

Ecstasy for the Ears— 1986 Bach Festival

by Deborah McGee

Summer's debut brings supreme ecstasies for the ears—and another of Eugene's famed foot races.

The prestigious Oregon Bach Festival opens Sunday with Bach Run III in the morning, and an evening performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's music at Silva Concert Hall.

Helmuth Rilling, one of Europe's foremost choral conductors, returns to Eugene for the Festival's 17th year. The University of Oregon School of Music presents a fortnight of festivities, with a grand finale concert, again in Silva, on Sunday, July 6.

These next weeks will see a total of 34 musical offerings. There is a special Children's Program Series on Saturdays, and six free non-time concerts will take place in the Hult Center lobby. The core of the festival, though, is in its afternoon lecture/performance and the 15 full-fledged Evening Concerts.

The doors of both Beall Hall on the U of O campus and Eugene Downtown's Hult Center will see much opening and closing in the days of the OBF. Our city becomes an oasis in the global village, as the paths of internationally known musicians and music lovers converge to make music together.

This year's program weighs less heavily with the works of Bach than last year's, which was a celebration of the prodigious composer's birthday. Musical selections for 1986 include a sampling of nearly everything between Bach and The Blues.

Not-strictly-musical happenings include: the run, a lecture/panel discussion featuring the popular *San Francisco Chronicle* music critic Robert Paul Commanday, and an evening open-air picnic where one can bribe a musician for his or her company merely by paying the price of the meal.

For exact details of all events, refer to the *What's Happening* schedule printed elsewhere in this paper. The Festival's own pre-printed schedules are available in numerous public places about town and are accurate at press time, according to Henriette Heiny, OBF Director of Marketing and Development.

Evening Concerts

"We think Silva is wonderful for major works," says Heiny, and pointed out that the large-scale choral/orchestral performances planned there are the sort of thing for which the Hall acoustically was designed. Rilling will conduct four of the seven Silva Hall concerts, which will feature works by the Festival's namesake, as well as Mozart, Handel and Monteverdi among others. Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* will resound within the luxurious concert hall on the last Friday of the celebration.

Beall Hall concerts will occur on a more intimate scale, with several evenings of chamber and other music planned. One highlight of this series should be the July 1 recital featuring organ music of Bach and Frescobaldi, which will give us a chance to hear the pipes which line the wall of Beall.

There are nine concerts in the Beall Hall series, featuring various combinations of orchestral instruments. Local Renaissance and Medieval music lovers may note that three programs mention

harpsichord, recorder or harp. Other composers to be represented are Beethoven and Dvorak.

The list of 200 world musicians to attend the OBF reads like a world geography text. It includes soprano Costanza Cuccaro (Berlin) and mezzo-soprano Sarah Walker (London). Both will appear with Rilling at the first and last Silva concerts, as well as in a July 2 performance of Mozart's *G-Minor Symphony* and *Requiem* *quiem*.

Peripatetic choirmaster and local summertime hero, Rilling has recorded more than 200 classical record albums, mostly for CBS and Laundate. With the Gaechinger Kantorei, the Stuttgart (Germany) based vocal ensemble he founded, Rilling travels extensively. H. Royce Salzman, OBF Executive Director, says Rilling recently completed a tour of Israel. At the start of the tour, Zubin Mehta (New York Philharmonic) handed on the baton to Rilling, a gesture of some honor in the field of music conducting.

Five Eugene-based musicians are among the featured soloists at the Festival: Dean Kramer and Victor Steinhart (both piano), George Recker (trumpet), Neill Archer Roan (guitar), and Larry Maves (violin). Kathy Kienzie, Eugene native currently solo harpist with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, will be featured at a June 25 harp and flute recital and the Saturday June 28 Rilling-conducted Silva Hall performance of Monteverdi's *Vespers*.

The artists-in-attendance list glitters so much it is hard to know when to stop. Many other European artists will be here, including Hans Joachim Erhard (harpsichord) and Ingo Goritzki (oboe and oboe d'amore), both from Germany. New York sends us tenor David Gordon among others. The Los Angeles-based Fine Arts Brass Quintet and The Musical Offering also will join the festival.

Performance Plus Scholarship

What began in 1970 as a summer workshop for choral conductors at which only one concert was performed now sees the brightest formal and informal scholars of the music world. Performers-by-night become scholars-by-day and the general public may watch conductor/teacher Rilling at work in the afternoon lecture/performance series, while hearing fine music at the same time.

At a typical daily 5:15 lecture/performance, each of which features a Bach cantata or orchestral suite, Rilling makes introductory remarks on the music to which he has devoted his life. Reviewers describing these events focus on the personality of Rilling, who conducts from memory, "peppering scholarship with wit." At the first, Rilling conducts, but at subsequent ones he turns over the podium to one of his master-class students.

Master classes in voice and several instruments are offered through the University of Oregon School of Music. The master class in conducting "is the principal part of this unique curriculum," according to OBF literature.

Any person wishing to study with the OBF also may enroll as a



Festival Scholar. For a \$400 fee, one acquires choice tickets for all performances and the freedom to audit rehearsals and master classes.

Children's and Free Concerts

Throughout the Festival, Saturdays will witness flocks of little people thronging the Hult Center lobby on their way to fantastical adventures in the Soreng Theatre.

The Eugene Ballet will delight them on the first Saturday with *The Soldier's Tale* (Stravinsky/C.F. Ramuz); the Eugene Opera follows a week later with a performance of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (Judith Lang-Zaimont). The final Saturday will see the creation of a world of imagination with masks and mime, in two performances of the Los Angeles-based Theatre Mask Ensemble. Seating is open to big people, too, who may want to witness the airy spontaneity of children experiencing art.

The first afternoon concert on Monday, June 23, at 5:15 pm is free. It is part of the lecture/performance series and Bach's *Cantata BWV 140 Wachet auf* will be performed. You need to pick up vouchers at any Pacific First Federal Bank and redeem them for tickets at the Hult Center.

The free Hult lobby noon-time concert series features local performers and occur on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the OBF. Old Brass and Ivory, playing Scott Joplin favorites, and the Kammerer-Dowd Jazz Duo, playing their own piano and vibraphone compositions, are scheduled respectively on Mondays.

Wednesdays will see first an oboe and horn recital of Schumann and Strauss music, then a week later the Dana Lutes Ensemble will entertain with early 20th Century blues and such popular music as "Lullaby in Birdland."

The first Friday in the series has the Eugene Symphony Ensemble, mainly woodwinds, performing Mozart and Beethoven. The last Friday offering is the Oregon Brass Quintet, which will play some Debussy, Scarlatti and from Bach's "The Art of the Fugue."

Performance Offshoots

The Festival's Critics Panel this year features a major American music critic, Robert Paul Cannaday. He will speak on "Everyone a Critic (Go and Criticize Yourself)" in a free public event. Harvard- and Juilliard-educated Cannaday has an extensive music background, teaches at British Columbia's University of Victoria, and is summering in Boulder, directing the Music Critics and Editors Institute there.

When asked about the origins of the Nike-sponsored Bach Run, Heiny said festival organizers just thought of the idea, publicized it, and she added with a laugh, "600 people showed up the first time!" That was three years ago.

Sunday's race includes a 1 km sprint in the heart of downtown, as well as a 5 km competition along a city-center route. Participants may register as late as 9:30 the day of the race, at the starting point near the main fountain in

OREGON BACH FESTIVAL SCHEDULE JUNE 22 - JULY 6, 1986

Evening Concerts, Silva Concert Hall, (8:00 p.m.)
Tickets \$5.50, \$8.50, \$12.50, \$16.50

6-22	Sun	Bach: Suite No. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068, Motet Singet dem Herrn, Magnificat*
6-26	Thu	Concerti: Handel, Vivaldi, Bach, Marcelllo
6-28	Sat	Monteverdi: Vespers*
7-2	Wed	Mozart: G Minor Symphony and Requiem*
7-4	Fri	Vivaldi: Four Seasons; Corelli, Bach
7-6	Sun	Bach: Mass in B Minor*

Evening Concerts, Beall Hall (8:30 p.m.)
Tickets \$6.50, \$9.50, \$12.50

6-23	Mon	Chamber Music: Dvorak and Beethoven
6-24	Tue	Fine Arts Brass Quintet
6-25	Wed	Harp and Flute Recital
6-27	Fri	Chamber Music: Horn, Violin, Piano
6-29	Sun	Oboe and Harpsichord Recital
6-30	Mon	Chamber Music: Recorder and Strings
7-1	Tue	Recital: Organ Music of Bach and Frescobaldi
7-3	Thu	Tenor and Guitar Recital
7-5	Sat	Chamber Music (Musical Offering of Los Angeles)

Afternoon Concerts, Silva Concert Hall, (5:15 p.m.)
Tickets: \$3.50 general admission; \$1.50 children under 12, students, and senior citizens

6-23	Mon	Bach: Cantata, BWV 140 Wachet auf* *
6-24	Tue	Bach: Cantata BWV 1 Wie schön leuchtet
6-25	Wed	Bach: Cantata BWV 12 Weimen, Klagen
6-26	Thu	Bach: Suite No. 1 in C Major, BWV 1066
6-27	Fri	Bach: Cantata BWV 29 Wir danken dir
6-30	Mon	Bach: Cantata BWV 208 Was mir behagt
7-1	Tue	Bach: Cantata BWV 19 Er erhuh sich
7-3	Thu	Bach: Cantata BWV 79 Gott der Herr
7-4	Fri	Bach: Suite No. 4 in D Major, BWV 1069

Children's Programs, Soreng Theatre
Tickets: \$5.50 adults, \$3.50 children under 12

6-28	Sat	10:30 Eugene Ballet Company Stravinski: The Soldier's Tale 2:30 Eugene Opera Lang-Zaimont: Goldilocks and the Three Bears
7-5	Sat	10:30 Theatre Mask Ensemble 2:30 Theatre Mask Ensemble

Noon Concerts, Hult Center Lobby FREE

6-23	Mon	Old Brass and Ivory
6-25	Wed	Oboe and Horn Recital
6-27	Fri	Eugene Symphony Ensemble
6-30	Mon	Kammerer-Dowd Jazz Duo
7-2	Wed	Dana Lutes Ensemble
7-4	Fri	Oregon Brass Quintet

*Helmuth Rilling, Conductor

* This concert is free. You need to pick up vouchers from any Pacific First Federal Bank and take them to the Hult Center to redeem for tickets.

the Downtown Mall.

The OBF Bach Supper will be served in the middle Sunday of the event. Artists and audience meet at an open-air picnic behind the School of Music. \$15 tickets include two box suppers, wine and entertainment for each musician/patron pair. (While under the auspices of the U of O School of Music and generously supported by the city, 95 percent of the revenues for the OBF derive from ticket sales, grants and private

donations.)

Happily, KWAX FM 91 again will broadcast the lecture/performance series at 10 am weekdays following live presentations. All 15 evening concerts eventually will be aired, in a series of broadcasts ranging from July 7 to June 15 of next year. This fine arts public radio station housed at the U of O will join efforts with Portland and Ashland Public Radio to broadcast the concerts state-wide.

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