

## Composing a Dream

Education is so much more than bricks and mortar, walls, and windows, books and tests. It is more than science and math, English composition and reading comprehension, engineering and physics. It is also the structure of a melody, the mechanics of playing the piano, the symmetry of a dance, the delivery of an actor's line. All of these elements have come together in a symphony of planning, building, and giving to become the John and Ruth Rhinehart Music Center at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

There are many people who have given generously to this project and I want to publicly recognize some of them right now. The Rhinehart family has always had a strong love for music and education. John and Ruth and their four children enjoyed playing music; in fact, they all played more than one instrument and often put on family concerts. The entire music building, as well as the 250-seat Rhinehart Recital Hall is named in their honor. Ione and Edward Auer loved music of all kinds and reveled in the joy it gave them. The 1600-seat Ione B. and Edward D. Auer Performance Hall is named in honor of their contributions to this project.

Ten other rooms or areas of the building have been named in honor of the generosity of specific donors. Those rooms are the Schatzlein Box Office, the June Enoch Music Classroom, the Ron Venderly Foundation Music Education Classroom, the Chapman Choral Rehearsal Hall, the Ator Woodwind Teaching Studio, the Dr. Rudy and Rhonda Kachmann Student Commons, the Edwin C. Schouweiler Family Music Education Resource Room, the Linda and Ken Balthaser Music Practice Room, the Linda and Joe Ruffolo Music Practice Room, and the Gene Marcus Piano Practice Room. In addition, we want to express our gratitude to the many donors who have purchased a seat or seats in the Auer and/or Rhinehart Halls to honor or memorialize a family member or friend, plus the multitude of donors who made gifts without naming rights.

Others who have contributed to the dream of this building becoming a reality are the legislators, past and present, from northeast Indiana. Without their unwavering support at the Indiana Statehouse, this music center would have been virtually impossible to build.

The John and Ruth Rhinehart Music Center will allow IPFW to offer a wider variety of cultural opportunities to the community. With the added seating capacity, many more people will be able to attend our Omnibus Lecture Series, the vocal and instrumental concerts presented by our music students and faculty, and in the future, even the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.

The arts education of our students and others will also be enhanced with the dedication of this new building. The practice areas are some of the best that can be found in this area, allowing competing styles of music to peacefully co-exist in side-by-side rooms, neither bothered by the other's rhythms. Students will also learn the nuances of live performances with the wonderful acoustics in both the Rhinehart Recital and Auer Performance Halls.

As we prepare to dedicate this wondrous structure, I am confident that the symphony of elements that came together to build the John and Ruth Rhinehart Music Center will continue to weave its magic through our lives and community, bringing the performing arts closer to everyone.

Michael A. Wartell  
Chancellor