5-1-2007

Concert: Ithaca College Brass Choir and Ithaca College Wind Ensemble

Ithaca College Brass Choir
Ithaca College Wind Ensemble
Keith Kaiser
Stephen Peterson
Harold Reynolds

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ITHACA COLLEGE BRASS CHOIR
Keith A. Kaiser, conductor

and

ITHACA COLLEGE WIND ENSEMBLE
Stephen Peterson, conductor
Harold Reynolds, trombone

Ford Hall
Tuesday, May 1, 2007
8:15 p.m.
ITHACA COLLEGE BRASS CHOIR
Keith A. Kaiser, conductor

Keystone Celebration (1991)  
John Cheetham  
(b. 1939)

The Perfect Fool, Op. 39 (1922)  
Gustav Holst  
(1874-1934)

(Movements – attaca)  
arr. Jay Friedman

Introduction
Dance of the Spirits of Earth
Dance of the Spirits of Water
Dance of the Spirits of Fire

Little Suite No. 1 for Brass Band, Op. 80 (1963)  
Malcolm Arnold  
(1921-2006)

Prelude
Siciliano
Rondo

INTERMISSION

ITHACA COLLEGE WIND ENSEMBLE
Stephen Peterson, conductor
Harold Reynolds, trombone

Downtown Diversions (2001)  
Adam Gorb  
(b. 1958)

Allegro molto
Andante
Allegro Vivo

Harold Reynolds, trombone

Symphony No. 2 (2004)  
Frank Ticheli  
(b. 1958)

Shooting Stars
Dreams Under a New Moon
Apollo Unleashed
PROGRAM NOTES

Brass Choir

John Cheetham, a native of Taos, New Mexico, received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of New Mexico. After serving for several years as an instrumental music director for the Albuquerque Public Schools, he attended the University of Washington in Seattle where he received the DMA degree in Composition in 1969. Dr. Cheetham recently retired from the University of Missouri - Columbia where, since 1969, he was a Professor of Music and taught classes in music theory and composition. He has written music for numerous instrumental combinations, which have been widely performed in the U.S. and abroad. These compositions include significant contributions to the wind band and brass repertoire. A recipient of numerous commissions, Dr. Cheetham has received several special awards from ASCAP, and he was named a Centennial Distinguished Alumnus of the University of New Mexico in 1989.

Keystone Celebration was premiered in 1989 by the Summit Brass. Commissioned by the same ensemble, this work, along with Commemorative Fanfare, is among Cheetham's most performed large brass ensemble works. The style depicted in this energetic fanfare is reflective of many of Cheetham's works for brass – utilizing driving rhythmic and ostinato lines, interchange among ensemble tone colors, and intense idiomatic chordal brass textures. (extracted, in part, from score notes)

Gustav Holst, born in London in 1874, received instruction in piano, violin, and trombone, and he began composing in his teen years. As a young man, Holst worked as a church organist and choirmaster. When he was twenty-one, he met Ralph Vaughan Williams, who became a good friend and an influence on his music. Throughout his life he worked as a composer and as a teacher at several schools in England. He wrote music for most genres, and he is better known for his orchestral and wind band works.

Holst composed several operas, including the comic opera Perfect Fool, which he wrote between 1918-1922. Holst's final chamber opera, it was first produced at the Covent Garden in 1923. Although the full opera is rarely performed, music from the opera has become an often-performed ballet suite. The opera begins with a ballet depicting dancing by the Spirits of Earth, Water, and Fire. In the opening dance the "wizard" beckons the Spirits of the Earth, as displayed in the opening trombone motive.

In many ways, the music from this opera explores compositional techniques and expression outside that generally deemed Holst's. Shortly after the opera's completion, Donald Tovey (The Musical Times—July 1, 1923) had the following to say about the work and the performance he observed, "What more auspicious opening of an operatic season could be imagined than this delightful piece, which renews the listener's appetite for every kind of opera worthy of the arts of music and drama?"
Sir Malcom Arnold was born on October 21, 1921 in Northampton England. A student of Gordon Jacob, he majored in composition at the Royal College of Music in London. During the early to mid twentieth century, Arnold, along with fellow England composers Gustav Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams, made significant and influential contributions to the instrumental music genres. Certainly, Malcolm Arnold's compositional catalogue places him among the most prolific composers of his time; his works include nine symphonies, seven ballets, two operas, one musical, over twenty concertos, two string quartets, music for brass band and wind band, and 132 film scores, including "Bridge on the River Kwai."

Better known as Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo for wind band (arr. John Paynter), Little Suite for Brass is one of three suites that Arnold wrote for brass band. Composed in 1923, each of the three movements is in five-part song form (ABACA) and reminiscent of the spirited and optimistic character of Arnold and his music.

Wind Ensemble

Adam Gorb was born in 1958 and started composing at the age of ten. At fifteen he wrote a set of piano pieces – A Pianist’s Alphabet – of which a selection were performed on BBC Radio 3. In 1977 he went to Cambridge University to study music, where his teachers included Hugh Wood and Robin Holloway. After graduating in 1980 he divided his time between composition and working as a musician in the theatre. In 1987 he started studying privately with Paul Patterson, and then, from 1991 at the Royal Academy of Music where he gained a MMus degree and graduated with the highest honours, including the Principal’s Prize in 1993.

Gorb's works for wind band have received significant attention from the profession. Works include Metropolis for wind band, which has won several prizes including the Walter Beeler Memorial Prize in the USA in 1994. Awayday for Wind Band has had over a thousand performances since its premiere in 1996, and Elements, a Percussion Concerto written for Evelyn Glennie and the Royal Northern College of Music Wind Ensemble in 1998 was released on CD in 2001. Adam Gorb is Head of School of Composition and Contemporary Music at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

About Downtown Diversions, the composer writes:

The character of this work is that of a serenade or divertimento but with Jazz and Latin influences. I have attempted to explore the mercurial aspects of the solo trombone, avoiding more commonplace characteristics of the instrument (there is not a single glissando for the soloist.) The piece is in three movements: fast - slow - fast that alternate dance-like and more lyrical passages. The first movement is swift and light footed and contains the two main themes that form the basis for the whole work, the first at the start by the lone soloist, and a more singing second subject that becomes the main theme for the laid-back second movement. Here the band consists of saxophones, brass and rhythm section only. The woodwind and horns return for the finale, which is a variation of the first movement in 10/8
time. The writing for the soloist becomes more virtuosic as the movement progresses and leads to an abrupt conclusion.

Frank Ticheli's music has been described as being "at once novel and familiar, exciting and serious, optimistic and thoughtful" (Los Angeles Times) and "powerful, deeply felt...crafted with imagination, flair and melodic warmth" (South Florida Sun-Sentinel). Ticheli joined the faculty of the USC Thornton School in 1991, and he is currently professor of composition. From 1991 to 1998, Ticheli was composer in residence at the Pacific Symphony, Carl St. Clair, music director.

Ticheli is well known for his works for concert band, many of which have become standards in the repertoire. In addition to composing, he has appeared as guest conductor of his music at Carnegie Hall; at many American universities and music festivals; and in cities throughout the world. Awards for his music include the Walter Beeler Memorial Prize and both the Charles Ives Scholarship and Goddard Lieberson Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

About his Symphony No. 2, the composer writes:

The symphony's three movements refer to celestial light – Shooting Stars, the Moon, and the Sun. Although the title for the first movement, "Shooting Stars," came after its completion, I was imagining such quick flashes of color throughout the creative process. White-note clusters are sprinkled everywhere, like streaks of bright light. Fleeting events of many kinds are cut and pasted at unexpected moments, keeping the ear on its toes. The movement burns quickly, and ends explosively, scarcely leaving a trail.

The second movement, "Dreams Under a New Moon," depicts a kind of journey of the soul as represented by a series of dreams. The dreams range from mysterious, to dark, to peaceful and healing. A sense of hope begins to assert itself as rising lines are passed from one instrument to another. Near the end, the main theme returns in counterpoint with the chant, building to a majestic climax, and then falling to a peaceful coda.

The finale, "Apollo Unleashed," is perhaps the most wide-ranging movement of the symphony. On the one hand, the image of Apollo, the powerful ancient god of the sun, inspired not only the movement's title, but also its blazing energy. Bright sonorities, fast tempos, and galloping rhythms combine to give a sense of urgency that one often expects from a symphonic finale. On the other hand, its boisterous nature is also tempered and enriched by another, more sublime force, Bach's Chorale BWV 433 (Wer Gott vertraut, hat wohl gebaut). This chorale – a favorite of the dedicatee, and one he himself arranged for chorus and band – serves as a kind of spiritual anchor, giving a soul to the gregarious foreground events.

My second symphony is dedicated to James E. Croft upon his retirement as Director of Bands at Florida State University in 2003. It was commissioned by a consortium of Dr. Croft's doctoral students, conducting students and friends as a gesture of thanks for all he has given to the profession.
ITHACA COLLEGE BRASS CHOIR
Keith Kaiser, conductor

Trumpets
Drew Benware
Judson Hoffman
Nick Kunkle
Jonathan Stewart
Janelle Varin
Randi Westervelt
Omar Williams
Timothy Winfield

French Horns
Lauren Campbell
Chelsey Campbell
Rachel Haselbauer
Meredith Moore
Thomas Peters

Trombones
Alicia Aubin
Megan Boutin
Frank Cook
Glenn Hodgson
Erin Lindon
Nick Smarch
J.C. VonHoltz

Euphoniums
Sarah Drew
Greg Lewandowski
Michael Vecchio

Tuba
Nicholas Gann
Bryan Lewis
Kevin Madden
Dan Troiano
Susan Wheatley

Percussion
Nathaniel Dominy
Peter D. Kielar
Jason Taylor
ITHACA COLLEGE WIND ENSEMBLE
Dominic Hartjes, graduate conductor
Stephen Peterson, director

Piccolo
Melissa Wertheimer

Flute
Adrienne Baker
Megan Postoll *
Amy Thiemann

Oboe/English Horn
Luke Conklin
Emily DiAngelo
Meghan Kimball *

Eb Clarinet
Erik Johnson

Clarinet
Kaitlyn Alcorn
Jordanna Bergman
Miles Jaques
Amanda Jenne
Caryn Poulin *
Allegra Smith

Bass Clarinet
Robert Yaple

Contraalto Clarinet
Dominic Hartjes

Bassoon
Andrew Chapman *
Jessica Tortorici
Amy Zordan-Moore

Alto Saxophone
Andrew Lawrence
Deanna Loertscher *

Tenor Saxophone
Andre Baruch

Baritone Saxophone
Robin Jackson

Trumpet
James Covington
Gregory Harris
Alex Lee-Clark
Nikola Tomic
Janelle Varin
Omar Williams *

Horn
Michael Bellofatto
Michael Drennan
Rachel Haselbauer
Lori Roy
Andrea Silvestrini *

Trombone
Matthew Barry
Mark Lalumia *
Alice Rogers

Euphonium
Alan Faiola *
Michael Vecchio

Tuba
Bryan Lewis *
Daniel Troiano

String Bass
Alexander Lott *

Timpani
Andrew Sickmeier

Percussion
Alan Dust *
Christopher Ganey
Seth Nicoletti
Lee Treat
Gregory Sutliff

Piano
Angela Triandafillou

Graduate Assistants
Christopher Dresko
Dominic Hartjes

* denotes section leader
Concert Calendar

May

2  7:00  Faculty Chamber Music Recital; Wallis-Sanchez-Lutchemayer Trio
     8:15  Chorus and Women's Chorale; Janet Galván, conductor

3  7:00  Early Music Ensemble; Nicholas Walker, director
     8:15  Percussion Ensemble; Conrad Alexander, conductor

4  8:00  Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artists Tour

19  8:30  40th Gala Commencement Eve Concert; Wind Ensemble,
         Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and Marimba Ragtime Band

Ithaca College Concerts 2007-8 (tentative)
(admission charge)

September 26  Richard Goode, piano

February 28   Tallis Scholars, mixed-voice vocal ensemble

April 23       Tashi, 30-year reunion tour of Stoltzman, Kavafian,
                 Sherry, and Serkin