



Stow Munroe Falls High School

Instrumental Music Department

presents our :

Winter Benefit & Pre-Contest Concert

with the:

**Freshmen Band, Symphonic Band,
& Wind Ensemble**

Tuesday, March 6, 2007
7:00 P.M. Stow-Munroe Falls H.S.

MUSIC 
The Heart in Education



Pediatric Palliative Care Center

FRESHMEN BAND

Mrs. Sandra Sandman & Mr. Brian Monroe: Directors

Ringling Bros. Grand Entry.....Al Sweet

Arranged by Andrew Glover

Ringling Bros. Grand Entry was composed probably around 1909 while Sweet served as conductor and music director for the Ringling Bros. Circus. It was published in 1911 by Will Rossiter Music Company of Chicago. Al Sweet was a significant personality in the American Classic Concert Band movement. A master showman, respected conductor, virtuoso cornetist, and a composer of no small repute, Sweet is known today to only the most diligent of band historians and enthusiasts. Sweet was born in 1876 in Dansville, New York. He received some early musical training on violin from his father. His mother, a pianist helped the youngster to learn the Eb Cornet. At some point Sweet found his way to New York City where he performed as a correct soloist with several ensembles in the NYC area. He also served as the music director for the Edison Phonograph Company.

Majestia.....James Swearingen

Composed in 1983, Majestia was commissioned by and dedicated to the Parker High School Band, Parker, Colorado. It was the composer's desire to have the title reflect the awesome beauty of Colorado's Rocky Mountains. In discussions about the work, the word majestic kept coming up, thus the word Majestia was created.

....Not Afraid to Dream.....Brian Balmadges

No Afraid to Dream is written in memory of Kevin Langlie, a high school senior who tragically passed away. At the request of his school, it designed to serve two purposes: to help bring closure to everyone at school, and to celebrate his life. both the serious and "not-so-serious" moments. The title comes from the eulogy delivered by his band director: "His focus on the positive and the possible left no room in his life for negative attitudes and excuses.....He wasn't afraid to dream and share those dreams....."

The work opens with the sounds of various chimes, almost mimicking the sound of church bells. This somber beginning is reflective in nature and is a musical "moment of silence." As the melodies and harmonies grow out of this silence, it is almost as through a ray of sunshine beams through the sound of band to counter the earlier passages. A solo trumpet hints at the opening of Lift High the Cross, one of the hymns that was sung at Kevin's Wake.

Eventually, the tone of the piece turns to a much lighter note, picking up in both mood and tempo. A lighthearted melody intertwines with changing meters as it begins to reflect Kevin's sense of humor and enthusiasm. The piece then falls into a groove beginning with low brass (Kevin's instrument was tuba) and eventually spreading throughout the entire ensemble, much like his personality tended to do.

As the piece drives forward, a full refrain of Lift High the Cross appears, undergoing several changes in harmony as it completes with the main rhythmic motif for the spotlight. Eventually, the undeniable spirit of the opening theme of this section comes back in triumph as the piece builds to one final climax. A brief tuba duet reminds everyone that Kevin is still in the band; then the ensemble joins for a whirlwind of harmonies that eventually finds its way home.

CONTEST PERFORMANCE TIMES

Freshman Band: Friday, March 16: 8:05 PM: Wooster HS Auditorium

Wind Ensemble: Friday, March 16: 9:35 PM: Wooster HS Auditorium

Symphonic Band: Saturday, March 17: 11:05 AM: Copley High School Gym

Parents are welcome to attend.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT STILL AND/OR VIDEO CAMERAS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT BAND CONTEST AT ANY TIME!!!

SYMPHONIC BAND

Mrs. Sandra Sandman: Director

Circus Days.....**Karl L. King**
edited by: Brian Monroe

Into the Light.....**Jay Bocook**

Into the Light was commissioned by the Verona, New Jersey High School Wind Ensemble, in loving memory of Catherine Bell, a clarinetist in the band. It was premiered in a special concert in December, 1995. Into the light is composed of two main sections. The piece opens with rising scale clusters in the woodwinds and melodic fragments in the mallet percussion. Eventually, the reflective main theme is introduced in the clarinets and after extensive development modulates to a majestic statement by the full ensemble. A brief transition leads to the second section: Allegro. A secondary theme is introduced by the horns and trumpets accompanied by flourishes in the woodwinds. After more development, the main theme from part one returns in the brasses while the woodwind and melodic percussion support with punctuation cross rhythms. The work closes in celebration and a feeling of transcendence:
Into the Light

Cantus Jubilante.....**David Shaffer**

Cantus Jubilante was commissioned by the ever-faithful Ross Band Boosters and dedicated to the 2006 Ross High School "Band of Class." The piece was written in celebration of the opening of a first ever auditorium for the Ross Local School District. This auditorium represents a giant step in the importance of fine arts education at Ross Local Schools.

David Shaffer was born in Columbus, Ohio and attended Grover City High School in Grove City Ohio. He holds a Bachelor Degree from the Ohio State University and a Master of Music Degree from Miami University. Mr. Shaffer has served as a public school teacher in Ohio and is currently the director of the Miami University Marching Band.

All Donations made at tonight's concert, as well as all of the donations made by our band students over the past week will be donated to the Pediatric Palliative Care Center at Akron Children's Hospital.

The Pediatric Palliative Care Center at Akron Children's Hospital aims to enhance the quality of life and minimize suffering for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

Akron Children's pediatric palliative care team works not only with children who are dying, but also with those who are battling any life-threatening medical condition. They become involved with the family's primary care doctors at the beginning of the child's life-threatening diagnosis and continue through cure or until the time of death and bereavement.

Thank you students, parents, family and friends for helping us to reach our goal of \$1,000.

Miss Morgan, a wonderful little girl, was the sister of sophomore band member Drew Myers. Diagnosed early in life with Autism and Mitochondrial Syndrome, Morgan spent much of her life in the hospital. She was a great joy to her family and provided endless hours of love and happiness. Unfortunately, her time on earth ended on December 3, 2006. She was 6 years old, and it knocked the family to its knees. Losing a child is never easy. Thus, our concert tonight is dedicated to Morgan and her memory, and most of all, to her family who will never lose the support of our bands.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Mr. Brian Monroe: Director

Black Granite Symphonic March.....James L. Hosay

The Vietnam War is an event in U.S. history that is controversial to this day. But let there be no controversy regarding the high level of valor, courage, and honor displayed by the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces during that conflict. Without regard to the politics behind their involvement, they served diligently and to the highest standards of military tradition. Many of them gave the ultimate sacrifice. This march is dedicated to the men and women who died in that war; to those whose heroic deeds went unsung, and to those who returned home only to find shattered remnants of what was once their "American Dream" This work is dedicated to the men and women who have their lives in Vietnam whose names are forever engraved in the solemn stone wall of the Vietnam Memorial.

Children's March: Over the Hills and Far Away.....Percy Grainger

The *Children's March: Over the Hills And Far Away* is the only original work from Grainger's military period, the other pieces are revisions of earlier works. It's one of the earliest pieces with the piano integrated into the orchestra's instrumentation. As in other of his pieces, Grainger lets the piano player hit the strings with a percussion mallet. Because the Army band's instrumentation didn't allow the piece to be played as originally scored, Grainger cued bits of the piano part into several wind parts. For the first time the low reeds were used to successfully balance the woodwinds against the brass. This technique can also be found in Grainger's later works for wind orchestra. As mentioned, this is an original piece, and it's not based on a children's song titled 'Over The Hills and Far Away', as one might have assumed. The piece has an enigmatic subtitle: '*for my playmate beyond the hills*', but Grainger never said who this playmate was.

Irish Tune from County Derry.....Percy Grainger

This work is based on a tune collected by Miss J. Ross of New Town, Limavaday, County Derry, Ireland, and published in *The Petrie Collection of Ancient Music of Ireland*. Known to many as "Danny Boy," this beautiful setting of the ancient Irish air was written by Percy Grainger in 1909.

The Ascension from Symphony #1 The Divine Comedy.....Robert W. Smith

"*The Divine Comedy*" is a four movement symphony for band based on the Dante Alighieri's literary classic of the same name. The story of Dante's trilogy is very basic: one day Dante finds himself lost in a dark wood. Virgil, a character based on the revered Roman poet, appears and rescues him. Virgil guides Dante to a contemplation of Hell and Purgatory. Dante, having confessed his faults, and with Beatrice as his guide, is led into Paradise and attains a glimpse of the face of God. Movement 3, "*The Ascension*," begins with Dante on the Mountain of Purgatory. Having been instructed and purified in Purgatory, he is prepared for his journey to Paradise. Beatrice, his guide, lifts her eyes toward the sun. Following her example, Dante looks to the sun and is at that moment transformed ("trans-humanized") in preparation for his great adventure. He is surprised to discover wonderful music, the music of the spheres, surrounding them. Swifter than thought, their flight of incredible speed begins. Dante and Beatrice, accompanied by sounds of wondrous beauty and intensity, ascend to the *Sphere of Fire*.

