

RUTGERS

Mason Gross School
of the Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

"New Morning for the World" Rutgers Wind Ensemble

Kraig Alan Williams, Conductor

Alena Rose, Narrator

Saturday, February 24, 2024 | 7:30 p.m.

Nicholas Music Center
Mason Gross Performing Arts Center
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

PROGRAM

Overture to "*Colas Breugnon*" (1937/2002)

Dmitri Kabalevsky
(1904-1987)
trans. D. Hunsberger

*New Morning For the World:
Daybreak of Freedom* (1982/2007)

Joseph Schwantner
(b. 1943)
trans. Nikk Pilato

Intermission

Deciduous (2023)

Viet Cuong
(b. 1990)

Give Us This Day (2005)

David Maslanka
(1943 - 2017)

- I. Moderately slow
- II. Very fast

PROGRAM NOTES

Dmitri Kabalevsky: Overture to "Colas Breugnon"

The overture is a brisk, brilliant, and high-spirited piece, written as the curtain raiser of Kabalevsky's opera based on Romain Rolland's lusty novel of life in Burgundy, France, during the 16th century. The hero of the story has something in him of both Robin Hood and François Villon (a French lyric poet who was banished from Paris in 1463), and Kabalevsky has written music admirably fitting this character. The arrangement was created for the Florida State University Symphonic Band and was premiered on April 17, 2002. The professional premiere by the Dallas Wind Symphony, Jerry Junkin conducting, was on November 19, 2002, at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Texas.

- Program Note by Everett Kisinger from "Band Music Notes"

Joseph Schwantner: New Morning for the World: Daybreak of Freedom is Joseph Schwantner's 1982 tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The idea of a work honoring Dr. King was first suggested to Schwantner in 1981 by Robert Freeman, director of the Eastman School of Music. Schwantner writes:

"I was excited by the opportunity to engage my work with the profound and deeply felt words of Dr. King, a man of great dignity and courage whom I had long admired. The words that I selected for the narration were garnered from a variety of Dr. King's writings, addresses, and speeches, and drawn from a period of more than a decade of his life. These words, eloquently expressed by the thrust of his oratory, bear witness to the power and nobility of Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideas, principles, and beliefs. This work of celebration is humbly dedicated to his memory."

New Morning for the World was composed under a commission from the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for an East Coast tour undertaken by the Eastman Philharmonia. The orchestra first performed the work on 15 January 1983, in the Concert Hall of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington, D.C., and was narrated by the renowned Pittsburgh Pirates baseball star Willie Stargell. Following the premiere performance, the work was subsequently introduced in Philadelphia, New York, Pittsburgh, and Rochester, N.Y.

The work has received hundreds of performances by major orchestras throughout the United States and has been narrated by such noted individuals as Coretta Scott King, Yolanda King, James Earl Jones, Maya Angelou, Danny Glover, Robert Guillaume, Alfre Woodard, and Vernon Jordan. The version for

wind ensemble was premiered on 20 April 2007 by the Florida State University Wind Orchestra in Tallahassee, Florida, Nikk Pilato conducting.

- Program Note by Nikk Pilato

Viet Cuong: *Deciduous*

For a long time after my father passed away, I felt like I had “lost my leaves.” In the way that leaves harness light to create energy for trees and plants, I felt like I had so little left to harness creatively. Many days I feared those leaves would never grow back. After struggling for months to write, I finally found some healing while creating *Deciduous*. This involved revisiting chord progressions that brought me solace as a child and activating them in textures that I have enjoyed exploring as an adult. The piece cycles through these chord progressions, building to a moment where it's stripped of everything and must find a way to renew itself. While I continue to struggle with this loss, I have come to understand that healing is not so much a linear process as it is a cyclical journey, where, without fail, every leafless winter is followed by a spring.

Thank you to the Florida Bandmasters Association for commissioning *Deciduous* in 2023.

- Program Note by composer

David Maslanka: *Give Us This Day: A Short Symphony for Wind Ensemble*

The words "give us this day" are, of course, from the Lord's Prayer, but the inspiration for this music is Buddhist. I have recently read a book by the Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh (pronounced "Tick Not Hahn") entitled *For a Future to be Possible*. His premise is that a future for the planet is only possible if individuals become deeply mindful of themselves, deeply connected to who they really are. While this is not a new idea, and something that is an ongoing struggle for everyone, in my estimation it is the issue for world peace. For me, writing music, and working with people to perform music, are two of those points of deep mindfulness.

Music makes the connection to reality, and by reality I mean a true awakesness and awareness. *Give Us This Day* gives us this very moment of awakesness and aware aliveness so that we can build a future in the face of a most dangerous and difficult time.

I chose the subtitle "Short Symphony for Wind Ensemble" because the music really isn't programmatic in nature. It has a full-blown symphonic character, even though there are only two movements. The music of the slower first movement is deeply searching, while that of the highly energized second movement is at times both joyful and sternly sober.

- Program Note by composer

RUTGERS WIND ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

Flute

Pavana Karanth
Boeun Lee
Clara Lee
Ross Matos

Oboe

Tyler Selvig
Dan Shengquan
Katherine Yu

Bassoon

Arun Felix
Jonathan LiVolsi

Clarinet

Tanner Age
Jaehun James Choi
Wonchan Will Doh
Timothy Hanley
Greg Marsh
Daniel Spielman

Saxophone

Katy Dinning (baritone)
Jarod Apple (alto/soprano)
Isabelle Mailman (tenor)
Yvette Sakow (alto/soprano)

Horn

Kayla Gater
Rebecca Karu
Xiangyu Liu
Will Sizemore
Christine Stinchi

Trumpet

Hugh Ash
Ryan Colarusso
Nicholas Del Rosso
Julia Guarnaccia
Nate Kimmick
Joseph Marta

Trombone

Tien Hung
Chris Toto
Erol Yilmaz

Bass Trombone

Matt Wall

Euphonium

Jordan Beckman
Carson de la Rosa

Tuba

Benjamin Kauffman
Yale Rosin

Percussion

Liang Dong
Siyoung Lee
Joshua Persad
Luke Waitkus

Piano

Yidi Jiao

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Alena Rose was raised in Beaverdam, Virginia. There, she found the importance of entertainment and media and how it impacts our social climate and personalities. She believes that her purpose, vigor, and enthusiasm as a creative was formed by the lack of representation of plus sized bodies she saw in the industry growing up. She is driven to advocate for such representation through the art she creates. When not acting or modeling, Alena can be found singing, sewing, designing her own clothes, and continuing plus size advocacy on her socials.

Kraig Alan Williams is in his thirteenth year as Associate Professor of conducting, serving as conductor and artistic director of the Grammy-nominated Rutgers Wind Ensemble. Dr. Williams served as the Director of University Bands from 2011-2016, and from 2019-2021 he was the interim conductor and music

director of *HELIX!* New Music Ensemble. Williams's duties also include teaching classes in graduate and undergraduate conducting, music education and aural skills. Maintaining an active schedule as a guest conductor, clinician, and lecturer, Williams has appeared in those capacities in more than 18 states and with prominent ensembles such as the Dallas Wind Symphony and the United States Air Force Band. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin, studying with Jerry Junkin. He joined the conducting faculty at the Brevard Music Center in 2001, and in 2008 was named the Director of Band Activities and Chamber Winds. Williams regularly serves as a cover conductor for the program under the Artistic Director, Keith Lockhart, and continues to receive critical acclaim for his work with the music center's orchestras and wind ensembles.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY BAND STAFF

Todd M. Nichols – Director of University Bands

Julia Baumanis – Assistant Director of University Bands

Kraig Alan Williams – Conductor, Rutgers Wind Ensemble, Associate Professor of Conducting

Kevin Cotter – DMA Wind Conducting Associate

Dana Mandell – DMA Wind Conducting Associate

The Rutgers University Band Program would like to acknowledge the woodwind, brass and percussion faculties, for their outstanding dedication to the students.

Bart Feller – Flute

Kaoru Hinata – Flute

Andrew Adelson – Oboe

Nathan Hughes – Oboe

Roger Nye – Bassoon

Mark Timmerman – Bassoon

Mark Dover – Clarinet

Maureen Hurd – Clarinet – Associate Director of Music

Jessica Phillips – Clarinet

Paul Cohen – Saxophone

Kenneth DeCarlo – Trumpet – Head of Brass

David Krauss – Trumpet

John Sheppard – Trumpet

Richard Deane – Horn

David Peel – Horn

Leelanee Sterrett – Horn

Noreen Baer – Trombone
Sasha Romero – Trombone
Brian Santero – Trombone
George Curran – Bass Trombone
Aaron VanderWeele – Euphonium
Alan Baer – Tuba
Javier Diaz – Percussion
Ian Sullivan – Percussion
Joseph Tompkins – Head of Percussion
Michael Truesdell – Percussion

Thanks to:

Graduate Assistants

Benjamin Kauffman, TL Hung, Joshua Persad

Administrative Coordinators

Christopher Delgado, Jennifer Guarino

Stage and Production Manager

Adam Klein

Special thanks to:

Amanda Eubanks Winkler – Director of Music, Mason Gross School of the Arts
Maureen Hurd – Associate Director of Music, Mason Gross School of the Arts

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