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## **Center Story #3 County Sponsors Second 'Arts in the Center' Series; First Program: Percussion!**

In this article, Diane reminisces about her experience attending the first event of the second season of Arts in the Center, a partnership between Clark County, UNLV College of Fine Arts, Commercial Center and The Composers Room.

What was it all about? What did she think? What's coming up next?

About a month ago, an enthusiastic audience at The Composers Room showroom was there to hear a concert called *Experiential Awareness (Percussion)*.

Drums and bongos of all sizes and varieties, a large marimba and a vibraphone were in the hands of five talented men of the UNLV Percussion Ensemble. Their concert was sponsored by Clark County and was the first in the second season of *Arts in the Center*, a partnership with UNLV College of Fine Arts, Commercial Center and The Composers Room. As with all *Arts in the Center* programs, admission was free.

The hour and a half concert was sometimes loud and rhythmic; sometimes soft and lyrical. The men even began the concert with no instruments at all – just the sounds of clapping arms and legs in rhythm.

This reporter had never seen such a concert before. In fact, this reporter didn't even know the instruments that looked somewhat like xylophones, but had their own looks and names: marimba and vibraphone.

The men involved (who physically worked hard during this concert), all from the UNLV School of Music, were Dr. Alex Stopa, Adjunct Percussion Instructor; Dr. Kyle Bissantz, Visiting Assistant Professor of Percussion; Ryan Bond, Coordinator Division of Rock Studies & Adjunct Percussion Instructor; Chandler White, Master of Music percussion candidate; and Sam Wetzel, Doctor of Musical Arts percussion candidate.

Incidentally, in addition to the music, a light buffet dinner was available for concert-goers, as well – again, all at no cost to the audience and another part of the County's sponsorship.

The man in charge was Warren D. Cobb, MFA, Associate Dean of the UNLV College of Fine Arts. He told this reporter that *Arts in the Center*, now in its second year, was the County's attempt, along with UNLV, to "share with the community the arts that we love." Many of the departments from the College of Fine Arts will have an event as part of this program that runs through next June.

The next presentation in the current *Arts in the Center* series will be held at The Composers Room on Wednesday, October 23 from 7 PM to 8:30 PM. It is entitled *Bright Futures*, a visual arts show highlighting the most promising young UNLV artists as nominated and curated by their faculty members.

Featured will be sculpture, photography, painting, drawing and print making. In total, approximately 15-20 pieces will be on display and the artists who created them will be there to answer questions, too.

Doors open at 7 PM for guests to grab a drink and a complimentary bite to eat, view the art and speak with the students. Remarks will be made at 8 PM.

*Bright Futures* promises to be another fascinating evening in this series which is bringing more diverse arts programming to Historic Commercial Center.

For complimentary reservations, please visit [TheComposersRoom.com](http://TheComposersRoom.com)

And, if you want to know about all upcoming “Arts in the Center” programs, email [jennifer.vaughn@unlv.edu](mailto:jennifer.vaughn@unlv.edu) and

ask to be added to the UNLV College of Fine Arts  
newsletter list.

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