12-6-1996

University Wind Ensemble

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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GEORGE M. MODLIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
at the University of Richmond

CAMP CONCERT HALL
BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1996, 8:00 PM

University Wind Ensemble
Fall Concert
University Wind Ensemble
Fall Concert

Gene Anderson, director

Warren Benson, guest composer

assisted by

Myra Daleng, director, University Dancers
Diane Simmons, member, University Dancers
Program

Valdres

Johannes Hanssen (1874-1967)

One of Norway’s most active and influential bandmaster, composers, and teachers during the first half of the twentieth century, Johannes Hanssen wrote Valdres 1904. The title has both a geographical and musical reference. Valdres is a region in Norway just north of the halfway point on the train ride between Oslo and Bergen--one of the most beautiful regions on earth. The first three measures contain the old signature fanfare for the Valdres Battalion, which is based on an ancient lur (a straight wooden trumpet) melody. Other melodies in the march suggest folksongs, while in the Trio, a characteristic of Norwegian music, the drone bass, is heard beneath a simple tune based on the pentatonic scale.

On An American Spiritual

David R. Holsinger (b. 1945)

This piece, part of the composer’s Hymsong Series, is based on the Easter lament, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” The plaintive opening is followed by one of brutality and chaos reflecting the middle verses of the hymn which describe Christ’s crucifixion and death. The majestic conclusion recalls the closing verse, “Were you there when He rose up from the dead?” Holsinger has twice received the prestigious Ostwald Award for band composition sponsored by the American Bandmasters Association. He currently serves as Chief Musician at Shady Grove Church in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Russian Christmas Music

Alfred Reed (b. 1921)

An ancient Russian Christmas carol, “Carol of the Little Russian Children,” together with a good deal of original material and some motivic elements derived from the liturgical music of the Eastern Orthodox Church, form the basis for this musical impression of old Russian during the jubilant Christmas season. Although cast in the form of a single continuous movement, four distinct sections may be recognized. The composer originally sub-titled these sections, “Children’s Carol,” “Antiphonal Chant,” “Village Song,” and the closing “Cathedral Chorus.”

Originally written in 1944, Russian Christmas Music was first performed in December of that year at a special concert in Denver, Colorado, by a select group of musicians from five of the leading Service Bands stationed in that area.
Fugue
Dill Pickels

University Percussion Ensemble
Autumn Fehr          Vincent Olivieri
Susan Pierce         David Green
Bryon LePere

Solitary Dancer

Dancers: Myra Daleng and Diane Simmons

Dedicated to choreographer Bill Hug, with whom the composer has collaborated in the writing of ballets, Solitary Dancer deals with the “quiet poised energy that one may observe in a dancer in repose alone with her inner music,” according to the brief notes in the score. Its form has no symmetrical intent, except perhaps for a short reminiscent coda based on the introduction. The work is a masterpiece in economy of resources, sensitivity for wind and percussion colors, and subtle development and recession of instrumental and musical frenzy.

Transylvania Fanfare

In 1953 the Transylvania Music Camp commissioned Mr. Benson to write a concert march. Using elements of a brass fanfare which signaled the end of band and orchestra concert intermissions, and the opening bars of Handel’s “Air” from the Water Music Suite, which was the camp’s radio theme, the composer created this uniquely textured work.
Warren Benson

Warren Benson has distinguished himself in the world of contemporary music as a composer, conductor, lecturer and writer; he is a musician who is as interested in writing music for orchestras, singers, chamber players and children as he is in exploring the complexities of the world of the artist.

In his compositions and international recordings, available on compact disc, Benson is most noted for his song cycles and pioneering work in behalf of percussionists and wind ensembles. He has been invited to conduct his works in Australia, Canada, Europe, Great Britain, Mexico, Scandinavia and South America. As an author and lecturer, Benson has also been in demand worldwide. His writings have been translated into Spanish and Japanese and he has lectured in Spanish and Greek. He also sits on the Board of Directors of numerous musical organizations, including the Minuscule University Press, the Chestnut Brass Company, the American Wind Ensemble Library and the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE).

Born in 1924, and a professional performer by the age of fourteen, Benson, early in his career, played timpani in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, graduated from the University of Michigan, organized the first touring percussion ensemble in the eastern United States (1953), received four Fulbright grants, and was the author and director of the first pilot project of the Contemporary Music Project (funded by the Ford Foundation). More recently, he has been commissioned by over 70 major artists and ensembles, including the United States Marine Band, the International Horn Society, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the New York Choral Society, and the Kronos Quartet. He has received numerous distinguished international awards, including the John Simon Guggenheim Composer Fellowship, three National Endowment for the Arts composer commissions and the Diploma de Honor from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Argentina. Since 1967, Benson has been Professor of Composition at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where he has been honored with the Kilbourn Professorship for distinguished teaching and where he has been named University Mentor.
Wind Ensemble Personnel

**Piccolo**
Misty Willard, Glastonbury, CT+

**Flute**
Julie Newman, Alison, Park, PA*
Misty Willard, Old Lyme, CT
Misty Willard, Glastonbury, CT
Danielle Low, Melville, NY

**Oboe**
Jennifer Magee, Cherry Hill, NJ

**Bassoon**
Marley Walsh, Darien, CT
Erica Wenner, Woodbury Heights, NJ

**Bb Clarinet**
Jan Hohl, Buffalo, NY*
Elaine Bucheimer, Middletown, MH
Chris George, Baltimore, MD
Jodie Eicher, Downingtown, PA
Nicole Richardson, Middletown, NY
Jennifer Roberts, Chicago, IL
Shannon Wright, Cumberland, ME
Dianne Richmond, Farmingdale, NJ

**Alto Clarinet**
Carol Thompson, Frederick, MD

**Bass Clarinet**
William Scott Proffit, Jackson, MS

**Contra-Bass Clarinet**
Carol Thompson, Frederick, MD

**Alto Saxophone**
Timothy Bernard, Yardville, NJ
Sharon Bricker, Telford, PA
Shana Mattson, Lynchburg, VA
Cason Green, Midlothian, VA
Ronald Walker, Canajoharie, NY

**Tenor Saxophone**
Benjamin Keller, Olean, NY*
Jane Cofie, Reston, VA

**Baritone Saxophone**
Andy Smith, Fairfax, VA

**French Horn**
Suzy Wood, Virginia Beach, VA*
Elizabeth Roop, Luray, VA

**Trumpet**
Sean Linfors, Charlotte, NC*+
Jeffrey Elbich, Lawrenceville, NJ+
Dana Rajczewski, Darien, CT+
Ryan McCaffrey, Brookfield, CT
Charles Kapp, Wilmington, DE
Greg Kapp, Wilmington, DE+
John Brady, Richmond, VA

**Trombone**
Chris White, Media, PA*
Matthew Worth, West Hartford, CT
R. Scott Ellis, Newtown Square, PA
Connie Rae Kuykendall, Stuarts Draft, VA
Brian Burks, Roanoke, VA

**Baritone**
Barbara Summers, Wilmington, DE

**Tuba**
Jon-Eric Burgess, Verona, NJ

**String Bass**
Sarah Morse, Hamburg, NY

**Percussion**
Autumn Fehr, Lancaster, PA*
John O'Donnell, Norwell, MA
Jackie Weichert, Cape May, NY
David Green, Briston, TN
Bryon LePere, Roanoke, VA+
Megan Graham, Forest, VA

**Piano**
Autumn Fehr, Lancaster, PA*
Denise Roberts, Sebago Lake, ME

**Director**
Gene Anderson

*Section Leader
+Band Officer