

State and Local

Second installment of festival brings sophistication, delight

By Staci Finch

Reviewer

Bryan-College Station got a dose of chamber music last night at a level of sophistication rarely seen outside major metropolitan centers.

Rudder Forum was the scene for the second installment of the four-part Lyric Art Festival, and the more than 125 audience members were treated to an hour and a half of contemporary chamber music, appropriately titled "Twentieth Century American Pioneers."

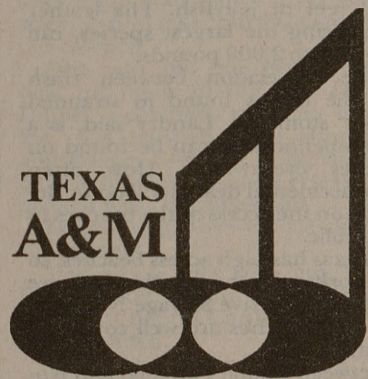
The evening was a tribute to composer Henry Cowell and his works, along with those of other composers he influenced. They were presented in a style by some of Houston's finest musicians. Works by Charles Ives, George Gershwin and Lou Harrison were performed, and Harrison was present to give the history of each piece as it was played.

The first segment of the evening was "Four Combinations for Violin, Cello, and Piano" written in 1924 by Henry Cowell. Beginning with a violin and cello duet Allegretto that made you want to call "Bravo" from

the first note, the piece led to a lonesome and powerful piano and violin Largo, continued with a demanding piano and cello Allegro and ended with a piano/violin/cello combination that created an extremely beautiful piece and made you beg for more.

Following the piece by Cowell was "Sonata No. 4 for Violin and Piano (Children's Day at the Camp Meeting)" by New England composer Charles Ives. The first movement was a vigorous Allegro, and was reminiscent of children marching to their favorite hymn. The second movement was composed around a favorite children's hymn, "Jesus Loves Me," and reflected the beauty of nature and a peaceful soul. The piece finished up with a rousing rendition of "Shall We Gather at the River." Especially notable was that the performance was given by violinist Kenneth Goldsmith, a prominent musician who is making his debut with the Houston Symphony Orchestra this summer.

The highlight of the evening was



Battalion file graphic

the performance of vocalist Edrie Means. A graduate from the Shenandoah Conservatory, she received her M.M. degree from the University of Houston. She performed George Gershwin's "Someone to Watch Over Me" and "S Wonderful" with Broadway flair. But it was her rendition of "My Man's Gone Now" from the opera "Porgy and Bess" that stole the show. In addition to a wonderful voice, Means' intensity of

pose and facial expressions made the audience share in her loss.

Rounding out the evening was a piece written by composer Lou Henderson. The piece, "Concerto for Violin and Percussion Orchestra," was begun in 1940, but wasn't finished until 1959.

An excellent example of avant-garde music, for which Henderson is well-known, the percussion instruments included flower pots, carpenter's nails, coffee cans, galvanized iron wash tubs and parts of automobiles, as well as conventional drums and cymbals.

The intricate workings of the percussion with the violin was excellent. The music ran the gamut of emotions: from a fast and furious Allegro that quickened the heartbeat, to a smooth and almost eerie Largo, back again to a vigorous Allegro.

The music inundated the senses with a stampede of sounds combining to an arousing gestalt, as the violinist finished off the evening with an exciting flourish that brought the crowd to its feet.

Board to release complaints made about physicians

AUSTIN (AP) — For the first time, the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners plans to release to hospitals and other medical institutions information about complaints lodged against physicians during the time they have held a Texas medical license.

The information will not be available to the public, according to state law. It will be given only to hospitals, health maintenance organizations, nursing homes, group medical practices, medical societies or any other health-care agency that submits a written request, the *Austin American-Statesman* said.

Historically, complaints against Texas physicians have been held confidential by the medical board, and some physicians may not even be aware a complaint is on file against them. But a 1987 state law authorized the board to inform any "health-care entity" of such complaints.

The medical board was unprepared for this. It assumed the disclosure law applied only to complaints lodged against doctors after Sept. 1, 1987, when the law took effect, and has been releasing information only about those complaints, the *American-Statesman* said.

But a recent opinion by Attorney General Jim Mattox requires the board to release information about any complaint ever lodged against a doctor licensed by the board.

Mattox's ruling poses an immediate problem for the medical board because it has no central filing system for the thousands of complaints against doctors, board officials said. Only complaints received since September 1986 are in the board's computer system, they said.

"It's going to be difficult to go through the records and the files, but we're going to do the best we can," Dr. G.V. Brindley Jr., board executive director, said. "And it's going to take a lot of time."

Last week, the board hired temporary workers to spend the next several months searching through nearly 100 large file drawers full of investigative paper work about thousands of physicians, officials said.

The information should be transferred to the board's computer system by August, when it can be released to health care agencies.

Health agencies that send the board a written request will be told which of their doctors have had a complaint filed against them, the nature of the complaint and whether the board's investigation has been completed, officials said. Any public disciplinary action also will be given to the health agencies.

The board plans to release only a general description of the complaint, and will not disclose the full investigative file, board officials said.

Paul Gavia, director of enforcement for the medical board, said the board plans to write letters to all physicians against whom the board has received complaints. The letters will tell the physicians that information about their complaints will be released to hospitals, nursing homes and other health-care entities.

Board officials noted that a complaint filed against a doctor does not mean the doctor is incompetent or in violation of the Texas Medical Practice Act. A complaint is an allegation usually made by a patient or a colleague.

Group plans international bridge rally

LAREDO (AP) — Members of a "Peace" convoy stalled at the Mexican border by a trade embargo with Nicaragua said Monday they plan a rally on an international bridge tonight and will cross the Rio Grande tomorrow morning.

The Veterans' Peace Convoy to Nicaragua said it had planned to enter Mexico last Wednesday, until U.S. Treasury officials notified them that the vehicles they intended to leave in Nicaragua would violate the Nicaraguan Trade Control Regulations.

Some 30 tons of food, medical

supplies and clothing earmarked for children in the Central American nation are loaded on the 28 minipickup trucks, one 2½-ton truck, two regular pickups, five buses, one Volkswagen van and a car, said convoy member Ed Deaton, a Vietnam veteran from Tallahassee, Fla.

The 106 convoy participants have been staying since Wednesday at the Kampground of America in northern Laredo.

"We're looking at a Wednesday crossover time," Deaton said Monday.

The group has said it would give the government until Wednesday to agree that their trip is legal.

Treasury officials said the humanitarian cargo is exempt from the trade embargo in effect since 1985, but that the vehicles carrying the supplies cannot be taken to Nicaragua.

The convoy planned to leave the vehicles in Nicaragua as part of its donation.

Charles Conroy, a Customs spokesman in Houston, said the group is free to cross the border, if it

fills out export forms. The forms, he said, require identification to be supplied for the people and vehicles; acknowledgment that the trade embargo requires the vehicles to be returned within 30 days and acknowledgment that they can be prosecuted for violating the terms of the trade embargo.

Violating the embargo could result in fines of up to \$50,000 and up to 10 years in prison.

The U.S. government imposed the trade control regulations on Nicaragua in May 1985.

Businesses fight for released convicts

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Businesses just down the street from the main gate where Texas Department of Corrections inmates re-enter the free world are squabbling again over efforts to lure ex-cons to spend part of their \$200 release checks.

For some seven years, pawn shop owners J.D. Davis and Jerry Anglin have competed for the trade of ex-prisoners in need of clothes and bus fares home.

The businesses even used everything from preachers to pretty girls to encourage newly freed inmates

until Huntsville city officials clamped down last year by enforcing a so-called "hawking" ordinance to control street hustling.

City officials also used off-duty police officers to park outside the two businesses — a block from the Walls Unit — to keep the peace.

Now a new taxi company has arrived and apparently has upset the delicate balance that has kept things relatively quiet.

"Everyone's jockeying for position again," Huntsville City Manager Gene Pipes said.

Carl Huffstickler, released from prison after serving three months of a three-year marijuana possession sentence, won a license from city officials to operate Freedom Cab. Then he joined Margie Allen, who is running her ailing father's 50-year-old Quick Service Taxi, to take inmates out of town.

That has upset Davis, whose business houses the Trailways Bus Station, giving him an edge because ex-convicts had to go in his store to get bus tickets.

Warped

by Scott McCullar



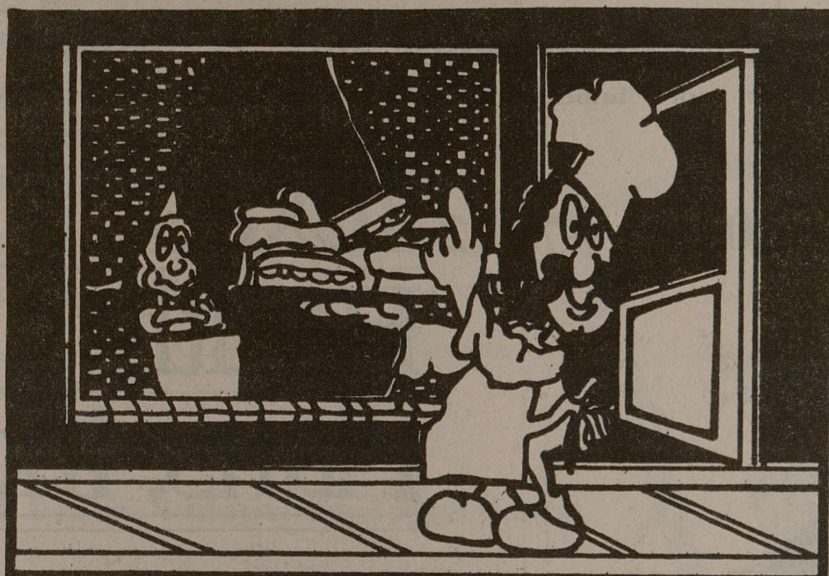
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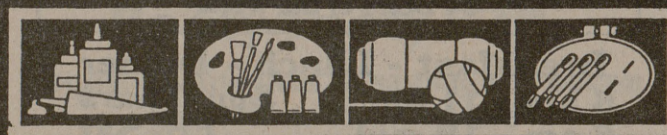
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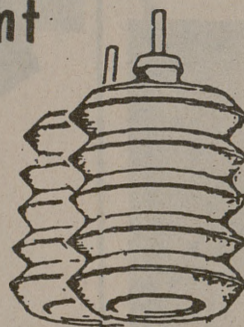


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