

Stephen Foster Symposium Schedule and Participants

The first day of the symposium, Friday, April 23rd

1:00-5:00pm

- Welcome by Deane Root
- Introduction by Martin Giles, playwright.

Speakers and their topics:

- Mariana Whitmer, PhD, special projects coordinator at the Center for American Music and executive director for the Society for American Music.
"Stephen Foster's Pittsburgh"
- Susan Key, PhD, co-editor of *American Mavericks: Musical Visionaries, Pioneers, Iconoclasts*; author of articles on Foster, John Cage, and early radio.
"The parlor songs and social etiquette in Foster's lifetime"
- Deane Root, PhD, Director for the Center for American Music, Professor of music at the University of Pittsburgh, and Editor in Chief of Grove Music.
"How Foster's music reached its public"
- Dale Cockrell, PhD, Professor of Musicology at Vanderbilt University, author of a book on minstrelsy and scholar of the music of Wilder's *Little House* books.
"Minstrel songs and their audience in antebellum America"

The second day, Saturday, April 24th

9:00am-5:00pm

Morning Session:

- Possible introduction by Thomas Hampson, baritone at the Metropolitan Opera, who recorded the CD *American Dreamer: Songs of Stephen Foster* (Angel, 1992). "Foster's songs as part of America's classic vocal repertory" [This would be provided long-distance]

Speakers:

- Steven Saunders, PhD, Professor of Music at Colby College, co-editor of the complete works of Foster, and of the new Mel Bay songbook.
"The global allure of Foster's songs: Transcending cultural barriers"
- Kazuko Miyashita, Professor of English and American Studies, National Institute of Fitness and Sports at Kanoya, Japan. Scholar on cross-cultural communication and American popular music in Japan.
"America as understood through Foster's songs in foreign cultures"
- Joanna Smolko, PhD, co-editor (along with Saunders) of the Mel Bay edition of Foster's music revised for contemporary performance.
"Performing Foster in America's West"

Afternoon Session:

- Introduction by Ken Emerson, the author of the Foster biography and co-writer of the documentary PBS film, *Stephen Foster* (2001)

Speakers:

- Kathryn Miller Haines, Associate Director of the Center for American Music; expert on Foster's music in 20th-century media.
"Foster's music in popular culture"
- David Macias, Nashville producer of the CD *Beautiful Dreamer: The Songs of Stephen Foster* that won the 2005 Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album. "How Foster's songs have been reinterpreted by country-music performers"
- Joe Weed, musician and recording engineer in Los Gatos, California, producer of six albums including *Swanee: The Music of Stephen Foster*
"Foster's influence on America's traditional music"

Reception will follow.

Public is encouraged to visit the Foster Museum, where guided tours will be offered (space is limited).

After the play a post-production discussion will be held with these presenters available for Q&A.