

Composer, Film Maker Win New York Commission

Pauline Oliveros, assistant professor of music at UC San Diego, has been awarded a commission from the New York State Council of the Arts for a theatre piece to be performed at the Center of Creative and Performing Arts in Buffalo.

Ms. Oliveros' composition will be performed by a small group of musicians accompanied by actors and a film to be created by Eileen Griffith of UCSD's department of visual arts.

Ms. Oliveros is considered one of America's finest composers. Among her awards are the Director's Award of the Pacifica Foundation (1961), Best Foreign Work Award from the Foundation Gaudeamus in Bilthoven, Holland (1963), and a Guggenheim grant for 1973-74. The grant will be used to research American Indian rituals and rites for incorporation into an original musical composition.

Ms. Oliveros teaches courses in composition, performance, and various aspects of electronic music. Her special interest is the exploration of meditative practices as they might be applied to new musical performances. She'll offer a series of classes in meditation next summer at the University of Berlin.

MARTIN BERNHEIMER

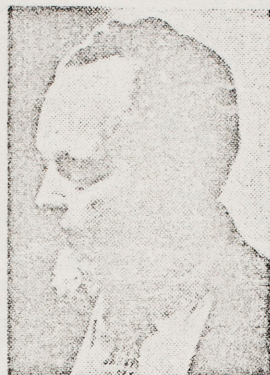
New York Council to Aid Composers

New York has done it again. The state with the best-endowed and most progressive arts council in America has just set in motion an unprecedented plan to stimulate the creation and performance of new music.

A \$400,000 matching-fund program in conjunction with 61 arts organizations in the state has produced commissions for 69 composers. The resultant compositions are to embrace a variety of styles and forms—orchestral, choral, jazz, chamber music and even electronic composition.

"The purpose of the commissioning program," according to Eric Larrabee, executive director of the New York council, "was to maintain New York State's leadership in music, both nationally and internationally."

That statement may be tinged with wishful thinking—the key word is "internationally." Still, there can be little doubt that the United States has seldom, if ever, experienced a comparable project of this scope.



Lou Harrison

The composers involved include such respected, established figures as Roger Sessions, Elliott Carter, George Crumb and William Schuman, as well as relative unknowns. The New York Philharmonic turned to one Carman Moore for its \$10,000 commission, the most generous on the list.

Forty-nine of the 69 composers selected live in New York. At least three, however, represent California. Pauline Oliveros, of Leucadia and UC San Diego, received \$5,000 for a chamber piece to be performed at the Center of Creative and Performing Arts in Buffalo. Herbie Hancock of Hollywood received \$2,000 for a piece to be performed at Lincoln Center by the National Jazz

Ensemble. And Lou Harrison of Aptos won a \$6,000 grant for a chamber piece to be choreographed by Shirley Broughton at the Theater for Ideas.

Nice.

Los Angeles, of course, will follow suit just as soon as we can get our collective head out of the Dark Ages.

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BALLETIC ENVY: American Ballet Theater returns to Los Angeles for 15 performances starting Feb. 18. That, of course, is good news. But, as usual, we won't invariably get to see the sort of Ballet Theater to which New York is accustomed. The roster here will lack such stellar names as Carla Fracci, Paolo Bortoluzzi and Michael Denard (we missed him last year, too). And the repertory here will not include such adventures as "Petrovichka" or the new Lar Lubovitch work set to Ives' Second Orchestral Suite or Lubovitch's "Sherzo for Maa-sah Jack" or "La Sylphide" as restaged by Erik Bruhn or Dennis Nabat's "Sometimes." On the other hand, we can look forward to the eternal return of "Swan Lake," amid other assorted rewarmings. Are Los Angeles audiences really that conservative? Or do we just seem that conservative to the outside world?

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MUSICAL RAMBLINGS: Spring Opera, the small-scale, experimental wing of the San Francisco Opera, has announced 17 performances at the Curran Theater in the Bay City between March 5-30. Presumably, the universal financial crunch has precluded more than two new productions this year. Ergo, Carlisle Floyd's "Of Mice and Men" and Cavalli's "L'Ormindo" will share the schedule with revivals of "Don Pasquale" and "The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein." . . . Alicia Alonso, prime ballerina and artistic director of the Ballet Nacional de Cuba, has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Havana—the first such citation in the institution's 146-year history . . . WNET Opera Theater will televise the world premiere of Hans Werner Henze's "Rachel, La Cubana," billed as "a vaudeville with music," on March 4 (KCET, 8-9:30 p.m., with a repeat on March 9 at 7). The cast includes Lili Darvas, Lee Venora, Alan Titus and Susanne Marsee . . . "That Championship Season," the drama currently at the Shubert Theater, enjoys the unusual services of an operatic property man. He is Giovanni Esposito, founder and impresario of the ambitious Opera Buffa Company of New York, theatrical "moonlighting," he says, helps pay the bills for Pergolesi's seldom-heard "Lo Frate Innamorato" at home . . . Michael Colgrass has been commissioned to write a concert piece to open Expo '74 in Spokane.

OLIVEROS, PAULINE

Dear Composer,

Enclosed is a brief sketch of your biography as it appeared in a recent Edition of the Composium Directory of New Music. If you are sending us information on your works published or written within the past two years for possible inclusion in the next Edition of Composium, please include any corrections or additions to your biography.

COMPOSIUM; Crystal Records, Inc.; 2235 Willida Ln.; Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

OLIVEROS, PAULINE

bn. May 30, 1932; Houston, TX. BA mus. San Francisco St. Coll. 1957. comp tchr:
Robert Erickson 1954-60. emp: Dir. Mills Tape Mus. Ctr., Mills Coll. 1966-67;
Prof. of Mus. U. of Calif., San Diego 1967-, Dir. Ctr. for Mus. Experiment 1976-79.
prof assn: ASCAP. honors: Urban Mus. Awd., Bonn 1977; Guggenheim fel. 1973-
74; Gaudeamus 1962; Pacifica Fndn. other mus spec: accordion, hn.

Beautiful Soap (pub 1978) · electronic · 1myt · 25min · \$18

Unusual Music Grants Made

New York

Lou Harrison of Aptos is one of 69 composers awarded commissions under an unprecedented plan to stimulate the creation and performance of new music.

The New York State Arts Council will finance the works with a \$400,000 matching - fund program in conjunction with 61 arts organizations, according to Eric Larrabee, executive director of the council.

Harrison's \$6000 grant is for a chamber piece to be choreographed by Shirley Broughton at the Theater for Ideas.

Pauline Oliveros, formerly of the Tape Music Center at Mills College, won a \$5000 grant for a chamber piece to be performed at the Center of Creative and Performing Arts in Buffalo, New York. She is now associated with UC-San Diego.

Herbie Hancock of Hollywood got a \$2000 grant for a



LOU HARRISON
Commissioned

composition to be presented at Lincoln Center by the National Jazz Ensemble.

Other grants were given to Roger Sessions, Elliott Carter, George Crumb and William Schuman.

Our Correspondent

INSTITUTE

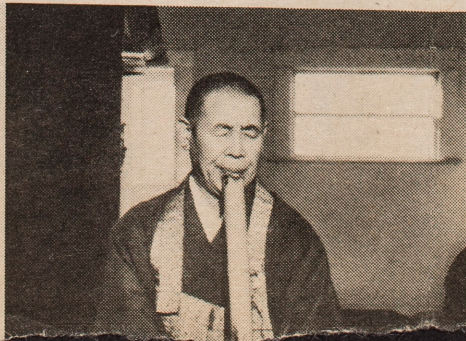
(continued from page 5)

LeFleur of Princeton and UCLA, and Dr. John Maraldo, now at Southern Illinois University, have become fellows and faculty of ITS. Their involvement will enhance the translation program and provide a forum for the exploration of Buddhism, its development in America, and the relationship of religion and science.

Almost as soon as the ITS staff expressed its intention to develop a first-rate research library, two librarians joined ITS to organize our existing collection of a thousand books. Wendy Egyoku Nakao returned from Seattle to join the staff and Tom Marshall, a librarian at Loyola Marymount University, joined the training program. Both are now working elsewhere, but volunteer their time to maintain the library. In addition, through the efforts of Peter Gregory, we have more than doubled our Buddhist collection.

The Transcultural Effect. Buddhist studies are only one part of the activities at ITS. Modern Americans have very eclectic interests, and consequently, several avenues of involvement are available at ITS for those interested in studying themselves and their world. Through workshops, concerts, lectures and conferences, ITS is presenting programs that explore subjects relating to the transcultural foundations of human experience.

In the fall of 1979, ITS sponsored a United States concert tour by the world-renowned bamboo flutist, Watazumi Doso. Watazumi Doso is the founder and head of Watazumi-do, a discipline using bamboo flute to directly express the realization of mind through transcending the illusion of separation between performer and instrument. The leading candidate for selection as a Living National Treasure of Japan in 1962, he declined this rare honor in order to continue his intensive practices.



One fortunate spinoff of their visit for Zen Center students is that Mrs. Watazumi generously taught *jo* to about a half dozen interested students. *Jo* practice can be loosely described as a combination of calisthenics, massage, sword fighting and contortion, and is great for reviving tired muscles and concentrating the mind.

Last summer, ITS sponsored a program on the "Mindful Practices of American Indians". Held on a forested ranch adjacent to a wilderness area, the courses involved the study of Indian crafts and ceremony through direct participation with Navajo medicine man Fred Stevens (Grey Squirrel) and his wife, Bertha, a weaver. The mindfulness and attentiveness of the Indian masters to their crafts and their respectful relationship to nature were emphasized. One participant, composer and professor of music Pauline Oliveros, remarked, "It was substantial — emotionally, physically, spiritually. I felt that the experience of Navajo ceremony was authentic.



There was a good balance between the formal teaching and spontaneous events . . . (and) an atmosphere of mutual respect between students, teachers and staff." All of the other participants had similar feelings of appreciation.

Buddhist Science. As part of ITS' science program, a conference on "The Environment and the Self: An Enlightened Approach" is scheduled for 1981. The theme is an investigation of the dualistic thinking separating us from our environment as one cause of the environmental crisis. Several notable philosophers