

California State University, Long Beach
Department of Music

presents

the

Symphonic Band

with

Leo Potts, conductor

Thursday, March 17, 1994
8:00p.m.
Gerald R. Daniel Recital Hall

PROGRAM

Riders for the Flag	John Philip Sousa
Variations on a Korean Folk Song	John Barnes Chance
Rhosymedre	Ralph Vaughan Williams
George Washington Bridge	William Schuman
Folk Dances	Dmitri Shostakovich

PROGRAM NOTES

Riders for the Flag by John Philip Sousa was dedicated to Colonel Osmun Latrobe, Regimental Commander, and the officers and men of the Fourth U.S. Cavalry in 1927. Two decades later the U.S. Army abolished the cavalry as a separate branch of the service. The military title, the dedication, and the bugle call in the trio of this march reflect the patriotism which Sousa felt throughout his lifetime. From the time he enlisted as a thirteen-year-old apprentice musician in 1868 until he received an honorable discharge in 1892, Sousa served on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps for over eighteen years. During World War I, he enlisted in the Navy (at the age of sixty-two) and served another seventeen months organizing and training band units of the Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Illinois.

Variations on a Korean Folk Song by John Barnes Chance consists of a theme (the Korean Folk Song) and a set of five contrasting variations. The theme is introduced by the clarinets and then stated the second time with the addition of the saxophones and the horns and then everyone. These variations offer a wide variety of thematic treatment with counter melodies, tonal centers, solo colors and a wide rhythmic interest for all the players. The percussion section, including the vibraphone and temple blocks, receive special emphasis in their own melodic assignment. The Korean Folk Song received the American Bandmaster's Association Ostwald Award for 1965-66. John B. Chance got his Bachelors and Masters degrees from University of Texas and is a native of Texas.

Rhosymedre by Ralph Vaughan Williams

In 1920 Ralph Vaughan Williams composed three preludes for organ based on Welsh hymn tunes, a set that quickly established itself in the organ repertoire. Of the three, Rhosymedre, sometimes known as

"Lovely," has become the most popular. The hymn tune used in this prelude was written by a 19th century Welsh composer, J.D. Edwards, and is a very simple melody made up almost entirely of scale tones and upbeat skips of a fourth. Yet, around this modest tune Vaughan Williams has constructed a piece of grand proportions, with a broad arc that soars with the gradual rise of the tune itself. The hymn tune in long values is surrounded by a moving bass line and a treble obbligato in faster notes often characterized by descending sixths. Vaughan Williams has joined together hymn tune, bass and obbligato in such a way as to create an exceedingly fresh and ingratiating tonal language, which seems all the more remarkable when one discovers from the score that there is scarcely an accidental in the entire piece.

George Washington Bridge by William Schuman is an Impression for Band. Schuman wrote the following excerpt about this piece:

There are few days in the year when I do not see George Washington Bridge. I pass it on my way to work as I drive along the Henry Hudson Parkway on the New York shore. Ever since my student days when I watched the progress of its construction, this bridge has had for me an almost human personality, and this personality is astonishingly varied, assuming different moods depending on the time of day or night, the weather, the traffic and, of course, my own mood as I pass by.

I have walked across it late at night when it was shrouded in fog, and during the brilliant sunshine hours of midday. I have driven over it countless times and passed under it on boats. Coming to New York City by air, sometimes I have been lucky enough to fly right over it. It is difficult to imagine a more gracious welcome or dramatic entry to the great metropolis.

Folk Dances by Dmitri Shostakovich is composed in Shostakovich's light-hearted style, this single movement work is filled with the joy and exuberance of the Russian people. The many folk melodies are combined in a string so that musical energy abounds and the spirit of folk dances can easily be imagined. The first version of Dmitri Shostakovich's composition was instrumented by M. Vakhutinsky for Russian Bands. Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) composed in a variety of styles using folk music, humor, altered harmonies and many other compositional techniques. Shostakovich wrote music to serve the political needs of his country. He incurred government condemnation in 1948, but kept composing a series of serious works which surfaced after Stalin's death. Few composers have been as highly honored and few are as highly respected by the music profession as well as the concert-going public.

Leo Potts has built an international reputation for his creative and sensitive interpretations of music scores ranging from classical to popular. Involved in teaching, recording, and performing, he is Professor of Saxophone here at California State University, Long Beach, a founding member of the West Coast Saxophone Quartet, a Yamaha Performing Artist and Clinician, founder of the Leo Potts Saxophone Quartet, and the conductor of the Long Beach State Symphonic Band. Mr. Potts has received a degree in Music from CSULB, studied under Marcel Mule and Daniel Defaytet at the National Conservatory of Music in Paris, and studied under Phil Sobel, a former NBC staff musician who is lauded for his creative concepts in saxophone teaching.

Symphonic Band

Piccolo

Cathy Apple*

Flutes

Kristien Bellisario*

Kristyna Blazek

Jose de Jesus Castro

Deeann Izumi

Sujin Lee

Jonathan Pusey

Clarinets

Ed Pepper*

Lisa Campbell

Paul Navidad

David Sills

James Stroosma

Oboe

Alan Donnersburger*

Michael Scott

Saxophones

Todd Hayes

Nigel Joyner

Bass Trombone

Charles Drinkworth

Tubas

Shaun Taylor*

Brad DeBow

French Horns

Liz Royce*

Lynn Kulikowski

Trumpets

Jenny Moore*

Eloy Adame

Lon Argabright

Jeffery Huls

Dion Pittman

Trombones

Peter M. Santucci*

Jonathan E. Goldman

Ron Mallory

Jeannine M. Rickles

Scott Sanders

Euphonium

Dennis Nicolosi*

James Kuehnert

Percussion

David Porsh*

Axel Clarke

Ryan Kelly

Ted Royalty

Eric Sharp

Victor Wheeler