

ELECTRONIC MUSIC MIDWEST

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Press Release

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Lewis University to Host Electronic Music Festival

As part of its 75th anniversary celebration, Lewis University will host Electronic Music Midwest (EMM), a festival of electroacoustic music, from Thursday, Oct. 12 through Saturday, Oct. 14. Featuring musical performances by more than 40 composers, EMM is one of the largest collegiate electroacoustic festivals in the United States. Free and open to the public, all EMM events will be held in the Oremus Fine Arts Center on the Lewis University main campus on Route 53 in Romeoville, Ill.

Founded and co-directed by Lewis assistant professor of music and composer-in-residence Dr. Mike McFerron, the annual festival includes original pieces from some of the world's top electroacoustic composers. A special highlight of this year's event will be an appearance by members of the Electroacoustic Community of Chile (Comunidad Electroacustica de Chile) and a concert featuring music by members of the Chicago Composers Forum.

"Electronic Music Midwest might have a regional name, but the composers represented in the festival's program are from all over the world," explained Jay C. Batzner, Assistant Professor of Music Technology at the University of Central Florida. Batzner, who coordinated the programming for this year's festival, said there is a rich diversity of musical styles within each concert.

Since its beginning, EMM has programmed over 250 new electroacoustic compositions. Composers travel from around the world to share their music with audiences in the Midwest. Most concerts are approximately one hour long, giving composers time to "talk shop" with each other as well as to interact with students and audience members.

William Jason Raynovich, Artistic Director for the MAVERICK Ensemble, has attended EMM on three separate occasions. "EMM is the best electronic music festival of the year in the Midwest," Raynovich said. "Each time just seems to get better. Each piece is heard in an environment that composers and audiences rarely get a chance to experience. As an audience member, you also have the opportunity to meet the composers and learn more about their pieces firsthand."

Festival events open on Thursday, Oct. 12 with a concert at 7:30 p.m. For a complete schedule, visit www.emmfestival.org on the Web. For more information, call (815) 836-5619. EMM is made possible through the collaborative efforts of Lewis University, the University of Missouri - Kansas City, and Kansas City Kansas Community College.

A Catholic University sponsored by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, Lewis provides more than 70 undergraduate majors and programs of study, accelerated degree completion options for working adults, various aviation programs, and 20 graduate programs in nine fields. Also offered is a new Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership for Teaching and Learning.