



INTERLOCHEN

Arts Academy

Interlochen, Michigan
302nd Program of the 55th Year

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COMPOSERS IN CONTEXT

INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY BAND
Matthew Schlomer, conductor

Saturday, April 22, 2017

7:30pm, Corson Auditorium

Dances from TerpsichoreMichael Praetorius (1571-1621)
arr. Lawrence Harper

Music for Prague 1968 Karel Husa
Introduction and Fanfare (1921-2016)
Aria
Interlude
Toccata and Chorale

Love Among the Ruins ****World Premiere Performance**** James Syler
(b. 1961)
Renée Skerik, viola

Love Among the Ruins was co-commissioned by Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Suite Française..... Darius Milhaud
I. Normandie (1892-1974)
V. Provence

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PROGRAM NOTES by Matthew Schlomer

Every generation exists in the shadows of our collective past. Western Music, then, is a series of artifacts that trace across the centuries, building on images from our predecessors. To contextualize any living composer we can look back to the past. Michael Praetorius was born Michael Schultze. He was a German composer who later discovered Italian styles and took a Latin version of his German surname. Most of his work was choral and intended for use in the church. *Terpsichore* was a collection of over 300 instrumental dances. It is the only surviving example of his secular works. Today his style is perhaps heard with renewed freshness as its dance forms and modal harmonies fall on our unfamiliar ears.

Karel Husa wrote *Music for Prague 1968* for the capital city of Czechoslovakia. Husa requests that the text below be included at each performance of his work:

Three main ideas bind the composition together. The first and most important is an old Hussite war song from the 15th century, "Ye Warriors of God and His Law," a symbol of resistance and hope for hundreds of years, whenever fate lay heavy on the Czech nation. It has been utilized also by many Czech composers, including Smetana in *My Country*. The beginning of this religious song is announced very softly in the first movement by the timpani and concludes in a strong unison (*Chorale*). The song is never used in its entirety.

The second idea is the sound of the bells throughout; Prague, also named the City of "Hundreds of Towers," has used its magnificently sounding church bells as calls of distress as well as of victory.

The last idea is a motif of three chords first appearing very softly under the piccolo solo at the beginning of the piece, in flutes, clarinets and horns. Later it reappears at extremely strong dynamic levels, for example, in the middle of the *Aria*.

Different techniques of composing as well as orchestrating have been used in *Music for Prague 1968* and some new sounds explored, such as the percussion section in the *Interlude*, the ending of the work, etc. Much symbolism also appears: in addition to the distress calls in the first movement (*Fanfares*), the unbroken hope of the Hussite song, the sound of bells, or the tragedy (*Aria*), there is also the bird call at the beginning (piccolo solo), symbol of the liberty which the City of Prague has seen only for moments during its thousand years of existence.

In a moment of bittersweet irony, James Syler completed *Love Among the Ruins* on the same day that Husa passed away this past fall. Husa's monumental work stands among the greatest compositions that ask us to consider the horrors of aggressions' casualties. Mr. Syler's work asks us to search for love in the wake of tragedy.

Finally, Milhaud's *Suite Francaise* is a work that remembers the battlefields of World War II by setting folk songs from the regions of notable battlefields. While some of the inner movements of the work also deal with loss and tragedy, the outer movements that we perform tonight are set in a similar philosophy to James Syler's work, almost as if the beauty and innocence of a folk melody will prove more resilient than temporary ugliness.

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JAMES SYLER was born in Hyde Park, New York and raised in New York and Florida. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from Northern Illinois University in 1983 and a Master of Music degree from the University of Miami in 1988. In 1991 he continued his studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He has studied privately with composers Alfred Reed, Karl Korte and Pulitzer prizewinner Michael Colgrass. Equally at ease with modern and traditional techniques, his compositions have been noted for their lyricism and drama. His compositional interests move equally between orchestral, wind ensemble, choral and chamber forms. He has developed a personal style that is eclectic, energetic and innovative, yet able to communicate with diverse audiences. His works have been performed nationally and internationally. Awards include a 2002 commission from the American Composers Forum in New York to compose the *String Quartet No. 1* for the Artaria String Quartet of St. Paul, Minnesota, the 1993 National Band Association Composition Award, two grants from the American Music Center in New York, the 1993 Arnauld Gabriel Composition Award, and more than 20 commissions to date. In 1998 he established Ballerbach Music, a music publishing company that for 15 years published the works of more than 20 composers. Since 2013, Ballerbach Music is now dedicated to

exclusively promoting and publishing his own music. Syler has been on the adjunct faculty at the University of Texas at San Antonio since 2001 and teaches private composition lessons, Orchestration, Contrapuntal Techniques, Masterpieces of Music and American Roots Music. From 1998-2001 he was on the faculty at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida and from 1995-1998 at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida. Syler is married to pianist Elizabeth Gutierrez and resides in San Antonio, Texas.

MATTHEW SCHLOMER is the Conductor of the Interlochen Arts Academy Band, teaches conducting and classical saxophone at the Academy, and serves on the faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp. Previous positions have been at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Luther College, Edgewood College, Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, and Sheboygan High School. He studied wind conducting with Scott Teeple and Allan McMurray, saxophone with Jean-Marie Londeix and Tom Myer, and dance with Kate Corby and Mary Brennan. He holds a doctoral degree in Instrumental Conducting with a minor concentration in Dance from the University of Wisconsin, a bachelor degree in Music Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a gold medal in saxophone from Bordeaux Regional Conservatory in France. While at UW-Madison he twice received the Richard Church Memorial Conducting Award. Dr. Schlomer is an avid collaborator, creating events with artists in music, film, dance, creative writing, theater, and the culinary arts. He is resident conductor of the experimental percussion group Clocks in Motion and the Traverse City Dance Project. He serves internationally as a conductor, clinician and innovator in music education.

RENÉE SKERIK is Instructor of Viola at Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen Viola Institute, the Green Lake Festival of Music, and the Montecito International Chamber Music Festival. She is a former student of David Holland and an alumna of the Academy. Formerly professor of viola at Texas Tech University School of Music and violist of the Botticelli String Quartet, she toured throughout the United States, Europe, Brazil, including performances at the 33rd International Viola Congress in Reykjavik, Iceland and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Skerik performed for ten years as violist of the Artaria String Quartet and was co-founder of Stringwood Summer Chamber Music Festival and the Artaria Chamber Music School. She has served on the faculty of the MacPhail Center for the Arts, Carleton College, Viterbo College, The Quartet Program, Green Mountain Music Festival, the Castleman Piano Quintet Program, Bravo! Summer Chamber Music Institute, Stringwood and was Artist/Teacher at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Her chamber music collaborations include performances with Janos Starker, Raphael Hillyer, Arnold Steinhardt and Charles Castleman. Currently she is violist of the American Piano Quintet. Skerik received her Bachelor of Music degree in Viola Performance from the Eastman School of Music, Master of Music degree in Viola Performance from the University of Michigan, and her Doctoral Studies at the University of Minnesota.

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ABOUT COMPOSERS IN CONTEXT

Interlochen is proud to present the fourth annual Composers in Context series featuring the Academy Band, Choir and Orchestra. This year, Interlochen showcases the works of highly respected voices in contemporary music.

Through these programs, Academy students present music of our time that is ripe for exploration. Thank you for joining us.

INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY BAND

Andrew Grimm, manager

FLUTE

Campbell Barnes, Calif.
Katherine Berry, Md.
Sebastian Brea Perez,
Venezuela
Olivia Elerson, Texas
Ipek Karataylioglu, Turkey (alto)
Hyeong Ju Kim, Nev. (piccolo)
Dyrel Jarrett May, Texas
(piccolo)
Ruitong Qin, China (piccolo)
Nicolas Quero, Ill.
Alyssa Rivera, Tenn.
Zoe Stier, Mich.

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Donghwi Kang, South Korea
Victor Romulo Garcia, Mexico
Angela Scates, Mich.

CLARINET

Jadon Cochran, Calif.
Claudia Hernandez Guerrero,
Cuba
Nathan Landers, Wash. (alto)
Nicole Martin, Maine
Jue Mei, China
Zhiwei Ni, China (E-flat)
Anders Peterson, Minn.
Eva Sauer, Md.
Shiyue Zhang, China

BASSOON

Hannah Howell, Mich.
Mingze Li, China
YuanHong Sun, China
Daniel Zaldana, Fla. (contra)

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Caleb Allen, W.Va. (bass)
Donovan Elliott, N.C.
Rebecca Williams, N.C.

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Alyssa Peterson, S.D.

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Alex Gurchinoff, Va.

TRUMPET

Ahmadbaset Azizi,
Afghanistan
Brandon Bellile, Iowa (flugel)
Kathrine Hamann, Neb.
J. Reynolds Martin, Ky.
Jared Moore, Wis.
Jamie O'Brien, Pa. (flugel)
Shane O'Brien, Calif.
Declan Scott, Canada

HORN

Ryan Haines, Nev.
Elisabeth Pesavento, Wash.
Kylie Twadell, Ill.
Shawn Zheng, Tenn.

TROMBONE

Sophia Anasis, Ohio
Claire Bergin, Mich.
Paul-Pierre Boutet, Alaska
Mary Paz Cubero Navarro,
Costa Rica
Colin Motley, Ore.

EUPHONIUM

Allee Zaccor, Calif.

TUBA

Conor Dailey, Mich.
Oriana Fife, Idaho
Stefan Hopman, Fla.
JunMing Wen, China

GUITAR

Benjamin Schmitt-West,
Colo.

DOUBLE BASS

Stephanie Price (guest)

PIANO

Duoduo Xue, China

PERCUSSION

Chandler Beaugrand, Fla.
Gabriel Costache, Colo.
Andre DeGrenier, Fla.
Nicolas Goleekee, Wash.
Oliver Holden-Moses, Okla.
Adriano Macciocchi, Mich.
Mitchell Vogel, Fla.

Personnel listed alphabetically
within their sections

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