

The University of Manitoba Wind Ensemble

Dr. Fraser Linklater, director

*Cantando Festival
Winspear Centre, Edmonton
8:00 pm. April 28, 2009*

- L'Homme Armé:
Variations for Wind Ensemble (2003)*** **Christopher Marshall**
- Concerto for Bass Tuba (1954)*** **Ralph Vaughan Williams,
arr. For Tuba and Wind Ensemble by Denis Wick**
- 1. Prelude***
Chad Reimer, tuba
- Night on Bald Mountain (1867)*** **Modeste Mussorgsky / Hindsley**
- Mars – The Bringer of War - from THE PLANETS (1917)*** **Gustav Holst**
- Samurai*** **Nigel Clarke**

PROGRAMME NOTES

L'HOMME ARME: Variations for Wind Ensemble (2003)

Christopher Marshall

L'Homme Armé (the Armed Man) was a French folk song that proved highly popular with medieval and Renaissance composers — in the second half of the 15th century no fewer than 25 Masses are based on this song. Thus there is a *Missa L'Homme Armé* by Guillaume Dufay (ca. 1400 – 1474), a *Missa L'Homme Armé* by Josquin des Prez (ca. 1440 – 1521), and so forth. Christopher Marshall writes: “When I decided to write a work based on this ancient tune I had to balance some competing intentions. Firstly, given the text of the song and the time at which I was writing the music — prior to and during the hostilities in Iraq — I wanted it to express something of my feelings towards the institution of war. Secondly, since the melody of ‘L'Homme Armé’ had been an inspiration to dozens of composers over more than 500 years, I intended to honour that tradition by alluding to some of the musical styles and employing some of the techniques of my predecessors. The homage to tradition is seen in the form of the whole piece — that most ancient of musical structures, variations on a theme. I quickly came to the conclusion that ‘L'Homme Armé’ owed much of its popularity with composers to its great canonic and contrapuntal potential. Tradition is also honoured as elements of dance and popular song from several ages and places infiltrate much of the piece and power its momentum to a vigorous conclusion.” *L'Homme Armé* was commissioned by Timothy and Hilary Reynish in memory of their third son, William. The world premiere was given by the Guildhall (London) Symphonic Wind Ensemble in Jönköping, Sweden, in July 2003, as part of the 11th WASBE International Conference.

CONCERTO for BASS TUBA (1954)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Arguably the greatest English composer since Henry Purcell, Vaughan Williams was the “grand old man” of English music when this concerto was written. It was originally conceived as a Romance for Harmonica and Strings (written for Larry Adler) but then Vaughan Williams decided to rework the music with tuba as the solo instrument. He also added first and last movements to expand the work to suitable proportion for a concerto. It has become one of the “acid tests” of a fine professional-quality tuba player.

Chad Reimer is a student of Chris Lee, the principal tuba player in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Chad was one of the winners in last November's concerto competition. Last summer, Chad played tuba in the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and is looking forward to doing so again this summer.

***NIGHT ON BALD MOUNTAIN (1867)* Modeste Mussorgsky / Mark Hindsley**

As with most of Mussorgsky's compositional output, *Night on Bald Mountain* lay unfinished at the composer's death. The work was completed by Rimsky-Korsakov and it is this version that has become familiar to concert-goers the world over — also to movie-goers via its inclusion in the celebrated 1940 Walt

Disney film *Fantasia*. Depicting the actual celebration of mid-summer's eve (St. John's Night — June 21) on the "Bare Mountain" near Moscow, this music has long been associated with Halloween spookiness. The tolling of church bells and harp arpeggios dispell the night's terrors in a soothing epilogue.

MARS — The Bringer of War — from THE PLANETS (1917) Gustav Holst

Three musical ideas are used to create this martial piece: a brutally rhythmic ostinato of five beats relentlessly hammered out; a principal theme of parallel triads moving in chromatic steps but with no true harmonic purpose; and a second theme consisting of a fanfare in the tenor tuba (euphonium) answered by a flourish of trumpets. Although this music seems a depiction of the senseless mechanized horror of the First World War, in fact Holst completed "Mars" in spring 1914, before the conflict had broken out.

SAMURAI

Nigel Clarke

Nigel Clarke is one of England's most active contemporary composers. *Samurai* was written for Timothy Reynish and the Wind Orchestra of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England for their guest performance at the 1995 WASBE International Conference in Hamamatsu, Japan. The composer writes: "Although *Samurai* was written in one movement, I have divided it into three main sections. The first section, 'Signals and Flags' represents the signaling methods used by the Samurai on the battlefield, where powerful war-drumming and heraldic flags helped identify the various units within the army. The central section, 'The Ceremony of Departure' is more tranquil representing the review of the troops by the generals before battle and the ritual offering of prayers presided over by a Buddhist monk. The final section ('Attack') returns to the powerful Samurai war-drumming. As the composer states in the liner notes to his Naxos CD, he "was seeking to write a piece that would not be out of place in an Akira Kurosawa film."

Program notes by Dr. Fraser Linklater

BIOGRAPHIES

University of Manitoba Wind Ensemble

Now in its fourth decade, the University of Manitoba Wind Ensemble continues to perform first-class repertoire, including works by Copland, Grainger, Hindemith, Holst, Husa, and Schwantner. The chamber winds, an off-shoot of the wind ensemble, offers students an opportunity to perform works written for smaller forces, including antiphonal brass music by Gabrieli, serenades by Mozart and Dvorak, and theatre music by Kurt Weill and Darius Milhaud.

The ensemble has also been active in commissioning and performing new music for winds, including pieces by Canadian composers Michael Matthews, Bruce Carlson, Allan Gilliland and John Estacio. The Wind Ensemble's first CD — "North Winds" — featured Canadian wind band music exclusively. A follow up CD "North Winds II" is slated for release this spring.

The U of M Wind Ensemble has performed throughout Western Canada, as well as in Minnesota and South Dakota. They have recorded for CBC Radio and collaborated with such guest artists as Donald Hunsberger, Augusta Read Thomas, Bramwell Tovey, Nigel Clarke and Alexander Mickelthwate. This spring, the U of M Wind Ensemble is excited to be back in Edmonton for the fourth time as invited guest performers at the Cantando International Music Festival.

DR. FRASER LINKLATER

Fraser Linklater is presently an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba, where he directs the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Chamber Winds and teaches courses in music education and conducting. A native of Winnipeg, Dr. Linklater holds a Master's degree in Music Education from the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Michigan. He has published articles in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, the *Music Educators Journal*, and the *Canadian Music Educator*. He has also presented at national music education conferences.

A trumpet player, Dr. Linklater has performed with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre Symphonique de Genève (Switzerland), and the Ron Paley Big Band, as well as being a founding member of the Winnipeg Brass Quintet. His trumpet teachers have included Vincent Cichowicz, Armando Ghitalla, and Edward Tarr. Dr. Linklater has studied wind conducting in numerous workshops with clinicians such as Frank Battisti, Eugene Corporon, Craig Kirchhoff, Allan McMurray, Larry Rachleff, and Mallory Thompson, as well

as with H. Robert Reynolds at the University of Michigan. Dr. Linklater has guest conducted and adjudicated at various festivals and music camps across Canada as well as the United States.

A co-director of the Canadian Wind Conductors Development Program, Dr. Linklater is also Secretary of the Manitoba Band Association and coordinates all three levels of honour bands for the MBA. In October 2002, he received the MBA Award of Distinction for his services to music education in Manitoba. In 2004, The University of Manitoba Wind Ensemble released a CD devoted to Canadian wind band music entitled "North Winds". A follow up CD of Canadian band music, "North Winds II", has recently been recorded. Dr. Linklater is an assistant editor of *Canadian Winds*, the national journal of the Canadian Band Association. In May 2006 Dr. Linklater was the guest conductor of the National Youth Band of Canada and recently guest conducted at the Winnipeg New Music Festival in February 2008.

Dr. Linklater is also interested in transcribing orchestral works for wind ensemble and has recently completed transcriptions of *Frenergy* by John Estacio, *Tabuh-Tabuhan* by Colin McPhee and Four Fragments from *Wozzeck* by Alban Berg. *Frenergy* was performed by the World Youth Wind Ensemble at the WASBE Conference in Ireland in July 2007. At the CBDNA National Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan in March 2007 Dr. Linklater gave a presentation entitled "The Wind Music of Colin McPhee." This July 2009 at the WASBE Conference in Cincinnati, Dr. Linklater will give another presentation on Canadian band music.