

*Bender
of
Twigs*

Thomas Wine

Like a fine wine, Tom is aging well. His contributions have developed an impressive genealogy of dedicated teachers and choral music directors who proudly declare themselves as Wichita State University alumni. From the time they audition to graduation, Dr. Wine challenges them to increase their musical knowledge and skill. He orients them to the music profession in their very first semester and then remains conscious of their progress for the next four years.



From his roles as a recruiter and orientation leader, Dr. Wine welcomes many new students to campus. As director Acapella Choir, Dr. Wine serves as choral cheerleader. He supports freshmen non-majors who want to keep music in their lives as they fan out across the camps to a variety of majors. For those who stay the course, the selection to be a Madrigal Singer is endorsement of their independent musicianship. Tom trusts students enough to give them space for their own learning decisions yet walks quietly and discreetly beside those who need his support.

Tom's recognizable laugh inspires all members of the faculty and staff in the school of music. Though his title is Director of Music Education, his collegial actions demonstrate equity as his consistent goal. As a music education team, he guides us to strategic actions that position us to meet the needs of the students. He recognizes changes in student characteristics over time and articulates what we can do to foster student growth through culturally relevant teaching. Tom recognizes students who need a little extra and is willing to coach them individually on how to professionally ask for the help they need.

As Choral Director for the WSU summer choir and for Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Tom provides opportunities for old and young alike to join in music making. His continuous activity in the music community supports networking that provides singing, accompanying and directing jobs for many students. These jobs not only supplement their scholarships but give them work in music related positions helping them grow for their future careers.

The Wine musical legacy of Acapella Choir, Madrigals is augmented by the renowned gatherings planned by Tom. Tom and Mary are the consummate hosts who welcome students and colleagues to their lovely home. Fun is the name of the game. There are yard games and great food, but most of all, there are friendships that develop under this man's tutelage. He is in the business of connections; connections made through the choirs, classes, organizations, and gatherings. With his smile and laugh, he encourages all of us to have a good time yet get the work done. His infamous holiday and cartoon ties provide a brightness to the day as he comes down the hall or conducts in the choral room.

As a Bender of Twigs, Dr. Tom Wine has reached a beautiful milestone. His label has become famous across the university, the state, and is recognized by his colleagues for its richness, clarity, and fine quality. Congratulations!

Elaine Bernstorf, Ph.D.