

# American Music Week to be observed locally with variety of performances

By Derrick Henry  
Staff Writer

For the third consecutive year, American Music Week is being celebrated in grand fashion this week, with more than 1,000 concerts and related events being held in the 50 states, plus eight foreign countries.

Several groups will participate in Atlanta — among them, Composers' Resources, a composer advocacy group that will present four concerts of 20th-century American music. The programs range from multimedia works and the latest electronic creations to songs by Gershwin and Bernstein. Oddities such as music for crystal glasses, multiple record players and audience participation promise a lively series.

Howard Wershil, president of Composers' Resources, says the programming "attempts to reflect the diversity of music being written today. . . . People tend to think of music mostly in terms of pitch orientation, when in fact there is a great deal of music that emphasizes other parameters, such as rhythm and sonority, and in our electronic music program, the antiphonal use of space. The electronic program is also interesting in that some of the tapes were produced out of home studios, others in professional or university studios."

The schedule:

■ **Tonight.** The Atlanta Contemporary Chamber Ensemble performs with guest clarinetist Burton Beerman and dancers Deanna Griffen and Celesta Haraszti. Beerman, from Bowling Green University in Ohio, will participate in a performance of his "Electric Colors of Spring" for two clarinets and dancer. There also will be three solo works: for vibraphone (Christopher Deane), clarinet (Chester Brezniak) and piano (Laura Gordy).

"Spiral Mandala," by avant-garde composer Pauline Oliveros, occupies the program's second half. The work is scored for dancer-narrator, percussion, four clarinets and eight crystal glasses.

■ **Tuesday.** An overview of 20th-century American vocal music will be offered by soprano Cheryl Boyd-Waddell, baritone J. Wayne Baughman and pianist Cary Lewis. Ten composers are represented: Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, Charles Ives, Carlisle Floyd, Gian Carlo Menotti, Samuel Barber, John Jacob Niles, Thomas Pasatieri, John Duke and Ellwood Derr.

■ **Wednesday.** Electronic music in both stereo and quad comprises the program for this unusual concert. Eleven works by as many composers were chosen from the more than 40 pieces submitted by more than 30 composers. The longest selection is a 20-minute suite from "Moon Whales and Other Moon Songs" by Barry Schrader, head of the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States.

■ **Sunday.** This is not a concert, strictly speaking, but rather a 75th birthday party for John Cage. It includes the Atlanta premiere of his "33-1/3," a composition involving audience participation and the use of multiple record players.

## Music Notes



Clarinetist Burton Beerman and his wife, dancer Celesta Haraszti, perform tonight with the Atlanta Contemporary Chamber Ensemble.

The programs begin at 8 each night at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way N.E. Tickets tonight, Tuesday and Wednesday are \$8 per concert; \$6 for students or seniors. Sunday program is free. Information: 998-7286.

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Georgia State University is celebrating American Music Week with a performance by the GSU Wind Ensemble at 8 Wednesday night in the GSU Recital Hall at Peachtree Center Avenue and Gilmer Street.

Kirk Edward Smith conducts Atlanta composer Kar Boelter's "Variations for Chamber Winds," Perc Grainger's "Hill Song No. 2," Joseph Downing's "Symphony for Winds and Percussion" and Sousa's march "The Glory of the Yankee Navy." The concert is free. Information: 651-3676.

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The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's (ASO) contribution to American Music Week is the premiere of a violin concerto commissioned from Minnesota composer Stephen Paulus and dedicated to ASO concertmaster William Preucil, who will play the solo. Performances are scheduled at 8 nightly Thursday through Saturday in Symphony Hall, 1280 Peachtree St. N.E.

Also on the program is Mozart's C minor Mass. Robert Shaw conducts the ASO and ASO Chorus. Tickets are priced at \$12 to \$23.25. For reservations or information: 892-2414.