



NEWSLETTER

of

The American Musical Instrument Society

Volume 36, No.1

Spring 2007

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

PREPARATIONS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY FOR MEETING AT YALE

As announced in earlier issues of the Newsletter, the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Society will take place on the campus of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, from Wednesday, 27 June, through Sunday, 01 July 2007. The Program Committee is pleased to report that preparations are proceeding smoothly. Details about accommodations, travel, and the meeting's schedule appear below.



Yale campus at night. Photo: Michael Marsland

A total of 53 papers has been selected for presentation by organologists and instrument enthusiasts from as far away as Turkey, Australia, and Japan. Presenters will also hail from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In general, the paper sessions will follow a chronological path from

the Middle Ages to the present, beginning with Josephine Yannacopoulou's *Putting Medieval Society in Context: New Perspectives on Early Organological Iconography* and culminating with Ardal Powell, Mark Katz, and Thomas Porcello's joint presentation entitled *Musical Instrumentalities*, which will include papers on "art" machines, turntablism, and "liveness" while recording instrumental sound.

Cecilia Brauer has volunteered to give a lecture/demonstration about Benjamin Franklin and the armonica; and Robert Howe, about the maturation, use, and abuse of the heckelphone. Additionally, it is hoped that the Connecticut-based Moodus Drum and Fife Corps & Mattatuck Drum Band will be on hand to assist Susan Cifaldi in the presentation of her paper, *Drums of "Brown's Make" and Their*

Influence on Connecticut's "Ancient" Drumming, and to provide live music in the courtyard of Saybrook College during Saturday's noon hour.

Two performing groups have been engaged for concerts on Wednesday and Thursday evenings: The Ivory Consort will present *Music in the Land of Three Faiths* (Christian, Jewish, and Muslim music in medieval Spain), and the Venere Lute Quartet will offer *Palestrina's Lute* (Renaissance sacred

and secular music by Palestrina, Vallet, Praetorius, and Holborne). A third concert scheduled for Friday evening will feature a number of historical keyboard instruments in Yale's Collection of Musical Instruments.

✂ Susan E. Thompson
Program Co-Chairman, and Local Arrangements Chairman, AMIS 2007

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A Gothic revival ivory harp in the Yale Collection. Photo credit: Michael Marsland

American Musical
Instrument Society
Newsletter

Dwight Newton, Editor
James B. Kopp, Review Editor

The Newsletter is published in spring, summer, and fall for members of the American Musical Instrument Society (AMIS). News items, photographs, and short articles or announcements are invited, as well as any other information of interest to AMIS members.

Contributions for the Newsletter and correspondence concerning its content should be sent, preferably as Microsoft Word attachments to:

Dwight Newton
University of Kentucky School of Music
105 Fine Arts Building
Lexington, KY 40506-0022
Phone: 859-257-1808
Email: dwight.newton@uky.edu

Address changes, dues payments, requests for back issues of AMIS publications, and requests for information on membership should be sent to:

American Musical Instrument Society
389 Main Street, Suite 202
Malden, MA 02148
Email: amis@guildassoc.com
Phone: (781) 397-8870
Fax: (781) 397-8887

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE


Yesterday I spent a sunny, spring-like day on the campus of Yale University with my good colleague Susan Thompson, working on plans for AMIS's annual meeting in June. It's clear that AMIS members are going to thrive in the atmosphere of this handsome campus, which combines new, high-tech research facilities with the old stone buildings and gracious courtyards reminiscent of Oxbridge colleges. The splendid Yale Collection of Musical Instruments will host a keyboard session as well as a concert during the meeting, but we will have opportunities to become acquainted with numerous other intriguing spaces on the campus as well. The Beinecke Library, internationally renowned for its precious collections of rare books and manuscripts, will open its doors to AMIS members on Wednesday afternoon, 27 June, for our keynote addresses, Curt Sachs Award presentation, and opening reception. Saybrook College, one of the lovely residential colleges in Oxbridge style, will be the site of our lunches and Saturday evening banquet. Yale University has a rich musical heritage, from the founding of the School of Music in 1894, to the Glenn Miller Band's live broadcasts from Woolsey Hall in the 1940s, to the acquisition of the Frederick R. Koch collection of musical manuscripts in 1996. I am delighted that the American Musical Instrument Society will have this chance, the first since 1978, to contribute its share to Yale's musical culture. Registration materials for the meeting will be mailed shortly. Please register early in order to benefit from lower registration fees and so that meeting planners will have a good sense of how many attendees to expect.

The recent AMIS election confirmed that our new president will be Stewart Carter. Those of you who are familiar with Stew's many contributions to AMIS over the years—he has served on the AMIS Board of Governors and on several committees, worked as program chair of the Winston-Salem meeting in 2004, and was winner of the Densmore Prize the same year—will recognize as I do that leadership of the society will be in excellent hands. Darcy Kuronen, Carolyn Bryant, and Marlowe Sigal will continue in the positions that they have filled so ably as vice president, secretary,

and treasurer. The Board of Governors will receive two new members, Doug Koeppel and Brenda Neece, as well as the continued service of Deborah Reeves and Susan Thompson in second terms. I wish to thank all the members of the Board of Governors for their wise counsel and diligent attention to the many tasks involved in running the society.

With this issue the AMIS Newsletter introduces its new editor, Dwight Newton. Dwight has already made his presence felt in the skill and efficiency with which he has brought the AMIS website into the 21st century, and we can be grateful that he has volunteered his time and energy to publishing the Newsletter as well. I would like once again to thank our previous editor, Barbara Gable, for her countless hours of hard work over the last few years, and for her contributions to easing this transition. We can also be thankful that Dwight's institution, the University of Kentucky, has made it possible for AMIS to mail its Newsletter more cheaply and efficiently. There are so many ways in which AMIS benefits from the support of our great educational institutions, whether universities, colleges, or museums. It is important now and then to reflect on that and to acknowledge our debt to them.

This is my last President's Message, since my term will come to an end at the meeting in June. It has been a privilege to serve as your President, and I have appreciated the collegiality and friendship of the members of this extraordinary society. As of 1 July, I'll be taking over as president of the Mozart Society of America and as Chair of the Music Department at Vassar College. While I can't exactly say that I'll be any less busy when my term with AMIS is over, I know that I've learned a great deal from AMIS that will be of terrific value in the next phase of my career. Those of us who join societies, and invest our various resources in making them flourish, are always amply repaid by the sense of shared interests, endeavors, and accomplishment. And as Shirley Chisholm once said, "Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." I send warm greetings and good wishes to all of you.

 Kathryn L. Libin

HENRY Z. STEINWAY HONORED



Henry Z. Steinway and Kathryn Libin in the new Henry Z. Steinway Gallery at the Museum of Making Music, Carlsbad, California. Photo by Laurence Libin.

AMIS member Henry Z. Steinway, who turned 91 last year, was honored at two special events preceding the annual NAMM convention in California during January. In Carlsbad, an exhibition gallery was named for Henry at the Museum of Making Music, of which Henry was the founding president. Then, at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach, Steinway & Sons introduced two new grand piano models designed to recognize Henry's 70-year association with the firm founded by his great-grandfather. Both models incorporate Henry's initials in the carved music rack and have other distinctive woodwork features. These two handsome pianos and two other new Art Case Steinway grands were formally unveiled at Steinway Days 2007, an international gathering of dealers, by AMIS President Kathryn Libin. At the same gala event, AMIS member Cynthia Hoover announced a \$600,000 grant from the Target Foundation to the Smithsonian Institution in support of an on-line searchable transcription of the extensive William Steinway diary, a major source for 19th-century New York history.



EDITOR'S NOTE

I wish to thank Kathryn Libin and the Board for their trust in me as I take on the responsibilities as your new Newsletter editor. Thanks also to Barbara Gable, who did most of the leg work on this issue and has helped me to get oriented, and to Susan Thompson for amassing the conference information. Also thanks to the numerous others who have contacted me to offer their support and friendship.

I came to my first AMIS conference last year in Vermillion and, while I am a fairly new member, I am not new to organology. I am a graduate (1978) of New College in Florida, where I wrote my senior thesis on the *tromba marina* and presented a paper

on that subject to the Southern Chapter of AMS. I have an M.A. (1981) in Musicology from the University of Kentucky. I have been an amateur luthier since 1969, when I built my first Appalachian dulcimer. I have since built a variety of instruments, including an improvised *cheng*, a Ukrainian *bandura*, several small harps, a Norwegian *langeleik*, and various other odds and ends (mostly odds).

I have spent much of my professional life supporting historical societies, libraries, and arts organizations as both employee and grantee, especially using technology. I am currently employed as the Public Information Coordinator at the University of Kentucky School of Music. This is also the home of the John Jacob Niles collection, which includes most of the unique handmade dulcimers Niles used throughout his career. I have been documenting these objects for a paper I hope to publish.

In Vermillion, I spoke to Kathryn about setting up an email Listserv for AMIS in order to have an immediate, informal means of communicating among the membership, and thus to continue in some way the sense of camaraderie from the conference. I determined that the University of Kentucky would be able to provide the infrastructure at no cost and volunteered to moderate the list. When Kathryn approached me about managing the AMIS web site, I was delighted to be able to offer my services. There is always work to be done on the content, but the infrastructure is vastly improved and much better organized.

My mission is to find ways for AMIS to serve a wider public. I hope the web site will provide an inviting place for both the academic organologist and the passionate amateur collector and researcher. Via my own websites at Oriscus.com and Mewzik.com, I have communicated with thousands of amateur collectors from around the world who are hungry for authoritative musical instrument information and, in return, have wonderful stories to tell about their objects. I would like to see an archive for this kind of information so that these stories are not lost.

✎ Dwight Newton, Editor
Lexington, Kentucky

