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First contemporary music symposium slated at Montana State University

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, APRIL 28

The public is invited to assess the state of creative musical talent in Montana next weekend, when the Montana State University Department of Music will present five concerts featuring student and alumni composers.

In announcing the first annual Contemporary Music Symposium at the University, Dean Charles W. Bolen commented, "I hope the curious and the skeptical as well as the usual music lover will turn out to learn firsthand what our talented young people are up to these days."

Students of Prof. Eugene Weigel, composer-in-residence, who will have their work performed during the symposium are Edward Harris, Forsyth; Jerry Mader and Bruce Lester, both of Great Falls; Julius Priete, Havre, and Douglas Smuin, Missoula.

Alumni represented are John Selleck, graduate student at Yale University; Thomas Turner, assistant professor of piano at the University of Idaho, and Bruce Buckingham, Darby teacher.

The concerts, under the general chairmanship of Prof. Weigel, will get under way Friday, May 3, at 8:15 p.m. in the MSU Recital Hall. The first concert is sponsored by the Missoula Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and is comprised of music written and performed during the past year for the fellowship's religious service.

The second event, at 10 a.m. Saturday, will be a lecture-recital by Turner on experimental trends in contemporary music.

A program of music by alumni composers is scheduled Saturday at 8:15 p.m.

Sunday at 4 p.m. the Missoula Music Teachers' Association will present their pupils playing music by young composers at the University. This venture has aroused national interest, according to the dean, and teachers from throughout the region are expected to attend.

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The final concert in the symposium, Sunday at 8:15 p.m., will be a showcase for the talents of composers working toward a degree in musical composition at MSU. A panel of qualified musicians and scholars will join the audience in a critical discussion of the works presented. Panel discussions, with audience participation, will also follow the other concerts, Dean Bolen said.