

BENNINGTON COLLEGE MUSIC DIVISION

Presents

AN AMERICAN PIANO MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA

Wednesday  
December 2, 1981

8:15 p.m.  
Greenwall Music Workshop

1. The Bells of Bellagio (c. 1973) Otto Luening

1. Hail!

Marianne Finckel, Vivian Fine, Peter Golub,  
Jeffrey Levine, Lionel Nowak, and Muriel Palmer

"When the hands cross, make room for your partner; on unisons, decide who will play the note." (O.L.) Ah-h-h, Bellagio!, sul lago di Como, como é bellissima!! (Otto Luening is a former faculty member of Bennington College.)

2. Two Preludes (1927-28) Ruth Crawford-Seeger

1. Andante mystico  
2. Intensivo

Vivian Fine

These early pieces of Crawford-Seeger show the influence of Scriabin on her marked individuality and beauty of craftsmanship.

3. 2nd Problem for Piano (1957) Lionel Nowak

Peter Golub

"The performer may begin at any point and, following the continuity as it appears, end at any point. Consider the piece circular. Rhythm, dynamics, touch, pedal, tempo are up to the performer. He is only obliged to play the pitches as written, in continuity, simultaneity, and singularity." (L.N.) The piece was written for a former Bennington College faculty member who refused to play it. Presumably, he did not want to share the composer's labor nor his deserved accolades. Mr. Golub this evening will render two solutions.

4. Finneganations (1981)\* Louis Calabro

1. Encounters  
2. Shenanigan's Gig  
3. Fugatoni  
4. Show Pan Pots  
5. Lonely Night  
6. Finneganariations  
7. Honda-Rondo

Vladimir Havksy

These pieces, twenty-one in all, were written for Finnegan Calabro (b. May 16, 1980).

5. Invention (1926) Colin McPhee

Vivian Fine

"I believe that sound, well-balanced structure, rhythmic and metric vitality, and carefully planned continuity, are the main factors which prevent a musical work from deterioration with age, provided the musical material itself is stated in terms of fresh and interesting resonance." (C. McP.) Spoken like a true neo-classicist!

6. View (1981)\* Alison Nowak ('70)

Lionel Nowak

This work, for right hand alone, was conceived and written for Lionel Nowak, the composer's father, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday last October.

7. From an Indian Lodge Edward MacDowell  
(from Woodland Sketches, 1896)

Vivian Fine

"Sternly, with great emphasis; mournfully; broadly"

8. Sentimental Melody (c. 1929) Aaron Copland

Vladimir Havsky

( Slow Dance )

9. Curtain Call (1980)\* Peter Golub

Peter Golub

This piece was actually written as curtain call music for the play, Reverse Psychology, by Charles Ludlam which had over 150 performances by the Ridiculous Theatrical Company.

10. Momenti (1978) (selections) Vivian Fine

1. Poco Allegretto
2. Andante

Vivian Fine

The "Momenti" have as their point of departure the "Moment Musicaux" of Franz Schubert. They are dedicated to Ms. Fine's teacher, Roger Sessions.

11. Protest (1910?) Charles Ives

- I. March time or faster
- II. Adagio, or Allegro or varied or and variations, very nice

Vivian Fine and Peter Golub

The audience is respectfully, or not respectfully, asked to applaud the C Major chords which appear near the end of this movement (non-protest). The dynamic marking, by the way, is FFFFFFFFFF.

12. The Tides of Manaunaun (1912) Henry Cowell

Vivian Fine

Manaunaun was the god of motion, and long before the creation, he sent forth tremendous tides, which swept to and fro through the universe, and rhythmically moved the particles and materials of which the gods were later to make the suns and the worlds.

13. Premonition (1981)\* Randall Neale

Randall Neale

premonition, n. (LL. praemonitio, L. prae, before, and monere, to warn.) 1. a forewarning. 2. a foreboding; a presentiment.

14. Evocations #2 (1943) Carl Ruggles

Peter Golub

One of four "Evocations", the piece is dedicated to John Kirkpatrick, the great Ives scholar. Ruggles' favorite theme was "tempo rubato". He wrote very complicated and exacting rhythms, but generally felt that they should be used as a guide to the musical feeling his extreme lyricism evoked.

15. To a Wild Rose Edward MacDowell  
(from Woodland Sketches, 1896)

Vivian Fine

"with simple tenderness"

16. Peaceful Vision (1973) \*\* Jeffrey Levine

Randall Neale

Written in California, the piece uses a drone and arranges some of the fascinating timbres of the piano in a spaced out setting.

17. Aeolian Harp (1923) Henry Cowell

Vivian Fine

The name is from Aeolus, the god of the winds. That the musical sounds could be produced (on a stringed instrument) by the wind, without human aid, has long been known in the East. Henry Cowell was also from California.

18. Selections for Prepared Piano (1946-8)

John Cage

1. Sonata #1
2. Sonata #4
3. Interlude

Marianne Finckel

10 bolts, 21 screws, 15 rubbers, an eraser, 1 long bolt, 4 plastics (or one large one), 5 medium bolts, 2 large bolts, 1 small bolt, 4 furniture bolts, 2 furniture bolts with 3 nuts, 2 screws with three nuts.

19. I Got Rhythm (1930)

George Gershwin

Peter Golub

This song was written for the show "Girl Crazy" which was Ethel Merman's first Broadway musical. The show also contained such well-known songs as "Embraceable You", "But Not For Me", and "Bidn' My Time". Lyrics were by Ira Gershwin who, more properly, should have named the song, "I've Got Rhythm", or "I Have Rhythm", or "I Got Rhythmed". This arrangement is by the composer.

20. 2 X 4 X 7 (1981) \*

Jeffrey Levine

Marianne Finckel, Vivian Fine, Peter Golub, Vladimir Havsky, Randall Neale, Lionel Nowak, Muriel Palmer

Lionel Nowak offered the image (from a Laurel and Hardy movie) of a piano landing on the sidewalk after falling from a third story window. The piece was specifically written for the Bennington College piano faculty.

\* Premiere

\*\* American Premiere

It is impossible to attend a concert of American contemporary piano music without thinking of the dedicated and marvelous virtuosi who have played and proliferated this very difficult and demanding medium. Such a man was Robert Miller. His untimely passing away this past Monday was as great a loss to music itself as it was to American composers in general. We would like to dedicate this concert to him.