The Virginia Martin Howard Lecture Series ~ Winter Series 1993

MUSIC INSTRUMENTS
OF EAST AND WEST ASIA

Drums of Korea
Prof. Robert C. Provine
University of Durham ~ Durham, England
Sunday, January 10, 1993
2:00 p.m. ~ School of Music Recital Hall

Korea's food is spicy. Korean music is equally dynamic and appealing. One of its strongest flavors is rhythm and the best known ingredient is the sound of the changgo drum. It is heard in ancient orchestral music, lively instrumental and vocal concerts, shaman rites, and flashy farmer's dances. With the generous cooperation of the Rackham Graduate School and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures of the University of Michigan, the Stearns' winter series will begin with Prof. Robert C. Provine from England. He will lead us through a variety of genres and Korean drums with sounds, slides, and instruments. These have been the topics of his research from his Harvard Ph.D. to his many new studies and translations of rare documents from Korea. As the photo shows Dr. Provine is a performer as well as the leading Western scholar on Korean music. It promises to be an exciting and informative opening of our Virginia Martin Howard 1993 lectures. A special exhibit of Korean instruments will be in the lower Stearns gallery to add to your enjoyment and appreciation of Korea's music.

The Winds and Strings of Lebanon
Prof. Jihad Racy
UCLA ~ Los Angeles, California
Sunday, February 14, 1993
2:00 p.m. ~ School of Music Recital Hall

In 1967, your Stearns director attended a UNESCO conference in Teheran. On the way he stopped in Beirut to investigate the state of indigenous music. There he met a talented young Lebanese lute player and encouraged him to study ethnomusicology in the U.S. Jihad Racy did so (at Illinois) and now has become not only a fine scholar on the music of West Asia but also an internationally famous performer of Lebanese music. With the cooperation of the Center for Near Eastern and North African Studies of the University of Michigan, Prof. Racy will be teaching at the University for two weeks in February. Thanks to Mrs. Howard's endowment, The Stearns will take advantage of his visit with a lecture demonstration on many of the strings and winds that add such a delicate color to the music of his homeland. The program is enhanced with beautiful Near Eastern instruments from The Stearns on exhibited in the Music Library.
A Michigan "Music Man"

by William Malm, Ph.D.

Remember the 1957 Meredith Wilson musical, "The Music Man"? An itinerant salesman, "Professor" Harold Hill comes to River City, Iowa to sell the townspeople on music and the purchase of many instruments and accessories before he moves on. The story is not just about a romantic con artist. It also captures the spirit of American imagination and dash. In the School of Music main entrance lobby you can see a Stearns exhibit, "Made in USA," that shows other examples from our heritage of tin smith skills and enterprise. In particularly there are the instruments of Henry Charles Marx (1875-1947).

Mr. Marx came to our attention through an inquiry from Magnolia, Texas about the value of a Violin-Uke from the Marxochime colony in New Troy, Michigan. Museums do not give evaluations of instruments but in order to reply to the inquiry another Stearns adventure began. With the help of the Berrien County Historical Society we have the following very American tale to tell. Henry Marx began his career in Clay Center, Kansas as a barber, carpenter, and sewing machine cleaner. He also played violin and added music lessons to his professions. However, he soon found that children don't take lessons once summer arrives. To cover the family funds he moved to New Jersey where he bought instruments and then sold them door to door. He continued his traveling music man career through Kansas City and Independence, Missouri and even Boston. By then he had developed a skill at recruiting local men to sell instruments door to door while he moved on to the next town. His young son, Charles, following behind to collect the funds and overdue bills.

Henry's next location was Chicago where he purchased a three-story house with workshops on the first two floors and the family on top. He would design new instruments which his son then built. While Charles built the musical novelties, Henry continued to sell the products door to door throughout the country though they once appeared in the Sears & Roebuck catalogue as well. When home he seems to have spent his evenings dreaming of new instruments.

In 1927 the family moved to New Troy, Michigan where the Marxochime Colony factory was built. The fertile mind of our Yankee tradesman continued to create not only its popular Violin-Uke (a bowed zither) but such exotica as the Pianolin, Violin-Guitar, and Hawaii-Phone. Three of his creations are seen in our exhibit, purchased in mint condition in their original boxes from a Michigan antique sale. The exhibit also contains Henry's unique notation system (see chart). Apparently the door to door salesman gave a free lesson on the notation with a purchase though a further lessons of this challenging system seemed unlikely once the next train left town.

Marx continued to invent ingenious instruments, picks, strings, pegs and notation and his son built Marxochime instruments until his own death in 1972. The factory still stands in New Troy though a leaky roof destroyed most of the stock because of its water soluble glue and thin wood. Still, the mechanical skills, imagination and salesmanship of Henry Marx evoke an appreciation and a nostalgic smile as strong as that of a performance of "The Music Man."

The Stearns continues to surprise its supporters and even itself. Just recently we discovered a piece of junk that isn't. We will tell you about it in the next newsletter.

Music for the Marxophone...

"Nearer My God To Thee" by H.C. Marx, Inventor

KEY of C

Place + under clips and begin at arrow, follow the line to the first note. Press the key under the note and hold it down until you count as many beats as represented by note, then continue to follow the line to the next note and do likewise to the end of the line. The numbers beside the notes indicate which chord must be struck at the same time you press down the key. A dot after note increases its value one half.
Don’t Miss These Other Exotic Events...

**A Javanese Gamelan Concert**  
Friday, March 26  
8:00 PM  
Rackham ~ The University of Michigan

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**Japanese Koto...**  
**Festival and Shamisen Music**  
Saturday, March 27  
8:00 PM  
School of Music Recital Hall

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**Japanese Music Study Group**  
**“Modern Traditional Japanese Music”**  
Saturday, April 3  
8:00 PM  
Rackham ~ The University of Michigan  
All events are open to the public without charge!

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**OOPS, OUR ERROR.** In the fall newsletter issue (Vol 7, no 1) we honored Dr. Tetewsky’s violinist brother with the wrong first name! He is Jerry not Henry Tetewsky. His bows remain just as valuable as part of our collection. Our apologies to Dr. Tetewsky.

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Start the year off right! Open or renew your membership in the Stearns Freinds...

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**BECOME A FRIEND OF THE STEARNS**

With your help, additional instruments may be restored, played, displayed, and appreciated by the musical public. Friends receive *The Stearns Newsletter*, invitations to the *Virginia Martin Howard Lectures* and announcements of upcoming exhibits and performances. Your tax deductible contribution will help support all activities of *The Stearns Collection*.

Membership in the **Friends of the Stearns** is available in the following categories:

- **Benefactor** $1,000  
- **Patron** $500  
- **Sustaining** $100  
- **Friend** $30

- **Student / Senior Citizen / Beyond 200 miles** $15

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Please circle title(s) and print your name above as you would like it to appear on donor lists

Spouse/’s/Partner’s name if not given above

Phone number

Street  
City  
State  
Zip Code

Please mail this form with your check to: Friends of the Stearns, The University of Michigan School of Music, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109.
What's New at the Stearns?

As you walk towards the School of Music library you will see a new exhibit guaranteed to turn your head. It is entitled Getting A Head in Music. It contains European stringed instruments that use human head carvings in place of their scrolls. See a satyr grinning on top of a tromba marina, a rare Italian sixteenth century bowed string that is said to sound like a trumpet. The head on a lute/guitar shows a nineteenth century European university orientation by its student cap and macho saber scars on its cheeks. Beethoven glowers down the finger board of one violin while Pagganini decorates the back. Thanks to mirrors you can see both sides of two other violins. Inlay pictures of cities dominate the backs while heads add dignity to the scrolls. Take a look. Its free, thanks to friends support.

Recent acquisitions from New Guinea, Thailand, and Australia add the exotic possibilities of Stearns research and exhibition. Learn more about them in future newsletters.

A more exotic world will soon await you in the Virginia Patton Moss case in the lower gallery where the sacred flutes of New Guinea mentioned in the Volume 6, no. 3 Newsletter make their debut along with other recent acquisition.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of Vida Chenoweth yet another pair of sacred flutes, a handsome slit gong, and a rare lizard skinned drum enrich this exhibit. Dr. Chenoweth has also lent us her most treasured personal gift from her years a dedicated work and study in New Guinea. It is an extremely rare bamboo trumpet whose mouthpiece is made from a coconut shell. Other drums collected by Mr. Stearns some one hundred years ago will also be part of this unusual exhibit. Thanks to the support of Virginia and Cruse Moss, the actual sounds of these instruments will literally be at your fingertips as you stand before the case. Valuable acquisitions and modern exhibition techniques are made possible by outside support. Join in the action as we seek endowments to guarantee our continued service to the professional and public communities.

The Stearns Collection
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