

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music
presents

Wind Symphony

Stephen P. Bolstad,
conductor

Amy Birdsong,
graduate conductor

Wednesday, December 6, 2023
8 pm
Concert Hall



There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Patrons are reminded to turn off all pagers, cell phones, personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

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Program

- Aspen Jubilee (1988) Ron Nelson
(b. 1929)
Meghan Willey, *soprano*
- My Lament (1994) Maria Schneider
(b. 1960)
Arr. Amy Birdsong
Owen Brown, *flugelhorn*
- Choro Dançado (2001) Maria Schneider
Arr. Amy Birdsong
Haven Kahn, *saxophone*
- Southern Harmony (1998) Donald Grantham
(b. 1947)
- I. The Midnight Cry
 - II. Wondrous Love
 - III. Exhilaration
 - IV. The Soldier's Return

Intermission

- In Memoriam (1989) David Maslanka
(1943-2017)
- Lincolnshire Posy (1937) Percy Grainger
(1882-1961)
1. "Libson"
 2. "Horkstow Grange"
 3. "Rufford Park Poachers"
 4. "The Brisk Young Sailor"
 5. "Lord Melbourne"
 6. "The Lost Lady Found"

Wind Symphony Personnel

Stephen P. Bolstad, *conductor*
Sarah Mason, *MM graduate assistant*

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Mihir Borah – Woodbridge
Megumi Kadarusman – Clifton
Ethan Linklater – Mechanicsville
#Joshua Lockhart – Lincoln Park, MI
*#Rebecca Needham – Palm Bay, FL

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Laura Huggins – Richmond
Cady Litteral – Sterling
*Will Slopnick – Norfolk

BASSOON

*David Kang – Chantilly
Michael Ross – Farmville

CLARINET

Jeanette Gilson – Chesapeake
Hunter LaFreniere – Williamsburg
#Sarah Mason – Grand Rapids, MN
*#Gregorio Paone – Bernalda, Italy
Grace Trembl – York, PA
Sophie Uy – Annandale
Leah White – Leesburg

BASS CLARINET

Ian Graff – Virginia Beach

ALTO SAXOPHONE

*Haven Kahn – Chesapeake
Tyrique Payne – Colonial Heights

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Thomas Allen – Stuarts Draft
Elise Donley – Carrollton

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Dylan Royal – Martinsville

PIANO

#Aleksandra Velgosha – Moscow, Russia
#Sarah Mason – Grand Rapids, MN

* denotes principal/co-principal
denotes graduate student

TRUMPET

*Owen Brown – Charlottesville
*Olivia Ellsworth – Richmond
Finn Marks – McLean
Jocelyn Moyer – Front Royal
#Peyton Phaller – Zephyr Hills, FL
Micah Wingfield – Harrisonburg

HORN

*Ainsley Hanson – Stuarts Draft
*Michael Parlier – Forest
Jacob Taylor – South Riding
Justin Ulmer – Mount Salon

TROMBONE

CJ Brown – Spotsylvania
*# William Commins – McLean
Quin Robinson – Warrenton

BASS TROMBONE

Teague Jenkins – Hanover

EUPHONIUM

Jake Cuppernull – Herndon
*Cory Shumaker – Staunton

TUBA

*John Kelley – Falls Church
Jake Munn – Newport News

STRING BASS

Jacob Minks – Centerville

PERCUSSION

*Blaze Benavides – Alice, TX
Adelaide Hofmann – Lorton
*Brian McDermott – Brookings, SD
Olivia Miller – Proctor, WV
Kobe Noel – Manassas
Jonathan Ramirez – Manassas
Grayson Creekmore – Conover, NC
#Josh Sheppard – Powhatan

The James Madison University Wind Symphony uses a rotational seating system to emphasize the importance of each performer. Therefore, each section is listed in alphabetical order.

Program Notes

Aspen Jubilee

I was thinking of the stupendous beauty of the Rockies in general, of blinding sunlight of snow-covered peaks; of the frontier spirit of old Aspen with its brash, funny dynamism, and its corny ragtag Fourth of July parades and fireworks displays. I was also thinking about indescribably beautiful nights under star-filled skies (the middle section is titled *Nightsong*). There is only a passing nod to the Aspen which has now become a playground for the rich and famous. I spent thirteen of the most memorable summers of my life at the Aspen Music Festival. I was able to immerse myself in music, meet fascinating people, and recharge my batteries. Each year it became progressively more expensive and sophisticated, but I still associate it with wonderful music making.

-Program Note by Composer

Choro Dançado

Maria Schneider is a flourishing jazz arranger and leader of the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra. "Choro Dançado" is the first movement of a larger work entitled "Three Romances." The piece was commissioned by the University of Miami and was published in 2001. It is recorded on the album *Concert in the Garden*, and features three movements: "Choro Dançado," "Pas de Deux," and "Dança Ilusória." The chart and recording are both sourced by Schneider's collaborative crowdsourcing company, Artistshare. The version performed by the JMU Wind Symphony is the product of an arranging project completed by Amy Birdsong in partial fulfillment of her Doctor of Musical Arts Document, which aims to familiarize wind bands with the art of improvisation through the lens of Maria Schneider's jazz orchestration.

-Program Note by Amy Birdsong

My Lament

"My Lament" is the seventh track on the 1994 Grammy Nominated jazz album "Evanescence". While many charts on the album "Evanescence" accentuate Schneider's ability to write music that dances, "My Lament" clearly demonstrates her ability to write music that sings. The melody is rich, singable, memorable with clear flow and direction. While this composition uses less imaginative orchestration, its creative niche lies in its rich harmonies which gently guide melodies into atypical formal phrase structure. "My Lament" is an example of Schneider's goal of a sense of inevitability in her music, without being beholden to traditional structural expectations.

-Program Note by Amy Birdsong

Program Notes *continued*

Southern Harmony

In 1835, William "Singin' Billy" Walker's songbook *Southern Harmony* was first published. This remarkable collection contains, according to its title page, "a choice collection of tunes, hymns, psalms, odes and anthems; selected from the most eminent authors in the United States." In fact, few of the numbers in the book are identified as the work of a particular composer. Many are folk songs (provided with religious texts), others are traditional sacred tunes, while some are revival songs that were widely known and sung throughout the South. The book was immensely popular, selling an amazing 600,000 copies before the Civil War, and was commonly stocked "along with groceries and tobacco" in general stores across the American frontier. From 1884 until World War II, an annual all-day mass performance of selections from *Southern Harmony*, called the "Benton Big Singing", was held on the Benton, Kentucky, courthouse lawn. The event drew participants from Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Illinois.

In his use of several tunes from *Southern Harmony*, the composer has attempted to preserve the flavor of the original vocal works in a setting that fully realizes the potential of the wind ensemble and the individual character of each song.

- Program Note by composer

In Memorium

On March 5, 1988, Susan Eck Lichtenwalter passed away at the age of 44 following a thirteen-month illness. Shortly after her premature death, the students of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma at the University of Texas at Arlington approached her husband, Director of Bands Ray C. Lichtenwalter, expressing their desire to honor her memory by commissioning a major work for the UTA Wind Ensemble and the wind band repertoire. This work by David Maslanka is the result of the students' expression of love and caring.

A graduate of Westminster Choir College and a life-long participant in church music as an organist and choir director, Susan's life exemplified her unswerving Christian faith and her commitment to music as a vehicle for that expression. As a motif for this work, Mr. Maslanka chose one of her favorite hymn tunes, *Wernur den lieben Gott lasst walten* (If you but trust in God to guide you). The chorale prelude setting for organ by Johann Sebastian Bach was frequently used in Susan's musical programming. The opening declamatory statement of the hymn-tune by the brass and percussion, and then by the full ensemble, sets the stage for a work which dramatically captures the conflict and celebration of human life and emotion.

The main body of *In Memoriam* is a large fantasia interweaving variations on the hymn-tune with related thematic material. The quiet conclusion continues the variation process. It offers the listener a sense of peace and strength as expressed in the text of the 17th-century hymn:

If you but trust in God to guide you
And place your confidence in him,
You'll find him always there beside you,
To give you hope and strength within.
For those who trust God's changeless love
Build on the rock that will not move.

- *Program Note by Ray C. Lichtenwalter*

Lincolnshire Posy

This bunch of "musical wildflowers" (hence the title) is based on folksongs collected in Lincolnshire, England (one notated by Miss Lucy E. Broadwood; the other five noted by me, mainly in the years 1905-1906, and with the help of the phonograph), and the work is dedicated to the old folksingers who sang so sweetly to me. Indeed, each number is intended to be a kind of musical portrait of the singer who sang its underlying melody -- a musical portrait of the singer's personality no less than of his habits of song -- his regular or irregular wonts of rhythm, his preference for gaunt or ornately arabesqued delivery, his contrasts of legato and staccato, his tendency towards breadth or delicacy of tone.

-*Program Note by Composer*

Acknowledgements

The JMU Wind Symphony would like to congratulate the students listed below who are either student teaching next fall or graduating this May. Thank you for the wonderful musical contributions you have made to the JMU Band Program!

Ethan Linklater, *flute*

Laura Higgins, *oboe*

Hunter LaFreniere, *clarinet*

Gregorio Paone, *clarinet*

Michael Parlier, *horn*

Cory Shumaker, *euphonium*

Woodwind, Brass, & Percussion Faculty

Beth Chandler Cahill	Flute
Jeanette Zyko	Oboe
Sarunas Jankauskas	Clarinet
Sue Barber	Bassoon
David Pope	Saxophone
Chris Carrillo	Trumpet
Ian Zook	Horn
Andrew Lankford	Trombone
Kevin J. Stees	Euphonium/Tuba
Casey Cangelosi	Percussion
Aaron Trumbore	Percussion

Music Education Faculty

Dr. William Dabback	Professor
Dr. Lisa Maynard	Associate Professor
Amy Birdsong	Lecturer
Dr. Alice Hammel	Visiting Professor

JMU Band Program Personnel

Stephen P. Bolstad	Director of Bands
Scott D. Ridders	Director of Marching Royal Dukes/ Associate Director of Bands
Chris DeVona	Assistant Director of Marching Royal Dukes/ Assistant Director of Bands
Kirk Weaver	Administrative Assistant
Sarah Mason	Graduate Assistant
Josh Sheppard	Graduate Assistant

School of Music Staff

Dr. John Allemeier	Director, School of Music
Dr. Mary Jean Speare	Associate Director, School of Music
Dr. William Dabback	Director of Graduate Studies
Sarah Macomber	Operations Coordinator
Kimberly Velazquez	Executive Assistant
Brian Junttila	Administrative Assistant
Donna Wampler	Program Support Specialist