Walker Art Center presents

**Minnesota Composers Forum**
Dale Warland Chamber Singers
Dale Warland, conductor

8 pm
Thursday, 13 September 1984
Walker Art Center Auditorium

**Kyrie Eleison**
Elizabeth Faw Hayden Pizer

**Come Lovely and Soothing Death**
David Lesniaski

**Three Songs at Dusk**
James Fritschel

I. All the stars that burn tonight
II. By day and night I travel light
III. Soft are the soles of the sandals of night

**Dialogues II**
Lloyd Ultan

I. Allegro
II. Andante espressivo
III. Moderato
IV. Maestoso
V. Allegro

Andrea Een, viola
Dale Newton, cello

*intermission*

**Piano Variations**
Michael Eckert

Introduction
1. Canons  6. Intermezzo
2. Impromptu  7. Furioso
3. Canon Cancrizans  8. Mirror Canon
4. Invention  9. Animato
5. Ricercar  10. Molto lento

Diane Cina, piano

**Electric Hands**
Henry Gwiazda

Henry Gwiazda, electric guitar

**A Creeley Collection**
Libby Larsen

1. The Winner
2. Sufi Sam Christian
3. Cheap Thrill
4. Love Comes Quietly
5. From “Mabel”

Jan Weller, flute
David John Olsen, percussion
The Dale Warland Chamber Singers is a professional choral ensemble with an extensive repertoire of standard a cappella music representing a broad variety of styles. Established by Dr. Dale Warland in 1972, the Dale Warland Singers begin their thirteenth season in 1984 with plans for performances at Orchestra Hall, the Ordway Music Theatre, and a two-week tour of Germany. The Singers have appeared with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, and are heard regularly on Minnesota Public Radio, National Public Radio, and American Public Radio broadcasts. The Dale Warland Chamber Singers have made significant contributions to the performance of twentieth century music through numerous performances of contemporary literature and the ensemble’s involvement in world premiere performances and commissions of works by local composers.

The Dale Warland Chamber Singers

Soprano
Sigrid Johnson
Joanna Johnston
Barbara Nelson
Linda Steen

Alto
Roxanne Bentley
Joanne Halvorsen
Kay Sandeen
Denise Wahlin

Tenor
John Henley
Paul Gerike
Steven Pearthree
David Reece

Bass
Steven Burger
Robert Elmore
Julian Sellers
Frank Steen

Dale Warland, Music Director of The Dale Warland Singers, is Professor of Music at Macalester College in St. Paul. Mr. Warland has distinguished himself as a composer and arranger, and was awarded an Individual Artist Grant by the Minnesota State Arts Board in 1981 to work with Robert Shaw, the Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. He has guest conducted the Swedish Radio Choir (Stockholm), the Danish Radio Choir (Copenhagen), and has spent a month this past summer in England, studying English choral literature under a Bush Foundation Award.
Kyrie Eleison is scored for a capella choir, and is set to the common liturgical text of "Kyrie Eleison, Christie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison." Though written in a single movement, the piece is comprised of several sections, each suggesting a different mood. However, the recurring theme, which opens and closes Kyrie Eleison, will be found throughout the work. Kyrie Eleison received First Prize for choral music in the 1984 National League of American Pen Women Biennial Composition Contest. This is its premiere performance.

Elizabeth Faw Hayden Pizer has written orchestral, chamber, vocal, choral, solo piano, and electronic-tape compositions. Her music has been performed and broadcast in regions across the United States and overseas, including the National and Regional conferences of the American Society of University Composers, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival (Charleston, SC), the Opus 2 Conference on Women in Music (University of Michigan), the Delius Festival (Jacksonville University, FL), and the Donne in Musica Festival (Rome, Italy).

Come Lovely and Soothing Death is excerpted from Walt Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd". The piece was written as the result of a close friend's suicide, and is dedicated to his memory.

David Lesniaski was born and raised in Willimantic, CT. His grandmother taught him to play the piano, and during his adolescence his musical activities broadened to include playing bass in the high school orchestra and being a church organist. Despite his mathematical interests, Mr. Lesniaski majored in music at Haverford College, where he studied with John Davison and Harold Boatrite. He later earned his MA from the University of Kansas, and did further graduate work at the University of Minnesota. He is now earning a living as a librarian at the University of Minnesota.

Three Songs at Dusk was commissioned by the Waverly-Shell Rock Chamber Choir of Waverly, Iowa for performance at the North Central Choral Directors Convention in February of 1984. The three texts are all by G.J. Neumann, a former professor at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. Neumann stresses the need to travel through life lightly with very little to tie you down. The musical setting is meant to portray that sense of impermanence, with a quicker tempo and much unison. The text speaks first of delight, then sorrow. Finally sorrow and bliss intertwine, welcoming the coming of night with open arms.

James E. Fritschel is Professor of Music History and Conducting at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, where he also conducts the Wartburg Choir. Mr. Fritschel has received numerous awards and commissions during his career. His works have been performed throughout the United States and as far away as the Cork International Choral Festival in Ireland.
Dialogues II for viola and cello was written at the MacDowell Colony during the summer of 1980. It consists of five contrasting movements which explore the instruments and express a variety of moods. It is one of a set of five-movement duos for all possible duo combinations of violin, viola, and cello. Like its sister duos, Dialogues II is freely composed, with the expressive content of the music and the instruments guiding the compositional decisions.

Lloyd Ultan has been the Director of the University of Minnesota School of Music since 1975. He was founder and first chairman of the music department at Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA, and served as visiting professor of composition and theory at the Royal College of Music, London, and as guest lecturer at Cambridge University. Mr. Ultan has received numerous commissions, performances, grants, and fellowships throughout his career, bringing him in contact with such ensembles as the Tokyo String Quartet, Pro Arte String Quartet and the Charlie Byrd Trio.

Piano Variations was composed in 1981-82 and dedicated to Robert Weirich. This piece has an introduction and ten variations, all but number 2 based on an “all interval” row. The introduction, and one phrase in the final variation, are taken from the composer’s Three Poems of Emily Dickinson, for soprano and eight players, composed in 1980-81 using the same underlying series.

Michael Eckert studied composition with John Nsheim at Antioch College, and with Ralph Shapey at a University of Chicago, where he received his MA and PhD. He has taught at Antioch College, Tulane University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and this fall he joined the faculty of Colorado State University. Mr. Eckert has been awarded the Bearns Prize, an NEA Fellowship, and the 1983 Composer of the Year Award of the Music Teachers National Association.

Electric Hands is a work for electric guitar and tape that has many of the sounds the composer loves most on the guitar. Many, like feedback or “backwards guitar”, are difficult or impossible to control in a live setting, but are ideal on tape. All the sounds on the tape are made by electric guitars or electric bass.

Henry Gwiazda is currently living in Moorhead, with his wife, Noel, where he is Assistant Professor of Music at Moorhead State University, and is overly fond of chocolate.

A Creeley Collection was commissioned and premiered in 1984 by the Piedmont Chamber Singers, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Donald Armataget, conductor. The texts are drawn from the poetry of Black Mountain poet Robert Creeley. Rather than select poetry centered around a single theme, the composer has collected a grouping designed to illuminate Creeley’s multifaceted personality. The economical texts range from simple lyrical statements—“Love Comes Quietly”, to puckish wit—“Cheap Thrill”.

Libby Larsen is co-founder of the Minnesota Composers Forum. Her works have been performed by the Saint Paul Ormber Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Louis Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Symphony, the American Composers Orchestra, Opera Memphis, Opera Omaha, as well as many chamber groups and soloists. Ms. Larsen has resumed her role as one of three Managing Composers at the Minnesota Composers Forum, after a leave of absence as 1983-86 Composer-in-Residence with the Minnesota Orchestra.
For their support of the programs of the Minnesota Composers Forum we would like to thank:
Affiliated Arts Agencies of the Upper Midwest
Andersen Foundation
Art Masters Studios, Inc.
ASCAP
Bush Foundation
Deluxe Check Printers
Doherty, Rumble & Butler
First Bank Minneapolis
First Bank St. Paul
First Trust St. Paul
Fromm Foundation
General Mills
H.B. Fuller Company
Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Foundation
IBM
IDS/American Express
International Multifoods
Jefferson Foundation
Jerome Foundation
Mrs. George M. Lowry
Mrs. Russell T. Lund
MarketHouse
McKnight Foundation
McNeely Foundation
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing
Northwest Area Foundation
Norwest Bank St. Paul
Norwest Bank Minneapolis
Rahr Foundation
Margaret Rivers Fund
Robins, Zelle, Larson & Kaplan
St. Paul Companies
James R. Thorpe Foundation
Twin Cities Community First Banks
Wenger Corporation
Carl T. Weyerhaeuser Trust
with special thanks to individual contributors

This project is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota Legislature, and in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Minnesota Composers Forum is the recipient of a McKnight Foundation Award administered by the Minnesota State Arts Board.

The Minnesota Composers Forum is supported in part by the United Arts Fund.

The Minnesota Composers Forum is the recipient of a grant from the Dayton Hudson Foundation, made possible through the contributions of:
B. Dalton Bookseller—Sherman A. Swenson, Chairman & CEO
Dayton's—Thomas E. Payne, President
Target Stores—Bruce Allbright, Chairman & CEO