Sherr News
2006–2007 Edition

EIMI Premiere in Austria

ensemble Intégrales members Barbara Lüneburg, violin, Claudia Birkholz, piano, Burkhard Friedrich, saxophone, and Matthias Engler, percussion

Laurence Sherr was the first American composer to be a full participant in the KOFOMI Music Festival in Mittersill, Austria. During the September 2006 festival, he collaborated with the German new music group ensemble Intégrales to compose a new work, *EIMI* for violin, saxophone, percussion, and piano. The composition features improvisation and movement of the performers through the performance space, immersing the audience in sound. *EIMI* was premiered at the festival's concluding concert, and received a favorable review in the Salzburger *Nachrichten* newspaper. Additional publicity included Sherr's interview on the nationally broadcast radio program "Kultur-Journal", an ORF program on arts and culture.

Following the Festival, Sherr began a residency in Salzburg, the second component of the exchange program between the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and Land Salzburg. Sherr was the featured guest at an evening event highlighting the program, where he introduced the performance of his guitar work *Blue Ridge Frescos* by Manuel de Roo and participated in the panel discussion "Warum ein Künstleraustausch?" (Why an artist exchange?) at the Galerie 5020 in Salzburg.

Two CDs Released

Laurence Sherr's compositions appeared on two CDs released in 2007.

KOFOMI #11 archives performances from the 2006 KOFOMI Festival in Austria. The first disc of the two-CD set includes a live recording of the premiere performance of Sherr's *EIMI* (see story at left). The complete set is available at http://www.manymusics.org (search for EIMI), or individual tracks such as Sherr's 10-minute work can be downloaded for .99 Euros each!

Cellist Theresa Villani chose Sherr's *Elegy and Vision* for solo cello for her two-CD release *Patterns of Eloquence*. Villani recently performed *Elegy and Vision* in a Holocaust memorial concert in Tarpon Spring, FL. CDs are available from: VillaniCello@aol.com

Sherr and David Okerlund

Fugitive Footsteps at Ohio Festival

Noted opera star David Okerland was the baritone soloist in the performance of Sherr's *Fugitive Footsteps* at the New Music & Arts Festival at Bowling Green State University in Ohio in November 2006. The BGSU Collegiate Chorale conducted by Dr. William Skoog joined forces with Okerland for Sherr's Holocaust memorial work on poetry by Nobel laureate Nelly Sachs. The preview performance just before the Festival first elicited silence, and then a standing ovation from the full house.

Guitarist Rusty Banks

Rusty Banks on tour

Classical guitarist Rusty Banks performed Laurence Sherr's evocative *Blue Ridge Frescos* on a 2007 Southeast tour. Stops included a residency at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta and an appearance at Birmingham's ArtBurst Festival. In 2006 Banks performed *Blue Ridge Frescos* at a concert in Lincoln, Nebraska. See Banks' 5/27/07 blog entry about his tour.

Contact

Dr. Laurence Sherr, Composer-in-Residence
Kennesaw State University
E-mail: Lsherr@kennesaw.edu
Phone: 770.499.3406
Web: http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~lsherr/

Parry Karp in Hawaii

Wide-Ranging Performances

Performers across the U.S. staged Sherr's works during 2006 and 2007. Parry Karp, cellist of the Pro Arte Quartet, gave multiple performances of *Elegy and Vision* in Wisconsin and at the Red-Hot Lava Festival in Hawaii. Pianist Jeri-Mae Astolfi produced Sherr's Nocturne in Arkansas in advance of recording it for a 2008 CD release. Liuba Pupo performed the Nocturne at the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico in San Juan. Flutist Christina Guenther reprised Sherr's *Capriccioso* for flute and marimba, a work she commissioned, at the College Music Society national meeting in San Antonio and at S.F. Austin State University in Texas. Amy Leventhal, Assistant Principal Violist of the Atlanta Symphony, programmed *Elegy and Vision* twice in Atlanta.

Major Work Completed

In 2007 a three-year project came to fruition as Sherr completed work on *Flame Language* for baritone and chamber orchestra, his second setting of poetry by Nobel laureate Nelly Sachs. The work was commissioned by a national consortium of vocalists and chamber orchestras, and will be given regional premieres over the coming seasons. Participants include vocalists Daniel Gale, Oral Moses, and Elliot Z. Levine, and The Bijou Orchestra, Leo Najar, Artistic Director, and the Kennesaw State University Orchestra, Michael Alexander, Director. An online article has expanded coverage.