

Festival features L.A. composer

By Ian McDougall
Daily Evergreen Staff

The works of a Los Angeles composer Brent Pierce, who is recognized as one of the most versatile American composers today, will be performed by faculty of the WSU School of Music and Theater Arts 8 p.m. Thursday.

Charles Argersinger, WSU faculty and coordinator for the festival, said the performance will feature three world premiere compositions by Pierce.

"A couple of the pieces were written specifically for faculty at WSU, including the "Sonata for Violin and Piano" and "Songs for Soprano and Clarinet," Argersinger said.

"Recuerdos de un Amor Perdido" or Memories of a Lost Love, includes music by the fluegelhorn, oboe, cello and guitar.

The "Suite for Flute and Piano" features Gerald Berthiaume on piano.

The second half of the performance features Sheila Wolk, WSU faculty soprano, singing a work entitled "Soliloquy."

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— Charles Argersinger
Festival Coordinator

Madrigal singers will perform the French "La Chant de la Pluie" or Singing in the Rain, as well as "How Still He Rests" with direction from conductor Lori Wiest.

Also performing will be the University Singers with "Down a Different Road."

Argersinger said Pierce's music is "more accessible, it is not exclusively mathematical." The music Pierce writes has wider appeal than some other 20th century composers.

"His music has wide appeal for many reasons," Argersinger said. "It is conceived with great care as to the emotional and dramatic qualities of the music."

"Sometimes I've written for composers that don't want to hear it," Pierce said. "I like to write for the instrument sound. If the performer enjoys playing it, then the audience enjoys listening to it."

Pierce said he doesn't want to ever alienate an audience, but his main goal is to challenge and interest performers.

"I want to make it so that the performer sounds good and the audience enjoys listening to it. If that happens, then I'm successful," Pierce said.

Elisa Barston, on the WSU music faculty, will premiere Pierce's "Sonata for Violin and Piano" with Berthiaume.

"She is a world class violinist," Pierce said of Barston. "Whatever I write she can play. They don't get much better than her."

"I feel very fortunate to be here," Pierce said. "This school is blessed with an incredible amount of talent. They're wonderful people who are receptive to my music and to the music of the 20th century."

Sheahan: Fighting higher ed cuts

• Continued from cover issues be discussed.

Some of these issues have been: negative check off of optional fees, the rates and distribution of Service and Activities fees, and the university's ability to raise tuition, Sheahan said.

Other sections of the bill describe what groups must be involved in the discussion, giving dates on which the task force must report back.

Sheahan believes the bill will be a success because state-wide laws have a difficult time addressing institutional issues, he said.

Sheahan also is fighting the governor's proposed cuts in the higher education budget.

"The one point that people got across in the initiative 602 debate was that they think higher education should be a high priority in this state. I think that is the major reason why 602 failed — It's frustrating to see the governor ignore that mandate," he said.

Sheahan said the proposed 1.5 percent cut doesn't seem harmful until one looks at the trend over the past few years.

"Higher education, as a percentage of budget, has decreased down to 12 from 14 percent — There appears to be no commitment from governor's office to stop this," he said.

"I serve on the higher education and appropriations committees, and I'll fight those cuts," he said.

Sheahan also noted the Republican caucus has shown strong support of higher education.

"There are other areas of government that could be pared back if need be — but higher education is just too important to be messing with," he concluded.

Correction

In a Feb. 2 story announcing some of the contenders for the ASWSU Presidency, The Daily Evergreen incorrectly stated Jim Froembling is a senator for the 1993-1994 school year. Froembling was a senator for the 1992-1993 year.

The article also stated Jeff Lanctot, Froembling's running mate, is part of the ASWSU Senate as the budget director this year. Lanctot is budget director, but is part of ASWSU Executive Council, not the Senate.

The Daily Evergreen regrets these errors.

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