SCENES
from The Hartt School Alumni Dinner

1) Left to right: John Zei, professor of opera and voice; Watson Morrison, professor of piano; Dean Malcolm Morrison; Tim Stella ’75, Hartt’s Alumnus of the Year; and Jim Jacobs ’59, director of admissions
2) Joyce Zei with Dean Morrison and Joan Glazier ’58
3) Jaclyn Turner ’00, Tim Stella ’75, and Florence Stella ’75
4) Elizabeth Warner-Paranov ’43
5) Sean Burton ’00 and Owen Morgan ’01, president, Hartt Student Council
6) Tim Stella ’75, Alan Francis ’69, ’74, and Margreet Francis ’76
7) Barbara Hacksteen and Dean Morrison
8) Elizabeth Warner-Paranov ’43 and Karen and Howard Sprout ’75
On April 30, The Hartt School held an Alumni Dinner, reviving its tradition of honoring an Alumnus of the Year, as well as recognizing retiring faculty and staff members. Attended by more than 150 alumni and friends, the event, held at the 1877 Club, was a wonderful opportunity to renew acquaintances and celebrate the achievements of people who are dear to the School.

“That is why we are here today,” said Hartt Dean Malcolm Morrison, “to share the links of a common heritage, to explore the bonds of shared experiences and to create the stories to be shared in the future.”

Hartt conferred Alumnus of the Year honors on Tim Stella ’75 for his achievements as conductor, director, and musician. In accepting his award, Stella reflected on the impact the school has had on his career, specifically citing the influences of Jim Jacobs, Watson Morrison, and John Zei.

Stella has an impressive list of musical successes. He has conducted The Phantom of the Opera, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Most Happy Fella, Guys and Dolls, Hello, Dolly!, and Legs Diamond. He has been musical director for the national tours of Cats, Evita, and Annie, and was musical supervisor of the Evita world tour, for which he produced the Deutsche Grammophon/Polydor cast album.

As a recording session player and synthesizer specialist, Stella has contributed the keyboard work on albums, soundtracks, and commercials for Harry Belafonte, PBS, Hallmark Hall of Fame, Pepsi, Perrier, and the United States Army. He has served as

organist, arranger, and conductor for Christmas and Easter productions at New York City’s Radio City Music Hall. In Connecticut, Stella has been resident music director at Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam and is currently music director at Saint Peter Claver Church in West Hartford.

The tradition of naming an Alumnus of the Year began in 1959 with the honoring of Gilbert Johnson ’48. Past award recipients who attended this year’s dinner included Elizabeth Warner-Paranov ’43; Howard O’Connell ’49, ’57; Edward Diemente ’48; Alexander Lepak ’50; and Peter Harvey ’72, ’79.

Dean Morrison recognized the tireless dedication of three retiring faculty members. James Jacobs ’59 began teaching French horn at Hartt in 1955 and since 1980 has been the director of admissions. Watson Morrison, who also joined Hartt in 1955, inspired many piano students with his musicianship and teaching as professor of piano. John Zei, former chairman of the opera department and artistic director of the Hartt Opera Music Theater from 1973 to 1982, was also an active member of the University’s Faculty Senate for many years.

In addition, Dean Morrison surprised Barbara Haksteen, director of administration, and Joyce Zei, teaching associate in opera, both of whom retire this year, with special presentations. He expressed his deep gratitude to all the retirees for their invaluable contributions of time, talent, and love of music to the students of The Hartt School.

The Hartt School seeks nominations for Alumnus/Alumna of the Year, the award to be presented at the Alumni Dinner on April 29, 2001. If you would like to nominate an alumnus/a of The Hartt School, please complete this form and return it to the Alumni Office, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117, or fax it to (860) 768-4244. You can also e-mail your response to <agallaghe@mail.hartford.edu>. Responses are due by Sept. 15, 2000.

Nominee’s name: __________________________________________

Your name: ________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________

Daytime phone number: _____________________________________

Reason for nomination: ______________________________________

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