



News & Notes

Ora & Allora Aliénor in Italy

Elaine Funaro recently participated at a conference in Bologna, Italy. Ora & Allora (Now & Then) featured more than a century of new music for the harpsichord. Elaine was joined by Annelie de Man, professor of contemporary harpsichord music at the Conservatory of Amsterdam (*see* story page 2); and Diadorim Saviola, founder of the group Novecembalo. The event was sponsored by the Bolognese harpsichord association. It was held in late September at “La Saletta.” Elaine performed the Rigadon by Francis Thomé from 1892, and premiered the preludes that were honorable mentions at the 2008 Aliénor competition. This conference followed concerts that Elaine performed in and around Rome with Candace Magner, voice, and Romeo Ciuffa, recorder. Concert recordings are on www.youtube.com (search for “elaine funaro”).



Left: Elaine Funaro
Above: John Pruet
Below: (L-R) Florence Peacock and Lisa Creed

Memorial Day Garden Gala Showcases Winning Pieces



For the second year, the Funaro Love family hosted an Aliénor event in Durham, NC, for Memorial Day. John Pruet, baroque violin, and Elaine Funaro, harpsichord, played an exciting program from the 7th International **Aliénor Harpsichord Composition Competition** held in Winston-Salem last March.

A highlight of the program was the performance of ten solo preludes by various composers; this group of preludes will be published by Wayne Leupold, Inc. Award-winning compositions for the duo category were also played: Sacred Harp Dyads (Ronald McKean, *see* story page 2), Shards (William Averitt), Auspicious Cranes (Graham Lynch), and Fandango (Asako Hirabayashi). The range of contemporary music admirably displayed the harpsichord’s versatility.

A lovely garden party followed the concert of Aliénor music. Guests were invited to tour the gardens and enjoy the silent auction before settling in for wine, generously donated by Steve Grant, and a delicious cake made by Eric Love.

— Emily Mann Peck

Contact Us ...

For more information about how to become a donor and support the efforts of Aliénor, please call:

Elaine Funaro Love
Executive Director
Phone: 919.493.4706
E-mail: e.funaro@gmail.com

About Aliénor...

A little background: Aliénor was named in honor of Eleanor of Aquitaine, a famed 12th century patron of the arts. Eleanor was the richest woman in Europe, and was married successively to King Louis VII of France and King Henry II of England. Her name was actually Alia Enor (literally “another Enor,” since her mother was named Enor). Aliénor is an elision of Alia Enor.

Eleanor was mother to the English Kings Richard the Lionhearted and John Lackland, who was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215. She is one of the most notable women in European history.



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Featured Composer: Ron McKean, 2008 winner

Ronald McKean, double winner at the 2008 Aliénor Awards, tells us about himself:



I grew up in Alameda, California, where I still reside. My parents were both musicians. My father was a music teacher in the public schools and freelance trombonist. My mother freelanced violin and viola. Dad was a jazz and Russian symphony lover; mom was classical and a string quartet aficionado. I listened to music constantly and tried to imitate what I heard. Composition has always had a fascination for me. At three, I apparently wrote my first piece called “The Cow.” I have written pieces for Brass Quintet, String Quartet, violin and piano, viola and piano, Choir, Symphony and electronic media.

The harpsichord has a rich, sonorous string tone and the plucking of strings reminds me of a lute or guitar. Articulation is a fascinating feature as well, because rhythm can be illuminated clearly on the harpsichord. I fell in love with the harpsichord at age 12, listening to Gustav Leonhardt’s recording, “Sweelinck.” Harpsichord in the 1970’s was just making its debut in the Bay Area, but luckily I found a great teacher, Laurette Goldberg. Later, I became an Anthony Newman enthusiast and eventually completed a Masters degree in Harpsichord with him at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. While at IU, I met Ellen Brown, a wonderful pianist and person who eventually became my spouse for 24 years.

I have been an organist in church since I was 14 and composed many vocal and choral pieces because of this early exposure to sacred music. I have been deeply impassioned by the tracker pipe organ, my main instrument. I also play the Native American Flute, Penny whistle, Hammered Dulcimer, Concertina and the Hammond B3. Jazz, rock, folk and classical are intertwined both in my music and my performances.

My day usually begins with a hearty Gung fu workout followed by composing. I always allow 10 hours a week to compose and about 14 hours to practice. Life is more than music, though, and when I am not playing or practicing the organ or harpsichord, I enjoy gardening, geology, archeology, hiking and martial arts. My second love is Native American studies and geography.

Ronald McKean’s composition Sacred Harp Dyads is the winner of the 2008 Aliénor duo category; his piece “Water” was an honorable mention included in the Book of Preludes.

Upcoming Events: **Aliénor Ensemble** in Raleigh

On November 11, Smedes Parlor in Raleigh, NC will host the newly-formed **Aliénor Ensemble** of Elaine Funaro, harpsichord, Geoffrey Burgess, oboe, Stephanie Vial, cello, and Rebecca Troxler, flute. This special event is an unusual opportunity to hear baroque instruments playing both contemporary and traditional Baroque music. The program includes a medley of harpsichord arias and dances from the 16th century to the present. The “aria” from the Bach Goldberg variations will be featured, as well as variations to “Scarborough Fair” by Don Angle and a Bulgarian dance. The ensemble will also play compositions by Rameau and Scarlatti, “Sonata Rondo” (a 2004 Aliénor Awards winner) and “Arias and Dances,” written for the 2008 Awards by NC composer Dan Locklair.

Get upcoming event info sent to you via email! Send a note to efunaro@gmail.com



Dutch Harpsichordist Pushes Boundaries with New CD

At the 2008 International Gaudeamus Music Week (www.gaudeamus.nl), harpsichordist **Annelie de Man** premiered pieces from her new CD recording. Joined by the other members of the group **Oryx** (Tiziana Pintus, violin and John Addison, cello), de Man played *Sonneries* by Roderik de

Man and *Doggy Steps* by Jacob ter Veldhuis at a concert in Amsterdam on September 5, 2008. Her new CD is part of a series called "The Ladder of Escape," featuring artists who push musical boundaries. Attaca Records, the company who produced the series (www.attaca-records.com/ladder.htm), stated, "Every edition of Ladder of Escape illustrates new possibilities ... of one instrument."

Recently, de Man joined Elaine Funaro at a conference in Bologna, Italy (*see* story page 1) and currently serves on the Aliénor advisory board. More about de Man can be found at her website, www.anneliedeman.com.

Our Friends in the Lowcountry



Recently, Aliénor received a very generous grant from an *Anonymous Fund* within the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry (in South Carolina). This grant, the third received since Aliénor became a non-profit two years ago, provides general operating support.

Even in years without a competition, Aliénor sponsors performances of the harpsichord's modern, accessible repertoire and presents it as a contemporary instrument that today's composers write for. Aliénor's current concert calendar includes performances in Raleigh, Dallas, and New York City, plus several events in Boston as part of the 2009 Early Music Festival. Many of these concerts reach out to new audiences; for example, this fall, students in Italy will get the chance to hear winning compositions from recent competitions.

Almost all of Aliénor's funding comes from donors, so gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated. Contributions are tax-deductible and can be mailed to: Aliénor • 3 Sylvan Road • Durham, NC 27701.

Looking towards 2009:

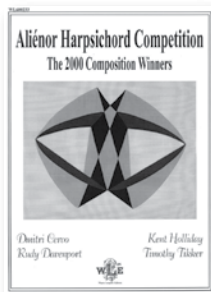
Aliénor will present a showcase of winning compositions at the Boston Early Music Festival in June 2009. More details on this "weeklong extravaganza of early music" (The Boston Herald) can be found at www.bemf.org and in the next edition of Aliénor *News and Notes*.

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NOTABLE NOTES Online News

Oh, how we will miss **Don Angle**! This inimitable performer and composer (*see* story on back page) dominates a recent YouTube video, where he beats out Peter Mansfield in a mock competition "Keyboard American Idol." If you've never heard Angle's arrangements of jazz piece "Take Five" or his medley of Beatles classics, this is a must-view. Visit www.youtube.com and search for "don angle".

The playful side of composer **Carl Schimmel** (who recently wrote a composition for **Duo d'amore**) is apparent in an interview on NPR's All Things Considered (July 20, 2008). Schimmel discusses his compositions for squeaky toys and other unusual objects as part of an interview featuring cutting-edge composers who are making classical music accessible and fun. To listen to the interview and Schimmel's composition "As Fast As Possible," visit www.npr.org and use the box at the top of the webpage to search for "schimmel".



Garden Gala Donors

The Aliénor Board thanks those who so graciously donated items for the garden party and auction:

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The 2008 festivities continue with more great composers, performers, and concerts ...

The masterpieces of tomorrow are waiting to be written.

Remembering Donald Angle

On July 27, self-proclaimed “irregular harpsichord player” Don Angle died at his home in Salem, Massachusetts after being diagnosed with cancer. Angle, 65, arranged and performed an eclectic mix of music, creating spirited interpretations that earned him fans from all over the world. He also gained an intimate knowledge of the harpsichord as he built, repaired, and tuned over 500 instruments during his 28-year employment with harpsichord maker William Dowd.

Angle first performed in the 1970’s as part of a lunchtime series at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a harpsichord technician, Angle traveled to recital halls in the U.S. and Europe and started a sideline career performing a modern repertoire that included Beatles tunes, jazz standards, and movie scores. A biography and recordings of Angle’s music can be found at his website www.donangle.com.



Donald Angle

Over 50 of Don Angle’s arrangements are available in professionally notated form. Purchase any of these as PDF files by requesting them on his website www.donangle.com.

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