

UCSD music professors chosen for 1996-97 ASCAP Awards

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Bertram Turetzky and Rand Steiger, professors of music at the University of California, San Diego have been selected as recipients of the 1996-97 American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Awards.

The ASCAP Awards are granted each year by an independent panel of music educators, directors, and performers to a select group of musicians from throughout the country. They are based upon two criteria: the unique prestige value of each writer's catalog of original compositions, and recent performances of those works.

Turetzky is a world renowned solo performer on the contrabass whose recordings of new works alone number more than 160, making him the most recorded contrabass soloist in America. He has raised its status from mere accompanist in an orchestra to a solo instrument in its own right and has been hailed as a virtuoso of a caliber unsurpassed by any other practitioner of the contrabass today.

Turetzky's performances number over 700, plus more than 100 concerts annually for the Young Audience/Education in the Schools program--a particular love for the musician. He performs jazz, a traditional classical repertoire and contemporary music of all types, including avant-garde.

A faculty member since 1968, Turetzky has taught courses in contrabass, Beethoven symphonies, swing bands, contemporary ensembles, jazz history, plus improvisational workshops. He received his master's degree from Hartt College of Music in Hartford, CT.

Steiger has composed for theater, dance, film, video, and the concert hall, with performances at festivals in Aspen, Berlin, and Amsterdam, and by ensembles such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and the New York New Music Ensemble.

In 1981 he co-founded the California E.A.R. Unit, a contemporary music ensemble in residence at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, with which he continues to perform. He has designed electronic music studios, developed software for a computer music system, and co-founded the Center for Contemporary Music of Costa Rica which is developing Central America's first computer music center.

A UCSD faculty member since 1988, Steiger has taught courses in composition, conducting, percussion, and computer music, and regularly conducts SONOR, the university's contemporary music ensemble. He received his M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts. He has received numerous awards and commissions for his work.

The ASCAP awards to Turetzky and Steiger reflect, according to ASCAP president Marilyn Bergman, the New York-based Society's "continuing commitment to assist and encourage writers of serious music," and to join educational institutions "in supporting the growth and development of our nation's musical future."

In addition to being applauded for their achievements, ASCAP Award recipients receive seed money for research and development.

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