

April 1999

UPCOMING ON-CAMPUS FACULTY & STUDENT RECITALS/CONCERTS

- 4/14/99 - Bio Lee, junior voice recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
4/14/99 - Jazz at Pagliai's Pizza (1221 W. Lincoln Hwy.), NIU jazz combos, 8:30-11:30 p.m.
4/15/99 - Annex Group Recital, 8 p.m., Recital Hall
4/15/99 - Jazz Ensemble concert, 8 p.m., Holmes Student Center, Duke Ellington Ballroom
4/16/99 - Bart Woodstrup, graduate Computer Music recital, 6 p.m., Recital Hall
4/16/99 - Opera Workshop presents "Susannah," 8 p.m., Concert Hall \$\$
4/17/99 - Kurt Mortensen, graduate computer music recital, 5 p.m., Recital Hall
4/17/99 - Opera Workshop presents "Susannah," 8 p.m., Concert Hall \$\$
4/18/99 - Dan Katz, sophomore cello recital, 1 p.m., Recital Hall
4/18/99 - Wind Symphony concert, 3 p.m., Concert Hall
4/18/99 - Lisa Berg, senior voice recital, 5 p.m., Recital Hall
4/18/99 - Valentin Ragusitu, graduate viola recital, 7 p.m., Recital Hall
4/19/99 - Cordula Merks/Anja Rohn, grad violin recital, 6:30 p.m., Recital Hall
4/19/99 - All-University Jazz Band concert, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
4/20/99 - Cordula Merks/Anja Rohn, grad violin recital, 6:30 p.m., Recital Hall
4/20/99 - Concert Choir, University Chorus, DeKalb Festival Chorus concert, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
4/21/99 - Amanda King, senior voice recital, 6:30 p.m., Recital Hall
4/21/99 - University Band concert, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
4/21/99 - Jazz at Pagliai's Pizza (1221 W. Lincoln Hwy.), NIU jazz combos, 8:30-11:30 p.m.
4/22/99 - Piano Ensemble recital, 6:30 p.m., Concert Hall
4/22/99 - Chamber Winds/Chamber Choir concert, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
4/23/99 - Dennis Azabagic/Eugenia Moliner, guest artist guitar/flute recital, 5 p.m., Concert Hall
4/23/99 - Tocaphma Trombone Quartet recital, 6:30 p.m., Recital Hall
4/23/99 - Vermeer Quartet concert, 8 p.m., Concert Hall
4/24/99 - Shannon Heffernan, junior flute recital, 1 p.m., Recital Hall
4/24/99 - Eric Schroeder, senior guitar recital, 5 p.m., Recital Hall
4/24/99 - Scholarship Benefit Concert, "Carnival of the Animals," 7 p.m. Concert Hall \$\$
4/25/99 - Steel Band concert, 3 p.m., Concert Hall
4/25/99 - Tom Stark, trombone recital, 5 p.m., Recital Hall
4/25/99 - Leslie Kouzes, senior cello recital, 7 p.m., Recital Hall

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Han presented a workshop for the Kane County music teachers on February 26. There were 20 teachers that learned how to use world music materials in classrooms. They covered Chinese luogu, Southeast Asian angklung, and Javanese gamelan.

The World Music and Dance Concert was held on Sunday, April 11 at 3:00. For the first time, there was Spanish flamenco guitar and dance, and French hurdy-gurdy music, by Dr. Robert Green, in addition to the many student ensembles. Master Bernard Woma from Ghana directed our percussion students in African xylophone and drum music to conclude the concert.

The NIU Steel Band, Al O'Connor directing, performed with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra on March 20th at the Midway Theater. Robert Chappell's work, *Wood-N-Steel* for steel band, African xylophone and orchestra, received an enthusiastic reception from the audience. Robert Chappell and Rich Holly performed as amadinda xylophone soloists on the piece.

Ron Carter, Mid-America Coordinator for the Essentially Ellington National Jazz Band Competition (sponsored by Jazz @ Lincoln Center in New York) has traveled or will be traveling to prepare the finalist bands for the competition. His travels include March 29 in Rochester New York; March 30 in Philadelphia, PA; April 9 in Denver, CO; April 10 in Houston Texas; and April 21-23 in Seattle, Washington. Professor Carter will also conduct a Woodwind Workshop for the 120 saxes attending the National Competition on April 29, 30, and May 1. This competition will be held at Lincoln Center in New York.

Al O'Connor, Larry Stoffel and John Novak will appear on the local television program Northern Exchange on April 13 and again on April 16 at 10:00 pm on Channel 22. The principal topic of the interview is the relationship of popular and concert music. Specifically, the interview concerns the origins of the NIU Steel Band, the role of the marching band in contemporary society, music technology, and the symbioses of folk and art music.

Ted Hatmaker was asked to write the liner notes for Mary Stolper's new CD of American Flute Concertos, due to be released in June by Cedille Records.

Eric Johnson will continue with many opportunities as a music festival adjudicator at: Lyons Township High School, Germantown WI High School, Bradford High School, Kenosha, WI, Whitnall High School, and Rochelle High School. Eric has also arranged for some area high school choirs (Rochelle High School, Naperville North H.S., and Downers Grove South H.S.) to visit our vocal conducting class.

Dr. Jan Bach recently completed a short work for horn and piano and is beginning the orchestration of a spiritual rhapsody for Robert Sims. His work for children's chorus, piano four-hands and percussion, *Dear God*, has been re-scheduled for a fall 1999 premiere in the Palos Park area. Dr. Bach's fourth brass quintet, *Foliations*, is expected to be released on CD by the Stockholm Chamber Brass Quintet sometime during the month of April.

The Vienna Waltz Ensemble with violinists Clara Lindner and Carl Johnston and double bassist Greg Sarchet hosted Die Eipeldauer, a Viennese string trio specializing in

Austrian dance music of the 18th and early 19th centuries for a week of Chicago area collaborative masterclasses and performances, March 1-7. Students, professionals, educators, and audiences from Northern Illinois University, Columbia College, and Northwestern University benefited from the expertise of these performing musicologists who presented historically accurate performances on instruments dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries, all restored to their original states. This exchange celebrated the release of *Flourish* (DC102) by the Vienna Waltz Ensemble (their debut cd was selected as Billboard Critic's Choice 2/14/98.) Resulting from extensive research and international exchange, *Flourish* features world-premiere recordings of works for the traditional combination of two violins and bass by Hummel, Haydn, Gregora, Pamer, and others. In addition, on March 19 and 20 the Vienna Waltz Ensemble was presented by Columbia College in concerts chosen Critic's Choice by the Chicago Reader. These interdisciplinary presentations featured selections from their unique collection of rare manuscripts originally scored for two violins and double bass, historic commentary, ballroom dancers, and a commissioned world-premiere by Chicago composer Gustavo Leone, choreographed by Dardi McGinley Gallivan.

Congratulations to Professor Robert Sims, who was the First Place Oxnard Gold Medal Winner for the 1999 Enmark American Traditions Competition, sponsored by the Savannah Onstage International Arts Festival!

Jeff Stitely would like to announce that his son, Evan Alexander, was born 2/11/99. Jeff recently performed with the South Bend Symphony on February 26 & 27. He performs every Tuesday with the Bobby Lewis Quintet from 5-8:30 at Andy's in Chicago. Stop in some time. He recently played on Bobby's new CD, which will be released in May. He also recorded a CD, *Split Decision* with Jim Gailloretto, Kelly Sill, Larry Gray and Larry Kohut. Jeff has also been playing many student concerts with the Gershwin-Bernstein Ensemble, a sextet comprised of members of the Chicago Symphony. The Jeff Stitely Quartet performed at the Cabin Fever Jazz Series in January. Jeff performed with the Chicago Sinfonietta last March with Chick Corea at the Chicago Symphony Center. All of this and a new baby, too!

James Berkenstock, professor of bassoon, has just completed editing a new CD which will be released this summer on the Centaur label featuring *Midsummer's Music*, a chamber music ensemble that performs every June at the Midsummer's Music Festival in Door County, Wisconsin. Music on the CD includes the Septet for Winds, Strings, and Piano by Ludwig Sohr; *Juneng (Youth)* by Sigfrid Karg-Elert for flute, clarinet, horn, and piano; and the Quintet for Piano and Strings by the little-known Swedish composer Elfride Andrée. Berkenstock is Artistic Director of *Midsummer's Music* and plays bassoon in the ensemble along with NIU colleagues William Koehler, piano, John Fairfield, horn, and Mel Warner, clarinet.

The Orion Ensemble will present a concert on May 2 at 7 p.m. in Batavia and May 3 in Chicago. They will also perform a free concert at the Chicago Cultural Center in Chicago on April 27 at 12:15. For detailed information, please contact Orion or Kathy Pirtle at 630-628-9591. The Orion is pleased to announce that part of their season has been funded

by financial awards from the Aaron Copland Fund for Music and the Illinois Arts Council. The Orion Ensemble will premier a new chamber work entitled *Angel Musings*, by Augusta Read Thomas, Associate Professor of composition at the Eastman School of Music and currently Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Her two movement piece will be played at their May concerts.

Ron Carter has been asked by the Missouri Historical Society to serve on the Advisory Committee of the Miles Davis Project. This is a planning board to celebrate the 75th birthday of the great jazz legend, Miles Davis, in May of 2001, entitled MILESTONES: A MILES DAVIS RETROSPECTIVE. Members of the Committee include Cheryl Davis (daughter of Miles Davis), Quincy Troupe (noted writer of the biography of Miles Davis), Peter Shukat (lawyer for the Davis Family), and Eugene Redmond (poet).

Ron Carter also recently served as guest conductor for three high school honor bands: District 214 Rolling Meadows Concert Band Festival with Rolling Meadows HS and Wheeling HS on March 4, Upstate Illini East Conference Music Festival (Kirkland) with North Boone HS, Pecatonica HS, Ashton-Franklin HS, Center HS, Hiawatha HS, South Beloit HS, and Durand HS on March 12, and the Rockford All-City Concert Band with Auburn HS, Guilford HS, Jefferson HS, and East HS on March 24.

In the most recent issue of *Music & Letters* (February 1999), ethnomusicologist Philip V. Bohlman reviewed Robert Fleisher's book, *Twenty Israeli Composers: Voices of a Culture* (1997), describing it as an "important contribution to the study of Jewish music and of the music of Israel."

STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS:

OCTANE, a vocal group comprised of our music alums won the regional Harmony Sweepstakes held in Denver last Saturday. They will compete in the finals in San Francisco on May 8. Congratulations!

JazzVox performed at the Western Michigan University 19th Annual Vocal Jazz Festival with 26 other ensembles. They walked away from the festival receiving both an Outstanding Rhythm Section Award and an Outstanding Performance Award. Both of these awards were given to no more than 7-10 groups. Bravo!

The NIU Chamber Choir will be featured on Sunday, April 25, singing at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. James Cathedral and performing a concert at the Chicago Temple at 1:30 p.m. on April 25. For more information, please contact Eric Johnson at 815-753-7984.

The Silk and Bamboo Ensemble performed on Friday, March 26 in Beloit, Wisconsin, for the opening of the World Music Exhibit at the Beloit College Museum.

Laura Smith ('85) e-mails that she is currently Manager of Technical Services at the Evanston Public Library. She is also principal solo cornet with the Illinois Brass Band, winner of the North American Brass Association competition the last three years. IBB is

hosting this year's competition at Pheasant Run in St. Charles April 23-24. The Illinois Brass Band will present a concert Friday night, with soloists Steve Sykes (tuba) & Brett Baker (trombone). The Chicago Staff Band will be featured Saturday night, with the same soloists. The solo and ensemble competitions are Friday, and the band competition is all day Saturday. If anyone would like to volunteer for the event, they will receive free admission & a t-shirt. For further information call 630-588-8059.

MISCELLANEOUS

Thanks to the generosity and persistence of NIU President John LaTourette, NIU Vice President Anne Kaplan, and School of Music Chair Paul Bauer, the NIU Huskie Marching Band will be sporting new uniforms for fall 1999! Come out to the football season opener on September 2 (if all proceeds as scheduled!) against Western Illinois to see the new look for the Marching Huskies!

The George & Betty Dutton Foundation will fund a 1999-2000 graduate assistantship in the School of Music. The student will occupy the George & Betty Dutton Orchestral Chair in the Philharmonic. The student will also assist NIU School of Music Alumnus Ken Tonaki in string instruction/performance in the Sycamore Schools. NIU, Ken, and Sycamore school officials are delighted.

Attention Middle School and High School band directors. The NIU School of Music will be offering a summer course targeted just for you! MUSC507 (graduate level) Wind & Percussion Scoring. This is a band orchestration summer course which will focus on marching band/pep band arranging. This three-credit course, will meet only 4 weeks (July 12-Aug. 5) on MTuWTh from 2:00-4:30 pm. Contact Larry Stoffel (e-mail: stoffel@niu.edu) for further information.

US News and World report has once again recognized NIU as one of the top ten graduate programs in Jazz in the country! Visit the web site at - <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/beyond/gradrank/gbmussp3.shtml>

The School of Music is preparing for its annual Scholarship Benefit Concert to be held on Saturday, April 24. This year's gala event is entitled *Carnival of the Animals*. Most of the NIU School of Music ensembles will participate. It will be a great evening of wonderful music, talented students & faculty, and will also allow you to assist with scholarships for our students. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults/\$7.50 for students and seniors. Advance reservations are suggested. Please call Lynn Slater at 815-753-1546 to reserve your tickets!