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Student Ensemble: Symphonic Winds

Martin H. Seggelke, Conductor

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Illinois State University
College of Fine Arts
School of Music

Symphonic Winds

Martin H. Seggelke, *Conductor*

Center for the Performing Arts
Thursday Evening
October 15, 2015
8:00 p.m.

This is the twenty-eighth program of the 2015-2016 season.

Program

Please silence all electronic devices for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Symphony No. 1 “The Lord of the Rings”

Johan de Meij
(born 1953)
50:00

- I. Gandalf (*The Wizard*)
- II. Lothlorien (*The Elvenwood*)
- III. Gollum (*Sméagol*)
- IV. Journey in the Dark
 - a. *The Mines of Moria*
 - b. *The Bridge of Khazad-Dûm*
- V. Hobbits

Program Notes

Welcome to Illinois State University! Thank you for joining us for today's performance of the ISU Symphonic Winds. We hope that you will enjoy our concert, and that you might consider joining us again for future performances here at the ISU School of Music. Please visit <http://www.bands.illinoisstate.edu> for more information. Thank you for your support!



Johan de Meij (b. 1953) was born in Voorburg, Holland. He received his musical education at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague, where he studied band conducting and trombone. After his graduation, De Meij gained an international reputation as an arranger for classical, as well as popular repertoire. His first composition for symphonic band, *Symphony No. 1, "The Lord of the Rings,"* is based on J.R.R. Tolkien's book series. The symphony had its very successful first performance in Brussels, Belgium in 1988, and was awarded a \$10,000 first prize in the Sudler International Wind Band Composition Competition in Chicago, Illinois in 1989. In November, 1990, the symphony was awarded an \$18,000 grant by the Dutch Composers

Fund. De Meij wrote the symphonic poem, *Loch Ness*, for the International Festival in Uster, Switzerland in September, 1989, and the work, *Pentagram*, for fanfare band, which was commissioned by Frysk Fanfare Festival in 1990. His third work for symphonic band is called *Aquarium, Op. 5*, and was commissioned by the Dutch Composers Fund. De Meij's *Symphony No. 2, "The Big Apple" (A New York Symphony)*, was composed between October, 1991, and August, 1993, and was commissioned and premiered by the United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C. His second symphony was one of the finalist pieces in the 14th International Composition Competition in 1993 in Corciano, Italy, and received an honorable mention from the jury.

Johan de Meij is a versatile musician; he is not only a composer and arranger, but also participates as a trombonist and euphonium player in several ensembles, such as the Amsterdam Wind Orchestra, Orkest De Volharding (Contemporary Music), and the Amsterdam Trombone Quartet. He played with the Dutch Brass Sextet for fourteen years; this group was founded in 1978 and became one of the most prestigious brass ensembles in Europe.

Johan de Meij is invited more and more as a guest conductor to perform his own works. In 1993, he conducted in Japan, the United States, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Spain, and Italy.

-Biography courtesy of the composer

Symphony No. 1 "The Lord of the Rings" (1988) is based on the trilogy, "*The Lord of the Rings*," by J.R.R. Tolkien. This book has fascinated millions of readers since its publication in 1955. The symphony consists of five separate movements, each illustrating a personage or an important episode from the book. The work has been composed for a normal concert band, augmented by a soprano saxophone, flügelhorn, and piano.

The symphony was written in the period between March, 1984 and December, 1987. The piece shows Johan de Meij's true colors as a composer, who, so far, featured as a transcriber and arranger are light music and music for the screen. The symphony's premiere on March 15, 1988 was performed by the Groot Harmonie-orkest van de Gidsen, under the baton of Norbert Nozy. The Dutch premiere was given by the Koninklijke Militaire Kapel (Royal Military Band), conducted by Pierre Kuypers on June 2, 1988, at Kerkrade during the advance presentation of the 1989 World Music Competition. This same orchestra released the work on CD in March, 1989 (KMK 001).

I. Gandalf (*The Wizard*)

The first movement is a musical portrait of the wizard, Gandalf, one of the principal characters of the trilogy. His wise and noble personality is expressed by a stately motif, which is used in a different form in movements IV and V. The sudden opening of *Allegro vivace* is indicative of the unpredictability of the grey wizard, followed by a wild ride on his beautiful grey horse, "Shadowfax."

II. Lothlorien (*The Elvenwood*)

This impression of Lothlorien, the elvenwood with its beautiful trees, plants, and exotic birds, is expressed through woodwind solos. During the meeting of the Hobbit named Frodo with the Lady Galadriel, a silver basin in the wood, Frodo glimpses three visions. The last of these visions is a large ominous Eye, which greatly upsets him.

III. Gollum (*Sméagol*)

This movement describes the monstrous creature, Gollum, a slimy, shy being represented by the soprano saxophone. It mumbles and talks to itself, hisses and lisps, whines and snickers, is alternatively pitiful and malicious, is continually fleeing, and is looking for his cherished treasure, the Ring.

IV. Journey in the Dark

The fourth movement describes the laborious journey of the *Fellowship of the Ring*, headed by the wizard Gandalf, through the dark tunnels of the *Mines of Moria*. The slow walking cadenza and the fear are clearly audible in the monotonous rhythm of the low brass, piano, and percussion. After a wild pursuit by hostile creatures called the Orks, Gandalf is engaged in battle with a horrible monster, the Balrog, and crashes from the subterranean bridge of *Khazad-Dûm* in a fathomless abyss. To the melancholy tones of a *Marcia funèbre*, the bewildered Companions trudge on, looking for the only way out of the Mines, the East Gate of Moria.

V. Hobbits

The fifth and final movement expresses the carefree and optimistic character of the hobbits in a happy folk dance; the hymn that follows emanates the determination and noblesse of the hobbit folk. The symphony does not end on an exuberant note, but is concluded peacefully and resigned, in keeping with the symbolic mood of the last chapter, "The Grey Havens," in which Frodo and Gandalf sail away in a white ship and disappear slowly beyond the horizon.

-Program notes courtesy of the composer

Symphonic Winds Personnel

Dr. Martin H. Seggelke, *conductor*

Flute

Heather Elfine
Kalie Grable*
Natalie Hoijer
Lauryn Manoni
Cassie Metz*
Carly Piland

Oboe

Kaitlyn Biegelmann*
Brody Felix
Elizabeth Okrzesik

Bassoon

Courtney Baltzer
Katelyn Fix*
Kathryn Reed

Contrabassoon

Hevelin Cobar

Clarinet

Matt Cornwall
Tyler DeVault
Lisa Frustaci
Simonne Harris
Andy Lucas
Tim Recio*
Savannah Robinson

Bass Clarinet

Brian Do

Saxophone

Mike Basile
Samantha Kubil*
Adam Unnerstall
Rachel Wolz
Laura Ziegler

Horn

Connor Bowman*
Gina Daniele
Hannah Deitsch
Jordyn Shultz
Emily Torrey
Leah Young*

Trumpet

Alyson Bauman
Shauna Bracken
Tristan Burgmann
Katie Harris
Casey Laughlin
Shannon Shaffer*

Trombone

Chris Gumban*
Zach Hoffman
AJ Nemsick
Justin O'Brien

Euphonium

Derek Carter*
Eric Eeg
Andrew McGowan

Tuba

Mitchell Jones
Sam Tedeschi
Derek Zimmerman*

Percussion

Michael Barranco
Lauren Bobarsky
Katie Klipstein*
Austin Koziol
Michael Suau
Kyle Waselewski

String Bass

Regan Berkshier
Leah Daugherty

Piano

Yiseul Lee*

Acknowledging the important contributions of all ensemble members, this list is in alphabetical order.

*Denotes Section Leader

THANK YOU

Illinois State University College of Fine Arts

Jean Miller, *Dean*

John Walker, Pete Guither, Sherri Zeck,

Laurie Merriman, and Janet Tulley

Illinois State University School of Music

A. Oforiwaa Aduonum, *Ethnomusicology*
Allison Alcorn, *Music History*
Debra Austin, *Voice*
Mark Babbitt, *Trombone*
Johnathan Beckett, *Jazz Studies*
Glenn Block, *Orchestra and Conducting*
Connie Bryant, *Bands Administrative Clerk*
Karyl K. Carlson, *Director of Choral Activities*
Renee Chernick, *Piano*
David Collier, *Percussion and Associate Director*
Andrea Crimmins, *Music Therapy*
Peggy Dehaven, *Office Support Specialist*
Anne Dervin, *Clarinet*
Judith Dicker, *Oboe*
Michael Dicker, *Bassoon*
Geoffrey Duce, *Piano*
Thomas Faux, *Ethnomusicology*
Angelo Favis, *Graduate Coordinator and Guitar*
Timothy Fredstrom, *Director of Honors Program*
Sarah Gentry, *Violin*
Amy Gilreath, *Trumpet*
David Gresham, *Clarinet*
Mark Grizzard, *Men's Glee Club*
Christine Hansen, *Lead Academic Advisor*
Kevin Hart, *Jazz Piano and Theory*
Martha Horst, *Theory and Composition*
Mona Hubbard, *Office Manager*
Joshua Keeling, *Theory and Composition*
John Michael Koch, *Vocal Arts Coordinator*
Shela Bondurant Koehler, *Music Education*
William Koehler, *String Bass and Music Education*
Marie Labonville, *Musicology*
Katherine J. Lewis, *Viola*
Roy D. Magnuson, *Theory and Composition*
Joseph Manfredo, *Music Education*
Leslie A. Manfredo, *Choir, Music Education,
and Curriculum*

Thomas Marko, *Director of Jazz Studies*
Rose Marshack, *Music Business and Arts Technology*
Kimberly McCord, *Music Education*
Carlyn Morenus, *Piano*
Kristin Moroni, *Voice*
Emily Mullin, *Therapy*
Joe Neisler, *Horn*
Paul Nolen, *Saxophone*
Maureen Parker, *Administrative Clerk*
Stephen B. Parsons, *Director*
Frank R. Payton, Jr., *Music Education*
Adriana Ransom, *Cello/ String Project/ CSA*
Christiana Reader, *General Education*
Kim Risinger, *Flute*
Cindy Ropp, *Music Therapy*
Andy Rummel, *Euphonium and Tuba*
Tim Schachtschneider, *Facilities Manager*
Carl Schimmel, *Composition*
Daniel Peter Schuetz, *Voice*
Martin H. Seggelke, *Director of Bands*
Anne Shelley, *Milner Librarian*
Debra Smith, *Music Education*
Gavin Smith, *Assistant Director of Bands*
Matthew Smith, *Arts Technology*
David Snyder, *Music Education*
Ben Stiers, *Percussion/ Assistant Director of Bands*
Tuyen Tonnu, *Piano*
Janet Tulley, *Assistant Dean*
Rick Valentin, *Arts Technology*
Justin Vickers, *Voice and Musicology*
Michelle Vought, *Voice*
Sharon Walsh, *Advisor*

Band Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Michael Barranco, Alexandra Clay, Aaron
Gradberg, Jacob Hilton, Nelson Ruiz, and
Shannon Shaffer