

JOHN D. ROBB MUSICAL TRUST



The University of New Mexico

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Impromptu: Opus 4

NEW MEXICO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORMS DEAN ROBB'S *DANCES FROM TAXCO*

The New Mexico Symphony Orchestra's, (NMSO), 75th Anniversary Classics and Matinee program featured Dean John Donald Robb's *Dances from Taxco*, the famous *Adagio for Strings* by Samuel Barber, Dvorak's *Symphony No. 7*, and Shostakovich's *Festival Overture*. All four performances were conducted by NMSO Music Director Guillermo Figueroa. *Dances from Taxco* is the eleventh time Dean Robb's work has been performed by the NMSO. The concert paid tribute to the long partnership of NMSO and the University of New Mexico and to John Donald Robb who served as Dean of the College of Fine Arts from 1942-1957. He was instrumental in starting the UNM Symphony, as well as many other educational initiatives.

Dean Robb's composition *Dances from Taxco* was well received by the audience on the October 6, 2007, concert. *Dances from Taxco*, which was brilliantly performed by NMSO, is a lively orchestra arrangement in three movements reflecting authentic melodies of the rich culture found in the

region of Mexico between Mexico City and Acapulco. Before performing the piece, Maestro Guillermo Figueroa, in an unusual introduction, offered his words of endorsement and encouragement to the audience for the Dean's extensive and important contributions to the NMSO and the UNM College of Fine Arts. Maestro Figueroa highlighted the Dean's extraordinary achievement as a composer and forerunner in the area of Ethnomusicology. He also gave the Popejoy Hall audience a chance to show their appreciation of the Dean's legacy by having all the members of the Robb family stand and be recognized by the crowd. The Robb family members who were present were John D. Robb II and his wife Peggy, Priscilla Robb-McDonnell from St. Louis, Nancy Robb-Briggs, John D. Robb III, and David Robb from Los Angeles. At the closing note of NMSO's performance of *Dances from Taxco*, the Popejoy crowd erupted with applause and appreciation for the music.

DEAN CHRISTOPHER MEAD AND THE ROBB TRUST RECEPTION FOR THE ROBB FAMILY AND DONORS



After the concert on October 6, 2007, Christopher Mead, Dean of the UNM College of Fine Arts, and the John Donald Robb Musical Trust hosted a private reception for the Robb Family, Guillermo Figueroa and donors and special friends of the Robb Trust. The reception was held at the Art Museum in the Center for the Arts with the brilliant landscape photography of Joan Fontcuberta serving as a backdrop as the Dean's music played throughout the museum. Special Touch

Catering Company provided a beautiful and delicious spread of hors d'oeuvres. The evening was filled with wonderful music, wine and company. A special thanks to John Mulvany, Director of the Art Museum, and his staff for providing not only a special venue but a top notch customer service staff.

The reception was also well attended including Maestro Guillermo and Valerie Figueroa, members of the University, the UNM Foundation, the Rodey Law

Firm, and the Robb Trust. The reception provided the perfect setting for Dean Mead, his wife Dr. Michelle Penhall, and the University to thank the McDonnells and the Robb Family for their generous contributions throughout the years as well as celebrate the legacy of Dean John Donald Robb. In addition to the Robb family members, members of the University that were present included James Linnell, Assistant Dean, UNM

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College of Fine Arts and his wife Jennifer Predock-Linnell, Dr. Steve Block, Chair of the UNM Music Department and his wife Stephanie, Professor Emeritus Bill Seymour, Patrick Apodaca, the UNM Counsel, Michael K. Kingan, Pam Hurd-Knief, and John Maes from the UNM Foundation, and Belinda Jentzen and Sandra Koson from UNM/CFA Development.

Many Robb Trust members were there to not only help host the affair but to also show their appreciation of Dean Robb's work and thank

the Trust's donors. The Robb Trust members in attendance included: James Bratcher, Marilyn Fletcher, Nina Hobbs and her husband Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Guy Hobbs, Dean Mead, Dr. Steven Block, John Robb II and his wife Peggy, Dr. Robert Tillotson, Carolyn Mountain and her husband, John Cordova, Karen Turner and her husband, Dr. Robert Turner, Trust Managing Director Doris Williams, and Robb Trust Graduate Assistant, Tim Saeed.

The Rodey Law Firm was a key sponsor of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra's

75th Anniversary Classics and Matinee program. Rodey Law Firm Director, Leslie McCarthy-Apodaca and John Robb II were present as well as John Salazar and Bob St. John Other guests that attended the reception included Ted Garcia, CEO and General Manager of KNME-TV-5 and Nancy Johnson of the Albuquerque Community Foundation.

The reception was a fitting tribute to John Donald Robb's Legacy and a great way for Dean Mead and the Robb Trust to thank the very special friends of the Trust.



Dean Robb, archival photo

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
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Thanks for your consideration.

**UNM John D. Robb
Musical Trust
Newsletter**

*Edited by John Robb &
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COMING: THE JOHN DONALD ROBB COMPOSERS' SYMPOSIUM 2008

The 2008 John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium (March 30-April 2) will feature the music of Gordon Mumma, the final composer in a three year series featuring prominent members of the famous ONCE festivals in Ann Arbor Michigan. Mumma, an early innovator in the field of live electronics, composed and performed for many years with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Trust member Professor Christopher Shultis will serve as the Symposium's Artistic Director and Doris Williams will be the Managing Director. The Monday evening concert will feature John Donald Robb's *Triangulum, Op. 84 for Clarinet and Piano* performed by UNM Professor of Music Keith Lemmons and pianist Mary Beth Gunning. Also, Dean Robb's *String Quartet Number 2* will be performed. Other composers participating include Daniel Lentz, Carlo Alessandro

Landini and Riccardo Piantentini from Italy, DJ Wolf from Frankfurt Germany, Yvonne Lee from Massachusetts and Anne Guzzo from Wyoming. Steve Peters will present this year's sound installation at the UNM Art Museum. Dawn Chambers, Richard Cameron-Wolfe and John Kennedy will also have works performed and UNM composers Richard Hermann, Patricia Repar, Panaiotis, Paul Lombardi, Christopher Shultis and William Wood will have new works premiered as part of the festival. The opening concert will feature this year's Artists-in-Residence, *Duo Alterno* in a concert of contemporary Italian and American composers. Concerts are Sunday through Wednesday evenings as well as Tuesday afternoon, and daytime events will occur Monday through Wednesday. Concerts and daytime events are all free and open to the public.

MEET THE 2007-2008 ROBB TRUST GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



Tobias Kokkelink

Tobias Kokkelink

Tobias Kokkelink was born in Norden, Germany. He comes from a family of musicians. His father is a music teacher and his mother is a Choir Director. Tobias started to play the piano at the age of six. By the time he was a teenager, he knew that music was going to be his primary career focus.

At the *Hochschule für Musik Detmold*, Tobias finished two degrees, one in Piano Pedagogy and another in Music Education. He has also completed several piano master classes in Italy and Germany. Currently, he is pursuing a Masters Degree in Piano Performance at the University of New Mexico

In August, the Robb Trust gained two new Graduate Assistants, Tobias Kokkelink and Tim Saeed. Both assistants have been instrumental in working on key projects for the Trust under the immediate supervision of Doris Williams, Managing Director. These projects entail electronically transcribing Dean Robb's compositions, expanding a database for the Robb Archive at the Center for Southwest Research and organizing the past John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium recordings. The Trust is pleased to have these talented and interesting students on board. Let's meet them up-close:

where he was accepted into the studio of Professor Falko Steinbach.

As a Robb Trust Graduate Assistant, Tobias believes he can find a good blend between sharpening his valuable computer technology skills with his knowledge and expertise in music. He believes the Trust's assistantship experience will better prepare him to pursue his career goals of teaching and performing piano.

Timothy D. Saeed

Over the past twenty-five years, Tim has been actively pursuing instruction in classical piano. Born and raised in San Francisco, California, his musical

education began at the age of seven, and he has since had the opportunity to study under many local and international pianists.

Tim received his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Pacific Conservatory of Music. He completed a Master's Degree in Music Theory from Boston University where he was awarded a Graduate Teaching Fellowship. Throughout the past nine years, Tim has instructed students in multiple learning environments: from group piano classes to theory courses as well as in private individual tutorials. He has taught at the university



Timothy D. Saeed

level, at elementary schools and to all ages privately. Most recently, Tim, too, was accepted into the studio of Falko Steinbach at the University of New Mexico, where he is pursuing a second Master's Degree in Piano Performance and serving a Graduate Teaching Fellowship in the Music Theory Department.

As recipient of the J.D. Robb Graduate Assistantship, Tim believes he is learning imperative and valuable skills that will someday assist him in fulfilling his dream to contribute to a music department as a theoretician, musician and educator devoted to academic excellence.

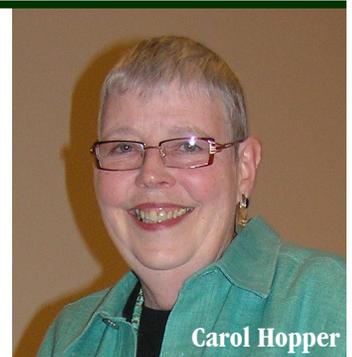
NMSO PRE-CONCERT PRESENTATIONS

There were three NMSO Pre-Concert presentations that focused on John Donald Robb. On October 3, the Music 101 Lecture Series provided background information about the weekend's performances. Carol Hopper, wife of Kenneth Hopper, General Manager of NMSO, who gave the evening lecture worked with Doris Williams, Marilyn Fletcher and John Robb II to gather information and to make an extensive presentation about Dean Robb's life and musical contributions. The lecture began with his formative years

and how he studied with world famous composers: Horatio Parker, Paul Hindemith, Nadia Boulanger, Roy Harris, and Darius Milhaud. In 1937 he had the opportunity to spend six summer weeks in Taxco, Mexico, where he gathered and transcribed at least 25 folk and dance melodies from local musicians. These melodies became the genesis of his composition, *Dances from Taxco*. She recounted how Dean Robb dedicated nearly 40 years to gathering, transcribing, recording and documenting his vast

collection of 3,000 traditional folk songs and dances, leaving an unsurpassed legacy on the musical history of the Southwest. Marilyn Fletcher talked about this vast collection that forms the nucleus of the John Donald Robb Archive of Southwestern Music at UNM, and John Robb, II brought Dean Robb's life and work into a family focus by answering questions and telling personal stories about his father and mother.

A second pre-concert presentation by Guillermo Figueroa described the legacy



Carol Hopper

of Dean Robb. A third one centering on commentary about the contributions of the Robb Trust and Rodey Law Firm was made immediately before the October 6th concert by Kip Allen, Director of the classical music radio station KHFM, before the entire Popenjoy Hall audience.

SUMMARY OF YEAR'S DEVELOPMENTS

2007 will go down as the most productive and successful year to date in the history of the Robb Trust. Although there have been many very productive years, the list of achievements and developments and the amount of effort expended by Robb Trust Committee Members and Chair Jim Bonnell was phenomenal and unprecedented. These major achievements included:

- The editing and outstanding performance of Dean Robb's *Dances From Taxco* by the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra and a spectacular reception highlighted by extensive pre-program discussions and special remarks discussed above.
- Transforming next year's Composers' Competition from a U. S. regional to a nation-wide competition with international judges.
- The Composers' Symposium which was characterized by the most artistically successful and diverse programming in UNM history.
- Agreements, revisions and arrangements for re-publication of the two comprehensive volumes of *Folk Music of New Mexico* and *Folk Songs of New Mexico and of the Southwest* by Dean Robb, two of the most comprehensive and authoritative books on the subject.
- KNME-TV-5's agreement and fast start of a 2008 documentary production for the prestigious *Colores* TV series

devoted to the music and musical legacy of Dean Robb including the establishment of a first time, large, unique, permanent, interactive web site on Dean Robb by KNME-TV which will be unprecedented in scope and size.

- Undertaking the first ever comprehensive discussions with UNM and the UNM Foundation for the long-range future of the Robb Trust and the necessary foundations for its long-term preservation and success.
- Selection of Doris Williams as the Trust Managing Director after massive and extraordinary efforts to achieve the most appropriate job description; then reviewing and screening 23 applicants and conducting numerous interviews for the position.
- Studying and preparing three-year Trust sub-committee projected plans and budgets.
- A full committee retreat on strategic planning for the future of the Robb Trust.
- Commencing work on a completely revised Trust web site.
- Obtaining and working on a pioneering public relations plan by the committee.
- Commencing work on an oral history of Dean Robb's life and achievements.
- Establishing a new system of two graduate assistants instead of one, and appointing the first two students under the new plan.

THANK YOU!

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Thanks so much for your continuing support of the Robb Musical Trust which depends upon private donations from interested donors and friends to embrace new challenges and opportunities. If you would like to support the musical legacy of Dean Robb, please enclose your year-end tax deductible contribution in the enclosed donor envelope, or for more information, contact:

Doris Williams, Managing Director

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THE ROBB MINUTE

Included as one of the standard agenda items during the Trust Committee'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.

From an interview with Dean Robb in 1980 Literary Influences

"...Oh, here's a letter that I recently wrote to Myers I thought you might be interested in. He asked me to tell him what three books made the greatest impact on my life. I could think of three that had an influence. One of them is *My Musical Life* by Rimsky-Korsakov, telling how, under the encouragement of Balakireff and others, he found the courage and desire to abandon his career as a naval officer and adopt that of a teacher and composer of music. Two, *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo. Why? Because Thornton Wilder, in a speech at an Alpha Delta Phi fraternity banquet, expatiated on the theme that literature was the orchestration of platitudes and this book was a good example of the platitude, "Courage is Contagious," which has been in my mind ever since. And third, my own book, *Hispanic Folk Music of New Mexico and the Southwest: a self-portrait of a people*. Why? Because it epitomizes years of joyous collecting and study by me and my inseparable companion, my wife, of the hinterland folk cultures which so enhance the total picture of our country's culture. By way of addendum, I have been a P.G. Wodehouse addict. I might select, as one of his, *Leave it to P Smith*. Why? Because I found it evokes that joyous gift of explosive laughter!"

We extend warm holiday greetings to you from The John Donald Robb Musical Trust!