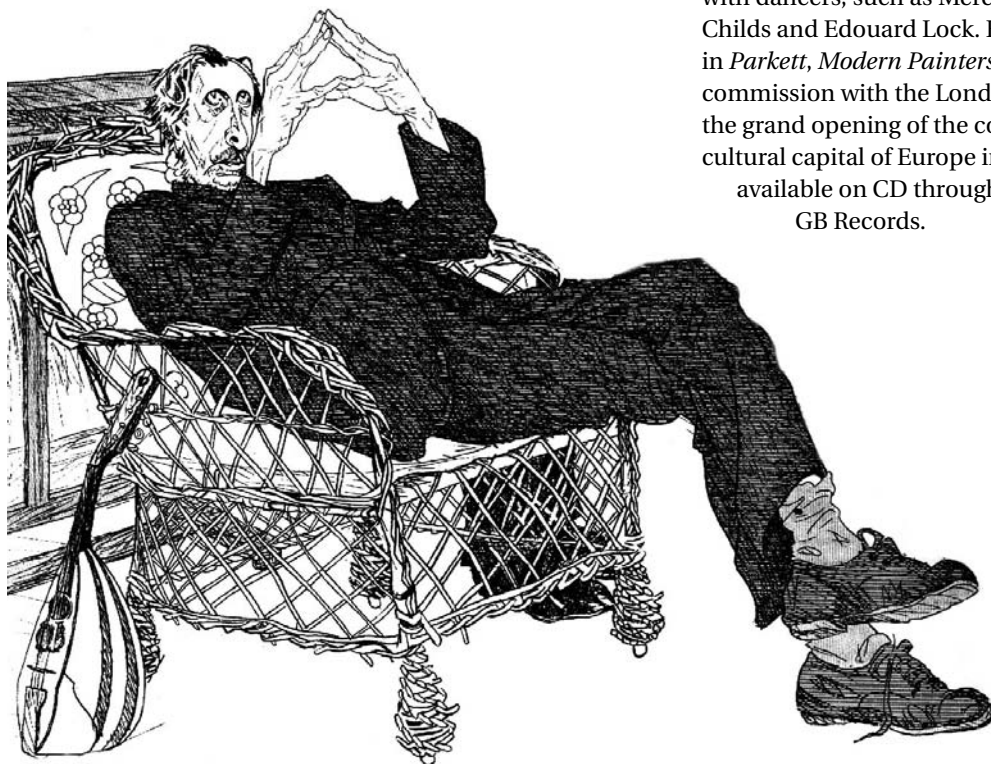


The Humanities Department

—M.A. Stouck

The Humanities Institute at SFU enjoys a unique reciprocal relationship with the newly established Humanities Department, which offers undergraduates a number of degree options in major, minor and joint major programs. Faculty teaching in the department take an active role in the Institute, serving as its directors and on the Steering Committee; the two units also share the benefits of the J.S. Woodsworth Chair in the Humanities: the holder of this chair has teaching responsibilities in the department and research and outreach functions in the Institute. The Institute supports the department's courses through an enrichment program, while the undergraduate curriculum reflects the breadth of the Institute's interests. Its courses approach the humanities both chronologically, from the classical period through the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Enlightenment to the present, and thematically, through topics such as peace studies, the natural environment, and the close examination of particular cultures, cities and figures in the humanistic tradition. Students taking Humanities courses are encouraged to attend Institute lectures: in a recent senior seminar on Freud, a lecture series by specialists open to the public also formed a regular part of the course syllabus. In terms of organization, the Institute and the Department are formally affiliated; both units continue to seek out opportunities for creative cooperation.



Gavin Bryars: “Visual Art Collaborations”

—Petra Watson

Gavin Bryars appeared at the Vancouver Art Gallery on Thursday, July 5, 2001. The talk was sponsored by the Institute for the Humanities and the Independent Communication Association, a non-profit society, with support from the Vancouver Art Gallery. The talk brought in a large and very appreciative audience. Gavin Bryars spoke about his compositional work—its conceptual basis—the courses that he taught in England on Duchamp during the 70s and this influence on his work, and his collaborations with visual artists.

Gavin Bryars is an internationally recognized, contemporary composer. Born in England, Gavin Bryars has composed for string quartets, for voice and orchestras. His first major works, *The Sinking of the Titanic* (1969) and *Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet* (1971), have been re-released to sell over a quarter of a million copies.

Gavin Bryars has worked on diverse projects with artists such as Christian Boltanski, James Hugonin, Bruce MacLean and Robert Wilson, among others. His collaborations with visual artists was the chief focus of his talk at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

During the 1960s, he first performed as a jazz bassist, and then worked for a time with John Cage. In 1981, he founded the Gavin Bryars Ensemble that continues to tour internationally. He has composed for theatre, written a number of full-length operas, as well as collaborated with dancers, such as Merce Cunningham, Lucinda Childs and Edouard Lock. He has written about his work in *Parkett*, *Modern Painters*, and other journals. A recent commission with the London Sinfonietta will premiere at the grand opening of the concert hall in Oporto, Italy, the cultural capital of Europe in 2002. Gavin Bryars' works are available on CD through various labels and his own, GB Records.