

Thirty young composers will come to UB Guggenheim, to learn, perform at June In Buffalo festival other honors for David Felder

By PATRICIA DONOVAN
News Bureau Staff

JUNE IN BUFFALO, one of America's most ambitious contemporary music festivals and the premiere festival of emerging composers in North America, will celebrate its ninth birthday from June 7-13 by introducing American audiences to young composers of uncompromising vision from more than a dozen nations.

Founded by the distinguished American composer Morton Feldman, JUNE IN BUFFALO is presented by the State University of New York at Buffalo and offers an environment unusually conducive to open exchange among new composers, their established contemporaries and experienced performers of new music.

Although other new music festivals are held in the United States, very few are devoted exclusively to the introduction of new composers. According to festival Artistic Director David Felder, "those that are don't feature compositions and performances of the quality you'll see here. I can honestly say there is nothing happening like this anywhere else in the United States."

Felder calls this year's 30 composer-participants, selected through competitive audition, "extremely gifted—the best crop we've ever had," noting that more than a third are from Asia, Europe, Australia or South America. Most of them, despite

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considerable distinction in their own nations, have never been heard in this country.

Audiences will hear music ranging from Europe's anti-minimalist "New Complexity" to new forms of ethereal neo-impressionism inspired by Japan's Takemitsu and written by composers from Spain, Great Britain, Italy, Australia, Korea, Japan, the U.S., Canada and South America. The festival has intensive educational and performance components. Six days of seminars, symposiums, readings of new work by performers and conductors, and recording sessions are coupled with an ambitious evening concert schedule.

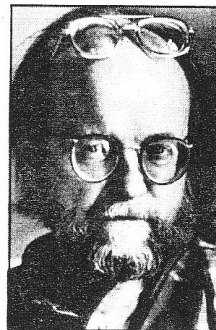
"Most participants and faculty compare JUNE IN BUFFALO very favorably with other festivals for emerging composers," says Felder. "That includes Darmstadt, which is quite prestigious. Although JUNE IN BUFFALO is shorter, the work is of extraordinary quality



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here and it's given unusually fine performance, not always the case elsewhere.

"JUNE IN BUFFALO has always been a unique, important venue for emerging composers of distinction," says Felder. "But this year, because of the exceptional quality of participants and faculty, we've taken a major leap up in stature. It will be the best festival we've ever had."

Composition Faculty

David Felder, coordinator of the composition program at the University at Buffalo, is a major composer of the younger generation. His work has been widely acclaimed and performed at leading international venues for new music, including Darmstadt, Huddersfield, Brussels, Ars Electronica, Aspen, Geneva and Ravinia. It has been commissioned by leading ensembles, orchestras and individual performers here and abroad. He has received many awards and commissions, including six National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, and others from the Rockefeller, Koussevitsky, Fromm and Guggenheim foundations.

He joins a senior composition faculty that includes Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and MacArthur Fellow Charles Wuorinen, one of the most eminent, prolific and widely performed living composers. Wuorinen has won dozens of major prizes and awards for his work, including grants or fellowships from the Rockefeller, Guggenheim, Ingram Merrill, Fromm, Koussevitsky and Ford foundations, and the NEA.

They will be joined this year by performer/composer Donald Erb, whose outstanding career is marked by his exploration of a wide range of styles, from traditional to jazz to electronic performance. His honors feature major national awards, including grants from the National Council on the Arts and the NEA, and Ford and Guggenheim foundation fellowships.

The fourth member of the 1993 composition faculty is Bernard Rands, one of the most distinguished figures among his generation of composers and currently composer-in-residence with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra. His major awards include those from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Fromm Foundation,

the NEA and the 1984 Pulitzer Prize in Music.

Orchestral and Ensemble Performers

The final concert will feature the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and world-renowned percussionist Steve Schick in a performance of works featuring electronic percussion, electric bass and computer-generated sounds. Brussels' new music ensemble Trio Phoenix and New York's Meridian Brass Quintet also will perform this year.

Featured Individual Performers

The performance faculty includes virtuosic musicians of new music, including cellist Josh Gordan, bassist Robert Black, violinist Karen Bentley, who has been a featured performer at major contemporary music festivals and with major orchestras in the United States and Europe, and the young Belgian pianist Luk'.

The faculty also will include nationally acclaimed pianist Anthony de Mare; prize-winning percussionist Kirk Brundage; flutist Rachel Rudich, acclaimed as a performer of great brilliance and sensitivity; Nardo Poy, who has held the principal viola chair with many orchestras; award-winning guitarist David Starobin, widely recognized as an important force in the expansion of guitar repertoire, and the young French violinist David Wolf, recipient of the second prize in the 1990 East & West Artists International Audition for New York Debut and third prize in the 1989 International Carnegie Hall Competition for American Music.

Joining them are violinist Lee Wilkins, founder of New York's Hampshire String Quartet; oboist Brian Greene, co-artistic director of Sylvan Winds, an artists-in-residence group at the Wisconsin Conservatory, and other notable performers.

Featured Conductors

Conductors will include Bradley Lubman, assistant conductor of the Tanglewood Music Center's Festival of Contemporary Music, director of the State University of New York at Stony Brook Orchestra and acclaimed as one of the best young conductor/composers in America. He will join conductor/percussionist Jan Williams and conductor/flutist Harvey Sollberger, both distinguished conductors and performers of contemporary music.

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DAVID FELDER, Birge-Cary Chair in Music at the university, is among 146 scholars, artists and scientists selected to receive a 1993 fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Felder, one of the leading American composers of the younger generation, is the artistic director of the innovative JUNE IN BUFFALO festival for emerging composers held annually at UB.

An associate professor of music, Felder serves as assistant chair in the Department of Music and directs the program in composition.

He was among those selected from this year's field of 2,989 applicants "on the basis of (their) unusually distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment."

Felder has also been selected as one of six composers who will launch "New Residencies," a new national community-based program for orchestras, choruses, opera, dance and theater companies working in partnership

with local civic organizations.

Under its auspices, he will be in residence from 1993-96 with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Greater Buffalo Opera and W B F O - F M , UB's public radio station. During that time he will compose a concerto for soloist



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and orchestra and a one-act opera using advanced video technology and performed by Philharmonic players.

The New Residencies program is funded by Meet the Composer, Inc.; The Pew Charitable Trusts; the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.

Felder's work, featured at many of the leading international venues for new music, has earned many grants and awards for the composer, including six fellowships from the NEA, a New York State Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and two awards from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Felder, who holds a doctorate from the University of California at San Diego, has taught there and at the Cleveland Institute of Music and California State University at Long Beach.