

Loyola University New Orleans
School of Music and Theatre Arts
Presents

Loyola University Band Festival

Summoning:
The Music of Michael Markowski

with

Riverdale High School Symphonic Band
(2:00 PM)

Benjamin Bucholtz, Conductor

Loyola Wind Ensemble (4:00 PM)

Michael Markowski, Guest Composer

Stephanie Thompson, Clarinet

Serena Weren, Conductor

Saturday, April 6, 2019
Louis J. Roussel Performance Hall

Program

Riverdale Symphonic Band (2:00 PM)

Benjamin Bucholtz, conductor

Parade of the Tall Ships Jay Chattaway

Rest Frank Ticheli

Joyride Michael Markowski

Loyola Wind Ensemble (4:00 PM)

Serena Weren, Conductor

You Are Cordially Invited Michael Markowski

City Trees Michael Markowski

Children's March Percy Aldridge Grainger

Summoning Graces Michael Markowski

1. Invocation
2. Splendor, Mirth, Good Cheer

Unfamiliar Territory Michael Markowski

1. Local Spirits
2. As Night Falls
3. Shortcuts

Stephanie Thompson, clarinet

Early Light Carolyn Bremer

Loyola Wind Ensemble

Piccolo

Esau Paul Jones

Flute

Diego Rios*
Taylor Fontenot
Lena Monroe
Jay Laws

Oboe

Lyndsey Murray

Bassoon

Lucas Nguyen*
Catherine Silver

Clarinet

Elin Fleming*
Arden LaGrone
Matthew Braselman
Nabil Muquit
Michelle Abraham
Vanessa Tetzlaff

Bass Clarinet

Cpl. Kathleen Blake^

Alto Saxophone

Noah Boshra*
Eli Fribush

Tenor Saxophone

Chris Casillas

Baritone Saxophone

Erika Torres

Trumpet

Michael Bauer*
Peter Nicholas Curtis
Nionakis*
Christopher Drennan
Frank Sartain
Brett Cole
Brian Maassen

Horn

Joey Troia III*
Mariah Houston
Reneé Babin
Sarah Wilms
Andrea Garces

* Section Leader

^ Marine Corp Band

Trombone

Dylan Watson*
Stephen Foulkes
Alan Howard

Euphonium

Demetrio Castillo*
Abby Breeding

Tuba

Albert Bustillo*
Rob Frazier

String Bass

Thomas Durnford

Harp

Wesley Daniels

Piano

Clinton Walker

Percussion

Maximo Mendizabal*
Myles Clark
Ash Pellette
Karl Tietze
Andrew Vu
Nolan Cantrell
Quint Adkins

Wind and Percussion Faculty

Patti Adams, flute

Jane Gabka, oboe

Jack Peña, bassoon

John Reeks, clarinet

Dr. Stephanie Thompson, clarinet

Jason Mingledorff, saxophone

Tony Dagradi, saxophone

Dr. Nick Volz, trumpet

Vance Woolf, trumpet

Mollie Pate, horn

Kevin Winter, horn

Matt Wright, trombone

William Hess, euphonium

Dr. Joseph Hebert, tuba

Rachel van Voorhees, harp

Dr. Brian Hsu, piano

Jim Atwood, percussion

Dave Salay, percussion

Artists

Michael Markowski

Michael Markowski (b. 1986) is fully qualified to watch movies and cartoons. In 2010, he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 'Film Practices' from Arizona State University. While Markowski never studied music in college, he did study privately with his mentors, Jon Gomez and Dr. Karl Schindler, and has continued his education by participating in a number of extracurricular programs, such as The Art of Orchestration with Steven Scott Smalley (2008), the National Band Association's Young Composer and Conductor Mentorship Project (2008), and the NYU/ASCAP Foundation's Film Scoring Workshop (2014) where he was named one of ASCAP's Film & TV "Composers to Watch." Mark Snow, composer of *The X-Files* and one of the workshop's guest mentors, says Michael's music was "extremely sophisticated" and "complimented the mood and emotion of the scene with unusual maturity and sensitivity." Most recently, Markowski was invited to join the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop (2015) as a composer and lyricist.

Stephanie Thompson

Dr. Stephanie Thompson is Instructor of Clarinet at Loyola University of New Orleans, and the Assistant Principal/Second/E-flat Clarinetist with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also performed with numerous orchestras in the United States and Canada and spent a season with the Sarasota Opera Company after Hurricane Katrina. An active chamber musician and teacher, she is a founding member of Musaica, an eclectic performing ensemble based in New Orleans. Stephanie received her Doctorate in Clarinet Performance from the University of Michigan; her teachers have included Clark Brody, Fred Ormand, Ted Oien and

Mark Nuccio. Her business, Stephanie Thompson Woodwind Services, specializes in repair and restoration of clarinets and oboes. She is married to Loyola Instructor and LPO bass clarinetist John Reeks, has two cats named Esme and Harlowe, and likes to run, read, and ride roller coasters.

Serena Weren

Dr. Serena Weren is the Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at Loyola University New Orleans. She earned her DMA in wind band conducting from Arizona State University under the direction of Gary W. Hill and Wayne Bailey. She also holds a BA in music education from Temple University, and a MM in instrumental conducting and a MMed both from Arkansas State University. Previously, she was the Director of Bands at Middletown High School South and River Plaza Elementary School in New Jersey. Dr. Weren is an active guest conductor and clinician for concert and marching bands across the United States and internationally. Her current research interests include investigating the association of instrumental music making, social networks, and biochemicals that can aid in better understanding our social and physiological relationship to music making. Dr. Weren is also committed to improving health and wellness knowledge in the musical profession that can lead to more productive and healthy life-long musicians through her work with the Athletes and the Arts initiative. She has presented at Midwest, CBDNA and CMS conferences and is currently the Louisiana Chair for NBA. She is an active member of CBDNA, NBA, NAFME, PAMA, CMS, and WASBE.

Program Notes

You Are Cordially Invited

You Are Cordially Invited was commissioned by Paul Corn and the Susan E. Wagner High School Wind Ensemble to celebrate the opening of a brand new performing arts building on campus—a rarity among New York City public schools. Rather than shine a spotlight on the building itself, this brief fanfare is a musical invitation to the students who enter these facilities every day to create and to play, and also to our friends and family who continually come out to our many concerts, plays, and recitals to support these create endeavors. *You Are Cordially Invited* premiered on October 21, 2016 at Susan Wagner High School in Staten Island, New York.

City Trees

After living in the Arizona desert for 25 years, Michael Markowski moved to New York City, a transition that presented many challenges. Amid learning his way around a new city and pace of life, he noticed the city trees “shackled by the sidewalk. Some have little fenced around them, many have trash nestled up next to their exposed roots, and other have grown so big and become so strong that they have broken through the pavement.” Despite the challenges of the city, these trees had flourished and gave him consolation that he, too, could flourish. *City Trees* opens with a repeated motive that while somewhat timid also creates a sense of urgency. A resonant chorale joins the motive and the piece continues to build gives the sense of perseverance. According to Markowski, *City Trees* is a reflection of the bravery that often takes to venture into new worlds, embrace other cultures, and lovingly encourage new ideas.” The piece is dedicated to the Lesbian and Gay Band Association to commemorate 30 years of music, visibility, and pride.

Children’s March “Over the hills and far away”

Percy Grainger, an Australian composer, originally wrote *Children’s March* for piano between the years 1916-1918. A year after he finished the piece, he orchestrated it for wind band while a member of the U.S. Coast Artillery Band. He kept the piano as a prominent part of the instrumentation in this new orchestration, which is possibly the first work for wind band to use piano. The folk-like melodies are surprisingly original and feature the woodwinds, with particular emphasis on the low reeds. He dedicated this piece to “my playmate beyond the hill.” Some surmise this person to be a Danish woman named Karen Holton whom corresponded through letters for eight years.

Summoning Graces

Summoning Graces was commissioned for the Northeastern Oklahoma All-District High School Wind Ensemble and premiered in 2019. The piece, in two movements with no break, is described by Markowski as “rediscovering joy in a world that has all but lost or forgotten it. The first movement, *Invocation*, is a bit of a prayer, a calling out to the stars, an urgent plea to the gods. Help us regain order. Help us find balance. Help us remember happiness, love, and kindness. Movement two answers the first and grants us our wish by prescribing a healthy dose of Splendor, Mirth, Good Cheer. The heavens send down three of Zeus’s daughters: Aglaea (goddess of “Splendor”), Euphrosyne (goddess of “Mirth”), and Thalia (goddess of “Good Cheer”). Together, they are known as the Three

Graces and, when summoned, their main objective is to inspire artists and poets to create beautiful work, to bestow great wisdom upon scientists and philosophers, and to bring joy and good will to both gods and mortals. Through song and dance and joyful festivities, these goddesses help remind us of all the beauty and fun that does exist in the world, even if it's sometimes hidden.”

Unfamiliar Territory

Unfamiliar Territory, a piece for solo clarinet and wind ensemble, was adapted from the original version for solo alto saxophone and piano. The piece is in three movement and depicts Markowski's first visit to Mexico just south of the border from Arizona. Uncertainty and curiosity blend into this film-noir-flavored piece. The culture he encounters there is mystical and charming, especially at night. Markowski writes “as night falls, the local spirits emerge and the town comes alive. The moon hangs low, peeking out around buildings, always just out of sight, as if to keep an eye on us without our knowing of it... Somehow, we are still able to make out the low meditative hum of neon lights, buzzing quietly like mosquitoes. It doesn't take long to fall under the city's spell... The ghosts of this unfamiliar territory swirl all around us, dizzying our sense, growing more and more vocal as we enter somewhere we perhaps were not invited to.”

Early Light

Originally trained as an orchestral double bass player, Carolyn Bremer gained began composing at the age of 24. She studied at the Eastman School of Music and CalArts, before receiving her PhD in composition from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her compositions include electronic music and instrumental pieces from chamber music to large ensemble. First premiered as an orchestral piece by the Oklahoma City Philharmonic in July of 1995, *Early Light* was re-orchestrated by Carolyn Bremer for the wind band a few years later. According to Bremer, “the material of this piece is largely derived from “The Star Spangled Banner.” One need not attribute an excess of patriotic fervor in the composer as a source for this optimistic homage to our national anthem... [but as a] passionate baseball fan since childhood, drew upon her feelings of happy anticipation at hearing the anthem played before ball games.” Near the end of the piece, the audience will even hear the crack of the baseball bat leading to a long home run.

Upcoming Events

Graduate Recital: Elizabeth Wooton, soprano

Saturday, Apr. 6, 7:30 p.m. | Nunemaker Auditorium

Free admission

Senior Recital: Emily Alves, cello

Sunday, Apr. 7, 1:00 p.m. | Nunemaker Auditorium

Free admission

Loyola Chorale, Chorale SSA, and University Chorus

Sunday, Apr. 7, 3:00 p.m. | Roussel Hall

Free admission

Sophomore Recital: Michael Bauer & Joey Troia,

Sunday, Apr. 7, 7:30 p.m. | Roussel Hall

Free admission

Expertise in Music Learning - Dr. Robert Duke

Monday, Apr. 8, 4:00 p.m. | Room 204G

Free admission

Jazz Workshop & Training Bands

Tuesday, Apr. 9, 7:30 p.m. | Roussel Hall

Free admission

Woodwinds A Go Go

Wednesday, Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m. | Band Room

Free admission

Loyola Bands

Thursday, Apr. 11, 7:30 p.m. | Roussel Hall

Free admission

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg with Loyola Strings

Friday, Apr. 12, 7:30 p.m. | Roussel Hall

Ticket required

For more information, visit presents.loyno.edu or call (504) 865-2074.