

Concert of "Contemporary Music for Organ and Instruments" to be directed by UCSD doctoral candidate, Heidi Von Gunden

March 9, 1973

A concert of "Contemporary Music for organ and instruments" will be directed by University of California, San Diego doctoral candidate Heidi Von Gunden at the Chapel of the Army-Navy Academy in Carlsbad at 8 p.m., Monday, March 19.

The chapel is located on the academy grounds on Ocean Street in Carlsbad.

Ms. Von Gunden, who is studying musical composition at UCSD, will also perform her work "Fantasy," a four-section musical statement about the mechanical properties of the organ.

The first section, "Flight," is a fughetta that dissolves into "Fancy," a coloristic treatment of organ, clarinet, and percussion sounds combined with mouthblown pipes. The last two sections, "Fun" and "Freedom," employ the pipes and instruments in a short, scherzo-like movement and in a toccata style with organ and taped sounds.

Solo clarinet and vibraphone display organ-like qualities in the piece, and the closing cadenza for pipes is combined with the sound of organ, percussion, and tape.

Also to be performed is Alden Ashforth's "Byzantium III" for tape and organ, Daniel Pinkham's "Concertante" for organ, percussion and celesta, and Pauline Oliveros' "To Valerie Solanas and Marilyn Monroe in Recognition of Their Desperation," a piece for chamber orchestra and organ.

Ashforth is a faculty member at UCLA. His piece to be performed is based on Yeat's poem, "Sailing to Byzantium," which expresses the desire to retreat from the turbulence of reality "into the artifice of eternity." The first part of the piece combines the organ solely with electronic sounds produced by the Buchla and Moog synthesizers with the second portion composed entirely of so-called "natural" sounds and organ bells.

Pinkham is a composer, harpsichordist, conductor, and organist, who says, "I have always been interested in making music technically accessible, and delight in trying to achieve sonorities by combining instruments in a way that is at once idiomatic for the individual performer and yet new in ensemble sound."

"Concertante" was commissioned by the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (A.G.O.) and published in 1963.

Ms. Oliveros, a member of the UCSD faculty, teaches composition and electronics in music. Her compositions have won awards from the Foundation Gaudeamus in Bilthoven, Holland, and from the Pacifica Foundation as well as research grants in electronic music and theater pieces.

Her work in memory of Valerie Solanas and Marilyn Monroe was commissioned by Howard Hersh for the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and premiered in 1971. The work is based on long tones and modulations and variations of any part of the tones which do not change the fundamental frequency of the tones. Light cues control the pacing of the piece.

Conductor of the chamber orchestra is David Guion. Instruments included in the concert are the celesta played by Grace T'Sou, percussion played by Jean Charles Francois and Ron George, organ played by Ms. Von Gunden, 'cello played by Lynn Barron, flute played by Warren Burt and Stanford Evans, trombone and tape played by Ted Grove, accordion played by Reinhard Berg, clarinet and bass clarinet played by Joan George, trumpet played by Pamela Sawyer, viola played by Steve Gerber, pipes played by Guion, Jack Leung, Berg, Ms. Sawyer, Steve Gerber, and Burt. In addition, the lighting will be directed by Leung.

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