

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Department of Music and Theatre Arts presents

UNIVERSITY BAND

RANDAL DICKERSON, CONDUCTOR

ZAC TESSLING, STUDENT CONDUCTOR

NICK HANSBERRY, STUDENT CONDUCTOR



Tuesday, April 28, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Gantner Concert Hall

Haas Fine Arts Center

academics**AND**artistry

The Power of **AND**

Program

University Band

Randal Dickerson, Conductor

Visions of Flight

Robert Sheldon

As Summer Was Just Beginning

Larry Daehn

Fortress

Conducted by Zac Tessling

Frank Ticheli

Undertow

John Mackey

Mannin Veen

Conducted by Nick Hansberry

Haydn Wood

Sea Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Program Notes

Visions of Flight

This is a commanding work embodying the essence of freedom of flight. Its flourishing woodwind opening heralds a brilliant brass declaration, contrasted by the warm sonorities of a beautiful andante section. Interesting interplay of flight motives moves the ensemble to a dramatic conclusion.

Robert Sheldon is one of the most performed composers of wind band music today. A recipient of numerous awards from the American School Band Director's Association, Phi Beta Mu and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, his compositions embody a level of expression that resonates with ensembles and audiences alike. His music is performed around the world and appears on many international concert and contest lists. Mr. Sheldon regularly accepts commissions for new works, and produces numerous publications for concert band and orchestra each year.

As Summer Was Just Beginning

James Byron Dean (1931 - 1955) experienced the brightest and briefest movie career ever. In 16 months he made three movies: *East of Eden*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and *Giant*. Only the first had been released when he was killed in a car accident at age 24. His death on September 30, 1955, sparked an unparalleled outpouring of sorrow. A bronze bust of James Dean by artist Kenneth Kendall stands near Griffith Park Observatory in Los Angeles, California. There is a Greek inscription on the right shoulder which, when translated reads, "As Summer Was Just Beginning." This sentiment, from a painting by John La Farge, is a Greek epitaph concerning the death of a young person. I chose it as the title for this piece.

I loosely based the main melody (heard at the beginning and at measures 33 and 57) on an old British Isles folksong, "The Winter it is past, and the Summer's here at last." I chose it because Dean's Quaker heritage goes back to England, Ireland and Scotland, and because this simple bittersweet song about summer seemed appropriate for remembering James Dean. (Larry Daehn)

Fortress

Fortress is a tense and intense work based on the dissonant harmonic interval of the tritone. It was composed in 1988 and received its premiere performance by the Batawagama Youth Camp Band in Iron County, Michigan (Donald Schleicher, conductor) on June 25, 1988. It is dedicated to Robert Floyd and the L.V. Berkner High School Band, Richardson, Texas. Promotional recordings were performed by the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Symphony Band under the direction of Donald S. George. Frank Ticheli is currently Assistant Professor of Music at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

Undertow

This work is significantly different than much of Mackey's output in terms of technical difficulty, but many characteristic elements of his writing are nonetheless present, including biting semitone dissonance within a tonal context, frequent use of mixed meter, heavy percussion effects and, perhaps most importantly to this work, a pervasive ostinato. The metric pattern for the piece is an alternation of 7/8 and 4/4 time, which provides an agitated "out-of-step" pulsation throughout. The energetic opening melody cycles through several repetitions before washing away into a gentle stream of percussive eighth notes. From here, a countermelody emerges that slowly ratchets the energy back up to its original level, where the initial melody returns to round out the explosive conclusion.

Mannin Veen

The title of this work translates to "Dear Isle of Man." It was on this British island, situated in the Irish Sea, that Haydn Wood spent most of his childhood. Using four Manx folk songs from this heritage, Wood paints an enchanting tone poem. Mannin Veen is a remarkable work that demonstrates many of the nationalistic characteristics of English composers of this period. The first theme, The Good Old Way, is an old and typical air written mostly in the Dorian mode to produce a somber feeling. A portion of the tune in the major key is attributed to Primitive Methodism introduced into the Isle of Mann about the time of Wood's birth in 1882. The second tune, introducing the lively section of the work, is based on the reel The Manx Fiddler. Chaloner, writing in the middle of the seventeenth century, remarked that the Manx people were "much addicted to the music of the violyne, so that there is scarce a family in the Island,

but more or less can play upon it; but as they are ill composers, so are they bad players." Sweet Water in the Common, the third tune, relates to the old practice of summoning a jury of twenty-four men, comprised of three men from each of the parishes in the district where the dispute took place, to decide questions connected with watercourses, boundaries, etc. The fourth and last tune is a fine old hymn, The Harvest of the Sea, sung by the fishermen as a song of thanksgiving after their safe return from the fishing grounds.

Sea Songs

Written for British military band in 1924, *Sea Songs* is a single-movement composition based on three English sailing songs. The first of these, *Princess Royal*, briskly begins the work. The melody is delightful, with a lightly played eighth-note accompaniment propelling this section effortlessly onward. The second melody, *Admiral Benbow*, also referred to as *The Brother Tar's Song*, is bold in nature, continuing the allegro tempo of the opening. The melody of the final ballad, *Portsmouth*, is written in an expressive and flowing cantabile style. A quick repeat of the first two songs brings the work to its conclusion.

University Band Personnel

FLUTE

Claire Arneson
Emily Bartels
Cheyenne Bilderback
Hailey Brost
Eva Buchmayer
Alicia Cichon
Kimberly Davis
Shantel Dehnke
Laura Delestry
Sarah Doroff
Catherine Edgington
Rachel Farnham
Nikki Hanto
Ada Hunag
Taylor Isberner
Alison Kidd
Larkin Klaus
Alyssa Kompelien
Pa Dra Lee
Laina MacDonald
Chris Marsyla
Laura Jo Runkel
Monica Shear
Claire Solkowski
Kylie Stai
Samantha Taleff
Amaris Vesely

OBOE

Cathy Karlovich
Evan Moore

BASSOON

John Asmus

CLARINET

Amanda Bell
Ellen Bialka
Anna Brickheimer
Spencer Erdman
Tristan Devick
Haley Reichardt
Brady Scafe
Abby Seymour
Rachel Vircks
Samantha Zimmerman

BASS CLARINET

Katy Wakeling

ALTO SAX

Alyssa Anderson
Jason Dahlberg
Carissa Franzmeier
Katelyn Haupt
Rachel Hlas
Christine Lasee
Ted Marris
Charlotte Stemwedel
Katy Toycen

TENOR SAX

Katelyn Bruels
Justin Wilcox
Sophie Zilles

BARI SAX

Ryan Burr
Trent Spatenka

TRUMPET

John Allwardt
Terry Anderson
Jack Bertelsen
Anna Gay
Ian Godin
Janay Gunerman
Emily Heidelberger
John Heintz
Peter Hienz
Jesse Kozak
Nikki Long
Jacob Noren
Andy Perkins
Nate Pronschinske
Parker Reed
Paul Soulier
Morgan Steinke
Spencer Webb

HORN

William Baillargeon
Nick Franciosi
Amy Greathead
Amanda Halek
Jasmine Hanson
Kelton Heinemann
Sarah Faste
Quinn Reinhard
Emily Watkins

TROMBONE

Kaylee Biba
Nathan Dougherty
Connor Feltman
Matt Friederichs
Michelle Gervais
Hannah Herzfeld
Payton Hoff
Jessica Keeler
Rachel Lavender
Anika Reinighaus
Alec Thicke
Kevin Trushenski
Adam Wysocki
Maggie Zeidel

EUPHONIUM

Shalaine Buehl
Isaiah Silva

TUBA

Andy Johnson
Sean O'Connell
Adam Sink
Cody Smith
Andy Vogel

PERCUSSION

Nathan Baughman
Scottie Krueger
Maile Olson
Briana Theiste
Jordan Veloso
Elias Webb

Randal Dickerson, conductor

Dr. Randal C. Dickerson is Associate Professor of Music at UW-Eau Claire, where he teaches instrumental music education methods, marching band procedures, supervises student teachers, and directs the University Band and Blugold Marching Band. Before coming to UWEC Dr. Dickerson was Asst Dean for Academic Affairs and Asst Professor of Music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During his seven years as a high school band director in Mississippi and Washington state his ensembles were consistently rated superior and amassed awards from many festivals in the US and Canada. He holds the Doctor of Education in Music (EdD) degree from the University of Illinois and both M.M.E. and B.M.E. from the University of Southern Mississippi. A prolific arranger of marching band music Dickerson also maintains a busy travel schedule of festival adjudication in the US, the Caribbean, and Europe. Since 2010 he has guest conducted and/or provided workshops for more than 50 bands and choirs outside the US.

Nick Hansberry is a senior instrumental music education student from Alexandria, MN. His primary instructors are Dr. Jerry Young, tuba, and Dr. John R. Stewart and Dr. Randal Dickerson, conducting. Upon graduation, Nick plans to return to Minnesota to teach high school and would like to pursue advanced degrees in music education and conducting.

Zac Tessling is a senior instrumental music education major from Apple Valley, Minnesota. He graduated from Rosemount High School and is a tuba player who studied in the studio of Dr. Jerry Young. While on campus Zac performed with the Symphony Band, Wind Symphony, Blugold Marching Band, Symphony Orchestra, the Tuba Euphonium ensemble BASSically Brass. He is also a member of the Singing Statesmen. Zac will student teach in Fall 2015, after which he plans to teach in Minnesota then pursue graduate study for a Master's degree in conducting.

UW-Eau Claire Music & Theatre Arts website:

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