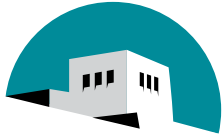


JOHN D. ROBB MUSICAL TRUST



The University of New Mexico

Volume 1, No. 3

Summer 2007

Impromptu: Opus 3

SPECIAL REPORT! 2007: GIANT STRIDES FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE!

The year 2007 marks major events for the acceleration and enhancement locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally of the vision and mission of the Robb Musical Trust in collaboration with the University of New Mexico, the College of Fine Arts, the Music Department, the UNM Libraries' Center for Southwest Research and the UNM Foundation.

2007 follows almost immediately on the heels of the very recent Trust Committee decision to transform the regional *Composers' Competition* into a national competition with an international panel of judges and of the UNM Library decision to make universally available via internet field recordings by Dean and Mrs. Robb of a treasury of 2,473 folk songs in the Robb Archive of the UNM Center for Southwest

Research. (http://econtent.unm.edu/cdm4/index_robb.php)

This exciting progress is also founded on many years of past efforts by the Robb Musical Trust Committee and its very active members to significantly enhance recognition and performance of Dean Robb's music and his educational and other legacies. Along with support from *Friends of the Robb Trust*, these efforts have been funded in major part by 17 generous major annual gifts of Sanford and Priscilla McDonnell.

Indeed, the year 2007 is already a year "set apart" by highly significant developments which are occurring, and the Robb Trust Newsletter, *Impromptu*, Opus 3, invites you to read on!

UNM PRESS WILL REPUBLISH TWO BOOKS OF DEAN ROBB

The Trust recently signed an agreement with Luther Wilson, Director of the UNM Press, for re-publishing Dean Robb's two out-of-print books on Hispanic folk music, *Hispanic Folk Songs of New Mexico* (1954) and his authoritative book, *Hispanic Folk Music of New Mexico and the Southwest: A Self Portrait of the People* (1980), and to make them readily available at reasonable prices to national and international audiences. These compilations reinforce Dean Robb's reputation as a leading authority on Hispanic folk music and contribute to the authenticity and the beauty of his Hispanic "rooted" musical compositions. Updating and preparation for re-publishing was accomplished by Trust Members Jim Bratcher, Marilyn Fletcher, Tomás Ruiz-Fabrega and Bob Tillotson.



John Robb (center) signs the UNM Press Agreement as Bob Tillotson (left) and Luther Wilson (right) observe.

PBS COLORES! PROJECT CENTERS ON DEAN ROBB'S LEGACY

Ted A. Garcia, General Manager and CEO of PBS affiliate KNME-TV-5, has announced the decision to begin a year-long research effort establishing a pioneering, permanent, extensive and extraordinary KNME-TV-5 website on Dean Robb, his music and his legacy including its Hispanic folk music foundations and presumably his Hispanic folk opera "Little Jo." The project will culminate in a one-half hour documentary in KNME-TV-5's prestigious 2008 Colores! Series with broadcast throughout New Mexico and elsewhere as an "executive summary" of the web site – and ultimately, we hope, in a national TV production.



KNME TV-5 Colores! Team (left to right): Kelly Kowalski, Producer-Director; Chad Davis, Director of Content; and, Jen Schwedler, Senior Web Designer.



Ted Garcia, General Manager and CEO, addresses Trust Members at KNME TV-5 meeting.

KNME
TV 5/DI 35

THE JOHN DONALD ROBB COMPOSERS' SYMPOSIUM 2007



Photos (from top, left to right): Bob Tillotson and Dean Mead greet attendees; John Robb and Priscilla Robb McDonnell; Dean Robb Photo Display; Robb Trust Display; Peggy Robb and daughters with Bob Tillotson and Marilyn Fletcher; Composers' Symposium Artistic Director, Dr. Christopher Shultis; Peggy Robb and Dr. Richard Lueker; Peggy and John Robb; Performer Keith Lemmons and Composer Scott Wilkinson.

The John Donald Robb *Composers' Symposium 2007*, March 25-28, featured Robert Ashley and 22 other national and international composers and artists. The Symposium included a performance at the John Donald Robb Concert of Dean Robb's *Los Pastores: Christmas Cantata*, Opus 62 (1956-1989) by a chorus prepared by Trust Member Jim Bratcher who edited the Cantata and the *Chatter* Chamber Ensemble conducted by David Felberg, as well as a pioneering recording of an electronic composition by the Dean which was played at Microtonal Day—an added event sponsored by the Trust and facilitated by Trust Member, Jack Douthett. Dr. Christopher Shultis of the UNM Music Department is Artistic Director of the Symposium and Doris Williams of the Robb Musical Trust serves as Managing Director.

PERFORMANCE OF DEAN ROBB'S "DANCES FROM TAXCO" BY THE NEW MEXICO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

New Mexico Symphony Orchestra Conductor, Guillermo Figueroa, and the NMSO will perform Dean Robb's "Dances from Taxco" in October as a part of its regular concert series, as well as on tour at the Spencer Theatre in Ruidoso, realizing one of the first of future efforts by the Trust Committee to expand the performances of Dean Robb's orchestral works.



DORIS WILLIAMS IS MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR THE ROBB TRUST

Doris Williams was recently selected for the UNM Robb Trust administrative position. Doris holds a BA in Elementary Education from San Jose State University in California and a JD from Rutgers University School of Law. While pursuing her education, Doris was honored as follows: Best Orator Award, Hunter Moot Court Winner, Delta Epsilon Sigma (National Scholastic Honor Society) and Forensic Economic Society's Scholarship Recipient at Rutgers.



Doris was a legal intern with the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez in US District Court in Camden, NJ, a law clerk for the City of Philadelphia Law Department, a teaching assistant while completing degree work at Rutgers University School of Law, and has served in various administrative positions including SmithKline Beecham in Philadelphia, and in Albuquerque, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Calvary of Albuquerque's Missions Department. Doris previously served the Robb Trust as its Interim Program Coordinator. The Robb Trust Ad Hoc Personnel Committee, Trust Chair Jim Bonnell, Mike Brown of UNM Human Resources and Christopher Mead, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, facilitated the selection process. *Welcome, Doris!*

REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF JOHN DONALD ROBB

The impressive path leading to recent striking developments cited in this newsletter was blazed originally during the life of Dean Robb, a long-time Dean of the College of Fine Arts of the University of New Mexico. These as well as all the later efforts by the Robb Musical Trust, its members and others in the 18 years since his death in 1989 have continued to be centered in and strongly supported by the University of New Mexico and by its College of Fine Arts, the Music Department, the UNM Libraries' Center for Southwest Research, the UNM Foundation and the UNM Press. Mileposts during his life included:

- 26 performances of his works by 16 symphony orchestras in the U.S., Central America and South America, including ten by the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and its predecessors;
- the performance of a number of his works and of a large number of Hispanic folk songs in many other venues such as six recitals in the Carnegie Recital Hall in New York (some of which were reviewed by the *New York Times*);
- making unique and extensive field recordings by Dean

Robb and Harriet, his wife, of approximately 3000 Hispanic folk songs;

- 16 other recordings of folk music, chamber music and of the Dean's electronic music and their distribution through Folkways, a national outlet;
- the collection, compilation and ultimate perpetuation of this "treasury" of Hispanic folk songs by placing the field recordings and his other works and memorabilia donated by Dean and Mrs. Robb in the extensive Robb Archives of the Center for Southwest Research—and some of them being preserved as well in the Library of Congress;
- the publication of two books on Hispanic folk music, *Hispanic Folk Songs of New Mexico* (1954) and his authoritative book, *Hispanic Folk Music of New Mexico and the Southwest: A Self Portrait of the People* (1980), edited by Dean Robb with the assistance of many at UNM especially Rowena King (formerly Rivera);
- the establishment of the

international *Composers' Symposium* created by the UNM College of Fine Arts and the Music Department with Dean Robb's support and participation;

- numerous articles on Hispanic folk and other music by Dean Robb in various publications including national and regional magazines and those of the New Mexico Folklore Society.

The exciting work continues with action by Trust Members in extensive editing, educational outreach, developing opportunities for performances of the Dean's work, distributing of world-class recordings by the Polish Radio National Symphony Orchestra with conductor, David Oberg and soloists including Tatiana Vetrinskaya (the piano concerto) and Leslie Umphrey (the Hispanic Folk Songs), financial and logistical support for the *Composers' Symposium*, evaluating and formulating effective outreach effort by the Trust, enabling the planning and completing of an oral history, and assisting the UNM Library in making the Robb Archive one of the most outstanding at the UNM Center for Southwest Research. Yes, the work continues, and there's much to be accomplished!

You can be a part of this legacy of John Donald Robb!

Have you considered leaving a bequest to further the vision of Dean Robb?

For more information contact: Belinda Jentzen, Senior Development Officer • Phone: 505/277-7320 • Email: Belinda@unm.edu.
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COMING SOON: THE NEW ROBB TRUST WEBSITE

The Trust Committee is moving forward to establish a new, comprehensive, enhanced, "user friendly" website sparked by Chair Karen Turner and PR/Marketing Committee members, Carolyn Mountain, Elsie Morosin, Bob Tillotson, Doris Williams and Marilyn Fletcher. This will make the music and legacy of Dean Robb and Hispanic folk music much better known and more accessible to national and international audiences. The Trust has secured Joe Wellborn as the Web Designer. Joe brings over seventeen years of experience in web design and a very impressive resume. Some of his previous clients include: *The San Francisco Opera*, *Commission on Presidential Debates* and *New Mexico First*. The new website is coming soon . . . stay tuned!!

Thank You!

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(As of August 1, 2007)

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Marilyn Fletcher	Kay Moses	Donald & Alice Thompson
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All of our activities and successes could not have occurred without the assistance offered by gifts and grants from individuals such as you, our *Friends of the Robb Trust*. We thank you for your support. Please consider a gift in this fiscal year. For your convenience use the donor envelope, or for more information contact:

Doris Williams, Managing Director
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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.*

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.*

THE ROBB TRUST

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Carolyn Mountain, Secretary, Robb Trust

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John Robb

Counsel, Rodey Law Firm

Tómas Ruiz-Fabrega, Ph.D.

Chair, CNMCC Spanish Department

Christopher Shultis, Ph.D.

Professor, Theory; Artistic Director, UNM
Composers' Symposium

Bob Tillotson, Ph.D., Immediate Past Chair,

Robb Trust
Retired Music Department Chair, Harper College

Karen Turner

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THE TRUST AT WORK



Suzuki Project students present to the Trust.



The Trust at work (left to right): Carolyn Mountain, Belinda Jentzen, Steve Block, Dale Kempter, Nina Hobbs, and John Robb.



Jack Douthett (left) and Scott Meredith at KNME TV-5 meeting.



Marilyn Fletcher, Carolyn Mountain, and Jim Bratcher (left). Bob Tillotson and Karen Turner (right).

UNM John D. Robb Musical Trust Newsletter

*Edited by John Robb &
Doris Williams*

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