

# Musical feast - January 24 2010 Business First

Old, new approaches combine for Musical Feast

Business First of Buffalo - by [Annie Deck-Miller](#)

The concert hall might be one of the last frontiers of the technological revolution, but its time has come, too.

A Musical Feast has put together a program for its Feb. 14 concert at the **Burchfield-Penney Art Center** that will highlight the assets of both old-school and new-school performance models.

The first half features live performances of music by Bohuslav Martinu, Erik Satie and Jacob Druckman. The second half is the installation “Shamayim,” featuring a film – in 5.1 high-resolution surround sound – by filmmaker Elliot Caplan and composer David Felder, both of whom are University at Buffalo professors.

Musical Feast founder Charles Haupt said the program presented an opportunity to expand the audience experience beyond the walls of the Burchfield’s 156-seat auditorium. The program will be simulcast in the art museum’s reception area.

“You can go into the hall or go into the video room,” said Haupt, who will play violin on the Martinu piece. “One is a café situation and the other is a traditional 19th-century concert-hall situation, which is perfect. You have both worlds at the same time.”

Technological tools, Jewish mysticism and nature images all figured largely in the making of “Shamayim” and in the final product. The film grew out of music composed for bass soloist Nicholas Isherwood. Felder and Caplan exchanged files and ideas to advance the project over the course of more than two years.

Custom software helped the collaborators translate a multilayered concept into sound and image.

“The acoustic space was a very big component in how the sound material is composed and how it’s sent through the room,” Felder said. “Where the sounds emanate from and what direction they’re going in can be very precisely controlled with the electronics.”

The collaborators said it was important for them that the technology supported their concept, not the other way around.

“The technology has to be in service to a certain quality of idea,” said Caplan. “It can’t just be, ‘Well, here’s the technology,’ and therefore it’s worth something.”

Co-sponsored by UB’s Robert and Carol Morris Center for 21st Century Music, the free concert is part of the Burchfield’s biannual Rendezblue series, and marks the closing of the exhibition “Lecture on the Weather: John Cage in Buffalo,” opening Jan. 23.

For more information, see [amusicalfeast.com](http://amusicalfeast.com) and [burchfieldpenney.com](http://burchfieldpenney.com). “Shamayim” is available on DVD from Albany Records.