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Hail, Trombones and Liszt

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Hail, trombones and Liszt

As the music department moved into its new digs in the Vivian A. Bull Music Center, musicians carried with them more than just instruments, sheet music and tuning forks. They also brought many memories of Renshaw Hall.

Originally designed for visual artists, Renshaw opened its doors to musicians in 1969 after Frerichs Hall burned to the ground.

Renshaw's hub was the main office, run by Donna Root, secretary for both music and art. Most days, faculty and students crowded the 10x13 foot office to make copies, use the phone or talk with Root.

The building's most prominent architectural element, the art gallery, featured a two-story ceiling and four skylights. When a second floor was added above the gallery to accommodate rehearsals, rain or hail storms could drown out the choir.

Musicians and artists alike learned to accept Renshaw's notoriously thin

walls, according to Jill Timmons, professor of music, whose office was located next to that of the late Marion van Dyk for years. One day, Timmons practiced a particularly difficult work by Franz Liszt.

"I must have made more repetitions than usual," said Timmons, "because through the wall I heard his voice announce confidently, 'You'll get it!' It was a joke we shared for years and one of my fondest Linfield memories."

Practice proved challenging for students as well. When a trombone or saxophonist arrived to practice in the trailer next door that had 1/8-inch paneling and no insulation, everyone else would flee from the noise.

Some Renshaw memories are tangible. Plaster busts of Giuseppe Verdi and Robert Schumann in hangman nooses, hung by music history students in 1981, now grace a shelf in Timmons' new office.

— *Laura Davis*

50, 50 and 50

The Department of Music boasts approximately 50 students enrolled as majors and 50 minors. Yet each year hundreds of non-majors – and some community members – take music classes, participate in a variety of ensembles and present nearly 50 performances, ranging from major concerts to intimate recitals to the choir's annual spring break tour. For a complete listing of Linfield music groups, go to <http://www.linfield.edu/music/ensemble.php>. Click on <http://www.linfield.edu/music/events.php> for a schedule of music events.



Vivian A. Bull Music Center fast facts: 14,000 square feet, six faculty studio offices, a music library, 10 soundproof practice rooms, the Woolley Rehearsal Room, the 98-seat Delkin Recital Hall, a seminar room, lobby area with fireplace and instrument storage space.