

Arts & Letters

The Center for Arts & Letters
at Rockhurst University

March/April 2010

Musica Sacra Employs Triumphant Tones to Honor University's 100 Years

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra will celebrate the Rockhurst University Centennial in style with two regal works for chorus and orchestra at its Sunday, April 18, concert.

The program will feature music written by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704), one of the most significant composers of the exquisite French baroque. As a young man, Charpentier studied with Giacomo Carissimi, learning the nascent forms of opera and oratorio. Returning to his native Paris, Charpentier excelled in those genres as well as church music.

Late in his career, Charpentier served as *Maître de Musique* at the great Jesuit Church of St. Paul in Paris. It is there that the glorious *Te Deum* received its first performance in 1692.

Many will recognize the famous "Prelude" from a variety of PBS and BBC programs—indeed, it is one of the gems of baroque literature. What follows the prelude is largely unknown by classi-

cal listeners: a wealth of glorious choral and solo music set to marvelous instrumental colors.

Also highlighting the program is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, K. 339, composed in 1780 for Salzburg Cathedral. Mozart's six-movement work is characterized by vivid exhilaration that employs five different keys and musical techniques—including fugue and brilliant orchestration. The work also includes Mozart's "*Laudate Dominum*" for strings, soprano and chorus, one of the composer's most sublime creations.

The performance will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 18, at St. Francis Xavier Church, 52nd and Troost, just west of Rockhurst University. Conductor and Music Director Timothy McDonald will present "Live Program Notes" at 6:15 p.m.

For tickets (\$18, \$12), call (816) 235-6222 or purchase at the church before the performance.

Return to the Classics to Discuss Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*

Return to the Classics, a great books discussion group led by Tom Ventresca, '70, will analyze Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* at 7 p.m. Monday, March 29, in Massman Hall, room 241.

Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* ranks as one of the greatest poetic works in the English language. In *The Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer tells the story of 30 people who travel as pilgrims to Canterbury, England. In order to pass the time during their journey, the pilgrims, who come from all layers of society, tell their stories. They

include a knight, prioress, monk, merchant, man of law, franklin, scholarly clerk, miller, wife of Bath and many others.

One of Chaucer's great gifts as a writer and observer was that he was intrigued by human frailty and the complexity of the human condition, always seeing both the humor and the tragedy.

To reserve a space in the book discussion, contact the Alumni and Constituent Relations Office at (816) 501-4375. The cost, \$25 per person, includes a copy of the book and refreshments.

Plays-in-Progress Workshop April 21

Rockhurst's Plays-in-Progress Workshop will present a reading of the spring 2010 playwriting contest winner at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, in Sedgwick Hall, Room 115.

Student actors will read the work. Afterward, audience members will discuss the play with the playwright, director and actors. A reception follows the reading.

Donations will be accepted at the door.

Events Calendar

Unless otherwise indicated,
all events listed below are free of charge.

March 17, 24, 31

Film Series

March 17 – "The First Legion"

March 24 – "Black Robe"

March 31 – "The Fugitive"

Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Mabee Theater

\$3 each film, \$7 for the series

March 18

Midwest Poets Series

Ray Young Bear

Thursday, Reception 6 p.m.

Greenlease Gallery Atrium

Reading 7 p.m.

Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall

Admission: \$3

March 25

Visiting Scholar Lecture Series & Thomas More Center

Lisa Wagner

"Haunted by God:

The Life of Dorothy Day"

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall

Register attendance:

(816) 501-4828

March 28

Rockhurst Chorus, Chamber Singers & Women's Chorale Spring Concert

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Mabee Chapel, Massman Hall

Free

March 29

Return to the Classics

The Canterbury Tales

by Geoffrey Chaucer

Monday, 7 p.m.

Massman Hall, Room 241

Cost: \$25 includes book,

reception

Call Alumni Office

(816) 501-4375

April 16 – May 15

Greenlease Gallery

Sculpture by Linda Lighton

"Luminous"

Opening Reception

Friday, April 16

Gallery Talk: 6:30 p.m.

Reception: 7-9 p.m.

April 18

Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra

Charpentier: Te Deum

Mozart: Vesperae Solennes de

Confessore, K339

Sunday, 7 p.m.;

Live Program Notes 6:15 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Church

52nd and Troost Avenue

Tickets: \$18 adults, \$12 students

& senior citizens

Central Ticket Office:

(816) 235-6222

or purchase at the door or at

www.rockhurst.edu/musicasacra

April 21

Plays-in-Progress Workshop

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Sedgwick Hall, Room 115

Donations accepted at the door

Reception follows

April 22-25

Rockhurst Theatre

The Threepenny Opera

by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill

Thursday & Friday: 8 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 2 p.m.

Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall

Tickets: \$10 at Box Office

Linda Lighton Illuminates Greenlease Gallery with Her Ceramic Sculptures

An installation of lighted, suspended ceramic sculptures by Linda Lighton opens Friday, April 16, in the Greenlease Gallery. The artist will discuss her work at 6:30 p.m. before the 7-9 p.m. reception.

Lighton is a force of nature. Her limitless energy and creativity result in works that are at once seductively beautiful and rigorously thoughtful. Her exhibit, "Luminous," will be on display through May 15.

Lighton is a prolific artist and has shown her work extensively in the United States and around the world. She has had 46 solo shows since 1974 and has participated in more than 117 group exhibitions.

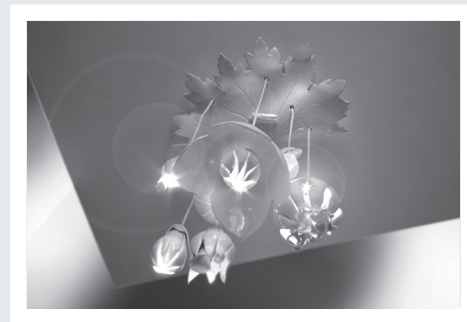
Lighton studied painting and ceramics, 1976-1978, at the University of Idaho before earning her BFA with honors from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1989. From 1974-1976 she lived on the Colville Indian Reservation in eastern Washington state. She attended The Factory of Visual Arts in Seattle, Wash., from 1971-1974.

She is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics and has represented the United States at numerous symposiums and residencies: Fule International Ceramic Museums, 2008; Israeli Ceramic Artists Association and Binyamini Foundation, 2005; International Workshop for Ceramic Artists in Tokonome, Japan, 1996; International Symposium, Latvia, 1998 and 1992; and at the Jiesia Bone China Factory Symposium, Kaunas, Lithuania, 1996.

Lighton is a fervent arts advocate and activist. She helped initiate the One Percent for Arts Program in Kansas City. She has served on the boards of Young Audiences of Kansas City; the Friends of Art, Nelson Atkins Museum; *Review Magazine*; the Kansas City Ballet; and the National Council for the Education of the Ceramic Arts. She currently serves on the Kansas City Jewish Museum Board and the National Committee at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and administers the Lighton International Artists Exchange Program at the Kansas City Artists Coalition. She received an Inspiration Grant from the Metropolitan Arts Council.

Linda Lighton's work is in many national and international collections: the Nelson Atkins Museum, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Daum Museum in Sedalia, the Spencer Museum in Lawrence, the Iceon International Ceramic Museum in Korea, the Fule International Ceramic Museum in China, the Ariana Museum in Geneva, Johnson County Community College and the University of Ohio, Athens.

Contact Greenlease Gallery Director Anne Pearce at (816) 501-4407 or at anne.pearce@rockhurst.edu for more information.



Luminous, 2009-2010, ceramic installation

Greenlease Gallery

Thurs-Sat, 12-5 p.m. • By appointment: 816-501-4407

Ray Young Bear Reads for Midwest Poets Series March 18

Prepare to be transported into another culture when you hear Ray Young Bear perform his contemporary and traditional Meskwaki song-poems.

"I am not exaggerating," says Native American and writer Sherman Alexie, "when I say

that Ray Young Bear is the best poet in Indian Country." Young Bear will read his poetry at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 18, in Mabee Theater.

Young Bear lives in Iowa's Meskwaki – or Red Earth People – Settlement. His great-great grandfather initiated purchase of the land in 1856, which is now an 8,000-acre cultural sanctuary. Young Bear began writing poetry as a teenager with the Upward Bound program, writing in his native Meskwaki and translating into English; his poems retain the heightened, formal style of Meskwaki oratory, and Young Bear often includes hand-drum performance.

Young Bear has been a visiting lecturer at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, Eastern Washington University, the University of Iowa and other places. He has been an instructor for the Gifted and Talented Program in the Meskwaki Settlement School.

A 1976 Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts allowed Young Bear to complete his first collection of poems, *Winter of the Salamander: The Keeper of Importance* (Harper & Row, 1980). Other books include *The Rock Island Hiking Club*, *Remnants of the First Earth* and *Black Eagle Child*. His essays have appeared in *The Des Moines Sunday Register* and *Waterloo Courier*. He has served on Iowa's Board of Humanities (2005-2006) and currently serves on the board of Red Hen Press.

Admission is \$3; no one will be turned away for lack of funds. A complimentary reception begins at 6 p.m. in the adjoining Greenlease Gallery Atrium. Books will be available for purchase and a book signing will follow the reading. Call (816) 501-4607 for more information.



Film Series Celebrates University Centennial With Catholic/Jesuit Movies

In this 100th anniversary year of Rockhurst's founding, the Center for Arts and Letters presents three films that explore questions of faith, doubt, God and society from a commercial filmmaking perspective. Each film will be introduced by a member of the Rockhurst faculty who will lead a discussion following the screening. The films are shown at 7 p.m. in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall; admission is \$3 for each film or \$7 for the series.

March 17 – *The First Legion* (1951) – This story concerns a Jesuit priest who is dubious about an alleged miracle. The film focuses on the nature of belief and the perception of reality within a Jesuit community in a small California town. With Charles Boyer; directed by Douglas Sirk (86 minutes)

March 24 – *Black Robe* (1991) – In the 17th century, a young, idealistic Jesuit priest is sent to care for a remote Indian village in Quebec. His journey becomes a demanding physical and spiritual odyssey. Based on a best-selling novel by Brian Moore. With Lothaire Bluteau; directed by Bruce Beresford (101 minutes)

March 31 – *The Fugitive* (1948) – Set in a mythical South American country, this film tells the story of a totalitarian government that, on pain of death, has banished all priests. One of the last to leave is a priest morally torn between his need for self preservation and his desire to minister to the poor. This film was the cinematic version of Graham Greene's landmark book *The Power and the Glory*. With Henry Fonda; directed by John Ford (104 minutes)

Scholar Series Ends Season With Life of Dorothy Day Portrayal

Rockhurst's Visiting Scholar Lecture Series concludes its season with a one-woman theatrical performance co-sponsored by Rockhurst's Thomas More Center for the Study of Catholic Thought and Culture.

Lisa Wagner of Chicago's Still Point Theatre Collective will present "a moving, magnificent one-woman show" titled "Haunted by God: The Life of Dorothy Day" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 25. This acclaimed play chronicles the co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, who spent 47 years caring for the poor and leading the Catholic Church to a more active concern for the needy in American society.

Dorothy Day and a French-born itinerant philosopher, Peter Maurin, co-founded the Catholic Worker, a living movement that has been responsible for feeding and housing the homeless while maintaining a monthly, nationally read newspaper. Today, there are more than 100 Catholic Worker houses in the United States and around the world.

Wagner, a native of Overland Park, Kan., founded The Still Point Theatre Collective in 1993, motivated by a strong desire to combine ministry and theatre. For more than 15 years, she has toured nationally and internationally with "Haunted by God: The Life of Dorothy Day."

To register your attendance to this free lecture, call (816) 501-4828.





ROCKHURST
A Jesuit University

The Center for Arts & Letters
1100 Rockhurst Road
Kansas City, MO 64110

www.rockhurst.edu/artsandletters

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Rockhurst Choruses Perform Works from Shakespeare to Broadway

The Rockhurst University student choruses will present a diverse program of works that explore the broad range of human emotion. Drawing largely from theatrical sources, the Rockhurst Chorus, Chamber Singers and Women's Chorale will perform traditional and contemporary compositions with lyrics that underscore the human experience.

Under the direction of Kristana Weiler, D.M.A., the Chamber Singers and Women's Chorale will present modern settings of songs that appear in Shakespeare's plays including "It was a lover and his lass" from *As You Like It*, "Take, O take those lips away" from *Measure for Measure*, "O Mistress mine,

where are you roaming?" from *Twelfth Night* and "Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more!" from *Much Ado About Nothing*.

The Rockhurst University Chorus, under the direction of Timothy McDonald, Ph.D., will perform selections from classical to Broadway. The program will conclude with a dramatic medley from the Tony Award winning musical *Les Misérables* by Claude-Michel Schönberg and Herbert Kretzmer. The songs highlight the struggles and triumphs of the human spirit.

The concert takes place at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 28, in Mabee Chapel, Massman Hall. Admission is free; no tickets are required. For information, call Prof. Weiler at (816) 501-4741.

Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera* Closes Theatre Season with Music, Merriment

The Threepenny Opera, written by poet-playwright Bertolt Brecht with composer Kurt Weill and adapted from John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*, completes the Rockhurst Theatre season with performances April 22-24.

The Threepenny Opera, written in 1928, created a worldwide resurgence of musicals. The play's New York off-Broadway production set the record at the time for the longest running musical in

history and "Mack the Knife" became a musical standard.

Performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 22-23, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25, in Mabee Theater, Sedgwick Hall. Tickets may be purchased at the Box Office before the performances; all tickets cost \$10. Seating is open. For more information, call Director Susan Proctor at (816) 501-4040.