GOVERNOR DONATES COMMEMORATIVE GUITAR

South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds presented a commemorative electric guitar to the NMM on Friday, March 19, at a short ceremony attended by representatives of USD, the NMM Board of Trustees, and the NMM staff. Brad Randall, M.D., Chairman of the Board, accepted the instrument on behalf of the NMM.

The Ibanez electric guitar was autographed by performers at the South Dakota Vietnam War Memorial dedication concerts held in the state capitol in September 2006. Celebrated rock stars who signed the instrument include Steve Miller; Mike Love and Bruce Johnston of the Beach Boys; and Stu Cook and Doug Clifford of Creedence Clearwater Revisited (both original CCR members). The guitar has been on display in the Governor's private office for the past three years.

Gov. Rounds also donated a collection of ephemeral materials related to the Vietnam War Memorial dedication, including a documentary DVD, a program, back-stage passes, original concert tickets, a Vietnam Veterans’ commemorative cap, posters, and color photographs. Visit the NMM website (www.nmmusd.org) for additional information and images of the presentation.
The halls of the NMM have been ringing with the sounds of the Kyai Rengga Manis Everist gamelan in recent months. The gamelan, commissioned from a master maker in Surakarta, Java, was acquired in 2000 through a generous gift from Margaret Ann Everist (Sioux City, Iowa). Today, it is one of the largest, most complete, and highest quality gamelans outside of Indonesia.

Every Thursday, the USD ensemble “Tatag” rehearses on the gamelan, which is on display in the NMM’s Beede Gallery. Members of the ensemble include USD faculty, staff, and students, as well as musicians from Vermillion and several other communities in the surrounding area.

“Tatag,” the name given to the USD ensemble by Joko Sutrisno (St. Paul, Minnesota), means “strong will, strong determination and showing compassion.” Sutrisno, a master gamelan teacher, is the artistic director of “Sumunar,” the gamelan ensemble of IPAAM (Indonesian Performing Arts Association of Minnesota.)

For the past several years, Sutrisno has led a weekend-long workshop at the beginning of USD’s spring semester, during which the NMM has resounded almost non-stop with the ringing of gongs and metallophones as Sutrisno skillfully & patiently worked with the group.

A special “beginner” session was held one afternoon for members of the USD Honors class, “Javanese Gamelan: Introducing Javanese Culture Through Its Music.” Sixteen of USD’s brightest students have been learning about Javanese history and culture by immersing themselves in the music of the gamelan for an entire semester. The class—the first ever offered at the NMM for the USD Honors Program—meets twice weekly and is taught by Dr. Deborah Check Reeves, Curator of Education.

Another gamelan ensemble, the “Happy Home School Gong Choirs,” was organized in October by one of Tatag’s members with school age children. This group, consisting of nearly twenty young people, rehearses at the NMM every Wednesday afternoon. The ensemble, which presented its first gamelan concert in December for parents, families, and friends, is looking forward to a similar experience in the spring.

The public is cordially invited to attend the NMM’s Brown Bag Lunch program on April 30, when Tatag and the USD Honors class will combine forces to present the NMM’s annual gamelan concert in the Arne B. Larson Concert Hall.

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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!
Graduate student, *Virginia Rolfo*, presented a paper about her master’s thesis research concerning *Vincenzo Sodi*, an 18th-century Florentine keyboard maker, at the combined international meetings of CIMCIM, AMIS, the Historic Brass Society, and the Galpin Society, held in Florence and Rome in September. Also in attendance were *Sarah Richardson*, Curator of Musical Instruments, and *Jonathan Bouquet*, Advanced Conservation Intern, both of whom were recipients of CIMCIM travel grants for young scholars.

Eight staff members, graduate students, and interns attended the annual meeting of the American Musical Instrument Society in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in May. Papers were presented by *Margaret Downie Banks, Patricia Bastos, John Koster, Deborah Check Reeves, Sarah Richardson, and Clint Spell*. On their way to the 3-day event, the NMM entourage stopped in Mason City, Iowa, to inventory and inspect the NMM’s 180 instruments on display at the Meredith Willson Museum and Music Man Square Streetscape.

*Jonathan Bouquet*, Advanced Conservation intern from Mexico City, recently completed a technical drawing of the NMM’s *Stainer violin made in Absam-bei-Innsbruck in 1668*. 

*Maria Kuranowytzsch*, a student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, arrived in Vermillion in February to begin a six-month *Advanced Conservation Internship* at the NMM.

**IN MEMORIAM: GARY M. STEWART (1953-2009)**

Gary Michael Stewart, the NMM’s first Conservator, died from a heart attack at his home in Statesville, North Carolina, in September 2009. Stewart held a Bachelor of Music degree (1975) from Appalachian State University (Boone, NC), where he also took elective courses in technical drafting, advanced woodworking, metal machining and casting. He was the second student to earn the Master of Music degree in the History of Musical Instruments offered by the NMM (1978), with a thesis focusing on the “Restoration and Cataloging of Four Serpents in the Arne B. Larson Collection of Musical Instruments.” Following a Research Fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution (1977), Stewart was hired as the NMM’s Conservator and Associate Professor, positions he held for thirteen years. During a sabbatical in 1988, Stewart served as a Conservation Consultant for the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he was later employed (1990-1993). Following several years as Conservator at the Wolfsonian Museum, Miami Beach (1993-2000), he returned to the NMM (2001-2002) to prepare objects for exhibit at the Meredith Willson Museum & Music Man Square in Mason City, Iowa. Stewart’s many contributions to the NMM are posted in a special tribute on the NMM website.
SPOTLIGHT ON DONORS: THE ARNOLD RUSKIN COLLECTION

The Arnold Ruskin Collection, consisting of 153 outstanding trumpets, cornets, and flugelhorns assembled to document the models produced by F. E. Olds of Los Angeles and Fullerton, California, was donated to the NMM in the fall of 2008 by the collector's widow, Nancy, of La Cañada, California.

Arnold ("Arnie") M. Ruskin (1937-2006), who earned his Ph.D. in engineering from the University of Michigan, was a registered professional engineer and Professor of Engineering at Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California (1963-1973), prior to co-founding the influential Claremont Consulting Group. The author of two books concerning project management, Ruskin also published more than 35 papers in the fields of engineering and management.

As an amateur trumpet player and collector, Ruskin systematically assembled a collection of 122 cornets, trumpets, and flugelhorns representing virtually every model made by F. E. Olds in Los Angeles and Fullerton. According to Olds researcher and noted brass instrument restorer/maker, Robb Stewart (Arcadia, California), Ruskins’ collection “was probably the most complete collection of Olds brasses in private hands.”

An inventory of the collection, along with additional details, can be seen on the NMM’s website (www.nmmusd.org).

JACOB STAINER’S TENOR VIOLA FEATURED IN THE STRAD

The March 2010 issue of the British magazine, The Strad, features the NMM’s tenor viola by Jacob Stainer, Absam bei Innsbruck, ca. 1650 (NMM 3371), on the front cover. An article by Darren Freeman is accompanied by a full-size, pull-out poster of the only Stainer tenor viola known to survive.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
National Music Museum
414 E. Clark Street, Vermillion, SD 57069

Name ____________________________
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*Amount Enclosed $ ____________ Date ____________
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□ New □ Renewal

*Amount Enclosed can be paid electronically through PayPal.

NMM BY THE NUMBERS

What Makes the NMM Unique?
14,800+ Number of musical instruments at the NMM

1 The earliest surviving cello (after 1538) - decorated about 1560 for King Charles IX of France

23 Instruments by Antonio Stradivari

20,000+ Instruments by Andrea Amati

1 of only 2 Violins made by Jacob Stainer that survive in their original condition

1 One of the oldest surviving Neapolitan harpsichords (ca. 1530)

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

Membership in the NMM offers the tangible benefits of special invitations to previews and receptions, concerts and special events, gift shop discounts, the Newsletter, and research services. More importantly, it offers the intangible rewards of being associated with a unique institution, one of the great museums of its kind in the world.

Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible, within the limits provided by law, and directly assist in supporting the many public services of the NMM.