



ASU Concert Band Presents

ABRACADABRA:
*A night of
Concert Band Magic*

Bryan Raya, conductor
Melanie Brooks, conductor

School of Music
Herberger Institute for Design & the Arts
Arizona State University
2015-2016 Season

November 23, 2015
7:30pm

Evelyn Smith Music Theatre

MUSIC

ASU Herberger Institute
FOR DESIGN AND THE ARTS

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

ASU Concert Band

Bryan Raya and Melanie Brooks, Directors

- A Festival Prelude.....Alfred Reed
(1921-2005)
Bryan Raya, conductor
- Abracadabra.....Frank Ticheli
(b. 1958)
Melanie Brooks, conductor
- Early Light.....Carolyn Bremer
(b. 1958)
Bryan Raya, conductor
- Sheltering Sky.....John Mackey
(b. 1953)
Melanie Brooks, conductor
- Spoon River*.....Percy Grainger
(1882-1961)
*Arranged by Robert Sheldon
Bryan Raya, conductor
- Olympiada.....Samuel R. Hazo
(b. 1966)
Melanie Brooks, conductor
- The Klaxon.....Henry Fillmore
(1881-1956)
edited by Frederick Fennell

To respect the performers, please silence all electronic devices.

Bryan Raya is a first year D.M.A. conducting student and teaching assistant at Arizona State University with Professor Gary Hill. Raya recently earned his M.A. in instrumental conducting at Fresno State in Fresno, California after serving over eight years in the United States Army as a trombonist and bandmaster/conductor. Throughout his musical career, Raya has performed with various military and civilian ensembles throughout the world including events for numerous dignitaries and government officials including the President and Vice President of the United States of America. His military assignments include bands in Alabama, Texas, Hawaii, and South Korea as well as a 14-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Raya has numerous military achievements and honors including being named the 2006 U.S. Army, Pacific Soldier of the Year and being the Distinguished Honor Graduate for the Advanced Leader Course in 2010.

Before he joined the Army, Raya earned a B.A. in trombone performance from Fresno State, and he also performed with the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps including their 1999 championship season. Raya has worked with numerous high school marching band and collegiate athletic band programs, and he is currently on staff with the Sun Devil Marching Band.

Melanie Brooks is completing her M.M. in wind conducting this year at Arizona State University with Professor Gary Hill. Last year, Brooks received a Fulbright grant to study wind conducting at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. While in Finland, she conducted four of the country's five professional military bands, worked at youth and adult music camps in Kouvola and Terälahti, directed student honor bands in Varkaus, Lahti, and Tampere, visited music schools across the country, and met Santa on the Arctic Circle just outside of the city of Rovaniemi. She also performed with the Sibelius Academy Wind Ensemble at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago as a saxophonist.

Before beginning her graduate education, Brooks taught 5th grade and high school band in Pine City, MN for two years, directing two concert bands, jazz band, jazz combo, marching band, and pep band. Her first teaching job was at Bethlehem Academy in Faribault, MN, where she directed 5th grade band, 6th grade band, grades 7-12 band, jazz band, pep band, and marching band for one semester as a long-term substitute teacher. Brooks received her Bachelor of Arts from Saint Olaf College in Northfield, MN, where she performed with seven ensembles as a saxophonist and directed the college athletic band. She has since performed several recitals with the Kaze Saxophone Quartet, premiering and commissioning new pieces written by Finnish composers Janne Ikonen and Jukka Viitasari.

Program Notes

Alfred Reed: A Festival Prelude

Alfred Reed (1921-2005) is one of America's most prolific composers for wind band in the 20th century with over 250 published works for various ensembles and chamber groups. *A Festival Prelude* was written in 1962 for the 25th

anniversary of the Tri-State Music Festival in Enid, Oklahoma. The work is based on one main theme and two fanfare-like figures throughout the work. The piece contrasts the melodic melody of the main theme with the fanfares in the the brass in both style and the timbre of the ensemble. The orchestration is based on the concept of the integrated symphonic band sound being developed in the 1950s and 60s with balanced instrumentation and distinct tone color groups between the brass sections and the woodwinds centered around the clarinet choir timbre.

Frank Ticheli: *Abracadabra*

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958), Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California, is one of the most celebrated composers for the wind band medium. *Abracadabra* is dedicated to Ticheli's son, and it simultaneously holds characteristics of playfulness and seriousness, innocence and mischief, and a pervading atmosphere of mystery. Self-described as a piece of "musical economy," almost every aspect of the piece is derived from the opening bars of the main theme.

Carolyn Bremer: *Early Light*

Early Light was written for the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and received its premiere performance in July, 1995. The material is largely derived from "The Star Spangled Banner." One need not attribute an excess of patriotic fervor in the composer as a source for this optimistic homage to our national anthem; Carolyn Bremer, a passionate baseball fan since childhood, drew upon her feelings of happy anticipation at hearing the anthem played before ball games when writing her piece. The slapstick heard near the end echoes the crack of the bat on a long home run.

-Performance notes from the score

John Mackey: *Sheltering Sky*

Sheltering Sky is a nostalgic and reflective piece that is inspired by the tradition of integrating folk song characteristics into wind band music. Like many of Percy Grainger's compositions, John Mackey (b. 1973) created original melodies set in a folk song style. Mackey's use of extended harmonies gives this piece a sense of haziness and unresolved longing.

Percy Grainger: *Spoon River*

"Spoon River" is an American folk-dance originally played by a fiddler at a country dance in 1857. Percy Grainger (1882-1961) later set the piece for piano in 1919, and he dedicated the piece to "Edgar Lee Masters Poet Pioneer". Robert Sheldon (b. 1954) is an American composer and arranger who has been recognized for his contributions to the educational repertoire. In this arrangement, Sheldon captures the style of Grainger with his scoring and more complex harmonies.

Sheldon marks the tempo and style as “*sturdily, with ‘pioneer’ persistency*” and is an indication of the arrangements forward dance-like energy and momentum throughout the piece.

Samuel Hazo: *Olympiada*

Samuel Hazo (b. 1966) has an illustrious career as a composer and educator. He was the first composer to win both composition contests offered by the National Band Association, and he has taught students from kindergarten to college level. *Olympiada* is a programmatic piece that captures the intensity, pain, glory, and celebration found in a race at the Olympic Games.

Henry Fillmore: *The Klaxon*

Band leader and composer Henry Fillmore (1881-1956) was caught up in the enthusiasm for American automobiles in the 1920's. After buying a new car, it was typical to assemble additional gear onto the vehicle. A “Klaxon” is a loud horn for such a car, and it was the inspiration for this jovial and unusual march.

**All events in ASU Gammage
unless otherwise specified*

**All concerts begin at 7:30pm*

December 1, 2015

ASU Wind Orchestra

Koncert a Kabaretová:

The Music of Erwin Schulhoff

Trae Blanco, *conductor*

December 4, 2015

ASU Symphony Orchestra

Holiday Music Festival

David Schildkret and Jason Caslor, *conductors*

February 1, 2016

ASU Symphony Orchestra

ASU Concert of Soloists

Jason Caslor, *conductor*

February 2, 2016

ASU Wind Ensemble and Wind Orchestra

House Guests!

Jason Caslor and Gary Hill, *conductors*

**EVENT INFORMATION 480.965.TUNE (480.965.8863)
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