The Virginia Martin Howard Lecture Series

Professor Mason will trace the history of the famous Gottfried Silbermann organs in general and the Music School's modern prototype in particular.

There will be demonstrations of the various organ sound registers and combinations as well as of the human-powered wind system. Of course, she will perform some of the historic music that would have been played on the same type of organ over two hundred and fifty years ago. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn the history of a very special instrument and to understand how it works.

Marilyn Mason is chair of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan. She has traveled throughout the Western world as a result of her extensive career as a concert organist. During one single year, invitations took her to five different continents. Her dedication to contemporary music is evidenced in the sixty works which she has commissioned and premiered. She is an internationally renowned performer, teacher, adjudicator and scholarly researcher.

Stearns Friends,
It's Time to Renew Your Memberships!

This has been a busy fall for Stearns activities. The Recital Hall was full for the Howard lectures on two African instruments: drums (Paul Berliner) and the mbira (John Cheroff). Forty-three drummers came for Mr. Cheroff's Drumming Workshop (this last activity was sponsored by the U-M International Institute). In October, Mr. Laurence Libin, Curator of Musical Instruments for the Metropolitan Museum in NYC, came for four days of consulting with the Stearns staff.

We have been working to inventory the collection and to put it on a modern computer system. We are over halfway through now, and plan to finish in the spring.

However, our most exciting project is with the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) to put The Stearns on the World Wide Web. By the end of the school year, we plan to have material ready so that people in all parts of the world can "visit" the Stearns Collection to learn about, see, and hear some of the instruments! In addition, there will be educational materials for teachers to use. We are considering an interactive CD-ROM for use with the Web information. There are many plans and hopes. The Web project is fun, exciting . . . and expensive.

You can help us by renewing your Stearns membership — and by increasing your donation, if possible. Please use the form on the other side.

Thank you very much for your past support.
Margo Halsted, Director

Marilyn Mason

Marilyn Mason, University Organist, will be the speaker for the January 14, 1996, 2:00 p.m., Howard Lecture, and her topic is "Michigan's Klingendes Wunder" (Michigan's Splendidly Sounding Wonder). Her talk introduces the Marilyn Mason Organ in Blanche Anderson Moore Hall at the School of Music.
The Howard Lecture Series - February 11

Dr. Wendy Rolfe will bring a unique perspective to the University of Michigan Recital Hall stage when she presents the Stearns Lecture on Sunday, February 11, at 2:00. She will perform examples from the entire range of Western flute repertoire on an array of appropriate instruments—from Renaissance to Baroque traverso, to Classical keyed, to early Boehm, to avant-garde. A special feature of her presentation will be music performed on a Claude Laurent crystal flute, made in Paris in 1818. Highlights of the evolution of wooden keyless flutes into keyed Classical and Romantic flutes made of crystal, wood and silver, will lead into the story of the modern Boehm flute. Dr. Rolfe’s program will bring listeners into the colorful world of flutes and flutists, from Paris to London, to Boston and Rio de Janeiro. Serving as her accompanist will be Dr. Edward Parmentier, University of Michigan School of Music harpsichord instructor and director of the Early Music Ensemble.

Dr. Rolfe developed her program with a Solo Recitalist Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and has given acclaimed multi-flute presentations nationally from California to Massachusetts. She performs with the country’s preeminent original instrument ensembles, including the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Baroque and the Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra. She has appeared at the Tanglewood Music Festival, with the Group for Contemporary Music, and as director and flutist of Odyssey, an innovative chamber ensemble. Dr. Rolfe is Associate Professor of Flute at the Berklee College of Music, and received her D.M.A. from the Manhattan School of Music. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Flute Association.

Wendy Rolfe and Her Flutes

York Band Instruments

The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments is interested in acquiring donations of band instruments made by the York Band Instrument Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Catalogues, advertising material and memorabilia would also be welcome. The York Company produced a wide range of band instruments and saxophones under its own label, as well as the "U.S.A." and "Grand Rapids" lines from 1882 until 1971. This era coincided with the rise and decline of the great concert bands of Souza, Pryor and Conway.

It is hoped that by collecting York instruments and other artifacts, the story of the York Band Instrument Co., a unique part of Michigan history, will be preserved.

The project is proceeding with the assistance of Mr. Robert Rusk, former tubist of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the encouragement of Fritz Kaenzig, Prof. of Tuba and euphonium at the University of Michigan School of Music. A donation is

Stearns Tours

Around Town, the company in charge of the Stearns tours, reports that from September to December this year their guides (volunteers and members of their staff) presented guided tours to 250 persons. Twenty-seven of that total were adults and the rest were children—school children, Cub Scouts, Brownies, home schoolers, handicapped youngsters, piano students, etc. Many other adults and children toured the collection on their own. If anyone is interested in volunteering time to give occasional tours, the number to call is (313) 662-7790.

tax deductible, but the donor will need to obtain a letter of appraisal. The Stearns wants only to have representative samples of instruments in good condition. Prospective donors may contact Prof. Margo Halsted, Stearns Collection Director; University of Michigan School of Music; Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2085, telephone (313) 764-2539.

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. Mail to: The Stearns Collection, School of Music, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2085.

Membership in the Friends of the Stearns is available in the following categories, or for any amount you wish above $15:

☐ Benefactor $1000 ☐ Patron $500 ☐ Sustaining $100 ☐ Friend $35 ☐ Student/Senior Citizen $15

☐ I would prefer my gift to be designated for The Stearns endowment.

I (We) enclose a/my/our check for $________ made payable to: The University of Michigan.

Mr./Mrs./Dr./Miss/Ms. __________

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

(_______) Phone number

Spouse’s/Partner’s name, if not given above

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