Sir Roland Hanna, a professor in the Aaron Copland School of Music and an internationally known pianist, composer, and collaborator with many of the great jazz musicians of the last half century, died of a viral infection of the heart on Wednesday, November 13. A memorial concert featuring Wynton Marsalis, Jimmy Heath, Grady Tate, and Dr. Billy Taylor will be held at the College on Wednesday, December 11 at 8 pm in LeFrak Hall.

“He could play everything from Chopin to blues to Ellington and beyond with equal conviction and technical assurance,” noted Edward Smaldone, director of the School of Music. “We never knew where he would take us, but we always knew we were in for a glorious ride. Sir Roland brought an unassailable professionalism and personal warmth and love to his role as colleague and teacher that was rare in a musician and artist of such depth and talent. He was one of a kind and we will miss him deeply.”

Hanna was among the cornerstones of the College’s M.A. in Jazz Performance Program, along with composer, arranger, and saxophonist Jimmy Heath, who founded the program and was responsible for bringing Hanna to the College. Sir Roland continued to play a major role in that program after Heath’s retirement in 1998, working along with trumpeter and composer Michael Mossman and saxophonist Antonio Hart.

Born in Detroit in 1932, Roland Hanna began his piano studies at the age of 11. After graduating from Cass Technical High School and a two-year stint with the U.S. Army Band, he continued his musical studies at the Eastman and Juilliard Schools of Music. In the 1950s and 1960s he played with the Benny Goodman Big Band, Charles Mingus, Sarah Vaughan, Al Hibbler, and Carmen McRae. He was later the pianist for the Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra from 1966-1974. Hanna formed the New York Jazz Quartet in 1971 and performed with them through the 1980s.

As befits a performer who claimed that two of his biggest influences were Art Tatum and Artur Rubinstein, Hanna seemed equally comfortable with both jazz and classical music. He appeared with the American Composers Orchestra, the Lincoln Center and Smithsonian Jazz Orchestras, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra. His active itinerary carried him to major clubs and auditoriums throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan.

Hanna’s writing also incorporated a mixture of jazz and classical elements. His catalogue of over 400 compositions includes not only works for standard jazz ensembles but also trios for cello, flute and french horn, as well as larger works for piano and orchestra. Among his numerous recordings were albums dedicated to the music of Duke Ellington, Alec Wilder, and George Gershwin. His most recent CD, *Everything I Love*, was released last month.

Hanna was knighted in 1970 by the president of Liberia for humanitarian services after giving a series of benefit concerts in that country. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Ramona, and two daughters and two sons. Funeral services were held on Monday, November 18, at the Canaan Baptist Church on W. 116 St.

Other performers scheduled to appear at the December 11 memorial concert include the Queens College Orchestra, conducted by Maurice Peress, Yoshio Aomori (bass), Cecil Bridgewater (trumpet), Richard Davis (bass), Jon Faddis (trumpet), Barry Harris (piano), Fred Hersch (piano), Eddie Locke (drums), Jimmy Owens (trumpet), Jeb Patton (piano), Carie Smith (vocalist), Michael Weiss (piano) Frank Wess (saxophone), and Paul West (bass).
Notes

Kwanzaa Celebration
The Africana Studies Program invites the faculty and staff to the College’s Kwanzaa celebration on Tuesday, December 3 at 3:30 pm in the Patio Room North, Dining Hall. The event is sponsored by the President and Administration of Queens College, the Ethnic Studies Council, the English Department, and the SEEK Program.

Frank McCourt December 3
Frank McCourt, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of 'Tis and Angela’s Ashes, will read from his works on Tuesday, December 3 at 7 pm in LeFrak Hall. General admission seats, available at the door, are $8. For information call 4646 or visit www.qc.edu/readings

Victorian Domestic Handicrafts
The Women’s Studies Program will sponsor a lecture by Talia Schaffer (English) regarding “The Victorian Domestic Handicraft” on Wednesday, December 4. Schaffer, who specializes in Victorian women’s writing, is the author of The Forgotten Female Aesthetes: Literary Culture in Late-Victorian England. The lecture will be held in the Student Union VIP Room, Union Grill, from 12 noon - 2 pm. Complimentary lunch will be served. Students earn 1 CLIQ point for attending.

Lectures at GT Museum
The Godwin-Ternbach Museum will be sponsoring two lectures in December. The first is “How Can We Read Them? A History of Prints in the 19th and 20th Centuries” by Marilyn Kushner, the Curator of Prints at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, on Thursday, December 5 at 6 pm. On Wednesday, December 11 at 5 pm, Julia Sneeringer (History) will address “Imagining Women: Artistic and Political Representations of Women in the Modern Era.” Both lectures take place in the Museum, located on the fourth floor of Klapper Hall. For information call 4747 or visit www.qc.edu/art/gtmus.html.

Jeffery Renard Allen Receives Whiting Award
Jeffery Renard Allen (English), whose novel Rails Under My Back has won extraordinary praise, has just received a 2002 Whiting Writers’ Award. The $35,000 award is given to encourage exceptionally promising emerging talent. Recipients are chosen by a committee of writers, literary scholars, and editors. Allen, who has been at Queens College since 1992, is also the author of a previous volume of poetry, Harbors & Spirits (Asphodel Press).

In reviewing Rails Under My Back, the New York Times noted that “Allen’s prose is intense, concentrated. His language, which ranges from the delicately lyrical to the aggressively vulgar, demonstrates extraordinary poise; he can also deploy, in his dialogue, a wide array of voices and nuances of tone.... Besides Joyce and Faulkner, other 20th-century novelists whose work Allen’s calls to mind are Dos Passos, Ellison, and Henry Roth – an indication of the remarkable literary company in which this novel may be seen to move.”
Among other awards, Rails Under My Back received the 2000 Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize for Fiction. Originally published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, the novel is now available in paperback from Harcourt.

Allen described writing the book as primarily an act of faith. “In that sense, it really sustains you. It reaffirms your commitment to humanity, despite all of the various troubles we’ve seen in the past and continue to see today.”
Born and raised in Chicago, Allen began writing Rails Under My Back in 1990 while working on his doctorate at the University of Illinois in Chicago. A professor who was impressed by Allen’s work suggested he go to New York and find an agent. Allen did, and was also offered a post at Queens College, where he teaches African American literature and creative writing.

Allen was recently a Director’s Fellow at the New York Public Library Center for Scholars and Writers, where he did research on his forthcoming novel Hour of the Seeds, which follows an African-American family 100 years into the past and 100 years into the future. He is also working on a collection of short stories entitled Shadowboxing and a volume of poetry.

Service Award Ceremony Honorees
On November 12 the College honored faculty and staff who have been at the College for 20 and 35 years. In a ceremony attended by President Jim Muyskens and Acting Provost Evangelos Gizis in the Student Union, the following members of the College community received pins and certificates for their service:

Thirty-Five-Year Service Awards
Art: William W. Clark
Buildings & Grounds: Joseph B. Gosha
Chemistry & Biochemistry: Randolph R. Smith
Earth & Environmental Sciences: Leonard J. Cinquemani, Nicholas K. Coch
Economics: Hugo M. Kaufmann
English: Beverly A. Gross, Fred Kaplan, Charles H. Molesworth, Anthony J. O’Brien
Family, Nutrition & Exercise Sciences: John R. Magel
History: Vivian R. Gruder
Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library: Shoshana Kaufmann
Linguistics & Communication Disorders: Alan M. Stevens
Aaron Copland School of Music: Hubert S. Howe, Jr., Arbie Orenstein
Philosophy: Harvey Burstein

Twenty-Year Service Awards
Accounting & Information Systems: Carol D. Klinger
Buildings & Grounds: Freddie M. Canty, Sallie M. Gill, Gaynell Green, Joseph Perry, Donna M. Sorenson
Counseling & Advisement Center: Elizabeth J. McCaffrey
Drama, Theatre & Dance: Susan A. Einhorn
Upcoming Jewish Studies Events

On Sunday, December 8 at 2 pm in LeFrak Hall, the Center for Jewish Studies will present the New York premiere of An Evening with Madame F, starring Claudia Stevens. Adopting the persona of Fania Fenelon, an elderly concentration camp survivor who performed at Auschwitz, Stevens uses music and personal accounts to depict Fenelon’s struggles. An Evening with Madame F has been presented over 100 times nationwide. Admission is $10.

The Center’s final 2002 presentation in its Jewish Lecture Series will be “The Power of the Proverb: Yiddish Folk-Sayings and Imagery” on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:30 pm in LeFrak Hall. The speaker is Chava Lapin (Classical Languages), who is editor-in-chief of a literary Yiddish journal. The lecture is free.

Author Richard Peck and Reading Motivation

Richard Peck, the Newbery-Award winning author of A Year Down Yonder, will visit the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies as a guest of the Reading Motivation for Children and Young Adults class on Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 pm in Rosenthal Library, Room 230. Anyone interested in the author, reading motivation, or literature published for children and young adults is invited. For information, call Mary K. Chelton at 3667. Peck asks that members of the audience read at least one of his works, if possible. He will autograph books after the talk.

AIDS Awareness Week Events

Lecture: “Lust, Love, and a Little Luck: Learning from One Man’s Story of Growing Up with HIV,” presented by guest speaker Mathew Kleiner, Monday, December 2 from 12 to 1 pm. CLIQ event, sponsored by Health Service Center and the Chinese Student Association.

Memorial Quilt Display: A quilt with over 45,000 panels to honor those lost to AIDS. Monday, December 2, 10 am to 4 pm, Student Union 4th Floor.


Anthro Museum Plans Trips to France and NYC

The Anthropology Museum of the People of New York is planning a trip to France. Travelers will leave for Paris from JFK on Wednesday, March 19 and return from Nice on Wednesday, March 26. The price—$1,425 per person double, single $1,760—includes airfare; three nights at the Aida Hotel in Paris; three nights in the Busby Hotel in Nice; breakfasts; hotel tax and services; cancellation insurance; first-class Eurail Pass; and a welcome reception. For those who wish to spend less time in Paris or Nice, the Eurail Pass can be used for day trips to wherever you wish to travel in France. A $460 deposit is required by December 15 to insure the air rate.

The Museum is also planning a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art on Saturday, December 14. The $50 cost includes round-trip bus transportation and dinner at the Nectar Restaurant on Madison Avenue. Bus departs from the Armenian Church of Holy Martyrs, 209-15 Horace Harding Blvd. in Bayside, at 11:30 am. Reservations are due by December 5. Call 428-5650 for more details on either trip.

A Religious Apparition in the Bronx

On Thursday, December 12 history professor John T. McGreevy (Notre Dame) will offer a lecture on “Bronx Miracle: Joseph Vitolo, Jr., Our Lady of the Universe, and Roman Catholic Devotion.” He will examine the experience of Joseph Vitolo, Jr., an Italian American boy who claimed to see the Virgin Mary in the Bronx in 1945. McGreevy will discuss how the apparition (and the shrine later constructed on the site) shaped Vitolo’s life. He will also examine the meaning of such phenomena for the workings of religion in the United States and Catholic piety around the world. The free event, which begins at 6:30, will be held at the Calandra Italian American Institute at 25 West 43rd St., 18th floor between 5th and 6th Avenues in Manhattan. For further information call (212) 642-2035 or visit www.qc.edu/calandra.

Extended Hours for Library Reading Room

The Rosenthal Library Level 2 Reading Room will have extended hours during exams, thanks to support from the Auxiliary Enterprises Association. The Reading Room will be open 24 hours a day beginning at 7:30 am Thursday, December 12 through 6 pm on Monday, December 23. Rosenthal Library service hours remain the same: Mon.-Thur., 9 am-10 pm; Fri., 9 am–5 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12 noon–6 pm.

New December Concerts

A Graduate Composers Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30 pm in the Choral Room (264) of the Music Bldg. On Tuesday, December 10, the New York University Contemporary Players will perform in LeFrak Hall at 7:30 pm.
From the Provost

Final Exam Exemptions

University rules normally require a final examination for each class during the 15th week of the semester. For some courses, this may not be appropriate and an exemption may be requested.

Instructors who do not intend to hold a final exam during the 15th week must request an exemption. The Guidelines Regarding Final Examinations describe when an exemption is appropriate. To request an exemption, instructors must complete the exemption request form available at the Provost’s webpage (http://vanguard.qc.edu/provost/policies/index.html), return it to their chairperson, who must review each request and, if deemed appropriate, endorse it and forward it to the divisional dean.

In the case of multiple sections of a course which the chairperson and dean have already approved for exemption, the chairperson need only forward one exemption form to the dean.

Please remember that an exemption form must be filed and approved by the chairperson and dean for every course which will not meet during the 15th week.

Guidelines Regarding Final Examinations

These guidelines were developed to help chairpersons decide which courses may be exempted from having a final examination during the 15th week of the semester. While the guidelines may appear to be restrictive, they are necessary for clarity, uniformity, and accountability. While there are alternatives to final exams, they should be offered only in appropriate situations.

1) In accordance with long-standing practice and the support of a sizeable portion of the faculty, it is generally agreed that a final exam supports the maintenance of academic standards and is sound academic policy.

2) According to the State Education Department, “a semester hour means a credit, point, or other unit granted for the satisfactory completion of a course which requires at least 15 hours (of 50 minutes each) of instruction and at least 30 hours of supplementary assignments. This basic measure must be adjusted proportionately to translate the value of other academic calendars and formats of study in relation to the credit granted for study during the two semesters which comprise an academic year.”

The academic calendar calls for a 14-week term, with the 15th week reserved for final exams. The 15th week gives students time to prepare for final exams without conflicting with other course commitments. If one class has an exam in the 14th week while classes are still in session, students often feel the need to cut their other courses so they can prepare for the 14th-week exam. Clearly, the lack of standardization is a hardship for some students and creates inequitable conditions for faculty.

In summary, then:

1) It is good academic practice to conclude courses with a formal final exam, or the last in a series of shorter exams. These should be given during the 15th week of the semester.

2) There are other courses for which reasonable alternatives to final exams exist. These might include seminars, studio and performance courses, certain laboratory courses, student teaching, etc. All such courses should, however, include appropriate summative evaluation activities.

3) Classroom exams given during the first 14 weeks of the semester do not satisfy the requirement for a final exam or an alternative summative evaluation.

4) Whenever possible, summative evaluation activities should take place during the 15th week of the semester.

5) Waivers from the requirement for a formal final exam during the 15th week of the semester must be obtained from the department chairperson, who will judge the appropriateness of:

   a) An alternative to a formal final exam, such as a take-home exam, which is distributed and returned during the 15th week;

   b) An alternate summative evaluation, such as a final term paper that is submitted and graded during the 15th week, or a juried trial in art studio performed during the 15th week of the semester; or

   c) Additional activities in special courses in other than the 15th week of the semester, such as extra field trips and reports or extra assignments and conferences with students.

6) At the end of the 13th week, chairpersons should submit a list of exempted courses and the reasons for such exemption to their divisional dean.

Note: State requirements for credits and college assumptions about final exams also apply during Intersession and Summer Session.

Submitting Grade Rosters

The policies of the Academic Senate require you to return grade rosters no later than one week after the end of final exams. The deadline for the Fall semester is Monday, January 6, 2003. I urge you to observe this deadline and encourage you to submit grades sooner, if possible. If grades are late, students are disadvantaged in a number of ways: graduation may be delayed, applications to graduate schools may not be accepted, and students will not know what to take during the next semester.

Please take the time to read the entire text on the reverse side of the grade rosters. In addition to instructions for completing the rosters, you will also find College policy regarding the assignment of grades. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Evangelos J. Gizis