



Thursday, January 15, 2004

Concert to pay tribute to professor emeritus

A memorial concert for composer Stanley Hollingsworth will be held Tuesday, Jan. 20, at noon in Varner Recital Hall. The hour-long event, which is free and open to the public, is part of the Arts at Noon series offered by Oakland University's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance**.

Hollingsworth was a composer-in-residence at Oakland University and taught composition, music theory and orchestration from 1976 to 1993. After retiring as professor emeritus, he returned to OU from time to time to teach a course or work with composition students.

Hollingsworth established a special fund at the university, which he used to help broaden the horizons of talented students. Almost every year he financed study in Europe for one or more students, usually for a summer or a semester. He also hired professional musicians to perform works by student composers and purchased season tickets to the opera for voice students. Before he died last October, Hollingsworth took pains to ensure that a student could study in Italy in the summer of 2004.

The concert will include performances by pianists Flavio Varani, Lettie B. Alston and Robert Conway; sopranos Janice Albright and Barbara Bland; and clarinetist Douglas Cornelsen. The music mostly will be that of Professor Hollingsworth, except for the song "Novembre" by Charles Koechlin. Comments also will be made by his colleagues and friends Karen Sheridan and Bert Van Dyke and his sister Louise Hollingsworth Bachtold.

Hollingsworth was born in 1924 and grew up in California. He studied composition with Darius Milhaud at Mills College from 1944-46 and with Gian Carlo Menotti at the Curtis Institute of Music from 1948-50.

Among his honors are the Prix de Rome (1955-58), the Guggenheim Fellowship (1958) and residencies at such artist colonies as Wolf Trap, Yaddo, MacDowell Colony, Montalvo Center for the Arts, and the Ossabaw Island Project (1973-75). He received commissions from the Alden Dow Foundation, Curtis Institute of Music, Dumbarton Oaks, Fedora Horowitz, Meadow Book Music Festival, NBC, National Endowment for the Arts and Oakland University, among other organizations.

He worked as a composer and orchestrator for the Harkness Ballet from 1963-70 and as an operatic stage director in Austria and Turkey from 1970-72. He taught composition and orchestration as an assistant to Gian Carlo Menotti at the Curtis Institute of Music from 1949-55 and lectured on composition, counterpoint, harmony and piano at San Jose State College from 1961-63.

His large-scale works are archived in the Edwin A. Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music at the Free Library of Philadelphia and all other works are at Oakland University and the Curtis Institute of Music. In addition, nearly nine hours of interviews with the composer are archived as part of the Oral History, American Music project at Yale University.

SUMMARY

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