

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY BANDS

presents their

Wind Symphony

Dr. Alex Wimmer, Conductor
Assistant Director of Bands

February 22nd, 2019 - 11:10 AM
Kansas Music Educators Association
Century II Concert Hall - Wichita, Kansas



2019 KMEA PROGRAM

Wind Symphony

Night on Fire (2013) John Mackey
b. 1973

Second Suite in F Gustav Holst, 1874-1934
for Military Band (1911/2006) ed. Frederick Fennell, 1914-2004

- I. March
- II. Song Without Words
- III. Song of the Blacksmith
- IV. Fantasia on the Dargason

Yosemite Autumn (2004) Mark Camphouse
b. 1954

Festal Scenes: Yasuhide Ito
Jojôteki-“Matsuri” (1986) b. 1960

Program notes begin on page 14

K-State Wind Symphony

Established in 2014, the Wind Symphony is the second of three auditioned concert ensembles at Kansas State University. This ensemble is comprised of fifty students from every college and major on campus. This group of undergraduate and graduate students performs some of the finest original works for wind band. The Wind Symphony is humbled and honored to be selected to perform at this year's Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop. The ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Alex Wimmer, Assistant Director of Bands at Kansas State University.



FLUTE

1-1 Rylie Toom • (Pic)
 1-2 Sophia Bowman
 2-1 Tony Rodriguez
 2-2 Jenna Dominguez

CLARINET

1-1 Taton Bennett •
 1-2 Michaela VanDuesen
 2-1 Megan Robinson
 2-2 Kelli Irvin
 3-1 Peri Carney
 3-2 Haley Rader

BASS CLARINET

1-1 Ben Mullinnix

OBOE

1-1 Kayden Nickles •
 1-2 Madison Rogers

BASSOON

1-1 Donovan West •
 2-1 Alex Anderson

ALTO SAX

1-1 James Probst •
 1-2 Noah McManus
 2-1 Maddie Marlow
 2-2 Sarah Wolfe

TENOR SAX

1-1 Trevor Whitlow

BARITONE SAX

1-1 Julia McCabe

TRUMPET

1-1 Dylan Kruep •
 1-2 Nathan Ottens
 2-1 Jonathan Ochampaugh
 2-2 Morghan Caldwell
 3-1 Gillian Falcon
 3-2 Courtney Wohletz
 3-3 Nathan Enns

HORN

1-1 Rose Bentley •
 2-1 Elliot Peters
 2-2 Jacob Springer
 3-1 Katie Kimmel
 4-1 Lillyann Bruington
 4-2 Molly Mulqueen

TROMBONES

1-1 Brooke Vetter •
 2-1 Douglas Ragon
 2-2 Bryce Teaford
 BASS Jakob Keith

EUPHONIUM

1-1 Nicole Buehler •
 2-2 Michael Walker

TUBA

1-1 Dakota Smith •
 2-1 Dawson Johannes
 3-1 Jakob Ferreira

PERCUSSION

(listed alphabetically)

Taylor Clark
 Trevor Herrington
 Jonathan Huhn
 Madison Howbert •
 Ethan Jefferies
 Derek Leamer
 Nathan Leininger

• *Principal/Section Leader*



Dr. Alex Wimmer

Director

Dr. Alex Wimmer is currently serving as the Assistant Director of Bands at Kansas State University. His duties include directing the Wind Symphony, Cat band (basketball pep band), Volleyball Band, Pub Crawl Band, Assistant Marching Band Director for the Pride of Wildcat Land, arranger and drill designer for the KSUMB, and instructor

of undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, arranging, and marching band techniques. Prior to his appointment at Kansas State University, Dr. Wimmer was a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Kansas State University Bands. He assisted with all concert and athletic ensembles, undergraduate conducting courses, and Percussion Ensembles. His research interests include undergraduates conducting with expressivity and qualitative research.

Originally from Gretna, Nebraska, Dr. Wimmer received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2007, his Master of Music degree in Education with an emphasis in Wind Conducting from Kansas State University in 2014, and his Doctorate in Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University in 2017. Dr. Wimmer was the Director of Bands at Gretna High School and the Assistant Director of Bands at Gretna Middle School from 2007-2012. Under his direction his concert, jazz, and marching bands received consistent superior ratings. He was a recipient of the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award in 2011 and served on the Nebraska Music Educators Association Leadership Academy from 2011-2012.

Dr. Wimmer is in demand as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator as well as a percussion specialist. His professional affiliations include the Kansas Music Educators Association, the Kansas Bandmasters Association, the National Association for Music Education, the College Band Directors National Association, the Percussive Arts Society, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Phi Kappa Lambda.

K-STATE

Faculty Presentations 2019

Dr. Johnson and Dr. Wimmer

Thursday, February 21 – 2:00-2:50pm, 202 Cherry

From B to Z (Bach to Zimmer):

How Film Music Can Reinforce Our Understanding of Music Principles

Getting students to understand the progression of Bach can be daunting, but getting students to understand the flow of Adele seems easy. Through the use of function chorales, this presentation will help us reconnect the foundations of music to the music that has become the soundtrack of our lives.

Dr. Phil Payne and Dr. Alex Wimmer

Thursday, February 21 – 3:00-3:50pm, 205 Maple

Mission: (Im)Possible

Developing Critical Thinking Through Creative Assessments

This session will focus on integrating student-centered assessment strategies that promote critical thinking and writing across the curriculum. We will also discuss the benefits of these strategies: developing better musicians, establishing effective learning environments, and enhanced knowledge of your students.

Dr. Ruth Gurgel and Dr. Phil Payne

Friday, February 22 – 8:00-8:30am, 206 Oak

Ain't Nobody Got Time for That:

Navigating the Minefield of Hosting a Student Teacher

In this session, we will share the constantly evolving requirements of music student teaching as well as effective strategies to employ with your intern. Additional topics will include navigation of university requirements and achieving mutual musical goals for both you and your intern.

Professor Rachel Dirks and Dr. Blair Williams

Friday, February 22 – 10:00-10:50am, 205 Maple

More Bridges, Fewer Walls:

Building Connections with Communities in Your Orchestra Program and Beyond

Music teachers have a unique opportunity to help students navigate not only their personal communities but also the community at large through shared music experiences, which often times serve as the catalyst for connection. Join us as we explore the bridges your musical community can build.

Dr. Frank Tracz and Dr. Alex Wimmer

Saturday, February 23 – 8:00-8:50am, 202 Cherry

Build It, They Will Come

Tips, techniques, and do's and don'ts from over forty years of teaching experience will be explored, discussed, and offered to help the Kansas music teacher build a better program for students, teachers, community, and all involved. Ideas, concepts, etc. will be presented to foster growth and prosperity.

Mrs. Sharyn Worcester

Saturday, February 23 – 8:00-8:50am, 203 Birch

Music Beyond High School

This clinic provides educators with methods to prepare their students for college music programs and careers, including choosing a major, how to prepare for auditions, how to search for scholarships, what to expect on college visits, and more!

Professor Rachel Dirks and Dr. Blair Williams

Saturday, February 23 – 10:00-10:50am, 207 Osage

Highways and Byways:

Options for Professional Advancement for Each Stage of Your Teaching Career

Workshops. Conferences. Graduate degrees. Professional development requirements. Which path for professional advancement is right for you? Presenters will share a variety of options, and participants will leave with practical considerations to help them navigate their professional destinations!

K-STATE

Large Ensembles

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is the premier concert ensemble at Kansas State University. This auditioned ensemble is comprised of fifty-five students from every college and major on campus. This group of undergraduate and graduate students performs the finest original works, transcriptions, and commissions for wind band. The Chamber Winds program also focuses on a variety of original works written for chamber winds of varying instrumentation. The Wind Ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Frank Tracz.

The ensemble has traveled and performed on some of the most prestigious stages and events in the United States which include the Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Conference (2006, 2010, 2015); Regional CBDNA Conferences (2010, 2016); the 60th MENC Biennial In-Service Conference (2006); Carnegie Hall (2015); the Larry Sutherland Wind Festival at Fresno State University (2016); and the Kennedy Center (2018). The Wind Ensemble has also performed concerts in New Zealand, Fiji, and Wales. The ensemble is humbled and honored to be invited to perform at this year's performance at the American Bandmaster's Association in Loveland, CO.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is the third auditioned concert ensemble at Kansas State University. This ensemble is comprised of fifty students from every college and major on campus. This group of undergraduate and graduate students perform the finest original works for wind band. The ensemble is conducted by graduate teaching assistants and is under the guidance of Dr. Frank Tracz and Dr. Alex Wimmer.

University Band

The University Band is a non-auditioned ensemble which meets Spring semesters. The ensemble is divided into two equal-sized and instrumented ensembles: Purple Band and Silver Band. This ensemble provides not only a quality ensemble experience for students from all majors on campus but also a valuable opportunity for music education majors to perform on secondary instruments. Junior and senior music education majors apply to conduct one of these two ensembles and their corresponding chamber ensembles. This experience provides these undergraduate conductors with weekly conducting lessons, experience writing unit and lesson plans, and rehearsal techniques to prepare them for student teaching. The ensemble is administered and organized by graduate teaching assistants and is under the guidance of Dr. Frank Tracz and Dr. Alex Wimmer.

Brass Ensemble

The K-State Brass Ensemble is an elite university chamber ensemble that demands the highest level of musicianship from all of its members. The group is comprised of the finest trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion performers at K-State. The Brass Ensemble has traveled to and performed in Germany, England, Greece, the Kansas Music Education Association In-Service Workshop (2012, 2016), and various community outreach concerts around Manhattan. The ensemble is conducted by graduate teaching assistants and is under the guidance of Dr. Frank Tracz and Dr. Alex Wimmer.

Woodwind Ensemble

Established in 2015, the K-State Woodwind Ensemble is an elite university chamber ensemble that demands the highest level of musicianship from all of its members. The group is comprised of the finest piccolo, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and saxophone performers at K-State. The Woodwind Ensemble was selected to perform at the 2017 Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop. The ensemble is conducted by graduate teaching assistants and is under the guidance of Dr. Frank Tracz and Dr. Alex Wimmer.



The Pride of Wildcat Land

The Kansas State University Marching Band (The Pride of Wildcat Land) is a 400+ member ensemble consisting of the best woodwind, brass, percussion, color guard, dancer, and twirler students in the nation. Established in 1899, The Pride performs at every home football game and numerous community and philanthropic events every year. These students represent every college and major on campus, and the marching band is open for all students to audition. During the fall, The Pride rehearses two hours every Tuesday, Thursday, and home game Fridays and has a one-hour music sectional on Wednesdays (less than almost every marching band in the top five power conferences). They are an integral part of the gameday experience in our very own Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Most recently, The Pride was the recipient of the 2015 Sudler Trophy. This is the most prestigious award for a college marching band and recognizes excellence and innovation in marching band. The Sudler Trophy is awarded to only one college band every two years. In 2016, the Wabash Cannonball was recognized by ESPN as the greatest pre-game tradition in the Big 12. The Pride is under the direction of Dr. Frank Tracz (Director of Bands) and assisted by Dr. Alex Wimmer (Assistant Director of Bands).

Cat Band

The Cat Band (K-State's basketball pep band) performs at every home women's and men's basketball game, contributing to the spirited and exciting atmosphere within Bramlage Coliseum. The 200+ member ensemble is broken up into two equal-sized and instrumented ensembles (Purple Band and Silver Band) that perform at both women's and men's home basketball games. The Cat Band is comprised of students from every college and major on campus and is open for all students to audition. The Cat Band also travels to selected away tournaments including the Wildcat Classic, the Big 12 Basketball Tournament, NCAA Tournaments, and NIT Tournaments. The Cat Band is under the direction of Dr. Alex Wimmer, Assistant Director of Bands at Kansas State University.

Volleyball Band

The Volleyball Band performs at every home volleyball game. This auditioned 22-member ensemble consists entirely of members of The Kansas State University Marching Band, and members receive a scholarship to perform in the ensemble. The Volleyball Band, positioned right on the court and next to the student section, is a key contributor to the spirited and exciting atmosphere in Ahearn Field House. The Volleyball Band is organized and administered by graduate teaching assistants and is under the direction of Dr. Alex Wimmer.

Little Apple Pub Crawl Band

The Pub Crawl Band is something exclusive and special to the Kansas State University football experience. Three 20-person bands travel around establishments all over Manhattan, KS, the Friday night before a home football game to provide excitement, comradery, and good clean (and dry) fun before a Wildcat Victory in Bill Snyder Family Stadium! Members of the Pub Crawl Band are part of the Kansas State University Marching Band and receive a scholarship to perform in the ensemble. The Pub Crawl Band is organized and administered by graduate teaching assistants and is under the direction of Dr. Frank Tracz and Dr. Alex Wimmer.

K-STATE

Band Staff

Director of Bands:

Dr. Frank Tracz

Assistant Director of Bands:

Dr. Alex Wimmer

Senior Administrative Assistant:

Courtney Grecu

Media Specialist:

Bryant Kniffin

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Brandon Adams

2nd year MM, Percussion Performance

Allegra Fisher

1st year PhD, Curriculum and Instruction

Jay Koupal

3rd year PhD, Curriculum and Instruction

Eddie Shaw

2nd year MM, Euphonium Performance

Andy Tinsman

2nd year PhD, Curriculum and Instruction

Wind Ensemble

2019 AMERICAN BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

The Kansas State University Wind Ensemble will be performing at the American Bandmasters Association on March 6, 2019, in Loveland, CO. This invitation-only performance is one of the most prestigious venues at which a collegiate wind ensemble can be invited to perform. The Wind Ensemble will perform works by Bernstein, Gillingham, Larsen, Liszt, Mendez, and Sousa. They will be joined by Dr. Anna Wytko, professor of saxophone, on Libby Larsen's Holy Roller. Chris Castellanos (horn player with the Boston Brass) will perform his transcription of La Vigin de la Macarena by Rafael Mendez. The Wind Ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Frank Tracz, Director of Bands.

K-STATE

SUMMER MASTERS PROGRAM

The Kansas State University Music Department is excited to offer graduate-level courses during the summer as part of the Master of Music degree with an emphasis in Music Education. This year will mark the second year of our hybrid curriculum with both online and on-campus elements. The online component will provide more opportunities for distance learning combined with a reduced but still personable on-campus component. These classes are designed to appeal to music educators at all levels who wish to improve their knowledge in a variety of skills, techniques, and concepts while earning their master's degree or continuing education credits. The Summer Master's Program has a wide variety of courses to offer, including graduate studies courses, music theory and history courses, and music education courses. A highlight for this summer will be a residency with Richard Saucedo, internationally renowned clinician and composer. For more information about the K-State Summer Graduate Study Program, please visit our website at <https://global.k-state.edu/artsci/music/masters/>.

K-STATE

Upcoming Concerts & Events

Band Concert

February 26th - 7:30pm Chapman Theatre
Concert Band & University Band

Band Concert

March 4th - 7:30pm McCain Auditorium
Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony

Band Concert

April 23rd - 7:30pm All Faiths Chapel
Woodwind Ensemble & Brass Ensemble

Summer at K-State

June 9-13, 2019

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

The Kansas State University Music Camp is open to all students grades 5 through 12. The five day camp exposes students to a variety of ensemble and rehearsal settings, including concert band, small ensembles, and jazz ensembles. For registration information, call 785-532-3816

Summer at K-State

July 14-17, 2019

LEADERSHIP & AUXILIARY CAMP

This camp allows students to learn conducting, leadership skills, guard technique, and percussion technique. The students participate in a number of large and small group activities that help strengthen their leadership skills, teamwork, positive attitudes, and work ethic. For registration information, call 785-532-3816

Wind Symphony

Program Notes

Night on Fire

John Mackey, b. 1973

Night on Fire (2013) is the second of four movements from the suite *The Soul Has Many Motions* (2013). This movement bears a direct relationship to its musical predecessor, *Strange Humors* (2006). Where *Strange Humors* (2006) possesses a singular and often intimate voice, *Night on Fire* (2013) is a full-throated shout of collective expression. Its pace is frantic from the outset, with the unique kind of energy that comes only from groups engaged in choreography that is at once carefully planned and seemingly spontaneous. *Night on Fire* (2013) was commissioned (by a consortium of student music organizations) at The University of Texas in recognition of Richard Floyd's tireless and passionate advocacy for music education in the state of Texas: Kappa Kappa Psi, Mu Phi Epsilon, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Sigma Alpha Iota, Tau Beta Sigma, and The University of Texas Student Music Educators Association. It was premiered in on May 3, 2013.

John Mackey was born on October 1, 1973, in New Philadelphia, OH. Mackey was not involved in any instrumental or choral program while attending growing up but found a fascination with electronic music notation from an Apple IIe computer program called *Music Construction Set*. He holds a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with John Corigliano and Donald Erb, respectively. Mackey's works have been performed in venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center and has been commissioned by groups such as the Parsons Dance Company, the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, the American Bandmasters Association, and for the New York Philharmonic Principal trombonist Joseph Alessi. Mackey has received numerous grants and has held residencies at numerous universities such as Florida State, Kansas State, Ohio State, Oklahoma, the University of Texas, and the University of Southern California. He currently resides in Cambridge, MA where he composes full-time through his publishing label, OstiMusic (ostimusic.com).

Program notes by John Mackey, edited by Alex Wimmer

Second Suite in F: for Military Band

Gustav Holst, 1874-1934 - ed. Frederick Fennell, 1914-2004

Movement I: March: Morris Dance, Swansea Town, Claudy Banks. "The "March" of the Second Suite begins with a simple-five note motif between the low and high instruments of the band. The first folk tune is heard in the form of a traditional British brass band march using the Morris-Dance tune "Gloris-hears". After a brief climax, the second strain begins with a euphonium solo playing the second folk tune in the suite, Swansea Town. The theme is repeated by the full band before the trio. For the trio, Holst modulates to the unconventional sub-dominant minor of B-flat minor and changes the time signature to 6/8, thereby changing the meter. The third theme, called Claudy Banks, is heard in a low woodwind soli, as is standard march orchestration. Then the first strain is repeated da capo.

Movement II: Song Without Words, 'I'll Love My Love'. Holst places the fourth folk song, I'll Love My Love, in stark contrast to the first movement. The movement begins with a chord from French horns and moves into a solo of clarinet with oboe over a flowing accompaniment in F Dorian. The solo is then repeated by the trumpet, forming an arc of intensity.

Movement III: Song of the Blacksmith. Again, Holst contrasts the slow second movement to the upbeat third movement which features the folk song A Blacksmith Courted Me. The brass section plays in a pointillistic style depicting a later Holst style. There are many time signature changes (4/4 to 3/4) making the movement increasingly difficult because the brass section has all of their accompaniment on the up-beats of each measure. The upper-woodwinds and horns join on the melody around the body of the piece and are accompanied with the sound of a blacksmith tempering metal with an anvil called for in the score. The final D major chord has a glorious, heavenly sound, which opens the way to the final movement. This chord works so effectively perhaps because it is unexpected: the entire movement is in F major when the music suddenly moves to the major of the relative minor.

Movement IV: Fantasia on the Dargason. This movement is not based on any folk songs but has two tunes from Playford's Dancing Master of 1651. The finale of the suite opens with an alto saxophone solo based on the folk tune Dargason, a 16th century English dance tune included in the first edition of The Dancing Master. The fantasia continues through several variations encompassing the full capabilities of the band. The final folk tune, Greensleeves, is cleverly woven into the fantasia by the use of hemiolas, with Dargason being in 6/8 and Greensleeves being in 3/4. At the climax of the movement, the two competing themes are placed in competing sections. As the movement dies down, a tuba and piccolo duet forms a call back to the beginning of the suite with the competition of low and high registers.

Second Suite in F: for Military Band

Gustav Holst, 1874-1934 - ed. Frederick Fennell, 1914-2004

The name 'dargason' may come from an Irish legend that tells of a monster resembling a large bear (although much of the description of the creature has been lost over time). The dargason tormented the Irish country side. During the Irish uprising of the late 18th Century, the dargason is supposed to have attacked a British camp, killing many soldiers. This tale aside, 'dargason' is more likely derived from an Anglo-Saxon word for dwarf or fairy, and the tune has been considered English (or Welsh) since at least the 16th century. It is also known as 'Sedony' (or Sedany) or 'Welsh Sedony'. Holst later rewrote and re-scored this movement for string orchestra as the final movement of his St Paul's Suite (1912), which he wrote for his music students at St Paul's Girls' School.

Gustav Theodore Holst was an English composer, arranger, and teacher. Best known for his orchestral suite *The Planets*, he composed a large number of other works across a range of genres, although none achieved comparable success. His distinctive compositional style was the product of many influences, Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss being most crucial early in his development. The subsequent inspiration of the English folksong revival of the early 20th century, and the example of such rising modern composers as Maurice Ravel led Holst to develop and refine an individual style.

Many credit Frederick Fennell with being the primary catalyst with the creation today's modern wind ensemble. He received a Bachelor of Music degree, Master of Music degree, and an honorary doctorate from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. He served on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music and the University of Miami School of Music. While at Eastman he founded the Eastman Wind Ensemble, receiving numerous awards for their monumental contributions to the modern wind band movement. He was also the principal conductor of Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra as well as the Dallas Wind Symphony as well as numerous other prestigious wind ensembles and orchestras. "Fred Fennell changed music. He was short in height, but huge in stature and character. He was a consummate professional and entertainer – and a class act in every way. He will be deeply missed, but never, ever forgotten." – Mark Scatterday, current director of the Eastman Wind Ensemble.

Program notes by – Imogen Holst, edited by Alex Wimmer

Yosemite Autumn

Mark Camphouse, b. 1954

Yosemite Autumn (2004) is dedicated to the memory of my mother-in-law, Daphna Lodean Wilson (1930-2003), whose spirit will always seem “to glow with life.” The majestic splendor of California’s Yosemite National Park inspired this work. While on vacation in the autumn of 2003, Mark Camphouse and his family stopped in Yosemite National Park. He states, “How could any human not be profoundly moved by such stunning beauty? How could any American not take immense pride in our nation being so richly blessed with such an abundance of natural beauty...how could any composer not be inspired and hopelessly tempted to ‘get the creative juices flowing’ in trying to capture the rich and majestic landscape that is in Yosemite? For the remaining portion of this vacation I was doomed. I was there physically with my family but the creative part of me was thinking about ways I might try to capture musically the awe-inspiring sights and sounds of Yosemite. The great American naturalist, conservationist, and writer John Muir certainly said it best: No temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite. Every rock in its walls seems to glow with life.”

Mark Camphouse was born in Oak Park, Illinois. He began composing at a young age, with the Colorado Philharmonic premiering First Symphony (1971) at age 17. Camphouse received undergraduate and graduate degrees in music from Northwestern University where he studied composition with Alan Stout, conducting with John P. Paynter, and trumpet with Vincent Cichowicz. His music for wind band has received widespread critical acclaim and is performed frequently in the US and around the world. Principal commissions include those by the William D. Revelli Foundation, The US Army Band, The US Marine Band, Northshore Concert Band, and some of America’s finest high school, college-university, and community bands. Camphouse is an in demand conductor, clinician, and educator in the United States and around the world. He was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association in 1999 and has served as founding coordinator of the National Band Association Young Composer Mentor Project since 2000. In 2006, Camphouse joined the faculty of George Mason University where he serves as conductor of the wind symphony and teaches courses in composition and conducting. In 2011, Camphouse received the Kappa Kappa Psi Distinguished Service to Music Award in recognition of, and appreciation for valuable contributions to the growth and development of the modern college/university band in the field of composition.

Program Notes by Mark Camphouse, edited by Alex Wimmer

Festal Scenes: Jojôteki-“Matsuri”

Yasuhide Ito, b. 1960

Festal Scenes (1986) is based from four folk songs that are native to the Aomori Prefecture, the most northern province on Japan's main island: Jongara-jamisen, Hohai-bushi, Tsugara-aiya-bushi, and Nebuta-festival. Yasuhide Ito's inspiration for composing the piece was based off text from a letter he received from a friend, "...everything seems like Paradise blooming all together. Life is a festival, indeed." These folk songs have strong historical and traditional ties to the Aomori Prefecture and give an aural snapshot of the sense of pride and honor citizens native to this prefecture have for their homeland. Festal Scenes (1986) was commissioned and premiered by the Ominato Band for the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force on October 28th, 1986. The American premiere of the piece was at the joint Japanese Band Association and American Band Association Convention in July of 1988 and was performed by the Illinois Concert Band. The United States Air Force Band, under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel James Bankhead, performed the second premier of the piece in July of 1988 as the WASBE Convention held in Washington D.C.

At age six, Yasuhide Ito started taking piano lessons. While in middle school, Ito began composing and took formal composition lessons. After high school he attended Tokyo National University of Fine Arts to study music composition in 1979 and completed his Bachelor's and Master's degree in 1983. Ito has won numerous competitions and awards as a piano player, composer, and educator. Ito has appeared as a guest conductor throughout Asia and the United States. Ito has written many articles including "Analysis of Works for Wind Ensemble," "Favorite Wind Ensemble Works" (Japan Band Journal), and "Arranging for Wind Bands" (Kyouiku Ongaka). He wrote the book "The Masterpieces and Great Performances of Wind Instruments (Ongaka no Tomo Sha, 1998) and translated Frank Erickson's book "Arranging for the Band" (Toa Ongaku Sha, 1990). His works have been published by Ito Music Publications, Bravo Music/Brain Co. Ltd, and TRN Music Publisher, INC. Ito is currently a member of the faculties at Tokyo Geijutsu Daigaku (Tokyo National University of Fine Arts), Senzoku Gakuen College, and serves as the wind band conductor at Kurashiki Sakuyou College and Tokyo Music and Media Arts Shobi. He is a highly sought guest conductor, clinician, lecturer, and educator in Asia and gives frequent clinics for WASBE and other band festivals internationally (itomusic.com).

Program notes by Alex Wimmer

