



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS, NEW & OLDE

SOLANO WINDS
DECEMBER 2, 2022
PROGRAM NOTES

Christmas March

Edwin Franko Goldman was born into a musical family. His father was an amateur musician, his mother and excellent pianist, one uncle an internationally known conductor, and another uncle the concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera House Orchestra in New York. He received a scholarship at age fourteen to the National Conservatory of Music, then under the direction of Antonin Dvorák. By age 17, he was an accomplished cornetist, and by age 21 was playing first trumpet in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, conducted by various famous international conductors.

Goldman founded the New York Military Band in 1911. By 1922 it was known as the Goldman Band. They played a summer series in Central Park every year. In 1923, the opening concert drew 30,000 people. In 1924, he secured funding from the Guggenheim family for the entire season. Over the next 38 seasons, over 2,000 free Guggenheim Memorial concerts were financed for New York audiences by the Guggenheim family. In 1928, the band's twice-weekly NBC radio broadcasts reached 150 million listeners.

The band became one of the greatest in history, due to a roster of the finest wind and percussion players, loyal and talented arrangers, an extensive repertoire of original and transcribed music, and a solid financial base. The Goldman Band played 210 concerts at the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco in 1939.

Goldman published 106 marches, 37 cornet solos, two cornet trios, and various vocal songs and concert band works. Christmas March is a medley in march style of a number of familiar Christmas tunes, arranged by Goldman's longtime arranger, Mayhew Lake. The songs include Good King Wenceslas, Adeste Fidelis, Jingle Bells, It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, The First Noel, Deck the Halls, and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.

Panis Angelicus

César Franck, born December 10, 1822, was a deeply religious man. To Franck, music was an act of faith. He studied at the Paris Conservatory and was the organist in the Basilica of St. Clothilde in Paris. He composed Panis Angelicus (nation's prayer) in 1872 for tenor voice, organ, harp, cello, and double bass. This arrangement is from a prolific American composer in his own right, Alfred Reed. Reed was born in Manhattan in 1921 and is the composer of numerous works that are staples of the wind band literature.



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Finale from “Symphony No. 2”

Vasily Kalinnikov was a Russian composer born in 1866. He composed two symphonies, several other orchestral works, and numerous songs, all imbued with a sense of folksongs. He attended the Moscow Conservatory but could not afford the tuition fees, so went on scholarship to the Moscow Philharmonic Society School, studying bassoon and composition. When Kalinnikov was 26, Tchaikovsky recommended him for the position of main conductor at the Maly Theatre, and later that same year at the Moscow Italian Theatre. However, his tuberculosis was worsening and he had to resign all of his theatre positions. He moved to the warmer climate of Yalta, where most of his compositions were created. In Yalta, he was joined by two other composers who were tubercular patients: Anton Chekov and Maxim Gorky.

Kalinnikov’s first symphony is an inspired work, national in style. It is highly melodious and beautifully written and is generally considered to be the composer’s freshest and most popular work. The transcription of the vigorous finale was made by Glenn Cliffe Bainum. It seems clear that Kalinnikov would have held a place in the top tier of Russian composers had it not been for his early death, two days before his 35th birthday.

Ohne Sorgen

In 1869, Josef Strauss spent the summer with his brother Johann in Pavlovsk near St. Petersburg. When he recovered from an illness, he wrote a particularly fast-paced “polka schnell” and gave the work the title Ohne Sorgen (Without worries). The exuberantly cheerful composition gives no hint of the distress from which it originated. Josef Strauss wanted to be lively and intoxicatingly optimistic. The piece premiered on September 10, 1869, in Pavlovsk. Even the musicians in this polka had to laugh (ha, ha, ha, ha), as if the whole world was actually Ohne Sorgen.

Rudolph Ala Swing

Johnny Marks wrote such tunes as “Neglected” and “Chicken Today and Feathers Tomorrow,” but fortunately he found his calling writing contemporary Christmas carols. “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” was based on a poem written by his brother-in-law, Robert L. May, and has been enjoyed for over sixty years. Marks formed the company “St. Nicholas Music” and also composed “The Most Wonderful Day of the Year,” “Jingle, Jingle, Jingle,” “Silver and Gold,” “A Holly Jolly Christmas,” and “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree.”

Melvin Brito created this jazz version of Rudolph, with a Vince Guaraldi-like waltz and a straight-ahead jazz section.

Sleigh Ride Samba

Leroy Anderson believed that musical ideas came to his mind because he was constantly on the alert for them. Fiddle Faddle, for example, was composed after hearing Paganini’s Perpetual Motion. Memories of sleigh-ride sounds from his New England boyhood suggested the musical themes in this work. As in Typewriter and Sandpaper Ballet, sounds from the “real world” are used in Sleigh Ride. Those sounds are recreated in this jazz arrangement for flute choir by Calvin Custer.



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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 thirteen 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 Fischoff 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.

And the Mountains Echoed: Gloria!

This musical work is inspired by the Biblical narrative of the appearance of the angels to the shepherds in the field, telling them of the birth of Jesus and praising God saying “Gloria in excelsis Deo!”

The opening section is a brilliant fanfare in which trumpets and trombones are echoed by the horns and saxophones on the “Gloria” motif. In the second section, the French Christmas carol *Angels We Have Heard On High* is quoted, interspersed with fragments from the opening section. The opening material returns in a short fugue followed by a reprise of the carol, this time “con tutta forza”, over an ostinato taken from the opening fanfare. A brief restatement of the fanfare closes the piece with a flourish.

Toboggan

JaRod Hall (b. 1991) is a Texas-native educator, performer, and composer. He holds a bachelor’s degree in music education from the University of North Texas where he studied conducting with Nicholas Williams and Dennis Fisher.

A toboggan is a long narrow sled used to slide downhill over snow or ice. The music tells the tale of an epic race down the biggest hill in the neighborhood. As the day begins, the first few snowflakes begin to fall, depicted by the solo bells that start the piece. As the flurries continue to fall, the snow builds, and the tempo picks up, kids begin pouring out of their homes to prepare for the race. While outside, they witness several snowball fights emerge around the neighborhood. The race begins atop a snow covered hill as the children speed toward the finish line. French horns pave the way through the middle section by illustrating the gorgeous landscape as the racers smoothly slide through the soft snow – a beautiful clear sky on the horizon. As the finish line pops into view, the racers frantically fly through the course, dodging stray snowballs overhead in an exciting finish.



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MELVIN BRITO



Melvin Brito was introduced to music at the age of 11. Barely speaking English, music in some way became the language he understood the most. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and The Electric Light Orchestra paved the way to him wanting to be the best musician he could be. Travis Unified School District saw the emergence of Melvin's musical career as a saxophonist. As a Junior at Vanden High School, he represented Solano County at the 1991 California All State Honor Band; a feat most Seniors can barely attain let alone being a Junior. From there, Melvin was privileged to have been under many great musical directors such as Captain Chevallard of the US Air Force Band, Tim Smith of CSU East Bay, and Robert Halseth of CSU Sacramento. Having turned down a scholarship from UOP Stockton, University of Redlands and CSU East Bay, Melvin traveled to Boston and received his B.M. in Film Music from Berklee College of Music. He continued his passion for music by performing with local groups such as the salsa group SAPO GUAPO, Jason Cale Band, Kafe Riko, Alive Music Orchestra and Solano Winds. The many years of playing the saxophone, piano and drums eventually developed into Carpal Tunnel and re-structured his musical skills from performance to composition.

Bill Doherty and the Solano Winds paved the way for Melvin's musical compositions. His first wind ensemble work "Untold Stories" premiered in 2014 with positive reviews. Several other premieres later along with his first large work, "Catharsis" a Symphony for Band, Melvin decided to publish his work with J.W Pepper and is enjoying the success it has garnered. Melvin is thankful to Bill Doherty and the members of Solano Winds for their continued support of local composers and mission of keeping music alive.



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MELINDA ELLIS



Melinda Ellis is an active music educator, conductor, multi-instrumentalist, and freelancer in Solano County. She is the Orchestra Director at Vacaville High School and Jepson Middle School, the resident conductor for the Missouri Street Theater and Board President for the Solano Symphony Orchestra. She also sits as the Principal Violist for the Solano Symphony and freelances with other bay area orchestras including the Golden Gate Symphony, Napa Valley Chamber Orchestra, Mill Valley Philharmonic, and the Vallejo Symphony. Melinda plays tenor sax, and sometimes percussion, in Solano Winds and is thrilled to be conducting Minor Alterations, many thanks to Bill for the opportunity!



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GLEN LIENHART



Glen Lienhart has lived in and around the San Francisco Bay Area almost his entire life. He graduated from Tracy High School in 1980. While in High School, he spent two summers at the University of the Pacific Summer Music Camp, two years on tuba in the California State Honor Band, and was in the State Honor Jazz Band for his Senior Year. As he will tell anyone, his selection for State Honor Jazz Band was a total fluke, but he could not turn down the opportunity.

He spent a year at University of Nevada at Reno, then spent the rest of his undergraduate time at California State University Hayward. He was able to march with the Sacramento Freelancers for two years, then worked for UPS loading airplanes to finish school. He received his teaching credential 1991. He started as a part-time teacher's assistant in the Fall of 1988, and has taught music at all grade levels full and part time for 33 years.

Mr. Lienhart currently lives in Vallejo California, where he spends his time giving his friends unsolicited advice and tormenting his students in the West Contra Costa Unified School District with as many bad jokes and tortured puns as possible.