

Composer Charles Wuorinen serves as Regents' Lecturer

May 3, 1976

Pulitzer prizewinner Charles Wuorinen, who ranks among the most accomplished young American composers, will serve as a Regents' Lecturer at the University of California, San Diego during the first two weeks in May. Under the auspices of the UC San Diego Department of Music, Wuorinen will take part in a series of lectures, workshops and informal get-togethers with students and the community.

Wuorinen will discuss his music and music in general during his stay on the campus. The first session of a two part lecture entitled "My Recent Music," to be given with slides and tapes, is set for 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, in the Mandeville Recital Hall. A music seminar is set for noon Thursday, May 6, in room B-210 of the Mandeville Center and a panel discussion on "The Role of Music Departments in Universities" with Wuorinen and music faculty members is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Friday, May 7, also in room B-210 of the Mandeville Center.

The second part of "My Recent Music" will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, at the Center for Music Experiment, building 408 on the Matthews Campus. A performance and discussion of "Janissary Music" will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, in room B-202 of the Mandeville Center. All of the lectures and performances are free and open to the public.

The list of awards and prizes won by Wuorinen began in 1954 when, at the age of 16, he won the New York Philharmonic Young Composers Award. He has a vast following of both dedicated young performers who are eager to play his music and of listeners interested in his work. Because of this he finds himself in the almost unique position of writing exclusively on commission.

Requests have come from individual performers, from universities, foundations and even symphony orchestras. His Pulitzer prizewinning work, "Time's Encomium," was a commission from Nonesuch Records.

"I am a professional musician," Wuorinen commented, "and, being a professional, I must be able to respond to the demands of the situation. In this case, the Nonesuch commission was for an electronic piece suited to the length of an LP."

Born in 1938 in New York City, Wuorinen holds a B.A. degree and an M.A. degree from Columbia University where he studied with Otto Luening, Jack Beeson and Vladimir Ussachevsky. In 1971 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree by the Jersey City State College.

Wuorinen, an accomplished pianist, is also an active conductor since, as he says, "composing is immediately concerned with the practical problems and possibilities of performance." He helped to establish and serves as co-director of the Group for Contemporary Music and has also been instrumental in encouraging a few outstanding young musicians to form the ensemble Speculum Musical to play 20th-century music.

Wuorinen has lectured widely and has served as visiting guest lecturer and visiting composer in residence at universities, conservatories and schools of music throughout the United States. Of his approximately 100 compositions to date, 20 have won prizes and awards and his works have been recorded by eight record companies. In addition, the New York Philharmonic and Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestras, Indianapolis Symphony,

Boston Symphony and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London, have performed his works, several times with Wuorinen himself as the soloist.

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