

# Terra's expanded music department hits high note

## Jazz ensemble one of four new bands at college

By SARAH WILLIAMS  
Staff writer

Once a week, four Terra Community College faculty members meet to share a love of music that extends beyond the physical element of playing.

"It's a nice way to let go of the cares of the day," says Toledo resident Pete Ford, a music appreciation instructor at Terra who also teaches piano lessons. "It's less formal and more fun. It's like getting psychologi-

cal pay."

Ford, along with two other music department faculty members and one English department faculty member, make up the Faculty Jazz/Music Ensemble. It is one of four new bands created out of an expanded music program at Terra this year that affords opportunities for not only faculty and students, but community members as well.

"Since we have a brand new music department, we

formed the band as a sort of advertisement for the program so we could get some recognition," said jazz band member Ed Harrington of Green Springs, an adjunct faculty member who teaches courses in music appreciation and history and also gives lessons in trombone and bass.

"We might take the band to local high schools eventually to get kids interested

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ED HARRINGTON practices the upright bass with the Terra faculty jazz ensemble.



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RICHARD REPP, left, plays the guitar and Pete Ford plays the keyboard with the Terra faculty jazz ensemble.

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# Terra music program hits high note

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in the program and electronic music. We even offer courses in conjunction with (Bowling Green State University) now so that students can easily enroll there later."

Although music classes have been available at Terra for years, students now have the chance to earn a degree in music.

Students can get an associate's degree in music technology, or an associate's of arts in music, which is a transfer degree. A transfer degree prepares a student to continue on to a four-year school.

With the program's expansion, not only are more music opportunities available for students, but for community member as well.

Any Terra student, not only music students, can audition to be part of the Terra Electronic Music Ensemble, which is currently made up of seven students. Students and community members are encouraged to become part of the Community Chorus, which started last year, or the Terra Concert Band, which will make its debut later this month.

Harrington, who is the upright bass player for the faculty band and plays in two other bands, the "Gay Galvin Trio" and "Triad," said the emphasis of all Terra's music programs is on electronic music. In the faculty band, the drummer plays an electronic drum pad, and the guitar player connects the instrument to a synthesizer.

Richard Repp, head of the music department, said new instruments — almost all electronic — an "excellent" recording system, and a ProTools mixing system are just some of the additions to the new music program.

Repp, from Fremont, is an assistant professor of music and a member of all four of Terra's bands. Repp plays the guitar synthesizer for the faculty group. The guitar sends a signal through the synthesizer, adding more range to the guitar's normal functions.

"The group is a great way to provide an interchange between faculty members," Repp said. "It's a way to bond and produce music at a high level and provides the opportunity for fellowship. I'm the only full-time music instructor here so people are in and out all the time. It helps me to get to know my fellow faculty members."

Ford plays the piano for the group, and enjoys the stress relief the faculty band provides. Ford, who just began working at Terra in the fall, is struck by the new equipment at Terra.

"I'm very impressed with the Terra facilities," he said. "It's nicer than where I went to school

band, and also plays drums for an area swing band called "Highway 51: Rock, Rhythm and Blues."

He is thrilled to have a chance to play in a jazz band, since jazz music, he says, is his "first love."

Since its inception, the faculty jazz band has performed twice. The last time the band played was at the Ohio Music Educators Association Convention in Columbus in October.

"At the beginning of the show, Rich introduced me as 'Rick Halstead on the drums,' not bad for an English teacher," Halstead said. "It was a little intimidating to be playing with and for people whose main occupation is playing and teaching music. But at least I'll always have the crutch of being able to say I'm just an English teacher if I ever mess up," he said with a laugh.

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## Performances tonight and Wednesday

The Terra Community College Community Chorus will perform in the atrium of the General Technologies Building (Building B) at 7 p.m. today. The concert is free.

The Electronic Music Ensemble, comprised of students, and the Terra Faculty Jazz/Music Ensemble, comprised of Terra faculty members, will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Building B, rooms 101-102. The Electronic Music Ensemble will play first, followed by the Faculty Jazz Band. The concert is free.

For more information, call Jill Fick at 334-8400, Ext. 382, or Richard Repp, head of the music department, at 334-8400, Ext. 378.

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