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Concert: Ithaca College Symphonic Band

Ithaca College Symphonic Band

Henry Neubert

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ITHACA COLLEGE

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA COLLEGE SYMPHONIC BAND
Henry Neubert, conductor

Ford Hall
Thursday, March 31, 2005
8:15 p.m.

ITHACA

PROGRAM

Symphony No.1, The Lord of the Rings

Johan de Meij
(b. 1953)

- I. *Gandalf (the wizard)*
- II. *Lothlorien (the elvenwood)*
- III. *Gollum (smeagol)*
- IV. *Journey in the dark*
 - a. *The mines of moria*
 - b. *The bridge of khazad-duin*
- V. *Hobbits*

Program Notes

Johan de Meij's first symphony "The Lord of the Rings" is based on the trilogy of that name by J.R.R. Tolkien. This book has fascinated many 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 and shows Johan de Meij in his true colours as a composer who, so far featured as a transcriber and arranger of the symphonic repertoire, light music and music for the screen, is now seen as a serious composer. The symphony, *The Lord of the Rings*, had its premiere in Brussels on 15th March 1988, and 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 2nd June 1988 at Kerkrade during the advance presentation of the 1989 World Music Competition. This same orchestra released the work on compact disc, March 1989.

Explanation of the five movements:

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 the *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*)

The second movement is an impression of Lothlórien, the elvenwood with its beautiful trees, plants, exotic birds, expressed through woodwind solos. The meeting of the Hobbit Frodo with the Lady Galadriel is embodied in a charming *Allegretto*; in the *Mirror of Galadriel*, a silver basin in the wood, Frodo glimpses three visions, the last of which, a large ominous Eye, greatly upsets him.

III. Gollum (*Smeagol*)

The third 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 alternately pitiful and malicious, is continually fleeing and 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, the Orks, Gandalf is engaged in battle with a horrible monster, the Balrog, and crashes from the subterranean bridge of Khazad-Dum in a fathomless abyss. To the melancholy tones of a Marcia funebre, the bewildered Companions trudge on, looking for the only way out of the Mines, the East Gate of Moria.

V. Hobbits

The fifth 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.

Notes by Johan de Meij

ITHACA COLLEGE SYMPHONIC BAND

Henry Neubert, conductor

Heidi J. Miller, graduate conductor

Piccolo

Nikki Barnum

Flute

Melissa Wertheimer

Becca Frost

Emily James

Whitney Kaiser

Jennifer Rodgers

Darren Simonson

Esther Paek

Oboe

Luke Conklin

Corinne Landrey

English Horn

Margaret Westreich

E♭ Clarinet

Anne Woodard

B♭ Clarinet

Kelly Bochynski

Jonathan Smith

Jessie Shaw

Corinne Waite

Matthew Gibson

Laura Caruthers

Allegra Smith

Spencer Blumenfeld

Kimberly Fleming

Alto Clarinet

Natalie Gamble

Bass Clarinet

Miranda Selover

Bassoon

Jeff Ward

Kristen Schussler

Soprano Saxophone

Adam York

Alto Saxophone

Adam York

Rob Flack

Andrew Lawrence

Kevin Marshall

Shannon Burns

Tenor Saxophone

Sam Podell

Andre Baruch

Baritone Saxophone

Tom Hauser

French Horn

Andrea Silvestrini

Michelle LeRoy

Gina Zurlo

Bethanie Keem

Chelsey Hamm

Trumpet

Omar Williams

Bridget Colgan

Matthew Sprague

Abbey Clark

Calvin L. Rice

Katherine Hancock

Vincent Venitelli

Stephen Pysnik

Jesse Kleingardner

Fluegelhorn

Omar Williams

Trombone

Paul Barton

Lloyd Dugger

Leslie Ann Brennan

Emily Selman

John Schleiermacher

Ashley Taylor

Nicholas H. Smarcz

D. Phillip Truex

Daniel Bacigalupi

Euphonium

Mike Vecchio

Sarah Drew

Tuba

Bryan Lewis

Nicholas Gann

Timothy Then

Timpani

Jason E. Taylor

Percussion

Alyssa Cadwalader,

principal

Laurie Sklar

Evan Peltier

Lauretta Noller

Piano

Chris Nickelson

Double Bass

Christopher White

CONCERT CALENDAR

April

4	8:15	Wind Ensemble; Stephen Peterson, conductor <i>Ithaca College Concerts 2004-5</i>
5	7:30 8:15	Pre-Concert Lecture <i>Guest Recital; Yundi Li, piano</i> (admission charge)
8	3:00	Mary Hayes North Competition for Senior Piano Majors
11	8:15 7:00	Jazz Workshop; Steve Brown, musical director Piano Ensemble; Phiroze Mehta, coach
14	8:15	Brass Choir; Keith Kaiser, conductor
15	8:15	Jazz Workshop; Keaton Akins, graduate music director
16	8:15	Chamber Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor
17	8:15	Vocal Jazz Ensemble; Laurie Keegan, musical director Choral Union; Lawrence Doebler, conductor and Symphony Orchestra; Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor
21	8:15	Percussion Ensemble; Conrad Alexander, director
22	4:00 7:00	String Chamber Ensembles String Chamber Ensembles
23	12:00 8:15	All-Campus Band; James Miller, conductor Symphonic Band; Henry G. Neubert, conductor
24	4:00	Choir and Madrigal Singers; Lawrence Doebler, conductor
26	7:00	Opera Workshop; Patrick Hansen, stage and musical director
27	8:15	Percussion Ensemble; Gordon Stout, director
28	8:15 8:15	Wind Ensemble; Stephen Peterson, conductor Concert Band; Elizabeth Peterson, conductor

May

1	7:00	<i>Guest Recital; Glimmerglass Opera Young American Singers</i>
14	8:30	38 th Gala Commencement Eve Concert (Ben Light Gymnasium)

Ithaca College Concerts 2004-5 (admission charge)

October 1	Guarneri String Quartet
November 5	New York Voices
April 5	Yundi Li, piano