MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
AND THEIR PLACE IN CULTURE

Musical Instruments as a Way of Life
Mr. Herb David
Herb David Guitar Studio, Ann Arbor
Sunday, January 8, 1995
2:00 p.m. - School of Music Recital Hall

In January, Mr. Herb David, a well-known maker and dealer of plucked stringed instruments in Ann Arbor and long-standing Friend of the Stearns, will discuss some of the highlights of his extraordinary career. Having opened his shop during a time when musical instrument making was practically forgotten in America, Mr. David was among the first to revive the craft in the 1950s. Indeed, American folk instrument makers were so few at the time that he was interviewed by Newsweek and participated in early TV quiz shows. While much has changed since then, our speaker has always been at the center of musical activity, particularly in Michigan.

Musical Instruments in Western Culture
Mr. Lawrence Libin
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Sunday, February 12, 1995
2:00 p.m. - School of Music Recital Hall

Mr. Lawrence Libin
Photo: Eileen Travell, M.M.A.

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Professor Margo Halsted to Become Stearns Director
(or, Heavy Metal Invades the Stearns)

by Mark Katz

University Carillonist Margo Halsted will become Director of the Stearns Collection as of January 1, 1995, succeeding acting Director Professor James Borders, who will remain curator.

Professor Halsted brings an impressive résumé to her new post. She holds degrees from Stanford University and the University of California, Riverside, and a diploma from the Netherlands Carillon School. Before coming to Michigan she taught at several schools, including Los Angeles Harbor College and UC, Riverside, where she was the University Carillonist for ten years. In 1987 Halsted became the University of Michigan Carillonist and an Assistant Professor of Music. A versatile pedagogue, she has taught carillon, handbells, organ, and piano performance, as well as courses in harmony, musicianship, the history of the carillon, and women in music.

An equally accomplished performer, Professor Halsted has presented over 300 recitals throughout North America and Europe, and has been honored for her performances throughout her career. She is listed in Who’s Who in American Music and has received awards from Stanford and Berkeley Universities, and the city of Bergues, France. In 1994 Halsted performed at the World Carillon Federation in Chambéry, France. She can be heard every weekday (when classes are in session) between noon and 12:30 p.m. at Burton Music Tower on the central campus of the University of Michigan.

Composition and scholarship are two other important facets of Halsted’s career. She has published her own carillon music, including “Nocturne,” “Desert Wind,” “Fanfare,” and “Impressions,” and has compiled and edited the carillon music of others. Professor Halsted has also written extensively on carillon performance and history, and has been published by the Bulletin of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America and Music. Her edition of Carillon 1728 won special recognition at the 1986 World Carillon Federation Meeting.

Margo Halsted also brings extensive organizational experience to the Stearns Collection. As a 27-year member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America, she has served on its Board of Directors, as Secretary of the Guild, and as chair of three committees. Between 1981 and 1983, she headed the committee that raised $250,000 for the restoration of the American Engineers Memorial Carillon at the University of Louvain, Belgium. Currently, she is an advisor for the University of Michigan North Campus Carillon, and will perform at its dedication, which is tentatively scheduled for April 1996.

Professor Halsted eagerly anticipates her partnership with the Stearns Collection. She is “honored and delighted to be chosen director,” and looks forward to working with this “jewel of a collection.”

A reception will be held for Professor Halsted on February 12, 1995, immediately following the Virginia Howard Martin Lecture. Please join us in welcoming our new director!
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In February, Mr. Lawrence Libin, Frederick P. Rose Curator of Musical Instruments at the Metropolitan, will share his views on the place of instruments in Western culture. "Because," Mr. Libin has written, "musical instruments are implicated in so many fundamental aspects of society—environment (reflected in choice of materials), technology, aesthetics, and religious beliefs expressed through symbolism—they can offer deep, comprehensive insights into their makers' and users' minds."

Based on a broad definition of music, Mr. Libin will consider the origins of musicality and discuss how early instruments became differentiated from other artifacts. He will show how their shapes and sounds can represent deities, enemies, and prey, and how instruments have assumed attributes of gender, class, and national identity. Focusing on later Western examples, particularly keyboards, Mr. Libin will review the impact of science and style on instrument design since the Middle Ages, and examine the evolution and possible obsolescence of some familiar types in terms of social change.

Bells, Bells, Bells
Bells, the music nighest bordering upon heaven.
Charles Lamb

Gay bells or sad, they bring you memories
Of half-forgotten innocent old places.
W.B. Yeats

Start the year off right! Open or renew your membership in the Stearns Friends...

1994 memberships to the Friends of the Stearns lapse at the end of the calendar year and 1995 memberships are now due. Your contribution insures the continued educational, research, and conservational activities of the Collection. Please send your check for $1,000 (Benefactor), $500 (Patron), $100 (Sustaining), or $35 (Friend) along with the form at the bottom of this page to: Friends of the Stearns, The University of Michigan School of Music, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2085.

In addition, please consider a donation to "The Stearns Collection Endowment Fund." Should you wish further details about membership, the endowment, or corporate matching programs, call the Collection office at 313-763-4389.

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE STEARNS

With your help, additional instruments may be restored, played, displayed, and appreciated by the musical public. Friends receive The Stearns Newsletter, invitations to the Virginia Martin Howard Lectures and announcements of upcoming exhibits and performances. Your tax deductible contribution will help support all activities of The Stearns Collection.

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

☐ Benefactor $1,000    ☐ Patron $500    ☐ Sustaining $100    ☐ Friend $35
☐ Student / Senior Citizen / Beyond 200 miles $15

I (We) want to support The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments.

I (We) enclose a/my/our 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.

( )

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Recent Acquisitions

The Stearns Collection acquired a number of instruments in recent months.

Stearns No. 2227, a drum, and No. 2228, a pair of seashell dance rattles, were donated by Dr. Nancie Gonzales. These instruments originated with the Garifuna people of Trujillos, Honduras.

Mr. Arvo C. Buhrer presented the Collection with two late nineteenth-century European zithers: No. 2229 (C.A. Wunderlich, Germany), and No. 2230 (P. Meinel, Basel, Switzerland).

Mrs. Georgia Haugh kindly donated a number of Tanzanian instruments: two Mbiras (No. 2231 and No. 2232, with gourd resonator); and No. 2233, a Kudu Drum.

Stearns No. 2234, a Music Box, is a gift from the children and grandchildren of Dr. and Mrs. Paul Leidy. This beautiful addition to the Collection was made in Geneva, Switzerland (ca. 1870) by B.A. Bremond. The music box mechanism, with an interchangeable cylinder, is housed in a glass-covered case inside a table-form cabinet. The cabinet, made of walnut, is decorated with acanthus borders, molded panels, cherubs, and musical motifs. Inside the lid is a scenic painting on glass flanked by lions and leaf designs.

Stearns No. 2235, an Olson X-100 electronic rhythm box (1974), was given to the collection by Michael Montgomery.

The Stearns Collection sincerely thanks these donors for their generosity!