



Volume 9 Issue 1 October 2005

Conductor's Comments

By Dr. Karen Fannin

Fall Concert

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005

Second

Presbyterian Church

7:30 PM



It is a pleasure to work with the Little Rock Wind Symphony as we prepare our October concert. We are collaborating on an exciting program - "Celebrations in Storytelling." A play on words, this program is built around pieces that tell a story interspersed between works of a celebratory nature. Having lived in Arkansas for only a few months, it has been fantastic to get to know so many fine people and make music on a deep level!

Great stories were preserved by Percy Grainger in his recordings of folk singers in the English countryside. The folksongs in *Lincolnshire Posy* tell the stories of a sailor leaving his love behind to go to sea; a disagreement among neighbors culminating in a murder; a fight between animal keepers and poachers; a sailor reuniting with his love after seven years; an inebriated war veteran; and a lost girl who is finally found after a long search. Grainger's setting for winds colorfully illustrates the moods and characters of these folk songs. *O Magnum Mysterium* by Morton Lauridsen conveys the wonder of the birth of Jesus Christ. H. Robert Reynolds transcribed the beautiful choral setting of this work for winds. In *Old American Songs*, Aaron Copland set twelve tunes to which he felt closely connected; we will be performing six of these songs. Representing sacred and secular components of American history, these include simple, pure songs such as "Simple Gifts" and "I Bought Me a Cat," as well as deeper, religious songs such as "Zion's Walls" and "At the River." The light-hearted "Ching-a-Ring Chaw" originates from a vigorous, but dark, early 19th century minstrel repertory, and "The Dodger" makes light of the deception sometimes found in society's characters. Timothy Tucker, assistant professor of voice and music history

at Philander Smith College and an adjunct instructor of voice at Hendrix College, will be singing these songs by Aaron Copland with the Wind Symphony.

The program includes three short works by Russian composers. Despite their brevity, they convey both the great suffering and joy the Russian people must have felt in the first half of the 20th century. One of the composers, Sergei Prokofiev, spent several years in exile in the United States and Europe before returning to his native Russia in 1936. He attributed his return to Russia to his intense feelings of homesickness and patriotism. *March*, op. 99, written during the latter stages of World War II, was intended as an expression of patriotic feelings in favor with the U.S.S.R. Our program concludes with a set by Dmitri Shostakovich. The first piece, *Prelude*, op. 34, no. 14, was originally part of the *Twenty-four Preludes* for piano written in 1932-33. Shostakovich wrote this work relatively early in his career, prior to Stalin's all-encompassing censorship. This *Prelude* in E-flat minor is only 36 measures long, but full of darkness and terror. *Folk Dances* starkly contrasts the *Prelude*; written in 1942, this work consists of native Russian dance tunes strung together. Although this piece was written while his hometown was under siege, this work reflects none of the darkness he must have felt; instead these dances celebrate the people of Leningrad. This piece originated from the third movement of a suite for orchestra entitled *Native Leningrad*, op. 63. M. Vakhutinskii arranged this suite for Russian bands, and later H. Robert Reynolds scored it for American bands.

Another celebratory piece on the program is Frank Ticheli's *Blue Shades*. This piece is heavily influenced by the blues, although it does not contain any 12-bar blues progressions. Clichés from the Big Band era, "blue notes," music reminiscent of a dark and smoky blues club, and a Benny Goodman-esque clarinet solo portray many "shades of blue" in this work.

Every piece on the program celebrates the human condition. Covering a countless range of emotions from joy, elation, terror, and anger, this concert will carry you on an exciting journey across the 20th and 21st centuries.

"Support for the Little Rock Wind Symphony, Inc. is provided, in part, by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the National Endowment for the Arts"

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NEW BEGINNINGS

Lots of good things are happening as we enter the new season. We were selected to receive the AAC Expansion Arts grant from the governor, and now have an Executive Director, Robbie Ingle, who is helping us expand our horizons through this grant. They recognized a musical form worth supporting in our organization. Our audiences have spoken loudly that they like to hear us, and we want as many Arkansans to share our love with wind band music as possible.

Since Wendell retired in July we are auditioning different conductors. That's a switch, isn't it? Our first candidate, Dr. Karen Fannin from Hendrix College, is a delight. Her conducting style requires from us exact responses. She is very intense and one with the music. She really knows how to connect with players. Rather than saying someone is out of tune, she says she wants us to listen again to the chord structure. Rather than saying to play softer, she suggests we listen to a solo line and support it. Her smile is contagious and when we do something right she lets us know. She has inspired me to exercise more of the "p" word – practice!

The Board is organizing and growing to meet the need to plan, market and pay the expenses of our performances. Mrs. Janet Harney, our Arkansas Arts Council facilitator, is training us to prepare for success. We are also exploring joint marketing with sister organizations in the area and aggressively seeking corporate support.

There are some things you can do to help us, too. First, attend our performances and be an ambassador for us; second, please give generously as we want to continue free attendance; third, please accept our invitation to serve on a committee or the Board when a Board member asks you so that our leadership will be more diverse and deep.

Thanks to all the current and past Board members who serve so unselfishly, the players who perform only for the love of this art and our audiences who feed the fire of our commitment to military band traditions. And, thanks again, Wendell, for leading us in the right direction.

Jack Blackshear, MD
LRWS President



**THE FALL CONCERT WILL BE
DEDICATED TO LUCY CABE,
IN LOVING MEMORY OF.**

MCQUADE ELECTED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The Little Rock Wind Symphony welcomes newest board member, Robert McQuade, who is a familiar face among music ensembles and audiences in the city. As well as being a faithful patron of the LRWS, he is as a member of the Arkansas Chamber Singers, River City Men's Chorus, and Second Presbyterian Church adult choir.

Mr. McQuade is a native of New York and a graduate of the State University of New York, where he received a BS in Business Administration with a minor in Computer Science. During the past 38 years, he held various technical and management positions in New York and Arkansas State governments, and recently retired as the Director of Administration for a large Arkansas state agency. He is a member of several national and state professional organizations and became the first Certified Public Manager in Arkansas State government.

Since retirement, Mr. McQuade volunteers his services to AARP as the State Liaison for Communications and as master of ceremonies for LifeQuest of Arkansas. He is past board member and treasurer of the Arkansas Chamber Singers and presently serves on the financial committee for the River City Men's Chorus. He is married to Joann, and they have two grown children and five grandchildren. To fill out his busy schedule, Mr. McQuade is a third semester piano student at UALR.

2005-2006 Season

Celebrations in Storytelling
Thursday, October 20, 2005, 7:30 pm
Second Presbyterian Church

Holiday Concert
Thursday, December 8, 2005, 7:30 pm
Second Presbyterian Church

Winter Concert
Thursday, February 23, 2006, 7:30 pm
Second Presbyterian Church

Spring Concert
Thursday, April 20, 2006, 7:30 pm
Second Presbyterian Church

Stars and Stripes Celebration
Sunday, June 11, 2006, 7 pm
MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History

**Admission to all concerts are free.
Donations are appreciated.**

Wendell Evanson Retires as Conductor of the LRWS

The LRWS Board announces that Mr. Wendell Evanson, the founding conductor of the LRWS, has retired as conductor at the end of our last season. The Board in its August meeting accepted this action. He has been with our organization since its inception 12 years ago and an inspiration to us all. Due to his leadership, the LRWS has developed into Arkansas' premier wind band, presenting challenging and enjoyable music an expanding audience throughout the state. We enter an exciting time of growth, as evidenced by winning an Expansion Arts Grant from the Arkansas Arts Council this summer. We thank the Governor and the Arts Council for extending us this boost.

A professional photo of the players and Mr. Evanson was taken at the ABDA concert in Hot Springs in early July. Later that month, it was framed and signed by all the players and presented to Mr. Evanson at a party given by Susan Morrow, our Board Treasurer, and her husband, Dr. Robert Morrow. Board members and players will remember him and honor him for his leadership. He continues to be a supporter and cheerleader for our organization. We all are grateful to him for his tireless commitment to musical excellence.

Jack Blackshear, MD, clarinet
President LRWS Board

Fall Concert

MARCH, OP. 99
Sergei Prokofiev / ed. Paul Yoder

○ MAGNUM MYSTERIUM
Morton Lauridsen / trans. H. Robert Reynolds

OLD AMERICAN SONGS
Aaron Copland

Timothy Tucker, baritone

BLUE SHADES
Frank Ticheli

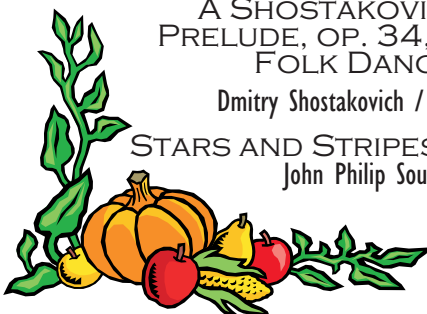
• INTERMISSION •

LINCOLNSHIRE POSY
Percy Grainger

A SHOSTAKOVICH SET
PRELUDE, OP. 34, NO. 14
FOLK DANCES

Dmitry Shostakovich / Reynolds

STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER
John Philip Sousa



LITTLE ROCK WIND SYMPHONY WELCOMES...



Karen Fannin is Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at Hendrix College, where she conducts the Wind Ensemble, coaches chamber music, and teaches low brass and Fundamentals of Music. Dr. Fannin holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting and Literature from the University of Colorado, where she studied with Allan McMurray. She received a Master of Music in Conducting

from Northwestern University, where she was a student of Mallory Thompson and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa, where she studied euphonium with Jeffrey Funderburk. While in residency at CU, Dr. Fannin was conductor of the Concert and Campus bands, taught conducting, and guest conducted the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Chamber Orchestra. She served in a similar capacity at Northwestern, also as a graduate assistant. Previously, Dr. Fannin held the position of Director of Bands at Lockport Township High School in suburban Chicago as well as in the Lynnville-Sully Community Schools in Iowa. Professional affiliations include Pi Kappa Lambda, College Band Directors National Association, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, Music Educators National Conference, Arkansas Bandmasters Association, Arkansas Music Educators Association, and the Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association. Dr. Fannin's research interests include tracing the lineage of Nadia Boulanger through wind repertoire as well as wind repertoire development.



Mr. Timothy R. Tucker, baritone, is assistant professor of voice and music history at Philander Smith College. He has been presented in recitals, operas, oratorios and concerts across the U.S.A., including New York's Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center, and in Hong Kong and

Macao. Recent performances have included the title role in *Rigoletto*, the baritone soloist in Faure's *Requiem*, and Jesus in Arvo Pärt's *Passio*.

As concert soloist, Mr. Tucker has performed over twenty orchestral and oratorio works including Mozart's *Requiem Mass*, *Coronation Mass*, *Solemn Vespers*, and *Grand Mass in c minor*. He has appeared with the Fort Worth Wind Symphony, Amarillo Symphony, Orchestra of New Spain, Irving Symphony, as well as many notable choral groups in the southwest region.

Mr. Tucker has performed with the opera companies of Amarillo, Austin, Dallas, San Francisco, Santa Fe and Shreveport as well as Deep Ellum Opera, Western Opera Theatre, and Wildwood Opera. He won the National Opera Association award, was a regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Guild National Council auditions, and was a national semi-finalist in the Macallister Awards competition.

Mr. Tucker received a bachelor of music and a master of music in vocal performance from the University of North Texas.

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Statement of Purpose

The Little Rock Wind Symphony is an independent, non-profit musical ensemble which recognizes the diverse heritage of the windband in traditional and contemporary idioms. The group is dedicated to the performance of wind music, including a variety of compositions for windband and transcriptions, which will challenge its players, inspire its audiences, and affirm the windband as a classical artistic medium.



FALL CONCERT
 OCTOBER 20TH
 SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH
 7:30 PM



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