NEWS FROM
THE Stearns
COLLECTION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Warner Memorial Instrument Chosen, Presented at Ceremony

Robert A. Warner, the late professor of music and director emeritus of The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments at the University of Michigan School of Music, was remembered by friends and colleagues Sunday, February 8, at 2:00 P.M. At that time, Prof. Warner’s widow, Mareta Martinik Warner, and other members of the Warner family were present to accept, on behalf of The Stearns, a viola d’amore recently purchased by the collection as the Robert A. Warner Memorial Instrument.

The instrument is a Corsinelli twentieth-century historical reproduction of a viola d’amore that will be used by the string department at the school for study and performance. The purchase of a modern reproduction of the viola d’amore allows the students to learn to play without any worry of damage to an antique, historically valuable instrument. This is seen as a great advantage for string players, since the increased interest in performance with early instruments has created greater demand for the d’amore in chamber music and solo recital.

Lynda Bradley, a junior viola performance major at the School of Music agrees. “It’s good to have (the viola d’amore) here. I never realized how different the techniques and sounds of the two instruments were.”

Immediately after the presentation, the instrument was the topic of the Stearns’ 2+2+2 February lecture/recital, which was given by Dr. Myron Rosenblum, co-director of the Viola d’amore Society of America. Dr. Rosenblum, author of the article “Viola d’amore” in the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, has given lectures and recitals at the Smithsonian Institution, Cornell, and Yale. He has also performed with many major orchestras and chamber groups, and is currently the chairperson of the music department at Queensborough Community College, City University of New York. Rosenblum spoke about the Corsinelli instrument, and played selections by Schuchbauer, Ariosti, Stamitz, and Rust.

Warner, a member of the University faculty from 1956 until his retirement in 1979, became the director of The Stearns in 1959. While a member of the faculty, he taught courses in Baroque music, the history of musical instruments, and performance practices. He also directed the Collegium Musicum and developed a number of instrumental and vocal groups continued on page 3

The Stearns Draws National, International Attention

Since August 1986, The Stearns has attracted visitors from many states outside of Michigan, and from twenty-four foreign countries. Visitors have come to the Stearns from:

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Kurath Loans Native American Instruments, Costumes

Ann Arbor is a city of vast cultural resources: its historical background in music, anthropology, art, archaeology, and many other of the disciplines by which man discovers his nature is evidenced by the plethora of museums in the city. In addition, however, many people involved in that discovery reside here, and they are some of Ann Arbor's greatest resources.

One example of this wealth of human resource is Gertrude Kurath. Kurath, a longtime resident of Ann Arbor, is a dance ethnologist. She has spent much of her life researching native American music and dance throughout the American West and Mexico. In the 1930s and 1940s, Kurath traveled among the tribes, personally learning their music and dance. In the process, she collected many instruments and accoutrements of their rituals.

Recently, Kurath loaned the Stearns many of these fascinating instruments, masks, headpieces, and articles of clothing used in native American celebrations. Included in the exhibition will be almost the complete costume and instrumentation needed for the Yaqui Indian deer dance and pascola. This includes a Yaqui drum, mask, and headdress; sitarum, rattles, belts, and anklets used in the dances. Also on loan to The Stearns are an Aztec concha, or armadillo guitar, from Mexico City, a Michigan Indian drum made for Kurath in 1965 by James Shaffer, a Cherokee-Chippewa Indian, a false face mask and turtle rattle from the Six Nations Reserve in Canada, and other musical treasures from the Iriquos and Tewa tribes. Interestingly, Shaffer made the drum for Kurath to use in her teaching of Indian dancing to school children.

In October, the Society for Ethnomusicology is holding its International Convention in Ann Arbor, primarily to honor Kurath for her lifetime of accomplishments in the field of native American dance ethnology. At that time, the Stearns will display the instruments and costumes for public display in one of their School of Music display cases.

...and it keeps growing!
The Stearns continues to grow, as instruments from around the globe are donated by collectors. Since last July, sixteen acquisitions have become part of The Stearns. They are:


**Argul horn**—a double clarinet from Syria—donated November 1986.

**Vaj or Waji**—a harp from the Nuristan area of Afghanistan—donated January 1987.

**Vahila Tonon Tena**—a tube zither from Morokay area, Eastern Hemulina province, Madagascar—donated November 1986.

**Corsini Viola d'amore**—the Warner memorial instrument (see corresponding article)—donated February 1987.

**Di Tzu**—Taiwanese horizontal flute—donated February 1987.

Four **Hsiao**—Taiwanese vertical flutes—donated February 1987.

**Tomboband**—Taiwanese struck chordophone—donated February 1987.

**Yileh qin**—Taiwanese plucked lute—donated February 1987.

**Q'in qin**—Taiwanese plucked lute—donated February 1987.

Afghan Instrument has U-M Connections

Collectors of musical instruments are a varied bunch. The Stearns receives offers of instruments from people of all walks of life, ranging from families who are interested in the history of “Grandfather's violin” to musicologists of the highest international renown. One of the most special connections between museum and donor, however, occurs when the donor’s interest in his or her gift has been enhanced by the university itself through past contact with The Stearns.

The story behind one of The Stearns' most interesting recent acquisitions fits this description. Mark Slobin, currently an associate professor of musicology at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, received the first Ph.D. in musicology ever awarded by the University of Michigan in 1969. His doctoral thesis, “Instrumental Music in Northern Afghanistan”, is evidence of his great interest in the instruments of that area. One of his acquisitions in this field was an Afghan *waji*, or bow harp. He later presented the waji to U-M associate professor of musicology Judith Becker, who donated it to The Stearns in January 1987.

The waji is found in the Nuristan region of eastern Afghanistan, an area bordering on China, Russia, and Pakistan, and is possibly a direct descendant of the Indian bow harp. Early predecessors of the instrument were originally found in Babylonia and Assyria, where it was played mostly to accompany song. A waji consists of a boat-shaped base covered by an animal skin to create a resonating chamber. A bow-shaped piece of wood is laced through two holes in the skin. Four strings are attached to the bow by long, braided cords hung with tassels (made of human hair on The Stearns' instrument).
Warner

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dedicated to the performance of early music. His strong interest in early music is vindication of the Corsinna as an ideal instrument in his memory: its purchase will allow Michigan students to learn more about an instrument and a style of music of great importance to him.

Purchase of the instrument was made possible by the Friends of the Stearns and by donations to the Robert A. Warner Fund. Among those who donated were:

Ruth and Jackson Allington, Ann Arbor, MI
Louise E. Cuyler, Carmel, CA
Howard and Margaret Fox, Ann Arbor, MI
Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Garrison, Ann Arbor, MI
Elmer Gilbert, Ann Arbor, MI
Whit Hillyer, Evanston, IL
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Klose, Ann Arbor, MI
Douglas A. Lee, Wichita, KS
George W. Lyon, Bay City, MI
Richard and Vera Maddy, Interlochen, MI
Eugenia Oole, Minneapolis, MN
Mr. and Mrs. Edmund L. Palmer, Ann Arbor, MI
Mary S. Palmer, Ann Arbor, MI
Mrs. Charles S. Sink, Ann Arbor, MI
Mrs. Everett J. Soop, Ann Arbor, MI
Edward and Evelyn Stasheff, Ann Arbor, MI
David Steel, Oxford, MS
Mr. Helmut Stern, Ann Arbor, MI
Jean S. Sundquist, Ypsilanti, MI
Ms. Lois Verbrugge, Ann Arbor, MI
Leona M. Washburn, Paw Paw, MI
Margaret Weamer, Davison, MI

Stearns Draws

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Bermuda
Bangladesh
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belgium
Badea
Belgium
Belize
Belgium
Bulgaria
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria

Since then, many more people have become acquainted with all of the exciting and educational instruments in the collection. Often they will visit after coming to town to hear a recital to visit friends and relatives. The exhibits are fascinating for adults and children alike; some of the instruments are even available to be played by visitors.

People from these faraway countries have come to Ann Arbor to see the wonders of the Stearns, don't you think you should find out what you have been missing?

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 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:

Benefactor $1,000
Patron $500
Sustaining $100
Friends $30

Student/Senior Citizen $15
Beyond 200 miles

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
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?

The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments is located in the new Margaret Dow Towsley wing at the south end of the Earl V. Moore School of Music on Baits Drive in the University of Michigan North campus area. Enter through the door nearest to the parking lot. The Macintosh Vocal Arts Center is just across the hall and to the right of the entrance. And The Stearns galleries are down the stairs at the end of the hall to the right.

Admission: Free at all times.

Exhibit Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Sunday 2:00-8:00 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 doors.

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The Stearns
University of Michigan
School of Music
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2085

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