Chorus Master, Assistant Conductor Shares Skills

MICHELLE FITZGIBBONS
REPORTER

Piano lessons at four years of age; violin at ten; high school vocalist; her dream was to be a professional symphony player. After exploring her musicianship from many different angles, Carole Bean, associate professor of fine and performing arts, has landed in the music department as coordinator of the music program.

Bean received her bachelors degree in string Instruments and her masters degree in Choral Conducting from Wichita State University. After her schooling, Bean moved to Omaha and began playing with the Omaha Opera. She spent 11 years as chorus master and assistant conductor to the Opera. Bean said that a friend then asked her to fill in as the ballet pianist for classes at Creighton. Eventually she took over as ballet pianist.

In 1971, Bean became a full time teacher in the music department. Since then, she has become music coordinator. Although most of her responsibilities are administrative, Bean still teaches five classes and is actively involved with the music students.

Bean said that she misses the performance aspect of music quite a bit, especially conducting. She said she now conducts a children's choir and plans to conduct a little bit this summer, but due to a health problem, she is no longer able to conduct regularly.

Bean said she has high hopes for the music department at Creighton. She said she is working on establishing a bachelors of arts in music. Students can currently receive a "certificate" in music, but a major is not available. Bean said she has been working to expand the curriculum in music and hopes the major will soon follow.

She also said she would like to see a better fine arts facility built. Her dream, she said, is "to walk into the fine arts building and hear music playing."

In her free time, Bean said she spends time with her family, is active in her church, spends time with her registered Morgan horse, likes to walk and exercise and studies Irish music.

Bean said she hopes her career will continue to grow. She said she is currently writing and composing music and would like to have her work published.

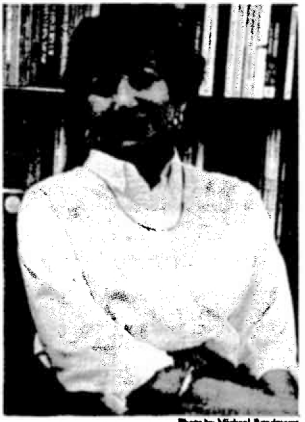

Photo by Michael Boudreaux

Carole Bean