

# Bowdoin hires a dean and reaps a bonus of note to the music world

**B**owdoin College's reputation as a strong school for the arts just got a little stronger. Word came last week that the American Musicological Society moved its headquarters to the Bowdoin campus from Philadelphia.

The move is a coup for Bowdoin and could have a beneficial ripple effect on Maine's tightly connected music community.

The AMS has prestige as an academic society, with 6,500



**BOB  
KEYES**

members who work mostly on college and university campuses around the country. Founded in 1934, the organization set goals that revolve around advancing music research, learning and

scholarship in a variety of disciplines and fields.

Among music scholars, Bowdoin's profile is sure to receive a healthy boost.

The field of music education and scholarship largely centers on massive research universities with graduate programs. That a small, undergraduate college like Bowdoin would host the organization says much about Bowdoin's commitment to intellectual rigor.

Bowdoin president Barry Mills said as much in a statement that accompanied news of the society's move to Brunswick.

"The AMS is a highly respected organization in the field of music that will complement our ongoing efforts to enhance music education and scholarship at the college," he said.

The move also represents good PR for the school, said society executive director Robert Judd.

"The society does have a certain presence in the academic community. Among colleges and universities, we are among a small number of organizations that do these kinds of things, and those places that host people like us accrue good publicity. It's good for their image to be seen hosting a humanistic society like us."

All true, no question – and kudos to Bowdoin for making it happen.

But there's more to the story.

Bowdoin didn't actively recruit the AMS. Bowdoin aggressively recruited Cristle Collins Judd to be its new dean for academic affairs.

Cristle Collins Judd happens to be married to Robert Judd.

To get Cristle, Bowdoin also had to get Robert.

"I don't mind being honest about it," said Robert Judd. "It

Please see **KEYES**, Page E3

## KEYES

Continued from **Page E1**

was put to the board of directors of the society that Bowdoin College wanted my wife to come, and they were willing to do a lot to make it happen, including to get the spouse situation right.

"My job is small enough that it was possible to move my job without a major financial outlay. Colleges like Bowdoin do this. They will actually get an employment position lined up for the spouse, if need be."

The music society has a small

footprint. It has an office staff of two, and Bowdoin has agreed to make an additional half-time clerical position available, as well.

Nearly all of the society's work occurs online, with virtually no walk-in traffic. In reality, its offices could be anywhere.

But to the benefit of Bowdoin and, by extension, Maine's music community, they now happen to be in Brunswick.

Judd hopes the society will establish a rapport with Maine musicians and music fans. That's something that didn't necessarily happen in Philadelphia, largely because the AMS was a small

fish in a big pond.

In Brunswick, the organization has the chance to be a cultural player, enhancing the music festivals that occur around Maine each summer as well as the seasonal offerings of the state's orchestras, chamber ensembles and other performance groups.

It could do that in a number of ways. The society is in the business of helping people interpret music, so it could assist with the preparation of concert program notes, liner notes for CDs and the presentation of preconcert lectures.

In short, it could help make

music more accessible.

"I would like to have the AMS enhance people's lives. That's on my list of things to do. We think it's important for people to understand sounds and what happens behind those sounds. Performers don't necessarily think that way. They just want people to enjoy the sounds. We want them to enjoy the sounds, too, but we also want to them understand those sounds in a historical context," Judd said.

Staff Writer Bob Keyes can be contacted at 791-6457 or at:

[bkeyes@pressherald.com](mailto:bkeyes@pressherald.com)