

SOLANO WINDS - DECEMBER 2015 - WE CELEBRATE!

## PROGRAM NOTES

### Finlandia

The eminent Finnish composer Jean Sibelius was born at Tavastehus, Finland. The world celebrates his 150<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 8 of this year. In the autumn of 1899, Sibelius composed the music for a series of tableaux illustrating episodes in Finland's past. The music culminated in a stirring, patriotic finale, "Finland Awakes." This music soon came to be in great demand as a separate concert piece and Sibelius revised it in 1900, giving it the title "Finlandia". It became a symbol of Finnish nationalism. After the Russian aggression against Finland in 1939 (the Winter War) the Finnish poet V.A. Koskenniemi supplied a text for the hymn, one that has been used ever since.

### For All the Wyle Eternal

This work was commissioned by the Georgia Music Educators Association, District II, in memory of Mr. Gene Wyles.

Gene Wyles devoted his life to helping, teaching, and guiding young people. In 2005, he was inducted into the Georgia Band Directors Hall of Fame. He was a past president of the Georgia Chapter of Phi Beta Mu honorary music fraternity and a past State Instrumental Chairman with the Georgia Music Educators. He was frequently requested as a guest clinician and conductor for band clinics and festivals throughout the Southeast.

"For all the Wyle Eternal" was originally entitled simply, "...for Gene." The main reason for this original approach with the title is that the main melodic motif for this piece is based on the pitches G, E, N (either an upper or lower neighboring tone) and E. This is combined with quotes from "Eternal Father, Strong to Save", which was not only Gene's favorite hymn, but references his time serving in the United States Navy.

## Agnus Dei – In Memoriam

The final two weeks of my mother's life was filled with love, friendships and reunion. But most of all PEACE. My mother was able to see and hear how much she was loved and adored by many. Former students from as far as 30 years ago, childhood friends and grandnieces showered my mother with love and fond memories. Tears and laughter filled the air as many shared my mothers' last few moments with her.

On September 8, 2015, I asked my mother one last question: "Who loves you?" Barely audible, she tells me..."You do, but I love you more."

~Melvin Brito

### Peace - Henry Dyke

Here is Sweet music, melting every chain  
Of lassitude and pain:  
And here, at last, is sleep, the gift of gifts,  
The tender nurse, who lifts  
The soul grown weary of the waking world,  
And lays it, with its thoughts all furled,  
Its fears forgotten, and its passions still,  
On the deep bosom of the Eternal Will.

## Sinatra!

We celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 12 of “the greatest singer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century”, Frank Sinatra. After starting his musical career with Tommy Dorsey and Harry James in his early twenties, Sinatra went on a solo career on stage, TV, film, and the recording studio. He spent many years on the stages of Las Vegas as the most prominent member of the “Rat Pack”. Sinatra won an Academy Award for his role in “From Here to Eternity”, and was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, and eleven Grammy Awards, including the Grammy Trustees Award, the Grammy Legend Award and the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Tonight’s selection is a medley of four Sinatra hits: “Come Fly With Me”, “Witchcraft”, “That’s Life”, and “Fly Me to the Moon”.

## Minor Alterations No. 2 – Carols from the Dark Side

In this sequel to the hugely popular “Minor Alterations: Christmas Through the Looking Glass”, David Lovrien takes a new set of familiar holiday melodies and twists them, distorts them, transposes them from major to minor and finally sets them in the styles of famous minor-keyed orchestral pieces. You will never be the same after hearing “O Holy Night” set against “Ride of the Valkyries”. It’s like a Christmas stocking full of very dark chocolate!

David Lovrien has been a member of the saxophone section of Dallas Wind Symphony since 1991, performing on nearly all their recordings and appearing several times as featured soloist. He is also a founding member of the renowned Texas Saxophone Quartet, the first saxophone ensemble to win the prestigious Fischhoff Competition in 1988. His compositions and arrangements have been performed throughout the world, and his website celebrating the life and work of John Philip Sousa is recognized as one of the best Sousa authorities on the Internet.

*NOTE TO DESIGNER: The remaining four pieces are all by Julie Giroux. Perhaps we can preface those notes with a short biography of the composer, then resume the typical selection-driven notes?*

### Julie Giroux: Composer/Arranger

The last four selections on tonight’s program are all composed or arranged by Julie Giroux.

Julie Ann Giroux was born in 1961 in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and Monroe, Louisiana. She received her formal education at Louisiana State University and Boston University. She studied composition with John Williams, Bill Conti and Jerry Goldsmith. She performs on piano and horn, and published her first composition at the age of nine.

Julie has been writing music for concert band since 1983 and began composing, orchestrating, and conducting music for television and films in 1985. Her arrangements and compositions have earned several Emmy nominations. When she won her first Emmy Award, she was the first woman and the youngest person ever to win the award in that category. She has arranged for Celine Dion, Paula Abdul, Dudley Moore, Liza Minnelli, Madonna, Reba McEntire, Little Richard, Billy Crystal, Michael Jackson, and many others.

### Jingle Them Bells

This rendition of Pierpont’s well-known “Jingle Bells” takes the listener through a number of styles with high energy and lots of color. A simple melody, it lends itself to creative ideas in presentation. This setting is in fact a kind of wild ride for the performer and the audience.

### Merrily on High

“Ding Dong Merrily on High” first appeared in print as a dance in a book written by Jehan Tabourot. The lyrics are from the English composer George Ratcliffe Woodward which he published in his book “The Cambridge Carol-Book: Being Fifty-two Songs for Christmas, Easter, and Other Seasons.” Giroux’s light hearted and joyful treatment presents several

showcases for a variety of instrumental combinations.

#### Christmas with Mozart

This light-hearted arrangement is a blend of Mozart, a little Beethoven, and a lot of Christmas music. It essentially answers the question, “What would these carols sound like if Mozart arranged them for band?”. It assumes that Mozart was in a bit of a silly mood when he undertook the project.

#### Christmas and Sousa Forever!

John Philip Sousa gave us our national march, “The Stars and Stripes Forever”. The composition has been an ongoing gift to the nation. Giroux reimagines the famous march, with even more explicit gift-giving contained within.