

JOHN D. ROBB MUSICAL TRUST



The University of New Mexico

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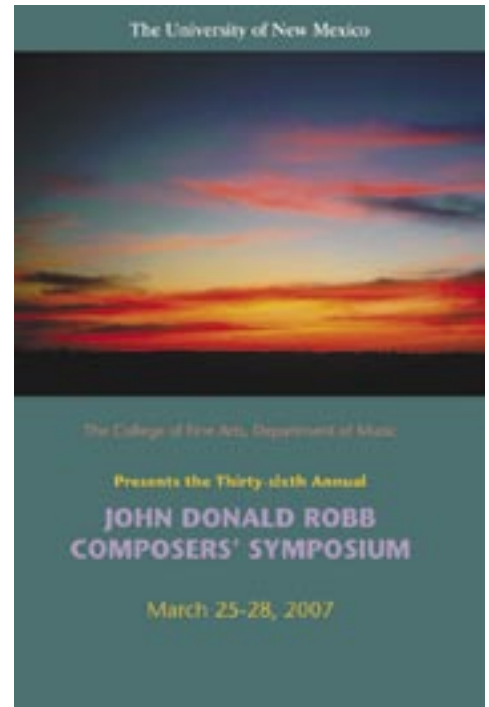
Impromptu: Opus 2

THE UNM JOHN DONALD ROBB COMPOSERS' SYMPOSIUM MARCH 25-28, 2007

The Thirty-Sixth Annual UNM John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium, one of the main activities supported by the Trust, will unfold from Sunday, March 25, through Wednesday, March 28, with evening performances at 7:30 PM in Keller Hall at the UNM Center for the Fine Arts (unless otherwise noted). Trust member Professor Christopher Shultis serves as the Artistic Director, and Doris Williams is the Managing Director. This year's featured composer is *Robert Ashley*. A major figure in American contemporary music, Ashley has acquired an international reputation for his work in new forms of opera and multi-disciplinary projects.

Each day of the Symposium will feature events that include lectures, presentations, and composition seminars with the evenings devoted to performances. On Sunday in Popejoy Hall, the *UNM Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band* will perform music by Joseph Turrin and the premiere performance of *Openings* by Christopher Shultis. Monday evening's "Robb Concert" will feature a performance of Dean Robb's Christmas Cantata, Op. 62, "*Los Pastores*," which has just been edited by Jim Bratcher and orchestrated by Pat Rhoads for this performance. David Felberg, Associate Concertmaster of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, is conducting. Robert Ashley's opera, *Foreign Experiences*, will be performed in its entirety by Artists in Residence Jacqueline Humbert and Sam Ashley on Tuesday evening.

Premiere performances will be presented by Patricia Repar and Scott Wilkinson. Music theorist (and Robb Trust Committee Member) Jack Douthett has organized a *Microtonal Day* on Tuesday with lectures in the morning and a 2:00 PM concert in Keller Hall featuring Neil Haverstick and *The Partch Group* from Los Angeles. Admission to the Composers' Symposium is free, and all events are open to the public. For concert schedules and details, please go to the John Donald Robb Musical Trust Website at: www.unm.edu/~rmt



You are invited . . .

On Monday, March 26, you are cordially invited to be our guests at the John D. Robb Musical Trust Reception in the lobby of Keller Hall immediately following the 7:30 PM Concert in Keller Hall in the CFA Center for the Fine Arts. *We look forward to seeing you there!*

COMPOSERS' COMPETITION GOES NATIONAL!

The Third Biennial UNM John Donald Robb Composers' Competition is taking the bold step of going *National*. The previous two competitions have been limited to the Southwest region. However, this year the Trust is making the competition available to composers nationally and increasing the winning prize to \$3,500. In making this major change, the Trust hopes to encourage and capture the interest of aspiring composers, academics, and visiting scholars. The 2007-

2008 Competition will be judged by a renowned international panel of judges: Julio Estrada, Composer & Research Professor, *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México*; Robert Morris, Composer & Research Professor of Music *Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY*; and Barbara Rettagliati, Composer & Professor of Composition *Conservatorio "Vincenzo Bellini" Palermo, Sicily, Italy*. The winning composition will be performed at the 2009 Composers' Symposium.

THE TRUST WELCOMES FIVE NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS



NINA HOBBS

New Trust Member, Nina Hobbs, brings a performance and educational background of over twenty-five years with the Albuquerque Public Schools' (APS) Grant Middle School as a Teacher, Choir Director, Student Council Director and Director of Musical Theatre. She has always enjoyed inspiring young people to discover and reach their full potential. In fact, it was Nina Hobbs who assisted in vital liaison with APS in the effort to help bring the Robb Trust's production of *Little Jo* to the high school and middle school students. The students were introduced to folk opera at the performance and to important aspects of New Mexico Hispanic culture.

Nina is married to Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Everett Hobbs, Jr., and they have two children. In addition to her career in education, she has been a professional opera singer.

SCOTT MEREDITH

Another of the Trust's newest members is Scott Meredith, a History Graduate Student at the University of New Mexico. Scott first became

interested in the life and work of John Donald Robb in 2001. This interest culminated in his writing a paper, "*Many-Sided Man: John Donald Robb and Music in New Mexico, 1892-1989*," which won the 2003 Myra Ellen Jenkins Award from the Historical Society of New Mexico. Scott has lived in New Mexico since 2001 and currently works as an assistant editor at the *New Mexico Historical Review*.

DALE KEMPTER

Dale Kempter is beginning his second term with the Trust and is very active with the Performance/Education Subcommittee. Dale is one of the Southwest's most outstanding music educators and conductors. He has been an educator in New Mexico for more than forty-eight years with a one-year's leave-of-absence to conduct orchestras at the University of Akron, Ohio. Mr. Kempter has been the conductor and/or music director of the Albuquerque Youth Symphony for forty-two of its fifty-one years of existence.

JIM BRATCHER

Jim Bratcher will begin his second term with the Trust Committee. Jim

is currently Minister of Music at Monte Vista Christian Church and serves as the Chair of the Performance/Education Subcommittee for the Trust. He produced the exciting Robb Trust presentation of *Little Jo* in 2005. He has held many church music positions in New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, and Germany. Jim has long been active in the Albuquerque Arts Scene and was Artistic Director of Opera Southwest for 12 years.

JIM BONNELL

Jim Bonnell is beginning a third term with the Trust and serving as its current Chair. A native New Mexican, Jim has held leadership positions in numerous civic and professional organizations. In addition to his work with the Trust, he is currently Chair of Strategic Education for the Board of Directors of the *New Mexico Chapter of the Association for Fundraising Professionals*, and is a past president and on the Advisory Council of the *Albuquerque Arts Alliance*.

Pictured left, top to bottom: Nina Hobbs, Scott Meredith, Dale Kempter, Jim Bratcher, and Jim Bonnell.



DAVID OBERG IS NEWEST UNM ROBB TRUST HONORARY MEMBER



The UNM Robb Trust Committee has elected David Oberg to its list of Honorary Members. David completed 17 years of service on the Trust Committee and has formerly served as Chair. He joins a distinguished list of Honorary Members which includes Charlemaude Curtis, Carmoline Grady, Michael Mauldin, Tom Dodson –retired Dean of the UNM College of Fine Arts, Bill Seymour –retired Chair of the UNM Music Department, and Scott Wilkinson, Professor Emeritus of the UNM Music Department. David is a graduate of

UNM with a Master of Music Degree, and a Bachelor of Music Education Degree. For over thirty seasons, he was the conductor of the Chamber Orchestra of Albuquerque.

Mr. Oberg's recordings include conducting the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra for *Opus One* Recordings (fourteen to date) featuring music by contemporary American composers which, through David's efforts, include several compositions by John Donald Robb.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE TRUST OFFICE?

Interim Program Coordinator, Doris Williams has been busy with facilitating the daily operations of the Robb Trust office. Doris is working extensively with Chris Shultis on the Composers' Symposium. She has been focusing on the Press Releases, the Program Book, and the Public Relations and Marketing for the Symposium. Work on the Robb Trust Website has been initiated with an update on information about the Composers' Symposium. The Robb Trust office has been completely organized and CDs, posters and books have been inventoried. In short, the Robb Trust office is running smoothly!

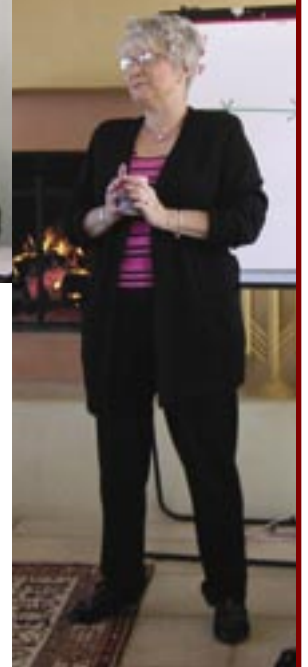
MARKETING THE TRUST!

The Trust Marketing/PR Subcommittee under the leadership of Chair, Karen Turner, has been supporting the work of the Trust by arranging for the first public relations plan which was provided through assistance by Córdova Public Relations. Implementation of the plan will enable the Trust to better inform the public about the music of Dean Robb, preserve the traditions of Hispanic Folk Music of the Southwest, and encourage the Dean's legacy through supporting the composition of contemporary music. The committee has also completed plans for Banners, Posters, and Flyers to promote the upcoming Composers' Symposium and delineated plans for CD sales and support during the evening concerts. The committee is working on criteria for an upgrade for the Trust Website. Stay tuned!!



ROBB TRUST COMMITTEE ANNUAL RETREAT

The Trust Committee's annual retreat was hosted by Committee Member Karen Turner and her husband, Bob, at their home on Saturday, February 24, from 9 - 3. Jan Hosea of Jan Hosea & Associates, LLC, was the facilitator, and a majority of the Committee Members attended. Focus of the retreat was on planning for the future and devising and initiating a ten-year plan. The Turner's wonderful home allowed Trust Members to enthusiastically embrace activities which included generating a general history and timeline, examining the mission and vision, and projecting long-term goals and objectives and evaluating and analyzing their relationship to the Trust infrastructure.



THE ROBB MINUTE!



Included as one of the standard agenda items during the Trust's monthly meetings is something known as "The Robb Minute" which was initiated by Trust Member, Marilyn Fletcher. It is often a humorous story, a poem, an insightful quote, or a short essay that Dean Robb wrote or experienced.

ON GIVING UP THE PRACTICE OF LAW

At the age of forty-nine in the year 1941, I made a great break with my past. I left a prosperous functioning law firm of which I was the senior partner and came out to New Mexico at a fraction of what I had been earning there and took up my new life as Professor of Music and Head of the Music Department. Many people have expressed to me their admiration of my courage and their envy that I was able to get out of the rut. Actually, I was not in a rut. I was enjoying the practice of law. Secondly, therefore it didn't take much courage, because I wasn't running away from something I didn't like, but instead I was going to have a fling in something I was very much interested in!

All of the "Robb Minutes" are from Robb's papers in the Center for Southwest Research, Zimmerman Library, UNM.

THANK YOU!

Yes, thank you for assisting us in the UNM Robb Trust Mission:

The Mission of the John Donald Robb Musical Trust in collaboration with the University of New Mexico is to support the music and musical legacy of John Donald Robb, to further his inspiring commitment to education, and to advance the understanding of music of the Southwest.

— and Vision:

The Robb Trust in partnership with composers, performing artists, educators, students, and audiences, will enhance the legacy of Dean Robb by preserving the traditions of Southwest Folk Music, promoting the music of John Donald Robb, and supporting the composition of contemporary music.

2007 DONORS

(As of March 8, 2007)

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Donald & Alice Thompson
Karen Turner

Thank you for assisting us in expanding our horizons!



Dean Robb, archival photo

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