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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
Department of Music
2023 – 2024 Concert Series

University of Richmond Wind Ensemble

Steven Barton, conductor

**Washington Saxophone Quartet,
guest artists**

**Monday, April 8, 2024
7:30 PM
Camp Concert Hall**



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
School of Arts & Sciences[™]
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

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PROGRAM

Snowflakes Dancing
Andrew Boysen
(b. 1968)

Variations on a Shaker Melody
Aaron Copland
(1900 – 1990)

Rhythm of the Americas
I. Convergence of French and English
Bob Mintzer
(b. 1953)

Washington Saxophone Quartet

Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes
IV. Hoe-down
Copland
Arr. Linda Waid

Washington Saxophone Quartet

Dancing Day
James Colonna
(b. 1977)

Sagittarian Dances
Steve Barton
(b. 1954)

*Please silence cell phones before the concert.
Recording, Taping, Photographing are strictly prohibited.*

Notes on the Program

Andrew Boysen, Jr. (b. 1968) is currently a professor in the music department at the University of New Hampshire, where he conducts the wind symphony and teaches conducting and composition. He is sought after as both a guest conductor and composer. He won the International Horn Society Composition Contest in 2000, the University of Iowa Honors Composition Prize in 1991, and has twice won the Claude T. Smith Memorial Composition Contest, in 1991 and 1994.

Boysen's "Snowflakes Dancing" was commissioned by the Concordia College bands for the 2013 Honor Band. The composer writes, "My intent was to create a minimalist work for high school band. The basic process at work throughout the piece revolves around the idea of layering. Every musical idea that enters is in a four-bar pattern that repeats four times...creating a constantly shifting texture that gradually morphs over time."

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) was an American composer, composition teacher, writer, and conductor. He was referred to by his peers and critics as "the Dean of American Composers." Copland's open harmonies, often based on the intervals of fourths and fifths, became what many people consider to be the sound of American music. His best-known works are from the 1930s and 40s, including the ballets *Appalachian Spring*, *Billy the Kid*, and *Rodeo*, as well as *Fanfare for the Common Man* and his Third Symphony.

"Variations on a Shaker Melody" is an excerpt from Copland's Pulitzer Prize winning ballet, *Appalachian Spring* (1944). This excerpt comes from section seven of the ballet and is based on the song "Simple Gifts," written and composed by Elder Joseph Brackett in 1848. The words and melody reflect the Shaker philosophy:

*'Tis the gift to be simple
'Tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be
And when we find ourselves in the place just right
It will be in the valley of love and delight*

Aaron Copland transcribed this portion of *Appalachian Spring* for band in 1956, and it was premiered by the Northwestern University Band in 1958.

“Hoe Down” is the fifth and final section of Copland’s ballet *Rodeo* (1942). Its main theme is based on Kentucky fiddler William Hamilton Stepp’s rendition of the folk song “Bonaparte’s Retreat.”

Bob Mintzer (b. 1953) attended the Interlochen Arts Academy from 1969-1970 before studying at the Hartt School of Music and the famed Manhattan School of Music. He has performed with jazz greats Buddy Rich, Thad Jones and Mel Lewis, and Sam Jones. While with Buddy Rich, Mr. Mintzer began composing and arranging for big bands. His reputation for creative and contemporary writing has kept him at the forefront of jazz composition. He is a member of the Grammy award-winning Yellowjackets and holds the Buzz McCoy endowed chair of jazz studies at the University of Southern California.

Mintzer wrote *Rhythm of the Americas* in 2001, at the suggestion of Al Regni of the American Saxophone Quartet. Originally composed for full orchestra, it was premiered by the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin. In 2005, Rick Hirsch was commissioned to transcribe the work for wind ensemble. The opening movement is titled “Convergence of the French and English,” and it demonstrates the composer’s impressions of some of the dance rhythms of French Canadians, and the Creole influence on the music of North America.

James Colonna (b. 1977) is an American composer, conductor, educator, and trumpet player. Currently the Director of Bands at Messiah College, he received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Michigan State University, where he studied with John Whitwell, John T. Madden, and Kevin Sedatole. Mr. Colonna further studied composition with Charles Ruggerio, Cindy McTee, and Jack Stamp. He has composed more than 30 pieces which have been performed worldwide.

“Dancing Day” was written in 2013 to commemorate the retirement of John Endahl, director of the Lansing (MI) Concert Band. The work is a fascinating juxtaposition of a single theme which is initially presented “normally,” but is layered over odd numbered phrases and rapid fugue-like entrances. The piece explores the many sonorities of the wind band, ranging from hand clapping to timpani solos, and many fascinating combinations of wind instruments. It begins and ends quietly, but enjoys the raucous joy of dance in the middle.

Steven Barton’s “Sagittarian Dances” was commissioned in 1999 by the Lowell (MI) High School Band in honor of their directors Robert Rice and Kathryn Bredwell, and to honor Mr. Rice’s 27th year of service to the Lowell High School Red Arrow Bands. The title refers the constellation Sagittarius the Archer as representative of the Red Arrow Bands. The work is constructed with two themes and a variety of mixed meters to give the listener a sense of movement and joy. Each section of the ensemble is given the opportunity to shine. Mr. Barton is pleased to present this piece as the final work of this dance inspired concert.

The Performers

The Washington Saxophone Quartet

The WSaxQ is the most widely heard saxophone quartet in the United States. Since 1997, recorded arrangements by the Washington Saxophone Quartet have aired daily throughout the United States on NPR's broadcasts of "All Things Considered." The instruments evoke the refined sounds of a string quartet, the rich harmonies of an organ prelude, the brilliance of brass, and the excitement of a jazz sax section. Founded in 1976, the WSaxQ has performed recitals, informal concerts, master classes, clinics, and collaborations with bands and orchestras in the United States, the Caribbean, and China, as well as on radio and television worldwide. WSaxQ records on the Americus label. They are a non-profit organization chartered in 2009. For more information on how you can support their efforts, visit their website at www.wsaxq.com.

Soprano Saxophone

Reginald Jackson, former professor of saxophone at the University of Maryland and Howard University, has appeared as recitalist and soloist with orchestras, wind ensembles, and military bands throughout the United States and Europe. Mr. Jackson received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of North Texas, and he won first prizes in both solo and chamber music competitions at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels. He has toured the United States as a member of the Ambassadors of Jazz of the U.S. Army Field Band.

Alto Saxophone

James Steele attended the University of Minnesota. Joining the United States Army Band in Washington, DC eventually led to playing in the WSaxQ, an opportunity that has afforded a great musical education and a source of fascinating travel. He solos and lectures (World Saxophone Congress '03) on the role saxophone can fill in the church worship setting. His recent album, *Saxophone in the Sanctuary*, fulfilled a lifelong dream to record with the famed Kurt Kaiser, who served as accompanist and composer. Mr. Steele

holds a Master of Music and an M.B.A. which he uses to help people span their wealth to outlast their lifespan.

Tenor Saxophone

Rich Kleinfeldt is a broadcaster, professional musician, teacher, and lecturer, and he currently announces for WETA-FM in Washington. Mr. Kleinfeldt is a former broadcaster to international audiences on the Voice of America and the Maestro Classical Music Channel of the WorldSpace Satellite Network. For more than thirty years he was the host of the nationally syndicated programs *Indianapolis-On-The-Air* and *Center Stage from Wolf Trap*. A graduate of Millikin University and Catholic University, Mr. Kleinfeldt performed until 1983 with the United States Army Band as soloist and master of ceremonies.

Baritone Saxophone

Rick Parrell is involved as a performer in jazz and classical music as well as a conductor and teacher. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from George Mason University and his Master of Music from North Texas State University. He is retired from the United States Army Band, where he was saxophone soloist and enlisted leader, and recently retired as adjunct professor of music at George Mason University. He is currently the associate conductor of The City of Fairfax Band, and also a member of the trumpet section. Mr. Parrell has appeared with such notable jazz artists as Lee Konitz, Gary Foster, and Louie Bellson.



Steven Barton is a percussionist, educator, and composer from Midlothian, Virginia. A native of Western Pennsylvania, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1976 and a Master of Music degree in percussion performance from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1983. In 1975, while at IUP, he was one of four students to earn the honor of conducting the Pittsburgh Symphony

during their residency there. He further won 2nd place in the VCU Concerto Competition in 1982. He was awarded the recognition of *Nationally Registered Music Educator* in 1992 by the Music Educators National Conference (now the National Association for Music Education). He was interviewed for a feature article in the September 2008 edition of *The Instrumentalist* magazine. He has performed with the North Carolina Symphony, the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra, The Carolina Theatre, the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra, *Currents* new music ensemble, and the Keystone Wind Ensemble.

Barton began his teaching career in Iroquois, South Dakota and Webster, South Dakota. After earning his Master of Music degree, he taught for two years near Raleigh, North Carolina before returning to Virginia. He subsequently spent fifteen years as Director of Bands at Manchester High School, four years at Lloyd C. Bird High School, and eleven years at Thomas Dale High School for the Arts. He has taught Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Percussion, Music Theory, String Orchestra, Guitar, and Piano. He also taught Jazz Band and Jazz Improvisation. His ensembles at Manchester High School and Thomas Dale High School were highly regarded and earned many awards and accolades. He served as the Interim Conductor for the University of Richmond Wind Ensemble in 1987-1988 during the sabbatical of then conductor Dr. Gene Anderson. In 2017 he was inducted into the Manchester Lancer Band Hall of Fame. Steven Barton retired from Chesterfield

County Public Schools at the end of the 2015-2016 school year after 37 years. Currently he is the Conductor of the University of Richmond Wind Ensemble.

Barton has composed several pieces for concert band, jazz band, and orchestra: *Cradlesong* (1994) and *For The New Day Arisen* (1997) are published by *Barnhouse*; *Twilight Shadows* (1999), featuring euphonium, was commissioned and premiered by Michigan State University; *Hill Country Flourishes* (2001) written for the Hill Country Middle School in Austin, Texas; *Welcome to Holland* and *Kingsfold*, are both published by C. Alan Publications. *For the New Day Arisen*, *Cradlesong*, and *Hill Country Flourishes* are included in the acclaimed series *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*. Most recently, he has published *A Festive Fanfare*, *Sagittarian Dances*, and *Ebenezer Variants* through *Knightwind Publishing*. His most recent work, *Sonata Burlesque*, is being premiered in December by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Symphonic Band.

Mr. Barton currently lives in Midlothian, Virginia with his wife, Pamela, and son, Paul.

University of Richmond Wind Ensemble

Piccolo

Ella Stiles *

Flute

Fainne Sheehan

Linda Simmons ***

Oboe

Parrish Simmons *

Bassoon

Evan Chen

Arnold Wexler *

Clarinet

Caty Campbell

Adam Kasti

Heidi Beal

Michael Miller *

Julie Ann Snelling *

Keith Jones *

Bass Clarinet

Lianna Augusto

Contra-alto Clarinet

Julie Ann Snelling *

Alto Saxophone

Jack Chen

Sarah Ramsey *

Tenor Saxophone

Derek Ramsey *

Baritone Saxophone

Zin Cambridge *

String Bass

Randall Pharr **

Piano

Benjamin Stalder

Trumpet

Nomar Mejia

Elizabeth Milliot

Stanley Goldman *

Corey Moore *

Jonathan Torres *

Horn

Isabel Marshall

Julia Norton

Charlotte Dixon

Trombone

Zander Hesch

Stephen Cherry *

Matthew Lowder **

Asa James *

Euphonium

Ethan Callahan

Duane Coston *

Tuba

Athan White

Russ Wolz *

Peter Lewis *

Percussion

Cameron Peterson

David Bittner *

Christopher Fens *

Tony Fox *

Valerie Fox *

David Holley *

Corey Woessner *

Timpani

David Holley *

* Community Musician

** University of Richmond Faculty/Staff

*** University of Richmond Alumni

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Commission for the Arts.*



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