



# The Stearns Newsletter

The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments at the University of Michigan

FALL 2001

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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## Greetings from the Director

I am delighted to tell you that the collection did fairly well in 2001. We have updated some of the database about our musical instruments and taken an inventory check of the instruments stored at the warehouse. With the leadership of Dr. Psarouthakis (Chair), Mrs. Ginny Moss (Vice Chair) and Mr. David Schultz (Chair, Development), the Friends of the Stearns Collection have worked hard and achieved excellent results. More visitors are coming to see the displays; the collection is becoming more and more an integral part of the UM/Ann Arbor community; and donations are coming in regularly. Backed by strong support from Dean Karen Wolff of the School of Music, and Mr. Jeff Nearhoff, the new director of Development Office, the Stearns Collection will approach 2002 with confidence, and vigorously pursue its goal of preserving historical musical instruments, advancing organological knowledge, and promoting understanding of world cultures and musics.

## The Stearns Tour Program

By Carol Brodbeck

Last November, Professor William Malm trained four docents. Others will be trained as the number of tours increase. One of the docents, Brian Delaney, presented on guitars at the September Stearns lecture.

A color brochure was designed and distributed at the Vocal and Instrumental Conference held at U of M in January. Last spring, eighty-two brochures were sent to public, parochial and private schools in Washtenaw,

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## Virginia Martin Howard Lectures, Fall 2001

In the Fall of 2001, the Stearns Collection presented three Virginia Martin Howard lectures. On September 23, Mr. Brian Delaney, an Ann Arbor guitarist and guitar maker, presented the first lecture of the season. Entitled "Early 20th Century Guitars of the Stearns Collection,"



Mr. Brian Delaney

his lecture highlighted a number of interesting guitars in the collection, illustrating their organological designs and histories. On October 21, Dr. Rajan Sachdeva, a *sitarist* and the director of the Indian Music Institute in Bloomfield in Michigan, gave a lecture



Dr. Rajan Sachdeva, Mr. Ajit Chara, and Dr. Mathew Rosen

... see *Lectures*, p. 3

## Tuba Day

By Fritz Kaenig

On April 26, 2001, the second Ann Arbor Public Schools "Tuba Day" was held at Tappan Middle School. All Ann Arbor school tuba and euphonium students, from elementary through high school, were released from their regular studies that day to attend this event. Tuba Day was organized by Tappan music



Fritz Kaenig and Kevin Wass perform at Tappan Middle School.

teacher, UM alumnus, and tubist, Joe DeMarsh. University of Michigan Professor of Tuba and Euphonium, Fritz Kaenig, was the featured guest artist, assisted by five of his most outstanding students: Kevin Wass (DMA, tuba performance); Ben Pierce (MM, euphonium performance); Kristof Schneider (BM, euphonium performance); Tony Halloin (BM, music education and tuba performance); and Todd Shafer (BM, music education). During the first session, all the Ann Arbor public school students were given a brief history of the instruments they play, followed by some practical tips. They then participated in breakout sessions by age group led by the UM artists, culminating in performances by the UM students, Professor Kaenig, and the Ann Arbor students playing in large ensembles by age groups, before friends and family in the Tappan auditorium.

During the historical introductory session, the lecture was greatly enhanced by the demonstration on instruments kindly loaned from the Stearns Collection. Professor Kaenig and Kevin Wass demonstrated on two eighteenth century predecessors of the modern tuba

and euphonium: an ophicleide and a Russian bassoon, or bass horn. The Russian bassoon is particularly colorful, with a bell formed in the shape of a dragon's mouth painted a bright red. The *Dies Irae* from Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique* was an appropriate selection to demonstrate the frightening and ominous sound possible on these instruments which were current during Berlioz' lifetime. Kristof Schneider demonstrated the types of solos possible on a double-belled euphonium from the



Ben Pierce

Stearns Collection. The double-belled euphonium was particularly popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the bands led by conductors like Sousa. It has two sets of tubing that can be engaged alternatively by use of a valve to either engage the more conical or more cylindrical tubing. The result is either a more cylindrical "trombone" or "baritone horn" sound, or a more conical "euphonium" sound. It can produce a very effective call and echo. The young Ann Arbor musicians were fascinated by the demonstration of these instruments, bringing what could have been a dry historical lecture to aural and visual life.



Kevin Wass with an ophicleide.

Another Ann Arbor Tuba Day is planned again next year on April 30, 2002 at Tappan Middle School. The support of the Stearns Musical Instrument Collection will be solicited again. It is this sort of "town and gown" collaboration that makes living and learning in Ann Arbor such a special privilege. The University of Michigan and its resources continue to make a difference for the residents of Ann Arbor.

**Lectures**, continued from p. 1

demonstration on the *sitar* and the *tabla*. Assisted by his students, Mr. Ajit Chara and Dr. Mathew Rosen, Dr. Sachdeva explained Indian *raga* and how the organological structure of the sitar is coordinated with



Dr. Sachdeva and students answer questions following their lecture.

its performance techniques. To illustrate his explanations, Dr. Sachdeva and Mr. Chara performed two pieces of Indian compositions. The audience was delighted, and after the lecture, they asked Dr. Sachdeva many questions about the *sitar*, *tabla*, and Indian music in general. On November 11, Ms. Jin Hi Kim, a prominent composer/performer of Korean and



Ms. Jin Hi Kim performs on a Korean *komungo*.

American musics who now lives in Connecticut, presented a lecture on the aesthetics of Korean music, and demonstrated it with an improvisation on the *komungo*, the Korean zither. Reflecting Ms. Kim's national and international fame, a larger-than-usual audience attended her lecture.

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**New Acquisition:  
Broadwood Piano**

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Last summer, Ms. Peggy McPherson donated her beloved Broadwood piano, circa 1860, to the Stearns Collection. Based on initial examinations, the piano is in excellent condition. Once restored, it will be featured in performance activities of the Stearns. Please stay tuned to the development of this beautiful musical instrument. Feel free to contact Joseph Lam for further details about the piano and its pending restoration.



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**Stearns Website**

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In Spring 2002, the Stearns Collection website will be active. Among the many interesting things planned for this site will be announcements for upcoming events, online exhibits, archived newsletters, and more information about the Stearns Collection. Look for additional details in the Spring edition of *The Stearns Newsletter*.

### How Do I Get To The Stearns?

The Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments is located in the Margaret Dow Towsley wing at the south end of the Earl V. Moore Building of the School of Music on Baits Drive in the University of Michigan North Campus area. Enter through the doors nearest to the parking lot. The McIntosh Hall is just across the lobby and to the right of the entrance. The Stearns galleries are down the stairs at the end of the lobby to the right.

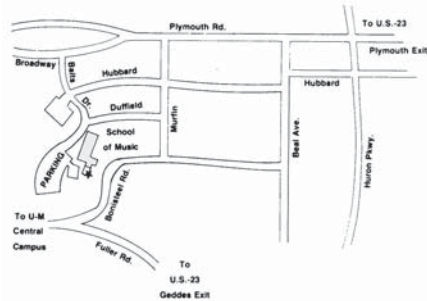
**Admission:** Free at all times.

**Exhibit Hours:** Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Group Visits and Tours:

To arrange for group visits or guided tours, please call (734) 763-4389.

**Parking:** Metered parking is available south of the entrance doors.



### Tour Program, continued from p. 1

Monroe, Lenawee, Livingston, Wayne, and Jackson counties; selected organizations; selected schools in Lucas County, Ohio; selected colleges and universities in Michigan and Ohio; and 6 Toledo, Ohio travel companies. Carol Brodbeck gave brochures to and discussed tours of the Stearns with staff at the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

From January – September this year, we conducted eight docent-led tours for a total of 190 people. The two largest groups were 92 fifth graders from Redford and 45 children from Detroit Public Schools.

One of the highlights for this year was the tour given to nineteen people from England, supporters of the Royal Shakespeare Company. They traveled to Ann Arbor in March and while here for the performances, toured the Stearns Collection. They “loved the School of Music building and loved the idea of having such a collection.”

Carol Brodbeck presented on “Musical Instruments of the American Colonial Period” to a group of twenty Colonial Dames. Jeannette Faber, writer for *Current Entertainment Monthly* magazine, wrote a very nice article on The Stearns for the July 2001 issue.

Sigma Alpha Iota, a music fraternity established in Ann Arbor nearly 100 years ago, intentionally scheduled their centennial national conference in Detroit for August 2, 2003 so they could tour the Stearns. Carol met with the organizers last April to begin planning for this event. We expect hundreds to tour the Stearns on that day.

### Become a Friend and Support the Stearns

With your help, precious instruments in the Stearns Collection may be restored, played, displayed and appreciated by the musical public. Friends receive the *Stearns Newsletter* and invitation to the Virginia Martin Howard/Stearns Lectures. 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 \$1000;  Patron \$500;  Sustaining \$100;  Friend \$30

I/We enclose my/our check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the following funds to support the Stearns Collection:

General Funds;  Activities Funds;  Restoration/Maintenance Funds;  Scholarship Funds

Dr./Mr/Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

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