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Wind Symphony

Stephen K. Steele Conductor Illinois State University

Jennifer Smith Flute

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School of Music Illinois State University

WIND SYMPHONY

Stephen K. Steele, Conductor

Jennifer Smith, Flute

The one hundred sixty-first program of the 2003-2004 season

Center for Performing Arts April 25, 2004 3:00 p.m.

Program Notes

Sparke wrote the following: **Fiesta!** was commissioned by the United States Army Field Band to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. As the title suggests, it is a celebratory piece, which opens with a broad, confident theme played by horns and saxophones; the rest of the brass join in, adding themes of their own until the woodwinds take center stage with a delicate second subject. A short bridge passage leads to a *legato* central theme, again played by the woodwinds. A second bridge passage leads to an expressive *andante* section but it's not long before the opening material reappears. The *legato* theme is this time taken up by the whole band until a short coda brings the piece to a close.

Sinfonietta was premiered in 1961 by the University of Southern California Band. Dahl, during a discussion of the construction of the piece, described the band classic as a symphonic serenade, "the piece that I had wanted to write all of my life." Although derived from a six note tone row (A flat, E flat, C, G, D, A), the work is in the major key of A flat.

Grantham wrote the following: *Bum's Rush* is a term that dates back at least to the 1940's, and means to forcibly eject a person, usually from a bar or a brothel. For me, the term is evocative of the novels of Raymond Chandler and film noir, and this piece is an attempt to musically recreate the dark, menacing, morally ambivalent atmosphere to be found in them.

The work is in two large sections. The first is slow and jazzy and gradually intensifies until it more or less explodes into the second section, which is marked '*fast and brutal.*' The second section is a frantic perpetual motion until near the end, at which point the jazzy music from part one returns, violently transfigured, and concludes the piece.

Dzubay wrote the following: The sun god Ra was the most important god of the ancient Egyptians. Gorn anew each day, Ra journeyed across the sky in a boat crewed by many other gods. During the day Ra would do battle with his chief enemy, a serpent named Apep, usually emerging victorious, though on stormy days or during an eclipse, the Egyptians believd that Apep had won and swallowed the sun.

Ra! is a rather aggressive depiction of an imagined ritual of sun worship, perhaps celebrating the daily battles of Ra and Apep. There are four

Program

Fiesta! (1998)

Sinfonietta (1960) Introduction and Rondo Pastoral Nocturne Dance Variations

Bum's Rush (1993)

Intermission

Ra! (2002)

David Dzubay (born 1964)

Donald Grantham

(born 1947)

Philip Sparke

(born 1951)

Ingolf Dahl

(1912 - 1970)

Fantasie Pastorale hongroise, Opus 26

Albert Franz Doppler (1821 – 1883) Transcribed by Kenneth Singleton

Jennifer Smith, flute Band Concerto Competition Winner

Symphony in B flat (1951) Moderately fast, with vigor Andantino grazioso Fugue Paul Hindemith (1895 – 1963) ideas presented in the movement: 1) a "skin dance" featuring the timpani and other percussion, 2) a declarative, unison melodic line, 3) a layered texture of pulses, and 4) sunbursts and shines. The movement alternates abruptly between these ideas, as if following the precise dictates of a grand ceremony.

Albert Franz Doppler (1821-1883) was an Austrian conductor, composer, and foremost a flute virtuoso of his time. *Fantasie Pastorale Hongroise*, *Op. 26* is a standard work in the romantic flute repertoire made up of three contrasting large sections marked by ensemble interludes. In the opening of this fantasy, a beautiful theme emulates a shepherd playing the flute while tending his flock in the meadow. An almost improvisatory feeling of a series of romantic melodies then follows. The piece ends with an exciting and rousing dance of typical Hungarian nature. The style is certainly operatic with many opportunities for rubato and contrasts in character and colors.

The *Symphony in B flat* was composed at the request of Lt. Col. Hugh Curry, leader of the United States Army Band, and was premiered in Washington, D.C., on April 5, 1951, with the composer conducting. The three movement symphony rivals any orchestra composition in length, breadth, and content, and served to convince other first-rank composers – including Giannini, Persichetti, Creston, and Hovhaness – that the band is a legitimate medium for serious music.

Jennifer Smith is currently studying with Kim Risinger and pursuing a Master of Music degree at Illinois State University. She performs with the Wind Symphony and the Wind Symphony Flute Quartet. She received a Bachelor of Music degree from Illinois State University in May of 1999. Internationally, she has performed with the Collegium Musicum in Berlin, Germany and the Canterbury Christ Church College Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra in Canterbury, England.

Wind Symphony Personnel

Flute and Piccolo Megan Lomonof, Oak Lawn Leigh Ann Singer, Ottawa Jennifer Smith, Lockport Elivi Varga, Bloomington

Oboe Megan French, Bloomington Laura Israelson, Aurora

English Horn Casi Anderson, Tinley Park Laura Israelson, Aurora

E flat Clarinet Ivory Sebastion, *Aurora*

Clarinet Jessica Boese, Shorewood Robyn Canene, Naperville Christina Quatrini, Tinley Park Patrick Steadman, Normal Ivory Sebastion, Aurora Brian Beddigs, Park Forest Marcie Banti, Barrington

Low Clarinet Ian Leggin, Kenosha, WI Robert Rake, Jr., Springfield Christina Issacs, Bloomington

Bassoon Erin Click, Jackson, MO Amy Zordan, Odell

Contrabassoon Guadalupe Esquivel, Chicago Hts.

Alto Saxophone Tobias Thomas, Tremont Roberto Quinones, Chicago

Tenor Saxophone Sean Powell, Cookeville, TN

Baritone Saxophone Jason Kaumeyer, Shorewood

Horn

Sara Giovanelli, *Iowa City, IA* Heather Husley, *Bristol, TN* David Bostik, *Lockport* John Hansen, *Pontiac*

Trumpet

Adam Bergeron, Kalamazoo, MI Ted Clark, Toronto, Canada Ryan Elliot, Saginaw, MI Kyle Berens, Crystal Lake Elisa Curren, Danbury, NH Dan Hiles, Marquette Heights

Trombone

Kelly Wolf, Morrison Michael Bingham, Chicago Jason Binde, Asheville, NC

Bass Trombone Roy Magnuson, Bishop Hill

Euphonium Griffin James, Madison, WI Meredith Melvin, Monmouth

Tuba Eric Jordan, *Joliet* Will Young, *Des Plaines*

String Bass Justin Routh, Quincy

Piano Mina Son, Joliet

Percussion Andrés Bautista, Skokie Bill Roberts, St. Charles Scott Simon, Belvidere Ben Stiers, Mackinaw Jeff Young, Leroy

Wind and Percussion Faculty

Flute – Kimberly Risinger Oboe – Judith Dicker Clarinet – David Gresham Bassoon – Michael Dicker Saxophone – James Boitos Horn – Joe Neisler Trumpet – Amy Gilreath Trombone – Stephen Parsons Euphonium – Michael Forbes Tuba – Michael Forbes Percussion – David Collier

Band Staff

Director of Bands – Stephen K. Steele Assistant Director of Bands – Matthew Luttrell Secretary for Bands – Connie Bryant Graduate Teaching Assistant – Heather Husley Graduate Teaching Assistant – Griffin James Graduate Teaching Assistant – Ian Leggin Graduate Teaching Assistant – Sean Powell Librarian – Megan Lomonof

Illinois State University Band Compact Discs

Symphony No. 5 – Wind Symphony Song Books – Wind Symphony Tim Ryan Memorial Concert – Wind Symphony La Fiesta – 2003 Big Red Marching Machine