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Arkansas Symphony Orchestra

Francis McBeth

Ouachita Baptist University

Arkansas Symphonic Orchestra

Philip Mann

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OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS

a concert by the



ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PHILIP MANN MUSIC DIRECTOR

**featuring the music of
W. FRANCIS M^CBETH**

Friday, March 8, 2013 • 7:30 p.m.
Jones Performing Arts Center



The Arkansas Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its 47th season in 2012-2013 under the leadership of Music Director Philip Mann. ASO is the resident orchestra of Robinson Center Music Hall and performs more than 30 concerts each year for more than 42,000 people through its Stella Boyle Smith Masterworks Series, ACXIOM Pops LIVE! Series and River Rhapsodies Chamber Series. It also serves central Arkansas through numerous community outreach programs and brings live symphonic music education to more than 24,000 students in more than 200 schools.

PROGRAM

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OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Barber of Seville Overture

Rossini

Symphony No. 3

McBeth

— INTERMISSION —

A Rose for Emily

McBeth

The Firebird: Suite

Stravinsky

W. FRANCIS

Dr. W. Francis McBeth, internationally acclaimed composer and conductor and longtime professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University, served as conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in the early 1970s.

According to the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, "During his tenure as conductor, McBeth transformed the ensemble into a professional orchestra with a permanent home, financial stability and full-time professional players." In recognition of his significant contributions and leadership, Dr. McBeth was honored by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra as conductor emeritus.

Dr. McBeth, who earned numerous accolades throughout his career, served as Ouachita's composer-in-residence, Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music and chair of the theory/composition department of the Division of Music. He also served as Arkansas' composer laureate, the first composer laureate named in the United States, and was a past president of the American Bandmasters Association.

Dr. McBeth joined the Ouachita faculty in 1957. He was named Distinguished University Professor by the Ouachita Board of Trustees upon his retirement in 1996. Trustees also named the William Francis McBeth Recital Hall in Mabee Fine Arts Center in his honor.

During a musical tribute titled "The Creative World of Francis McBeth," presented on the Ouachita campus in conjunction with his retirement, Dr. McBeth was invited to conduct several of his compositions as part of the two-night concert, including "Caccia, Opus 62," "The Dream Catcher, Opus 86" and "The Gathering of the Waters, Opus 76."

Dr. McBeth, who began playing trumpet in the second grade, earned degrees from Hardin-Simmons University and the University of Texas and also studied at the Eastman School of Music. He served from 1954-56 with

MCBETH



the 101st Airborne Band at Fort Jackson, S.C., and the 98th Army Band at Fort Rucker, Ala.

As a trumpet and double bass player, Dr. McBeth performed in England, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy and Scotland. He also served as a conductor throughout Europe as well as Australia, Canada and Japan.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. McBeth was a recipient of an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Special Award annually for more than 30 consecutive years. He also received the Howard Hanson Prize of the Eastman School of Music for his "Third Symphony," the American School Band Directors Association's Edwin Franko Goldman Award in 1983, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's American Man of Music in 1988, Kappa Kappa Psi's Distinguished Service to Music Award in 1989, the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic's Medal of Honor in 1993 and the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Medal of Honor in 2000.

Dr. McBeth, who passed away Jan. 6, 2012, at age 78, left an enduring legacy as one of the most prolific composers of wind band music in the 20th century. His "Double Pyramid Balance System" remains a widely used pedagogical tool in the concert band world.

PHILIP MANN

Hailed by the BBC as a “talent to watch out for, who conveys a mature command of his forces,” conductor **Philip Mann** is quickly gaining a worldwide reputation as an “expressively graceful yet passionate” artist with a range spanning opera, symphonic repertoire, new music and experimental collaborations. Mann is in his third season as music director of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, which has seen audience and artistic growth, new energy and financial health under his tenure. Formerly the San Diego Symphony’s associate conductor, the *San Diego Union Tribune* raved, “Mann was masterful ... a skilled musical architect, designing and executing a beautifully paced interpretation, which seemed to spring from somewhere deep within the music rather than superimposed upon it.”



As winner of the Vienna Philharmonic’s Karajan Fellowship at the Salzburg Festival and an American Conducting Fellow, Mann has relationships with orchestras and operas worldwide, including the Cleveland Orchestra, l’Orchestre symphonique de Québec, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Georgian State Opera and the National Symphony of Cyprus. Previously the music director of the Oxford City Opera and Oxford Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, he has also held conducting positions with the Music in the Mountains Festival and Indianapolis Symphony. A Rhodes Scholar, Mann studied and taught at Oxford, where he won the annual competition to become principal conductor of the Oxford University Philharmonia. Under his leadership, the Philharmonia’s performances received international acclaim. He maintains a lively schedule as a guest conductor and is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations.

CONCERT SPONSORS

Tonight's concert by the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra in memory of W. Francis McBeth has been made possible through the generosity of numerous friends of Ouachita. The following provided gifts of \$1,000 or more.

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