Concert: Ithaca College Symphonic Band

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Henry Neubert

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ITHACA COLLEGE SYMPHONIC BAND
Henry Neubert, conductor

Ford Hall
Thursday, March 31, 2005
8:15 p.m.
PROGRAM

Symphony No.1, The Lord of the Rings

I. Gandalf (the wizard)
II. Lothlorien (the elvenwood)
III. Gollum (smeagol)
IV. Journey in the dark
   a. The mines of moria
   b. The bridge of khazad-duin
V. Hobbits

Johan de Meij
(b. 1953)
Johan de Meij's first symphony "The Lord of the Rings" is based on the trilogy of that name by J.R.R. Tolkien. This book has fascinated many millions of readers since its publication in 1955. The symphony consists of five separate movements, each illustrating a personage or an important episode from the book. The work has been composed for a normal concert band, augmented by a soprano saxophone, flügelhorn and piano.

The symphony was written in the period between March 1984 and December 1987 and shows Johan de Meij in his true colours as a composer who, so far featured as a transcriber and arranger of the symphonic repertoire, light music and music for the screen, is now seen as a serious composer. The symphony, *The Lord of the Rings*, had its premiere in Brussels on 15th March 1988, and was performed by the *Groot Harmonie- orkest van de Gidsen* under the baton of Norbert Nozy.

The Dutch premiere was given by the *Koninklijke Militaire Kapel (Royal Military Bat Id)* conducted by Pierre Kuypers, on 2nd June 1988 at Kerkrade during the advance presentation of the 1989 World Music Competition. This same orchestra released the work on compact disc, March 1989.

Explanation of the five movements:

I. **Gandalf (The Wizard)**

The first movement is a musical portrait of the wizard Gandalf, one of the principal characters of the trilogy. His wise and noble personality is expressed by a stately motif which is used in a different form in movements IV and V. The sudden opening of the Allegro vivace is indicative of the unpredictability of the grey wizard, followed by a wild ride on his beautiful grey horse "Shadowfax".

II. **Lothlorien (The Elvenwood)**

The second movement is an impression of Lothlórien, the elvenwood with its beautiful trees, plants, exotic birds, expressed through woodwind solos. The meeting of the Hobbit Frodo with the Lady Galadriel is embodied in a charming Allegretto; in the Mirror of Galadriel, a silver basin in the wood, Frodo glimpses three visions, the last of which, a large ominous Eye, greatly upsets him.
III. Gollum (*Smeagol*)

The third movement describes the monstrous creature Gollum, a slimy, shy being represented by the soprano saxophone. It mumbles and talks to itself, hisses and lisps, whines and snickers, is alternately pitiful and malicious, is continually fleeing and looking for his cherished treasure, the Ring.

IV. Journey In The Dark

The fourth movement describes the laborious journey of the Fellowship of the Ring, headed by the wizard Gandalf, through the dark tunnels of the Mines of Moria. The slow walking cadenza and the fear are clearly audible in the monotonous rhythm of the low brass, piano and percussion. After a wild pursuit by hostile creatures, the Orks, Gandalf is engaged in battle with a horrible monster, the Balrog, and crashes from the subterranean bridge of Khazad-Dum in a fathomless abyss. To the melancholy tones of a Marcia funebre, the bewildered Companions trudge on, looking for the only way out of the Mines, the East Gate of Moria.

V. Hobbits

The fifth movement expresses the carefree and optimistic character of the Hobbits in a happy folk dance; the hymn that follows emanates the determination and noblesse of the hobbit folk. The symphony does not end on an exuberant note, but is concluded peacefully and resigned, in keeping with the symbolic mood of the last chapter "The Grey Havens" in which Frodo and Gandalf sail away in a white ship and disappear slowly beyond the horizon.

Notes by Johan de Meij
ITHACA COLLEGE SYMPHONIC BAND
Henry Neubert, conductor
Heidi J. Miller, graduate conductor

Piccolo
Nikki Barnum

Flute
Melissa Wertheimer
Becca Frost
Emily James
Whitney Kaiser
Jennifer Rodgers
Darren Simonson
Esther Paek

Oboe
Luke Conklin
Corinne Landrey

English Horn
Margaret Westreich

Eb Clarinet
Anne Woodard

Bb Clarinet
Kelly Bochynski
Jonathan Smith
Jessica Shaw
Corinne Waite
Matthew Gibson
Laura Caruthers
Allegra Smith
Spencer Blumenfeld
Kimberly Fleming

Alto Clarinet
Natalie Gamble

Bass Clarinet
Miranda Selover

Bassoon
Jeff Ward
Kristen Schussler

Soprano Saxophone
Adam York

Alto Saxophone
Adam York
Rob Flack
Andrew Lawrence
Kevin Marshall
Shannon Burns

Tenor Saxophone
Sam Podell
Andre Baruch

Baritone Saxophone
Tom Hauser

French Horn
Andrea Silvestrini
Michelle LeRoy
Gina Zurlo
Bethanie Keem
Chelsey Hamm

Trumpet
Omar Williams
Bridget Colgan
Matthew Sprague
Abby Clark
Calvin L. Rice
Katherine Hancock
Vincent Venitelli
Stephen Pysnik
Jesse Kleingardner

Flugelhorn
Omar Williams

Trombone
Paul Barton
Lloyd Dugger
Leslie Ann Brennan
Emily Selman
John Schleiermacher
Ashley Taylor
Nicholas H. Smarcz
D. Phillip Truex
Daniel Bacigalupi

Euphonium
Mike Vecchio
Sarah Drew

Tuba
Bryan Lewis
Nicholas Gann
Timothy Then

Timpani
Jason E. Taylor

Percussion
Alyssa Cadwalader,
principal
Laurie Sklar
Evan Peltier
Lauretta Noller

Piano
Chris Nickelson

Double Bass
Christopher White
### CONCERT CALENDAR

#### April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Wind Ensemble; Stephen Peterson, conductor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Pre-Concert Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Guest Recital; Yundi Li, piano (admission charge)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Piano Ensemble; Phiroze Mehta, coach</td>
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<td>8:15</td>
<td>Brass Choir; Keith Kaiser, conductor</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Jazz Workshop; Keaton Akins, graduate music director</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Chamber Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Vocal Jazz Ensemble; Laurie Keegan, musical director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Choral Union; Lawrence Doebler, conductor and Symphony Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Percussion Ensemble; Conrad Alexander, director</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>String Chamber Ensembles</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>String Chamber Ensembles</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>All-Campus Band; James Miller, conductor</td>
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<td>8:15</td>
<td>Symphonic Band; Henry G. Neubert, conductor</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Choir and Madrigal Singers; Lawrence Doebler, conductor</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Opera Workshop; Patrick Hansen, stage and musical director</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Percussion Ensemble; Gordon Stout, director</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Wind Ensemble; Stephen Peterson, conductor</td>
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#### May

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Guest Recital; Glimmerglass Opera Young American Singers</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>38th Gala Commencement Eve Concert (Ben Light Gymnasium)</td>
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Ithaca College Concerts 2004-5 (admission charge)

- **October 1**: Guarneri String Quartet
- **November 5**: New York Voices
- **April 5**: Yundi Li, piano