

ShopTalk

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Editor, Lisa O'Donnell Connors, x4-6803

Post Musicians, Part II

Last August, ShopTalk featured a story on Post staff with second careers as musicians, heading out on tours during vacation, and studios or clubs on weekends and after work. The response was terrific. We heard from many other staff who are serious musicians, as well as colleagues who had no idea that their co-worker could carry a tune. Here is the second stanza of Post musicians. Look for part three in ShopTalk next month.

DESSON THOMSON, *Style Post Day Job:* movie critic

Thomson is a life-long movie buff who has been able to parlay his



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAIRO FRED

Desson Thomson is the lead singer for Cairo Fred.

Chevy Chase.

According to Thomson, after a long apprenticeship singing in the shower, performing in a band in college and then basement bands in the early 1990s, he joined up with friend Brad Heck to create the

six-member band in 1999. Cairo Fred, named after Peter O'Toole's nickname for Omar Sharif, has a CD titled "Out of the Blue" and is working on another recording.

Thomson describes the music they play as "bipartisan rock" a blend of the British-born Thomson's roots in the music of the Beatles and the British Invasion, and his band-mates leanings toward the American sound of Steely Dan and Buffalo Springfield. Or, as their Web site explains, "elements of country, rock, reggae, pop and – yes—humor."

The busy father of three explains how he finds time to perform in

love of film into almost two decades of reviewing movies for Post readers. He is also fortunate enough to be paid for his other passion – performing in the band called Cairo Fred. With Thomson as its lead singer and main lyricist, the band has appeared in venues throughout the area and has regular gigs the last Friday of every month at Clyde's restaurant in

Barbara Hermanson (standing, fourth from right) sings with *Carmina*.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY HERMANSON

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Promotions & Transitions

JENNY ABRAMSON, Advertising, is the new jobs advertising manager for major accounts. She was a 2004 summer intern in the Advertising Department and was subsequently hired after completing graduate school as an account manager for the sports and entertainment group. Abramson has also worked as a management consultant at the Boston Consulting Group in New York and was national director of program strategy and devel-

Wipro Technologies and VSNL, both in India. She earned an MS in computer science from the George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in computer science from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in Delhi, India.

PHILIP BRADLEY, Advertising, is the new account manager in the Jobs Unit, managing outside sales to the federal government. He had been the marketing analyst for the Jobs

Unit since coming to The Post in January 2005.

Other marketing and advertising positions he has held include research manager for MKF Consulting, a California-based beverage consulting company and

Carpenter was an outside sales representative for the *Journal* newspapers (now the *Examiner*) and held advertising positions with Network Publications and Gilden Integrated. Carpenter earned a BS in mass communications from Towson University and an AA in general studies from Prince George's Community College.

KIM HOUGHTON, Advertising, was promoted this month to the position of advertising sales trainer. She was most recently a National Advertising Unit account manager and has held several positions in Advertising since coming to The Post in 1987.

Houghton is a past recipient of a Publisher's Award, a three-time winner of the President's Club Award, an eight-time winner of the Sales Excellence Award, and a three-time winner of the Sales Achievement Award. She holds a BS in advertising with a minor in business from the University of Florida.

CARLOS LOZADA, News, was recently appointed to be the Outlook section's new deputy editor. He was previously the economics editor for the Financial Desk since coming to the newspaper last year. During his five years as an editor for *Foreign Policy* magazine, he was also a frequent contributor to The Post's Book World and other publications. Prior to becoming a journalist, he worked at the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta. A native of Lima, Peru, Lozada attended Notre Dame and graduate school at Princeton University.



Carlos Lozada is Outlook deputy editor.

FILE PHOTO

CARLA TAYLOR-PLA, Marketing, is the new manager for advertising promotions. Taylor-Pla came to The Post in 2004 as a marketing analyst for the Retail Advertising Unit and has earned several Marketing Department awards. Her professional experience includes owning a promotions and marketing business called Taylor and Evans Marketing Group, and marketing and sales positions with PBS, *USA Today.com* and the Advisory Group. In addition to an MBA from American University, she holds an MS in journalism from Northwestern University and a BA in philosophy from Yale University. ■



Philip Bradley is promoted.

opment at Teach for America. She earned an MBA from Harvard Business School, as well as an MA in organizational behavior and a BA in political science from Stanford University. Abramson was also a Fulbright Scholar at the London School of Economics.

SONIA AHLUWALIA, IT, has been promoted to the position of system administrator for IT's messaging systems, including Lotus Notes and Domino servers. Ahluwalia came to The Post last May as an intern for desktop management. She has also held technical positions at George Washington University, and

sales and marketing representative for Robert Sinskey Vineyards in Napa, Calif. Currently, he is working toward his MBA at Johns Hopkins University and holds a BA in marketing and finance from Cornell University.

DANIELLE CARPENTER, Advertising, was recently promoted to senior advertising coordinator for the Jobs Unit. She has held several positions in Advertising since she was hired in 2003 and is the recipient of numerous Customer Service Excellence Awards. Prior to coming to The Post,



Kim Houghton receives promotion in Advertising.

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Cairo Fred, among his many responsibilities. "Creativity is the oxygen that I breath," he said. "It is important to have this outlet. I love music and it is a real thrill to perform for people."

For more information about Cairo Fred and performance dates, go online to www.cairofred.com.

BARBARA HERMANSON,
Advertising

Post Day Job: business analyst for the SAP data conversion team

The genre of music that Hermanson sings predates Thomson's – by a few centuries. When she is not converting data for the new SAP computer system, Hermanson is a member of Carmina, a 16-voice chamber choir that performs what she refers to as "early music" of the Middle Ages through the early Baroque period.

Singing has been important to Hermanson since

grade school, and for several years she was a member of the Portland Symphonic Choir (which had a CD in the top 20 on the classical charts in 1995). She was also a member of a rock band formed by members of the IT department at her former employer, Fred Meyer supermarkets. When she moved to the D.C. area five years ago, she became involved with Carmina when she saw a call for auditions in the Weekend section.

"It's a wonderful escape," she explains. "I love the kind of music we do." With her low voice, Hermanson can sing alto or tenor for the group. Carmina is invited and paid to perform several concerts a year at churches throughout the metro area. The group has received positive reviews from *The Post*, *Baltimore Sun* and *Washingtonian*.

To learn more about Carmina and find a schedule of performances, go to www.carmina.org.

SHARON SCOTT, National Weekly

Post Day Job: editor and

DEVAUNTE OGDEN, Ad Ops
Post Night Job: desktop publisher

Sharon Scott and DeVaunte Ogden are an example of how News and Advertising can make beautiful music

together. Scott, an alto, and Ogden, a soprano, make paid appearances at local churches as members of the Chamber Singers of the Church of the Holy Communion in Southeast D.C. They perform "sacred" music with roots in the Episcopal Church and Mozart.

The two, who also perform outside the group as soloists, have been singing together for three years. According to Scott, Ogden had heard about her vocal talents and



IT senior network engineer **Tom Arner** performs as Tom Blood.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARNER

appeared at her office one day inviting her to join the chamber singers.

During her singing career, Scott has performed with choruses at venues including Wolf Trap and the Kennedy Center. However, she confesses, "my fantasy is to be singing the blues in a smoky lounge."

Ogden comes from a musical family and has studied voice since she was a teenager. She is a member of several ensembles, performing opera, oratorio and sacred music throughout the U.S. and Canada. Performance highlights for her include the Kennedy Center and Thurgood Marshall's funeral. Ogden is currently participating in vocal competitions and is working toward making her international opera debut later this year.

TOM ARNER, IT

Post Day Job: senior network engineer

Tom Arner was raised in a family where, he says, you either played tennis or made music, and he was a better musician than tennis player. Now performing under the

name Tom Blood (his father's birth name), he has been performing at area clubs and venues for close to 20 years. The singer, acoustic guitar player, and songwriter performs in a duo with friend Bill Enderlin, as well as a band called Late As Usual.

Arner plays what he refers to as a "blend of country blues, blues, rock and roll, and bluegrass." A review in the *Journal* newspaper called Arner, "A singer of considerable range and emotion...he distinguishes himself from the legions of one dimensional coffeehouse strummers."

Despite his full-time job at The Post and two young children at home, Arner said he finds time for his music because "It's a passion and a way to relieve stress...I can leave the computer world and go into the music world and back again."

For performance dates and more information, go online to www.tomblood.net. ■



Lisa Bolton participates in workshop at American University.

Bolton at American University

Public Relations Manager **Lisa Bolton** participated in the Public Relations Student Society of America's Regional Conference held at American University on Saturday, April 8. Called "PR in Washington...not just about the Politics...", the conference was attended by 120 students from 20 universities and colleges.

Bolton was one of 20 area public relations professionals who were featured in a "speed networking" session, and individually spoke to groups of 10 students for 10 minutes at a time. The goal of the ses-

sion was to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the diverse and evolving field of public relations.

"I was impressed with how well informed these students were about the latest technological trends, news stories and social issues - which were very important to them," commented Bolton.

No Smoking Room Effective May 15

Peggy Schiff, vice president of administration, announced the following change on April 20 concerning smoking at the Northwest Building:

"The Post plans to eliminate the smoking room that is located near the second floor cafeteria in the Northwest Building on May 15. This change will make The Post's District of Columbia facility entirely smoke-free, as are The Post's production plants in Springfield and College Park. That space will then be

transitioned to other uses. If you smoke, you will be required to smoke outside after the policy becomes effective. We appreciate your understanding.

If you would like to take this opportunity to kick the habit, the Northwest Health Center will arrange for employees to participate in a Smokers' program. If you're interested, please contact **Phyllis Waslo** at x4-4924."

Personal Trainer at Fitness Center

Effective May 1, personal trainer **Lyndon Williams**, Northwest Health

Center, will be in the Fitness Center during the hours noted to answer questions, or provide direction and advice. He is also available by appointment at an additional fee for personal training outside these hours. Williams is certified as a personal trainer by the National Academy of Sports Medicine. For more informa-

tion, contact Williams at x4-7192.

Hours:

Monday - Thursday:

8 to 10 a.m., and 5 to 7 p.m.

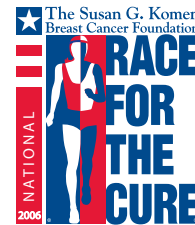
Friday: 8 a.m. to noon.

May 3 Deadline for The Post's Race for the Cure Team

The Komen® National Race for the Cure will take place on the National Mall on Saturday, June 3. All employees and their families are invited to be a part of The Post's National Race for the Cure team. All team members will receive a Post team T-shirt (in addition

to the T-shirt all registrants receive) and a pre-race team breakfast at the Northwest Building. The deadline to sign-up for The Post team

is Wednesday, May 3. For more information and registration materials, call **Gayle Giger** at x4- 7743, or **Milene Purdy** at x4-5979.



Marketplace

FOR SALE: Great second car, exc. gas mileage. '97 White Camry LE; auto, A/C, dual front airbags, Va. inspection. Excellent condition, 75 K, orig owner. \$5,000/OBO. Call Sandy at x4-7391 or eves: (703)765-9418.

FOR SALE: Williamsburg 4th of July Vacation Package - three nights in two BR Colonial House, on grounds of Historic Williamsburg, arrival Sunday July 2, departure Wednesday, July 5. Package includes historic area pass for four people, four tickets to Busch Gardens, dinner for four at Kings Arms Tavern on July 3, and golf for four on Golden Horseshoe on July 4. Package worth over \$2,000, asking \$750 firm (purchased at an online fundraising auction and now have a schedule conflict). My loss, your great family vacation! Contact Ellen at x4-7762.

FOR SALE: 2003 Suzuki Hayabusa, asking \$12,500. Gray on gray with custom matching two-tone seat with the Kante emblem, 4,000 miles. Upgrades, custom features include full Yoshimura exhaust system, Power Commander system, chrome wheels, Amenities include: Matching custom helmet with ghost face on the front/rear and leather ICON racing jacket with all season gray jacket. Call Angela at x4-9297, or Keith (240) 882-1377 for questions. Photos are available upon request. Serious inquiries only.

FOR SALE: Canon Digital Rebel (300D) with 18-55 3.5/5.6 lens, \$850 (normally sells for \$900, never opened. Includes eight mega pixels, battery pack, battery charger, power cord and all cables, neck strap, warranty and instruction manual. If interested please contact Andrea Bruce at (202) 412-8930 or andrea@andreabruce.com.

FOR SALE: Vision Fitness, semi-recumbent training bike, perfect condition. Used less than 12 times. Designed for health clubs, the R2200HRT uses its extra-heavy steel frame and top quality components to withstand hours of use and abuse. The Easy-8 console features four Heart Rate Training (HRT) programs with a separate Heart Rate Feedback window for optimal training as well as five custom programs. Bought for \$1,500, sells now for \$1,999. Asking \$800/OBO. You pick it up, take it away. Call Marie Arana at x4-7884 or Jonathan Yardley at (202) 544-7779.

FREE! FREE!: Ads in marketplace are free to employees of The Washington Post. Join thousands of satisfied customers who have bought and sold through Marketplace.

FOR SALE: Vacation week in Villas at The Boardwalk. This a beautiful oceanfront resort in Virginia Beach. Check in Saturday 09/09/06 and check out 09/16/06. One BR, two sofas, kitchen. Sleeps up to six people. Accommodations include indoor pool, jacuzzi, gym, restaurant. Asking \$700. Call Trinh at x4-4021 (between 7 to 11 p.m.).

MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Noon Fridays. Please include your name, extension and home phone number. Ads are for Post Employees only. Send ads to Shop Talk, 7th floor, or call x4-6803. To send ads via fax dial x4-4963; via e-mail send to shoptalk. Ads run two issues unless otherwise requested. One ad per employee, please.