New Trumpet Exhibit Installed in Hill Auditorium, Kennedy Lobby

The Stearns Collection teamed up with brass instrument historian, Ron Berndt, to design and install a new exhibit in the lower Kennedy lobby of Hill Auditorium. The Evolution of the Modern Trumpet features 18 instruments illustrating the intertwined threads of music, culture, technology, and social advancement across four millennia. Trumpet history topics range from military signals and ceremonial roles, to returning civil war veterans founding college marching bands and town concert bands. Also represented are mass-produced, inexpensive instruments that allowed public schools to begin nurturing both sides of the brain by adding arts to the basic literacy curriculum. Ron Berndt not only assisted in the conception, design, and installation of the exhibit, he and his family have lent for display several historical horns. Ron also delivered an excellent trumpet lecture on February 27th; the exhibit can be viewed through 2013.

Stearns to Move 2,500 Instruments

As part of the University Provost’s Office long-term commitment to the Stearns Collection, architectural plans are being bid for the renovation of our primary warehouse in the Argus II Building on the west side of Ann Arbor. To meet the Stearns’ mission of preserving musical instruments for future generations, state-of-the-art temperature and humidity control systems are being installed in addition to enhanced fire protection and suppression systems. The newly renovated space will also provide long-needed curatorial and conservation space, a dedicated office for visiting researchers, an exhibit construction workshop, and additional space to house 24 newly-acquired metal cabinets offering additional storage capacity for years to come.

(Stearns To Move 2,500 Instruments, con’t)

With construction scheduled to be completed in the Summer of 2013, the Stearns is currently in the process of planning to safely move more than 2,500 instruments—including more than 20 pianos and harpsichords—to the larger storage space.

Shaping the Sound of Bronze

Steven Ball, Director of the Stearns Collection, served on a team of four professors during 2012, co-teaching Shaping the Sound of Bronze sponsored by Living Arts, a living/learning community for undergraduates on North Campus. Following an analysis of the Stearns Collection’s Javanese Gamelan ensemble, this past year’s course focused on casting bronze metallophones and gongs (gender barung, bonang barung, saron barung, etc.). Taught by Lou Marino (Art & Design), Steven Ball (SMTD), and the College of Engineering’s Greg Wakefield and Paul Kominsky, more than 70 students learned the acoustic principles related to shape and material in this design-build-test class. Study of wave propagation, computer simulation, wax mold-making, and bronze casting culminated in a Spring 2012 gamelan ensemble concert with gamelan instructor, Susan Walton.

Listening to Leo

The Stearns Collection received a generous donation of West African, South, and East Asian instruments in recent years from Voice of America broadcaster, Leo Sarkisian. For 47 years, Mr. Sarkisian’s program, “Music Time in Africa,” introduced regional African music to Americans and Africans alike. Mr. Sarkisian just retired at the age of 91 and his music collection of reel-to-reel recordings are now being digitized by the University of Michigan. His unique contribution to ethnomusicology has been recently featured on Public Radio International’s “The World.”

http://www.theworld.org/2012/12/africa-leo-sarkisian/
Upcoming Events

**Fortepiano Festival - Stamps Auditorium**
Saturday, March 23rd, 2013

11:00 AM Lecture: *A Historical Performance: Old Pianos and New Musicianship*, David Hyun-Su Kim, lecturer and pianist
1:00 PM Lecture: “The Fortepianos of Conrad Graf (1782-1851): Imperial and Royal Fortepiano Maker in Vienna and Beethoven's Friend.” Edward Swenson, instrument restorer and musicologist
8:00 PM Recital: David Hyun-Su Kim, fortepiano

Presented jointly by the SMTD Piano Department and the Stearns Collection.

For more information, please visit: music.umich.edu/stearns

Scheduling Tours

Please contact Carol Stepanchuk at steарns@umich.edu to schedule group tours through the Stearns Collection galleries at the Moore Building, School of Music, Theatre & Dance or group tours at Hill Auditorium. You can also leave us a voicemail at (734) 936-2891 and we will return your call promptly.

The new Hill Auditorium exhibit, *Evolution of the Modern Trumpet*, is available to all who attend ticketed and non-ticketed events at Hill. Please visit us before or after shows; we are in the Lower Level Lobby.