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Composers take part in University of Montana festival

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NEWS

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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COMPOSERS TAKE PART
IN UM MUSIC FESTIVAL

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Morton Gould, Alan Hovhaness, Milton Katims - names synonymous with American music - figure prominently on the roster of events scheduled at the University of Montana Wednesday and Thursday, May 3 and 4, Dean Charles W. Bolen of the School of Fine Arts announced.

The visiting notables will participate in an American Music Festival that features a public concert by the Seattle Symphony Orchestra Wednesday, May 3, at 8:15 p.m. in the University Theater. Maestro Katims will conduct the orchestra in works by Chadwick, Barber, Hovhaness, Schuman (sic) and Gershwin.

Concert tickets are on sale at the UM Lodge desk (243-5031) and the Fine Arts office (243-4971). All seats are reserved.

Also scheduled Wednesday, May 3, are master classes for University music students, conducted by principal players from the Seattle Symphony, and the first session of a conductors' symposium. At the symposium Wednesday at 4:20 p.m. in room 1 of the Music building, the University Band will perform Gould's Symphony for Band, conducted by the composer.

The symposium will resume Thursday at 2:10 p.m. in room 1 with Hovhaness conducting the band in his Symphony No. 7. At 3:20 p.m. in room 119, the University Symphonette, with Katims conducting, will play Townsend's Chamber Concerto No. 2 for trombone and orchestra. Robert Bailey, a graduate assistant in music, will be soloist.

(more)

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The Thursday program includes a Seattle Symphony reading rehearsal in the University Theater at 9 a.m. and a composers' forum in the Recital Hall at 8:15 p.m. Gould, Hovhaness and Katims will serve as panelists for a discussion moderated by UM composer-in-residence Eugene Weigel.

The symposium, reading rehearsal and forum are open without charge to interested persons, Dean Bolen said.

Hovhaness is working this year with the Seattle Symphony, which is one of four major orchestras awarded Rockefeller Foundation grants to support composers-in-residence. The New Englander has received awards from the National Institute of Arts and Letters and the Guggenheim Foundation and has received commissions for compositions from orchestras all over the world.

Before taking the Seattle assignment, Hovhaness toured the U.S.S.R. under the auspices of the U. S. State Department Cultural Exchange Program. He has toured other parts of the world, and his studies of the ancient music of the Orient are reflected in his current compositions.

Gould, also a native American, began his career as a piano prodigy and at the age of 21 was conducting a series of weekly radio programs. His compositions have been performed by leading orchestras here and abroad. In addition to his orchestral works, he has written scores for symphonic band, stage musicals, motion pictures and television. He is now working with George Balanchine on a full-length ballet for the New York City Ballet.

Gould is a director of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and is chairman of the organization's Symphony and Concert Committee.

The two-day festival is supported by a Rockefeller Foundation grant to the Seattle Symphony. University sponsors are the Associated Students' Program Council, the Public Exercises Committee, and the School of Fine Arts.