

Faculty Senate Committee on Music
Annual Report for the 2006/2007 Academic Year

Committee Members: Clare Fewtrell (Chair), Graeme Bailey, John Forester, Jerrold Meinwald, Rebecca Harris-Warrick (Music Department Chair), Elaine Westbrooks (Staff Representative), Anthony Reed (Graduate Student Representative), Chris Sarra (Undergraduate Student Representative), Tokiko Nobusawa (Concert Manager), Yvette Lucente (Concert Series Assistant)

The Music Committee has met frequently throughout the year to ensure the continued success of the Cornell Concert Series and to plan the concerts for our next season. Brochures for this year's concert season and the upcoming season are attached.

Our Concert Manager, Kiko Nobusawa, and her assistant Yvette Lucente, have continued to do a superb job of booking performers and organizing and running all aspects of our very wide-ranging concert series. We have continued to book both well established and up and coming artists, with a strong emphasis on exciting and musically outstanding performers and programs. In addition to our "Classical Collection", which forms the core of the concert series, we had an exciting "Jazz Sundays" series this year, and in the coming year there will be a "Word at Bailey" series featuring performers from around the world.

Bringing world-famous performers and other outstanding musicians and performing groups to Cornell would not be possible without the generous support that we receive from the university and the Provost. As is the case for most performing arts organizations, our ticket prices rarely cover the cost of the concert, even when it is sold out, so we are extremely grateful that Cornell recognizes the value of our concert series and generously provides us with the financial means to bring these exciting concerts and performers to campus.

A major event this year was the reopening of Bailey Hall and the return of the entire Concert Series to the Cornell Campus. Our committee helped evaluate the new acoustics in Bailey Hall by initiating an audience survey that was conducted in paper form at several of the early concerts. We also solicited comments on the acoustics from our subscribers, via email, and several of our committee members attended a special rehearsal designed to test the new acoustic devices in the hall.

We, like concert series everywhere, are no longer seeing the sold-out performances that were common a decade or two ago. Our committee frequently discusses how we can increase the size and diversity of our audiences and whether we are offering the right mix of concerts. The Concert Series used to present only classical music, but in recent years has widened its scope to include, jazz, world music and dance programs. To determine how our audience views our concert programming and other aspects of the Concert Series, we conducted a survey at our last concert of this year's season and also invited everyone on our electronic mailing list to complete a web-based survey. Respondents were very enthusiastic about the Concert Series and the types of programming that it is featuring. As might be expected, since classical programs predominate, classical music garnered the most compliments, comments and suggestions, but it is clear that jazz, world music and dance also have very strong followings.

The committee is now embarking on a survey of selected concert series at other universities and colleges, concentrating on those that have a fairly similar potential audience pool to ours in the Ithaca area. Our hope is that we can come up with some novel ideas on programming and marketing our series so that we can attract a larger and even more diverse audience from Cornell and Ithaca College (faculty staff and students) and from communities in Ithaca and the surrounding areas.

Clare Fewtrell (Chair 2006/07)
9th. July 2007