The University of Arizona Bands 2011-2012 Concerts

Wind Ensemble & Chamber Players
Thursday, September 29, 7:30 p.m., Crowder Hall, $5

UA Wind Symphony
Thursday, October 13, 7:30 p.m., Crowder Hall, $5

58th Annual Band Day, High School Marching Band Competition
Presented by the University of Arizona & the Glassman Foundation
Saturday, November 12, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Arizona Stadium, $8, 5, 3 (day of event cash only)
Tickets at Fine Arts Box Office or Online
http://web.cfa.arizona.edu/uabands/bandday

Chamber Players
Sunday, November 13, 7:00 p.m., Holsclaw Hall, $5

Wind Symphony
Tuesday, November 29, 7:30 p.m., Crowder Hall, $5

Wind Ensemble
Mark Nelson & Kelly Thomas, soloists
featuring the première performance of a
concerto for euphonium and tuba by James Grant
Wednesday, December 7, 7:30 p.m., Crowder Hall, $5

Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony
Norman Weinberg, percussion
featuring the Southwestern première of
Concertino for Percussion and Wind Ensemble by John Mackey
Thursday, February 16, 7:30 p.m., Crowder Hall, $5

Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony
Sunday, March 25, 3:00 p.m., Crowder Hall, $5

Chamber Players
Tannis Gibson, piano
featuring a première performance by UA faculty composer Craig Walsh
Monday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., Holsclaw Hall, $5

Wind Ensemble & UA Wind Symphony
featuring the southwestern première of
Symphony No. 9 by David Maslanka
Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m., Crowder Hall, $5

The University of Arizona
Wind Symphony
Jay Rees, conductor
Kevin Holzman & Kai Hong Yeung, graduate conductors

Thursday, October 13, 2011
Crowder Hall
7:30 p.m.
The University of Arizona Wind Symphony

Jay Rees, conductor  
Kevin Holzman & Kai Hong Yeung, graduate conductors

Thursday, October 13, 2011  
Crowder Hall  
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Festive Overture ...............................Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)  
arr. Hunsberger

O Magnum Mysterium ..........................Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)  
arr. Reynolds  
Kai Hong Yeung, graduate conductor

Second Suite in F..................................Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

   I. March
   II. Song without words
   III. Song of the Blacksmith
   IV. Fantasia on the ‘Dargason’

October..............................................Eric Whitacre (b.1970)  
Kevin Holzman, graduate conductor

Sonoran Desert Holiday ..........................Ron Nelson (b.1929)

Out of respect for the performers, and to comply with all copyright laws,  
no audio, video or photographs are allowed.
Kai Hong Yeung

Kai Hong Yeung is an active conductor, trumpet player and brass instructor in Hong Kong and the United States. He began his trumpet studies at Po Leung Kuk Lee Shing Pik College and obtained his ABRSM Grade 8 Trumpet Practical Examination in 2002. He worked as a brass tutor in Hong Kong schools since 2002. His trumpet teachers included Mr. Joseph Yu, Mr. Amos Lee, Mr. Stewart Essenhigh, Dr. Moffatt Williams, Mr. Phil Elkins, Ms. Yvonne Toll and Prof. Ed Reid. Hong continued his studies in the United States in 2005 and completed the BBA degree in finance in 2010. He is now pursuing his master’s degree in instrumental conducting, and has served as a graduate teaching assistant for the wind ensemble, wind symphony and chamber winds at the University of Arizona. As a conductor, he studies with Prof. Gregg Hanson. His former teachers included Dr. Scott Stewart (Emory University), Dr. Robert Ambrose (Georgia State University) and Dr. Robert Rumbelow (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign). He has participated in numerous conducting workshops throughout the United States and has studied with renowned conductors, including Mr. Jerry Junkin, Mr. Allan McMurray, Dr. Mark Scatterday, Mr. Gary Green, and Mr. H. Robert Reynolds. As a guest conductor and clinician, Hong has conducted the Emory Wind Ensemble, Atlanta Youth Symphonic Winds, and Metropolitan Atlanta Youth Wind Ensemble. Hong is one of the founders and assistant conductor of the Hong Kong Metropolitan Winds and they were invited to participate in the Jeju International Wind Ensemble Festival in 2009. Last summer Hong organized the inaugural Hong Kong International Wind Conducting Workshop and served as a clinician.

Kevin Holzman

Kevin Holzman is a conductor, clarinetist and instructor at the University of Arizona, where he is pursuing a Master of Music degree in instrumental conducting. He began clarinet studies at the age of 13, and has been an active player and performer since. He has taught clarinet to students in Scottsdale and Tucson Arizona. His clarinet teachers have included Prof. Jerry Kirkbride, Dr. Karen Wevursky, and Mr. Eric Broomfield. Prior to his undergraduate degree, Kevin studied conducting with Dr. Schultz Bennett and Mrs. Michelle Irvin. A National Merit Scholar, he began studies in clarinet performance and conducting at the University of Arizona in 2006. Kevin graduated summa cum laude with a degree in clarinet performance in the Spring of 2010. After teaching in an inner city high school in West Philadelphia with Teach For America for a year, he returned to the University of Arizona to pursue a master’s degree, where he studies conducting with Prof. Gregg Hanson, and is actively involved in conducting rehearsals and performances. In addition to conducting studies, Kevin continues to study the clarinet, and is a member of the Arizona Symphony Orchestra. He is also a co-coordinator of the University of Arizona Outreach Band.

Program Notes

Festive Overture – Dmitri Shostakovich, arr. Hunsberger

Dmitri Shostakovich composed Festive Overture in 1954, in a period between Symphony No. 10 and the Violin Concerto. Its American première was given by Maurice Abravanel and the Utah Symphony Orchestra in 1955. In 1956, the New York Philharmonic, under Dmitri Mitropoulis, presented the overture in Carnegie Hall. The Russian band version of the overture was released in 1958 and utilized the standard instrumentation of the Russian military band, i.e. a complete orchestra wind, brass and percussion section plus a family of saxhorns. This transcription has been scored for the instrumentation of the American symphonic band.

Festive Overture is an excellent curtain raiser and contains one of Shostakovich’s greatest attributes – the ability to write a long sustained melodic line combined with a pulsating rhythmic drive. In addition to the flowing melodic passages, there are also examples of staccato rhythmic sections which set off the flowing line and the variant fanfares. It is truly a “festive” overture.

O Magnum Mysterium – Morten Lauridsen, arr. Reynolds

Morten Lauridsen’s choral setting of O Magnum Mysterium (O Great Mystery) has become one of the world’s most performed and recorded compositions since its 1994 première by the Los Angeles Master Chorale, conducted by Paul Salamunovich. About his setting, Morten Lauridsen writes, “For centuries, composers have been inspired by the beautiful O Magnum Mysterium text with its depiction of the birth of the new-born King amongst the lowly animals and shepherds. This affirmation of God’s grace to the meek and the adoration of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated in my setting through a quiet song of profound inner joy.” H. Robert Reynolds has arranged the symphonic wind version of this popular work with the approval and appreciation of the composer.

Second Suite in F – Gustav Holst

Whereas other composers of the time wrote for the concert band as they would for an orchestra without strings, Gustav Holst created a unique sound intended to cast the concert band as a serious concert medium. Written in 1911 (two years after the First Suite for Military Band), the Second Suite is based entirely on material from folk songs and morris dances. The first movement starts with a morris dance followed by the lyric folk song Swansea Town. The tune at the trio is Claudy Banks. The second movement uses the Cornish song I’ll Love My Love, a modal
lament about a maiden sent to Bedlam because her true love has gone to sea. The Song of the Blacksmith uses changing meters and anvil effects in the percussion section to create its atmosphere. The final movement, Fantasia on the Dargason, was later used by Holst as the finale of the St. Paul Suite for string orchestra.

October – Eric Whitacre

An award-winning composer, conductor and clinician, Eric Whitacre is one of the bright stars in contemporary concert music. He composed October in 2000, commissioned by the Nebraska Wind Consortium. According to the composer, “October is my favorite month. Something about the crisp autumn air and the subtle change in light always make me a little sentimental, and as I started to sketch I felt that same quiet beauty in the writing. The simple, pastoral melodies and subsequent harmonies are inspired by the great English Romantics (Vaughan Williams and Elgar) as I felt that this style was also perfectly suited to capture the natural and pastoral soul of the season. I’m quite happy with the end result, especially because I feel there just isn’t enough lush, beautiful music written for winds.”

Sonoran Desert Holiday – Ron Nelson

Sonoran Desert Holiday is a quasi-programmatic piece, the final in a series of eight overtures which began in 1953 with Savannah River Holiday. Although no specific program is intended, there are gestures and allusions to night, to sunrise, to Native American and Hispanic influences, to wide open southwestern expanses, and to the remarkable variety of holiday experiences available in this diverse and beautiful part of our country. The form of the overture is ABA with an atmospheric introduction and a short coda. The first performance was given on March 15, 1994 at Highland High School, Highland, Indiana by the Air Force Band of Flight, Lieutenant Colonel Richard A. Shelton, commander and conductor.

Conductors’ Biographies

Jay Rees

Jay Rees is an experienced and innovative musician with a varied background as a conductor, composer, arranger, and performer. He has a diverse catalog of original music written for jazz, wind ensemble, concert bands, and athletic bands that is commissioned and performed by major universities and high schools nationwide. Many of his works have been published by Warner Bros./C.P. Belwin, Pumpkin Monkey Music, and Musicexpresso.com. Rees teaches undergraduate music education, jazz studies, and leadership courses. He also travels as a clinician, guest speaker, and adjudicator for band programs across the country.

An accomplished musician in jazz performance, Rees has appeared throughout the United States, Canada and Japan. He has performed with such notable artists as Jimmy Cobb, Lenny White, Paul Horn, Randy Sandke and others. He toured with the international recording act The Lettermen as bassist and musical director, and is featured on their album release Now and Then. Rees formed the nationally touring jazz-fusion ensemble Sylvan Street, serving as bassist, leader and composer. Their debut CD, The Perfect Leaf, was released on Summit Records in 2009, followed by a new collection of works in 2011. Rees also collaborates with the UA jazz faculty and performs at UA’s annual AZJazz concert series.

As director of the University of Arizona marching and pep bands, Rees’ contemporary arrangements and inventive drill design have gained the Pride of Arizona Marching Band a national presence. His inspired work helped innovate the medium and is referenced extensively in the book Marching Bands and Drumlines: Secrets of Success from the Best of the Best. In 2009, the prestigious College Band Directors National Association named the Pride of Arizona one of the top marching bands in the country. The bands have released CD recordings and appeared in numerous television features, including NBC-TV’s “Today Show” and Fox Sports.

In 2001 Rees choreographed a live human flag for the Tucson community in response to the events of September 11. His iconic design incorporated 10,000 citizens and became a national symbol. The image appeared on CNN and was published in a special issue of Sports Illustrated.

Rees is listed in Who’s Who In America for the 21st Century as well as Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers. He is a member of ASCAP, NARAS and CBDNA. A native of Detroit, Rees lived in Miami and Los Angeles before making his home in Tucson with his wife and two sons.