



# Sherr News

## 2005 Edition



## Capriccioso Premiere in Japan

Clarinetist [Joseph Eller](#), Assistant Professor of Clarinet at the University of South Carolina, premiered Laurence Sherr's *Capriccioso* for clarinet and piano at two invited performances in the summer of 2005. The first was at his recital at the University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium in Norman, Oklahoma on June 16, and the second was at the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest 2005 in Tokyo, Japan on July 22. At Eller's request for a new work for the venues, Sherr transcribed the first movement of his Duo Concertante, originally for flute and marimba. Preparation of the transcription for clarinet and piano also led Sherr to arrange alternate versions for flute and piano, and for clarinet and marimba. Before leaving for Japan, Eller recorded the version for clarinet and piano with Kennesaw State University pianist [David Watkins](#), who accompanied Eller at the Oklahoma performance.



## Wisconsin Residency

In March 2005 Sherr completed a composition and teaching residency at Beloit College. The main event of the week was the world premiere of the solo viola version of *Elegy and Vision* by faculty violist Allyson Fleck. Among other activities, Sherr  
*Continued in next column*



## Treatise on the Web

A study of Sherr's music for flute is now available online. "Laurence Sherr: Chamber Music for Flute" was submitted as the Florida State University doctoral treatise of Christina Guenther in 2005. Guenther commissioned Sherr's 2002 Duo Concertante for flute and percussion and included it as one of the three works examined in her treatise. The other two works are *Dhammapada Verses* for soprano, flute, percussion and piano, and *Journeys Within: Concerto for Flute and Chamber Ensemble*. For all three compositions, Guenther has included audio files of live performances. Additional chapters provide perspectives on how Sherr's approach and influences relate to those of other contemporary composers, commonalities among the works, and biographical information. The complete treatise, including audio files, is at <http://etd.lib.fsu.edu/theses/available/etd-04092005-015733/>.

After premiering Sherr's Duo Concertante Guenther formed the Guenther-Davis Duo. At a subsequent concert, a reviewer noted their delivery of a "masterful performance... exploring a wide range of sounds and displaying dazzling virtuosity throughout the compelling work's three movements." [Dr. Guenther](#) is now Assistant Professor of Flute at Stephen F. Austin University in Texas.

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*Wisconsin Residency continued*

gave a presentation about his compositional influences and development, and a lecture entitled "Gypsy and Klezmer Music, and their Influences in Western Classical Music."



Joseph Meeks, Dean of the  
KSU College of the Arts, and  
Alice Sherr

## Holocaust Memorial Event

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra cellist Brad Ritchie performed Sherr's *Elegy and Vision* at a Holocaust Memorial Event produced by the Kennesaw State University College of the Arts in April. Laurence's mother was one of two survivors present at the event, which included music and dance performances, visual art, and viewings of the Anne Frank exhibit. See the [online article](#) in *Flourish* magazine.



Laurence Sherr and KSU  
President Betty Siegel

## Two KSU Awards

In 2005 Kennesaw State University honored Sherr with two awards. His composition Duo Concertante received a Foundation Award for Best Faculty Scholarship in the KSU College of the Arts during 2003–04. And in the fall, he was awarded a Faculty Enhancement Leave Program grant to support a new composition for baritone and chamber orchestra.

## Contact

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## Stravinsky Research Cited

Charles M. Joseph cited Sherr's research in his book *Stravinsky and Balanchine: A Journey of Invention*. Published by Yale University Press in 2002, this book received an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award in 2003. Sherr researched Stravinsky for his doctoral dissertation, titled "The Genesis of *Agon*: Stravinsky, Balanchine and the New York City Ballet." During his fieldwork, Sherr interviewed many of the dancers and musicians who worked with Stravinsky and Balanchine for the premiere of the ballet. Joseph used some of their descriptions of Balanchine's interactions with the dancers during the initial rehearsals and performances of *Agon*, and noted that Sherr's research "is particularly useful because his interviews of several dancers do not appear elsewhere".

## Oy Klezmer!



Oy Klezmer! following the Simchat Torah service in October 2005 at Temple Emanu-El in Atlanta. Back row, from left, Jerry Fields, drums, L.A. Tuten, bass, Laurence Sherr, clarinet; front row, Chip Epsten, violin, Susan Clearman, accordion. See the Oy Klezmer! video at: <http://www.oyklezmer.com>