

Stravinsky's Legacies

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The University of British Columbia Library has received a donation of rare materials relating to Igor Stravinsky from Dr. H. Colin Slim, an alumnus of UBC and Professor Emeritus of the Department of Music at the University of California, Irvine. This unique collection represents every phase of Stravinsky's life, including books, sketches, manuscripts, musical quotations, photographs, letters and postcards.

As an undergraduate, Slim took part in an all-Stravinsky concert at UBC on April 7, 1952, in which he performed (with John Brockington) the *Concerto for Two Solo Pianos* and conducted the Canadian premiere of *Les Noces*. Faculty members Barbara Pentland and Frances Marr Adaskin played two of the four pianos required for *Les Noces*. The *Duo Concertant for Violin and Piano* was performed by Harry Adaskin and Frances Marr Adaskin. The concert ultimately resulted in Stravinsky's being invited to conduct the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. By the time he graduated from UBC, Slim had met Stravinsky and heard him conduct the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in October 1952.

Slim pursued graduate studies at Harvard University and, after receiving his PhD, taught at the University of Chicago (1959-65) and University of California, Irvine (1965-94). He taught

courses on Stravinsky and conducted Stravinsky's music with ensembles such as the Concord Orchestra and University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 1977, he began serious collecting of Stravinskiana with a signed postcard. Many items in the collection relate to the works performed at the April 1952 concert.

When Slim donated his collection to UBC, he also wrote an annotated catalogue that was published by the UBC Library. With Slim's support, it was mailed to research libraries throughout North America and much of Europe. The catalogue makes for fascinating reading, with detailed descriptions of each item and the circumstances surrounding it.

The opening of the H. Colin Slim Stravinsky Collection was celebrated with "Stravinsky!," a series of events on April 5-7, 2002. It began in the Main Library with a reception and opening exhibition that remained on display for the weekend. Among the attendees were a number of the original participants at the 1952 concert. The weekend continued with "Stravinsky's Legacies," a two-day symposium presented by the School of Music and the Library. Vera Micznik organized the program, which included papers by Stravinsky scholars such as Lynne Rogers (Oberlin Conservatory), Lynn Garafola (Columbia University),

Stanislav Shvabrin (UCLA), Gretchen Horlacher (Indiana University), Margarita Mazo (Ohio State University), and Colin Slim. Richard Taruskin (University of California, Berkeley) gave the keynote address, entitled “Stravinsky and Us.”

The weekend also happened to coincide with a concert of the Pacific Baroque Orchestra at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts led by Marc Destribé. The program included pieces by Domenico Gallo, Unico Wilhelm, and Graf van Wassenaer. Their works were formerly attributed to Pergolesi, whose music was the inspiration for Stravinsky’s *Pulcinella*. This was followed by movements from *Apollon Musagète*, another of Stravinsky’s neoclassical works.

In planning the weekend, the UBC Library and the School of Music thought

it would be fitting to mount a re-creation of the original 1952 concert. This fiftieth anniversary concert at the Chan Centre was a splendid success. The *Concerto for Two Solo Pianos* was played by graduate students Erika Crino and Brett Kingsbury, and the *Duo Concertant* was played by faculty members Andrew Dawes and Rena Sharon. Bruce Pullan conducted faculty and students in a brilliant performance of *Les Noces* in Russian.

A Web site has also been created to showcase the H. Colin Slim Stravinsky Collection (www.library.ubc.ca/slim/). Organized by broad categories, the site describes the collection and provides information about the donor. There are links to digital images of each item as shown in the exhibit, with brief captions. Further details can be found in the annotated catalogue.