
2021 - 2022



GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

Salon VIII; An Evening of Small and Large Works for Winds

Tuesday, January 25, 2022
8:00 PM

Florence Kopleff
Recital Hall

Robert J. Ambrose, conductor

Ellie Anderson, graduate assistant conductor

Tina Christiansen, graduate assistant conductor

Brianna Slone, graduate assistant conductor

Program

Sokol Fanfare (1926)

Leoš Janáček
(1854 - 1928)

Tina Christiansen, conductor

Octet-Partita (1803)

I. Allegro con spirito

Johann Hummel
(1778 - 1837)

Brianna Slone, conductor

Splinter for Saxophone Choir (2014/2018)

I. Scarlet Oak

III. Linden Arr. Pin-Hua Chen

VIII. Red Pine

Marc Mellits
(b. 1966)

Tina Christiansen, conductor

Sinfonia for Winds (1817)

Gaetano Donizetti
(1797 - 1848)

Ed. Douglas Townsend

Ellie Anderson, conductor

HayWire (2018)

Katahji Copley
(b. 1998)

Variations on "America" (1891/1968)

Charles Ives
(1874 - 1954)

Trans. William E. Rhoads

SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Melanie Cheney
Joycelyn Jackson
Jordan Lilly
Anna Spiller
Sarah Willis

OBOE/ENGLISH

HORN

Carolyn Johnston
Treston Lawson
Brooke Owen

BASSOON

Lazara Beatriz Santana
Alvarez
Jasaun Davie

CLARINET/BASS

CLARINET

Ellie Anderson
Emelyn Carden
Tina Christiansen
Joe Horvieth
Kylee Kim
Jack Lloyd
Joaquin Nieto

SOPRANO/ALTO

SAXOPHONE

Cameron Cho
Andrew Gaillard
Sarah Griffin
Bryant Le
Jose Miranda

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Ed Longhi
William Tate

BARITONE

SAXOPHONE

Thomas Atkins
Katherine Vaill

TRUMPET

Mia Boyd
Fish Brosmer
Aiken Del Aguila
Luis DeLira
Pedro Morales Ortega
Triston Parsons
Victor Pires
Samantha Springer
Preston Wilhite

HORN

Ethan Atkinson
Jacob Hartis
Eric Hawkins
Amelia Young
TROMBONE
Niko Avradopoulos
Doug Eakin
Breanna Jones
Jo Muniz
Alex Siegel

EUPHONIUM

Ashley Ferguson
Emma Stacey

TUBA

Ethan Maholland
Tommy Piland

STRING BASS

Noah Gonzalez-Rubio

PERCUSSION

Charlie Burrell
Vianny Esquivel Flores
Braxton Hall
Nyla Hardy

Program Notes

Sokol Fanfare

The *Sokol Fanfare* was originally one of several fanfares that Janáček composed for a Sokol Slet (Falcon Festival), a gymnastic event in Prague. Founded in Prague in 1862 and still active today, the Sokol movement is an all-age gymnastics organization based upon the principle of “a strong mind in a sound body.” The movement spread across Eastern Europe and beyond, and influenced organizations such as the Boy Scouts.

Composed for brass and percussion in 1926, *Sokol Fanfare* later became the opening movement of Janáček's *Sinfonietta* for full orchestra. With broad sonorities and pounding rhythms, it evokes the sight of a falcon soaring over the rugged landscape below, symbolizing the Sokol ideal of staying above politics.

– Program note by Matt Sadowski

Octet-Partita

Harmoniemusik (music for small wind band) enjoyed a great vogue in Europe in the last quarter of the 18th and first quarter of the 19th centuries. J.C. Bach, Haydn, Cambini, Mozart, Rosette, Beethoven, Krimmer, Druschetzky, and numerous other composers of varying stature composed for the medium. In Vienna in particular, the nobility vied with one another in maintaining ensembles of the finest available wind musicians. Transcriptions of popular operas of the day were especially in demand as repertoire.

The *Octet-Partita in E-flat* is a typically “sunny” work by Hummel. The only known score of the Octet resides in the British Museum and is dated 27 October 1803. This puts its creation at just a few months before his first significant employment, to the Prince Esterházy at Eisenstadt. The work is scored for standard wind octet plus a serpent ad lib, although contrabassoon is sometimes substituted. It is unusual for a partita in that it has only three movements, there being no minuet. The sonata-form first movement begins with a military-type fanfare which soon leads to a pompous yet sweet second theme.

- Program note by Nikk Pilato

Splinter for Saxophone Choir

Marc Mellits (b. 1966) is one of the most performed living composers in the United States. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Mellits started composing at a very young age, and composed works for piano before he started on the instrument at age six. He studied composition at the Eastman School of Music, Yale School of Music, Cornell University, and Tanglewood.

As written in Mellits' biography, “*His unique musical style is an eclectic combination of driving rhythms, soaring lyricism, and colorful orchestrations that all combine to communicate directly with the listener. Mellits' music is often described as being visceral, making a deep connection with the audience.*”

Splinter was written in 2014 for the Splinter Reeds, a reed quintet, and was later arranged in 2018 for saxophone octet by Pin-Hua Chen. *Splinter* demonstrates a forward momentum, exciting rhythms, beautiful texture, and colorful chords. The eight short movements in *Splinter* are all named after a type of tree and each has its own personality.

-Program note by Tina Christiansen

Program Notes

Sinfonia for Winds

Domenico Gaetano Maria Donizetti was an Italian composer born in Bergamo in Lombardy. Over the course of his career, Donizetti wrote almost 70 operas many of which are still regularly performed today. In addition to his large oeuvre of operas, Donizetti wrote music of all kinds including songs, chamber music, piano music, and a large quantity of music for the church.

The *Sinfonia for Winds* has its origin in the composer's period of study in Bologna. The instrumentation is that of the traditional Classical era *harmoniemusik* ensemble (pairs of oboes, clarinets, horns, and bassoons) to which Donizetti added a single flute. After a brief, slow introduction the music unfolds at a brisk pace with beautiful, sweeping melodies and a transparency that shows the composer's command of writing for wind instruments.

-Program note from Wikipedia

HayWire

Katahj Copley (b. 1998) is a composer and saxophonist. A native of Georgia, Copley began writing music as a high school student. He studied music education and composition at the University of West Georgia and is currently pursuing the Master of Music degree in composition at the University of Texas at Austin. Copley composed *HayWire* in composed in 2018.

About the piece, the composer writes: "This piece is based off the idea of imagination gone out of control. How much chaos can be fit into one piece? From chaos comes beauty and from beauty comes madness again. Throughout the piece there is this motif played by the marimba that serves as a small sense of stability through the piece; this leads to erratic entrances and sudden dynamic changes. Finally the piece's melody is played by the first trumpet. From trills to glisses this piece is what happens when your imagination goes a little out of control."

- Program note by Tina Christiansen

Variations on "America"

Variations on "America" was originally a composition for organ. Composed in 1891 when Ives was seventeen, it is an arrangement of a traditional tune, known as My Country, 'Tis of Thee, and was at the time the de facto anthem of the United States.

The tune is also widely recognized in Thomas Arne's orchestration as the British National Anthem, God Save the Queen, and in the former anthems of Russia, Switzerland, and Germany, as well as being the current national anthem of Liechtenstein and royal anthem of Norway.

The variations are a witty, irreverent piece for organ, probably typical of a "silly" teenage phenom like Ives. According to his biographers, the piece was played by Ives in organ recitals in Danbury and Brewster, New York, during the same year. At the Brewster concert, his father would not let him play the pages which included canons in two or three keys at once, because they were "unsuitable for church performance – They upset the elderly ladies and made the little boys laugh and get noisy!"

This work was transcribed for orchestra in 1964 by William Schuman and for band in 1968 by William Rhodes.

- Program note from Windrep.org

Artist Profiles

Robert J. Ambrose is a versatile musician who pursues a wide range of professional activities. Ambrose currently serves as Director of Bands at Georgia State University, a research institution of over 53,000 students. He is also Founder and Music Director of the Atlanta Chamber Winds and the National Chamber Winds, and Co-Founder of Bent Frequency Contemporary Music Ensemble.

Dr. Ambrose is in constant demand as a guest conductor and has performed on four continents. Recent engagements include performances in Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan as well as across the United States. He has also served as a guest conductor on tour with The United States Army Field Band, the only civilian ever to be asked to do so. A prolific arranger, his transcriptions and editions are widely-performed. Ambrose studied at Boston College, Boston University, and Northwestern University, where he received the Doctor of Music degree in conducting.

A native from Alberta, Canada, **Ellie Anderson** is a graduate from the University of Alberta where she completed her Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education degrees in the spring of 2013. She began her teaching career at Onoway Jr/Sr High School the following fall teaching middle and high school band. In May of 2021, she earned the Master of Music in Wind Band Conducting degree from Georgia State University. Anderson is currently pursuing the Artist Certificate in Wind Band Conducting at Georgia State University.

Hailing from Van Buren, Arkansas, **Tina Christiansen** is a graduate of Arkansas Tech University (ATU) where she earned the Bachelor of Music Education degree in the spring of 2020. During her time at ATU, Christiansen was an active performer as lead alto saxophonist in the ATU Jazz Ensemble, a saxophonist in ATU's Symphonic Wind Ensemble, as well as a drum major for ATU's Band of Distinction. She also served as an executive board member for the Beta Nu chapter of Tau Beta Sigma. Christiansen is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Wind Band Conducting at Georgia State University and is a student of Dr. Robert J. Ambrose.

Brianna Slone is a graduate of the University of Georgia where she earned the Bachelor of Music Education degree. Slone taught at Hillgrove High School in Powder Springs, GA for three years and was recently selected as a staff member for the 2022 Tournament of Roses Honor Band. She is currently pursuing the Master of Music in Wind Band Conducting degree at Georgia State University.

The mission of the Georgia State University School of Music is to preserve, promote, and advance humanity's rich and expanding tradition of artistic music-making through performance, composition, education, and research in accordance with the urban and global initiatives of the University.

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