

Annual Report 2004-2005
Committee for Public Events
Chair, Rebecca Stuhr

The Committee for Public Events brought in four successful performances during the 2004-2005 academic year.

- The piano duo Quattro Mani came in September, They presented a concert featuring twentieth century music, and in particular, the music of composer George Crumb. The duo also, in a separate event, talked through the entire Crumb work. They demonstrated the various techniques and described the process of working closely with the composer in preparing his works.
- The Kopelman Quartet came in November
- Urban Tap performed two concerts in February
- Our final performance was Sweet Honey in the Rock.

All performances were well attended and audience response was enthusiastic. Sweet Honey in the Rock performed to an overflowing audience in Herrick Chapel. Unfortunately, many people were turned away. I believe that we had a substantial turn out from people beyond the borders of the Grinnell. There was substantial interest from families with school age children. A large contingent of young girls sat right up at the foot of the steps to the stage throughout the concert. As a result of the difficulty in controlling how many people were in the building, the committee will require tickets for all concerts in Herrick next year.

Next Year, all of our performances will be in Herrick Chapel. This has to do with stage size, and the need to seat as many people as possible. The programs for 2005-2006 are as follows:

- September 15, 2005—The Clayton Brothers Jazz Quintet. I hope to arrange an open rehearsal or event that will include local high school students.
- November 3, 2005—Bella Fleck and Edgar Meyer, avant-garde banjo player and cellist.
- November 5--Jory Vinikour, harpsichordist will perform in Sebring-Lewis Hall. Mr. Vinikour is preparing to premier a work in Carnegie Hall and will be performing in Iowa City. He asked if we would be interested in having him perform for expenses here in Grinnell. This is a bonus concert for us and was not part of our original planning.
- February 16, 2006—Les Violons du Roy, a chamber orchestra from Montreal, Canada.
- April 12, 2006—the percussion ensemble, Nexus.

Since all performances will be in Herrick Chapel, there is some difficulties related to set up. Neither Paul Nelson in Music, nor Erik Sanning in Theatre feel that this space is falls within their spheres of responsibility. However, they have both been very helpful in the past, and I hope that the committee will still be able to call upon their expertise. There is also a problem with lack of dressing room space and space for intermissions and pre and post concert periods.

The committee received an enormous amount of assistance from Erik Sanning and Paul Nelson this year especially with the Urban Tap and Sweet Honey in the Rock performances. Jo Loftin of Communications and Events did a great job working as the liaison to the committee. Rachel Bly, beginning in January, also provided the committee with invaluable assistance. Both Loftin and Bly went above and beyond the call of duty when they took on the responsibility of ironing the clothing for Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Finally, a big thank you to Georgia Dentel who continues to prove to be a valuable asset to our work. Georgia has a remarkable gift marked by dogged determination for negotiating with artists' managements, both in terms of getting the artist to agree to come and in getting the fees to a level that we can afford. Our negotiations for Edgar Meyer and Bella Fleck started out with "we don't play small venues." Georgia was able to convince their management that Grinnell College would be an outstanding venue for their performance and then proceeded to get an excellent fee for us.

The students working with the committee were Anne Salomon, Megan Goering, and Sollie Flora. All students made excellent contributions to the selection process. I feel confident that in finalizing our choice of programs, Grinnell students' interests were well represented and attended to. Anne mentioned to me that at a meeting of the SGA, there was a standing ovation when she announced that Bella Fleck and Edgar Meyer would be coming in the fall.

Ed Phillips and Gene Gaub will be the continuing members next year; Claire Moisan will be joining the committee. Sollie Flora and Megan Goering will also be continuing for the 2005-2006 year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Stuhr
Chair, Committee for Public Events