UNIVERSITY of CENTRAL FLORIDA

Wind Ensemble

Scott C. Tobias
Conductor

Julian Bliss
Clarinet

Program

Fanfare Canzonique
Brian Balmages
(b. 1975)

University of Central Florida & Winter Park High School Brass

The Archangel Raphael
Who Leaves a House of Tobias
Masanori Taruya
(b. 1978)

Clarinet Concerto No. 2
in E-Flat, Op. 74
I. Allegro
II. Andante con moto
III. Alla Polacca
Carl Maria von Weber
(1786-1826)
arr. Conway Brown

Julian Bliss, clarinet

Czárdás
Vittorio Monti
(1868-1922)
arr. Andrew Glover

Julian Bliss, clarinet

Blue Shades
Frank Ticheli
(b. 1958)

Marche Slav, Op. 31
P.I. Tchaikovsky
(1844-1896)
orch. Carl Simpson
Fanfare Canzonique
Brian Balmages

“Written in memory of Gilbert Johnson (1927-2002), this piece seeks to embody some of his most magnificent qualities. His contributions as former principal trumpeter of the Philadelphia Orchestra and professor of trumpet at the University of Miami were legendary. Of all his recordings, two of the most famous are The Antiphonal Music of Gabrieli and Respighi’s Pines of Rome.

The opening fanfare becomes the structural canvas on which Gabrieli’s Canzona per sonare No. 2 is painted. This explains the beginning and ending of the work. The middle section is somewhat more elusive. Originally, I fought with this section possibly longer than I have fought with anything in my composing career thus far. It was not until I heard the eulogy at Mr. Johnson’s funeral (which made reference to his offstage solo in Pines of Rome) that I was able to understand the need for it to complete this section. There is a strong spiritual climax in the piece as the antiphonal trumpet solo fades, only to be “caught” by the onstage trumpet soloist who is able to complete the phrase.

Ironically, Mr. Johnson himself came up with the idea for this work, and he was to be the conductor of the premiere. In our last conversation, he said, ‘I know that it’s going to be a great piece – I just hope I get a chance to hear it.’ He passed away before its completion, but this work keeps his memory alive and serves as a tribute to his life.”

(Notes by Brian Balmages)

The Archangel Raphael
Who Leaves a House of Tobias
Masanori Taruya

Based upon the 1637 Rembrandt painting by the same name, this work depicts the story of the Archangel Raphael, sent by God to help Tobias on a dangerous journey. Tobias is attacked by a large fish, but the Archangel instructs Tobias to remove the gall, heart, and liver to concoct a medicine to restore his father’s sight. The oil painting by Rembrandt shows the Archangel Raphael flying upward from the house of Tobias as the family bows in immense gratitude.

(Notes from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music)
Czárdás
Vittorio Monti

Vittorio Monti was an Italian composer, conductor, and violinist. He composed many works, including large scores for ballets and operettas. He is remembered almost exclusively for his Czárdás, originally composed for solo violin with piano accompaniment, which is synonymous with Gypsy music.

(Notes by the publisher)

Blue Shades
Frank Ticheli

“In 1992 I composed a concerto for traditional jazz band and orchestra, Playing With Fire, for the Jim Cullum Jazz Band and the San Antonio Symphony. That work was composed as a celebration of the traditional jazz music I heard so often while growing up near New Orleans.

I experienced tremendous joy during the creation of Playing With Fire, and my love for early jazz is expressed in every bar of the concerto. However, after completing it I knew that the traditional jazz influences dominated the work, leaving little room for my own musical voice to come through. I felt a strong need to compose another work, one that would combine my love of early jazz with my own musical style.

Four years, and several compositions later, I finally took the opportunity to realize that need by composing Blue Shades. As its title suggests, the work alludes to the Blues, and a jazz feeling is prevalent – however, it is not literally a Blues piece. There is not a single 12-bar blues progression to be found, and except for a few isolated sections, the eighth-note is not swung. The work, however, is heavily influenced by the Blues: “Blue notes” (flatted 3rds, 5ths, and 7ths) are used constantly; Blue harmonies, rhythms, and melodic idioms pervade the work; and many ‘shades of blue’ are depicted, from bright blue, to dark, to dirty, to hot blue.

Blue Shades was commissioned by a consortium of thirty university, community, and high school concert bands under the auspices of the Worldwide Concurrent Premieres and Commissioning Fund.”

(Notes by Frank Ticheli)
Marche Slav, Op. 31
P.I. Tchaikovsky

Tchaikovsky was commissioned to write Marche Slav specifically for a concert to benefit Serb soldiers wounded while fighting (with help from Russian volunteers) against the Ottoman Empire. Hence the title declared it a march for all Slavs rather than simply for Russians. The piece, though relatively brief, includes a number of distinct moods; bright, festive passages contrast with ominous ones. At several moments, different sections of the ensemble carry their own melodies at the same time, creating a layered effect. As the March progresses toward its triumphant conclusion, the intensity of the music builds, and the main theme is gradually shifted from the woodwinds to the brass and percussion.

(Notes by Betsy Schwarm)
Dr. Scott C. Tobias is the Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Central Florida where his responsibilities include conducting the Wind Ensemble, teaching courses in conducting and music education, and providing administrative leadership for the UCF Bands program. Prior to his appointment at the University of Central Florida, Dr. Tobias served as Associate Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music in the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University. He also previously served as Director of Bands at Sumter High School in Sumter, South Carolina, and at Central High School in Macon, Georgia. Dr. Tobias has worked with a number of community music organizations including the Macon Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Appalachian Youth Wind Ensemble, and currently the Youth Band of Orlando. He remains active as a clinician conducting honor bands throughout the United States. Bands under Dr. Tobias’ direction have performed nationally and internationally at events such as the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival, the Western International Band Clinic, the University of Georgia January Festival, and the University of South Carolina Band Clinic. Dr. Tobias has been awarded the "Citation of Excellence" from the National Band Association on three occasions and has been named to Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers on six separate occasions. While at Appalachian State University, Dr. Tobias was awarded the Student Government Association’s Outstanding Faculty Member Award on four occasions and received the Hayes School of Music Outstanding Teacher Award. In 2009, Dr. Tobias was named a recipient of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Tobias received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the University of Georgia, where he also earned a Masters degree in Music Education. He received the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Furman University. His professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education, National Band Association, Florida Music Educators Association, Florida Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, Pi Kappa Lambda, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Dr. Tobias currently serves as the 2nd Vice-President of the National Band Association.
Julian Bliss is one of the world’s finest clarinetists, excelling as a concerto soloist, chamber musician, jazz artist, masterclass leader and tireless musical explorer. He has inspired a generation of young players as guest lecturer and creator of his Leblanc Bliss range of affordable clarinets, and introduced a substantial new audience to his instrument. Born in the U.K., Julian started playing the clarinet at age 4, going on to study in the U.S. at the University of Indiana and in Germany under Sabine Meyer. The breadth and depth of his artistry are reflected in the diversity and distinction of his work. In recital and chamber music he has played at most of the world’s leading festivals and venues including Gstaad, Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Verbier, Wigmore Hall (London) and Lincoln Center (New York). As soloist, current performances include concerts with the Sao Paolo Symphony, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Paris, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia and London Philharmonic. In 2012 he established the Julian Bliss Septet, creating programmes inspired by King of Swing, Benny Goodman, and Latin music from Brazil and Cuba that have gone on to be performed to packed houses in festivals, Ronnie Scott’s (London), the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) and across the U.S. Recent album releases receiving rave reviews from critics, album of the week spots and media attention, include his recording of Mozart and Nielsen’s Concertos with the Royal Northern Sinfonia. The most recent chamber disc features Schubert and Schumann with soprano Ailish Tynan and pianist Christopher Glynn, alongside a recital album of Russian and French composers with American pianist, Bradley Moore. 2016 will see the premiere of a new concerto written by jazz legend, Wayne Shorter, and a recording of Steve Reich’s New York Counterpoint.

The University of Central Florida Wind Ensemble would like to thank Mr. Chris Blackmer, Mr. Michael Clemente, the Winter Park High School Bands, and the administration of Winter Park High School for hosting our performance this evening.
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
School of Performing Arts

Jeff Moore, Director
Steven Chicurel-Stein, Associate Director
Keith Koons, Associate Director
Earl D. Weaver, Theatre UCF Artistic Director

UCF Bands Faculty
Scott C. Tobias, Director of Bands
Jason Cumberledge, Associate Director of Bands
Dave Schreier, Assistant Director of Bands

Winds & Percussion Faculty
Nora Lee Garcia, Flute
Jamie Strefeler, Oboe
Andrew West, Bassoon
Keith Koons, Clarinet
George Weremchuk, Saxophone
John Almeida, Trumpet
Johnny Pherigo, Horn
Michael Wilkinson, Trombone
Claude Kashnig, Euphonium & Tuba
Thad Anderson, Percussion
Kirk Gay, Percussion
Jeff Moore, Percussion

www.ucfbands.com