



Thursday, September 9, 2004

MTD remembers professor with concert

Oakland University's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** is inviting the community to join them as they fondly remember Stanley Hollingsworth, honored composer, professor, musician and friend, with a memorial concert, "Remembering Stanley: Celebrating a Life in Music," on Friday, Sept. 17, at 8 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall. The concert is free and open to the public.

Hollingsworth, who died of cancer in the fall of 2003, taught at Oakland University from 1976 to 1993. After his retirement as professor emeritus, his dedication to Oakland University drew him back from time to time to teach an occasional course or to work with composition students. While the courses he taught could only be described as rigorously demanding, Hollingsworth generously mentored his students, providing them with season tickets to the opera and access to professional musicians willing to perform their compositions. Due to his generosity, some promising students were even sent abroad to study.

James Shaw, a former Oakland University student, described his reaction upon learning he had been selected to study with Hollingsworth: "This was like being offered the opportunity to take foreign relations lessons with Kissinger."

Shaw already knew how gifted his soon-to-be mentor was, but he came to understand that Hollingsworth valued his gifts all the more when he was passing them on to the next generation.

"Great masters are supposed to teach out of a sense of duty, though they would prefer not to be bothered with you, and somehow it would have seemed less significant if he were to let on how much he was enjoying it. When he finally let you in on the secret, it seemed only common courtesy to continue playing along," Shaw said.

Bert VanDyke, another former student, said the musical lessons Hollingsworth passed on to him are an important foundation in how he approaches life today.

"The most important lesson I learned from Stanley is how form, technique and discipline are actually the keys to freedom," VanDyke said. "As a young college student, it somehow seemed backwards, like the freedom part should come first."

Some of the Hollingsworth compositions that will be performed at the Sept. 17 concert include "I Saltimbanchi" (orchestral), "Three Songs" (vocal), "Reflections" (with dance), "The Mother" (opera) and "Three Ladies Beside the Sea" (instrumental, narration and dramatization). Featured vocalists are Janice Albright and Barbara Bland; narrator is Carolyn Gillespie; pianist is Diane Petrella; choreographer is Laurie Eisenhower; and featured dancer is Gregory Patterson. The 22-piece orchestra will be conducted by Greg Cunningham.

To ensure his philanthropic efforts would continue to nurture music students at Oakland University, Hollingsworth established a special fund. For more information on the memorial concert or to make a contribution to The Hollingsworth Fund contact the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at (248) 370-3013 or mtd@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, September 9, 2004
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, September 9, 2004
Article Start Date: Thursday, September 9, 2004