

2008-2009 Report on the Activities of the Faculty Committee On Music

submitted by
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Our Committee met five times over the course of the academic year, on

October 6, 2008
December 5, 2008
February 11, 2009
March 3, 2009
May 14, 2009.

At these meetings, we finalized the choice of artists for the 2009-2010 season, and affirmed our commitment to high quality programming. We also considered potential top level performers for the 2010-2011 season, keeping in mind current budgetary constraints. We have had extensive discussions of how to develop a larger audience for the Bailey Hall concerts, and we plan to institute new initiatives designed to attract larger groups of students, and to entice new faculty members to become concert goers. We have continued to schedule, whenever possible, master classes or discussions in which the visiting artists can interact directly with students, faculty, and staff. These interactions are a valuable secondary benefit to the Cornell community.

We have been concerned about the status of the annual \$160k allocation (we have been told to proceed in our planning with a 5-7% reduction in mind) which is extremely important to the continuation of a credible concert season. Any uncertainty is problematic, since contracts with artists need to be finalized far in advance. It will therefore be very helpful if we know what Cornell can afford to provide in support of our activities each year as far in advance as possible.

Concerning the possibility of strengthening the committee, and improving its performance, the most valuable step will be to recruit new committee members who are familiar with our concert series, who care deeply about music, and who bring to the committee's efforts a deep knowledge of at least one area of music (i.e. classical music; jazz; world music . . .). An informed Committee membership is certainly the key to being able to construct an exciting season program while keeping within a realistic budget.