

## Music school mourns silenced voices

### Students lost in plane crash praised as great artists

by Nicole Kauffman  
Hoosier Times  
April 23, 2006

BLOOMINGTON - April 21, 2006, will forever be remembered as the day Indiana University lost five students in a tragic plane crash.

For the IU Jacobs School of Music, it also will be remembered as the day the blossoming careers of five talented singers were cut short.

On Saturday morning, voice professor Timothy Noble stood in the lobby of the Musical Arts Center, staring off into the distance.

"It's so surreal to me. I'm having a tough time getting my hands around this," he said.

The music world will never know what could have become of graduate students Robert Samels, 24; Zachary Novak, 25; Chris Carducci, 27; Georgina Joshi, 24; and Garth Eppley, 25.

But this much is clear to those affiliated with the school: Each of the students had a distinctive voice; their performances were easy for critics to praise; and their dedication was clearly to the art of singing and not to the ego.

"This is a highly accomplished student body, and these students were the best of those," said School of Music Dean Gwyn Richards.

Samels is described as a brilliant triple threat.

He conducted, sang and composed. His opera, "Pilatus," was written for his friend, Carducci, and premiered in September in the Indiana Memorial Union. It received good reviews, despite being a completely student-created production.

"That performance was one of the best things I'd ever seen here," said Mary Ann Hart, chairwoman of the voice department.

Samels was so busy - even hosting his own show on WFIU - that people at the school wondered if Samels ever slept, said Jan Harrington, chairman of the department of choral conducting.

"That energy is only something you find in great human beings and great artists," he said.

Carducci, one of Noble's students, had the kind of talent that could have taken him in any number of directions, Herald-Times music critic Peter Jacobi said. He could have performed in musicals, and he could have joined a solid opera company.

"Chris had marvelous stage presence, and he was a fine baritone that really developed over the last year," Jacobi said.

Novak directed choirs at First United Methodist Church, and he was studying with associate professor Brian Horne.

"He was well-loved in the school, and he was on his way to having a career in conducting," Noble said.

Joshi's voice was versatile, and one that stood out among the 400 voices Hart heard during audition season.

"She had a dusky quality to her voice that was absolutely not generic soprano. She could engage people's imagination," Hart said.

Eppley also was a student of Noble's, and he had his first major role in "Midsummer Night's Dream" in November.

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Gwyn Richards, dean of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University

"He was just coming into his own," Hart said, with a smile. "The tenor voice is most fragile and difficult to train, and he just got his high notes. You could see him just loving it."

All five musicians were lucky to have realized what their lives were supposed to be; it's rare, she said.

"These kids couldn't be denied it, they were just going to do it," she said.

When Noble saw Carducci for the last time less than a week ago, the young man was smiling and looking handsome in a black suit.

"I thought, 'I'm so proud of that young man,'" Noble said.

## In memoriam

Tonight's performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony by the IUOratorio Choir and the IUPhilharmonic will be dedicated to the five plane crash victims. The performance is 8 p.m. at the Musical Arts Center and is free to the public.

As further plans for memorial services and performance dedications are formalized, they will be listed at [www.music.indiana.edu](http://www.music.indiana.edu). There will also be a link for people to write memories and post photos in memory of the deceased.

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