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Illinois State University Chamber Orchestra, October 26, 1999

Glenn Block Director
Illinois State University

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Music Department
Illinois State University

**Illinois State University
Chamber Orchestra**

Glenn Block, *Music Director*

Happy Birthday,

Aaron!!

Kemp Recital Hall
Tuesday Evening
October 26, 1999
8:00 P.M.

The twenty-second program of the 1999-2000 season.

Program

Music for the Theatre (1925)
Prologue
Dance
Interlude
Burlesque
Epilogue

Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

Glenn Block, *Conducting*

Appalachian Spring (1943-44)
The Ballet

Aaron Copland

Video presentation of the original ballet, with Miss Martha Graham performs with the American Ballet Theatre.

Intermission

Appalachian Spring
Suite for Thirteen Instruments

Aaron Copland

Brian Dollinger, *Conducting*

This performance is in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Masters of Music in Conducting

Program Notes

Music for the Theatre - This work was originally commissioned for a concert of the League of Composers and first performed in November 1925 by the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Serge Koussevitsky was the conductor of the premier. Despite its title, the work was not intended for the theatre, but rather as a commentary or musical discussion on theatre. Written for a chamber orchestra, it makes great use of the jazz idiom. At the time, the more conservative critics, bound by excessive doses of German romanticism, were hostile to its creation and performance. A newspaper of the time charged *Music for the Theatre* with betraying "a great anxiety to be modernistic while the modernist lamp holds out to burn," a charge more clear in its intention than in its expression. In truth, Copland was concerned with a literal, Gershwin-like use of jazz in symphonic works for only a brief period in the mid-twenties. Besides *Music for the Theatre*, his most jazz like-composition along these lines is the *Piano Concerto* of 1926. A little later, in the *Symphonic Ode* (1927-29) and the *Piano Variations* (1930), he turned to compositions in which jazz played a subordinate part. Writing about his jazz-oriented pieces in an autobiographic sketch, Copland noted that jazz was "an easy way to be American in musical terms, but All-American music could not possibly be confined to two dominant moods: the blues and the snappy number." But he also added, "The characteristic rhythmic element of jazz...being independent of mood, yet purely indigenous, will undoubtedly continue to be used in serious native music."

Appalachian Spring - This work was composed in 1943-44 as a ballet for Martha Graham on a commission from the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation. Miss Graham and her company at the Coolidge Festival in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., first performed it on October 30, 1944. This evening's version is scored for the original chamber ensemble of thirteen instruments. It is a condensed version of the ballet (identical with the original suite derived from the ballet for symphony orchestra), which retains all essential features but omits those sections in which the interest is primarily choreographic. The composer authorized for this version an increase in the number of the string players from single players to 8, 8, 6, 4, 2. The action of the ballet concerns a pioneer celebration in the spring around a newly built farmhouse in the Pennsylvania hills in the early part of the 1800's.

The bride-to-be and the young farmer/husband enact the emotions that they are feeling in their lives. Joyousness, apprehensions, and other feeling are depicted through the dance and music. An older neighbor suggests confidence of experience. A revivalist and his followers remind the new householders of the strange and terrible aspects of human fate. At the end, the couple are left quiet and strong in their new house. In 1945, *Appalachian Spring* received the Pulitzer Prize for music as well as the award of the Music Critics Circle of New York for the outstanding theatrical work of the 1944-45 season.

notes compiled by Brian Dollinger

Glenn Block - is the director of orchestras and opera at Illinois State University. An active guest conductor, he is one of the most active all-state orchestra conductors, having conducted in more than 42 states, Canada, South America, and throughout Europe. He serves as Music director of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Kansas City, one of the country's largest and most extensive youth symphony programs. The Kansas City Youth Symphony was invited to the MENC to be the broadcast orchestra for the 1995 World's Largest Concert and has performed at the opening concerts of the 1996 Nation Conference. In addition, the Youth Symphony was one of only six youth orchestras from throughout the world invited to the Banff (Canada) International Festival of Youth Orchestras in April 1996. Dr. Block is also the music director of the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony in Springfield, Illinois.

Brian Dollinger - Mr. Dollinger is in his final year of study towards a Master's Degree in Orchestral Conducting at Illinois State University. He received his Bachelor's of Music in Double Bass Performance in 1994 from Illinois State University. He has also studied at the University of North Texas and returned to Illinois State University to complete his current degree with Dr. Block. Mr. Dollinger has been a guest conductor with the Central Illinois Concert Orchestra and the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony. He is the new conductor for the Dunlap, Illinois string program. Mr. Dollinger plans to begin his work towards a doctoral degree next year.

ISU Instrumental Faculty

Roosevelt Newson, Dean of Fine Arts
Arved Larsen, Music Department Chair

Sarah Gentry, <i>Violin</i>	Kate Hamilton, <i>Viola</i>
Greg Hamilton, <i>Cello</i>	William Koehler, <i>Double Bass</i>
Kimberly Risinger, <i>Flute</i>	Judith Dicker, <i>Oboe</i>
Aris Chavez, <i>Clarinet</i>	Michael Dicker, <i>Bassoon</i>
Amy Gilreath, <i>Trumpet</i>	Joe Neisler, <i>Horn</i>
Stephen Parsons, <i>Trombone</i>	David Zerkel, <i>Tuba</i>
David Collier, <i>Percussion</i>	Angelo Favis, <i>Guitar</i>
Roar Schaad, <i>Recording Technician</i>	

Upcoming Orchestral Events

November

2-4 Annual Chamber Orchestra Tour of Illinois Public Schools

December

5 4:00 p.m. Music for the Holidays Braden Auditorium

Coming Soon - ISU Symphony Orchestra CD

Excerpts from the "Best of the Best" of the past three years of the Orchestra program

Visit our website for current schedules, workshops, CD's and other opportunities:

<http://www.ilstu.edu/music/ensemble/orchestra/index.html>

Orchestra Personnel

Glenn Block, Music Director
Brian Dollinger, Assistant Director

Violin I

Van Armenian, concertmaster
Al Bartosik
Derek Efinetz
Jennifer Louie

Violin II

Ann Polishinski, principal
Jennifer Vestuto
Elizabeth Hunt
Michelle Warber
Julia Edwards

Viola

Dana Schwartz, principal
Mandy De Sutter
Mona Seghatoleslami
Julie Brown

Cello

Charles Stephan, principal
Jim Pesek
Kimberly Martin
Charles Davenport

Double Bass

Ben Sullivan, principal
Nicole Novak

Orchestra Committee

Allen Legutki
Nicole Novak
Darcie Condon
Erin Sisk
Kimberly Martin
Brian Dollinger

Flute

Erin Sisk
Teryn True

Oboe/English Horn

Jennifer Schraml

Clarinets

Debi Flowers

Bassoon

Stephanie Fink

Trumpet

Rebecca Stekl
Bill Withem

Trombone

E. Kinnisten Deptolla

Percussion

Scott E. Patka

Piano

Elizabeth Lorparits
* Carlyn Morenus

Orchestra Library

Kimberly Martin

* Faculty Artist