

## Northwest music department believes in, expects excellence

Northwest has been a bastion of musical excellence for many decades. The University is known for having one of the top music departments in Missouri and has received many regional and national accolades.

The philosophy in the music department during my teaching career was always to assist the students to become the best they can be. The faculty has always believed in excellence rather than being satisfied with good.

Because of this philosophy, Northwest students have been prepared to enter the real world. Whether in the business world, composing, performing, recording, teaching or conducting, Northwest graduates have soared to the top of the ladder.

I have had principals and superintendents telephone me begging for another Northwest graduate to teach in their school. As I judge music contests throughout the United States, I hear accolades that Northwest graduates have created fantastic school music programs. Our graduates have touched the lives of millions of students.

Music education has not been our only forte. Our graduates, as professional musicians, continue to sell hundreds of thousands of CDs and have written hundreds of compositions published by major music companies.

One of our students who has achieved in all of the above mentioned categories is Greg Gilpin.

Greg sings annually with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and toured and recorded with Sandy Patti and Ray Boltz. His solo and duet CDs have been outstanding. He has presented workshops and conducted hundreds of festivals throughout the world, and he has written and published compositions with major publishers.

I first met Greg as a sophomore in high school. His music teacher recommended that I hear him accompany a very hard composition, which the paid accompanist could not play. Greg played it and was superb. We were very pleased that Greg selected Northwest for his undergraduate studies. Now, we all are extremely proud of Greg's professional success as an outstanding Northwest graduate.

Northwest's Department of Music continues to produce outstanding students, like Greg Gilpin, who will enter the world prepared to excel.

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard W. Weymuth  
Professor Emeritus



(Top) Dr. Richard Weymuth, professor emeritus of music, praises the valuable education students in the music department receive during their time at Northwest.

(Bottom) While he was a student, Greg Gilpin (front row, center) was a member of Northwest's Celebration show choir conducted by Weymuth.

The mission of the *Northwest Alumni Magazine* is to foster connections between alumni, friends and Northwest Missouri State University. The offices of University Advancement and University Relations strive to inform readers of the accomplishments of Northwest's alumni, friends, faculty, students and administration and to positively position the University in the hearts of its many constituents to increase public and private support.

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