

Man, machine perform in composers concert

By Jay Joslyn

The premiere of a duet between a man and a machine highlighted the Wisconsin Conservatory Composers concert Sunday afternoon in the conservatory's recital hall, 1584 N. Prospect Ave.

The composer was Gregory Fish, who programmed a synthesizer to respond to a laser beam activated by Robert Budny's performance on percussion instruments.

The beam's interruption, through the movement of Budny or such instruments as a wind chime, caused prearranged electronic patterns to be sounded.

Fish has been seeking a way to use a synthesizer in a performance setting. He seems to have found it.

Now Fish must take the next step: prepare electronic patterns that operate more cogently with the performance instrument.

Academic interest also was the

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thrust of Burt Levy's "And Flags Flutter in the Cannonading Heat," a piece for solo bassoon, and pianist Steven Nelson-Raney's variations on 19 rubrics of a Midwestern life.

Monte Perkins' performance of the bassoon solo demonstrated a remarkable range of unusual double-reed sounds, including interesting double stops.

Of much more than academic interest was guest composer Sigmund Snopek III's "23 Magic Sorties" for piano and voice — both by Snopek.

It is a delightfully imaginative bedtime story about two children who tumble into an adventure in the insides of a magic piano.

The concert attracted a near-capacity audience of 67.