

## Lewis Rowell

To understand the contributions of Lewis Rowell to the world of scholarship in general and to Indiana University in particular, it might be helpful to consider them in the framework of an oft-quoted essay of the Oxford scholar Sir Isaiah Berlin, "The Hedgehog and the Fox." Berlin based this essay on a fragment from the Greek poet Archilochus: "The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing." He used this to draw distinctions between generalists who pursue many different areas and specialists who focus on a single one.

Lewis Rowell's signal contributions to the study of the music of India might seem to identify him as the quintessential "hedgehog." His book *Music and Musical Thought in Early India* received the prestigious Otto Kinkeldey Award of the American Musicological Society in 1993. He has written more than 20 articles on Indian music for scholarly journals in the United States, India, and Europe, and has been invited to speak on this topic at conferences throughout the world.

His pioneering achievements in research on Indian music began in the 1970s and anticipated the emphasis on multicultural study that now plays a significant role in music theory and musicology research. To prepare for these achievements he not only studied the music of India and the previous research in this area, but he also received two senior research fellowships to study Indian music in Varanasi (1975) and Madras (1985). In addition he engaged in private study of South Indian singing and became proficient in Sanskrit. His research in Indian music is ongoing and after retirement he intends to complete a large-scale project in this area.

There is, however, abundant evidence to warrant identifying Lewis Rowell as an incredibly versatile generalist who has achieved success in a surprisingly large number of musical fields. These include the study of time in music, the philosophy of music, the history of music theory, musical composition, music performance, music administration, and teaching.

One of his principal scholarly interests has always been the study of time, especially time in music. From 1976 to 1996 he was a member of the International Society for the Study of Time, serving at various times as its president, executive secretary, and treasurer. Beginning in 1978 he began the publication of a significant series of more than 20 articles on various topics in musical time. One of the central concepts he developed is the study of temporal beginnings in music. In 1993 he was named distinguished faculty research lecturer at Indiana University and he presented a special lecture on "Narrative Beginnings in Music." He has written several other articles in this area and intends to continue research on this after his retirement.

Lew is recognized as one of the leading scholars in the study of the philosophy of music. His 1983 book *Thinking about Music: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Music* continues to be widely used for courses on this subject at many universities. He has written many articles on this topic, and several of them have been translated for publication in foreign journals. Some of his articles on the history of music theory have focused on topics that relate to his interests in musical time and the philosophy of music.

He has written musical compositions for various media and these have been performed by many different ensembles. His *Overture to The Eumenides* was performed by the Eastman Rochester Symphony and the Indiana University Philharmonic. His musical versatility is especially evident in his activities as performer. He has appeared as a singer in several operas, has played trombone in various ensembles, and was an organist and choirmaster for 25 years.

All of these varied activities have been significant influences in Professor Rowell's work as a teacher. He began his teaching career at the University of Oklahoma (1958 to 1959) and then joined the music theory faculty of Indiana University from 1959 to 1963. From 1963 to 1969 he served as associate dean, director of graduate studies, and associate professor of music at the College-Conservatory of Music of the University of Cincinnati. From 1969 to 1979 he was professor of music and chair of the graduate faculty of music at the University of Hawaii. He returned to Indiana University in 1979. Students of Lewis Rowell have been awed by his encyclopedic knowledge, challenged by his rigorous high standards, and inspired by his love for music and his enthusiasm for learning.

Lew was born in Rochester, New York, and remained in that city for most of his formal education — high school, undergraduate studies in trombone and voice, and graduate studies in music theory and composition at the Eastman School of Music. Far from limiting his outlook, he credits his Rochester experience not only for helping him to develop his intellectual and musical abilities, but above all for encouraging him to participate in a broad variety of activities.

In his personal life Lew evidences the same mixture of concentration and diversity. He maintains a disciplined schedule of study and writing, but in his spare time he delights in exploring various areas from Northern Italian cooking to classic American TV comedies.

Many of those who love and admire Lew, however, find that of all his great achievements, none surpasses his wooing and winning of his wonderful wife, Unni. Her intellectual accomplishments as a geologist, her Norwegian common sense, and her gentleness and optimism provide the balance for the centripetal and centrifugal forces in Lew's life. Together, the two of them offer an ideal setting of hospitality and friendship to all those fortunate to know them.

Is Lewis Rowell a hedgehog or a fox? Isaiah Berlin recognized the folly of trying to put too much emphasis on this dichotomy, and Lewis Rowell's career proves this. His marvelous mixture of focus and diversity has enabled him to make lasting contributions to his university, his students and colleagues, and to the world of music.

Allen Winold