

New Conrad Prebys Music Center on Display at UC San Diego's Geisel Library

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The UC San Diego Libraries and the Department of Music are showcasing an exhibit on UC San Diego's new Conrad Prebys Music Center through May 1, 2009 in the Seuss Room foyer on the main floor of the Geisel Library building. The center includes a world-class concert hall that will have its public unveiling on May 8 and 9.

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The exhibit includes photos, architectural drawings, and a model of the new complex, which features the facility's crown jewel - a 400-seat concert hall designed by LMN Architects of Seattle and Cyril Harris, one of the most respected acoustical engineers in the world. The exhibit also includes photos reflecting the Department of Music's history, as well as several CDs by past and present music faculty.

The UC San Diego Arts Library, which is co-sponsoring the exhibit with the Department of Music, is known for its outstanding contemporary music collections, especially its holdings in experimental and 20th century music.

Local philanthropist Conrad Prebys loves music. "It's a true passion of mine and has been a great part of my life," said the one-time aspiring musician. In 2007, the San Diego builder demonstrated his love of music by making a \$6 million donation, which enabled UC San Diego to continue building its state-of-the-art music center, now named the Conrad Prebys Music Center in his honor. Just a year later, he gave an additional \$3 million to support the renowned UC San Diego Department of Music with the establishment of the Conrad Prebys Music Endowment; the Conrad Prebys Concert Hall is named in recognition of Prebys's most recent gift.

"UC San Diego's Music Department is already doing incredible work with contemporary music and has the potential to become even greater," said Prebys. "I'm thrilled that I'm able to help them realize their goals."

The Conrad Prebys Concert Hall is acoustician Cyril Harris's final project, the culmination of a prolific career that includes Avery Fisher Hall, the Metropolitan Opera House, and Seattle's Benaroya and Nordstrom Halls. UC San Diego's new hall, described as an acoustically perfect environment for both chamber and experimental music, has earned rave reviews during trial performances and is expected to become known as one of the finest small concert halls in the world.

The Conrad Prebys Music Center also includes an Experimental Theater with retractable seats that allow it to be configured for a variety of experimental performances. Its advanced sound-processing equipment includes the capability to simulate a variety of acoustical environments. The center also includes a 150-seat lecture/recital hall, a space that is well-suited for intimate performances, seminars, and classes.

A state-of-the-art recording studio, computer labs, rehearsal rooms, classrooms, a large choral room, a symphony rehearsal room, and acoustically designed faculty offices are among the music center's other features.

For more information about the Conrad Prebys Music Center at UC San Diego and the opening concerts, visit the Department of Music website: <http://music.ucsd.edu>

The UC San Diego Libraries, ranked among the top 25 public academic libraries in the nation, play an integral role in advancing and supporting the university's research, teaching, patient care, and public service missions. The nine libraries that comprise the UCSD Library system provide access to more than 7 million digital and print volumes, journals, and multimedia materials to meet the knowledge demands of scholars, students, and members of the public. Each day, more than 7,300 people stream through one of the university's nine libraries. The Libraries vast resources and services are accessed more than 87,500 times each day via the UCSD Libraries' Web site.

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