

2022

Concert recording 2022-02-15

Richard Rulli

Miroslava Panayotova

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UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Fulbright College
of Arts & Sciences

ACCENT FACULTY PERFORMANCE SERIES

Richard Rulli, trumpet
Miroslava Panayotova, piano

CONCERT PROGRAM

- The Lightning Fields* (2015).....Michael Daugherty (b. 1954)
- I. Griffith Observatory – Los Angeles, California
 - II. The Lightning Field – Catron County, New Mexico
 - III. Marfa Lights – U.S. Route 67, Marfa, Texas
 - IV. Times Square – New York City

BRIEF INTERMISSION

- Main Player* (2018)..... John Harmon (b. 1937)
- Sonata* (1940).....Harold Shapero (1920–2013)
- I. Slow
 - II. Fast

PROGRAM NOTES

The Lightning Fields for trumpet/flugelhorn and piano was commissioned by the International Trumpet Guild and premiered by Craig Morris, trumpet and flugelhorn with Asiya Korepanova, piano at the ITG Conference at Columbus, Ohio on May 26, 2015. Twenty minutes in length, my composition is inspired by four unique nocturnal fields of natural or artificial light phenomena found in North America.

The Griffith Observatory is perched high above the city of Los Angeles on Mount Hollywood. It is from this precipice at night that I have experienced the breathtaking view of endless city lights, as far as the eye can imagine, reaching into the distant Pacific Ocean. In the first movement, I imagine a lonely figure, perched high upon the Observatory precipice at midnight, playing melancholy, bluesy music on a flugelhorn.



“The Lightning Field,” the second movement, refers to an extraordinary modernist installation located in a remote area of New Mexico created by Walter De Maria in 1977. A frequent target of lightning strikes, the installation consists of 400 stainless steel poles symmetrical arranged in a one-mile square grid. The music I have created for the trumpet falls into abstract patterns of time and infinite space with an occasional bolt of lightning interrupting the proceedings.

According to legend, the “Marfa lights,” also know as the “ghost lights,” can be seen after nightfall outside of Marfa, Texas off of U.S. Route 67, near the Rio Grande River and the Mexican border. In the third movement, which is played on flugelhorn, I have created a ghostly soundscape of mariachi melodies. The music unfolds in slow-motion like tumbleweeds rolling across a dusty Texas plain.

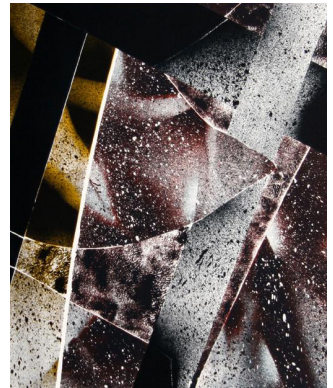


In the fourth and final movement, the trumpet performs soaring feats of electric virtuosity to suggest the fantastic neon lights and electric billboards of Times Square, New York City. We occasionally take a detour to West 52nd Street, a side street of Times Square. It is here that I evoke the specters of trumpet jazz legends such as Miles Davis, Clifford Brown and Roy Eldridge. Back in the 1950s, they haunted the jazz clubs of West 52nd Street, such as Birdland and

the Three Ducees, which disappeared into oblivion long ago.

— Michael Daugherty

Main Player for trumpet and piano gets its name and inspiration from a painting in my studio by cutting-edge New York City painter, Steve Conley. We were close friends in college and I stayed with him when I first moved to the city. He was a very knowledgeable jazz enthusiast, so some of the music reflects elements, especially harmonies, of jazz’s unique musical language. Its form follows an A, B, C, A pattern from medium tempo, slower, slower yet... before a return to the beginning. The piece was written specifically for Richard Rulli, a Red Lodge faculty member. I’m honored to have this gifted artist perform *Main Player* in its premiere.



— John Harmon, Red Lodge Music Festival, June 2, 2019

Sonata for C Trumpet and Piano was composed in 1940, early in Shapero’s cannon. He was born, grew up, educated (Bard College & Harvard) and primarily made his career (Professor of Music at Brandeis University) in and around Boston, Massachusetts. He is considered a Neo-Classical Composer and the Trumpet Sonata is obviously influenced by Jazz. Not much is known about the circumstances of the Sonata’s creation. Ingolf Dahl wrote in the music journal *Notes* in 1958 commenting on the first widespread publication of the piece in 1956 that, “It was worth waiting 16 years for this publication which is a real contribution to the brass sonata literature.” (Whalen). Shapero had long-time professional relationships with Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland, the later to which the Trumpet Sonata is dedicated. His compositions were recognized with numerous accolades, including the Prix de Rome, a Naumburg Fellowship, two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Fulbright Fellowship and a Koussevitsky Foundation Commission.

— Richard Rulli

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

FEBRUARY

- MO 21 Accent Faculty Performance Series**
Jake Hertzog, guitar
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public
- TU 22 Guest Artist Concert**
Elicio Winds
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public
- WE 23 RAZORBONES Concert**
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public
- TH 24 Symphonic Band & 5:00 Concert Band**
7:30 pm, Faulkner Performing Arts Center
tickets at uark.universitytickets.com
- MO 28 University Symphony Orchestra**
7:30 pm, Faulkner Performing Arts Center
tickets at uark.universitytickets.com

MARCH

- TU 1 Wind Symphony & 4:00 Concert Band**
7:30 pm, Faulkner Performing Arts Center
tickets at uark.universitytickets.com
- WE 2 Hertzog Guitar Studio Recital**
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public
- TH 3 Treble Chorus & Recital Chorus**
7:30 pm, Faulkner Performing Arts Center
tickets at uark.universitytickets.com
- SU 6 Music Honors Recital**
3:30 pm, Faulkner Performing Arts Center
tickets at uark.universitytickets.com
- MO 7 Guest Artist Concert:**
Drew Irwin, violin
7:30 pm, Stella Boyle Smith Concert Hall
free and open to the public

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