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Ensemble Concerts: Wind Symphony, April 25, 2010

Stephen K. Steele Conductor
Illinois State University

Adriana Ransom Guest Soloist

Stephanie Melinyshyn Concerto Winner

Carl Schimmel Guest Composer

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*Illinois State University
College of Fine Arts
School of Music*

WIND SYMPHONY

Stephen K. Steele, *Conductor*

Adriana Ransom, *Guest Soloist*

Stephanie Melinyshyn, *Concerto Winner*

Carl Schimmel, *Guest Composer*

**Center for the Performing Arts
Sunday afternoon
April 25, 2010
3:00 p.m.**

This is the two hundred and first program of the 2009-2010 Season

PROGRAM

Kenneth Fuchs ***UNITED ARTISTS*** (2008)
(born 1956)

Paul Creston ***PRELUDE AND DANCE*** (1941)
(1906 - 1985)

Cecile Chaminade ***CONCERTINO FOR FLUTE*** (1902)
(1857-1944)

Stephanie Melinyshyn, *flute*

Carl Schimmel ***THE BLATHERSKITE'S COMEUPPANCE*** (2004)
(born 1975) A Melodrama in Three Episodes

1. In Which We meet the Blatherskite
2. In Which the Blatherskite meets the Mooncalf and isn't Very Polite
3. In Which the Blatherskite Explodes and the Unflappable Mooncalf Goes on his Way

INTERMISSION

Arturo Rodríguez ***ELEGY & RONDO*** (2009)
(born 1976) for violoncello solo and concert band

Adriana Ransom, *cello*

Claude T. Smith ***FESTIVAL VARIATIONS*** (1982)
(1932-1987)

Program Notes

Kenneth Fuchs studied at the University of Miami and Juilliard, and has studied with such composers as Milton Babbitt, David Del Tredici, David Diamond, Vincent Persichetti, and Alfred Reed. He currently serves as the Professor of Composition at the University of Connecticut. Fuchs has composed works for a large variety of ensembles, including wind ensemble, orchestra, chamber groups, choir, jazz, and chamber musicals.

United Artists was originally composed as an orchestral piece, completed in 2006 for the London Symphony Orchestra. The transcription for wind ensemble was completed in 2008. *United Artists* was inspired by the first recording sessions that Fuchs had with the LSO, and is full of orchestral-style brilliance and indulges a fondness for pitched percussion instruments.

Giuseppe Guttovoggio, later “Americanizing” his name to **Paul Creston** (1906-1985) was the son of Sicilian parents who had immigrated to America. Possessing a fiercely independent personality, Creston surpassed the abilities of his music teacher by the age of 14. He continued to develop his compositional style free from the influences of any particular school of thought or teacher’s direction, though he did attribute some of his influence to composers such as Bach, Scarlatti, Chopin, Debussy, and Ravel. His music features a strong element of rhythm, containing shifts of subdivision in regular meters.

Prelude and Dance was commissioned by Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma and was premiered by the National Intercollegiate Band in 1959 with the composer conducting. The *Prelude* is laced with compelling accents and pulsation as it projects a long legato line above the shorter, percussive bursts of the accompaniment. The *Dance* is breathtaking throughout with polymeters, polyrhythms, and even a touch of tarantella.

Cécile Chaminade was born in Paris and began composing by the time she was eight years old, and gave her first recital at the age of 18. Over the course of her lifetime she would compose over 400

works, the most popular being written for piano. In 1913 Chaminade was the first female composer to be awarded the Legion d'Honneur, the highest decoration that can be awarded in France.

The story behind the *Concertino* is that Chaminade was in love with a flautist, but he was not in love with her. To her great despair he became engaged to another woman. On the day of the wedding, Chaminade presented him with the score to *Concertino*, her composition to symbolize the outpouring of her love for him through music. Unfortunately for Chaminade, he remained firm in his actions and continued his marriage to the other woman. Despite this story's sorrowful ending, the *Concertino* is a rhapsodic and romantic work that features two main themes and many melodic episodes for solo flute and band accompaniment, and is considered a standard repertoire piece in the flute community.

Stephanie Melinyshyn, a senior at Illinois State University, began her flute studies at the age of ten with Mrs. Cindy Severino and Mrs. Nanci Karlin. She currently studies with Dr. Kimberly Risinger. Stephanie plays in the Illinois State University Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, and Chamber groups. Recently, she has won the Illinois State Orchestra Concerto Aria Competition, the Illinois State University Band Concerto Competition, the South Carolina Flute Society Piccolo Competition, and has been a participant in the Mid-South Flute Society Orchestral Excerpt Masterclass. Stephanie is also the honorable recipient of the 2009-2010 Charles Bolen Music Scholarship, as well as the School of Music Bone Scholar Nominee, for the 2010-2011 school year.

Carl Schimmel, originally from Rhode Island, has composed several works in the past 14 years for different assortments of instrumentation, including solo instruments, various chamber ensembles, and works for both wind ensemble and orchestra. When he was younger, Schimmel held a fascination with writing short stories, and this creativity was transferred into musical ideas when he began piano lessons at the age of nine or ten. Schimmel

now holds a doctoral degree from Duke and a master's from Yale, both in composition. He is also the current Assistant Professor of Music Theory here at Illinois State University.

The Blatherskite's Comeuppance: a Melodrama in Three Episodes, written in 2004, is a cartoonish depiction of two vastly different personae interacting with each other. The word "blatherskite" is of Scottish origin, and is used to describe someone who is overbearing or obnoxious. Likewise, a "mooncalf" is one who is naive and a simpleton. The story of these two characters and their interaction with each other is essentially told through the titles of each of the three movements. To realize this melodrama, the wind ensemble utilizes several unusual techniques and instruments, all to create an exaggerated and cartoonish environment.

Arturo Rodríguez has established himself as a composer of primarily symphonic music and is a frequent guest conductor with orchestras around the world. Born in Monterrey, México, Rodríguez has written works commissioned by numerous institutions from a large variety of countries. His works have recently been performed in Prague, Vienna, and his music has been heard in theaters including Carnegie Hall, the Meyerson Symphony Center, and Benaroya Hall. Arturo Rodríguez lives now in the city of Boston, where he produces music for film and the concert hall.

Elegy & Rondo was written in memory of the life and work of Bill Kellerman, a young conductor, euphonium and violoncello soloist, and dedicated educator who passed away in July 2007. The piece was commissioned by a consortium of twenty concert bands, including the ISU Wind Symphony, and by the initiative of Andrew Gekoskie and the Langley Wind Symphony. The concept was to create a work of celebration, rather than of mourning, for the passing of a loved one. Because the violoncello was one of Bill's instruments, it was selected to become the main voice of the music. The first part of this work is an *elegy*, which gives us some time to think and meditate about the loss of a loved one. The *rondo* is a movement full of energy which intends to mirror the

energy and happiness that this person inspired in many people, and ends on a high note in recognition of a true role model. This performance with the ISU Wind Symphony marks the Illinois premier of *Elegy & Rondo*.

Dr. Adriana La Rosa Ransom is Assistant Professor of Cello and Director of String Project at Illinois State University. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Missouri where she studied with Nina Gordon. She earned Master and Doctorate degrees from the University of Minnesota where she studied cello with Tanya Remenikova and chamber music with Jorja Fleezanis and Lydia Artymiw. As a soloist, Ms. La Rosa Ransom is the recipient of numerous awards, including winning top prizes at the WAMSO Young Artist Competition, the Naftzger Young Artist Competition, the Schubert Club Young Artist Competition, and the Thursday Musical Society Competition. She has appeared as a guest artist on notable solo and chamber music recital series, including the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series in Chicago. She has performed with many professional orchestras and ensembles, including the Minnesota Opera Orchestra, the Kansas City Symphony, the Minnesota Orchestra, the European Musical Festival Orchestra, and New Ear Contemporary Ensemble. Ms. La Rosa Ransom has served on the faculty at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Cloud State University, and the MacPhail Center for Music in Minneapolis, and continues to teach at the Illinois Wesleyan University Cello Camp.

Claude T. Smith received musical training from Central Methodist College in Missouri and from the University of Kansas. His works include over 110 band works, as well as music for orchestra and choir. He received many prestigious commissions for works for military bands, including the “President’s Own” US Marine Band, the US Air Force Band, the US Navy Band, and the Army Field Band. Smith was an active clinician throughout North America, Australia, and Europe, and was a member of MENC, NBA, ABA, and the Missouri Music Educators Association.

Festival Variations was commissioned by the USAF Band, during which time CMSgt. Johnny Woody was playing principal horn.

Claude T. Smith, also a horn player, had previously been college roommates with Woody at the University of Kansas, but could never quite match up to the abilities Woody possessed. When the USAF band commissioned *Festival Variations*, Smith seemingly found an outlet for his revenge, essentially creating a musical work for horns with band accompaniment.

Program notes by Alex Teater, senior music education major

Scholarship Awards

Mary Jo Brown Scholarship
Mary Jo Brown Scholarship
Charles Bolz Scholarship
Mary Jo Brown Scholarship
Mary Jo Brown Scholarship
Mary Jo Brown Scholarship
Presser Scholar
MTN STAR

Dr. Amy Gilreath
Dr. Amy Gilreath
Dr. David Gresham
Mr. Andrew Rummel
Mr. Andrew Rummel
Dr. Joe Neisler
Dr. Stephen Parsons
Dr. Joe Neisler

Wind Symphony Personnel

Piccolo, Flute and alto Flute

Stephanie Abderhalden, *Naperville*
Nayoon Choi, *Republic of Korea*
Raylene Lowe, *Normal*
Stephanie Melinyshyn, *Wheeling*
Sierra Norris, *Tucson, AZ*

Oboe

Lindsey Merz, *Columbus, OH*
Christina Elder, *McHenry*
Eileen Pereira, *Buffalo Grove*

English Horn

Eileen Pereira, *Buffalo Grove*

E-flat Clarinet

Andrea Steele, *Roselle*

Clarinet

Andrea Steele, *Roselle*
Mark Donahue, *Morton*
Lauren Willis, *Powder Springs, GA*
Kara Hale, *Joliet*
Lauren Themanson, *Aurora*

Bass Clarinet

Hannah Edlen, *Rockford*

Contrabass Clarinet

Lauren Themanson, *Aurora*
Brenda Dratnol, *Carol Stream*

Bassoon

Kay Schutte, *Bloomington*
Yazmin Torres, *Schaumburg*
Matt Kowalczyk, *West Dundee*

Contrabassoon

Matt Kowalczyk, *West Dundee*

Soprano and Alto Saxophone

Jodi Slagel, *Washington*
Matthew Muneses, *Decatur*

Tenor Saxophone

Alex Teater, *Byron*

Baritone Saxophone

Bret Thole, *Breese*

Horn

Elizabeth Jones, *Marshfield, MA*
Christine Hansen, *Monroe, WI*
Nancy O'Neill, *Algonquin*
Josh Wagner, *Chicago Heights*
Megan Starrett, *Inwood, IA*
Allison Bellot, *Joliet*

Cornet and Trumpet

Andrew Gerbitz, *Batavia*
Kait Fieldman, *Tinley Park*
Greg Hensel, *West Aurora*
Rachel Epley, *Cedar Rapids, IA*
Erik Noska, *Lemont*

Trombone

Mathew Becker, *Chicago Heights*
Jennifer Moder, *Peoria*

Bass Trombone

Dominic Colonero, *Wheaton*

Euphonium

Patrick Geren, *Rocky Face, GA*
Melissa Primavera, *Las Cruces, NM*

Tuba

Jason Lindsey, *Bloomington*
Katie Zdanowski, *Morton*

String Bass

Michael White, *Flossmoor*

Piano

Lu Liu, *Harbin, China*

Percussion

Derek Boughey, *Longmont, CO*
Dan Bretz, *Crystal Lake*
Kyle Barshinger, *Galesburg*
Kyle Johnson, *Northbrook*
Timothy Daniels, *Joliet*

Additional percussionists:

Adrian Voelzke, *Bloomington*
(Schimmel and Smith)

Paula Tuttle, *Somonauk*
(Fuchs and Schimmel)