

3-23-2012

Concert: Leon Bates, piano and Borealis Wind Quintet

Leon Bates

piano

Borealis Wind Quintet

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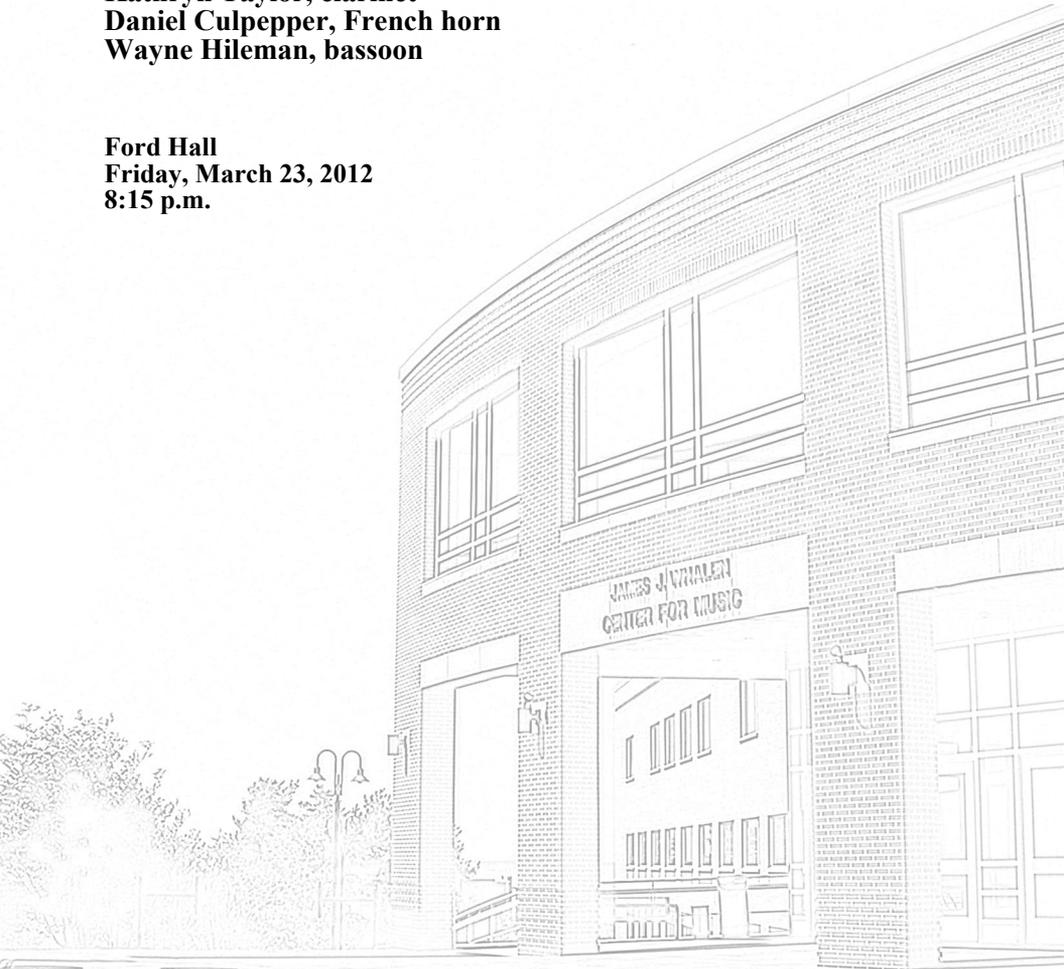
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ITHACA COLLEGE CONCERTS
Leon Bates, piano
and
Borealis Wind Quintet

Katherine Fink, flute
Tamar Beach Wells, oboe
Kathryn Taylor, clarinet
Daniel Culpepper, French horn
Wayne Hileman, bassoon

Ford Hall
Friday, March 23, 2012
8:15 p.m.



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Program

Quintet

Allegro non troppo
Scherzo, Energico
Andante, Andante sostenuto
Finale, Allegro spiritoso

George Onslow
(1784-1853)

Borealis Wind Quintet

Two Impromptus, op. 90

No. 2 in E flat minor
No. 4 in A flat minor

Franz Schubert
(1797-1928)

Mr. Bates

Sextet, Theme and Variations, op. 45

Theme
I. Improvisation
II. Capriccio
III. Pastorale
IV. Slavischer Tanz
V. Romanz
VI. Humoreske
VII. Finale

Theodor Blumer
(1881-1964)

Intermission

Sextet for Piano and Winds, op. 6

Allegro Moderato
Larghetto: Piu lento
Gavotte: Andante, quasi Allegretto
Finale: Vivace

Ludwig Thuille
(1861-1907)

Leon Bates and Borealis Wind Quintet are managed by:
Joanne Rile Artists Management, Inc.
Websites: www.rile.com; www.borealiswindquintet.com

Biographies

Leon Bates

Leon Bates has performed in major concert halls in the United States and abroad—on five continents. Moreover, he is consistently re-engaged year after year. Clearly, in a world of excellent pianists, Leon Bates is outstanding. The Los Angeles Times called Bates “fiercely talented and powerful.” His performance with the Slovak Philharmonic elicited this praise from the critic: “Bates sets the standard...his performance was so skillful and honest, so elegant and warm that it became the standard by which I will forever measure the quality of this piece...”

Recent return engagements include performances in Italy with the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della Rai, Maurizio Billi, conducting; return engagements with the Chattanooga Symphony, Modesto Symphony, Napa Valley Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic; and many others. Additionally, he has introduced a new recital program called “American Originals” featuring the great American composers of our time.

A versatile and exciting artist, Bates enjoys collaborating with string quartets, wind quintets, singers and dance companies. In 2007, he received a life time achievement award from the NANM (National Association of Negro Musicians) for his brilliant musicianship and untiring work with young people.

Since winning the Philadelphia Orchestra Senior Auditions as a student, Leon Bates has emerged as one of America’s leading pianists. He is invited to the prestigious venues and his performances have warranted critical and audience accolades in such halls as the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Philadelphia’s Academy of Music and Kimmel Center, and in San Francisco and the Bay area where he has been presented numerous times by Four Seasons Concerts.

Leon Bates’ work with young people is extraordinary. He is a master teacher and often is called upon to give master classes to promising young musicians. In one season alone he often performs over fifty residency programs in conjunction with orchestra engagements and recitals to inspire, motivate and delight America’s youth as he opens their hearts and minds to the love of music. Bates is also a favorite on college campuses because of his broad interests beyond the world of classical music.

A Renaissance man, Leon Bates enjoys all the arts, including architecture, dance, theater and music. He is a sports enthusiast and a disciplined body builder, which he feels aids his concentration and maintains his strength for the rigors of a performance career. Lately he has begun composing and finds great satisfaction in this creative aspect of music. One venture is composing for beginning students employing a new, progressive teaching method. He has written pieces in, collaboration with Janet Vogt, for a method book entitled Piano Discoveries (Heritage Music Press). Bates has recorded on the Orion label, Performance Records and Naxos, and on his own self-produced label.

His sheer mastery of the instrument has led to many performance invitations with major symphonies in the United States such as the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the American Symphony, the Detroit Symphony and the Atlanta Symphony. His large repertoire includes over 30 concerti by major composers and several contemporary concerti. A project of Duke Ellington's music is delighting audiences everywhere.

Bates has performed all over the world, appearing with the Vienna Symphony, The Sinfonica dell'di Santa Cecilia in Rome, the Strasbourg Symphony in France, Czech National Symphony, Prague, and the Quebec Symphony. He also toured South Africa after apartheid and performed in Johannesburg with the National Symphony Orchestra and with the Natal Philharmonic. Bates recently returned to Europe for performances in Germany and Italy.

A native of Philadelphia, Leon Bates began his formal study of music at the age of six on both piano and violin. While still young, he was recognized for his musical genius and groomed for a concert career. The late Irene Beck formulated his early training at the Settlement Music School, and his advanced study was under renowned pianist Natalie Hinderas at Temple University's Esther Boyer College of Music. Among his awards are the Collegiate Artist Award from the Music Teachers National Association, the National Association of Negro Musicians Competition, the Symphony of the New World Competition and the National Endowment for the Arts Solo Recitalists Fellowship Grant. His importance to the music world was recognized with an honorary Doctorate from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Mr. Bates received the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award from the Greater New York Wallenberg Committee for his extensive work with children.

Some highlights of his career include a performance with Lorin Maazel and the Orchestra of France; participating in the Steinway Foundation's Gala Celebration commemorating the building of their 500,000th piano at Carnegie Hall; a performance at La Scala in Milan in a televised program, for which he received numerous ovations from a jubilant audience.

Bates performed in Carnegie Hall with the New York Pops, Skitch Henderson conducting; and toured the U.S. in a program featuring the works of George Gershwin. The program, "Gershwin by Request," has been performed at dozens of major venues from the Barbara Mann Music Center in Ft. Myers, Florida to the Detroit Music Hall. One Carnegie Hall highlight was a performance with Tamas Vasary in a tribute to his late teacher, Natalie Hinderas. Another was his debut recital in that hall.

Bates has continued to delight audiences while performing alone or with notable ensembles. He performed with the Bournemouth Symphony in England, Tamas Vasary conducting, and later as soloist with the Duke Ellington Orchestra in Rome's Olympic Stadium before an audience of 20,000 as a tribute to Christopher Columbus. Mr. Bates premiered a concerto by

Adolphus Hailstork with the Virginia Symphony, later performing the Concerto with five more orchestras and culminating that experience with a performance in Carnegie Hall, JoAnn Falletta, conducting the Virginia Symphony.

In October of 2001 Governor Tom Ridge presented the Pennsylvania Artist of the Year Award to Mr. Bates. Highlights of recent seasons are performances with the Detroit Symphony, U.S. Air Force Band, Napa Valley Symphony, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Czech National Symphony and extensive tours in the Mid-Atlantic states, and participation in a Gala concert with the Philadelphia Orchestra. In 2003-04 he toured again in Italy and performed with many orchestras and in numerous recitals and in residencies. He also performed both in Switzerland and Germany.

A favorite at summer festivals, Leon Bates has performed in Chicago at Grant Park, at the Lake Tahoe Festival, at the Mann Music Center with the Philadelphia Orchestra, at the Cascade Festival with Murry Sidlin conducting, in Boston and on tour with the Boston Pops, Keith Lockhart conducting. Bates has been soloist at the Hollywood Bowl and returned on four occasions, most notably under the baton of John Maurceri. He has also worked with conductor James DePreist in Oregon and with the New York Philharmonic.

Performing, composing, recording and touring the world, pianist Leon Bates looks with great pleasure to the coming season, in which he now offers two lectures. The first is "Brown vs. the Board of Education," based on the May 17, 1954 Supreme Court ruling, and the second is "American Originals," recognizing the achievements of America's extraordinary composers of our time." Performance demonstrations accompany both lectures.

Borealis Wind Quintet

The **Borealis Wind Quintet** was formed in 1976 at the Juilliard School of Music. The five members enjoyed a love of music, friendship and a goal to make the best music possible. These elements have defined the essence of Borealis for over 30 years. One of America's most successful chamber ensembles, Borealis continues to share the passion for music and the determination to present the highest quality musical performances, new repertoire, recordings, editions and musical education.

The Grammy nominated ensemble has earned a well deserved reputation for giving performances with great artistic expression, musical integrity and technical virtuosity. The choice of repertoire reflects the group's artistic personality and their enjoyment of performing. Through its long history, Borealis has developed an insight into audience reaction and crafts their programming not only to give audiences significant intellectual and emotional content but to further enjoy the performances with lively verbal program notes, surprise musical gems and warm interaction.

Katherine Fink enjoys a multifaceted career encompassing orchestral, chamber music and solo performances. She is principal flute with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the New York Pops and has been a featured soloist with these ensembles as well as with the Colonial Symphony, EOS, Philharmonia Virtuosi, the New York Chamber Symphony, the Bronx Arts Ensemble and the New York Virtuosi. Ms. Fink performs regularly with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and serves on the faculty of the New Jersey City University and as orchestral coach at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland.

In demand as a chamber musician and recitalist, Ms. Fink has appeared in concerts throughout the greater New York area in prestigious venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Frick and Guggenheim museums as well as the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Brooklyn College. She was presented in recital by the New York Flute Club in CAMI Hall and currently serves on the board of directors for the NYFC.

Ms. Fink can be heard on numerous recordings with the New York Pops, the EOS Orchestra, the Brooklyn Philharmonic and Philharmonia Virtuosi. She is featured on the CD "Reel Life" (music by film composers) in music by Bob James, Michael Broughton, and Michael Kamen and has recorded all of the solo flute works of Robert Baksa. Additionally, Ms. Fink is active in the commercial music field, having recorded sound tracks for many films and TV and radio commercials. She has appeared with the Brooklyn Philharmonic on the David Letterman show and has toured with Andrea Bocelli.

Tamar Beach Wells is a versatile soloist and orchestral musician. She is principal oboist with the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and plays regularly with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, including their inner city school outreach program. She performs with the American Composers Orchestra, the Berkshire Bach Ensemble and the Westchester Symphony. She has toured nationally with Andrea Bocelli and has been a member of the Springfield Symphony and the Goodspeed Opera. In addition to the oboe, she plays the English horn, oboe d'amore and bass oboe and frequently collaborates with vocalists, choruses and other artists in diverse settings ranging from traditional solo performances to recording sessions with pop singers. She holds degrees summa cum laude in performance and education from the Hartt School of Music and Performing Arts and a Masters degree from the Juilliard School of Music. Tamar has been on the faculty of the Hartt School and the University of Connecticut and maintains a private studio in her Litchfield County home. She enjoys non-competitive ballroom dancing with her husband, Richard and having her two daughters, Rebecca and Alicia, cook for her.

Kathryn Taylor has performed across the US as a chamber and orchestral musician as well as a soloist. A resident of Connecticut, she is principal clarinetist of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and a member of Connecticut Grand Opera. She performs with the Stamford, New Haven, Hartford Symphonies and the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. Ms. Taylor has appeared in several festivals including the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado, the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, the Windham Festival in New York and the

Newport Festival in Rhode Island. She has toured Europe as principal clarinetist with the American Symphonietta and performed in the orchestra of Disney's production of *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway. Ms. Taylor attended the Juilliard School where she studied with the legendary Leon Russianoff. Ms. Taylor resides in Redding with her husband Robert and sons Rob and James. The family enjoys skiing and sailing together.

Daniel Culpepper is a very active freelance horn player in New York City. He is principal horn of the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and performs regularly with the New York City Ballet, Radio City Music Hall and Little Orchestra Society. Mr. Culpepper's career has been both diverse and eclectic. He has performed or recorded with Frank Sinatra, Elton John, James Taylor, Pavarotti, Sting and Yo-Yo Ma among others. Mr. Culpepper has appeared live numerous times on T.V. shows including David Letterman, Good Morning America and "Live from Lincoln Center" as well as recording many movie sound tracks and T.V. and Radio commercials. He is currently principal horn of *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. Mr. Culpepper lives in Connecticut with his wife and 2 children.

Wayne Hileman has performed with many orchestras including the New Haven, Stamford, American and Westchester Symphonies, and appeared as a chamber player, soloist, or as continuo at many venues, including the Pro-Arte, Windham, Alliance Artist, and New England Bach Festivals. In addition, he is an audio engineer, restoring historic recordings for major labels, producing live concerts for NPR, editing and mastering new releases for many classical artists, and is a voting member of the Recording Academy (the Grammys). Mr. Hileman holds degrees from Potsdam College and Yale University.

Now in its second century, the Ithaca College School of Music affirms its fundamental belief that music and the arts are essential components of the human experience. The School of Music prepares students to be world-class professionals and the music leaders of tomorrow - ready to transform individuals and communities by advancing the art of music.

Upcoming Events

March

24 - Ford - 10:00am - ICC: Borealis Wind Quintet and Leon Bates masterclasses

24 - Ford - 8:15pm - Choir

25 - Ford - 4:00pm - Saxophone Studio Recital

26 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Composition Premieres IV

27 - Hockett - 8:15pm - FLEFF

28 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Guest Recital: Velvet Brown, tuba

31 - Ford - 8:15pm - Gospel Festival

April

1 - Hockett - 2:00pm - Voice Faculty Opera Scenes

1 - Ford - 4:00pm - Symphony Orchestra

2 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Ithaca Brass

3 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Faculty Showcase Recital

4 - Ford - 8:15pm - Wind Ensemble

5 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Guest Recital: Sean Duggan, piano

6 - Hockett - 10:00am - Sean Duggan, piano masterclass

9 - Iger - 8:15pm - Guest Lecture: Husa Visiting Professor of Composition

10 - Hockett - 8:15pm - Contemporary Chamber Ensemble

12 - Nabenhauer - 7:00pm - Improv Ensemble

13 - Hockett - 8:15pm - Talea

14 - Hockett - 7:00pm - Pablo Cohen, guitar