

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATE

Mailed February 11, 1988

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - The Office of Continuing Education at Youngstown State University will offer an "Algebra Refresher Course" beginning Feb. 20 for those with limited experience in Algebra or anxiety related to math.

Creative thinking, memory techniques for long term retention, as well as relaxation methods, will be reviewed.

The course instructor will be YSU Associate Professor of Math and Computer Science Dr. Joseph Altinger.

The class will be offered from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays through March 26.

For registration, or more information, call the Office of Continuing Education at (216) 742-3358.

###

NEWS SERVICE

87-275

1a,d

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NEWS SERVICE

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1a,d

FOR RELEASE:

NEWS DIRECTORS/EDITORS - CANCELLATION

The Feb. 12 concert for YSU's Black History Month, the Gil Scott Heron and Richie Haven concert, has just been canceled by their booking agency.

The concert was to have been held at Starr Palace, Federal Plaza West, at 8 p.m. Friday the 12th.

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NEWS SERVICE

87-270

1a,b,d,e,h

**FOR RELEASE:** IMMEDIATE

Mailed February 11, 1988

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Youngstown State University's Jazz Ensembles I and II will present a swinging "Tribute to Woody Herman" at 8 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Ensemble Director Tony Leonardi of Boardman, a Woody Herman alumnus, said the program will feature representative selections covering the 50 years in which the late musician was one of America's finest big band leaders.

Selections from his First Herd and Second Herd, such as "Woodchoppers Ball," "Apple Honey," "Four Brothers," and the beautiful "Early Autumn" will be performed.

Many of the solos that were originally recorded by sidemen such as Flip Phillips, Bill Harris, Stan Getz, Zoot Sims and others will be recreated by Jazz Ensemble members.

Herman's Swinging Herd will be represented by several pieces that Leonardi recorded while in the band in 1965. These include "Greasy Sack Blues" and "Woody's Whistle."

The 70s and 80s will also be represented, with selections from the Herman library.

In addition to his fast and exciting style, Leonardi points out Herman constantly absorbed new styles but never compromised fine music. In addition, his bands were an incubator for some of the most brilliant soloists and arrangers.

The concert will conclude with the resounding "Caldonia."

MORE

ADD ONE

Born in 1916 in Milwaukee, Woodrow Charles Herman broke into the entertainment business at the age of 9 as "The Boy Wonder of the Clarinet."

Through his teens he performed in vaudeville and dance bands. His influences were Dixieland from small combos like Red Nichols', and Duke Ellington's orchestra, where the smooth alto sax of Johnny Hodges became a lifelong influence.

In 1934 he joined Isham Jones' band and when it disbanded, Herman took some of the group and formed a sextet called "The Band That Plays the Blues." That group, who made the 1939 hit called "Woodchopper's Ball," gained national acclaim and Metronome Magazine referred to them as Herman's "Herd."

During the early 1940s, he assimilated the fast-paced, swinging styles of Count Basie and Jimmy Lunceford, then absorbed the new bebop.

The key to Herman's success through the years was his openness to new styles and materials and his ability to recognize and feature great players and use the work of some of the great composers and arrangers of modern jazz.

###

NEWS SERVICE

87-276

1a,b,c,d,e,h

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

### SAXOPHONE

#### ALTO

Tim Harker Boardman  
Dan Heasley Oil City, PA

#### TENOR

Mike Oleksa Youngstown  
Bob Kleinschmidt Strongsville

#### BARITONE

Calvin O'Conner Youngstown

### TRUMPET

Lou Pisani Natrona Heights, PA  
Mike Kamuf Cleveland  
Kurt Schnader Denver, PA  
Tim Leahey Altoona, PA  
Tony Audia Warren

### TROMBONE

Jeff King Wooster  
Jeff Althouse Canfield  
Duane Price Barberton  
Jon Willis Austintown

### PIANO

David Meese Girard

### BASS

Ed Hallahan Youngstown

### DRUMS

Tom Ruggieri Boardman  
Kevin Downs Madison

### GUITAR

Jim Gunger Canfield

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE II

### SAXOPHONE

ALTO	Ralph Negro Russ Peterson	Austintown Bedford
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TENOR	Jeff Hvizdos Brian Matticola	Poland Ashtabula
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BARITONE	David Kochis	Bedford
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TRUMPET	Marty McMasters Doug James Chuck Reese Kevin Bell Sonja Stambaugh	Austintown Boardman Warren Leetonia Salem
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TROMBONE	George Sawyer Steve Spithaler Ken Rega Eric Dregne	Warren Evans City, PA Youngstown Cleveland
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PIANO	Deana Smith	Poland
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BASS	Sherry Luchette	Brookfield
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DRUMS	Sam DeMello Jim Richley	Mineral Ridge Canfield
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GUITAR	Mike Rock	Struthers
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The concert is free and open to the public.

Ensemble Director Tony Leonardi of Boardman, a Woody Herman alumnus, said the program will feature representative selections covering the 50 years in which the late musician was one of America's finest big band leaders.

Selections from his First Herd and Second Herd, such as "Woodchoppers Ball," "Apple Honey," "Four Brothers," and the beautiful "Early Autumn" will be performed.

Many of the solos that were originally recorded by sidemen such as Flip Phillips, Bill Harris, Stan Getz, Zoot Sims and others will be recreated by Jazz Ensemble members.

Herman's Swinging Herd will be represented by several pieces that Leonardi recorded while in the band in 1965. These include "Greasy Sack Blues" and "Woody's Whistle."

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## JAZZ ENSEMBLE I

### SAXOPHONE

ALTO	Tim Harker Dan Heasley	Boardman Oil City, PA
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TENOR	Mike Oleksa Bob Kleinschmidt	Youngstown Strongsville
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BARITONE	Calvin O'Conner	Youngstown
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TRUMPET	Lou Pisani Mike Kamuf Kurt Schnader Tim Leahey Tony Audia	Natrona Heights, PA Cleveland Denver, PA Altoona, PA Warren
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TROMBONE	Jeff King Jeff Althouse Duane Price Jon Willis	Wooster Canfield Barberton Austintown
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PIANO	David Meese	Girard
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BASS	Ed Hallahan	Youngstown
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DRUMS	Tom Ruggieri Kevin Downs	Boardman Madison
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GUITAR	Jim Gunger	Canfield
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## JAZZ ENSEMBLE II

### SAXOPHONE

ALTO	Ralph Negro Russ Peterson	Austintown Bedford
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TENOR	Jeff Hvizdos Brian Matticola	Poland Ashtabula
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BARITONE	David Kochis	Bedford
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TRUMPET	Marty McMasters Doug James Chuck Reese Kevin Bell Sonja Stambaugh	Austintown Boardman Warren Leetonia Salem
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TROMBONE	George Sawyer Steve Spithaler Ken Rega Eric Dregne	Warren Evans City, PA Youngstown Cleveland
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PIANO	Deana Smith	Poland
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BASS	Sherry Luchette	Brookfield
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DRUMS	Sam DeMello Jim Richley	Mineral Ridge Canfield
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GUITAR	Nike Rock	Struthers
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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Imagine a time and place where politicians are thought to be crooked, clergymen are chastised for being sinfully greedy, and persons in all walks of life are perceived as being self-serving.

Although this may sound like America in the 1980s, it is actually Athens, Greece, in the 5th century B.C., the setting for Aristophanes' classical comic fantasy "The Birds," which opens at Youngstown State University's Spotlight Arena Theatre in Bliss Hall Feb. 25.

In this theatrical masterpiece, Aristophanes asks us not only to believe that such a situation is possible, but also entreats us to embark on a journey with two idealistic men who attempt to escape this world of self-centeredness by seeking a Utopian existence in the land of "The Birds."

"The Birds" is a work of genius, a brilliantly lyrical comedy filled with satire but moderated by the sadness of the human condition. As translator William Arrowsmith states, "In no other play is Aristophanes' comic vision so comprehensively or lovingly at odds with his world."

It is recognized that Aristophanes originally wrote "The Birds" as a musical fantasy similar to the manner of our contemporary comic opera or operetta. Because the music that was indigenous to classical Greek theatre has been lost, University Theatre commissioned the noted ethno-musicologist Dr. Halim El-Dabh of Kent State University to compose original music and serve as musical director for its production of "The Birds."

Dr. El-Dabh, a native of Egypt, has an international reputation as a composer, specializing in eastern Mediterranean music. His major works in

this vein include the Greek "Clytemnestra," which he composed for the Martha Graham Dance Company, and "Ramses Symphony No. 9," which premiered with the Louisville Orchestra this past year.

YSU Professor of Speech Communication and Theatre Dr. Dennis Henneman of Boardman is directing the play.

Set design is by Associate Professor Dr. Frank A. Castronovo of Boardman; lighting design by YSU senior theatre major Todd Dicken of Columbiana; and the elaborate costumes by Speech/Theatre Instructor Jane Shanabarger of Boardman.

Susan Miracle and Marie C. Pesce, both of Youngstown, choreographed the show. The music will be provided by a chamber ensemble under the direction of Judy Braun of Youngstown, who is also serving as assistant musical director.

The large cast includes F. Wesley Brainard of Niles in the role of Pisthetairos (Plausible), who with his friend Eulpides (Hopeful), played by Tim Jackubek of Youngstown, visit Epops the Hoopoe, portrayed by Russ Nalepa of Youngstown.

Robert Dubec of Boardman is the Koryphaios, an Eagle, leader of the chorus of birds consisting of: Debra Schultz of Fowler, Debbie Pesce of Youngstown, Joan Claypoole of Austintown, April Smith of Hamilton, Vivian Axiotes of Warren, John Campana of Youngstown, Mark Passerrello of New Castle, Pa., and Laura Kiriazis of Youngstown. Juliann Cortese of Liberty is the Nightingale, consort of the Hoopoe.

MORE

ADD TWO

Portraying the eight mortals and six gods, with some doubling up of parts, are: Anthony Marchionda of Struthers, Todd Dicken of Columbiana, Matthew Koren of East Palestine, Antonio Pilolli of Grover's Corners, Heather Gotham of Hiram, David Diamond of Canton, Lynda Coleman of West Middlesex, Pa., Julie Rubino of Youngstown, Nicholas DePaola of New Castle, Pa., and Linda Markovsky of Youngstown.

"The Birds" will run on Feb. 25, 26, 27, 28, March 3, 4, 5 and 6. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m.

There will be a 6 p.m. "First Nighters' Buffet" dinner on opening night, Feb. 25, at the Wicker Basket Restaurant in YSU's Kilcawley Center, featuring a feast worthy of Greek Gods. The price for the buffet is \$7.50 per person. Advance reservations through the University Theatre Box Office and payment are required by Monday, Feb. 22.

Because of heavy demand for tickets, advance reservations are strongly recommended. Tickets may be reserved by calling the University Theatre Box Office (216) 742-3105. Box Office hours are 10:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. weekdays (7:45 p.m. on performance evenings).

The price for tickets to the public for the musical is \$7. Special rates for non-University students, senior citizens, and groups are available. There is no admission charge for YSU students who present their current I.D. cards for reservations.

The Spotlight Arena Theatre and Kilcawley Center are handicapped accessible. Parking is available in the Wick Avenue Parking Deck on weekdays and Saturdays, and in any surface lot in the Spring Street area. There will be a parking fee.

### NEWS SERVICE 87-277 1a,b,c,d,e,h

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PHOTO CAPTION

In the YSU production of "The Birds," the spokesman of the gods, Poseidon, (left) played by Anthony Marchionda of Struthers, declares that they want peace with the Birds. Portraying the Birds are, from left: April Smith of Boardman; Debby Schultz, Fowler; Bob Dubec, Boardman (standing); and Joan Claypoole, Austintown, at right. The ancient Greek comedy by Aristophanes opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre Feb. 25.

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87-278

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## PHOTO CAPTION

In the YSU production of "The Birds," the spokesman of the gods, Poseidon, (left) played by Anthony Marchionda of Struthers, declares that they want peace with the Birds. Portraying the Birds are, from left: April Smith of Boardman; Debby Schultz, Fowler; Bob Dubec, Boardman (standing); and Joan Claypoole, Austintown, at right. The ancient Greek comedy by Aristophanes opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre Feb. 25.

###

87-278

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

In the YSU production of Aristophanes' comedy, "The Birds," Herakles (Nicholas DePaola of New Castle, Pa., left) and Poseidon (Anthony Marchionda, Struthers, right) intently wait for Triballos (Antonio Pilolli of Grover's Corners) to determine the fate of the Birds. The classic Greek comedy opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre on Feb. 25.

###

87-279

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

In the YSU production of Aristophanes' comedy, "The Birds," Herakles (Nicholas DePaola of New Castle, Pa., left) and Poseidon (Anthony Marchionda, Struthers, right) intently wait for Triballos (Antonio Pilolli of Grover's Corners) to determine the fate of the Birds. The classic Greek comedy opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre on Feb. 25.

###

87-279

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

"I've got it! We'll call it CLOUDCUKOOLAND!" exclaims Pisthetairos (F. Wesley Brainard of Niles, at left) as he tells the Eagle (Bob Dubec of Boardman) the name he intends to bestow on their newly founded utopian Land of the Birds. This scene is from the YSU production of "The Birds," ancient Greek fantasy by Aristophanes, which opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre Feb. 25.

###

87-280

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

"I've got it! We'll call it CLOUDCUKOOLAND!" exclaims Pisthetairos (F. Wesley Brainard of Niles, at left) as he tells the Eagle (Bob Dubec of Boardman) the name he intends to bestow on their newly founded utopian Land of the Birds. This scene is from the YSU production of "The Birds," ancient Greek fantasy by Aristophanes, which opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre Feb. 25.

###

87-280

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

"Boids should be basted good," drawls the gluttonous god Herakles (Nicholas DePaola of New Castle, Pa., at left) to Pisthetairos (F. Mesley Brainard of Niles), as he prepares a sacrificial meal of birds. The YSU production of the Greek comedy by Aristophanes, "The Birds," opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre on Feb. 25.

###

87-281



FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

"Boids should be basted good," drawls the gluttonous god Herakles (Nicholas DePaola of New Castle, Pa., at left) to Pisthetairos (F. Wesley Brainard of Niles), as he prepares a sacrificial meal of birds. The YSU production of the Greek comedy by Aristophanes, "The Birds," opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre on Feb. 25.

###

87-281

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

In the YSU production of "The Birds," Pisthetairos (F. Wesley Brainard of Niles, in white), wails "Gods, they'll tear us to tatters!" as he and Euelpides (Tim Jackubek of Youngstown) find themselves threatened by the Birds, who are, clockwise from left: April Smith of Boardman; Debby Schuitz, Fowler; Joan Claypoole, Austintown; and Bob Dubec, Boardman. The classic fantasy by Aristophanes opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre Feb. 25.

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87-282

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PHOTO CAPTION

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###

87-282

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

In the YSU production of Aristophanes' comedy, "The Birds," Euelpides (Tim Jackubec of Youngstown, left) envisions "a Babylon of Birds" while Pisthetairos (F. Wesley Brainard of Niles) ponders his suggestions. The musical comedy, set in ancient Greece, opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre on Feb. 25.

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87-283

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

In the YSU production of Aristophanes' comedy, "The Birds," Euelpides (Tim Jackubec of Youngstown, left) envisions "a Babylon of Birds" while Pisthetairos (F. Wesley Brainard of Niles) ponders his suggestions. The musical comedy, set in ancient Greece, opens at YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre on Feb. 25.

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87-283

FOR RELEASE:

PHOTO CAPTION

"Let them talk! We're in a twitter to hear," commands the Eagle Koryphaios (Bob Dubec of Boardman) as he exhorts F. Wesley Brainard, Niles, left, and Tim Jackubec, Youngstown, right, to explain their plans for a Land of the Birds. The YSU production of Aristophanes' comedy, "The Birds," opens in YSU's Spotlight Arena Theatre on Feb. 25.

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87-284