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Ensemble Concerts: Trombone Choir, October 9, 2003

Stephen Parsons Conductor
Illinois State University

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Illinois State University

School of Music

Trombone Choir

Stephen Parsons, Conductor

Center for the Performing Arts

Thursday Evening

October 9, 2003

8:00 p.m.

This is the eighteenth program of the 2003-2004 seasons.

Program

Program Notes

Fanfare for Trombones

Andrew C. Fox
(born 1935)

Fanfare for Trombones

Dr. Andrew Fox is an Emeritus member of the Music Faculty at the University of Mississippi. During his tenure, he served as head of the theory-composition area, coordinator of graduate studies and acting chair of the Music Department. His publications include music for wind band and solos for wind instruments. The "Fanfare for Trombones" is composed in a simple three-part form and is scored for 5 trombones.

The Last Spring

Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)
arranged by Roy Magnuson

The Last Spring

Roy Magnuson writes of "The Last Spring":

"The Last Spring" is part of Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg's work *Two Elegiac Melodies, Op. 34*. Originally scored for string orchestra, this piece is a classic example of the composer's style and influences: lush, impassioned orchestration depicting an undeniably Romantic tale of the last months of life. I was first introduced to this piece on tour with the Illinois State University Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Dr. Glenn Block was giving a master class to a group of high school students who were just beginning to work on the piece. Even during the early stages of rehearsal, I was moved by the extraordinarily beautiful music. I thought immediately that the piece would work well for trombone choir. Now, almost a year to the day, the idea has been realized.

Great Lakes Octet

Shimmering Under the Sunlight
Frozen Under Winter Skies
Storm-tossed
Spring Horizon

Eric Ewazen
(born 1954)

Great Lakes Octet

The "Great Lakes Octet" was commissioned by the Michigan State University Trombone Choir to honor Professor of Trombone Curtis Olson upon his retirement from studio teaching. The composer writes:

~Intermission~

Hill Country Miniatures

Hickory Cove – September 11th
Smithwick
The Narrows
Blue Bonnett Boogie

Richard Lawn

The four-movement work depicts the scenery of the majestic lakes framing Michigan throughout the seasons. The first movement is lively and colorful, with resonant chords depicting the lake in a brilliant, bright sunshine. The second movement is quiet and mysterious, as the lakes gleam with a crystalline intensity under winter skies. The third movement has rapid, spinning themes, tossed from instrument to instrument in a compound meter depicting the rain-drenched lakes. The fourth movement is once again heroic and sunny as the piece ends with homage to spring and a new beginning.

Salvation is Created

Pavel Tchesnokov
(1877-1944)
arranged by Charles De Paolo

Hill Country Miniatures

Written for Nathaniel Brickens and The University of Texas at Austin Trombone Choir, "Hill Country Miniatures" is dedicated to former Texas trombone professor Donald Knaub. Composer Richard Lawn writes about the four movements of the piece:

Tower Music

Vaclav Nelhybel
(1919-1996)

Hickory Cove – We have a special place that we retreat to sometimes during difficult moments - a place where we can allow our minds to relax and spirits to renew. My special place is a small cabin on Hickory Cove on the somewhat isolated north shore of Lake Travis. Known as the Hill Country, this area with its rugged, rolling hills covered with rock and green cedar forests is unlike much of Texas. I began to write this chorale on September 10, 2001. The following day we were all devastated by the events in New York City, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. It was difficult to escape the impact of this tragedy and solemn, somber music filled the airways. It became even more difficult than usual to deal with our everyday lives, which all seemed suddenly insignificant. I found my own solace in writing this music and allowing my mind to retreat to my quiet, serene Hickory Cove.

Smithwick (population in the hundreds) – Hickory Cove is located in Smithwick, TX, barely an ink spot on most maps. Noah Smithwick, a child of first generation immigrants of English and Scottish decent, migrated to Texas where he built a village around his mill using water from the Colorado River. In this miniature I tried to capture the British and Scottish folk styles, but with an American flare. The cheerful aspect reflects our joy in finally finding our little piece of heaven at Hickory Cove after searching for more than four years.

The Narrows – A few miles north of Smithwick lays a section of Lake Travis known by the locals as "The Narrows". At this point the Colorado River narrows, twisting and turning as it cuts through the Hill Country. During droughts, the water recedes exposing beautiful sandy beaches on one shoreline with opposing craggy cliffs on the other. As you listen, imagine gentle waters winding through these cliffs and gentle slopes as it passes through The Narrows.

Blue Bonnet Boogie – Nothing can be more cheerful and uplifting than a meadow of Texas blue bonnets in the spring. This state flower grows abundantly like an unrestricted weed throughout the Hill Country and replenishes itself every year in even greater supply. A sea of blue bonnets swaying in the breeze, some in sync and some not, some identical and others slightly different, creating a beautiful counterpoint. Nothing is more representative of the Hill Country than this image and nothing could be more Texan than a good old, down home, boogie-woogie.

Salvation is Created

A Russian who lived from 1877 to 1944, Pavel Tchesnokov was a choral conductor, teacher and composer with over 400 choral works to his credit. This beautiful chorale from the Russian Orthodox tradition is representative of his compositional style.

Tower Music

Vaclav Nelhybel, born in 1919 in the former Czechoslovakia, studied composition and conducting at the Prague Conservatory of Music and musicology at the universities of Prague and Friborg, Switzerland. In 1957, he moved to New York, became an American citizen and continued to be active as a composer, conductor and lecturer. "Tower Music" is scored for eight trombones and is dedicated to Dr. Irvin Wagner and the University of Oklahoma Trombone Choir.

Trombone Choir

Nick Benson
Jason Binde
Michael Bingham
Andy Dillon
Matthew Fisher
Matthew Gabriel
Michael Gallant
John Garvens
Justin Gund
Jessica Heitz
Megan Hunt
Arved Larsen
Roy Magnuson
Ellen Skolar
Brock Warren
Kelly Wolf