Conductor David Howse Wins 2005 Ditson Award

David Howse

David Howse, director of the Cantata Singers & Ensemble, recently received Columbia’s 2005 Ditson Award for his commitment to the performance of works by American composers. Howse is a professor of music at Boston University School of Music, where he is also director of orchestral activities and chair of the conducting department.

“Over the years, David Howse has become an indispensable figure in contemporary music,” said President Lee C. Bollinger in his citation. “He frequently programmed not only established American and European works but also championed music by promising young composers, with special attention to the rich culture of masonic composition in the Boston area.

During Howse’s 22-year tenure with the Cantata Singers & Ensemble, the organization has expanded and presented many major choral-orchestral works, including John Harbison’s 1987 Pulitzer Prize-winning ‘The Flight into Egypt.’

 Alfred Ledrigh, Fritz Rein Professor of Musical Composition and member of the advisory committee of the Alice M. Ditson Fund, presented Howse with the citation and a $5,000 award during a May 13 concert at Alfred Saints in Brookline, Massachusetts. The Ditson Conductor’s Award, the oldest award honoring conductors for their commitment to American music, was established in 1945 by the Alice M. Ditson Fund at Columbia. Past recipients include Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, John Falletta, Michael Tilson Thomas and James DePreist.

CU Libraries Receive $1.1 Million for Oral History Project

Columbia University Libraries will receive $1.1 million over three years from the Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) to create an oral history archive of the organization, a group of Bermuda-based charitable foundations. The Atlantic Philanthropies Oral History Project will give researchers and scholars the opportunity to explore and learn about the decision-making process, the outcomes of grant-funded programs and the international philanthropic and business practices of AP and its founder, Charles F. Feeney.

Suzanne Hagerman’s project, Biopaver, was attended by more than 100 faculty, students, and business practices of AP and its founder, Charles F. Feeney.

The project is also a center for teaching and research, offering opportunities for students, visiting scholars and fellows.

Book Prize Awarded to Katznelson

Ira Katznelson’s Ruggles Professor of Political Science and History, has won the 2005 David and Elaine Spitz Prize for the best book in liberal and/or democratic theory.

Katznelson’s ‘Democratization and Ethnicity: Political Knowledge after Total War, Totalitarianism, and the Holocaust’ makes a historically informed and rich contribution to postwar liberal-democratic theory,” wrote the awards committee.

Ira Katznelson also served in 2004 and 2005 as acting vice president of the faculty of arts and sciences. Given annually, the Spitz Prize recognizes a book published two years prior to the award. The awards committee this year consisted of Janice Bennett, John Hopkins University; John McCormick, the University of Chicago; J. Donald Moore, Wesleyan University; and Joan Tronto, Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Two Columbians Win Design Award

Metropolis magazine, a leading contemporary architecture and design publication, has awarded Brand-Ravenna’s Nest Generation Design Competition at the Center for Architecture in New York City grand prize to Alisa Andraeis, assistant professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and Joseph Hageme, graduate student at the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Andranais’ project, Genware, is an artificial life-based software system that converts dynamic sound patterns into structural fields to produce complex surfaces of various scales. The program uses differential mathematics to produce repetitive patterns with subtle variations that can be applied to architecture and industrial design.

Hageme’s project, Bipower, digs into soil and uses the earth’s heating processes as a building material. Bipower is a precast permeable paving system that promotes proper drainage and combats waterborne pollutants. Each Bipower stone contains bioremediating substances that absorb toxins. Bipower could help alleviate the accumulation of dirty storm water at curbs and street corners.

While the $10,000 prize was intended to be used as seed money to support the project of one winner, this year’s jurors decided to split the prize money between the two Columbians.

The work of 20 finalists was part of an exhibition at the Metropolis booth at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair, held May 14–17 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City. The full story on the 20 winners and 15 finalists is in the current issue of Metropolis (June 2005).

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