

Transformations

The Newsletter of Composer Barbara Harbach
Spring 2009

Volume 2, Number 2

Booth! - The Musical

**at New York University Skirball Center
From June 2 Through 7**

**Music by Barbara Harbach
Lyrics by Jonathan Yordy,
Book and direction by Niyi Coker
Artistic direction/conducting by James Richards**



Booth! – The Musical, with music by Barbara Harbach, will be given its New York Premiere performances from Tuesday, June 2 through Saturday, June 6 at 8 PM each evening and on Sunday, June 7 – 2 PM at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, LaGuardia Place at Washington Square South on the campus of New York University in Manhattan. Booth is presented by the University of Missouri, St. Louis in association with NYU’s Africana Program.

Featured performers include Jan Prokop as Mother, Keith Boyer as Edwin Booth, Amanda Boyer as Edwina Booth, Jessica Marasco as Asia Booth and Kyle Minshew as

John Wilkes Booth. A complete cast and bios of principals can be found online at

<http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/cofac/booth/home.html>.

Booth – The Musical is an examination of the life of 19th-Century maverick actor Edwin Booth, told from the perspective of his daughter, Edwina. Undoubtedly, the infamous assassination of Abraham Lincoln by his brother, John Wilkes, plays a major part in shaping and influencing Edwina’s exploration of the life of her father. Engulfed in this reflection, the show is a musical voyage into the sometimes disturbing relationships that defined Edwin as son, husband, father, brother and actor. Much more about the production at <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/cofac/booth/home.html>.



Tickets for these performances are \$30 and can be purchased by calling 212-352-3101 or online at <http://www.skirballcenter.nyu.edu/page/tickets>. For more information, please call the Skirball Center at 212-992-8484.

BARBARA HARBACH'S CDs
New Releases in MSR Series Continue
with Volume 4 – Chamber Music II

Another new Barbara Harbach CD is available from MSR Classics

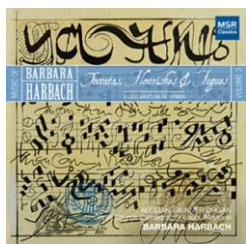


Music of Barbara Harbach, Volume 4 – Chamber Music II – yet another superb collection of her critically acclaimed chamber music,

including **Freeing the Caged Bird** for wind quintet and **Transformations** (now where have I heard that name before?) for string orchestra.

And, of course, Volumes 1, 2 and 3:

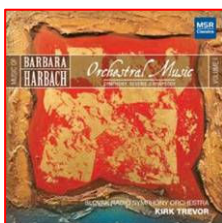
Music of Barbara Harbach, Volume 3 - Toccatas, Flourishes & Fugues, A Celebration of Hymns is a fabulous



collection of World Premiere recordings of Barbara's transcriptions of hymns from around the world and across the centuries. She performed and

recorded this program on the renowned Aeolian-Skinner Organ of Christ Church Cathedral, St Louis, Missouri.

A complete program list and more about the disk is online at [MSR Classics](http://www.msred.com).



Music of Barbara Harbach, Volume 1 - Orchestral Music and Volume 2 - Chamber Music I were the first two volumes of what will eventually be a 7 volume set of Barbara's music.

American Record Guide said this about the Orchestral CD, "She's a dead-on heart-and-

soul American romanticist in the Copland-Hanson-Harris mold, having learned everything from these men (and others in that rank) except how to *copy* them and sound like them. Harbach's music astonished me for its heavy reliance on the lyric and the beautifully (and cogently) framed melodic line. I haven't heard this kind of romanticism for years. She most resembles Copland, who did not play tricks and painted with broad, distinct melodic colors. But it should be said at the start that Barbara Harbach is her own woman. I could listen to her music for hours."



And, ARG said this about the Chamber disk, "They have done their best to present this composer, who should someday—if there is any justice in the universe—become a

household name. You have *got* to hear this woman's music if you're a fan of mid-century American romanticism. She brings something entirely new to the table.

More about the Orchestral Music CD at <http://www.msred.com/1252/1252.html>. More about the Chamber Music I CD at <http://www.msred.com/1253/1253.html>.

All four of the CDs are available online at [MSR Classics](http://www.msred.com) or [ArkivMusic](http://www.arkivmusic.com).

BARBARA HARBACH ON THE WEB

For more information about composer Barbara Harbach, including bio, performances, list of CDs and much more, visit <http://www.barbaraharbach.com/>. You can also contact Jeffrey James Arts Consulting at 516-586-3433 or jamesarts@worldnet.att.net.

