International Artists Dedicate the New School of Music Center

In November, the IU School of Music hosted a gala weekend of events and performances to celebrate the dedication of the new Bess Meshulam Simon Music Library and Recital Center. The dedication ceremony was presided over by IU President Myles Brand. Performances were given by world-renowned musicians, including several IU alumni, offering a range of music from orchestral to chamber to vocal. Internationally acclaimed conductor of the New York Philharmonic, Kurt Masur, led the IU Philharmonic Orchestra in the dedication concert. Other notables included mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, baritone Kurt Ollmann, actress Tyne Daly, and IU alumni Joshua Bell, violinist, and Sylvia McNair, soprano.

The Simon Center, an $18.5 million renovation of the old School of Education building, includes two new recital halls, the 100-seat Ford Recital Hall and the 400-seat Jone B. Auer Concert Hall. It also houses the William and Gayle Cook Music Library, a “state-of-the-art” facility which can integrate the library’s top-ranked collection of printed and recorded music items with a computer classroom, a media editing center, multimedia workstations in reading areas, and a central computer room, enabling the School of Music to be linked to the world beyond. The library will store music information in digitized form whose files are available to users seated at workstations, so that they can easily access musical performances from many different eras, performers, countries, and styles. It is hoped that access to this technology will open up new areas of musical analysis and inquiry, and that the music library’s capabilities should make it an information hub in an increasingly digital and electronic world. “Our faculty is without equal, and our students are among the most talented and eager musicians of their time. The completion of the Center will help faculty and students for generations to come to achieve excellence during their days in Bloomington,” said Dean of the School of Music Charles H. Webb.

The faculty and student body of the School of Music are among the most international at IU. More than 15 percent of the total number of international students on the Bloomington campus are studying music, coming from more than 35 different countries around the world.

National Archive for Catalan Materials at IUB

In honor of Josep Roca-Pons, IU Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Catalan, the North American Catalan Society (NACS) has established a national archive for Catalan materials at the IU Bloomington Libraries. The Arxiu Josep Roca-Pons was formally dedicated on October 3, 1995, during the annual meeting of the Society, held on the Bloomington campus. The archive will serve as a central collection point for a variety of materials pertaining to Catalan culture, including books, journals, manuscripts, and correspondence. The Society expects that contributions will come from Spain, Canada, Mexico, and possibly South American textile communities, as well as from sources in the United States. The autonomous government of Catalonia, the Generalitat, may also provide special materials and support. It is anticipated that, in time, Indiana University will become a preeminent location in the United States for research in this area.