Pittsburg State University
Department of Music
presents
"Heritage of the Band"

The Pittsburg State University Symphonic Band
Warren D. Olfert, Conductor

Guest Artists
John Hines, tenor
Todd Hastings, trumpet
Robert Kehle, trombone

Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium
February 18, 1997    7:30 PM
Concert Program

Sabre and Spurs (1918)  John Philip Sousa/ed. Frederick Fennell
"Mars" from The Planets (1915/1924)  Gustav Holst
"Walther’s Prize Song" from Die Meistersinger (1868)  Richard Wagner/arr. Barrow
  John Hines, tenor soloist
Shoutin’ Liza Trombone (1920)  Henry Fillmore
The Eluded Causeway (1996)
  I. Prelude
  II. Impressions
  Chamber Winds
  World Premiere
  Todd Hastings, trumpet soloist; Robert Kehle, trombone soloist
Chester Overture (1957)  William Schuman

Program Notes

Tonight’s program is the first in a series of concerts to be devoted to the American tradition of band music; hence the title, “Heritage of the Band.” This tradition, which dates back to the previous century recalls the days of John Philip Sousa and Patrick S. Gilmore, whom many acknowledge as the first great American bandmaster. Future concerts will be devoted to recreating turn of the century band concerts and other similar projects.

As would be appropriate for a concert of this type, we begin with a march of John Philip Sousa: his Sabre and Spurs. Written in 1918, the march is dedicated to the men of the 311th Cavalry. Sousa had a gift for placing a unique touch in all of his marches. In Sabre and Spurs, the trio of the march introduces a bugle call from the trumpets accompanied by horses hoofs in homage to the military unit for which the work is written.

Of all his works, The Planets remains Gustav Holst’s best known composition. At the time of its composition in 1915, Holst’s firmament only contained seven planets (Pluto had not yet been discovered and Holst did not include a movement for Earth). While each of the seven original movements is memorable, the first movement, Mars, remains the one that makes the most powerful impression. Holst rescored the movement for band in 1924 and it is that version that is performed tonight.
Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg is Richard Wagner's happiest opera. The story, which concerns the efforts of Walther to enter the local song contest, the prize for which is the hand of Eva in marriage, is sentimental, delightful, and, in short, a masterpiece. Walther's Prize Song, which is the climactic moment of the opera, results in Walther successfully winning the contest and claiming Eva (this is, after all, a comedy with a happy ending) for his bride.

Henry Fillmore, along with John Philip Sousa, Karl King, and others, is one of America's March Kings. Fillmore is most fondly remembered for his circus marches and a series of trombone rags written for the band. Shoutin' Liza Trombone is one of his best rags. Only "Uncle Henry," as he was fondly remembered, would have been irreverent enough to quote Handel's Hallelujah Chorus in the midst of a trombone rag!

Justin Writer is a senior music education major at Pittsburg State University. The Eluded Causeway represents one of his first excursions as a young composer into music for band and depicts in musical terms a young man's search for truth. According to the composer, "Many people believe there is a path we must follow in order to assure ourselves a good life and a good afterlife. None of us know for absolute certainty what or where this path is we feel we must follow. It is this mystery of the unknown path that I call the Eluded Causeway."

Herbert L. Clarke is best remembered for his years as the cornet soloist of the Sousa Band. Over the years, he wrote several solos for cornet and band that are now staples of the band repertoire. Cousins was written as a duet for himself and his good friend, Arthur Pryor, the trombone soloist of the Sousa Band. It is a typical exhibition of virtuosity for both soloists that one would expect of Herbert Clarke's work.

John Gibson's Resting in the Peace of His Hands was inspired by a relief sculpture on display at the Busch-Reisinger Museum at Harvard University of the same title. The composer was so taken with the apparent peace and security depicted by the figures in the sculpture and its maker (a German artist who was adversely affected by many of the events of and World War II) that he was moved to compose a work that would depict those emotions musically.

William Schuman was a great advocate for the wind band as a medium for serious art music and wrote several works for band that remain a basic part of the band repertoire. Chester Overture comes from his New England Tryptich, a set of three works based on the Revolutionary War hymn tunes of William Billings. The work is a theme and variations, with a statement of the hymn tune in both the woodwinds and brass, followed by a colorful and virtuosic setting of the music before an exciting conclusion. It is a perfect work for a conclusion to our "Heritage of the Band."

John Hines joined the Pittsburg State University voice faculty in 1996. He has a Master of Music degree from Kent State University, and a Bachelor of Music in Education degree from Heidelberg College. Mr. Hines has performed with the Graz, Austria, Indianapolis, Cleveland Chamber and Ashland Symphony Orchestras. This past fall, Mr. Hines was a finalist in the Lauritz Melchior Competition for heldentenors. It is with great pleasure that we welcome him to the stage with the symphonic band.

Todd Hastings, a native of Buffalo, New York, is Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Pittsburg State University. Before coming to Pittsburg, he was visiting Instructor of Trumpet at Texas A & M University in Kingsville, Texas. Mr. Hastings is currently a DMA candidate at the University of Texas at Austin. He recently appeared as a soloist at the Victoria Bach Festival and has performed as a member of the Central Plains Brass Quintet.

Robert Kehle is in his 19th year of teaching at Pittsburg State University. He holds the rank of professor of music and teaches both the lower brass and the jazz studies courses. With degrees from Washington State University and Indiana University, Mr. Kehle has studied Thomas Beversdorf, Keith Brown, M. Dee Stewart and Edward Kleinhammer. He is currently principal trombonist with the Springfield, Missouri Symphony Orchestra and the Central Plains Brass Quintet. Mr. Kehle is an artist affiliate with United Musical Instruments and plays Conn trombones.
Symphonic Band Personnel

Flute
Justin Writer*
Lisa R. Dunn
Tobey Aitken
Sara R. Cartright
Mary Goedeke
Jamie Wolf

Oboe
Kelsey McDaniel*
Kara Herr

Clarinet
Linda Lunow*
Jennifer Schultz
Elizabeth Homesley
Shelby Huddleston
Erin McGuire
Aryna Janes
Regan Chamberland
Alicia Bauer
Melissa Warner
Melissa Harley

Bass Clarinet
Joni Gerster
Brian Sharp

Alto Saxophone
Angela Sisk*
Michael Sumaya

Tenor Saxophone
Don Stephens
Tabby Myers
Lindsay Green
Jason Matthews

Baritone Saxophone
Hyriam Fleming
Christopher Mallory

Bassoon
Jason S. Dunn*
Monica Oliver

Trumpet
Brad Harrison*
Michael Oglesby
Tim Sauerwein
Kevin Pommier
Jim Williams
Dale May
Michael Best
April Jones

Horn
Tiffany Hugo*
Christina Connell
Tom Mangus
Bryce Tharp

Trombone
M.C. Whittier*
Travis Tabares
Jim O'Shields
Josh D. Dempster
Matt Auxter

Euphonium
Joel Dodd*
Rebecca Slater

Tuba
Ryan A. Elliott*
Keith Covey
Keith Wondra

Percussion
David Johnston*
Brian Hargrave*
Sal Bywaters
Glenda Chaplin
Corey Fugitt
Aric Kirk
Matt Paige

Keyboard
Tammy Frevele

* = Section
Leader/Principal

Ensembles at PSU: Coming Events

Friday, March 7 7:30 PM Memorial Auditorium
Sunday, March 16 3:00 PM First Methodist Church
Thursday, April 10 7:30 PM First Methodist Church
Thursday, April 24 3:00 PM McCray Recital Hall
Sunday, April 27 3:00 PM McCray Recital Hall
Sunday, May 4 7:30 PM Memorial Auditorium
Thursday, May 8 7:30 PM Memorial Auditorium

PSU Jazz Festival
SEK Symphony/Oratorio
PSU Symphonic Band
PSU Jazz Ensemble
PSU Choral Concert
SEK Symphony
Four State Band Festival