New Interest in Old Instruments

The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments now has a permanent home in the University of Michigan School of Music. Renewed interest in the Collection resulted in the October 1985 opening of two new galleries for exhibiting the Stearns Collection. The galleries are situated in the new Margaret Dow-Towsley Center of the University's School of Music on North Campus in Ann Arbor. Thus, the Collection physically became a part of the School of Music for the first time since its acquisition.

In 1896, the original 904-piece Collection was generously donated to the University School of Music by Frederick K. Stearns of Detroit. During his lifetime, Mr. Stearns personally supervised the Collection's maintenance with the University. In 1914, the entire collection was put on display in Hill Auditorium for the enjoyment of concert-goers. Unfortunately, while in Hill Auditorium the Collection did not receive the attention it deserved. When Professor Robert A. Warner of the School of Music was appointed Director of the Collection in 1956 he was faced with the problem of a large group of instruments that had suffered from forty years of neglect. Professor Warner realized the value of the Stearns Collection as a resource for both educational pursuits and cultural enrichment. He received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1972 that allowed him to restore the Collection to a stage where it was useful for musical, scholarly and research purposes. With the help of an instrument historian, he began to re-catalog the 1,800 Instruments then included in the Collection. The Stearns Collection was moved to a separate building on North Campus on April 4, 1975, where it remained until its new galleries were completed last Fall.

Like all museums, archives or libraries, an instrument collection makes it possible to study the past. However, music scholars are not the sole users of the Stearns Collection. Anthropologists find it valuable because of its age and because of the interest of the original collector. Frederick Stearns had in gathering instruments from abroad. Another important user of collections is the instrument maker who uses old instruments as models for the making of playable modern replicas. These model Instruments are preserved by facilities such as the Stearns Collection. Most importantly, the musical public benefits from the gifts of musical sounds made possible by the preservation of old Instruments. Instrumental groups that use old Instruments or copies of old Instruments, are becoming increasingly common as both musicians and the general public come to appreciate the musical value of authentic performances. International music groups are encouraged to play the working Instruments of the Stearns Collection. Their exotic music is appealing to the enthusiastic audiences who attend these concerts on University stages and all over the world. In addition, the Stearns Collection benefits the public by displaying objects of visual beauty. The graceful, unique appearance of the Instruments complements the musical tones they produce. This provides the justification for maintaining at least the most interesting Instruments of the Stearns on public display.

Current Stearns Director, William P. Malm, plans to greatly increase the Collection's visibility to the public. He has continued to add Instruments to the Collection. These Instruments were acquired during his international travels. In addition, Professor Malm uses the 2,011-piece Collection in his teachings. Frederick Stearns' purpose as an amateur collector was to represent the variety of musical Instruments devised by different cultures. The value of the current collection continues to increase due to new interest in ethnomusicology and the wish to study neglected aspects of musical history including the musical sound qualities that moved listeners in earlier times.

One of the most unusual aspects of the Collection is that visitors may enjoy a hands-on experience with several of the Instruments. The Stearns galleries also house a rare hologram machine that produces a three-dimensional image of an Instrument. This visual image is accompanied by a taped commentary and an example of a melody played by the Instrument. This remarkable machine greatly increases the exposure of many Instruments to the public, while preserving their delicate nature.

The future of the Stearns Collection looks very bright indeed. The Friends of the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments support the continued restoration, research and display of the Collection. We are looking forward to increased public awareness and support as we embark on a new season of quality lectures, concerts and tours. The growing appreciation of old music is the most important factor in keeping the Stearns Collection young.

Good News for Our Friends

News from the Stearns is the newest addition to the offerings of the Stearns Collection. This newsletter will appear three times a year and will be mailed to the Friends of the Stearns. News from the Stearns will keep you informed of exciting events sponsored by the Stearns this Fall: the 2 + 2 + 2 Lecture Series, upcoming performances, and all the new knowledge the Collection inspires from its scholars and Friends.
New Catalogue Available Soon

The first volume of the *New Catalogue of the Stearns Collection* is now in press and will appear this Fall. It contains photographs and information about the Stearns Western wind and percussion instruments. This catalogue will be the first up-to-date listing for the Collection since 1921. Plans for a complete set of catalogue volumes will continue once appropriate funding has been provided.

Below is a galley sample of the Catalogue’s listings:

1365  
**Tromba (D), Colored**  
Italy, late 19th century  
No inscription

Brass. Single loop. Decorative pommel on bell flair. Appears to have been manufactured by the maker of 909.

71.2 cm.  
Bell Ø: 23.9 cm.  
Receiver Ø: 11.9 mm.

918  
**Tromba (Duplex Horn), Colored**  
Italy? late 19th century  
No inscription

Brass. Two conical tubes, bells of different diameters, single receiver. Exchange mechanism (missing) fits into slots on V-shaped mouthpipe.

876  
**Tromba (D), Circular**  
Milan, late 19th century  
Giuseppe Pelletti (fl. ca. 1835-1893)

Brass. Single loop.
(coat of arms with seal of commune of Milan)  
* / * / G. PELLETI MILANO / 46946 / 68

Corpus Ø: 40 cm. (L: 65 cm.)  
Bell Ø: 15.8 cm.  
Receiver Ø: 11.1 mm.

928  
**Tromba (Bb), Circular**  
Italy? late 19th century  
No inscription

Brass. Painted dragon’s head bell. Portion of tubing twice looped, corpus with single large loop.

Corpus Ø: 49 cm. (L: 91 cm.)  
Receiver Ø: 11.5 mm.

1356  
**Tromba (F), Circular**  
Milan, late 19th century  
Camillo Sambruna (fl. 1886-1906)


C. SAMBRUNA / MILANO

- Corpus Ø: 57.5 cm (L: 111.5 cm.)
- Bell Ø: 21.3 cm.
- Receiver Ø: 15.2 mm.

Meet the Board

Our new board was founded in January 1986, and consists of individuals who deeply recognize the value of the Stearns Collection. These dedicated men and women are devoting their time and expertise to the growth of the Collection.

**Sue E. Barber**, MM, University of Michigan. Vice President, Campbell-Ewald Advertising Co.


**Allen F. Britton**, Dean Emeritus, School of Music, University of Michigan.

**Marvin M. Epstein**, Director of Public Relations, The Austin Company World Headquarters, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Virginia Howard**, Life Board Member of the Friends of the Stearns Collection. President, Howard Associates Incorporated.

**George J. Huebner, Jr.**, Retired Director of Research of Chrysler Corporation. Currently Chairman of the Board of the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan, Consulting Engineer.


**Verne Primack**, President, Verne M. Primack DDS PC. Vice President, Compuicon, Inc. Founder of The Moyers Symposium on Craniofacial Growth.


What is $2 + 2 + 2$?

$2 + 2 + 2 = The 1986 Stearns Collection Lecture Series$

This unique equation adds up the first two months of each term, on the second Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now for the following dates: September 14th, 1986: October 12th, 1986: January 11th, 1987; and February 8th, 1987. The first lecture, presented by Professor Malm, is entitled “Treasures Old and New from the Stearns”. This lecture will be followed at 8 p.m. by a Korean Classical Music Recital by Byung-ki Hwang on the kayagum. The October lecture will be given by Mr. Ken Zuckerman, who will discuss the musical instruments of India. In addition, Mr. Zuckerman will give a concert of Classical Indian Music on Monday, October 13th, at 8 p.m. in the School of Music Recital Hall. For this concert Mr. Zuckerman will perform on the sarod.

A perfect complement to the University of Michigan tradition of quality concerts, the Stearns Lecture Series will deal with how instruments are made and played. Each lecture, free to all Friends of The Stearns Collection, will be followed by a tour of the galleries. Plan to join us in the Vocal Arts Center on Sunday, September 14th and October 12th! Details of upcoming lecture topics will appear in forthcoming issues of News from the Stearns.

Challenge Gift Received

Thanks to a generous patron of the Collection, the Stearns has recently received $25,000. This gift will be used to further research and may be considered as a challenge for others to match! The Winter edition of News from the Stearns will list specific goals for the Collection, goals which your funding can support. Begin thinking about a project to sponsor. Help to advance the harmony of the Stearns!
Fall 1986
Stearns Collection
Staff

William P. Malm, Director of the Collection, is a Professor of Musicology specializing in Japanese music.

James D. Borders, Associate Director of the Collection, is an Assistant Professor of Musicology specializing in Medieval music and Organology (the study of musical instruments).

Kim Keen, Teaching Assistant, is a graduate student from Australia in Ethnomusicology, with special interest in Organology and the music of Oceania.

William Orr, Teaching Assistant, is a graduate student from Northern Ireland in Musicology, with a special interest in English Renaissance music.

Kathleen O'Brien, Assistant Editor, Newsletter, is studying Communications in the College of Literature, Science and Arts, with experience in advertising and public relations.

Be A Friend to The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments

Enrich your life — Join the Friends of the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments.

Ensure the growth and maintenance of the University’s internationally recognized and respected musical instrument collection.

Enjoy your commitment to the cultural community. With your help, additional instruments may be restored, played, displayed and appreciated by the musical public.

By becoming a Friend, you will receive News from the Stearns, invitations to the new 2+2+2 lecture series and announcements of upcoming exhibits and performances. Your contribution will help support all activities of the Stearns Collection.

Membership in the Friends of the Stearns Collection is available in the following categories:

| Category    | Amount | Individual  | $ 25
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I (We) want to support the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments.

I enclose my check for $_______ made payable to The University of Michigan Stearns Collection.

Mr., Mrs., Dr.,
Miss, Ms.,

Please circle title(s) and print your name above as you would like it to appear on donor lists.

Spouse’s name if not given above

(Phone number)

Street

City                State                Zip Code

Please mail this form with your check to Friends of the Stearns Collection, The University of Michigan School of Music, Moore Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.
How Do I Get to the Stearns?

Come visit the two new galleries especially created to display the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments in the Earl V. Moore Building on the North Campus of the University of Michigan. The exhibit hours are arranged so that individuals may see the Collection after attending afternoon recitals or before evening recitals within the School of Music. Visit us after work or at your leisure!

ADMISSION: Free at all times.

EXHIBIT HOURS: Thursday — Saturday 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Sunday 2:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

GROUP VISITS AND TOURS: To arrange for group visits or guided tours by members of the Stearns Collection Staff, please call (313) 763-4389.

PARKING: Metered parking is available south of the entrance.

The Stearns
University of Michigan
School of Music
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107