Concerts to focus on 20th century

The Press-Citizen

Music of the 20th century will take center stage during performances by the University of Iowa Center for New Music from 8 p.m. today through Sunday in Clapp Recital Hall on the UI campus.

The Center for New Music, directed by David Gompper, will begin their concert performances at the Mid-America Composers Festival to Celebrate New American Concert Music at 7:30 p.m. today at Grinnell College in Grinnell. The festival runs through Sunday and will feature 40 works by several groups. The festival is co-sponsored by the Iowa Composers Forum, which advocates music of all styles and functions as a resource for information about new music created by Iowans. The other sponsor is Region V of the Society of Composers Inc.

Today's performance in Clapp Hall will be a repeat of the program at Grinnell.

The program will feature the works of Yehuda Yannay, David Smooke, Chihchun Chi-sun Lee and Richard Brooks.

Yannay, a native of Romania, emigrated to Israel in 1951. He holds degrees from the Rubin Academy of Music in Tel-Aviv, Brandeis University and the University of Illinois. He has taught in Germany. His piece Duo was influenced by a trip to Lisbon, Portugal.

Richards' brief original theme is reminiscent of a Renaissance dance figure with variations in the Baroque style.

Smooke is a Chicago-based composer whose three prologues present material coalesced through summation and fragmentation.

Lee has a bachelor's degree from Soochow University of Taiwan and a master's degree from Ohio University. She is finishing a doctorate at the University of Michigan.

Brooks is the music department chair at Nassau Community College in New York.