

2015 Feedback

• **Sylvia Ernestina Vergara (Local Artist):** *I was so happy I could experience the intensity of the symposium and hear so much wonderful music. It was exciting to be amid the appreciative audience of young aspiring composers, music lovers and aficionados. The panel discussions were very diverse and the concert lectures, meet the composer and composition master classes were a great insight into the importance of cherishing the synergistic cross-road experience of hearing a new synthesis of music from the past, music of folkloric origins retold and re-synthesized into new contemporary acoustic music, electronic music, contemporary and jazz (Vijay Iyer) .*

In an exciting and unique way, the musical retelling was a tapestry of varying colors and textures woven together into one unique and unforgettable experience. The artistic presentation of the music achieved lofty levels of sensitivity, aesthetics and exquisite love that touched a humanistic chord within myself of how together, internationally we really do have a commonality in our quest to express a deeper, more pure level of human experience worthy of sharing.

• **Carter Williams (Violinist / Composer):** *I have to say that my experience was overwhelmingly positive. The Composer's Symposium is playing a vital role in supporting new music and keeping the university community on the forefront of the latest developments in the field, and this must continue in the future.*

...One of the big strengths I noticed was the way the festival forged connections with the wider community. The Sunday morning collaboration with Chatter was a big success from my perspective. It was great to see such a vibrant concept for a concert series that has grown an audience that is enthusiastic and open to all kinds of music.

• **Chen Yi (Composer, University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory):** *Congratulations to both of you for organizing such a meaningful and successful festival. ...I think that you have carried on the tradition the Robb Foundation established, and developed the culture creatively and effectively. Thanks to you for your warmest hospitalities, your vision and hard work, to the great support from the Board of the John Donald Robb Musical Trust at the UNM, and to the leaders and the entire Department of Music in UNM. Your huge contribution to the culture of our society is unmistakable.*

...I am extremely impressed by the substantially programmed and excellently performed concerts. ...The winning compositions and their brilliant performances from the Robb Composers' Competition (Prof. Luke Dahn's Buffalo Dance for alto sax and piano) and the Scott Wilkinson Composition Contest (Mathew Arrellin's Iolite for cello solo) were the highlights in the festival, while the unique chamber works as personal stories told by the guest composer Prof. Christoph Maria Wagner were performed intellectually in high level.

I highly value the effort of running the significant competitions, and appreciate the connections and interactions that you have brought together from different parts of the community towards the focus of this annual event, which have helped to maximize the impact and influence from the Robb's mission to a larger society. The spirit and tradition of the Robb Composers' Symposium is a great inspiration to all of us. I look forward to seeing your successful experience being shared with more communities throughout the country.