Festival:
Moog, Sahl are among participants

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more.

Robert Moog, inventor of the Moog synthesizer whose production facilities were in Buffalo for several years, will guide sessions on the new sounds generated by the phenomenal technological advances of recent years. Another influential composer who is a full-time professor of both classics and music at Dartmouth College, Christian Wolff, will be on hand for an Encounter session and presentation of four recent works. Among these will be “For Morty,” dedicated to the late Morton Feldman, who was for 15 years Scl Prof of Composition at UB.

Of particular local interest is the premiere of “The Last Elms of Bidwell Parkway” by Michael Sahl, a former member of the UB Creative Associates who was here in the mid-1960s and observed firsthand the painful denuding of Buffalo’s beautiful elm-lined streets in the onslaught of the Dutch elm disease.

So the 1991 festival apparently is one that will uphold its standard of quality admirably.

But the duration of the festival is down from nine days last year to seven. The major diminished element seems to be the perspective which the co-directors have always sought to inject by including works which look back and tip the hat to some of the antecedents of current musical activity.

Composers such as Sergei Prokofiev, Conlon Nancarrow, Virgil Thomson, Benjamin Britten, Ernst Krenek, Otto Luening, Lou Harrison and Arnold Schoenberg were included as recently as the 1990 festival.

For the upcoming festival, though, you have to get down to the last concert by the Buffalo Philharmonic to find a venerable name such as Aaron Copland’s on the composers’ list. Up to that point the nearest thing to the old guard would be works by Morton Feldman, Gyorgi Ligeti and Hans Werner Henze, who are well-established but still ranked as forward-looking musical thinkers.

Michael Sahl wrote “The Last Elms of Bidwell Parkway.”

The complete schedule of times, locations and ticket prices for the 16 events during the ninth annual North American New Music Festival follows.

Thursday, 4 p.m., Baird Hall — Encounter I, an informal discussion with composer John Cage, free.

Thursday, 8 p.m., Slee Hall — World premiere of “Europa 5” by John Cage, $5.

Friday, 8 p.m., Marquee at the Trafal — Geri Allen Quartet and Duo, and Dewey Redman Duo. $8 students/Hallwalls members, $10 advance, $12 door.

Friday, 11 p.m., Calumet Arts Cafe — Cabaret I, works of Trawick, Gibson, Dunleavy and others, free.

Saturday, 11 p.m., Midi Day lectures, times below — Subject: New Technologies, New Sounds: 1 p.m., Slee Hall, keynote talk “Where We’re Going” by Robert Moog; 2 p.m., Baird Hall, lecture-demo-concert with Chris Patton; 3 p.m., Baird. Robert Moog workshop; 3:30 p.m., Baird, Rick Bidlack workshop; 4 p.m., Baird, Peter Otto workshop: all free.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Slee Hall — Midi Day concert, works of Chadabe, Widoff, Mylnka, Bidlack and Otto. $3 students/Hallwalls members, $5 general.

Date to be announced, 11 p.m., Calumet Arts Cafe — Cabaret II, works of Valaverde, Henning, Eilwood and others, free.

April 21, 5 p.m., Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center — Robert Black plays his own solo works for acoustic and electric bass, $3 students/Hallwalls members, $5 general.

April 21, 8 p.m., Albright-Knox Art Gallery — Music and Painting, with Jane’s Minstrels, works of Tavener, Weir, Feldman, Fox and others, free.

April 21, 8 p.m., Burchfield Art Center — Recent works by Christian Wolff including “Rosa,” “For Morty” and others, $3 students/Hallwalls members, $5 general.

April 22, 12:10 p.m., Central Library, Lafayette Square — Premiere of Michael Sahl’s “The Last Elms of Bidwell Parkway,” free.

April 22, 4 p.m., Baird Hall — Encounter II, informal discussion with Christian Wolff, free.

April 22, 8 p.m., Rockwell Hall — Jane’s Minstrels in works of Ligeti, Henze, Kellett and others, $3 students/Hallwalls members, $5 general.

April 23, 4 p.m., Baird Hall — Encounter III, informal discussion with composer James Tenney, free.

April 23, 8 p.m., Slee Hall — UB Percussion Ensemble in U.S. premieres of works by Tenney, Vine and Cary, $3 students/Hallwalls members, $5 general.

April 24, 8 p.m., Slee Hall — Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Jesse Levine in Wuorinen’s “Machaut Mon Chou,” Rude’s “Poly-Drama,” plus works of Copland and Lang, admission to be announced.