

The UO School of Music presents

MUSIC TODAY FESTIVAL

"A Contemporary Mosaic"

Feb. 16-23

O

UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

For more information or Festival brochure, call 346-5678

Thursday, Feb. 17 • 8 p.m., Beall Hall
20th/21st CENTURY AMERICAN SAMPLER

UO faculty perform music by Libby Larsen, Lukas Foss, Henry Cowell, Pauline Oliveros, and others.
\$9 General Admission, \$5 students & senior citizens

Friday, Feb. 18 • 8 p.m., Beall Hall
PAULINE OLIVEROS, Composer/Accordion

UO Vanguard Series
Music by one of the leading avant-garde composers.
\$9 General Admission, \$5 students & senior citizens



Saturday, Feb. 19 • 8 p.m., Beall Hall
SANTA FE GUITAR QUARTET

UO Vanguard Series
Innovative ensemble from Argentina performs music by Aaron Copland, Astor Piazzolla, and others.
\$9 General Admission, \$5 students & senior citizens



Sunday, Feb. 20 • 7 p.m., Cozmic Pizza
EUGENE COMPOSERS COLLECTIVE

New music by local composers.
\$2 General Admission



Monday, Feb. 21 • 8 p.m., Beall Hall
PACIFIC RIM GAMELAN

An evening of premieres with the UO's Balinese gamelan—a percussion orchestra of gongs, bells, and drums.
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens



Tuesday, Feb. 22 • 8 p.m., Beall Hall
TRIO PACIFICA

Victor Steinhardt, Kathryn Lucktenberg, and Steven Pologe perform music by Bolcom, Steinhardt, and Beethoven.
\$9 General Admission, \$5 students & senior citizens

Wednesday, Feb. 23 • 8 p.m., Beall Hall
BENJAMIN BAGBY'S BEOWULF

UO Vanguard Series
A re-creation of the medieval epic with original music by one of the world's foremost scholars of early music.
\$9 General Admission, \$5 students & senior citizens



music BY BRETT CAMPBELL



Pauline Oliveros

Contemporary Mosaic

UO's Music Today Festival brings bleeding edge sounds to town.

The UO's biennial ear-opening Music Today festival is Eugene's best opportunity to experience a broad range of contemporary art music in a short time. This year's highlight is a performance by **Pauline Oliveros**, (see Jan. 6 *EW* archives for profile in *Bravo!*). Her concert on Friday, Feb. 18 at Beall Concert Hall features 1970s works inspired by meditation and improvisation. I hope Eugene's legions of meditators and improvisers, as well as fans of contemporary music, will turn out to hear one of America's greatest living composers.

On Thursday, Feb. 17, the festival features a wide-ranging overview of new sounds by Oliveros and fellow distaff composers **Libby Larsen**, **Elizabeth Vercoe**, and **Shulamit Ran**, along with works by the great California maverick composer/teacher **Henry Cowell**, **Lukas Foss**, and the UO's own **Robert Kyr**. With UO faculty musicians on flute, clarinet, sax, piano, voice, and bassoon, as well as the Oregon Percussion Ensemble, this should be one of the year's most diverse and intriguing concerts of contemporary music.

On Saturday, Feb. 19, the festival brings back Argentina's **Santa Fe Guitar Quartet** in music from the 20th century by Aaron Copland, tango master Astor Piazzolla, jazz great Paquito D'Rivera and more. On Sunday, Feb. 20, the festival sponsors the latest offerings from our own **Eugene Composers Collective**, whose last concert packed DIVA. Continuing their efforts to present contemporary music in a relaxed and fun setting, this show happens at Cozmic Pizza, and I urge everyone to invest \$2 in the future of music made in Oregon. You can also hear new music from the next generation on Monday, Feb. 21, when the **UO's Pacific Rim Gamelan** presents original music by student composers written for the bronze percussion instruments of Bali.

Three UO faculty members (**Kathryn Lucktenberg**, violin; **Steven Pologe**, cello; and **Victor Steinhardt**, piano) return on Feb. 22 in music by Steinhardt himself, Seattle native and ragtime master William Bolcom, and Beethoven. And new American music appears at the Feb. 24 concert of the **Eugene Symphony**, when composer in residence Philip Rothman is here for a performance of his "Morningside Run," inspired by his daily jog along Manhattan's Riverside Drive. The concert—maybe the symphony's most attractive this season—also includes the stirring cantata from Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*, probably the greatest orchestral music ever composed for film.

It's a great time for all this American music to be playing in town, because dozens of American music scholars will descend on Eugene Feb. 16-20 for the **Society for American Music** national conference, featuring discussions of music from avant-garde to African American, blues to Bernstein, country to Cage. The conference contains far too many discussions, performances, and events to list here, but you can find out more at www.american-music.org or by contacting Prof. Anne Dhu McLucas at 346-5605. One of the SAM events is a Feb. 17 showing at DIVA of a documentary-in-progress on the great Oregon-born composer Lou Harrison.

Last fall, mild mannered **Benjamin Bagby** was leading his renowned early music ensemble, **Sequentia**, through a sublime concert of medieval harper songs—when he suddenly transformed into a ferocious warrior and other characters from the Icelandic epic the *Edda*. On Wednesday, Feb. 23, Bagby closes the Music Today Festival by bringing the European ur-epic, *Beowulf*, to life at Beall. Along with his narration (which seems too tame a word for his riveting interpretation), this latter-day bard also improvises the accompaniment on the lyre, in a style suitable to the period. Anyone interested in dramatic storytelling as well as powerful music should check this out.

Another example of what might be called "new old" music happens on Feb. 19 (Hult Center) and 20 (The Shedd), the **Oregon Mozart Players** play a fascinating new arrangement of one of Mahler's most moving creations, *The Song of the Earth*. Mahler based his German lyrics on Chinese poems, and OMP Music Director has rearranged the music to fit those original Chinese texts, and a chamber-sized orchestra. The concert also includes one of the OMP's namesake's most exciting works, Mozart's *Symphony #35*.

The Shedd continues its remarkable run with a Feb. 19 concert by the hot young jazz singer **Karrin Allyson**, who's been reviving '70s soft rock (e.g. Joni Mitchell) as jazz ballads, and mixing it with older standards, bop, and bossa nova. On Saturday, Feb. 19, Café Paradiso celebrates the release of Richard Crandell's *Mbira Magic* CD, produced by the great New York avant-jazzier John Zorn. Crandell has played with everyone from Leo Kottke to Taj Mahal to John Fahey, and his multitracked mbiras (the beautifully zingy Zimbabwean so called thumb piano) weave mesmerizing patterns reminiscent of minimalist composers such as Steve Reich, so this should be a fascinating concert experience. *EW*