

Table of Contents

Notes from the President	1-2
Salop/Slates Memorial Composition Competitions	3-4
Member News	5-8
Letters to the Editor	9
About SCL	9

Notes from the President

Greetings, fellow Composers! I am excited to inform you all that our 2014 Forum will be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, hosted by the UT Chattanooga Music Department. The dates will be Feb. 20 - 22. I am still working on the availability of specific ensembles, and will communicate those details later. I am hoping to raise enough money through grants to be able to invite a professional ensemble to do a mini-residency during the Forum; this effort is under way. Most likely, the call for scores will be set for September or October, to give adequate time for score review and repertoire choices. Details for the Salop-Slates Competition will go out earlier as well, with a due date of late November.

Reflections on the 2013 Forum

The 2013 Forum at Morehead State University was a most enjoyable weekend of music and reconnecting with friends and colleagues. The Forum was held in conjunction with Morehead State's Contemporary Piano Festival. Dr. Chia-Ling Hsieh and her husband, SCL Vice-President Michael Young, were tireless, well-organized, and gracious hosts, as well as gifted performers in the Forum. Even with all that was happening in the joint events, I never saw anyone looking "harried." The concerts ran smoothly, performances went well, numerous faculty and student musicians participated, and there was even a large lounge area set aside for us to use for the weekend, to hang out between concerts. I must also say a big "thank you" to Dr. Donald Grant, Music Department Chair at Morehead State, for welcoming SCL to his campus.

The Business Meeting this year was well attended, and there was a lot of vigorous, open discussion. Numerous good questions were raised and ideas offered, several of which are either being followed up on already, or will be in the next few months. This was perhaps the most productive business meeting I have attended. Thanks to all who contributed!

The Human Factor

As if it were not already enough to hear a variety of interesting new and recent works presented well, and to have a business meeting that was worth the time, this Forum was enjoyable because of the Human factor. Friends, colleagues, fellow composers, who see each other infrequently, had time between events to chat, get caught up with each other, relax... In a lobby discussion with a few SCL members, it was stated that our with

Music Now

Page 2

May 2013

Notes from the
President

Forums are not just about having our music played; indeed, the time and opportunity to just hang out together is of great value. The truth of that statement has really stuck with me. Of the three music conferences or festivals that I attended in February and March this year, the SCL Forum was the most enjoyable, musically and personally. There are wonderful people in SCL who see each other perhaps once per year, if even that, but they are nevertheless friends. Music by SCL members is more stylistically diverse than one may find in some of the other composer organizations, which I think is a strength (not that one group is better than another, just different).

Words of Appreciation to Officers

Thank you to Ken Davies, past-President of SCL, for his leadership over the past two years. Ken's entrepreneurial skills and energy as an independent composer have been good for SCL, especially since academic posts are increasingly difficult to find and secure. Among other things, Ken helped get us moving two years ago on the matter of updating our website, and this year SCL member Terry Vosbein urged us on to update again with new functionality and a more appealing 'look,' which was agreed upon in a vote.

Thank you to Mark Francis, outgoing Treasurer, who served willingly in that post for years. Untangling the membership roster, figuring out who has paid dues and who hasn't, taking care of writing checks to Salop-Slates winners and the SCL contribution to the Forum host institutions... We appreciate Mark's devotion to SCL and his contributions as a composer-member as well, as well as having served as a Forum coordinator in the past.

And, I want to thank the incoming new officers for being willing to serve, who include Fred Cohen, a new member, as Treasurer; and Harvey Stokes as Secretary. Michael Young, who has served ably as Secretary the past two years, has moved into the position of Vice-President, and will oversee the Salop-Slates competitions.

Welcome to New Members

I know of two new members from the 2012-13 year, and at least one new member for 2013. Welcome to Fred Cohen, William Price, and Lauren McCall! If there are other new members overlooked in this post, my apologies, and please let me know so that we can recognize you on the website and our Facebook page.

Jonathan

Jonathan McNair
President

Music Now

Page 3

May 2013

Arnold Salop
Memorial
Competition

Salop/Slates Memorial Composition Competitions

Results of the Salop/Slates Memorial Competitions for Undergraduate and Graduate student composers. Please join the officers and membership of SCL in congratulating these students for their fine work, and in continuing to encourage all composition students to write music and submit their works to opportunities such as the Salop/Slates competitions.

In the **Arnold Salop Memorial Competition** for **Undergraduate** composers:

1st place: Taylor Helms, Georgia State University, for his saxophone quartet, "Forge."
2nd place: Tyler Kline, Morehead State University, for his work "Different Worlds," for flute and alto saxophone.



Taylor Helms



Tyler Kline

Music Now

Page 4

May 2013

Phillip Slates
Memorial
Competition

Salop/Slates Memorial Composition Competitions

For the **Phillip Slates Memorial Competition** for **Graduate** composers, there was also a tie for First place:

Joshua Carver, Louisiana State University, for his String Quartet; and Zach Pentecost, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, for his work "...and longing..." for strings and percussion.



Joshua Carver



Zach Pentecost

Music Now

Page 5

May 2013

Member News



Ken Davies



Judy Davies

Member News

Ken Davies

In addition to the excellent performance by trombonists William Mann and Adam Dixon and pianist Ling-Ling Chen of Ken's /Crossroads/ at the SCL at Morehead State University the first weekend in March, Ken's SATB choir work /Who Shall Separate Us From The Love Of Christ?/ and his /If Any Man Serve Me / (voice & piano) were performed that same weekend (March 1-2, 2013) at the Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers held at Mississippi College in Clinton, MS. His wife Judy Davies, also a member for SCL had the privilege to represent Ken by attending the CFAMC conference in his absence.

Ken has also been selected by the Mississippi Music Teacher's Association (MMTA) as this year's commissioned composer.

Ken and Judy Davies

Ken and Judy Davies have presented our /Poetic Soundscapes/ CD in live performance at four Coastal locations: Eagles Nest at USM Gulf Coast, the Pascagoula Senior Center, MS Gulf Coast Community College Jackson County and the Gulf Coast Writer's Assoc. /Poetic Soundscapes /includes 17 of my poems with Ken's orchestrally crafted music to create a perfect music and sound design combination. Two of the poems are narrated by Ken, the rest by Judy. It isn't often that a composer has a poet whose words he can use to enhance his musical creations and it isn't often that a poet is blessed to have her own composer easily at hand to compose music to accompany her poetry, so this project has been a really fun joint creative endeavor.

Music Now

Page 6

May 2013

Member News



Kenyon Wilson



Jonathan McNair

Member News

Kenyon Wilson

Kenyon Wilson's **Recursion**, a seven-part rondo for trombone septet, received joint premieres last month by seven ensembles in seven states. Involved were trombone choirs from the University of South Carolina, Morehead State University, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the University of Southern Mississippi, Mercer University, the University of North Dakota, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. It will receive an additional performance by the Carolina Trombone Collective at the 2013 International Trombone Festival.

Jonathan McNair

Jonathan McNair had two works selected for performance at the SCI Region IV conference, which will take place in October, 2013, at Eastern Kentucky University; and had a work selected for the CMS National conference, November 2013.

Ethan McGrath, a current undergraduate student of SCL member Jonathan McNair, had two choral works performed in a Choral Evensong on May 9, 2013, by the combined choirs of three Episcopal Churches in Chattanooga. These works, one of which was commissioned for the event, were settings of the traditional Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis texts (English language versions). Ethan also recently had two songs published by Colla Voce publishing company.

Music Now

Page 7

May 2013

Member News



Terry Vosbein



Laurent Estoppey

Member News

Terry Vosbein

Terry Vosbein is on the tail end of a year long road trip, composing as he goes. One completed work from this sojourn received its world premiere at Carnegie Hall on 22 May. "Charleston Episodes" was a commission from Chamber Music Charleston, who performed the work in New York City, followed by a repeat performance at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival In Charleston, South Carolina. Also created during these 25,000+ miles of driving was a violin/piano suite and a work for traditional British Brass Band. Premieres of these works will take place during the 2013-2014 concert season.

Laurent Estoppey

Swiss composer and saxophonist Laurent Estoppey, now established in Greensboro NC, pursues his career on both sides of the ocean.

Estoppey premiered his new piece *S/L/I/C/E/S* for saxophone and live electronics on May 10th in a new series of pluri-disciplinary concerts he is organising with Nicholas Rich at Empire Books in Greensboro named COLLAPSS. The series will continue on August 23rd. His piece *The challenge of the whale* for saxophone quartet, eight new animals after St. Saens *Carnival of the Animals* was premiered in Switzerland by Marquis de Saxe on April 28 and performed twice more since then. More performances of the piece are going to happen throughout the year.

Estoppey has also just won a grant from Guilford County Art Council for a release on LP vinyl of saxophone solo pieces with electronics, a collaborative work with Greensboro visual artist Tristin Miller. He also put out a brand new website, with many sounds, images and videos : www.laurentestoppey.com

Music Now

Page 8

May 2013

Member News



Betty Wishart

Member News

Betty Wishart

Betty Wishart's Kohinoor Sonata was performed on two different programs this spring. Pianist Margaret Mills first performed the sonata on a concert featuring "American Men and Women Composers of the 20th-21st Centuries". On March 20th Ms. Mills performed Sonata on a lecture recital of American Women Composers at Campbell University. Sonata II was premiered by pianist Jesse Davis on a concert of "Living American Composers" at Campbell University on March 21st. Davis also performed Sonata II at the Cape Fear New Music Festival at Methodist University on April 6th. Wishart's piece was one of five selected for performance from a field of one hundred ten submissions.

James Chaudoir premiered Wishart's Suite of Miniatures for alto recorder at the SCI Conference at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa on April 13th. On June 4th Sonata II will be performed on the NACUSA concert at Christ and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in New York City.



Gary Nash, Gil Trythall, Betty Wishart, and Jim Guthrie

All SCL members the concert of "Living American Composers" at Campbell University, Betty comments "We could have titled the concert Music of "SCL Composers"".

Music Now

Page 9

May 2013

Letters to the Editor

About SCL

Music Now Editor:
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Letters to the Editor

If you have any comments or other letters you would like to submit, feel free to send them to me, the President or the Officers. Paul Schreiber

Forum Suggestion

While it is most likely true that a faculty member who is hoping for and trying for tenure or promotion can speak for him/herself with the support of appropriate documents, I think that the SCL could supplement that effort. Having hosted the SCL Forum twice at Converse College during my teaching career, I know how much work it is but how good it can look on your record as a campus committee eventually judges you.

At Morehead State in early March of this year, I noticed quite easily how much the host worked to make the Forum a success. And she was one of the performers, as well. I think that the SCL could and should endorse her status on that faculty. I hope that there are other SCL members who will agree with me. We could draft up a standard letter of appreciation for all future hosts to receive and perhaps, also, the host in Kentucky, retroactively.

John Mac Lean “John, excellent suggestion” - Jonathan McNair

The Southeastern Composers League

Founded in 1950, the Southeastern Composers' League is an organization comprised of serious classical modern new scored and electronic art music composers and scholars located throughout the southeastern United States. It is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in America. Many of our members fill distinguished faculty positions throughout the universities and educational institutions in the southeastern states (AL, AR, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV). Membership is for, but is not necessarily limited to, these states and Washington DC. Membership options include Composer, Associate and Student Memberships. Any SCL member can assist you in answering questions or in recommending you for a membership. If you are unfamiliar with the organization and would like information, contact one of the Current Officers (below) with your comments and questions. To obtain an application, click the member-new application under Site Navigation. Look for us on the Web:
<http://www.southeasterncomposersleague.org> or Facebook – search for “Southeastern Composers League”

Current Officers:

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