

Transformations

The Newsletter of Composer Barbara Harbach

Spring 2010

Volume 3, Number 2

Barbara Harbach In The Concert Hall – Performances Across America



This issue of **Transformations** is, as usual, very rich with new information about the international activities and accomplishments of Barbara Harbach.

Her **Transformations for String Quartet** was performed on Wednesday, March 24 by members of the Saint Louis Symphony as part of On Stage at Powell, presented at the orchestra's Powell Hall in St. Louis.

This piece was inspired by pioneer director Alice Guy Blache's 1912 silent film **Making an American Citizen**. The moods of the 8 brief movements range from nostalgia to resolution. Performers included Erin Schreiber and Shawn Weil, violin and Ken Kulosa, cello. Ms. Harbach was on-hand to discuss her work, which has been recorded for MSR Classics - <http://www.msred.com/1253/1253.html>.

Barbara was Composer in Residence on March 25 and 26 at **Women in the Arts** events in the Buffalo, New York area. Activities included:

Thursday, March 25, **Women Composers Through the Ages**, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, in Niagara Falls, New York. This featured Ms. Harbach giving a lecture/demonstration and playing a number of organ works by women composers.

Friday, March 26, she gave two **Women Composers Through the Ages** lectures for the Fine Arts Division of Canisius College, in Buffalo, New York.

Friday, March 26, **Women Composers for the Organ**, First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora, New York. Ms. Harbach performed a number of works by women composers.

Barbara's **Pioneer Women: From Skagway to White Mountain** for soprano, clarinet and piano was featured on March 20 at the Ninth Festival of Women Composers, presented by the Music Department of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, in the school's Gorell Recital Hall.

The piece is a collection of four portraits of American women who helped to settle the wilds of Alaska, with texts taken from their diaries, letters, monographs and journals. It has also been recorded for MSR Classics – <http://www.msred.com/1256/1256.html>. The piece was performed at the Festival by Christine Buckstead, soprano, Eleanor Elkins, piano, Timothy Bonenfant, clarinet, who also performed it on March 2 at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

Barbara Harbach performed a special **Women Composers for the Organ** recital



on Sunday, April 25 at St. Ita's Roman Catholic Church in Chicago, Illinois,

presented by the Chicago Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She performed her **Nights in Timisoara**,

Darwall's 148th, **Fantasy and Fugue on a Hungarian Melody** and other works by Fanny Mendelssohn, Elizabeth Stirling, Sharon Willis and Jeanne Demessieux.

Barbara Harbach's Acclaimed CD



Music of Barbara Harbach, Volume 5 – Vocal Music has been named a **Recording of the Month** for April by England's Music Web International.

Bob Briggs wrote about the collection, “It says much for the strength of Harbach’s work that she has created vocal music which builds on the two great American composers for the voice – Ned Rorem... and Aaron Copland...– yet manages to find her own truly American sound. As I have said before...she has forged a voice which is all her own, yet speaks clearly in the American vernacular. Don’t miss this disk for it is something very, very special.”

This beautiful collection of songs for soprano and various instrumental combinations features soprano Stella Markou. A complete program list and more about the disk is online at [MSR Classics](http://www.msrec.com).

Barbara Harbach Wins Women in Music-Columbus Composition Competition



Barbara Harbach’s **American Solstice** for flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, bass and piano was named winner of the Ohio-based Women in Music–Columbus Composition Competition. Visit them

at <http://www.womeninmusiccolumbus.com/>.

Musicians from the organization performed the composition on April 18 as part of the Sundays at the Huntington (Recital Hall) series at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

More Harbach In The Media

On TV - There’s a marvelous and very informative new video portrait of Barbara and her Women in the Arts project on

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). The

story is from

Impact on HEC-TV, which aired on April 21 and April

23, repeats for a month, and will be

up on their website and on iTunes.

<http://www.hectv.org/schedule/>.



In Print - Ms. Harbach has co-edited, **Women in the Arts: Eccentric Essays in Music, Visual Arts and Literature**, a

multi-discipline celebration of past and present women creators. It marks a new departure in women’s studies, as it presents an interdisciplinary emphasis on the long-neglected area of women’s contributions to the various genres of the arts. Because of its unique historical approach, this pioneering collection of essays is useful in the areas of humanities and women’s studies as

scholarly or pleasure readings. Her co-editor

was Diane Touliatos-Miles. It is published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. More

about it at [Women-in-the-Arts--Eccentric-Essays](http://www.women-in-the-arts.com).

Art Collector has recommended four of Barbara Harbach’s compositions as part of their Classics of Contemporary Art Music. These are works “that deserve to stand alongside the great masterpieces of the past as 'classics' of art music.” This collection can be viewed as an [alphabetical list](http://www.artcollector.com), which is updated regularly.

November 2009 –

American Solstice, for chamber ensemble
(2006) - 12min. MSR Classics MS 1253 -
Performance 5 Sound 4

Frontier Fancies, for violin and orchestra
(2007) 12min. MSR Classics MS 1252 -
Performance 5 Sound 4

October 2009 –

The Soul of Ra, for string orchestra
(2006) 10min. - MSR Classics MS 1255 -
Performance 5 Sound 5

**Freeing the Caged Bird, for woodwind
quintet** (2007) 15min - MSR Classics MS
1255 - Performance 5 Sound 5

More at <http://musoc.org/classcam.htm>.



**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** for string
orchestra.

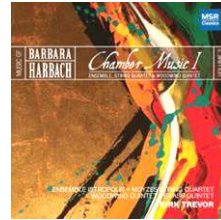
In fact, Volume 4 was selected by Bob
Briggs as one of **MusicWeb
International’s Recordings of the Year** -
the second year in a row she has been so
honored by the publication.



**Music of Barbara
Harbach, Volume 3 -
Toccatas, Flourishes &
Fugues, A Celebration
of Hymns** is a fabulous
collection of World
Premiere recordings of

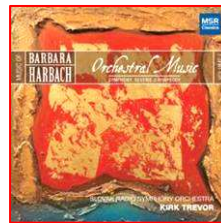
Barbara’s transcriptions of hymns from
around the world and across the centuries.
She performed and recorded this program on
the renowned Aeolian-Skinner Organ of
Christ Church Cathedral, St Louis, Missouri.

**Music of Barbara Harbach, Volume 2 -
Chamber Music I** - ARG said this about
this first 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.”

**Music of Barbara Harbach, Volume 1 -
Orchestral Music** - ARG 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...Barbara
Harbach is her own
woman. I could listen to
her music for hours.”

Volume 6 will be along from MSR Classics
later this Spring.

And, finally, two Harbach works for trumpet
and piano recorded by John Holt for **Facets
3** on Crystal Records. **MusicWeb** wrote,
“**Perambulations** is a concise affair full of
rich piano chording and a lyrically flowing
trumpet line; expressive and appealing. The
more recent **Emily!** takes four texts by
Emily Dickinson...This excellent work, full
of Dickinsonesque charge acts as a fine
contrast to the more clement earlier work.”

Barbara Harbach On The Web

For more information about Barbara
Harbach, visit www.barbaraharbach.com/.
You can also contact Jeffrey James Arts
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