

PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Concert Band

Dr. Gary Corcoran, Conductor

Jim Jones, Assistant

presents

Music of

Percy Grainger

with

H. Francis Short, Narrator



Thursday, April 30, 1981

McCray Recital Hall

8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM NOTES*

The Immovable Do (1933-1939)

The title of this unique composition refers to the fact that the woodwinds' opening "C" ("do" in "fixed-do" solfeggio) persists as a high pedal point throughout the piece. The pun of the title thus contrasts the "immovability" of the pedal point with the fact that in "movable do" solfeggio "do" is always the tonic note of the music—in this case "F". An example of what Grainger called "elastic scoring," this work is playable by many different combinations of instruments through the use of an ingenious system of cross-cueing.

Lincolnshire Posy (1939)

Lincolnshire Posy is perhaps Grainger's most outstanding work and has become a classic in band literature. Based on folksongs collected in Lincolnshire, England, in 1905, Grainger described this composition as "a bunch of 'musical wildflowers'—dedicated to the old folksingers who sang so sweetly to me. Indeed, each number is intended to be a kind of musical portrait of the singer who sang its underlying melody—a musical portrait of the singer's personality no less than of his habits of song."

The movements performed here are: "Lisbon" (Sailor's Song), "Horkstow Grange" (The Miser and his Man—a local Tragedy), "The Brisk Young Sailor" (who returned to wed his True Love), "Lord Melbourne" (War Song), and "The Lost Lady Found" (Dance Song).

Ye Banks and Braes O' Bonnie Doon (1949)

This warmly-scored Scottish folk song is an example of Grainger's innovations in band arranging. Through careful voicing, doubling, and balancing of melody and accompaniment parts, Grainger produced an arrangement that can be performed successfully by a number of ensembles smaller than full band. These chamber groupings include full woodwind choir, double-reed choir, clarinet choir, saxophone choir, full brass choir, and a "narrow-bore brass choir" of cornets and trombones.

Spoon River (1929)

Of this composition Grainger wrote: "A Captain Charles H. Robinson heard a tune called 'Spoon River' played by a rustic fiddler at a country dance at Bradford, Illinois, in 1857. When Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* appeared in 1914, Captain Robinson (then nearly 90 years old) was struck by the likeness of the two titles and sent the 'Spoon River' tune to Masters, who passed it on to me. The tune is very archaic in character; typically American, yet akin to certain Scottish and English dance-tune types. My setting aims at

preserving a pioneer blend of lonesome wistfulness and sturdy persistence. It bears the following dedication: 'For Edgar Lee Masters, poet of pioneers'."

Irish Tune from County Derry (1918)

To many people, the name Percy Grainger immediately brings to mind his *Irish Tune from County Derry*, popularly known as "Londenderry Air" or "Danny Boy." The original tune, collected by a Miss J. Ross, was first published in the *Petrie Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland* in 1855. In addition to this setting for military band, Grainger also scored the tune for string orchestra, a *capella* mixed chorus, and for piano solo.

Shepherd's Hey (1918)

Regarding *Shepherd's Hey*, Grainger wrote a short note in the first edition: "In agricultural districts in various parts of England, teams of 'Morris Men,' decked out with jingling bells and other finery, can still be seen dancing to 'Shepherd's Hey' and other traditional dance tunes played on the fiddle or on the 'pipe and tabor.'"

Colonial Song (1918)

The original setting of *Colonial Song* was for two voices (soprano and tenor), harp, and symphony orchestra; both the original and the composer's band arrangement were intended as "yule gifts" for his mother. In a letter to Frederick Fennell, Grainger stated that "*Colonial Song* was an attempt to write a melody as typical of the Australian countryside as Stephen Foster's exquisite songs are typical of rural America."

Lads of Wamphray (1905)

Completed in 1905, this was Grainger's first work for full band; however it was not published until 1941. It was not based on any folksongs or traditional tunes, but was inspired by a folk-poem in Sir Walter Scott's "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border." The poem, which celebrates a bloody skirmish between the Maxwell and Johnstone clans that took place at Biddes-burn in 1593, closes with the following verse: "For where'er I gang, or e'er I ride/The lads of Wamphray are on my side;/And of a' the lads that I do ken/A Wamphray lad's the king of men."

*Notes by Frank Hudson for the University of Illinois Symphonic Bands, Dr. Harry Begian, Conductor.

CONCERT BAND PERSONNEL

Piccolo

Beth Turley, Paola

Flute

Robyn Bastin, Jasper, MO
*Laura Norris, Chicago, IL
Cheryl Shepherd, Maple Hill
Beth Turley, Paola
Mary Wallace, Pittsburg

Oboe

*Janice Lancaster, Fort Scott
Kenda Lee, Joplin, MO

Bassoon

*Ginnie LeClerc, Pittsburg
Pam Rexwinkle, Altamont

Clarinet

Phil Brenner, Columbus
Theron Crozier, Pittsburg
*Cheryl Freeman, Fort Scott
Debbie Goucher, Anthony
Libby Israel, Springfield, MO
Sheri Knight, Sterling
DeWayne Livengood, Wichita
Samra Strawn, Cimarron
Woody Watson, Kansas City

Bass Clarinet

Brenda Banks, Pittsburg
Russell Jones, Pittsburg

Alto Saxophone

*Edward Foxall, Galena
Robert Love, Fair Grove, MO
Lisa Wade, Pittsburg

Tenor Saxophone

Lemuel Sheppard, Kansas City

Baritone Saxophone

Tammy Dubois, Neosho, MO

Cornet/Trumpet

Melvin Baum, Garnett
Jim Ferraro, Columbus
Jeanne Fiene, Downers Grove, IL
Mark Keltner, Overland Park
*Don Rogers, Kansas City
Jim Sherman, Merriam
David Smith, Wichita
David Wallace, Carthage, MO

Horn

Lorenzo Poindexter, St. Louis, MO
*Sandy Rogers, Columbus
Diane Schaper, Benton, KY
Gene Vollen, Pittsburg
Mark Warren, Uniontown

Trombone

Lori Arnold, Parsons
Paul Benner, Pittsburg
Bruce Dunfee, Pittsburg
Greg Hartline, Bridgewater, NJ
*Doug Mogle, Columbus
Jeff Smith, Pleasanton

Baritone

Steve Brown, Kansas City
*Will Clark, Yates Center

Tuba

Paul Kuestersteffen, Hesston
Dan Lidberg, Cedarvale
*Tom Mahan, Pittsburg

Percussion

Debbie Ghodstinat, Pittsburg
*Andy Houchins, Shawnee Mission
Mendy Hulvey, Columbus
Jim Jones, Sarcoxie, MO
Patty Love, Fair Grove, MO
Mark Powls, Garnett

Piano

Lori Arnold, Parsons

Graduate Assistant

Jim Jones

Librarians

Tom Mahan
David Smith
Beth Turley

Band Council

Greg Hartline
Jim Jones
Robert Love
Don Rogers
David Smith

*PRINCIPAL