Dr. Bill Scott/Farewell Concert

VFTH

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The Symphony at WKU is saying goodbye to a familiar face.

Tomorrow night, Dr. Bill Scott will conduct his farewell concert at Van Meter Hall.

Amy Bingham looks at the huge impact he’s had on music education in this area in this week’s View from the Hill.

Dr. Bill Scott came to WKU in the fall of 2003 as the very first Jerry Baker Professor of Music. He quickly got busy building a pre-college strings program at the elementary level and it’s now more than 750 members strong.

Dr. Bill Scott \ Jerry E. Baker Professor of Music

Dr. David Lee \ Dean, Potter College of Arts & Humanities

Patrick O’Rourke \ Strings Teacher, BG Independent Schools

Ben Peterson \ BGHS Senior

Lici Kanan \ BGHS Senior

Alicia Paladino \ BGHS Senior

Here’s a scene you won’t be seeing much longer. Dr. Bill Scott is stepping down as The Symphony at WKU’s Conductor.

“It is going to be different being in the audience rather than on stage but I look at it as a new chapter in my life.”

That new chapter includes two more years as a full time strings faculty at WKU then full time retirement. Well deserved after building one of the fastest growing strings programs in the state.

“When he came here we had, at best, a fledgling string program on campus. Very limited string opportunities in the community.”

“We started a strings program with 21 fourth grade kids at Natcher that spring time and now, eleven years later, it’s grown to over 750 students in three school districts.”

Bowling Green Independent Schools Strings Teacher Patrick O’Rourke calls Dr. Scott’s impact immeasurable.

“He taught the kids really well and he retained them really well so every year kids would move up to the next grade level and we would recruit a bigger class than the one before because word was getting out about the strings program.”

Several of O’Rourkes students were influenced by Dr. Scott early on.

“He kind of helped fuel the passion for music and everything. I remember in his classes it was really fun.”

“I was shy in elementary school. He was very open and hands on in teaching me how to play.”

he just kept on telling us to keep it up and don’t give up and I haven’t and I thank him for that.”

Because of the program’s growth, the Symphony now is made up mostly of students and faculty with very few outside hires….

Symphony in good hands.

Dr. Scott is a tough act to follow.

Dr. Scott’s Farewell Concert, “With Voice and Song” is tomorrow night at 7:30 at Van Meter Hall. For tickets, call 270-745-3121.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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