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Concert: Ithaca College Wind Symphony

Ithaca College Wind Symphony

Benjamin Rochford

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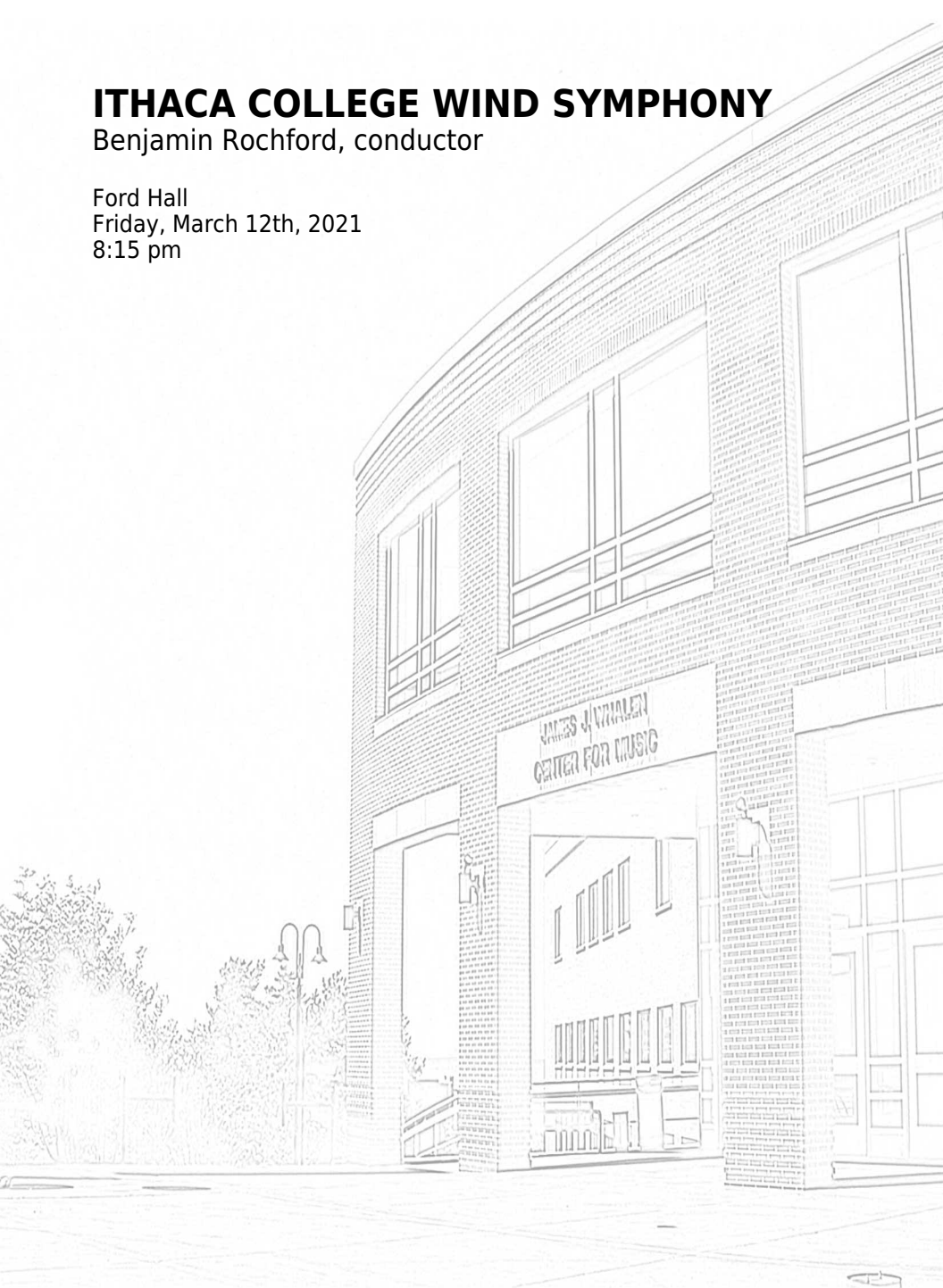
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ITHACA COLLEGE WIND SYMPHONY

Benjamin Rochford, conductor

Ford Hall
Friday, March 12th, 2021
8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Magnolia Star

Steve Danyew
(b. 1983)

O Mensch, Bewein' Dein' Sünde Groß

Percy Grainger
(1882-1961)
Ed. Keith Brion
and Michael Brand

Beauty Broken

Nicole Piunno
(b. 1985)

Dancing Fire

Kevin Day
(b. 1996)

Program Notes

Magnolia Star

When I was playing saxophone in my school jazz band, we started every rehearsal with an improvisation exercise our director created that utilized the blues scale. This experience was my introduction to the blues scale, and I have long wanted to write a piece inspired by this group of pitches. In *Magnolia Star*, I explore various ways to use these pitches in harmonies, melodies, and timbres, creating a diverse set of ideas that go beyond sounds we typically associate with the blues scale. When I first started improvising ideas of this piece based around the blues scale, I began to hear the influence of driving rhythms and sonorities which reminded me of trains. The railroad became an important second influence of this piece. The American railroad not only provides some intriguing sonic ideas, but it also provides an intimate connection to the growth of jazz and blues in America. In the late 19th century, the Illinois Central Railroad constructed rail lines that stretched from New Orleans and the "Delta South" all the way north to Chicago. Many southern musicians traveled north via the railroad, bringing "delta blues" and other idioms to northern parts of the country. The railroad was also the inspiration for countless blues songs by a wide variety of artists. Simply put, the railroad was crucial to the dissemination of jazz and blues in the early 20th century. *Magnolia Star* was an Illinois Central train that ran from New Orleans to Chicago with the famous *Panama Limited* in the mid 20th century.

- Program note by Steve Danyew

O Mensch, Bewein' Dein' Sünde Groß

O Mensch, Bewein' Dein' Sünde Groß, BWV 402 is from Bach's *Orgel-Büchlein*, a collection of forty-six chorales composed between 1713 and 1716. The title has a number of translations: "O Man, Bewail (or Lament, Weep for) the Grievous (or Great) Fall (or Sin). Bach described the *Orgel-Büchlein* as "a little organ book in which young organists are guided concerning the different ways of performing a chorale. *O Mensch, Bewein' Dein' Sünde Groß* is the most widely performed chorale of the collection.

- Program note by Kay Dreyfus

Beauty Broken

I visited the Columbus Museum of Art in the winter of 2014 and met a work titled "Blow Up #1" by Ori Gersht. This work captured my attention and insisted I give it a great amount of thought. Gersht used high-speed photography to capture a moment in time of an arrangement of flowers exploding. In that one short moment Gersht captured a profound truth about this world and the human condition. At first sight the photo looked amazing. It was beautiful and exciting. Yet when I looked closely, I realized it was beauty that was broken. The photo was a visual display of the tension that exists between beauty and violence, or life and death. When I first saw the work, I was attracted to the beauty. Then I saw the violence and wanted to turn away. However, once I accepted both and was able to hold the paradox of

these two realities, I was able to see the photography for what it truly was. A sense of hope emerged as I felt a longing for beauty to be restored.

- Program note by Nicole Piunno

Dancing Fire

When I was writing *Dancing Fire*, the picture I had in my head before I began writing was a group of people surrounding a large bonfire during the night. These people began dancing around the fire, having fun, singing songs, and ultimately, celebrating life. Once I had that picture in my head, along with the constant repeating motif that eventually became the melody for the entire piece, the rest of the work fit together nicely. This was written in dedication to the Arlington High School Band Program in Arlington, TX and to my former band directors, Michael Hejny, Nathan Burum, and Nathan Hervey.

- Program note by Kevin Day

Wind Symphony Personnel

Flute

Kellen Ko
Madison Mitchell,
piccolo
Rosalind Sanders
Hannah Schulz

Oboe

Katherine Moore

Clarinet

Emily Austin
Alec Chasin, bass
Julie Kratz
Meghan Siergiey
Grace Waterman
Zach Yip, e-flat

Bassoon

Livia Fallon
Samuel Schorer

Saxophone

Marissa Kane,
soprano, alto
Alex Kelsey,
baritone
Dani MacKenzi,
alto
Jack Scheifer, tenor

Horn

Monica Cilley
Bailey Mack

Trumpet

Matt Gallego
Jay Healy
Amy Heil
Nathaniel
Oczkowski
Annika Sjostedt

Trombone

Aiden Bradley
Kurt Eide
Gabe Leard

Euphonium

Jack Goodenough
Rosemary Hoitt

Tuba

Jon Aldave

Piano

Sungmin Kim

Percussion

Michael
Avanessian
Ethan Cowburn,
timpani
Leah Gardner
Kristian Labrie
Kurt
Meidenbauer Ethan
Pinckert
Allie Ross

The IC Bands extend a very special thanks to...

Keith Kaiser, Interim Dean, School of Music

Ivy Walz, Interim Associate Dean, School of Music

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Becky Jordan, Manager of Library of Ensembles Music

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