

Contemporary and avant-garde music to be presented during 11 day opening of Mandeville Auditorium

February 24, 1975

A masterful assortment of contemporary and avant-garde music, including six world premieres, will be offered during the 11-day festival celebration marking the opening of the Mandeville Center for the Arts at the University of California, San Diego.

Music ranging from stage works by UCSD composers to the contemporary vocal music of Charles Ives and from the exotic instruments of Harry Partch to the UCSD Gospel Choir will be heard throughout the festival in the new center. The musicians and performers will make use of the new 851-seat auditorium as well as the smaller rehearsal and recital areas of the building.

The new \$5.3 million Mandeville Center is located in the center of the UCSD campus. The unique building was developed to house office and work space for the Departments of Music and Visual Arts and was first occupied during the 1974 fall academic quarter. The festival, scheduled March 6 through 16, will bring to the campus outstanding musicians, artists and lecturers as well as film and art exhibitions. All of the events are open to the public and many are free.

The opening night performance, scheduled for 9:00 p.m. Thursday, March 6, will feature "Stage Works by UCSD Composers" and will be made up of four works: "Hockshurr," by Jean-Charles Francois, assistant professor of music; "My, My, My What A Wonderful Fall," by Kenneth Gaburo, professor of music; "...From Behind The Unreasoning Mask," by Roger Reynolds, professor of music, and "Crow Two," by Pauline Oliveros, associate professor of music. All but the Reynolds piece will be heard for the first time.

A performance of "The Bewitched" by the late Harry Partch is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 7, in the auditorium. It will be performed by San Diego State University musicians. The Inner City Repertory Dance Company of Los Angeles will perform at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, also in the auditorium.

An environmental music event, "Museums," is scheduled for noon to midnight Saturday, March 8, and Sunday, March 9, in the Recital Hall. Also on March 9, UCSD student musicians will present an experimental music program, "The Atomic Cafe," at 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

"A Chamber Concert in Honor of Ernst Krenek" is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. Monday, March 10, in the Recital Hall of the Mandeville Center. Concert pianist Gary Graffman will perform at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, in the auditorium. "Contemporary Vocal Music," which will include the world premiere of "The Owl and the Pussycat" by UCSD graduate student Deborah Kavasch, will take place at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, in the Recital Hall.

The UCSD Gospel Choir, under the direction of Cecil Lytle and with Edwin Hawkins as soloist, will perform at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13, in the auditorium. "Music for Larger Ensembles," featuring the UCSD Chamber Ensembles and the La Jolla Civic/University Symphony under the direction of Thomas Nee, will be presented at 9:00 p.m. Saturday, March 15, in the auditorium. The performance will feature the world premiere of two pieces: "Concerto for Flutes and Chamber Orchestra" by Joseph Julian, lecturer in the department of music, and "Rainbow Rising" by Robert Erickson, UCSD professor of music.

"Hockshurr" is a game piece -an elaborate hop scotch set- in which 30 people, young and old, take part. The participants are moved through the game by changes in light and create activity by following directions in each square as they move.

"My, My, My What A Wonderful Fall" involves an assembly of dancers Gaburo is working with in the UCSD Center for Music Experiment. It is described as a "Joyful kind of loudness" as the dancers make sounds rather than movement.

"...From Behind the Unreasoning Mask" involves three performers-- a trombonist and two percussionists-- who have to play through the unreasoning mask, in this case a four-channel tape. This piece will feature Stuart Dempster as guest artist on trombone.

"Crow Two" is a ceremonial opera which was commissioned for The Creative Associates by the Center for the Creative and Performing Arts, State University of New York at Buffalo. Funds were provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.

"Crow Two" is a very theatrical piece with many different aspects. It includes a poem to be read by guest poet Margaret A. Porter, a resident of Oceanside; four didgeridoo players playing the meditation instrument of the Australian aborigines, various members of the Crow family, two Crow Heyokas (Heyokas is a Sioux Indian word meaning sacred clown), telepathic improvisation involving the audience, mirror meditation, percussionists, and special lighting. The lighting is also a meditation-- Luminic Meditation-- produced by two luminists from a small pit adjacent to the stage. The light is projected upward to arrangements of mirrors and then reflected downward onto the performers.

"The Bewitched" is a dance-theater musical in which a group of "lost" musicians wander onto a half-dark stage full of strange instruments and begin to play. Through the exotic sound they momentarily find a direction and forget they are lost. An ancient witch materializes and takes command of the lost musicians and they then proceed to conjure up ten scenes of perceptive visions satirizing, through humor and farce, the human situation as we live it.

Partch, born in Oakland in 1901, died recently in San Diego at the age of 73. Recognized as a pathfinder in the field of music theory and composition, he pioneered a direction in music theory that rediscovered lost concepts in musical tuning.

"Museums" includes tapes, films computer sound generation, biofeedback systems, video and video synthesis and photographic displays. Individuals are invited to experience the variety of musical forms and even "make their own music" through biofeedback.

"A Chamber Concert in Honor of Ernst Krenek" will include works by Arnold Schoenberg, Jean-Charles Francois and Will Ogdon as well as works composed by Krenek. The Krenek music will include "Duo for Flutes, Bass and Tape" (1970), "Marginal Sounds" (1957), "Drei Lieder Op. 54" (1927), "Momumenta Vitae" (1972), and "Five Pieces for Trombone" (1967).

The "Contemporary Vocal Music" on March 12 will include "The Celestial Country" by Charles Ives, "General Speech" by Robert Erickson, and "Oh Ha Ah" by Pauline Oliveros in addition to "The Owl and the Pussycat." The music will be performed by the UCSD Concert Choir and Chamber Singers, guest artist Stuart Dempster, and the Extended Vocal Techniques Group of the Center for Music Experiment.

In addition to the two world premieres, "Music for Larger Ensembles" will include "Un Tombeau de Cocteau" by Will Ogdon and "Dans le Sable" by Loren Rush.

Admission will be charged for the following concerts: "Stage Works by UCSD Composers," "The Bewitched," Inner City Repertory Dance Company, "A Chamber Concert in Honor of Ernst Krenek," Gary Graffman, "Contemporary Vocal Music," UCSD Gospel Choir and "Music for Larger Ensembles."

For further information concerning any of the events scheduled during the Mandeville Center Festival, call the UCSD box office at 452-4090.

For further information contact: Paul West, 452-3120

(February 24, 1975)