



2005-2006 Season

Admission \$10 suggested donation

Celebrations in Storytelling

Karen Fanin, guest conductor
Timothy Tucker, baritone
Thursday, October 20, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

A Christmas Celebration

Claude Smith, guest conductor
Ken Futterer, oboe
Thursday, December 8, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
sponsored by Bill & Margaret Clark

This Calls for a Celebration!

J. Warren Casey, guest conductor
Scott Carrell, piano
Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Let's Celebrate Springtime

Russell Langston, guest conductor
Matthew Cunningham, trumpet
Thursday, Apr. 20, 2006, 7:30 p.m.
sponsored by Gertrude Rimmel Butler

Stars and Stripes Celebration

Sunday, June 11, 2006, 7 p.m.
MacArthur Park, Little Rock

Board of Directors

- Dr. Jack Blackshear, President
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Susan Morrow, Treasurer
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William Woolly, Properties Manager
Joe L. Riddle, Newsletter Editor

Let's Celebrate Springtime!

Russell Langston, guest conductor
Matthew Cunningham, trumpet

7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20

Ahh...spring is finally here! The sap is rising, the sun is shining in clear skies and the LRWS blows in with the warm weather.

- Gounod: La Reine de Saba
Rossini: Italian in Algiers
Wagner: Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral
Smith: Eternal Father, Strong To Save
Bennett: Rose Variations
Goldsmith: The Wind and the Lion
Grundman: The Blue and The Gray



Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive at Cantrell Road, Little Rock

An Artful Affair: Making A Difference Through The Arts

Join us for an evening of art and music, 6:30 Thursday, May 18, 301 Main Street, North Little Rock. Tickets are \$100. Tables are available from \$1000-\$5000. Music will be provided by LRWS. For more information, call (501) 666-0777.

LRWS appoints music director

The Little Rock Wind Symphony Board of Directors announces the appointment of Dr. Karen M. Fannin as Music Director.

Fannin was one of three final candidates auditioned by the LRWS during the past eight months, after the retirement of founding music director Wendell Evan-son in July. Each candidate led the symphony in one concert cycle. Dr. Fannin conducted the concert in October, including all re-



hearsals that began in September. Her style of conducting is new to the LRWS, and her musical expressions and interpretation won over the players as well as the audience. She will assume the podium in June.

Fannin recently joined the faculty of Hendrix College as assistant professor of music and Director of Bands. In that capacity, she conducts the Wind Ensemble, teaches conducting,

(Continued on page 3)

# Guest Conductor Russell Langston

Russell Langston will lead the symphony in the forthcoming concert April 20 as guest conductor. Langston is Director of Bands Emeritus at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, where he directed the UCA Wind Ensemble and the marching band. During his 16-year tenure at UCA the band made five appearances as Honor Band for the Arkansas Music Educators Association and the National Convention of the American School Band Directors Association, and represented Arkansas at the Southwest Division Conference of the College Band Directors National Association.



Russell Langston

Prior to his tenure at UCA Langston spent 15

years as band director at Conway High School, where his bands were consistent first-division winners in region and state contests.

In 1997 Langston was named to the "Arkansas Bandmasters' Hall of Fame" and in 1985 was selected Arkansas Bandmaster of the Year by the Arkansas Bandmasters' Association. He is past president of Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association and the Arkansas Bandmasters' Association, and past state chairman of the American School Band Directors Association. He is in demand as adjudicator, guest conductor and clinician across the United States.

Langston holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arkansas Tech University, a Master of Education degree from the University of Arkansas and has done additional study at Memphis State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. He is a graduate of Mountain Home High School.

## Wish List

Music library expansion \$100,000 ♪ E-flat contra-alto clarinet \$12,000  
E-flat soprano clarinet \$3,000 ♪ two flugelhorn \$3,000 ♪ two cymbal stands \$120

## Trumpeter presents *Rose Variations*

Matthew Cunningham, trumpet, will perform Robert Russell Bennett's *Rose Variations* with the LRWS at the April concert. He is a graduate assistant at Baylor University where he is pursuing his Master of Music in trumpet performance.



Matthew Cunningham

Cunningham has performed with the Conway Civic Orchestra, North Arkansas Symphony, Fort Smith Symphony and the Waco Symphony. He received the Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Arkansas. He was a three-time member of the Arkansas Intercollegiate Band.

He studied trumpet with Wiff Rudd, Dr. Neal Woolworth, Dr. Richard Rulli, and Frances Monday Thomas. As a beginning trumpeter he was taught by his father, Tim Cunningham, Director of Bands for the Conway School District.

He will be performing with guest conductor Russell Langston, who is his grandfather. This will be the first joint performance for the two.

## LRWS hires new Executive Director

The Little Rock Wind Symphony welcomes Cherylon B. Reid as executive director to its staff. Reid, a native Arkansan and graduate of the University of Arkansas, moved to Houston in 1975. She and her husband, Ray, VP and General Manager of Center-Point Energy, moved back to Arkansas in 2001. After 20 plus years in management positions in human resources (last 5 years as an Executive with Pennzoil-Quaker State), she made the decision to step out of corporate life and focus on volunteer efforts and pursue her love of painting.

Since moving back to Little Rock Reid has become very involved with a number of charitable organizations, such as, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Guild, Dress for Success and Women and Children First. The Little Rock Wind Symphony is a perfect fit for Reid, given her interest in music education in the schools and her focus on art.

Reid was Co-Chair of the Arkansas Symphony Designer House 2005, as Chair of Design. She is currently chairing Cabaret in May for Women and Children First.

# President's notes

by Dr. Jack Blackshear

Since this is my last newsletter article as the Board president, this is the time for me to look back to see what the team has accomplished.

The organization is poised for growth as you will see below. The Board has worked hard to develop a three-year strategic plan and accomplish goals set for the past year.

The LRWS is performing better than ever, getting rave reviews from our patrons. Programs have brought new compositions to the musical palette and we've continued to weave in some old favorites. We've had some wonderfully talented soloists. Our players and substitute pool are growing, thanks to Brenda Barber, the Principal trumpet, Personnel Director and Filler-in-the-Gap.

We have new Board members who are generous with their time and money. They bring different talents to assure our growth. Bob, Andy and Kelley are

resourceful with really neat ideas.

Cherylon Reid, our Executive Director, is brilliant with fundraising and organization. Thanks to Janet Harney and the Arkansas Arts Council for granting us the funds to hire her. Many of you want to know how you can support us more. See the announcement on page 1 for a creative way you can do so.

Dr. Karen Fannin is our new Musical Director and Conductor. What a bright star! I am doubly delighted she is on faculty at Hendrix College, my alma mater.

We continue to manage our assets wisely, thanks to Susan Morrow, our Treasurer, and we have a growing Wish List for music and different instruments so we can expand our musical horizons for your enjoyment and education.

With so much support from the board and from you, our future promises to be exciting. Thank you for your part in making the LRWS such a huge success.

## LRWS challenge pledges continue

It is not too late to participate in the pledge challenges issued in February by LRWS treasurer Susan Morrow and patron Gertrude Rimmel Butler.

Morrow and her husband, Dr. Robert Morrow, will match every dollar of donations from new contributors up to \$2,000 from now until the end of June.

Butler is offering a \$1000 concert sponsorship as

a challenge to any patron willing to match her donation. If matched, the combined donation will sponsor one LRWS concert.

All donations are tax deductible and may be mailed to the LRWS or made in person at the concert. Help to receive the maximum from these challenge pledges. Send us your donation today!

*(Continued from page 1)*

low brass and various other music courses. Fannin comes to Arkansas from the University of Colorado, where she studied with Allan McMurray and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting and Literature. She received a Master of Music in Conducting from Northwestern University, where she was a student of Mallory Thompson. At the University of Northern Iowa she studied euphonium with Jeffrey Funderburk and received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education.

While in residency at UC, Dr. Fannin was conductor of the concert and campus bands, taught conducting, and guest conducted the wind symphony, symphonic band and chamber orchestra. She also has experience at the high-school level, having served as Director of Bands at Lockport Township High School in suburban

Chicago and in the Lynnville-Sully Community Schools in Iowa.

When asked about her long-range plans for the LRWS, Dr. Fannin said, "It is all about the music. We will continue to honor our past while leading the way with performances of new music for wind symphony. It is clear the LRWS has a great rapport with the audience and I look forward to building on that foundation".

"Most musical of any conductor for whom I have played", commented one musician on the evaluation each player completed after the October concert. "BRAVO!" and "A Winner!" wrote others. The LRWS musicians and Board of Directors agree and excitedly look forward to the 2006-2007 season with Dr. Fannin on the podium.

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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## Let's Celebrate Springtime!

**Russell Langston, guest conductor**  
**Matthew Cunningham, trumpet**

**7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20**

**Second Presbyterian Church**  
600 Pleasant Valley Dr. at Cantrell Rd.

**Music by Gounod, Rossini, Wagner,**  
**Smith, Bennett, Goldsmith, Grundman**

**\* \$10 Suggested Donation \***

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