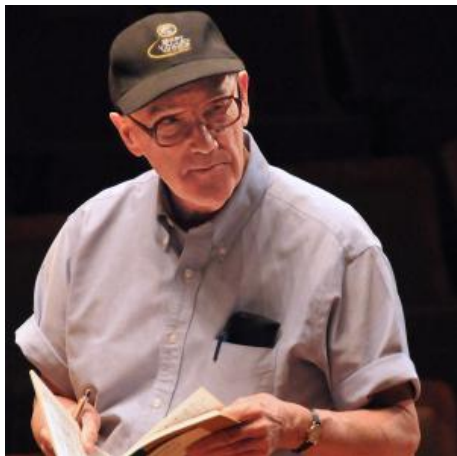


John Heiss
Memorial Concert
(1938–2023)

Monday, October 23, 2023
4:00 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall



Dubbed the "Pitch Doctor" by Igor Stravinsky, composer and beloved faculty member **John Heiss** taught at New England Conservatory for nearly 56 years, inspiring generations of young musicians to love the modernist compositions he championed.

Heiss was appointed to NEC's faculty during the school's 100th anniversary in 1967, having turned down a full-time job at IBM to devote his life to music. As a faculty member in flute, chamber music, composition, music history, and music theory, as

well as Director of NEC's Contemporary Ensemble, students and colleagues were drawn to Heiss for his brilliant mind, subject mastery, wide-ranging curiosity, and deep compassion.

In addition to his profound contributions as a scholar and pedagogue of modernist music, Heiss was a widely celebrated composer. In recognition of his compositions, he was awarded the American Academy of Arts and Letters Music Prize in 1973 and a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1978. He was commissioned by the Fromm Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, and had works premiered by Boston Musica Viva, the Da Capo Chamber Players, and Speculum Musicae.

John Heiss was also an accomplished flutist and performed with the Boston Chamber Music Society, Collage New Music, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and many other notable ensembles.

A mentor, colleague, and friend, Heiss was known for his extraordinary ability to connect with others. He focused his insatiable curiosity and powers of observation on coaching his students, becoming one of NEC's most influential and beloved faculty members. To quote David Loebel, NEC's Associate Director of Orchestras, "John was truly the beating heart of NEC—an inspiring teacher, a kind, generous soul, and a loving friend and colleague. How lucky we were."

In one of his last acts of generosity to NEC, Heiss funded the **John and Arlene Heiss Composer Master Class Fund**. This fund will bring celebrated composers to campus to work with NEC students, providing the personal connection between composer and performer that was especially meaningful to him.

John Heiss shaped the perspectives of countless students and colleagues, and "his" seat in Jordan Hall (L101) will forever be a place of honor for all of us who miss his presence.

[To view the Tribute Book for John Heiss, please click here.](#)

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

Prelude No. 1 in C Major, BWV 846
from *Das Wohltemperierte Klavier, Book 1*

Stephen Drury, piano

Opening Remarks
Andrea Kalyn
President, New England Conservatory

John Heiss

***Serenade for Flute and Harp* (2012)**

Jacqueline DeVoe, flute
Franziska Huhn, harp

Remarks
Laurence Lesser
Faculty, New England Conservatory

Arnold Schoenberg
(1874–1951)

Sechs kleine Klavierstücke, op. 19

Leicht, zart
Langsam
Sehr langsame ♩
Rasch, aber leicht
Etwas rasch
Sehr langsam

Charles Berofsky, piano

György Kurtág
(b. 1926)

In Memoriam Blum Tamás
from *Signs, Games and Messages*

Kim Kashkashian, viola

Igor Stravinsky
(1882–1971)

The Owl and the Pussy-cat (1966)

Josie Larsen, soprano
James Lorusso, piano

John Heiss

from ***Five Songs from James Joyce*** (1996)
III. When the shy star goes forth in heaven
V. The twilight turns from amethyst

Emily Siar, soprano
Peggy Friedland, flute
Dillon Acey, clarinet
Emma Burge, violin
Jennifer DeVore, cello
Ariel Mo, piano
Ian Wiese, conductor

John Heiss and Laura Heiss

Early Spring (1977)

Laura Arlene Varas, piano

Remarks

Laura Heiss Varas

John Heiss

***Four Short Piano Pieces* (1961)**

Fantasy
Ostinato
Waltz
Chorale

Solomon Ge, piano

Alfred S. Newman
(1900–1970)

from ***Pinky***

This performance is dedicated to Laura Heiss Varas

Ran Blake, piano

John Heiss

***Etudes for Solo Flute, op. 20* (1986)**

Chorale
Shadows
Timbre
Multiples
Birthday Greetings
(dedicated to Gunther Schuller)
Aria

Jacqueline DeVoe, flute

Closing Remarks

Helen Greenwald

Faculty, New England Conservatory

Charles Ives
(1874–1954)

from **Piano Sonata No. 2, Concord Mass., (1840–60)**

IV. “Thoreau” (after Henry David Thoreau)

Stephen Drury, piano
Anne Chao, flute

Please join us for a post-concert reception in Brown Hall.

The Owl and the Pussy-cat

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl!
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?"
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-Tree grows
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.

"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

Edward Lear

When the shy star goes forth in heaven

When the shy star goes forth in heaven
All maidenly, disconsolate,
Hear you amid the drowsy even
One who is singing by your gate.
His song is softer than the dew
And he is come to visit you.

O bend no more in reverie
When he at eventide is calling.
Nor muse: Who may this singer be
Whose song about my heart is falling?
Know you by this, the lover's chant,
'Tis I that am your visitant.

James Joyce

The twilight turns from amethyst

The twilight turns from amethyst
To deep and deeper blue,
The lamp fills with a pale green glow
The trees of the avenue.

The old piano plays an air,
Sedate and slow and gay;
She bends upon the yellow keys,
Her head inclines this way.

Shy thoughts and grave wide eyes and hands
That wander as they list--
The twilight turns to darker blue
With lights of amethyst.

James Joyce

Support the future of music at NEC!

Your gift to The NEC Fund has a direct and immediate impact on student scholarships, NEC's world-class faculty, and a collaborative and innovative learning environment rooted in the highest level of musical excellence.

Please consider making a gift to support NEC at necmusic.edu/give.

Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts;
contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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