

*Stephenson  
Memorial  
Concert  
Series  
2001-2002*



## *Previous Stephenson Memorial Concerts*

---

Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, England

Cantilena Piano Quartet with Brenda Boozer

Mystical Arts of Tibet Sacred Music, Sacred Dance

Dorian Wind Quintet with Billy Childs

Jean Ritchie with George Pickow

Zivilli: Dances and Music of the Southern Slavic Nations

The Ahn Trio

The Waverly Consort

Maxwell Street Klezmer Band

Rosalie Sorrels

A Scottish Christmas featuring Bonnie Rideout

The Men of the Deeps with Rita MacNeil (Coal Miners' Chorus, Nova Scotia)

Roscoe Lee Browne and Anthony Zerbe

Kartik Seshadri, sitar with Arup Chatterjee, tabla

Coulter-Phillips Ensemble

Nexus, global music, master percussionists

Photo credits:

Holly Near  
Khac Chi  
The Western Wind  
Chatham Broque  
Dmitri Ratser  
Mary Lou Fallis

Mike Rogers  
Khac Chi  
The Western Wind  
Jim Schaffer  
Dan Hubbard  
Mary Lou Fallas

Cover photo  
Layout concept

Alan Mills  
Eric Crowden

## *Stephenson Memorial Concert Series 2001-2002*

---

The Stephenson Memorial Concert Fund was established in 1987 by the late Louis B. Stephenson Jr. and Edna M. Stephenson in memory of their daughter, Nancy Anne, a pianist who died early in her life. Following his death a few months after his retirement, the concerts were designated as also honoring their son, John B. Stephenson, President of Berea College, 1984-1994.

In many ways, the multiple programs each year are chosen to reflect the interests of Nancy Anne, in the piano as a solo and ensemble instrument, and of John, in traditional world and ethnic music and dance that foster an understanding of diverse cultural traditions, in contemporary themes that expand an awareness of frontiers, in humor and story telling, and in the exploration of a sense of place - whether in Appalachia or Scotland. Many thousands of students will come to appreciate the fruits of this memorial series.

Anglin Falls, pictured on the cover, is found at one end of a protected wooded gorge - a living memorial to John B. Stephenson. In March 1997, Tibetan Lamas poured colored sand from a sacred mandala into the stream to carry healing energies throughout the world. The series this year continues to represent different world perspectives.

John Crowden, Coordinator of Convocations

### **Holly Near**

with John Bucchino

Thursday, October 11, 2001

8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

### **Khac Chi Ensemble**

*Music from Vietnam*

Thursday, November 15, 2001

8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

### **The Western Wind**

*A Musical Celebration of Light*

Thursday, December 6, 2001

8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

### **Chatham Baroque**

*Españoleta*

Thursday, January 10, 2002

8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

### **Dmitri Ratzer, piano**

Thursday, April 11, 2002

8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

### **Primadonna**

starring **Mary Lou Fallis**

Thursday, April 25, 2002

8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

## Holly Near with John Bucchino

Thursday, October 11, 2001, 8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

Holly Near is a unique combination of entertainer, teacher and activist. She was born to parents from North Dakota and New York who were political activists, ranchers and supporters of culture in the rural community of Ukiah, California. Holly moves comfortably in this blend of western sensibility and eastern sophistication. An immense vocal talent, Near's career as a singer has been profoundly defined by an unwillingness to separate her passion for music from her passion for human dignity.

Touring worldwide, Holly Near is an ambassador for peace inviting the audience to its best self. Near is a skilled performer who brings to the stage an integration of world consciousness, spiritual discovery, and theatricality. Her strength as a performer lead to creative collaborations with such artists as Ronnie Gilbert, Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie, Mercedes Sosa, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Inti-Illimani, Bonnie Rait, Cris Williamson, Jill Eikenberry, Michael Tucker, and Linda Tillery.

In 1972, Near founded Redwood Records which was a major force in alternative music for nearly 20 years. Redwood Records was dedicated to recording and promoting music by politically conscious artists from around the world. Near helped support the work of artists from Nicaragua, Chile, Australia, Canada, England, Argentina, Cuba,



Uruguay, Vietnam, El Salvador, Mexico, and the United States. She has received numerous awards for her work for social change, including honors from the ACLU, the National Lawyers Guild, the National Organization for Women, and *Ms. Magazine* (Woman of the Year). In 2000, Near received the Legends of Women's Music Award for her pioneering work in feminist music.

In 2000, Near began to release her out-of-print recordings, starting with *Musical Highlights* which contains songs she sang in a one-woman play she wrote and performed in regional theaters and off-Broadway. Next, she celebrated the feminist movement with *Simply Love: The Women's Music Collection*. Holly is also the author of a children's book, *The Great Peace March*.

## Primadonna starring Mary Lou Fallis

Thursday, April 25, 2002, 8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium



Toronto-born Mary Lou Fallis made her operatic debut at 15 years of age as the Second Spirit in a CBC-TV production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. After obtaining the first Master's degree in Performance and Literature from the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, her career has encompassed performances of major oratorios and choral works with leading orchestras. Her operatic roles have ranged from Despina in *Così fan tutte* to Zerbinetta in R. Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*. In addition to her North American engagements, Ms. Fallis has toured extensively in the United Kingdom, appearing in London's West End, Covent Garden

International Festival, the Wesford Opera Festival, and the Edinburg International Festival.

She is probably best known as the creator of five one-woman shows: *Primadonna*, based on her own life as a singer and its sequel *Primadonna's First Farewell Tour*, *Emma*, *Queen of Song* about the real-life Canadian diva, Emma Albani; the *Mrs. Bach Show* hosted by Anna Magdalena, the wife of J.S. Bach; and *Ms. Mozart*, the story of Nannerl (sister of the more famous Wolfgang).

Mary Lou Fallis teaches at the University of Western Ontario combining it with her performing activities. Over the past two years, Ms. Fallis has been heard on CBC Radio Two's "Take Five Show" on Friday afternoons reading from *The Primadonna's Diary* in which she documents travels, real and imaginary, across Canada.

Anyone loud, grand and tempestuous enough, including men, may earn the designation of "prima-donna". Behind it lies the larger-than-life image of the grand opera star. In *Primadonna*, Ms. Fallis has lots of infectious, mischievous fun, spoofing and impersonating that queenly attitude while offering samples of the musical tradition that gave it to us. Her mockery is more of self than the art of music.

## Dmitri Ratser

Thursday, April 11, 2002, 8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

Dimitri Ratser attained status in the pantheon of Russian musicians when he was added to the roster entitled "Soloists of the Moscow Philharmonic" in 1990. A First Prize winner in Budapest's Liszt International Jubilee Competition, he distinguished himself with top prize in Moscow's All-Union Rachmaninoff Competition in 1983. He is one of the few internationally acclaimed pianists who includes the complete works for piano and orchestra of Sergei Rachmaninoff in a regularly performed repertoire.

Born in Moscow in 1953, Dmitri Ratser comes from a family of professional musicians. Adjudged at an early age to be possessed of an unusually fine talent, the young artist became one of the select few to study at the Moscow Conservatory under its famed pianistic pedagogue Flier.

Discovered by American impresario and artists manager Maxim Gershunoff while on a trip to Moscow in 1989, Mr. Ratser was appearing on "World Radio-Moscow" in a "live" broadcast which Mr. Gershunoff thought was a recording of Vladimir Horowitz. When the performer and the circumstance were announced, the American manager proceeded to contact the artist and auditioned him to reassure himself that the artist he had heard on the radio and Dmitri Ratser were one and the same. When this



proved true, arrangements were immediately begun for the 1990/01 concert season. He has returned to the U.S.A. annually since his debut with the Austin Symphony Orchestra. During the 1993/94 concert season his tour consisted of some forty concerts, including a performance at Carnegie Hall and at the Kennedy Center with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Mstislav Rostropovich. Dmitri Ratser has been consistently re-engaged to perform in consecutive seasons in over three-quarters of the venues in which he has appeared in the United States. The reasoning for this popularity can perhaps be found in the words from a review in the *Los Angeles Times*: "Ratser's performance took one's breath away with its mesmerizing single-mindedness, its inexorable force, its stunning virtuosity."

## Khac Chi Ensemble

Thursday, November 15, 2001, 8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium



The Khac Chi Ensemble features premiere performers of the exquisitely beautiful music of Vietnam.

Their virtuosity and superb musicianship have won them numerous awards, as well as many invitations to perform internationally.

The Ensemble makes extensive use of rare and unique musical instruments and performances specific to the mountain peoples of Vietnam, paired or interspersed with the haunting melodies of the dan bau, a one-string zither from northern Vietnam. Extremely versatile, the Khac Chi Ensemble takes you on an adventure in sound. Their concerts may include a combination of styles or feature any one style of Vietnamese classical, folk or contemporary music. They are as equally comfortable performing solo chamber concerts, or as guest soloists for symphony orchestras.

The Ensemble's performances offer an intriguing glimpse into the incredibly rich and sophisticated musical traditions of Vietnam.

The timbral palette of their instruments immediately captivates the ear, drawing one in closer to a music which is unmistakably distinct, yet at the same time somehow familiar. But even more than the haunting lyricism, the energetic rhythms and fascinating timbres, what invariably wins audiences over is the infectious exuberance and joy that the musicians bring to sharing the music of their native Vietnam.

**Khac Chi** is Vietnam's premiere virtuoso on the dan bau. His skill and mastery is unparalleled and his innovative developments on the instrument have led to numerous invitations to perform internationally. As a result, Chi has appeared in solo concerts and with his ensemble, on tours to Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, and Canada.

**Ngoc Bich** is an exceptional vocalist, arranger and multi-instrumentalist. She specializes in the dan bau and a number of very rare instruments from Vietnam's rural and mountainous regions.

Both Chi and Bich have been landed immigrants of Canada since 1992.

## The Western Wind

Thursday, December 6, 2001, 8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium

Since 1969 The Western Wind vocal ensemble's deeply felt, virtuosic performances of a vast repertoire have delighted audiences around the world. The Ensemble has been acclaimed at many of the finest stages such as La Fenice in Venice, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Ordway Theater, Los Angeles' Mark Taper Forum, the Jewish Museum, Folger Shakespeare Library, Library of Congress, and the Cleveland Museum of Art.

The Ensemble's wide-ranging backgrounds and interests inform its music making: from Renaissance motets to Fifties rock 'n' roll, from Medieval carols to Shaker tunes, from complex works by avant-garde composers to the simplest folk melodies.

The world of Jewish music, with



its dazzling variety, has been explored over the last few years -- in collaborations featuring narrators Theodore Bikel, Jerry Stiller, Tovah Feldshuh and Leonard Nimoy, among others. The Western Wind's recordings of *The Chanukkah Story*, *The Passover Story*, and others have received widespread critical acclaim, and are frequently heard on radio.

Past overseas activities include the taping of early and contemporary music for German National Radio in Cologne and several triumphant tours of northern Italy, performing Italian Renaissance as well as American music. At the request of the State Department, the ensemble performed American and Latin American music throughout East Asia. A series of National Radio holiday specials have been heard nationally since 1989.

A *Celebration of Light* features Sephardic songs, medieval carols, Renaissance and contemporary music from Spain and Latin America, songs of Solstice, and traditional Chanukah songs, and carols of the season.

## Chatham Baroque

Thursday, January 10, 2002, 8 o'clock

Phelps Stokes Auditorium



Spanish harp virtuoso Becky Baxter join Chatham baroque in this toe-tapping program of favorites of a Baroque audience .

Julie Andrijeski (violin and dance) maintains an active freelance career, holding principal positions with Apollo's Fire and Cecilia's Circle. She holds a B.M. from the University of Denver, an M.M from Northwestern University and is a doctoral candidate at Case Western Reserve University. Julie serves on the faculty of the Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute and the Stanford Baroque Dance Workshop.

Emily Davidson (violin) is a founding member of Chatham baroque and a graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She has performed with many of the country's leading early music ensembles.

Patricia Halverson (viola da gamba) is a founding member and has served on the faculty of the Viola da Gamba Society of America's Summer Conclave. She received her B.A. from Brandeis University and her Doctor of Musical Arts Early Music Performance Practice from Stanford University.

Hailed by National Public Radio and the National Association of Record Merchandisers as the "1999 Breakthrough Artist of the Year," Chatham Baroque is the ensemble-in-residence at Chatham College and WQED-FM Pittsburgh. The ensemble tours throughout the United States and has been a vital force in Pittsburgh's cultural community since 1991. Chatham Baroque's first CD for Dorian Recordings was awarded a five-star rating by Europe's *Goldberg* magazine, a first for any American ensemble.

The focus of Chatham Baroque's *Españoleta* is the rich world of dance, one of the finest sources of Spanish ensemble music in the early Baroque. Chatham Baroque's Scott Pauley points out that ensemble music was popular in the period, but what is really lacking is a surviving repertoire. Guest percussionist Danny Mallon and

Scott Pauley (lute, theorbo and baroque guitar) holds a doctoral degree in Early Music Performance Practice from Stanford University. Scott performs with Hesperus and Appolo's Fire and teaches lute at Case Western Reserve University.