The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, in cooperation with Institute for Studies in American Music, the Conservatory of Music, the Department of Africana Studies, the Caribbean Studies Program at Brooklyn College, and City Lore, presents

Music in Polycultural America

Leonard Bernstein’s Boston

Carol J. Oja is William Powell Mason Professor of Music at Harvard University. Oja’s research focuses on 20th-century American music, and brings broad-ranging cultural and transnational perspectives to a variety of modernist compositional styles and to musical theater. Her book, Making Music Modern: New York in the 1920s (Oxford University Press, 2000), won the Lowens Book Award from the Society for American Music and an ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award. Recently, she co-edited Copland and His World with Judith Tick (Princeton University Press) and served as scholar-in-residence for the Bard Festival’s celebration of Copland in 2005. Her latest book, forthcoming from Yale University Press, is titled Leonard Bernstein and Broadway.

Thursday, October 18, 2 pm, Levenson Recital Hall

Trinidadian “Picong”:
Improvised Calypso Dueling in Verse with Gypsy and Black Sage

An evening of West Indian music and food honoring two masters of the calypso picong tradition of verbal dueling and musical repartee from Trinidad. Gypsy (Winston Peters) and Black Sage (Phillip Murray) are revered both on the Island and in Caribbean Brooklyn for their skill at this venerable art where teasing, heckling, and ritual insult are set to a Calypso beat.

Thursday, October 25, 7:30 to 10:00 pm, Tropical Paradise Restaurant, 1250 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn. For ticket reservations for performance and dinner, call 212-529-1955 x306.

Popular Music and Being of the World: A Case from Colombia

Jairo Moreno is Associate Professor of Music at New York University. He was a Whiting Fellow in the Humanities at Yale, and a recipient of the David and Janet Brooks Distinguished Teaching Award (Duke) and of the Society for American Music 2005 Irving Lowens Article Award for Best Article (“Bauza-Gillespie-Latin Jazz: Difference, Modernity, and the Black Caribbean,” The South Atlantic Quarterly, 2004). As a bassist, he has earned five Grammy nominations with Ray Barretto. His interests include historiography of tonal theory and analysis, sonic poetics and politics of Latin-American and Latino/a musical practices in the U.S., critical theory, and jazz performance practice. He is the author of Musical Representations, Subjects, and Objects: The Construction of Musical Thought in Zarlino, Descartes, Rameau, and Weber (Indiana 2004).

Wednesday, November 7, 3:30 pm, Woody Tanger Auditorium

George Gershwin’s Three Preludes for Piano and the Creation of a Popular Concert Music

Howard Pollack is John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Music at the University of Houston. He has published widely in the field of American music with a special interest in the interaction of popular, jazz, and classical idioms in the 20th century. His Aaron Copland: The Life and Work of an Uncommon Man (Henry Holt and Company, 1999) received an ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award and the Irving Lowens Award, and has been described as “the definitive study of Aaron Copland’s life and work, no doubt for a long time to come” by the New York Times. His most recent book, George Gershwin: His Life and Work (University of California Press, 2006), received an Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections.

Monday, December 3, 2 pm, State Lounge

For more information, visit www.bcisam.org or call 718-951-5655.