## **Musical Arts Quintet Awarded Grant from the NEA**

## 8/16/2010

The Musical Arts Quintet (MAQ), resident faculty wind quintet in the Ball State University School of Music, has been awarded a 2010 American Masterpieces: Chamber Music grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant award is to support the MAQ in performances, educational activities, a tour throughout the state of Indiana during fall 2010 and spring 2011, and a recording of American quintet repertoire. The quintet will perform and record works by composers Bruce Adolphe, Samuel Barber, Amy Beach, Jenni Brandon, Jennifer Higdon, David Maslanka, George Rochberg, and Steven Stucky. The MAQ is one of 72 organizations from around the country to be selected for a 2010 NEA American Masterpieces: Chamber Music award; other recipients include groups such as the American Brass Quintet, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Kronos Quartet, Ravinia Music Festival, and San Francisco Symphony.

As part of the NEA grant, the MAQ will present performances in Anderson, Elkhart, Carmel, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Seymour, Valparaiso, and Wabash as well as on the Ball State University campus. Each performance will include a pre-concert lecture presented by the quintet members. The quintet will also offer lecture demonstrations to music classes at Ball State and other universities associated with the performance dates. For specific concerts dates and times, please contact Elizabeth Crawford, Assistant Professor of Music, at 765-285-5427 or email ecrawford@bsu.edu.

The culmination of the grant will be a recording project from the repertoire presented in live performance. A portion of the recording project will be released in CD form through Ball State's recording label, Beneficence, with the remaining repertoire made available for download as audio files through iTunes University.

One of the country's oldest and most distinguished chamber ensembles of its kind, the Musical Arts Quintet was established in 1957. Eight cross-country tours, from New England to the Pacific coast and from the Dakotas to New Orleans, have brought the quintet an enviable reputation and high critical acclaim. The MAQ made its New York debut in Carnegie Recital Hall in November 1963. In residence at Ball State University, the quintet has gained national attention for its performance and support of contemporary music. At Brandeis University, the ensemble gave the first performance of Irving Fine's *Romanza* for Fine's memorial concert. At Valdosta State College, the quintet presented the premiere of Morris Knight's *Concerto for Quintet and Piano* with Michael Bourgeot, under the auspices of the Georgia State Arts Commission's Project Radius.

In 1994 the quintet gave the premiere performance of Karen Thomas' *Sopravento*, a work for quintet and percussion, at the conference of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors. OW Records issued the first recordings of the quintet, which are devoted to the works of contemporary American composers. The MAQ has performed at conferences of the American Society of Composers, Music Educators National Conference, Music Teachers National Association, Indiana Music Educators Association, National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors National Symposium, Society of Composers, Inc, and International Double Reed Society.

Current members of the MAQ are Mihoko Watanabe, flute; Johanna Cox, oboe; Elizabeth Crawford, clarinet; Keith Sweger, bassoon; and Gene Berger, horn.