Schieffer Unveils The King Henry IV Violin

The violin by Antonio and Girolamo Amati (Cremona, ca. 1595), bearing the armorials of King Henry IV of Navarre and France (1553-1610) that was presented to the NMM on May 14, 2010 by Kevin Schieffer (Sioux Falls), was revealed to the public in its new display case on September 24, 2010. The timing of the unveiling, which took place during the annual fall Member and Trustee Reception, was scheduled in honor of the 400th anniversary of the requiem mass held for King Henry IV in the Medici family church of San Lorenzo, in Florence, Italy, on September 16, 1610. The royal violin, along with its 18th-century case made during the reign of Louis XVI, can now be seen during regular museum hours.

Visit the NMM website for additional images of The King Henry IV violin, its unveiling, and an account of the annual Member & Trustee Reception.
James Leach, NEH Chairman, Visits NMM Galleries

James Leach, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, visited the NMM on September 29, prior to addressing the campus community at the Al Neuharth Media Center. His lecture, “Civility in a Fractured Society,” was presented as part of a fifty-state “American Civility Tour: Bridging Cultures.” Leach is the ninth chairman of the NEH, an independent grant-making agency of the U.S. government, dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programming in the humanities.

NMM staff and members of the NMM Board of Trustees accompanied Leach on his tour of the galleries. [Read more on NMM website]

Catherine Stearns Addresses Cultural Diplomacy

Catherine Stearns, a Public Affairs Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Washington, DC, spoke about the value of cultural diplomacy at the annual NMM Member & Trustee Reception on September 24. [Read more on NMM website]

Bill Willroth, Sr. Retires as NMM Photographer

Bill Willroth, Sr., Vermillion, retired in November after eight years as the NMM’s official photographer. His photographic legacy includes thousands of digital images of musical instruments that will continue to be seen on the NMM’s website and in organological publications for many years to come. The entire staff extends its gratitude and best wishes to Bill as he focuses upon more relaxing pursuits.

Michael Tsalka Records Daniel Türk Sonatas on Five Historic Keyboards at NMM

Michael Tsalka, Professor of Harpsichord and Chamber Music at the Escuela Superior de Música (National Center for the Arts), Mexico City, recorded twelve sonatas by Daniel Gottlob Türk at the NMM in August. Five of the NMM’s historic keyboard instruments will be featured in a two-CD set to be published on the Naxos label. [Read more on NMM website]

Sally Fante Archival Research Center Guestbook

- Bob Carlin, Lexington, North Carolina, conducted extensive research about Regal Musical Instruments (1895-1955), consulting both the Musical Instrument Manufacturers’ Archive (MIMA) and the NMM’s instrument collection.
- Ken Drobnak, Director of Bands, South Dakota School of Mines (Rapid City) conducted on-going research about the Holton Company and euphoniums for a presentation at Wayne State College (Wayne, Nebraska).
- Wayne Jones, Evansville, Indiana, searched the Felix Vinatieri Music Archive for compositions to be arranged and performed by his Civil War re-enactment band.
- Jonathan and Faye Kellerman, California, best-selling authors and guitar collectors, toured the NMM with Arian Sheets, Curator of Stringed Instruments.
- Jennifer Newberry, USD graduate student, conducted research about Leblanc clarinet production for her M.M. in musicology.
- Rolf Olson, USD Professor of Music, and Dave Reynolds, Chair, Music Department at South Dakota State University (Brookings), examined brass instruments and archival materials from the Holton Collection in preparation for a presentation at the International Trumpet Guild convention to be held in Minneapolis in May 2011.
- Rainer Beilharz and John Simmers, violin makers from Australia, spent several days examining stringed instruments in the Witten-Rawlins Collection.
- Kendra van Nyhuis, USD undergraduate student, conducted on-going research about bamboo flutes for her Senior honor’s thesis.
- Lynn Wheelwright, Clearfield, Utah, conducted extensive research about the manufacture of plucked stringed instruments.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 10. Holiday Brass, South Dakota Brass Quintet. 12:05 p.m.
January 28. Klassic Klarinet Klezmer, Deborah Check Reeves (USD) & John D. Check (University of Central Missouri). 12:05 p.m.
February 8, 15, 22, March 1. Histories and Mysteries at the NMM, OLLI Class with Deborah Check Reeves.
March 4. Fingerstyle Fireworks, Bill Mize and Beth Bramhall (Gatlinburg, Tennessee). 12:05 p.m.
March 13. Returning and Returned, Michael Mandrell (Portland, Oregon). 12:05 p.m.
March 25. An Eclectic Musical Journey, Curtis Teague & Loretta Simonet (Minneapolis). 12:05 p.m.

As you do your estate planning, please don’t forget to include the National Music Museum. The care and preservation of the NMM’s great collections is an awesome responsibility. Your help is needed, if we are to meet the challenges of the future. Become a member of The Amati Society!
Congratulations to John Koster, Conservator and Professor of Music, who was named the USD College of Fine Arts Distinguished Professor for 2010-2012. In October, he was presented with the 2010 President’s Award for Research Excellence in the Established Faculty category. [Read more on website]

The NMM welcomes Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet, who joined the NMM staff as a Conservation Research Assistant on November 22. Bouquet will continue creating technical drawings of selected musical instruments. He has already begun the technical documentation of the NMM’s bass viola da gamba (later converted into a cello) made in the Stradivari workshop in Cremona, Italy, ca. 1730.

Sarah Deters Richardson, Curator of Musical Instruments, joined Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet and former conservation intern, Jimena Palacios Uribe, in Mexico City in November, where the three colleagues presented papers at a conference attended by museum specialists, musicologists, and conservators. [Read more on website]

Michael F. Suing, a 2009 graduate of the NMM’s M.M. program in the history of musical instruments, is a Curatorial Research Fellow in the Department of Musical Instruments at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he co-authored the recently published book, MFA Highlights Native American Art by Gerald W. R. Ward, Pamela A. Parmal, Michael Suing, Heather Hole, and Jennifer Swope (Boston: MFA, 2010).

John Koster, Conservator and Professor of Music, recently completed an extended research trip to Europe, where he participated in several scholarly conferences, met with numerous professional colleagues, and examined instruments in various collections. [Read more on website]

Recent Staff Publications

Sabine K. Klaus


Deborah Check Reeves

♦ “Historically Speaking [Conn double-wall clarinet],” The Clarinet 37, No. 3 (June 2010): 26-27.


Arian Sheets, Curator of Stringed Instruments, was interviewed about The King Henry IV Amati violin by Paul Guggenheimer for broadcast on his SDPB radio show, “Dakota Mid-Day,” September 23.

Curatorial Commentary

Click on Links Below to Read Articles Posted on the NMM Website

♦ “A ‘Lot’ of Love: A Love Story Forever Preserved at the NMM” By Deborah Check Reeves

♦ “C. G. Conn’s Double-Wall Wonder Clarinet” By Margaret Downie Banks

♦ “The Grace of Imperfection: Jarana Primera by the Legendary Maker Carlos Escobano” By Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet

♦ “The Objects of Research: The Documentation of Musical Instruments at the NMM” By Jonathan Santa Maria Bouquet

♦ “Measuring Sound: BIAS Aids Understanding of Brass Instruments” By Sabine K. Klaus

♦ “How Did They Do It? Musical Instrument Making Tools at the NMM” By Arian Sheets

♦ “A Visit to Andy Taylor’s Trumpet Workshop” By Sabine K. Klaus

News and Notes

• Douglas Yeo’s new DVD, Approaching the Serpent: An Historical and Pedagogical Overview (2010), filmed at the Utley Collection in South Carolina, is available for purchase through the NMM Gift Shop.

• The commemorative guitar donated by South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds in March is now on display in the Everist Gallery.

• President Clinton’s saxophone is back on display in the Everist Gallery, following its annual summer loan to the Presidential Wax Museum in Keystone, SD.

• Have you seen the list of the NMM’s most recent acquisitions on the website?
OLLI’s “Histories and Mysteries at the NMM” to Be Presented

Why do the bells of Civil War brass instruments point the same direction as their mouthpieces? How can a piano sound like a drum? Why does the Hardanger fiddle have eight strings? How can bagpipers sing while they play?

Members of the Osher Life-long Learning Institute (OLLI) will soon have the opportunity to uncover the answers to these and other musical mysteries while attending the first OLLI course ever to be offered at the NMM. Deborah Check Reeves, Curator of Education, will meet with registered OLLI members for two hours every Tuesday afternoon (2-4 PM) from February 8-March 1, to lead them in this exciting new experience.

OLLI’s intellectually engaging and enriching classes, workshops, activities and events, designed for lifelong learners age 50 and up, are being offered in Vermillion for the first time this winter. Learners of all ages, from all backgrounds, and levels of education are welcome to register for the NMM’s class.

Visit www.ollimc.org for information about how to become a member of South Dakota’s OLLI and register for “Histories and Mysteries at the NMM.” Class size will be limited, so be sure to register early. For further information about the Bernard Osher Foundation, which supports South Dakota’s OLLI, visit www.osherrfoundation.org.

The NMM in Print

- Andrew Dipper and Claire Givens, “Fit for a King,” The Strad 121, No. 1446 (October 2010): 26-34.