

NATIONAL CHAMBER WINDS

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

present

“Winds in the Night”

Saturday, October 28, 2017 • 7:30pm

COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

PROGRAM

Sinfonia for Winds (1817)

Gaetano Donizetti (1797 – 1848)

Ed. by Douglas Townsend

Respiration Suite (1962)

Jurriaan Andriessen (1925 – 1996)

- I. Blood Air – Dialogue
- II. Deep-Sea Sarabande
- III. Menuet at High Altitude
- IV. Flowing Air

Five Movements from Carmina Burana (1936/1981)

Carl Orff (1895 – 1982)

Arr. by Friedrich K. Wanek

- I. Fortune plango vulnere
- II. In trutina
- III. Tanz`
- IV. Amor volat undique
- V. In taberna

Sinfonietta, op. 188 (1873)

Joachim Raff (1822 – 1882)

- I. Allegro
- II. Allegro molto
- III. Larghetto
- IV. Vivace

THE NATIONAL CHAMBER WINDS

Pam Daniels – flute
Elizabeth McGinness – flute
Sarah Schram-Borg – oboe
Bethany Slater – oboe
Melissa Lander – clarinet
Reis McCullough – clarinet
Daniel Bowlds – bassoon
David Young – bassoon
Cecilia Buettgen – horn
Shawn Hagen – horn
Yoshiaki Horiguchi – double bass
Robert J. Ambrose – conductor

PROGRAM NOTES

Sinfonia for Winds (1817)

Domenico Gaetano Maria Donizetti was an Italian composer born in Bergamo in Lombardy. Although he did not come from a musical background, at an early age he was taken under the wing of composer Simon Mayr who had enrolled him by means of a full scholarship in a school which he had set up. Mayr was also instrumental in obtaining a place for the young man at the Bologna Academy, where, at the age of 19 he wrote his first one-act opera, the comedy *Il Pigmalione*. Over the course of his career, Donizetti wrote almost 70 operas many of which are still regularly performed today. In addition to his large oeuvre of operas, Donizetti wrote music of all kinds including songs, chamber music, piano music, and a large quantity of music for the church.

Sinfonia for Winds had the original title *Sinfonia a soli instrumenti (di fiato)*, with the dedication *Dedicata al Sig. Nebbie Deleidi (dei suo Oseq.mo Servitore / Gaetano Donizetti / Bologna ti 19, aprile 1817)*. The work has its origin in the composer's period of study in Bologna. The instrumentation is that of the traditional Classical era harmoniemusik ensemble (pairs of oboes, clarinets, horns, and bassoons) to which Donizetti added a single flute. After a brief, slow introduction the music unfolds at a brisk pace with beautiful, sweeping melodies and a transparency that shows the composer's command of writing for wind instruments.

- Program notes from Wikipedia

Respiration Suite (1962)

Jurriaan Hendrik Andriessen was a Dutch composer, whose father, Hendrik, brother Louis, and uncle Willem have also been notable composers. Andriessen studied composition with his father at the Utrecht Conservatory before moving to Paris where he studied with Olivier Messiaen.

The bulk of Andriessen's output is for the stage; his study in Paris was primarily in writing film music. He had a variety of musical influences which he drew upon, including American film music, Aaron Copland's ballets, folk music of various cultures, neoclassicism, and serialism; this eclecticism combined with his compositional skill made his writing well-suited to scoring dramatic works.

Respiration Suite was commissioned by the twenty-second International Congress of Physiological Sciences and is dedicated to Wallace O. Fenn, a physiologist. As the title suggests, the music is programmatic, and the intention is to give the impression of air moving into and out of the lungs. The piece was written in 1962 and was given its premiere performance by the Netherlands Wind Ensemble.

- Program notes from Wikipedia

PROGRAM NOTES CONTINUED

Five Movements from Carmina Burana (1936/1981)

German composer Carl Orff was born on July 10, 1895 in Munich, Germany. Orff studied at the Munich Academy of Music and with the German composer Heinrich Kaminski and later conducted in Munich, Mannheim, and Darmstadt. He is known particularly for his operas and dramatic works and for his innovations in music education.

Orff's system of music education for children, largely based on developing a sense of rhythm through group exercise and performance with percussion instruments, has been widely adopted. In 1924 in Munich he founded, with the German gymnast Dorothee Günther, the Günther School for Gymnastics, Dance, and Music.

Carmina Burana is a scenic cantata composed by Orff in 1935 and 1936, based on 24 poems from the medieval collection *Carmina Burana*. Its full Latin title is *Carmina Burana: Cantiones profanæ cantoribus et choris cantandæ comitantibus instrumentis atque imaginibus magicis* ("Songs of Beuern: Secular songs for singers and choruses to be sung together with instruments and magic images"). *Carmina Burana* is part of *Trionfi*, a musical triptych that also includes *Catulli Carmina* and *Trionfo di Afrodite*. It remains a staple of the modern orchestral repertoire and is regularly performed to this day.

Romanian composer and arranger Friedrich K. Wanek completed several arrangements for chamber wind ensemble during his lifetime including this evening's *Five Movements from Carmina Burana*. Wanek's expertise can be seen in the way his arrangement retains the energy and musical intent of the original composition.

- Program notes from various sources

Sinfonietta, op. 188 (1873)

The lack of evidence to the contrary seems to indicate that Raff himself coined the word *Sinfonietta* for his op.188 in F. It has since been commonly used for works such as this - "little" or "light" symphonies and Raff's piece pre-dates the next work (by Rimsky-Korsakov) by seven years. The *Sinfonietta* was popular in its day and that no doubt helped the use of the term amongst composers.

He wrote the *Sinfonietta* in Wiesbaden in Spring 1873 during the period which was, as his daughter Helene wrote, "the cultural high point of his life". Isolated works are rare in Raff's canon. In contrast with his eleven Symphonies, six Operas, eight String Quartets, four Piano Trios and five Violin Sonatas there is only one *Sinfonietta* and only one other (earlier) piece for wind band. This is unlikely to signal any feeling by Raff that the work was a failure, however. It was virtually unique in its time and was popular from the first. Raff understood the financial imperative of getting his works performed. From a commercial point of view there may have been little point in writing another whilst the original one

PROGRAM NOTES CONTINUED

was doing so well in an uncontested field. From an artistic standpoint, it is difficult to see how he could have bettered his first attempt.

Written for pairs of flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons and French horns, it was clearly intended by Raff to be regarded as something greater than the wind serenades which had been popular since Mozart's time. Neither his motivation for writing the work, nor the occasion of its premiere is recorded, but it was published in November 1874 by Siegel of Leipzig and Raff himself also arranged all four movements for piano four hands.

The *Sinfonietta's* popularity endured and it was one of the works which continued to keep its composer's name before audiences, long after most of his music was forgotten. This is no doubt partly due to the comparative dearth of quality repertoire written for small wind bands, but it must also be because of the unfailing wit, vivacity and good humor of the music itself. It retains the traditional symphonic movement structure and is truly a "small symphony". Throughout, Raff employs his trademarks of counterpoint and classic musical forms but these never interfere with the work's pervading atmosphere of *joi de vivre*.

- Program notes from raff.com

ARTIST PROFILES

Conductor **Robert J. Ambrose** enjoys a diverse career as a dynamic and engaging musician. His musical interests cross many genres and can be seen in the wide range of professional activities he pursues. Ambrose studied formally at Boston College, Boston University, and Northwestern University, where he received the Doctor of Music degree in conducting.

Ambrose has conducted professionally across the United States as well as in Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan. His interpretations have earned the enthusiastic praise of many leading composers including Pulitzer Prize winners Leslie Bassett, Michael Colgrass, and John Harbison. He has conducted over fifty premiere performances.

Dr. Ambrose is founder and music director of the Atlanta Chamber Winds. Their premiere compact disc, *Music from Paris*, was released on the Albany Records label and received outstanding reviews in both *Fanfare Magazine* and *Gramophone Magazine*. He is also founder and music director of the National Chamber Winds, based in Washington, DC. In October 2016, Dr. Ambrose was invited to spend a week on tour as a guest conductor with the United States Army Field Band. Ambrose is the only civilian in history to be invited to guest conduct a premiere American military band on tour.

Ambrose currently serves as Director of Bands, Professor of Music and Associate Director of the School of Music at Georgia State University, a research institution of over 57,000 students located in Atlanta, Georgia. As Director of Bands he conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, leads the graduate wind conducting program, and oversees a large, comprehensive band program.

Bassoonist **J. Daniel Bowlds** is a native of Lexington, Kentucky and an avid UK basketball fan. He earned an assistantship and Master of Music degree at Kent State University where his graduate woodwind quintet, *Aelus V*, was a finalist in the 1997 Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition. While completing a Bachelor of Arts degree from Missouri Western State College, he studied both voice and bassoon, and was Principal Bassoon for the Missouri All-Collegiate Band and the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia National Assembly. SGM Bowlds is currently a member of the U.S. Army Field Band. His instructors include Richard Yeager, David Debolt, and Linda Harwell.

Cecilia Buettgen is a professional French horn player living in Northern Virginia. She currently works full time with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in addition to freelancing with regional orchestras and teaching private lessons to young horn players. Before serving in "The President's Own", Cecilia toured with Shen Yun Performing Arts in 2012 and served as Acting Principal Horn with the Beijing National Opera House in 2011. She is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (Master of Music) and Western Michigan University (Bachelor of Music) where she studied with Professor Randy Gradner and Dr. Lin Foulk, respectively. Cecilia lives with her husband Carl and their two greyhounds Turbo and Daisy.

ARTIST PROFILES CONTINUED

Flutist **Pam Daniels** is a native of Reston, Virginia. She completed her Master of Music degree at the New England Conservatory of Music and her Bachelor of Music degree and Performer's Certificate at the Eastman School of Music. She is currently a member of the U.S. Army Field Band. Prior to joining the Field Band, she held the position of Principal Flute with the Cape Cod Symphony, and held fellowships at the Tanglewood Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, and National Orchestral Institute. Her primary flute instructors have included Elizabeth Rowe, Bonita Boyd, Paula Robison, and Judith Lapple.

SFC **Shawn Hagen** is currently a member of The United States Army Band. Prior to this appointment, he served eight years with The United States Army Field Band, during which he performed across the US and abroad with the Concert Band and the Embassy Brass Quintet.

When not in uniform, Hagen is active in the thriving music scene surrounding D.C. He frequently joins the sections with The Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra and Musical Theater Orchestra. Recent performances included Washington National Opera's 2016 Ring Cycle and solo horn in the Kennedy Center productions of *Little Dancer*, *Gigi*, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. He has also performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Washington Concert Opera, Signature Theater, Apollo Chamber Orchestra, Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, and Annapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Hagen is passionate about education. He served as horn professor at The Peabody Conservatory from 2012-2017. He was the brass coach for the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra and has also taught at American University and The Bullis School. He lives in Silver Spring, MD with his son August. Both are currently exploring the wonders of the ukulele.

Bassist **Yoshiaki Horiguchi** has been acclaimed by the Baltimore Sun for his ability to put on a "dazzling display of dexterity and panache." Yoshi is an active double bassist in the DC-Baltimore area having performed with the National Philharmonic, Baltimore Boom Bap Society, The Hungry Monks, Great Noise Ensemble, and more. Yoshi is currently the double bassist in Trio Jinx, the genre-crossing, classical-core trio.

In addition to being an active performer, Yoshi is an educator and pedagogue. He has served on the faculty for the Baltimore Symphony's ORCHkids program, Bass Works, Peabody Preparatory, and American Music System.

Yoshi graduated as a Linehan Artist Scholar at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where he won the 2011 concerto competition. He then graduated as an Aegon USA scholar at the Peabody Conservatory for his Master's Degree and is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts at Peabody. Yoshi proudly hails from the studios of Ed Malaga, Jeff Koczela, Laura Ruas, Paul DeNola, and Paul Johnson.

ARTIST PROFILES CONTINUED

Equally accomplished in large ensembles and chamber groups, clarinetist **Melissa Johnson Lander** is an emotionally captivating artist known for her rich clarity of sound. She has performed in some of the world's greatest concert halls from Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and the Kennedy Center to many unique locales including Barrow, Alaska, the castle ruins in Heidelberg, and the Royal Norwegian Palace.

During her seven years as clarinetist with the elite U.S. Army Field Band, Ms. Lander performed more than 800 concerts including joint concerts with the Detroit Symphony, the Boston Pops, and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. As Co-Principal Clarinetist, she was a featured soloist in over 35 concerts performing Aaron Copland's *Clarinet Concerto* and premiering a new accompaniment for the solo work *Homage a Manuel de Falla* by Bella Kovacs. Ms. Lander was also a member of the Pentagon Winds woodwind quintet, performing at more than 50 U.S. colleges and universities presenting recitals and master classes.

Ms. Lander gave her solo recital debut at the age of 21 with a live radio broadcast on National Public Radio as a result of winning the Neale-Silva Young Artists Competition. She has performed as Principal Clarinet with the Heidelberg Schlossfestspiel Opera Orchestra and the Eastman Philharmonia, and Associate Principal of the Traverse Symphony and Bowdoin Summer Music Festival Orchestra among others. She also toured Japan with the famed Eastman Wind Ensemble under Dr. Donald Hunsberger.

Ms. Lander holds degrees from the University of Michigan, the Eastman School of Music, and the Interlochen Arts Academy and is currently pursuing a Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory. Her teachers include Russ Dagon, Deborah Chodacki, Kenneth Grant, and Anthony McGill.

Clarinetist **Reis McCullough** is a member of the U.S. Army Field Band and has held the position of Principal Clarinet with the Concert Band since 2006 and Concertmaster since 2010. He is currently the Group Leader of the U.S. Army Field Band Clarinet Trio and has frequently performed as a soloist with the Concert Band. He received a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan and both a Bachelor of Music degree and Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. He has studied with William Blayney, Kenneth Grant, Fred Ormand, and Robert DiLutis. In 2000, he toured Japan with the Eastman Wind Ensemble and has also performed with the Ars Nova Orchestra, Avanti Orchestra, Slee Symphonietta, Federal Way Philharmonic, and the Chautauqua Festival Orchestra. In his free time, Master Sergeant McCullough enjoys teaching clarinet to young students and providing assistance to schools in his community.

Flutist **Elizabeth (Elli) McGinness** is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Southern Methodist University. She is the Principal Flutist of United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," of which she has been a member since 2009. She holds the piccolo position in the McLean Orchestra and has been a substitute

ARTIST PROFILES CONTINUED

with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, and the Maryland and Annapolis Symphonies. McGinness and her husband, John, the bass trombonist of the Delaware and Roanoke Symphony Orchestras, reside in Northern Virginia with their two young boys.

Originally from Milton, Massachusetts, **Sarah Schram-Borg** holds a Master of Music degree from Yale University and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music. Her principal teachers were Richard Killmer and Alex Klein. She is currently a member of The U.S. Army Field Band. Prior to joining the Field Band, she performed with many ensembles including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, American Modern Ensemble, the New Haven Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony and on the Broadway shows *Wicked* and *Les Miserables*. She is currently the oboist with the Woodwind Ambassadors woodwind quintet.

Bethany Slater is the principal oboist of the Inscape Chamber Orchestra. Their debut album, "Sprung Rhythm", was nominated for a 2014 Grammy Award. Bethany also frequently appears with the Windham Chamber Music Festival and the Pikes Falls Chamber Music Festival. Previously, she held the positions of Principal Oboe with the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra and Second Oboe of Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra. She received a BM in oboe performance from the Eastman School of Music and studied at the Paris Conservatory with a Fulbright grant. Bethany owns and operates Bethany's Reed Shop, which provides hand-made professional reeds for oboists and bassoonists around the world.

Bassoonist **Staff Sergeant David Young** joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band in August 2015. Staff Sgt. Young began his musical instruction on clarinet at age 9 and bassoon at age 11, and graduated from River Hill High School in Clarksville in 2009. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University (NU) in Evanston, Ill., in 2013, where he also studied for a semester at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. His teachers included Christopher Millard of NU and principal bassoon of the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Canada; Lewis Kirk of NU and the Lyric Opera of Chicago; and Sue Heineman, principal bassoon of the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining "The President's Own," Staff Sgt. Young was acting second principal bassoon with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway and adjunct professor at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. He has also performed with the NSO, the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Fla., the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, the Chicago Composer's Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra in Breckenridge, Colo., the Banff Festival Orchestra in Canada, and the Washington, D.C., based woodwind quintet District 5.

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