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The A Side and B Side of Arthur Dann *Heritage Center Spotlights 20th Century Conservatory Maestro*

Local historian Sid Comings presents an engaging program about Arthur Dann (1913-1979), a professor of classical piano for over 40 years at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, who also performed in a popular jazz trio known as “King Arthur and His Men.” Dann was one of the most active and versatile performers in the Oberlin community, playing venues both locally and in New York City. The multifaceted musician was on the one hand a recognized expert on the music of Frederic Chopin, while on the other, his gift for improvisation made him a highly respected performer in the world of jazz (an area relatively untouched by classical musicians of his era). This lively program provides an opportunity for audience members to learn more about Dann and listen to several brief recordings that reflect both sides of the maestro! The event takes place on Tuesday, January 23 at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal at Oberlin’s Heiser Auditorium (600 Kendal Drive) and is free and open to the public.

Sid Comings is a lifelong Oberlinian with family roots in the community that run deep. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1969 and managed the music department in the Co-Op Bookstore for 10 years; he also served as an adjunct professor of writing at Lorain County Community College for over 25 years. Comings has written more than 100 articles on various topics that have appeared in 18 different publications. In 2017, he was honored by the Oberlin Heritage Center with the Community Historian Award. His particular areas of interest in local history include Oberlin’s musical heritage, its historic downtown and business history, and its contributions to the fields of education, literature and sports.

For more on this Oberlin Heritage Center program or other upcoming events, please call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail members@oberlinheritage.org.

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