

Associate professor of musicology Jann C. Pasler, wins two Fellowship Awards

June 29, 1988

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UCSD MUSICOLOGIST JANN C. PASLER WINS TWO FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Jann Pasler, an associate professor of musicology at the University of California, San Diego, may soon be able to fit together why composer Igor Stravinsky so radically changed his style of classical composition--to become one of the major names of the avant-garde music scene.

A resident of Solana Beach, Pasler was recently awarded two major study grants--a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a University of California President's Research Fellowship in the Humanities, totaling nearly \$50,000--to help her complete the documentation for a forthcoming book on the Parisian avant-garde artistic scene.

Sleuthing out the changes in Stravinsky's composition style while he was a member of the avant-garde in Paris is just one of the original facets of Pasler's scholarship.

The magna cum laude researcher, who approaches her subject matter with the tenacity of a good detective, has contacted relatives of the people in Paris who were associated with Stravinsky. A few of the people she has interviewed were children at the time they knew members of the underground group of poets, composers and artists (including Ravel), called The Apaches (Les Apaches). The relatives and friends of these artists have allowed Pasler to study personal papers and photographs from the early 1900s relating to the group.

The Apaches, Pasler declares, played a central role in most all the major musical developments in Paris after the turn of the century. In 1902, The Apaches brought together students from the Conservatoire, and a rival conservatory, Schola Cantorum, to defend Debussy's revolutionary opera "Pelleas et Melisande" from public ridicule by faithfully attending the first 30 performances.

Although a small and little known force, members of The Apache managed to throw their intellectual weight behind various musical appointments and organizations, thereby influencing developments of classical music in Paris from 1902 to World War I, according to Pasler.

The grant will allow Pasler to make several more trips to Paris within the next year and to deliver academic papers supporting her research. Pasler received her advanced degrees from the University of Chicago.

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