



International Alliance for Women in Music

IAWM Recognizes Radio Stations' Commitment to Women Composers

Press Release, December 2005

Are you hearing more women composers on your classical music radio station? That may be because of a campaign by the International Alliance for Women in Music. One year into the campaign, the IAWM is recognizing radio stations KMFA, KWAX, and WMFE for their commitment to broadcasting women's compositions.

Beginning November 14, 2004, participants in the IAWM's electronic list have been asking their local and Internet radio stations each week to broadcast music composed by women. Honored Broadcasters KMFA in Austin, Texas; KWAX in Eugene, Oregon; and WMFE in Orlando, Florida have played virtually every request, substituting compositions by other women when they did not own the requested selections. The recognition coincides with the 200th anniversary of the birth of composer Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel this year.

In appreciation of their commitment, the IAWM is furnishing links to the Web pages of KMFA, KWAX, and WMFE in a place of honor on this Web page, providing an IAWM banner for the stations to post to their own Web pages, and mentioning the Honored Broadcasters in IAWM publicity materials.

The IAWM is a global network of women and men working to increase and enhance musical activities and opportunities and promote gender equality. By encouraging radio stations to expand their programming beyond the standard works by Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms, the IAWM hopes to bring public recognition to the work of all women composers.

Music professor Ursula Rempel of the University of Manitoba selects a different Radio Request every week, with, she says, "a concern to feature both historical and contemporary women composers." In addition to Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel, Clara Wieck Schumann, Amy Cheney Beach, Hildegard von Bingen and other historical figures, the chosen composers have also included such twentieth-century composers as Ruth Crawford Seeger and Joan Tower (U.S.A.), Rebecca Clarke (Great Britain), Grazyna Bacewicz (Poland), Jean Coulthard (Canada), Li Yiding (China), and Kaija Saariaho (Finland).

For more information, please visit Radio Requests at <http://www.iawm.org>