

Dr. Robert Groves has been a member of the North Dakota State University faculty since 1972. His principle piano teachers were Arthur Lambert and John Simms with additional study with Joanna Graudan and Vitya Veronsky. His teaching specialities are studio piano, piano pedagogy, chamber music, and music history. He also maintains a private studio of pre-college age piano students ranging in age from early elementary school through late high school.

As a member of the piano faculty at NDSU, Dr. Groves has been an active performer, clinician, adjudicator, and author. These include serving as coordinator of piano studies at the International Music Camp for over 25 years, numerous lecture/performances through the North Dakota Humanities Council and the Institute for Regional Studies, summer piano teacher workshops, and guest appearances for many of the regional music teacher associations. A number of his university, as well as pre-college, piano students have been finalists or winners of piano competitions. His approach to teaching piano pedagogy is based on the concept of "applied" pedagogy, in which he places particular focus on solutions to specific playing challenges (technical, musical, performance-oriented, etc) commonly encountered by piano students. Dr. Groves also has been highly successful in helping pianists at all playing levels to understand and eventually eliminate recurring tendonitis in their playing.

Dr Groves received his B.A. at San Diego State University, and M.A., M.F.A., and Ph.D. at the University of Iowa.

His current research interests include:

- Repetitive tendon stress in pianists and computer users
- 19th-century American piano pedagogy
- North Dakota composers and imprints
- Tin Pan Alley song sheet literature

Dr. Groves' publications include two articles in the *New Grove Dictionary of Music in the United States*. Music at NDSU was published in Jan., 2017 and the following are written about Dr. Groves and the book:

Dr. Robert Groves combines thorough research with personal insights for an engaging record of the rise of music as a field of study at North Dakota State University. From its beginnings with mid-1890s campus music clubs, to the formation in 1903 of an official Department of Music, up to the designation of the School of Music in 2012 and beyond, Groves brings the history of the Challey School of Music to life. Featuring more than 200 photos capturing the past century of student musicians and faculty, *Music at NDSU* is filled with historical high notes sure to resonate with readers.

#### From the Inside Flap

My guess is that you're reading this book because you or someone close to you has played a part in the remarkable history of Music at NDSU. It is a long history (now well over a century) with a

legendary ensemble of players, students, teachers, patrons, and administrative staff. Some are larger than life, such as Doc Putnam, who started it all in 1903 and nurtured it for decades. Others played smaller parts but nevertheless collectively have had profound impact. The one common thread throughout NDSU's musical history is dedication to music itself as well as to the very special place that is North Dakota State University. The growth of NDSU Music has been extraordinary and the trajectory of excellence has been steadily upward but there is a human factor of dedication that makes NDSU Music an extraordinarily special place. We are all privileged to work here, and consider our time at NDSU to be well spent. This dedication among students, faculty, donors, and staff has not coincidentally resulted in NDSU's first named academic unit, the Challey School of Music, and the only doctoral-granting program in music performance and conducting in the upper Great Plains between Minneapolis and Seattle. What started as a loose collection of recreational ensembles in 1903 now prepares performers and K-12 teachers for our state and region, and also prepares music faculty members for colleges and universities throughout the region, country, and in fact the world. A most special example of this dedication, personified, is Dr. Robert Westphal Groves—the author of this history. As of this writing, Bob is in his 45th year of dedicated teaching and service to NDSU Music. His legacies to NDSU are numerous, and include generations of successful music students, a unique research reputation as a collector and curator of sociologically meaningful sheet music, and now a complete and detailed chronicle of Music at North Dakota State University. The book represents years of Bob's research and, in addition to providing all of us with an enjoyable read, will be a most significant resource for future generations. I hope you enjoy this book. Of course you will. John Miller Director, Challey School of Music Director, Division of Performing Arts

#### About the Author

Robert Groves is professor of piano and music history. He has taught at North Dakota State University since 1972. He received his Bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and his Master's degree, MFA, and PhD from the University of Iowa. Groves is a performer, lecturer, clinician, adjudicator, and author. He served as coordinator of piano studies at the International Music Camp for more than twenty-five years, provided numerous lectures and performances through the North Dakota Humanities Council and the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies, conducted summer piano teacher workshops, and presented at regional and national venues on American social history as revealed by historic sheet music. He has held NDSU faculty and administrative positions.