



Fall 9-19-1995

## German-Austrian History, Art, Music from 1815-1848 Subject of Conference Slated for Next March

Bob Aaron  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news>

---

### **Recommended Citation**

Aaron, Bob, "German-Austrian History, Art, Music from 1815-1848 Subject of Conference Slated for Next March" (1995). *News and Events*. 6008.  
<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/news/6008>

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Sept. 19, 1995

**Contact:** Bob Aaron, 309/556-3181

## *IWU to Host National Conference*

### **German-Austrian History, Art, Music from 1815-1848**

### **Subject of Conference Slated for Next March**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--German and Austrian culture from 1815-1848 are the targets of a two-day national conference Illinois Wesleyan University will host next March.

"History, Music, and the Arts in Germany and Austria, 1815-1848"--organized by Michael Cooper, IWU assistant professor of music--will convene March 30-31 on the IWU campus.

"The idea," Cooper explained, "is that in these years of relative--if also sometimes uneasy--political stability in the German-speaking countries presented artists of all kinds with rather unusual opportunities. This situation was further affected by several important events in the world of the arts, such as the deaths of [the German writer Johann Wolfgang] Goethe [in 1832] and [the German composer Ludwig van] Beethoven [in 1827]."

"We'd like this conference," Cooper added, "to present an opportunity for scholars and students to explore the aesthetic, philosophical, and political ramifications of the times for the arts and artists, and to do so from a variety of disciplinary perspectives."

The conference's focus begins with 1815 when the Congress of Vienna met to sort out European politics after the chaos of the Napoleonic wars and runs through 1848 when revolutions in Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Rome, and elsewhere swept across Europe.

Cooper already has received proposals for papers to be delivered at the conference from scholars from New York to California. Sept. 30 is the deadline for submitting proposals for papers to be delivered at the conference. Proposals should be sent to: Michael Cooper, Illinois Wesleyan University, School of Music, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, Ill. 61702-2900.

Each of the conference's three sessions has a keynote speaker:

- **Music and the Literary Arts**--James McGlathery, professor of German and Comparative Literature and head of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, will address a session on music and the literary arts, "Wagner's Opera Librettos and German Literature." This session is scheduled for March 30, 9 a.m.-Noon. McGlathery is the author of "Desire's Sway: The Plays and Stories of Heinrich von Kleist;" "Mysticism and Sexuality: E.T.A. Hoffmann;" and "Fairy Tale Romance: The Grimms, Basile, and Perrault." McGlathery is the editor of "The Brothers Grimm and Folktale." He is working on an interpretive study of Richard Wagner's opera libretti.

• **Music and the Visual Arts**--R. Larry Todd, professor of music at Duke University, will be the featured speaker at a session on music and the visual arts, "The Visual Element in Mendelssohn's Music." This session is scheduled for March 30, 2-5 p.m. Todd has written extensively about 19th century music, especially that of Felix Mendelssohn. Among his recent works is "Mendelssohn: 'The Hebrides' and Other Overtures" (1992). He has edited two volumes, "Mendelssohn Studies" (1992) and "Mendelssohn and His World" (1991).

• **Politics and the Arts**--John Daverio, associate professor of music and chairman of the musicology department at Boston University, will give a paper on politics and the arts, entitled, "Sounds from Without the Gate: Schumann and the Dresden Revolution." This session is scheduled for March 31, 9 a.m.-Noon. Daverio is the author of "Nineteenth Century Music and the German Romantic Ideology" (1993). He is writing a study of the life and works of German composer Robert Schumann.

Cooper joined IWU's music faculty in the fall of 1994. He earned bachelor and master's of music degrees from Florida State University. Cooper has bachelor of music degrees in music history and percussion performance. His doctorate in musicology is from Duke University. Cooper was awarded two concurrent Fulbright Scholarships in 1989-1990 for studies at Universität Regensburg and Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt.

Before joining the IWU faculty, Cooper was a graduate student teaching assistant Florida State University and Duke University.

Cooper's research interests span the music of composers Felix Mendelssohn and Richard Strauss, the timpani, and 19th-century music theory. He is working on five books and has published about 20 articles and translations.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 1,860 students in a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. The university's endowment is valued at more than \$100 million. A \$25 million Center for Natural Science Learning and Research opened Aug. 28 and will be dedicated Oct. 7. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994. The Carnegie Commission for the Advancement of Teaching promoted Illinois Wesleyan to a "Baccalaureate I" institution in 1994, a classification that places it among 161 highly selective National Liberal Arts Colleges in the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges*, another respected college guide, rated IWU "highly competitive (+)" in its latest edition. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."