

## WEBSTER'S MUSICAL PRESTIGE

### Sister Eloise Directs Outstanding Department

Extremely gifted as a performer and an educator, Sister Eloise Jarvis, chairman of the music department of Webster College, has achieved success in both fields but her ambition at present is to find ways and means of spreading the influence of the music department to other parts of the Webster community.

That she not only is accomplishing this ambition but extending its influence far beyond the college boundaries is evident from the scope of her program and the recognition being given to graduates of the department. She has brought to the campus nationally recognized musicians as performers, artists in residence, faculty members and students. The musical programs presented under her direction have won the acclaim of the severest critics. Graduates of the department, going on to advanced study, have obtained coveted assistantships and fellowships.

Insofar as spreading the influence of the department to other parts of the college, this is being accomplished by opening membership in the choruses, orchestra and chamber music groups to the entire student body, welcoming students from other departments into the music classes and encouraging the attendance of all students at musical functions. A two-hour course in music listening for enrichment and enjoyment also has been started.

"Music should be a part of every person's life," Sister Eloise contends, and she is equally as emphatic in believing that a musician should be trained, not only in her own field, but to be conversant with other fields as well.

"We are endeavoring to give professional training in music within a liberal arts framework," Sister Eloise explains in discussing her ambition and the policies of the department. "Musicians need training in liberal arts so they have something to say when they express themselves in music. Literature and history are invaluable as a background for the musician. Also the correlation with art is very important."

The music department has doubled in size since Sister Eloise became the chairman five years ago. Last year there were 80 music majors, of which 23 were men. Sister believes that the inclusion of men students in the fine arts departments of Webster is especially important and valuable to the entire college program. In fact, she was a pioneer in this co-educational movement.

"I asked to see the charter to determine whether there was any clause prohibiting male students," she said. "I felt that any fine arts department was incomplete without both men and women. The admittance of men has really 'paid off' for us. Now we have mixed choruses and many chamber music groups. There has been an influx of instrumentalists since boys began coming to the college. The first boy to enroll in the college was in the music department."

This and many other innovations and experiments have been made possible, ac-



Sister Eloise Jarvis, chairman of the music department, at the piano in her studio in the music building.

ording to Sister Eloise, because of the unusual cooperation of the administration with the music department.

"I am extremely grateful to the administration who have always been most understanding of our problems and endeavors," she said. "Without this kind of mutual sympathy no department can flourish."

Ever since she was old enough to reach the keyboard, Sister Eloise has devoted her life to music. Born in Harrisburg, Ill., which has continued to be the family home, she is the gifted daughter of a gifted mother, who was her music teacher until she became a Webster student. Her father, the late Dr. H. N. Jarvis, was a veterinarian in Harrisburg and her mother continues to teach piano there. A sister, Mrs. John Molinaro, Jr., also of Harrisburg is a pianist and violinist, but being the mother of three adopted children keeps her too busy to actively pursue the profession of music.

Sister Eloise attended the Harrisburg Township High School and was extremely active in all musical events there. In fact, she says that music, playing tennis and going swimming seemed to occupy most of her time during her busy high school days. She played the flute in the concert band which numbered ninety, and was a member of the sixty-five piece symphony orchestra. In this set-up she learned to play almost every instrument "out of curiosity and fun," and also served as student conductor of both organizations. While in high school she won many contests for her flute and piano performances, both at the state and national level for high school students.

When Sister Eloise came to Webster College and entered the music department, Sister Adaline was department chairman.

Sister Adaline became not only her teacher but her friend, and Sister Eloise says that she owes much of her musical development to her. Although her major interest was piano, Sister also was a student of the flute and studied with the late John F. Kiburz, principal flutist of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. While at Webster, she played many piano solo recitals. She also went into the finals in competition for membership in the American Youth Orchestra being organized to tour South America under the director of Leopold Stokowski. She was one of three persons that the conductor came to St. Louis to audition, but the tour did not materialize.

Sister Eloise received her diploma from Webster on May 28, 1943 with a major in music and a near-major in English, and eleven days later entered the convent to become a Sister of Loretto. She taught in the Newman High School at Sterling, Ill., at the Loretto Academy in Kansas City, Mo., and the Loretto High School in Louisville, Ky. In Louisville she directed musical comedy and the glee club. There she had "lots of luck," according to her modest way of expressing it, as the Girls' Glee Club won first place in the state contest for three years and three of her students won Young Artists contests and were soloists with the Louisville Symphony Orchestra.

After five years of teaching in Louisville, Sister came to Webster in 1956 to teach piano, music theory and composition. Since she became chairman of the department five years ago, the department moved into its beautiful building on the fine arts campus and many exciting events of a musical nature have happened. Not wishing to take undue credit for the growth of the department both in influence and size, Sister declares that she inherited a "good" department. She has taken time, usually during the summer sessions to study at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, receiving her master's degree in the field of piano and music literature. To broaden her scope of education and background she received her Ph.D. degree in music theory at Eastman. She also has done post doctoral studies at Columbia University in the field of electronic music and other forms of contemporary music as a student of Vladamir Ussachevsky, a pioneer in the field.

Sister Eloise says that being a nun has been no handicap to her in performance as she has done much more in this area since entering the Loretto Congregation than she did before. She has played recitals in Denver, Colorado Springs, Louisville, and in the St. Louis area. At present she is a member of the resident piano trio including Gerald Fischbach, violinist, and Joan Mack, cellist. The trio has given many concerts both on and off campus. She also has played a number of duo recitals with Joan Mack.

The personal accomplishments of this talented musician, and her ambitious program for Webster's musical prestige, become even more remarkable when one realizes the

(Continued on Page 3)

## Chairmen Named; Program Planned for Coming Year

Following a most successful year filled with interesting programs and enjoyable social functions, the alumnae under the direction of Helen McGuire Swain (Mrs. Harry J.) as president are busy with plans for the coming year. Events which proved most popular are to be continued.

Mrs. Swain has completed an approximate schedule of events for 1966-67 and appointed the chairmen for these events. So that everyone may be planning ahead to attend all of these functions, this information is being given in this issue.

The "Conversations with the Faculty," introduced last year, will be continued with Orlean Bick McAuliffe and Ann Washle O'Connell again serving as joint chairmen. These will be held on Tuesday evenings in October, January and April, the exact dates to be announced later.

Nancy Manne Hartmann has accepted the chairmanship of the Mass and Supper to be held on a Saturday in November. The Children's Christmas Party, always a favorite event during the holiday season in December, will be in charge of Clare Del Hayne with Cathie Charette Lundergan as consultant.

For the Gala Champagne Supper or similar festive party during January or February of 1967, Helen Manion Comer will be the general chairman, Audrey Effinger Dietrich will be the chairman of the Spiritual Weekend to be held from March 4 to 14 during the spring vacation of the College students. Ceil Golden Reh, who was chairman of this well-attended program last year, is serving as consultant.

The Annual Alumnae Weekend reunion has been scheduled for April 29 and 30. Jeanne Reno Galanis will be the chairman with Sister Marita Michenfelder and Helen Hagen in charge of the entertainment.

The Mass Tridium to continue throughout the year will be in charge of Jane Dooling Duisen. Jo Samfleben Heusler is chairman of the Bridge Roundelay and Mary B. Held Arnold chairman of the bowling league.

Living Endowment chairman is Virginia Hennessey Weber. Scheduled dates for the endowment work are August through December in 1966 and January through June in 1967.

### REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Norah Martin '24

Mother of Irene Thomas Garnet '50

Father of Sister Eloise Jarvis '43

Daughter of Norma Jean Brunsworth English '44

Mother of Ellen Prendergast Maloney '30

Gertrude Ann Ward Luckfield '32

Father of Frances Catanzaro McMahon '51

Father of Rosalie Saputo '59

Father of Florence Parnell Rahubka '59

Father of Beatrice Perez '40, Bernadette

Perez Fehlig '38, Lakme Perez Coakley

'33, Leah Perez Cook '36 and Renee

Perez Farrell '44.



Left to right: Mrs. Eugene Erker (Genevieve Jennings) '23, Sister Edwarda Ash '20, Mrs. John Fitzgerald, mother of Miss Mary Fitzgerald '46, and Miss Mary McDermott, first president of the Loretto Foundation, photographed at a luncheon given by Sister Frances de Chantal to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of Mrs. Fitzgerald's graduation from the Loretto Academy in Florissant.

## Celebrating an Anniversary

Sister Frances de Chantal, director of the office of congregation relations at the Loretto Province House entertained at a luncheon at St. Alban's in May in honor of Mrs. John Fitzgerald's sixtieth anniversary of her graduation from Loretto Academy in Florissant. Mrs. Fitzgerald is the mother of Miss Mary Fitzgerald, a Webster alumna.

Guests at the luncheon included Mrs. Eugene Erker (Genevieve Jennings) of the class of 1923, Sister Edwarda Ash, of the class of 1920 and Miss Mary McDermott, a graduate of Loretto Academy, Pine Street,

who was the first president of the Loretto Foundation. The Foundation was organized in 1932 by alumnae and friends of Webster College to foster loyalty to the Sisters of Loretto.

Sister Edwarda will be remembered by many alumnae as she was dean of women, mistress of novices, regent of the college, and Reverend Mother for two terms, and provincial of the St. Louis province. She is now living at the Motherhouse where she is working on archives, and also conducts classes on the history of the Congregation.

### Webster's Musical Prestige

(Continued from Page 2)

great handicap she has overcome. In March of 1963, a rare virus paralyzed her. It struck suddenly in her hands and moved rapidly throughout her body. After spending several weeks in the hospital she slowly began to move about again. With great determination she forced herself to return to her work at the college. Her students assisted her to finish the school year, and with persistent exercising she finally was able to play the piano again. Even now she has a numbness in her fingers at times, but anyone hearing her perform with such artistry would not realize this.

Every free moment she spends at her piano in her studio, not only because she loves her music but because the exercising of her fingers is so essential.

"I work much harder to play now," she observes philosophically, "but I believe I really am playing better because I must work harder. I have to be so much more careful."

### Schedule of Alumnae Board Meetings

1966-1967

7:30 p.m. Oregon Room, second floor, Administration Building.

September 21, 1966

November 16, 1966

January 18, 1967

March 15, 1967

May 17, 1967

So that all alumnae who wish may attend these meetings, the schedule is being published for the coming school year. The Dutch Treat Supper preceding last year's meetings proved very popular. Those who wish may join us in the College Dining Room between 6 and 6:30 p.m. Please do not expect to be served after 6:15.

Helen Swain  
Alumnae President