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Concert Band

R. Logan Sorey, conductor 7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 Grusin Music Hall

PROGRAM

Sunscapes

Chandler Wilson (b. 1984)

Yorkshire Ballad

James Barnes (b. 1949)

West Side Story

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) arr. Jay Bocook

Ancient Flower

Yukiko Nishimura (b. 1967)

Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo

Malcolm Arnold (1921-2006)

- 1. Prelude
- 2. Siciliano
- 3. Rondo

PROGRAM NOTES

Sunscapes

Chandler Wilson (b. 1984)

This exciting work depicts the lively and sunny nature of the state of Florida. Opening with a brilliant and majestic section highlighting the state's bright and vibrant culture a flowing melody follows, representing the calming winds and consistent breeze of the state. Dance is a large part of Florida's culture, especially in its southern region, and the 7/8 rhythm captures an Afro-Latin style dance movement. The chorale/hymn section is based on the Florida Song, which is a traditional school song of many schools, including Florida A&M in Tallahassee. The work then recapitulates and moves toward a driving and joyful conclusion.

This work was commissioned by the Florida Bandmasters Association, for the Nine Star Honor Band 2017, Matthew McCutchen, conductor.

Program note from publisher

Yorkshire Ballad

James Barnes (b. 1949)

Composed in the summer of 1984, James Barnes' *Yorkshire Ballad* was premiered at the Kansas Bandmasters Association Convention in Hutchinson, Kansas, by the late Claude T. Smith, who was serving as the guest conductor for the Kansan Intercollegiate Band. Since being published in 1985, it has become one of the composer's most popular works. It has been arranged for full orchestra and string orchestra by the composer, for marimba and piano by Linda Maxey, for flute choir by Arthur Ephross, and for trombone or tuba/euphonium ensemble by John Bohls. The composer writes that:

"Over the years, many conductors and teachers have called me to ask about the work, and whether the tune itself is in fact a folksong. *Yorkshire Ballad* is not a folksong, but it is written in that style. I composed this little piece so that younger player would have an opportunity to play a piece that is more or less in the style of Percy Aldridge Grainger's *Irish Tune from County Derry*. Even Grainger's easier works are too difficult for most younger players to do them musical justice, so I thought I would write a little piece that might emote some of the feelings and colors of Grainger's wonderful music, but, at the same time, was technically much more accessible to the younger player.

"People always ask me what I was trying to portray when I wrote *Yorkshire Ballad*. All I can say is that I was thinking of the beautiful, green Yorkshire dales of Northern England; the rolling hills and endless stretch of beautiful pasturelands that my wife and loved so much when, a year before, we had driven through this most marvelous spot in the world."

-Program note by composer

West Side Story

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

arr. Jay Bocook

Bernstein's timeless music from *West Side Story* is woven together in this exceptional medley of songs from his best-known musical. This is music audiences love to hear, and has become so much a part of the American musical experience. Songs included are "Maria," "Tonight," "One Hand, One Heart," "Cool" and "Somewhere."

-Program note from publisher

Ancient Flower

Yukiko Nishimura (b. 1967)

The melodies of this piece have a flavor of an Oriental atmosphere. However, most of the harmonies are composed with a Western-style vocabulary. A long, sensitive and mysterious melodic line is introduced in the opening measures. I composed the counter melodies so that they would be enjoyable to play; feel how each twists around the main melody. When the main melody returnins in measure 37, a clearer and simpler tone is needed. You might imagine that the ancient flower is a dainty, tiny, flower; perhaps an exotic flower; or perhaps even something else. Whatever you imagine, the flower will bloom in your way in this piece. Program note from the score, by the composer.

Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo

Malcolm Arnold (1921-2006)

This work was first written in 1963 for brass band under the title *Little Suite for Brass*. Paynter's arrangement for wind bands includes woodwinds and additional percussion but retains the breezy effervescence of the original work. All three movements are written in short, clear, five-part song forms. The A-B-A-C-A is instantly apparent to the listener while giving the composer's imaginative melodies a natural, almost folklike, settings. The *Prelude* begins bombastically in a fanfare style but reaches a middle climax and winds down to a quiet return of the opening measures, which fade to silence. The liltingly expressive *Siciliano* is both slower and more expressive than the other movements, thus allowing solo instruments and smaller choirs of sound to be heard. It also ends quietly. The rollicking five-part *Rondo* provides a romping finale in which the technical facility of the modern wind band is set forth in boastful brilliance. Program note from *Program Notes for Band*

PERSONNEL

Hyperlinks are bold and underlined; click or tap for more information.

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