Pianist Robert Rocco is completing his doctorate in accompanying at the University of Michigan. He received master's degrees from the Yale University School of Music, and an undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University.

Trombonist Daniel Rice is assistant professor of music at Florida State University. Violinist Ihor Shablevsky received his training at the Kiev conservatory and was a long-time member of the Kiev Opera Orchestra. He also teaches for the WCC and Wilkes.

The Encore theatre faculty are both teachers at Wilkes. Adam Hill, Artist-in-Residence at Wilkes, is a celebrated acting coach in both Los Angeles and New York. Joseph Dawson, associate professor of theatre, earned degrees from Seton Hill College and Catholic University of America. Jamie and Erika Kurtz are part of the technical crew, and David Shock will serve as stage manager.

Wilkes professor Kristin Degnan will lead the dance faculty. She is artistic director of Ballet Northeast and director of the Degnan Ballet Center, Wilkes-Barre. A graduate of Point Park College, she also received training from the schools of the Pennsylvania Ballet and the Eglevsky Ballet Companies. Degnan has performed with the American Dance Ensemble, Ballet Petrov, and El Ballet de Suleano (Venezuela), to name a few. Her associate director is Wilkes and Temple University alumna Danielle Dorzinsky. Guest artist for the dance program is Valery Gontcharov, a medal winner at the Ukrainian International Ballet.

For more information on registration and scheduling, call the Encore Office at (570) 408-4428, or (800) 945-5378, extension 4426. Performance grants/scholarships are available to qualified students and to students with need.

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