November 21st - 27th, 2011 - Thanksgiving Edition

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Did you know?

Thanksgiving began in the U.S. with the following proclamation by the Continental Congress in 1782:

PROCLAMATION. ---- Do hereby recommend to the inhabitants of these States in general, to observe, and request the several States to interpose their authority in appointing and commanding the observation of THURSDAY the twenty-eight day of NOVEMBER next, as a day of solemn THANKSGIVING to GOD for all his mercies: and they do further recommend to all ranks, to testify to their gratitude to GOD for his goodness, by a cheerful obedience of his laws, and by promoting, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness. Done in Congress, at Philadelphia, the eleventh day of October, in the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, and of our Sovereignty and Independence, the seventh. - JOHN HANSON, President. Charles Thomson, Secretary.

Poetry

"Thanksgiving Letter from Harry," Carl Dennis
"The Thanksgivings," Harriet Maxwell Converse
"Seven Years," Daisy Fried
"Thanksgiving Day," Lydia Maria Child
Visual Arts

"The First Thanksgiving," Jennie Augusta Brownscombe, 1914

"Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor," William Formsby Halsall, 1882

"Thanksgiving Poor," Henry Tanner, 1882
Music

"An Anthem for Thanksgiving: O Praise the Lord of Heaven," William Billings. Boston singing master William Billings published songbooks that were popular during the Revolutionary War. Some of his melodies were adapted by the Continental Army as marching tunes. This one fits the holiday perfectly.

"Appalachian Spring," Aaron Copland. A satisfying helping of Americana with Leonard Bernstein conducting music Copland composed for Martha Graham. She also suggested the title, which is based on a Hart Crane poem about a source of water, not a season.

"Autumn" from "The Four Seasons," Antonio Vivaldi. Antonio Vivaldi provided a snapshot of an 18th-century Italian harvest festival in one of his 'Four Seasons.' Vivaldi depicted each season in music with a concerto, and prefaced each with a sonnet. Usually you only hear the music, but this recording features Patrick Stewart reading the sonnet before each movement.
"Autumn" from "Harvest Home Suite," Jay Ungar and Molly Mason. This superb collaboration with violinist Jay Ungar, guitarist-singer Molly Mason and the Nashville Chamber Orchestra evokes the warm feelings and golden light of the harvest season.

"Joy" from "Awakening" ("Songs of the Earth"), Joseph Curiale. Music from American composer Joseph Curiale that kicks up the endorphins with its catchy melody and gorgeous orchestration. Also check out "Prairie Hymn" on his other CD, The Music of Life (Orchard Road 7156).

To add to or update an event currently in The Muse or to advertise an upcoming event earlier than the week in which it occurs, please contact Heather Hennigan at hch004@bucknell.edu.