



PROGRAM NOTES – MARCH 2024

AWE: The New Science of Everyday Awe and How It Can Transform Your Life

Afterlife



Born in Buffalo, New York, Rossano Galante earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Trumpet Performance from the State University of New York, Buffalo, in 1992. He then studied film scoring with Jerry Goldsmith at the University of Southern California. (Among other works, Goldsmith composed the score for the Disney attraction, “Soarin’ over California,” which has elements remarkably similar to tonight’s work by Galante.) Galante has provided scoring for over 75 studio films and has completed numerous commissions for Wind Ensemble, with over 53 published works.

This piece was commissioned by and dedicated to the West Genesee High School Wind Ensemble, Camillus, New York, in memory of Lawrence Pius Swist (1952-2013).

The composer writes:

“Since the beginning of time, man has pondered what happens when our physical body dies. Some believe we go to Heaven. Others doubt its existence entirely. Then there are those who have had near-death experiences and live to tell their stories. For me, I have always hoped that when we pass it will be a very peaceful experience. It is this belief that has inspired me to compose *Afterlife*. This composition starts delicately as peacefulness returns to the soul. It intensifies as we approach our new consciousness, constantly modulating between the two as we gain knowledge of our new surroundings. Could this be the paradise known as Heaven? Perhaps. I will let the listeners decide for themselves.”

The Sacred Pools of Hana

Composer Tim Rumsey has captured the spiritual nature of the Hawaiian indigenous people with “The Sacred Pools of Hana.” Inspired by the Seven Sacred Pools of Hana in Maui, the piece acknowledges the legend of the demigod Maui, who drew water from the pools to keep the local population fed.



PROGRAM NOTES – MARCH 2024

Theme from “Schindler’s List”



From an early age, Sherrill Honeychurch has been passionate about music. Although she was born in California, her love for playing the flute began in Oregon with the support of her 5th grade music teacher. After continued study through high school, adding alto saxophone and piccolo to her skills, Sherrill won first place in flute at the All-State Oregon Solo and Ensemble Competition (1984). She continued studying flute and piccolo at the university level, graduating from University of the Pacific’s Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Music Education, and was chosen to perform flute at the University of the Pacific Conservatory Commencement Concerto Competition Concert (1988).

Sherrill’s teaching profession embraces a variety of placements. Her career choices include being a private and public-school general music teacher, choir director, concert band/jazz band/marching band director, as well as a private flute and piano teacher. Additionally, Sherrill holds a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from California State Sacramento.

After many years of teaching music, Sherrill became a primary classroom teacher of 2nd grade, kindergarten, and is currently teaching 3rd grade students. Sherrill was selected as the “Teacher of the Year” at Scandia Elementary School in the Travis Unified School District (2016).

Her family shares her interest in music. Sherrill’s husband, Robert, is a music teacher/band director and also plays alto saxophone in Solano Winds. They have two daughters; Kelsey who is a vocalist and a 1st grade teacher and Megan who is a clarinetist and a UC Davis student, as well as a son-in-law David who is a trombonist with Solano Winds and also a music teacher/band director. In her free time, Sherrill likes to scrapbook family memories, cook and bake, complete puzzles, and read mystery novels.

In 2016, Sherrill joined the Solano Winds Community Concert Band playing flute and piccolo. She also serves on the Solano Winds board having held the position of Fundraiser Chair and currently is

the Music Librarian. She established and continues to lead the Solano Winds Flute Choir and also performs with the Solano Winds Woodwind Quintet.

The 1994 film "Schinder's List" won the Academy Award for Best Picture, and it also earned "Best Director" accolades for Steven Spielberg and Best Music for John Williams. The theme music was performed for the film by Itzhak Perlman on violin. Sherrill Honeychurch will be performing that violin solo on flute for tonight's rendition.

Oskar Schindler was responsible for saving 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust by his brave and selfless actions.



PROGRAM NOTES – MARCH 2024

Pictures at an Exhibition: The Hut on Fowl's Legs – The Great Gate of Kiev

Written as a tribute to his close friend, the architect Victor Hartmann, Moussorgsky's suite for piano describes ten of the drawings which most impressed him from among the some four hundred displayed in a memorial exhibition. Solano Winds presents the final two movements tonight.

- The Hut on Fowl's Legs (Baba-Yaga)
The drawing showed a clock in the shape of the legendary Russian witch, Baba Yaga. The music adds the witch's chase.
- The Great Gate of Kiev
An architectural design for a gate in Kiev in ancient massive Russian style, surmounted by a helmet-shaped cupola.

Of Sailors and Whales – The White Whale

This programmatic piece is based on five scenes from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*. It was commissioned by and is dedicated to the California Band Directors Association, Inc., and was premiered in February 1990 by the California All-State Band, conducted by the composer. The work is subdedicated to Robert Lanon White, Commander USN (Ret.), who went to sea as a simple sailor.

W. Francis McBeth, one of the preeminent composers in the field of music for wind band, provided this note for the final movement:

V. *The White Whale* - "Moby Dick seemed combinedly possessed by all the angels that fell from heaven. The birds! - the birds! They mark the spot."



PROGRAM NOTES – MARCH 2024

Yosemite Autumn



Mark Camphouse, a Chicago product and Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Radford University in Virginia since 1984, was on a two-week family vacation to Northern California in 2003. For the first ten days, traveling through wine country, Big Sur, Redwood and Lassen National Parks, and Lake Tahoe, he was able to put aside all professional responsibilities.

Then the family reached Yosemite.

Camphouse was inspired by the natural beauty and splendor, and was “hopelessly tempted to get the creative juices flowing”. Much of the rest of the vacation, he was absorbed in capturing musically the awe-inspiring sights and sounds of Yosemite.

Yosemite Autumn was commissioned by the Miami Coral Park High School Wind Orchestra, and is dedicated to the memory of Camphouse’s mother-in-law, Daphna Lodean Wilson, whose spirit, like Yosemite, will always seem to glow with life.

Melinda Ellis is a multi-hyphenate musician living and working in Solano County. She actively freelances with regional ensembles and is the Music Coordinator for the Vacaville Unified School District. Melinda plays viola and violin with the Napa Valley Chamber Orchestra, Golden Gate Symphony, Solano Symphony, and her string quartet- the Valley Quartet, and plays tenor sax with Solano Winds. She is also the resident conductor for Missouri Street Theater Company. The top of her head can be seen poking out of the pit at the Fairfield Downtown Theater, where she conducts 5 musicals a year. Two of Melinda's greatest joys are music and nature, so she is delighted to be conducting Yosemite Autumn in this awe-inspired performance and hopes that the music speaks to you as much as it does to her.

The film in tonight’s presentation is from Brian Gaukel Productions and is made available for concert bands through Ion Concert Media.



PROGRAM NOTES – MARCH 2024

The Planets: Venus, the Bringer of Peace

Clifford Bax introduced Gustav Holst to astrology while the two were on holiday together in 1913. Holst took a liking to the subject, and liked to cast his friends' horoscopes for fun. He used the book *What Is A Horoscope?* as a springboard for his own ideas, and for the subtitles (i.e., The Bringer of Jollity) for the movements of this piece.

The entire suite, composed in 1915, consists of seven movements, each representing a planet other than Earth. Pluto, of course, was only a planet from 1930 until 2006! When presented in its entirety, the movements are sequenced according to their distance from our own planet. Tonight, we present the second movement: "Venus, the Bringer of Peace."

Composer and programmer Stephen Malinowski has created over 350 YouTube videos using his "Music Animation Machine." They have been viewed over 140 million times and have been featured in live performances in venues like Carnegie Hall. His work is part of a permanent exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art. Malinowski's aim is to make the realm of classical music more broadly accessible to a wide audience.



PROGRAM NOTES – MARCH 2024

Overture 1812

Written for the dedication of the new cathedral in Moscow, "Overture 1812" reveals most clearly Tchaikovsky's deep love for his country. His earnest patriotism was awakened by his mighty subject and this great overture arouses the same enthusiasm as did its first performance. The work describes initially the battle of Bordino, the first in Napoleon's Russian campaign. Although a victory for the French, Napoleon's significant words, "If all my victories cost me as much, they would soon turn to defeat", were quickly realized in the loss at Moscow and the retreat of the French army.

The overture begins with an old Russian chant, "God Preserve Thy People", and later makes use of a lively Cossack battle hymn. An aggressive and warlike theme opens the main body of the overture, elaborately worked out with suggestions of the chant and the Cossack tune and the appearance of the Marsellaise motif. Amid the roar of artillery both the chant and the French anthem compete, with the Marsellaise seeming to gain ground until a sudden wave of sound sweeps all away, and in the finale the Russian National Hymn signals that the victory is for Russian arms along. The pealing of bells and booming of cannon announce the celebration of the triumph. "Overture 1812" is one of the most vividly realistic of all Tchaikovsky's masterpieces of tone painting.

Tonight's performance is assisted by the bell ringing of members of the Community United Methodist Church's Wesleyan Ringers, and by members of the Bell Choir at Paradise Valley Estates. Audience members also provide support through the creative destruction of sealed air bags, over 4000 of which were collected by Solano Winds members over a six month period.