

Summary Report: William Westney as H.C. Andersen Guest Professor, University of Southern Denmark, 2009-10

The Institute for Philosophy, Education and the Study of Religions (IFPR) at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) submitted an application for William Westney, D.M.A. (Texas Tech University) to be a Hans Christian Andersen Guest Professor in April, 2009. His appointment was announced in May. Due to some ongoing professional obligations in the U.S., Westney fulfilled his 6-month contract at SDU in five separate visits, extending the overall time frame to the 9-month period September 28, 2009 to June 28, 2010.

OVERVIEW:

This professorship has been characterized by a stream of varied activities, relating music to a wide range of subjects from philosophy to education, body/mind health, multimodality in discourse, narrativity, aesthetics, the meaning of gesture, textual analysis, culture studies and psychology. In addition to numerous lectures, seminars and conference presentations, Westney gave twelve solo piano performances, including recitals at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the University of Oslo and the Salurinn Concert Hall in Reykjavik. Of special note was a solo performance on March 17, 2010 in Tønder that was attended by Prince Joachim and Princess Marie of Denmark.

Professional trips through the year took Westney not only to various points in Denmark but also to Finland, Norway and Iceland as a faculty representative of SDU. Outreach in the area of Southern Denmark has been especially substantial. He presented a "Meet the Pianist" performance/dialogue at an Odense middle school for over 150 teenage students. Other appearances, each combining a workshop for young local students (Westney's unique "Un-Master Class") and a public solo recital, were held throughout the Sønderjylland area in Sønderborg, Vojens, Tønder and Aabenraa; these came about due to a cooperative venture with the educational programs of *Den Sønderjyske Kulturaftale*.

Many of the aforementioned events have garnered considerable publicity for SDU, thus bringing positive attention to the HCA Guest Researcher program. In addition to an illustrated article in *Ny Viden* early in the year, <http://www1.sdu.dk/Adm/Nyheder/sdu-nyviden-11-2009gd.pdf#page=12>, there were over 50 news items both in print newspapers and online, and extended feature articles in *Der Nordschleswiger* and *Jydske Vestkysten*. Aabenraa Lokal TV (ALTV) took an interest in Westney's residency in Denmark and filmed conference presentations, interviews, a recital, a workshop, and this HC Andersen lecture at SDU. This led to four edited TV programs that were each aired repeatedly for a week on ALTV.

On a scholarly level, Westney maintained a schedule of cooperative research throughout the year with SDU lektor Cynthia M. Grund (Philosophy; appointed HCA Faculty liaison during his residency) - one of the many results of which is a paper that has been accepted for presentation at the American Society for Aesthetics conference in Victoria, B.C. (Canada) in October 2010. Westney and Grund have made numerous other dual appearances at conferences and workshops in the Nordic area during the residency (see below). Other SDU faculty involved in cooperative ventures relating to Westney's residency included Moustapha Kassem (Medical Biotechnology Center), Sharon Millar and Carl Bache (Institute of Language and Communication), and Nikolaj Frydensbjerg Elf (IFPR - Kolding). As a result of the joint appearance in Kolding, Grund has been invited to present a keynote address at *Working with Stories: Narrative as a Meeting Place for Theory, Analysis and Practice*, the 2nd conference of the European Narratology Network, March 2011, organized by Per Krogh Hansen (H.C. Andersen Forskerskolen, SDU) and supported by the Danish Research Council for the Humanities. Westney also conferred with IFPR faculty members Horsdal, Søndergaard Christensen, Damberg and Nottelmann on philosophical and pedagogical issues. Additionally, he advised master's candidate Daniel Frandsen and Ph. D. candidate Søren Frimodt-Møller (Philosophy) on their research and served as the designated opponent at Frimodt-Møller's trial dissertation defense.

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

[note: further information on many of these events can be found by following links at <http://www.soundmusicresearch.org/index.html> and <http://williamwestney.com>]

2009

October 1: Lecture and workshop, "Music and Wellness" series, Odense University Hospital (Denmark): "What's so Good about Good Vibrations?" Host: Moustapha Kassem, Professor, The Medical Biotechnology Center; The Molecular Endocrinology Unit (KMEB) and Centre for Stem Cell Research, University Hospital of Odense, Odense, Denmark

October 6: Conversational lecture and performance (with Cynthia M. Grund), Institute of Language and Communication, SDU, Odense (Denmark): "Music and Meaning: Multimodality as Topic and Method." Host: Sharon Millar, Associate Professor, Vice-Head of Institute, Institute of Language and Communication, SDU.

October 7: Conversational lecture and performance (with Cynthia M. Grund): "Music on My Mind!" Media and Culture Studies course. Kulturcenter Nicolai, Kolding

(Denmark). Host: Nikolaj Frydensbjerg Elf, Assistant Professor of Education, IFPR (SDU), teaching for ILKM (Kolding).

November 6: "Popular. . . Schmopular . . ." (co-presenter with Cynthia M. Grund): *Art and/or Entertainment?* 5th Anniversary Conference on Philosophy and Popular Culture, University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Odense. Recorded and later broadcast by Aabenraa Lokal TV (ALTV) <http://www.aabenraa-lokal-tv.dk/wp/2010/02/15/3285/>

November 10: Solo Recital, University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Odense. Full program http://www.soundmusicresearch.org/Westney_program_101109-3.pdf

November 14: Solo Recital, Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland

November 15: Second Symposium for Research on Instrumental and Vocal Pedagogy: *Challenges of Multiculturalism*: Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland

- "Un-Master Class" workshop with advanced vocal and instrumental students from the Sibelius Academy

- Conversational lecture and performance (with Cynthia M. Grund) "Performance, Pedagogy and Pragmatism"

November 17: Lecture as Hans Christian Andersen Guest Professor, University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Odense: "Experience and Inquiry - A Musical Journey." Recorded by Aabenraa Lokal TV (ALTV) *Abstract:* Learning the skills of concert performance in private, and presenting music in public, are both highly distilled and specialized activities. Due to the fact, though, that musical processes involve so many aspects of a person, all working together – physical, analytical, emotional, aesthetic, practical, communicative, epistemological, etc. – the implications for philosophy and pedagogy can be wide indeed. Although the material of music is abstract and non-verbal, musical experiences are strikingly real and immediate, and musical content communicates with uncanny power. This lecture presents some ongoing findings from observing this realm of experience, as well as its intriguing relevance to the work of H.C. Andersen. Solo piano performances will be included.

November 19: "It's Such a Nice Melody - Why Jazz it Up?" (co-presentation with Cynthia M. Grund): Conference: *The Role of Rhythm in Musical Meaning*: Network for Cross-Disciplinary Studies of Music and Meaning (NTSMB), University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Odense

November 24: "Un-Master Class" performance workshop, University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Alsion, Sønderborg. In cooperation with the "Mester Mus" educational program of Den Sønderjyske Kulturaftale. Recorded and later broadcast by Aabenraa Lokal TV (ALTV) <http://www.aabenraa-lokal-tv.dk/wp/2010/02/08/3242/>

November 24: Solo recital, University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Alsion, Sønderborg. Publicity: <http://www.kulturfokus.dk/idn341.asp> Recorded and later broadcast by Aabenraa Lokal TV (ALTV) <http://www.aabenraa-lokal-tv.dk/wp/2010/01/04/2723/> Additional ALTV interview video recorded that day: <http://www.aabenraa-lokal-tv.dk/wp/2009/11/30/2353/>

November 25: "Un-Master Class" workshop and recital, Vojens and Haderslev Music Schools, Vojens, Denmark. In cooperation with the "Mester Mus" educational program of Den Sønderjyske Kulturaftale. <http://www.soundmusicresearch.org/Haderslev-Vojens-251109.pdf>

November 26: Recital and lecture, "The Perfect Wrong Note: the Meaning of Mistakes in Music and in Life," Juhl-Sørensen Steinway Auditorium, Copenhagen, Denmark. Presented to an audience of business professionals and music teachers and students.

2010

February 7: All-day seminar, including the lecture "How Can a Wrong Note Be Perfect?" and the "Un-Master Class" workshop, for EPTA Denmark (European Piano Teachers Association); Juhl-Sørensen Steinway Auditorium, Copenhagen. Presented to piano teachers and students from all of Denmark.

February 18: Solo recital, Dept. of Musicology, University of Oslo, Norway

February 19: "Un-Master Class" workshop as part of ongoing music, meaning and gesture studies within the NordPlus *Nordic Network for the Integration of Music Informatics, Performance and Aesthetics (NNIMIPA)*, University of Oslo, Norway. Laboratory session with Westney as research subject for motion-capture recording of musical performance, Four M's Laboratory (Music, Mind, Motion, Machines), University of Oslo. Videos and descriptions at <http://www.nnimipa.org/JWG.html>

March 16: Opponent for trial defense of Ph.D. candidate Søren Frimodt-Møller (Philosophy). Dissertation: "Playing by the Rules? A Philosophical Approach to Normativity and Coordination in Music Performance"

March 17: "Un-Master Class" workshop and recital, Tønder Music School, Pumpehuset (Tønder Art Museum), Denmark. Recital and reception attended by Prince Joachim and Princess Marie of Denmark and widely publicized. Workshop in cooperation with the "Mester Mus" educational program of Den Sønderjyske Kulturaftale. News item: <http://www.billedbladet.dk/Kongelige/ArticleFolder/2010/3/Marie%20og%20Joachim%20til%20pianokonzert.aspx> . Also <http://www.kulturfokus.dk/idn551.asp>

March 22-26: Presiding host and faculty member of five-day NNIMIPA/NordPlus Master's Course, *Music, Meaning and Gesture*, (NNIMIPA - *Nordic Network for the Integration of Music Informatics, Performance and Aesthetics*), University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Odense. Faculty and student participation in the course from Copenhagen and Esbjerg (Denmark), Sweden, Finland and Norway. More information and slide show at <http://www.nnimipa.org/MMG.html>

- **March 23:** "Gesture and Performance Workshop" including an "Un-Master Class" session involving 13 students from the Carl Nielsen Conservatory (Odense)

- **March 26:** Lecture "The Philosophy of Musical Gesture"

April 9: "Meet the Pianist" (performance and discussion), Henriette Hørlück's School, Odense, Denmark. Attended by approximately 150 students aged 14 - 17.

May 11: "Un-Master Class" workshop, Royal Danish Academy of Music, Copenhagen. Participants from the advanced piano class.

May 12: "Un-Master Class" workshop and recital, Aabenraa Music School, held at Deutsches Gymnasium für Nordschleswig, Aabenraa, Denmark. In cooperation with the "Mester Mus" educational program of Den Sønderjyske Kulturaftale.

May 17: Lunchtime recital, noon-1 p.m., Cafeteria 4, University of Southern Denmark, (SDU) Odense

May 18: "Gestures in the Mirror: Embodying Musical Empathy" - presentation at conference *Music, Meaning and Empathy*, Network for Cross-Disciplinary Studies of Music and Meaning (NTSMB) University of Southern Denmark, (SDU) Odense

May 25 - 28: Co-presenter with Cynthia M. Grund, " 'If I Could Say It, I Wouldn't Have To Dance It' (Isadora Duncan): A Philosophical Investigation of Multimodality," Four-day graduate course, Bifröst University, Iceland. Full information at <http://www.soundmusicresearch.org/Bifrosthme.html>

Day 1. Tuesday, May 25: "Words and Music": Two-person conversational lecture/demonstration with Westney and Grund. (Presentation for 80 minutes; discussion for 40 minutes)

How do the fields of music and philosophy deal with the "ineffable?" Does music continue where words leave off, as Hans Christian Andersen said? How does pragmatist philosophy relate to the phenomena of musical practice and performance? Ideas of Susanne Langer, John Dewey, Martin Buber and others will be integrated into the lecture and discussion.

Day 2. Wednesday, May 26: Recital with expanded lecture portions, William Westney (120 minutes).

Classical piano repertoire by Haydn, Fauré and Liszt, as well as jazz-flavored music by Gershwin and Arlen, will be performed by prizewinning

concert artist William Westney. Interspersed with the performances will be commentary and discussion about the aesthetics and background of the pieces and the possible ways that meaning can be negotiated between musician and audience in the act of performance.

Day 3. Thursday, May 27: “Gesture, Music and Meaning”: Two-person conversational lecture/workshop with Westney and Grund. (Presentation for 80 minutes; discussion for 40 minutes):

A philosophical analysis and exploration of expressive gesture will be pursued through multi-modality in this session. Lecture portions will be presented along with demonstrations of state-of-the-art motion-capture computer technology and videos of gesture being used as a means of musical pedagogy. Additionally, features of gesture will be experienced hands-on by course attendees through participatory games and activities.

Day 4. Friday, May 28: Virtual Reality, *Second Life* and George Berkeley with Cynthia M. Grund (120 minutes)

3D-design and the worlds which may be created by means of it challenge and extend our intuitions about physicality, presence and the role of gesture in interpersonal communication. This module will address these issues by examining a pilot project for e-learning in the form of virtual museum-teaching that was conceived and by Grund and designed by *Second Life* Developer Jesper Pilegaard.

May 28: Solo recital, Salurinn, Kopavogur Concert Hall, Reykjavik, Iceland. Concert listing: http://salurinn.is/default.asp?page_id=7502&event_id=8007

May 29: Co-presenter with Cynthia M. Grund, "Music Performance as a Process of Inquiry" music research conference, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland

June 2: Co-presenter with Cynthia M. Grund, "Texts, Choices and Musical Performances" for the research group "Choice and Text," Institute for Language and Communication, University of Southern Denmark, Odense. Host: Carl Bache, Professor, Institute of Language and Communication at SDU, Odense