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Ensemble Concerts: Wind Symphony, February 26, 2006

Stephen K. Steele Conductor
Illinois State University

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Illinois State University
College of Fine Arts
School of Music

WIND SYMPHONY

Stephen K. Steele, *Conductor*

Jim Walker, *Guest Artist* (Yamaha Artist)
Kimberly McCoul Risinger, *Faculty Soloist*

Wednesday, February 22

9:10 a.m. Mendota High School

1:00 p.m. Harlem High School

7:30 p.m. Harlem High School

Thursday, February 23

9:20 a.m. Libertyville High School

1:30 p.m. Lakes High School

7:00 p.m. Lakes High School

Friday, February 24

9:30 a.m. Maine South High School

1:00 p.m. Plainfield High School

Center for the Performing Arts

February 26, 2006

Sunday Afternoon

3:00 p.m.

This is the eighty-second program of the 2005-2006 season.

PROGRAM

PHILIP SPARKE *Fiesta* (1996)
(Born 1951)

MORTEN LAURIDSEN *O Magnum Mysterium* (1994)
(Born 1943)
Transcribed by H. Robert Reynolds

ROBERT RUSSELL BENNETT *Suite of Old American Dances* (1949)
(1894 - 1980)
1. Cake Walk
2. Schottische
3. Western One-Step
4. Wallflower Waltz
5. Rag

INTERMISSION

JIM WALKER *Blackie & Max* (1984)
(Born 1944)
Jim Walker, flute

GEROGES BIZET *Fantasia Brillieant* (1875)
(1838 - 1875)
Francois Borne
Arranged by Kugler
Kimberly Risinger and Jim Walker, flute

DAVID MAIRS *American Flute Salute* (1999)
(Born 1943)
Jim Walker, flute

DAVID WALLACE REEVES *Yankee Doodle* (1878)
(1838 - 1900) *Fantasia Humoresque*

Defining **Jim Walker** is no easy task. There are few musicians today who cross stylistic borders with the ease and beauty that is this man's legacy.

Jim's flute as the lead voice of Free Flight creates its own niche in the musical heavens, not merely reshaping one idiom, but allowing a hybrid sound to emerge which propels Free Flight light years beyond jazz fusion.

Motion picture soundtracks bask in the lovely sound from his golden flute. Symphony orchestras sparkle with his dazzling technical marches and velvet-like melodies. Recital halls glow from the splendor of his classical interpretations. Students marvel at the power and control of his playing "up close".

In 2003 Paul McCartney invited Jim to join him in his performance at the Academy Awards broadcast. It was certainly the largest audience (up to one billion viewers) to have seen Jim performing.

The product of a musical household--his father, Bob, a public school band director and jazz clarinetist, his mother, Barbara, a church organist--Jim Walker's youth in Greenville, Kentucky was filled with piano (age 6) and flute lessons (age 10).

High school in Central City, Kentucky gave him many opportunities, including exposure to other instruments; a starting guard position on the varsity basketball team; and through record clubs he sampled the latest in jazz.

A scholarship to the University of Louisville started Jim Walker in the direction of Music Education but the "orchestral bug" bit him, committing his efforts to classical flute. He graduated with Honors and today holds the prestigious "Distinguished Alumni Award", as well as being named the first "Alumni Fellow" from the School of Music.

Following college Jim enlisted in the Army and went to West Point to join the USMA Band, simultaneously studying flute with Harold Bennett, principal flutist of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Other significant teachers have been Sarah Fouse, Francis Fuge, James Pellerite, and Claude Monteux.

In 1969, an audition with the Pittsburgh Symphony landed him the desirable position of associate principal flutist. After eight years in Pittsburgh, Jim set his sights on Los Angeles and won the principal flute position at the Los Angeles Philharmonic. A further sign of his orchestral ability was the invitation of Zubin Mehta to play principal flute in the South American tour of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra in 1982.

Jazz had always been a hobby in high school and college, Jim says, and exposure to L.A.'s live music scene rekindled his interest in jazz improvisation. By 1980 (after three years of improvisation practice) he was ready to move beyond the classical world, organizing a quartet featuring flute, piano, bass and drums. This tradition-breaking group became Free Flight. Leaving the Philharmonic to gain the freedom to pursue the group and the freelance life must have seemed like a crazy risk in 1985. But, many recordings, successive "most valuable player" awards, a number one record ("Slice of Life"), four appearances on The Tonight Show, features on the Today Show, concert hall success and a growing demand for his master classes have proven his instincts correct. Jim's web page is: <http://www.jimwalkerflute.com>

WIND SYMPHONY PERSONNEL

Flute and Piccolo

*Emily Brooks, *Galesberg*
Carmen Hawkins, *Collinsville*
Stefanie Lindsay, *Naperville*

Oboe and English horn

Megan French, *Bloomington*
Jordan Ready, *Cary*

Clarinet

Marcie Banti, *Algonquin*
Brian Beddigs, *Park Forest*
Dara Jo Easley, *Bloomington*
Mark Iwinski, *Tinley Park*
*Christina Quatrini, *Tinley Park*
Pat Steadman, *Normal*

Bass Clarinet

Jenny Bendy, *New Lenox*
*Andrea Lawhun, *Roselle*

Bassoon

Brian Cooley, *Peoria*
*Michelle Sawyer, *Sharpsburg, GA*

Alto Saxophone

*Kevin Lomonof, *Oaklawn*
Jason Kaumeyer, *Shorewood*

Tenor Saxophone

Allan Rendak, *Burbank*

Baritone Saxophone

Eric Huber, *Rockford*

Horn

Kayla Jahnke, *Normal*
Krista Reese, *Normal*
Christine Smeltzer, *Fairbury*
Tawnya Smith, *Arcanum, OH*
*Anna Henry, *DuBois, PA*

Trumpet and Cornet

*Joel Adair, *Palestine, TX*
Joe Van Riper, *Manassas, VA*
Kyle Berens, *Crystal Lake*
Laura Hall, *Ottawa*
Kevin Price, *Jackson, TN*
Ken Wendt, *Medina, OH*

Trombone

Nick Benson, *Ottawa*
*Bradley Harris, *Forest City, IA*

Bass Trombone

John Garvens, *Freeport*

Euphonium

Cristina Carbia, *Trujillo Alto, PR*
*Meredith Melvin, *Monmouth*

Tuba

*Paul Nesper, *Tinley Park*
Brian Badgley, *Sylvania, OH*

String Bass

Michael White, *Flossmoor*

Percussion

Ryan Borden, *Vernon Hills*
Douglas S. Ford, *Morton*
Aaron Kavelman, *Washington*
Mike Malgoza, *Orlando, FL*
Ben Stiers, *Mackinaw*

*denotes principal