3-3-2010

Concert: Ithaca College Concert Band

Ithaca College Concert Band

Mark Fonder

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ITHACA COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERT BAND

Mark Fonder, conductor
Dawn Pierce, guest artist

Ford Hall
Wednesday, March 3, 2010
8:15 p.m.
"American Tapestry"

Suite from Mass (1971) (for Brass Quintet and Concert Band)

Alleluia
Sanctus
Agnus Dei
A Simple Song
Offertory
Almighty Father

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
Arr. by Michael Sweeney
14'

Fantasies on a Theme by Haydn (1968)

Theme
Fantasy I: Lo Stesso Tempo
Fantasy II: Adagio
Fantasy III: Allegro, Molto Spiritoso

Norman Dello Joio (1913-2008)
14'

INTERMISSION

Suite of Old American Dances (1949)

Cakewalk
Schottische
Western One-Step
Wallflower Waltz
Rag

Robert Russell Bennett (1894-1981)
18'

Angels in the Architecture (2008)

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)
14'

Dawn Pierce, mezzo soprano

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About the Program

Tonight’s concert features music written by American composers and each of these composers has had a significant hand in defining what American music is, especially for the wind band.

Bernstein’s *Mass* was written for the opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Subtitled “A Theater piece for Singers, Players and Dancers,” the 90-minute work is based on the liturgy of the Roman Catholic Mass. It called for a large pit orchestra, two choruses, boys choir, ballet company and cast, plus a marching band and rock combo. *Mass* uses an eclectic mix of musical styles and reflects the turmoil of the era, being viewed by some as blasphemous and by others as politically subversive. However, in his program notes at the premiere, Bernstein stated his intent “to communicate as directly and universally as I can a reaffirmation of faith.” Over the years it has become recognized as one of his greatest, and most controversial achievements. In this suite, commissioned in 2009 by the Canadian Brass and Eastman Wind Ensemble, arranger Michael Sweeney focuses on a select number of movements, often using the brass quintet to represent the vocal lines found in the original.

Composer, organist and baseball player of professional standards, Norman Dello Joio was descended from three generations of Italian organists. A student of Paul Hindemith at Yale, Della Joio is well established as one of the most lyrical composers of his era. *Fantasies on a Theme by Haydn* was commissioned by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association and was dedicated to Leonard Falcone at his retirement as director of bands at Michigan State University. The three movements are a constantly varied examination of Haydn's basic idea. The bubbling humor of the first and third fantasies flank a second which is intensely lyric.

Robert Russell Bennett was one of America’s most capable arrangers of Broadway shows for over forty years. From 1920 to 1976 he scored all or part of more than 300 shows. At one time, 22 of the shows he had arranged for were running concurrently with collaborations with such notables as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Frederick Loewe, Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers and many others. Bennett has described tonight’s suite as “American dance forms ... treated in a riot of instrumentation colors.” By recalling several of the characteristic dances of his youth, Bennett achieved that rare wedding of artistry and novelty. Both musical ideas and instrumental writing are superbly effective.

*Angels in the Architecture* received its premiere performance at the Sydney Opera House in 2008 by a massed band of musicians from Australia and the United States. The work unfolds as a dramatic
conflict between the two extremes of human existence – one divine, the other evil. The Sydney Opera house itself inspires the work’s title, with its halo-shaped acoustical ornaments hanging directly above the performance stage.

The angel - represented by the singer - frames the work, surrounding it with a protective wall of light and establishing the divine. Her song is a 19th-century Shaker song:

I am an angel of Light
I have soared from above
I am cloth’d with Mother’s love.
I have come to protect my chosen band
And lead them to the promised land.

Other representations of light – played by instruments rather than sung - include a traditional Hebrew song of peace (“Hevenu Shalom Aleichem”) and the 16th-century Genevan Psalter, “Old Hundredth.” These three borrowed songs, despite their varied religious origins, are meant to transcend any one religion, representing the more universal human ideals of peace, hope, and love.

In opposition, turbulent, fast-paced music appears as a symbol of darkness, death, and spiritual doubt. Twice during this musical drama, these shadows sneak in, slowly obscuring the light altogether. The darkness prevails for long stretches, but the light always returns, more powerful than before. The piece ends as it began, with the angel singing the same comforting words. But deep below, a final shadow reappears – distantly, ominously.

Program Notes by the composers and Mark Fonder

About the Soloist

Mezzo-soprano Dawn Pierce is a native of Olean, New York. She received a performing artist certificate in Opera Performance and a master’s degree in Voice from the North Carolina School of the Arts. She holds bachelor degrees in Vocal Performance and Music Education from Ithaca College. She has apprenticed with Lake George Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera in the Ozarks, and the A. J. Fletcher Opera Institute.

Recently she was seen with Pensacola Opera as Margarite in the world premiere of The Widow’s Lantern, as Dorabella in Così fan tutte, and as Second Lady in The Magic Flute. Other recent operatic credits include Contessa/Madelon in Andrea Chenier with Mobile Opera, Suzuki in Madama Butterfly with Capitol Opera, and Carmen in
Carmen with Opera in the Ozarks. On the lighter side her credits include The Grand Dutchess in The Student Prince with Nashville Opera, Franca in The Light in the Piazza with Piedmont Opera, and Jo in Little Women with Opera in the Ozarks. The A. J. Fletcher Opera Institute featured Ms. Pierce as Lucretia in Rape of Lucretia, Idamante in Idomeneo, Irene in Belisario and Elmire in Tartuffe.

Dawn presently studies with Penelope Bitzas and Bill Schumann. Her primary teachers have included Marilyn Taylor, Elizabeth Mannion and Carol McAmis. In her free time, Dawn enjoys making jewelry, reading, dancing, pilates and weight training.

About the Conductor

Mark Fonder, professor of music, is the conductor of the Ithaca College Concert Band and has been teaching conducting and instrumental music education courses at Ithaca College since 1989. From 1994 to 2003, he was the Chairman of the Music Education Department. He is active as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States. Internationally, he has guest conducted, given research presentations or adjudicated bands in Austria, Japan, Canada, China, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom. He has also served on the faculties of The University of Washington, VanderCook College and the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Fonder’s research has been published in various journals including the Music Educators Journal, Band Directors Guide, Instrumentalist, Journal of Band Research, Council for Research in Music Education and the Journal of Research in Music Education.

He was chair of the Music Educators Journal Editorial Committee from 1998-2002 and is currently the editor of the Journal of Historical Research in Music Education. Dr. Fonder has played principal trombone with the Green Bay (Wisconsin) Symphony, the Green Bay Packer Band, and the San Antonio Brass. In 1987, Dr. Fonder was awarded the National Band Association-Wisconsin Chapter Citation of Excellence, in 1998, the Ithaca College President's Recognition Award and was a recipient of a University of Wisconsin teaching fellowship. He has been elected to Phi Delta Kappa, an honorary education fraternity, Phi Kappa Phi, an honorary scholars fraternity, Pi Kappa Lambda, an honorary music fraternity and the prestigious American Bandmasters Association.
ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERT BAND
Mark Fonder, conductor

Piccolo
Christina Santoro

Flute
Elizabeth Krimmel
Emily Ball
Dana Miraglia
Allison Scott
Andrew P.J. Sak
Maya Holmes

Oboe
Virginia Dodge
Rachel Schlesinger
Adrian Fisher

English Horn
Rachel Schlesinger

Bassoon
Lauren Jurczynski
Shaina Zevallos

E-Flat Clarinet
Marielle Zych

Clarinet
Emily Pecoraro
Michael Reinemann
Laurel Stinson
Jacqueline M. Widun
Luben Daniel
Marielle Zych
Jamie Ocheske
MK Huebener
Tyler Seymour-Hawkins
William Gunn
David Geary
Alyssa Fessenden

Bass Clarinet
Michelle McGuire
Jacqueline Burd

Alto Saxophone
Seval S. Kanik
Andrew Horwitz
Eli Holden
Benjamin
Montgomery
Kimberly Callahan

Tenor Saxophone
Erika Friedman
Richard Rose

Baritone Saxophone
Andres Martinez

Cornet/Trumpet
Eric Mahl *
Samuel Thurston*
Alexandra Payton
Audrey Baron
Alexander Schwind
Marie Spoelstra
Paul Schwartz
Christopher Cadwell
Kevin Cope
Zachary Stadtmueller
Ryan McKenna
Rebecca Graham

Horn
Dana Arbaugh
Lauren M.C. Maaser*
Robert Oldroyd
Riana Kane
Nate Crider
Edward Odio

Trombone
Alicia Aubin*
Alex Knutrud
Matt Confer
J.C. VonHoltz
Matthew Gillen
Justin Oswald
Ethan Zawisza
Jenny Grossman
Bass Trombone
Peter Wall
Brandon Reyes

Euphonium
Jennifer Strayer
Joseph Caldarise
Peter Falango

Tuba
Bill Connors*
Kevin Kozik
Matt Bailey-Adams
Danny Miranda
Ryan M. Flynn
Nicholas Courtney
Dan Timmons

String Bass
Casey Georgi

Timpani
Ian Cummings

Percussion
Jon Keefner
Taylor Eddinger
Brian Jones
Chris MacNamara
Peter Maaser
Collin T. Smith

* indicates Brass Quintet member
Concert Calendar

March

5 3:00  Mary Hayes North Competition For Senior Piano Majors
    7:00  Faculty Recital: Charis Dimaras, piano
7 3:00  Orchestra; Jeffery Meyer, conductor-- Annual Concerto Program
8 7:00  Faculty Recital: Wenqing Zhang and Nathan Hess, duo-pianists
     8:15  Vocal Jazz Ensemble; Laurie Keegan, musical director
           and Jazz Ensemble, Michael Titlebaum, musical director
10 7:00  Faculty Recital: Deborah Montgomery-Cove, soprano,
        Brad Hougham, baritone, and Charis Dimaras, piano
11 7:00  Faculty Recital, Frank Gabriel Campos, trumpet
     8:15  African Drumming and Dance Ensemble;
           Baruch Whitehead, director
22 7:00  Faculty Ensemble: Ithaca Brass
24 7:00  Faculty Recital: David Unland, tuba
25 8:15  Women's Chorale; Janet Galván, conductor
        and Brass Choir; Keith Kaiser, conductor
26 8:15  Ithaca College Concerts 2009-10*
        Cameron Carpenter, organ
27 8:15  Choir; Lawrence Doebler, conductor
28 4:00  Faculty Ensemble: Ariadne String Quartet
29 7:00  Guest Recital: Nathan Williams, clarinet
31 8:15  Concert Band; Mark Fonder, conductor
        and Horseheads High School Wind Ensemble

Ithaca College Concerts 2009-10
(admission charge)

September 11  Zuill Bailey, violoncello and Awadagin Pratt, piano
February 13  Theodora Hanslowe, mezzo-soprano
March 26  Cameron Carpenter, organ