

VHS thespians present 'Noises Off'



The madcap farce "Noises Off" by Michael Frayn will be performed by Vermillion High School students Oct. 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 7 at 2:30 p.m. in the high school performing arts center

This is a play within a play. The story is about a group of actors performing a wacky British farce. Their difficulties begin when the final dress rehearsal turns into an all-night disaster full of petty fights, lost actors,

broken scenery and missing plates of sardines. "Noises Off" gives audiences the rare opportunity to see the frantic chaos that goes into putting on a play. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and senior citizens and free to

those with Vermillion School district activity cards. Tickets can be purchased at the door or the high school office.

"Noises Off" will be performed by Vermillion High School students Oct. 5-7. The cast includes (front, from left) Adam Ahmed, Meghan Cameron, William Card, Sam Pearson, Allison Howe, Austin McQuistan, (back, from left) Dustin Fischer, Leah Geis and Rachel Axtell.

(Photo by David Lias)

USD's 'Elderlaw Forum' radio show reaches No. 500

"The Elderlaw Forum," a weekly radio show hosted by University of South Dakota School of Law professor Michael Myers, recorded its 500th show this week.

Airing at 7 a.m. Sundays on radio station WNAX-AM (570), the program offers a public version of topics covered in Myers' courses. An elder law professor, Myers uses "The Elderlaw Forum" to interview elder law attorneys, legislators, health care administrators, physicians, social workers and outstanding seniors to inform listeners about safeguarding their finances as well as discuss health and independence issues. The program is also used as a bridge to the USD Senior Legal Helpline (1-800-747-1895) through which Myers and his assigned student research assistants provide pro bono information and advice to seniors confronting the challenges of aging.

Fact patterns related to Helpline calls are used anonymously and confidentially to present law students with practical legal problems encountered by senior citizens.

Myers, an emeritus trustee of the Mayo Foundation and former Mayo-St. Mary's Hospital CEO, has covered topics such as consenting to treatment, experimental procedures, refusing treatment and the right to die. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, pensions, disability and VA benefits are routinely updated.

Myers provides advice on evaluating nursing homes, quality of care and nursing home reforms.

For more information on "The Elderlaw Forum," visit the Web site: www.usd.edu/law/elderlaw.cfm.

Acclaimed pianist, USD professor Susan Keith Gray tours Thailand

Acclaimed pianist Susan Keith Gray, D.M.A., of the University of South Dakota toured Thailand recently under the sponsorship of the United States Embassy to promote cultural understanding. As part of a cultural outreach tour and as a member of the Kobayashi/Gray Duo, along with violinist Laura Kobayashi, the tour included seven concerts and several master classes and workshops.

The full classical concert program included works by Edvard Grieg, Irene Poldowski, Alfred Schnittke and American composers Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, William Bolcom and Emma Lou Diemer. The concerts were held at AUA Bangkok, The HUG School of Arts in Khon Kaen, Nakhon Phanom University in Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University in Sakon Nakhon, Maejo and Payap Universities in Chiang Mai, the Chiang Rai Youth Symphony in Chiang Rai and the Mahidol College of Music in Bangkok.

Formed in 1990 when both were students completing doctoral degrees at the University of Michigan, the Kobayashi/Gray Duo has toured around the world and continues to perform standard repertoire as well as works by women composers.

Notable venues played include the Dame Myra Hess Series and radio broadcast at the Chicago Cultural Center, and museums and festivals, including the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Toledo Art Museum, the Music Teachers National Association, the College Music Society, the International Festival of Women Composers and the Hot Springs Music Festival.

The duo has recorded two CDs of works by women composers: "Feminissimo! Women Playing Music by Women" (2008) and "Boldly Expressive! Music by Women" (2000).

In addition to being a pianist, Gray is a professor of studio piano, collaborative piano and class piano at USD. She is also a member of the award-winning

Rawlins Piano Trio. With the Rawlins Piano Trio, she has toured in Taiwan and Panama and has recorded four CDs of American piano trios. Individual awards include prizes in the Music Teachers National Association Collegiate Artist Competition, and solo appearances with the South Dakota Symphony, Dakota Chamber, Spartanburg, Savannah, Huron, Cherokee and the University of South Dakota Orchestras. Other recordings include songs of African-American composers and she has served on the Instrumental Accompanying Faculty at the Music Academy of the West and as staff accompanist for national competitions.

Gray holds degrees in piano performance from Converse College and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Chamber Music and Accompanying from the University of Michigan. Gray joined the University of South Dakota faculty and the Rawlins Piano Trio in 1995.

Kobayashi leads a varied career as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician, adjudicator

and teacher. As a performer, Kobayashi has participated in numerous music festivals in the United States, Norway, Brazil and Argentina and has appeared as a soloist with the Seattle and Spokane Symphonies, Grand Junction Symphony, the Northwest Chamber Orchestra and the Salta Chamber Orchestra in Salta, Argentina. Currently on the faculty of George Mason University and a free-lance violinist and private teacher in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Kobayashi has served on the faculties at West Virginia University, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the University of Georgia and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and has performed as a member of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Kobayashi earned degrees from The Juilliard School and Yale University and the Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Michigan.

For more information about the Kobayashi/Gray Duo, go to www.kobayashigrayduo.com or visit the duo's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KobayashiGrayDuo.

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PROGRAM IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Al Neuharth Award for Excellence in the Media honoring columnist

Marilyn Hagerty

Thursday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m.
Doors open 6:15 p.m.
The University of South Dakota
Aalfs Auditorium, Slagle Hall

To receive up to six free preferred seating tickets, write to jharris@freedomforum.org or call 605/677-5424. Ticket requests will be accepted until Oct. 1. General seating is available the day of the event and is first-come, first-served.

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