2-24-2005

Concert: Ithaca College Concert Band

Ithaca College Concert Band
Elizabeth Peterson
Andrew Krus

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ITHACA COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERT BAND

Elizabeth B. Peterson, conductor
Andrew Krus, graduate conductor

Ford Hall
Thursday, February 24, 2005
8:15 p.m.
Cheers!

Four Norfolk Dances

I. Pulham Prelude
II. Diss Dance
III. Lopham Lament
IV. Garboldisham Jig

Be Thou My Vision

Divertimento for Band

I. Prologue
II. Song
III. Dance
IV. Burlesque
V. Soliloquy
VI. March

INTERMISSION

Overture for Winds

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
arr. John P. Boyd

Andrew Krus, conductor

The Danserye

I. La Morisque
II. Bergerette
III. Les quatre Branles
IV. Fagot
V. Den hoboecken dans
VI. Ronde & Salterelle
VII. Ronde & Aluid
VIII. Basse danse: Mon desir
IX. Pavane: La Bataille

Jack Stamp (b. 1954)

Philip Sparke (b. 1951)

David R. Gillingham (b. 1947)

Vincent Persichetti (1915-1987)

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Program Notes

Composer and conductor, Jack Stamp is currently the Conductor of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he conducts several wind bands and teaches courses in composition. Cheers! was inspired by a trip to England and reflects the rich wind band tradition Stamp encountered, friends he made, and his experiences there. An opening fanfare stated first by trumpets is imitated bars later by horns and then low brass. A lyrical middle section augments the main subject of the opening which is also heard in the closing section.

Philip Sparke composed Four Norfolk Dances to honor the English composer Sir Malcolm Arnold on the occasion of his 80th birthday. This birthday tribute was inspired by the beautiful county of Norfolk, England which is famous for its charming villages and a popular center for sailing holidays; Norfolk is also the home of Sir Malcolm Arnold. Sparke thought it would be appropriate to write this set of dances in the style of Arnold’s orchestral dance suites. The four movements are each named after a village in South Norfolk: “Pulham Prelude is robust in nature and combines strong fanfare figures with a burlesque dance. Diss Dance is a charming waltz, which contrasts solo passages with full band. Lopham Lament features a mournful oboe solo and a passionate climax for the whole band. Garboldisham Jig combines a lively jig with a graceful chorale tune.”

Be Thou My Vision was composed to honor Director of Bands at Indiana University, Ray and Molly Cramer’s parents. Cramer says about Gillingham’s music, “the total spectrum achieved in his scoring is truly inspiring”. Based on the hymn tune, Slane (“Be Thou My Vision”), Gillingham writes, “the work is heartfelt, expressive and hopefully inspiring. The work is a sort of fantasy on the hymn tune and presents it on two levels: one mysterious and the other dramatic”. Because the tune “Slane” is based on an old Irish poem, Gillingham composed a second Irish ballad tune which is first heard in the flute and later superimposed over the hymn tune, Slane. Beginning with a somber medieval chant like opening stated by euphonium and ending in a final climactic ‘marriage of both tunes’, Gillingham calls the final section “a heavenly benediction”. The words of the first verse of Be Thou My Vision are:

Be thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Persichetti’s Divertimento for Band is one of his lightest and most entertaining works. It was written in a log cabin schoolhouse in Kansas in 1949 and premiered by the Goldman Band in Central Park, New York City with the composer conducting in 1950. Persichetti wrote, “I was writing a piece in which the brasses were tossing the woodwinds about while the timpani were commenting. I began to realize that the strings were not going to enter. I guess when the strings do not enter into such a combination, one calls this medium ‘band’.” The six short movements
contain rhythmic and contrapuntal writing as well as lyrical melodies and humorous outbursts.

The Overture for Winds, Op. 24 was composed in July of 1824 for the court orchestra of Bad Doberan near Rostock, where the young musician was accompanying his father. Writing for the Boston Symphony, George Marke remarks, "Some artists develop their craft slowly, others seem to begin at the top. There is little difference between Mendelssohn's early works and his mature works."

The original score was lost but was recopied by Mendelssohn in July of 1826. These two scores were entitled Nocturno and were written for the instrumentation of one flute, two clarinets, two oboes, two bassoons, two horns, one trumpet and one English bass horn. In correspondence to the publisher Simrock, Mendelssohn mentions his desire to have this eleven instrument version published, but apparently could not locate the score as he never mentions it again to Simrock after March 4, 1839. Mendelssohn did send Simrock an Ouverture fur Harmonie Musik (Overture for Wind Band) scored for twenty-three winds and percussion along with a four-hand piano score on November 30, 1838. The 1838 composition is a rescoring of the Nocturno for German Band of that era and was not published until 1852 following the death of Mendelssohn. Tonight's performance includes modern instrumentation which most closely resembles the 1838 scoring of the work.

Notes by John P. Boyd and Andrew Krus

Patrick Dunnigan arranged this suite of dances for symphonic band in 2003 which is based on Renaissance composer, Tielman Susato's collection of dances from 1551. This arrangement was recently reviewed in the December 12, 2004 edition of the New York Times and considered, "a real gem...a gleefully anachronistic arrangement of Tielman Susato's collection [of dances]...

Susato's dates and place of birth are uncertain. The first documentation of his existence is recorded in Antwerp in 1529. While he was not considered one of the greatest Renaissance composers, his music does represent the Flemish style of the period. Susato's Danserye consists of a collection of dances that would likely have been performed by professional musicians who were adept at improvisation. Included in the part books were fifty-nine dances that much like a modern dance band, the performers would have selected based upon the patron's request.

Notes by Beth Peterson and Norman Smith
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Notes by Beth Peterson and Norman Smith
## ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERT BAND
Elizabeth B. Peterson, conductor

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CONCERT CALENDAR

February
26  8:15  Annual Concerto Program
     Symphony Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor
28  8:15  Guest Recital; Jeff Bradetich, double bass

March
 1  11:00  Master Class; Jeff Bradetich, double bass
 8:15  Women's Chorale; Janet Galván, conductor
 8:15  Chamber Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor
 3  7:00  Alumni Recital; Ines Draskovic '95, piano
14  8:15  Faculty Recital; Gordon Stout, percussion
15  7:00  Faculty Chamber Recital; Ithaca Brass
16  8:15  Guest Concert: Illinois State University Wind Symphony, Stephen K. Steele, conductor
17  8:15  Faculty Chamber Recital; Ithaca Wind Quintet
19  8:15  Choir; Lawrence Doebler, conductor
20  4:00  Faculty Recital; Angus Godwin, baritone
21  8:15  Guest Lecture; Stephen Hartke, composer
          2004-5 Karel Husa Visiting Professor of Composition
23  8:15  Faculty Recital; Carol McAmis, soprano
24  8:15  Faculty Recital; Heidi Hoffman, violoncello
28  7:00  Faculty Chamber Recital; Ariadne String Quartet
29  7:00  Faculty Recital; Patrice Pastore, soprano
30  7:00  Faculty Recital; David Parks, tenor
31  8:15  Symphonic Band; Henry G. Neubert, conductor

April
 4  8:15  Wind Ensemble; Stephen Peterson, conductor
          Ithaca College Concerts 2004-5 (admission charge)
 5  7:30  Pre-Concert Lecture
 8:15  Guest Recital; Yundi Li, piano
 8  3:00  Mary Hayes North Competition for Senior Piano Majors
 8:15  Jazz Workshop; Steve Brown, musical director
11  7:00  Piano Ensemble; Phiroze Mehta, coach
13  7:00  Guest Recital; Glimmerglass Opera Young American Singers
14  8:15  Brass Choir; Keith Kaiser, conductor
15  8:15  Jazz Workshop; Keaton Akins, graduate musical director
16  8:15  Chamber Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor
17  8:15  Vocal Jazz Ensemble; Laurie Keegan, musical director
21  8:15  Percussion Ensemble; Conrad Alexander, director
22  4:00  String Chamber Ensembles
          7:00  String Chamber Ensembles
23  12:00  All-Campus Band; James Miller, conductor
          8:15  Symphonic Band; Henry G. Neubert, conductor
24  4:00  Choir and Madrigal Singers; Lawrence Doebler, conductor
26  7:00  Opera Workshop; Patrick Hansen, stage and musical director
          8:15  Percussion Ensemble; Gordon Stout, director
27  8:15  Wind Ensemble; Stephen Peterson, conductor
28  8:15  Concert Band; Elizabeth Peterson, conductor

May
14  8:30  38th Gala Commencement Eve Concert
          (Ben Light Gymnasium)

Ithaca College Concerts 2004-5 (admission charge)
October 1  Guarneri String Quartet
November 5  New York Voices
April 5    Yundi Li, piano