

# CSWS *Review*

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**PLANTING THE SEEDS OF EXCELLENCE:  
CSWS TOPS \$2 MILLION IN GRANT AWARDS**



**HENDRICKS HALL—HOME OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY**



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON



# CSWS Director's Message

**BY LINDA FULLER,**  
**Interim Director**

As I walked through the front office of CSWS in one of my last months as interim director, three colorful posters lying on the front office desk caught my eye. All three announced recent CSWS events. Yet each poster, like the event it advertised, was quite different, and it struck me that I was looking at a perfect example of a major reason CSWS is such a special organization and one I respect and admire a great deal. Not only is CSWS engaged in an extraordinary number of activities for a group its size but also the range of those activities is remarkable. These three posters offered a snapshot of the expanse of talents, knowledge, interests, experiences, and audiences that find a home under the CSWS umbrella, such as: Oaxaca Week, three days of panelists from Oaxaca and the UO focusing on the role of women in the ongoing political struggles in southern Mexico; the Conference on Intimate Partner Violence, Gender and Methamphetamine, the brainchild of a CSWS RIG that attracted a standing-room only crowd at the Hilton Hotel; the Conference on Empires in the Twenty-First Century, a gathering of five international distinguished academics joining with UO faculty to discuss contemporary theoretical approaches to the study of empire unbounded by nation-state geography.

Happily, the search for a permanent CSWS director, which has already begun as I write, has been reconfigured to both reflect the energy and diversity illustrated in this trio of posters and ultimately to nurture it. The current search, aided by Provost Linda Brady, Vice President Rich Linton, and Vice Provost Russ Tomlin, is structured so that sixteen academic units from five schools and colleges, any one of which could end up as the new director's tenure home, have joined CSWS as search partners. Professor Lynn Stephen from anthro-



*Linda Fuller, Mia Tuan and John Shuford*

pology, the associate director of program development at CSWS this year, is co-chairing the search committee with Associate Professor Margie Paris, dean of the law school. Review of candidates begins this term.

I am also thrilled with this year's fruitful collaborations between CSWS and the Center on Diversity and Community (CoDaC). Our joint sponsorship of three graduate summer research awards advances our commitment to fund innovative student work. Another joint grant focusing on gender and indigenous studies is dedicated to our fond memories of the late professors Rob Proudfoot and Steve Swenson, dear friends of CSWS and CoDaC, who both passed away last school year.

As my term as interim director ends, I thank the lively and dedicated staff, executive committee members, faculty, graduate student and community affiliates, and RIG and research initiative members for making CSWS everything it is. It has truly been my pleasure and honor to have worked with all of you over the past four terms. I will miss you a lot.

Warmly,

*Linda*

## KUDOS

**PEGGY MCCONNELL** (CSWS Accountant) was honored by the Register-Guard and the United Way as Eugene's Volunteer of the Year for her work at the Cascade Raptor Center. Peggy contributed over 800 hours of time in 2006 alone! Because Peggy is "a wonderful model of dedication, compassion, humor, generosity and is just plain fun to have around," the Raptor Center received \$500 in her honor.

There is more exciting news about the achievements of CSWS-affiliated faculty and students in Kudos on the CSWS website. Read about their projects, publications and awards by visiting [csws.uoregon.edu](http://csws.uoregon.edu)

## CSWS FACULTY AND STAFF

**Lynn Stephen** > associate director for program development

**Judith Musick** > associate director for grants and administration

**Stephanie Wood** > associate director for development and dissemination

**Shirley Marc** > office coordinator

**Peggy McConnell** > accountant

# CSWS Spotlight: Margaret Lehrman

When Margaret Lehrman was a UO Foundation trustee in the 1990s, she served as the liaison between the CSWS and the Foundation board. She discovered that the assignment piqued her interest. As she became acquainted with the center, Lehrman saw it as a focal point for “generating support and disseminating cutting-edge research on women.”

She had experience recognizing accomplishments. Margaret Lehrman, a UO English major who graduated in 1966, is one of the nation’s preeminent journalists. She is an Emmy-winning producer for NBC News in Washington, D.C., and commands a leadership role as Washington deputy bureau chief. In addition to her legendary work with the *TODAY* show, Lehrman’s journalism has earned her such prestigious awards as the National Press Club’s Edwin M. Hood Award for Diplomatic Correspondence.

“When I met with Sandra (Morgen) and Judith (Musick) and as I learned about the center, I liked what I saw,” said Lehrman. “CSWS is one of the top research centers in the country and brings national and international attention to the UO.”

In fact, she advocated for the UO Foundation to explore the notion of having CSWS establish a national advisory board. She felt the scope of the research supported by CSWS deserved national recognition and wanted to help create the opportunity for university administrators “to be aware of and keep (it) on the radar.”

Margaret’s interest in furthering the success of CSWS reflects her desire to make sure that there are role models for young women. When Margaret thinks back to the 1960s when she was attending the UO as an undergraduate, she recognizes the absence of institutions to support the aspirations of female students.

“Women were present on campus, but there was no focus on women per se—nothing particular to emphasize a women’s contribution to



*Margaret Lehrman*

scholarship, arts, music, science, and politics,” said Lehrman. “So, it would be intriguing to imagine where such a center (such as CSWS) could have gone.”

Lehrman has continued to support CSWS with her membership and contributions, even after her role as Foundation trustee and liaison to CSWS ended in 2000. Her involvement is a reflection of her pride in being able to serve as a role model and a mentor for women.

“In taking leadership roles at the *TODAY* show and as deputy bureau chief, advocating for women has been important to me. When I first started,

they didn’t want any stories related to sex, women’s reproduction, or women’s health. I remember having to argue that a woman could be an effective producer at the Pentagon, capable of covering Pentagon news every day.”

What also inspires Lehrman to continue her relationship with CSWS is her desire to see all women get an education, an issue that, to her, is the most important determinant of a women’s place in society.

“To me it’s pretty simple—there is one issue, and that is educating all the little girls around the world. If not, communities are squandering their communities’ brain power and creativity. Even on the national front, education (for women) is still an overwhelming priority.”

Which helps explain why Margaret continues to value the work of CSWS. She summed it up thus: “I see its role as creating bridges between research and teaching, and contributing to the public understanding of and discussion about women’s lives. The research funded by the center reaches across all the disciplines to enhance the intellectual vitality of the university.”

## Did You Know?

... that some of the first dollars CSWS awarded in 1983-1984 funded research on “Older Jewish Women in Portland,” “Rape Coverage in the Register Guard,” and “Female Adolescent Depression” by a community researcher, faculty and graduate students in journalism, communications and psychology?

... that in 1992-1993, the year CSWS passed the \$1,000,000 mark in research support, some of the projects we funded explored “Women’s Perceptions of Menopause,” “Elementary Education for Girls in India,” and “Identities of Mixed-Race Women” by faculty and graduate students in health, education, and sociology?

... that this year, when CSWS passed the \$2,000,000 mark in research support, some of the projects we funded included “Women Writers in Chile,” “Concert Tours of Songs by Women,” and “Breast Implantation and Genital Cutting Across Cultures”?

To help us support research on these and other topics important to women’s lives, become a member of CSWS now. To do so call 541-346-5015 and we will send you more information.



# PLANTING THE SEEDS OF EXCELLENCE: CSWS AWARDS \$2 MILLION IN RESEARCH FUNDING



Arlene Stein



Scott Harris



Diana Abu-Jaber



Linda Kintz

In spring 2007 the Center for the Study of Women in Society achieved the distinction of distributing more than \$2 million in research awards. Unlike any other funding source at the University of Oregon, these CSWS awards have kindled the critical thinking that has moved feminist research from marginal to mainstream in twenty-four years of funding. Building upon a research endowment that began in 1983, CSWS has supported a total of 1,136 awards to scholars in nearly every department and program on campus. It all began with the generous bequest of William Harris, whose funding ensured the expansion and longevity of the center and helped create a grant program in honor of his wife, Jane Grant, a feminist writer and cofounder of *The New Yorker*.

CSWS is the first UO research entity focused specifically on increasing multidisciplinary knowledge about how gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual identity, and culture interact with social forces. The significance of this focus is the creation of a remarkable community of scholars, diverse in academic backgrounds yet associated through gender-related perspectives.

Reaching the \$2 million mark in grant funding is a milestone that comes with a great deal of celebration and gratification, along with a measure of irony. "Who would have thought it?" mused Judith Musick,

CSWS associate director. "The very first bit of money for the creation of a center on gender studies came from a bake sale."

The CSWS funding program also claims the singular distinction of providing support that is equally available to both teachers and graduate students. The infusion of funds at critical moments in an academic career makes it possible for junior faculty members and graduate students to achieve a level of scholarly excellence that can earn them national distinction.

An exemplar of this philosophy is successful grant recipient anthropology professor Geraldine Moreno-Black. Some of her early exploratory work in biocultural eating disorders that received funding from CSWS led to Fulbright scholarships and National Science Foundation awards.

"Academic funding," Moreno-Black points out, "is especially important in those early years when doing this kind of research seems so isolating. Many of my students found that cutting-edge research was funded by CSWS long before other foundations or agencies were willing to fund."

Judith Musick has overseen much of the grant dissemination. Her long-standing perspective allows her to compare the funding mission of CSWS with other similar institutions. "CSWS is one of the oldest university women's research centers in the country. Yet our funding is less restricted

than at other centers who mostly fund tenure-related faculty positions," she observed. "At CSWS, it is a particularly feminist practice to be less hierarchical."

The center's grant program has helped produce high-caliber and prolific scholars, writers, and performers with gender-related interests. A sampling of a few of the grant recipients gives a sense of how a small but strategic infusion of funding and collegiality can be the springboard to an accomplished career.

**Arlene Stein**, now an associate professor of sociology at Rutgers, received two CSWS faculty research grants to support her investigation into identities, culture, and social change. Her earliest CSWS funding was given in 1996–97 for her project "Beyond the Culture Wars: An Ethno-



graphic Story of Contested Sexuality in Rural Oregon," a quest to understand how the rise of evangelical movements in a small

Oregon town

divided members of the community over fear of the "other."

Stein was awarded a second faculty research grant for "Timbertown: Sex, Fear, and Loathing in an American Community," an investigation into how the "uneasy meeting of cultures became polarized as the lumber economy began to wither." These two research projects formed the preliminary studies for her award-winning book *The Stranger Next Door: The Story of a Small Community's Battle over Sex*,





*Faith, and Civil Rights* (Beacon Press, 2002).

Her second acclaimed book includes a number of essays that also came out of the research initially funded by CSWS, *Shameless: Sexual Dissidence in American Culture* (New York University Press, 2006).

Stein spoke about how her academic direction was nurtured by another CSWS hallmark, the research interest groups (RIGs), created to seed research activities and stimulate vital interdisciplinary scholarship. "What I value most is how the RIG supported my work and provided an initial sounding board for my ideas," said Stein. "With such a wonderful collegial atmosphere, combined with the CSWS funding, I began to conceptualize the research that resulted in two books."

**Scott Harris**, Ph.D. '01 (sociology), is now an associate professor at Saint Louis University. He credits CSWS for launching his research career, simply by ensuring that he had funding during his graduate work. "I don't know of any other funding source that might have helped me get my project off the ground," Harris said.

Harris did his graduate research on the subjective experiences of equality and inequality in marital relationships.

"I found that common research questions, such as asking couples about how they decide where to go on vacation or where to live, were viewed as indicators of marital equality," said Harris in describing his dissertation. "A question such as 'can the wife go back to college' was not commonly asked, yet was likely to be the paramount issue most indicative of how much control one spouse had over another."

The main publication that resulted from his CSWS funding was the book *The Meanings of Marital Equality* (State University of New York Press, 2006). The same research generated several articles as well as a number of honors,

including the Robert A. Johnston (S.J.) Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences.

**Diana Abu-Jaber**, former member of the UO English faculty and now an acclaimed novelist, received support for her creative writing project "Memories of Birth" in 1992–93. While Diana spends the majority of her time writing at her retreat in Florida, she keeps her association to academia through her fall term courses at Portland State University.

The CSWS grant developed into *Arabian Jazz*, winner of the Oregon Book Award. Her next novel, *Crescent*, "grew from the ashes" of her CSWS project and is now in its seventh printing. *Crescent* won five national awards, including the



prestigious Pen/Faulkner Award for Fiction. Diana credits her CSWS research grant for providing her the time and the space to find her creative impulse.

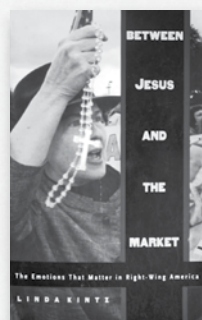
"The CSWS grant was the launch pad for a Fulbright Scholarship that took me to the Middle East for the research that went into *Crescent*."

As a female writer creating a new voice to express the experiences of minority women, Diana sees her original CSWS funding as a catalyst for her ensuing literary career. "There was not much funding for literary writing. The CSWS grant was unique in that it gave me the opportunity to build the two key pieces—both scholarship and imaginative components."

**Linda Kintz**, M.A. '80, Ph.D. '86 (comparative literature), was one of four doctoral students to earn a Jane Grant fellowship in 1983, the very first year they were made available. She has now come full circle, as a UO professor of English whose academic career is replete with published scholarship and with graduate students of her own.

A second CSWS faculty research grant in 1993 supported her project

with colleague Marian Goldman (sociology) to look closely at the radical religious right's successful political inroads, particularly in the Northwest.



"We were finding out that a lot of these groups were under the radar. People assumed that they were harmless" Kintz explained. "As we began to study these groups, we began to see that they would have a strong impact on women."

That revelation led Kintz to begin the research for *Between Jesus and the Market: The Emotions That Matter in Right-Wing America* (Duke University Press, 1997).

"This book has a number of chapters on women, on race, on gays and lesbians, and on the environment—the topics that are essential to politics based on 'a logic of purity.'"

Her research soon led to a collection of articles co-edited with Julia Lesage, titled *Media, Culture, and the Religious Right* (University of Minnesota Press, 1998).

When asked about the impact her work has had on recent social and political trends, Kintz said, "The book was reviewed in *The Washington Post* and various places, so in its own way it contributed to the media's growing awareness of the problem of attitudes toward women in the religious right."

Truly, these success stories are representative of the thousand-plus faculty members, staff members, and students whose research CSWS has supported. Many are now teachers and administrators at campuses across the continent; some have remained in Oregon. Their scholarship has contributed new insights, sparked creativity, pushed boundaries, and forever changed the way we think about the role of women in society. CSWS is proud to embark on the next \$2 million in awards that will help ensure a legacy of research in women and gender studies.



# Greetings from Women's and Gender Studies



*Women's and Gender Studies faculty Ellen Scott, Judith Raiskin, Lynn Fujiwara, Ernesto Martínez, and Elizabeth Reis*

## By Ellen Scott, Program Director

As women's and gender studies looks forward to a new academic year, we reflect on our busy and productive spring term last year. We bid a sad farewell to Sabena Stark, our office manager who took another job in the university. We are grateful for her four years of wonderful work with WGS. We welcome our fabulous new office administrators: Monica Guy, who is the main staff person, and Julia ScheWANICK, who works part-time managing our budget and website.

We begin this year with the pro-

posed queer studies minor almost in place, providing a space for faculty members and graduate students to work collaboratively on cutting-edge theoretical and empirical work in the field of critical race and sexuality studies. Twenty-four faculty members from a wide array of departments are participating educators and WGS serves as the administration home. The proposed queer minor expressly responds to UO student demand for courses on topics connected to this field. I will provide an update on the new minor in the winter CSWS newsletter.

## CSWS Research Grant Deadlines\*

The following grants are available for the academic year 2007-8:

**Deadline: Monday, December 3, 2007**

**CSWS TRAVEL GRANTS** (faculty and graduate students)—maximum \$200.

**Deadline: Monday, February 4, 2008, by 5:00 p.m.**

- **CSWS RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANTS** (faculty, staff, and graduate students)  
Faculty/staff—maximum \$6000;  
graduate student—maximum \$2500.

- **CURLAND GRANT FOR LANGUAGE AND GENDER STUDIES** (faculty, staff, and graduate students) Variable amounts for language study (in cooperation with the Yamada Language Center)

- **CSWS LAUREL AWARD** (graduate students)—\$2250 to student, (maximum \$250 for mentor).

- **STANTON SCHOLARSHIP FOR HEALTH RESEARCH** (graduate students)—to \$1000.

- **JANE GRANT DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP** (doctoral students)—\$12,500.

Watch for the CoDaC/CSWS graduate student summer research awards deadline in our winter 2008 newsletter. These awards focus on gender, cultural diversity and indigenous studies.

For grant application forms stop by CSWS at 340 Hendricks Hall, email [csws@uoregon.edu](mailto:csws@uoregon.edu), or call 346-5015; or download and print from our website, <http://csws.uoregon.edu/grants/index.shtml>. \*See *eligibility on-line*

## Fall 2007 Events

### WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

**330 Hendricks Hall, noon–1:00 p.m.**

**OCTOBER 24:** "Feminist Perspectives on Gender Differences in Traumatic Stress," S. Shin-Shin Tang, graduate student, psychology.

**NOVEMBER 14:** "CSWS Research Grants Question and Answer Seminar," Judith Musick, associate director, Center for the Study of Women in Society. Get a head start on your applications for CSWS research-related grants.

**NOVEMBER 28:** "Employing Technology to Analyze Gender Roles in Mesoamerican Manuscripts: Recent Advances in the Mapas Project," Judith Musick and Stephanie Wood, both associate Directors at CSWS.

### TWO SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Immigration Project Speakers

**BROWSING ROOM, KNIGHT LIBRARY: RECEPTION, 3:30 P.M., LECTURE, 4:00 P.M.**  
Presented by the Women in the Northwest Initiative's Project on Gender, Families, and Immigration.

These events are free and open to the public.

**OCTOBER 15:** "Transnational Remittances of Caribbean Immigrant Families in Canada," Dwaine Plaza, associate professor of sociology, Oregon State University.

**NOVEMBER 7:** "César Chávez and the Politics and Promise of Mexican Immigration," Joseph Orosco, assistant professor of philosophy, Oregon State University.

# Grants and Fellowships Awarded

By Shirley Marc

The Center for the Study of Women in Society congratulates the awardees of our 2007 grants and fellowships and sincerely thanks the members of the review committee. For a more comprehensive description of the funded research, please visit our grant recipients webpage at [csws.uoregon.edu/newsletter/grantrecipients](http://csws.uoregon.edu/newsletter/grantrecipients).

## JANE GRANT DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

**Courtney P. Smith**, graduate student, political science, \$7,500 for 2007–8: "Politics of the Marked Body: An Examination of Female Genital Cutting and Breast Implantation."

## LAUREL RESEARCH AWARD

**Yossa Vidal-Collados**, graduate student, Romance languages, \$2,250 for 2007–8: "Family and the State in the New Generation of Chilean Women Writers." Her adviser and mentor, Juan Armando Epple, professor, Romance languages, will receive up to \$250.

## RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANTS

**Shannon Elizabeth Bell**, graduate student, sociology, \$2,106: "Femi-

nism and the Fight against King Coal: Rebuilding Social Capital in the West Virginia Coalfields."

**Gina Bolles**, graduate student, dance, \$2,485: "Experiential Research on Women and Dance in India."

**Tina Boscha**, research analyst, IntoCareers, \$6,000: *River in the Sea*, a novel in progress.

**Melissa Hart**, adjunct instructor, journalism and communication, \$4,568: "Confessions of a Queerspaw: Stories of a Mother Lost and Found."

**Gwendolyn Lowes**, graduate student, linguistics, \$2,500: "Women's Speech in Ghutan: A Sociolinguistic Study of Kurtoep."

**Gabriela Martinez**, assistant professor, journalism and communication, \$5,378: "Women, Media, and Rebellion in Oaxaca."

**Karen McPherson**, associate professor, Romance languages, \$8,460: "Realizing Life: Reflections on Aging in the Works of Contemporary Francophone Women Writers."

**Ellen McWhirter**, associate professor, counseling psychology and human services, \$5,996: "Latina Girls' Perceived Barriers, Supports, and Future Expectations."

**Emily Taylor Meyers**, graduate student, comparative literature, \$2,485: "Transnational Romance: The

Politics of Desire in Caribbean Novels by Women."

**Kathleen Ryan**, graduate student, journalism and communication, \$2,500: "When Flags Flew High: Propaganda, Memory, and Oral History for World War II Female Veterans."

**Lara Skinner**, graduate student, sociology, \$2,493: "Urban Sustainability: Social Equality."

**Ann Tedards**, associate professor, music, \$5,457: "Concert Tour of Songs by Women Composers on Texts by Women Authors with an Emphasis on Libby Larsen."

**Britta Torgrimson**, graduate student, human physiology, \$2,500: "Hormone Exposure, Contraceptive Choices, and Vascular Function in Women."

## JOINT CODAC-CSWS GRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH AWARDS (\$1,000 EACH)

### Proudfoot-Swenson Award

This special award is given to support research on issues of gender and indigenous culture. It is dedicated to the memories of the late professors Robert Proudfoot and Steve Swenson, cofounders and leaders of the Center for Indigenous Cultural Survival. Proudfoot cofounded the Center on Diversity and Community, and both men maintained histories of affiliation and collaboration with CSWS.

**Tami Hill**, anthropology (adviser: Lynn Stephen): "Latin American Survivors of Political Violence Living in the U.S. Pacific Northwest."

## CODAC-CSWS AWARDS

These awards are given to support research on issues of gender and cultural diversity.

**Mark Harmon**, sociology (adviser: Bob O'Brien): "Sentencing Reforms: The Effect of Racial and Gender Disparities in Imprisonment Rates Over Time."

**Russell Meeuf**, English (adviser: Kathleen Karlyn): "John Wayne, Transnational Stardom, and Global Hollywood in the 1950s."

**Ingrid Nelson**, geography (adviser: Lise Nelson): "Forests and Women's Lives: Locating Rural Women's Power in the Context of Natural Resource Access in Mozambique."

# CSWS Announces Three New Research Interest Groups

The **SOCIAL SCIENCES FEMINIST NETWORK** research interest group is sponsoring a yearlong, two-credit feminist reading and research group beginning fall term 2007. For more information, contact Shannon Bell at [sbell@uoregon.edu](mailto:sbell@uoregon.edu).

The **PROJECTS OF QUEER STUDIES** RIG meets twice a month to read and discuss current research in the field of queer studies. If you are interested, please contact Ernesto Martínez at [ejm@uoregon.edu](mailto:ejm@uoregon.edu).

The **DIVERSITY INITIATIVE** RIG promotes mental health services that are sensitive to an individual's cultural background, gender, and sexual orientation. The RIG plans to engage students and faculty members as well as local mental health providers. The RIG is planning a free fall term workshop with Laura Brown, Ph.D., an expert in the field of multicultural competence in psychology and one of the founders of feminist therapy. A colloquium, "Treating Bajorans: Approaching Cultural Competence in Trauma Treatment," and a follow-up workshop, are scheduled on October 5 and 6. For more information on joining the initiative or attending the Laura Brown events, contact Jessica Murakami or Melissa Ming Foyne at [diversit@uoregon.edu](mailto:diversit@uoregon.edu).



# Composer Libby Larsen's Women of the Wild West

By Ann Tedards

The canon of classical song within the Western art music tradition comprises largely male composers who have set texts by male authors. Female singers of my generation and earlier have typically performed music and texts from the male perspective as a matter of course. However, with the emergence of twentieth and twenty-first century women composers, the expanded song repertoire increasingly includes texts by female authors, an exciting addition to the canon.

Music composition remains one of the few disciplines relatively closed to female professionals. One can count on two hands the number of well-known female composers since the beginning of the history of Western art music in all nationalities, and even those women often exist in the shadows of their male contemporaries. Today we see the emergence of female composers who are radically changing this picture.

Music is an art form that must be heard to endure. One of the best ways to encourage women composers in the profession is to perform and record their music as widely as possible. As a performer I feel it is my responsibility to ensure that new compositions make the crucial step to the concert hall so that they can be heard and appreciated by the public.

My current research, funded by a CSWS faculty grant, focuses on the exploration and performance of songs by Libby Larsen, a composer already proven to be worthy of inclusion in the canon. The first woman resident composer with a major symphony orchestra, Larsen has composed over 220 works in numerous genres, from chamber to orchestral to opera. Of her work, Larsen says, "Music exists in an infinity of sound. It is the composer's task to order and make sense of sound, in time and space, to communicate something about being alive through music."

This past summer, together with pianist Marva Duerksen, assistant professor of music at Willamette University, I recorded and performed in recital four sets of songs composed by Larsen on texts by women:

- *Margaret Songs* (Willa Cather)
- *My Antonia* (based on the novel by Willa Cather)
- *Sonnets from the Portuguese* (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)
- *Try Me, Good King* (texts drawn from "the final letter[s] and gallows speeches of Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, and Catherine Howard," the first five wives of Henry VIII)\*

I have been invited to present a



Ann Tedards

selection of Larsen songs at the annual conference of the Society for American Music next March. That presentation will be titled "Larsen's Women of the Wild West."

It is my hope that audiences find these songs as exciting to experience from their perspective beyond the "fourth wall" as I do on stage. Larsen's music brilliantly heightens the drama of Henry's wives, the wonder and expansiveness of Cather's American West, and the intense romance imbedded in Browning's heart-mind. Yes, Larsen does indeed "communicate something about being alive."

*\*To get a sense of Larsen's music, excerpts from Tedards' recently recorded CD can be accessed on the CSWS website.*



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