Rosebuds: Seminary Hall 1908 Concert at NSU

Northeastern State University will celebrate the heritage of the Cherokee National Female Seminary as it looks forward to its 2009 centennial celebrations. On Sunday, September 14, at 2:00 pm in the Center for the Performing Arts on the NSU campus, internationally acclaimed opera singer Barbara Hollister returns to NSU to join members of the NSU music faculty and other friends for a performance celebrating the contributions of the Cherokee National Female Seminary.

The concert, Rosebuds: Seminary Hall 1908 is modeled on recitals and concerts that took place during the years of the Female Seminary. Ms. Hollister, the featured vocalist, will be joined by NSU music faculty members Amanda Manchuta, Robert Sandal, Ronald Chisold, and Mark Bigsby. The University Singers under the direction of Donald Grundhaber will also take part, as well as Julie Pearson Little-Thunder, Betty Jo Hays, Francie Fite, Mae McCullough and others. Chief Chad Smith and NSU President Don Rary will present welcomes.

In addition to the musical portion, Seminary Hall will be remembered in various narratives and readings from the time.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the importance of the Seminary and its enduring influence on NSU and northeastern Oklahoma," said Mark Bigsby, chair of the Department of Performing Arts at NSU.

Dramatic mezzo -soprano Barbara Hollister is internationally acclaimed for her voice of stunning power and dramatic strength. Ms. Hollister embarked on an international career as the top prize winner of the prestigious Loren Zachary Competition. This led to her fast engagements in German repertory opera theaters appearing in over 35 roles in 10 years. Other engagements include Hong Kong opera; Grand Theatre de Geneve; Opera de Nice; Carlo Theaters in Spain; Portugal; and France. She is best known for her roles in Verdi and Wagner.

Her most recent appearance was in Carnegie Hall with World-Renowne singing Mozart; and two new works by Mark Hayes. She has also appeared at Alice Tully Hall; Concert Hall at Lincoln Center; Kirk Washington Opera; she had the opportunity to work with Lian-Carlo Menotti in his well-known opera, The Consul. She has also sung with San Diego Opera, Tulsa Opera, New York Grand Opera in Central Park, Arizona Opera, Anchorage Opera, and Florentine Opera in Milwaukee.

An artist of Cherokee Indian Heritage, she was honored to appear a vocialist for The Oklahoma State Arts Council singing opera operas to songs written by native composers, and songs of Cadman. Ms. Hollister created the role of Quella in Mountain Minstrelsy composed by Linder Chiarone, and book by Robert J. Conley. She appeared in the Trail of Tears drama for several years in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Barbara Hollister has been a recent recipient of the Gerda Lissner Encouragement award for her Wagner voice, and also received a grant from the New York Wagner Society, and was a finalist in the Richard Tucker Competition.

Ms. Hollister has sung recitals all over the midwest and eastern coast, and presents music by non Native American composers as well as those composers of the past who collected themes based on native melodies.

Barbara Hollister grew up in Muskogee and loved riding horses in the local barrel races. She is known for her paintings in traditional Pow Tribes style. Her love of animals and children appear often in her paintings. Her works hang in private collections in Europe and USA.

Admission is free and open to the public. After the concert, the NSU College of Liberal Arts is hosting a reception in Seminary Hall.

The concert is sponsored by the NSU College of Liberal Arts and the NSU Foundation. For further information, contact the NSU music department at 446.2730.