Pittsburg State University
Department of Music

Presents

PSU CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Conducted by Dr. Selim Giray

THE SPRING CONCERT

Monday, April 2, 2006, 3:00 p.m.
McCray Recital Hall
PROGRAM

Symphony in A Major, No. 21 W. A. Mozart
K. 134 (c. 1772) (1756–1791)
   I. Allegro
   II. Andante
   III. Menuetto
   IV. Allegro

Serenade for Strings in E-flat Major Josef Suk
Op. 6 (1892) (1874–1935)
   I. Andante con moto
   II. Allegro ma non troppo e grazioso
   III. Adagio
   IV. Allegro giocoso, ma non troppo presto

Romanian Folk Dances, S. 76 Béla Bartók
(1915) (1881–1945)
   I. Stick Dance
   II. Sash Dance
   III. Stamping Dance
   IV. Hornpipe Dance
   V. Romanian Polka
   VI. Fast Dance
   VII. Fast Dance
NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Josef Suk Serenade for Strings in E-flat Major, Op. 6 (1892)

Josef Suk was born into a musical family in the Bohemian Village of Křečovice. His father’s name was also Josef Suk and he was the schoolmaster and choirmaster of Křečovice. His father instructed him to play the violin, piano, and organ from an early age. He enrolled in the Prague Conservatory in 1885, there he advanced his learning of the violin, theory, and chamber music concepts. By his third year in school, composing had really caught his eye and he began composing seriously for the first time. In 1891, he graduated with his Piano Quartet Op. 1. Although he had already graduated, Suk remained for an additional year to take composition classes from the famous Antonin Dvořák, who had just recently joined the teaching staff. Suk quickly became Dvořák’s prized pupil. His relationship with Dvořák was later cemented when he married Dvořák’s daughter, Otilie, in 1898. Like his father before him, Suk named his son (Dvořák’s grandson) Josef Suk. This Josef Suk became known as one of the leading violinists of our time.

In 1892, Suk had two important achievements. The first was founding the famous Czech Quartet which existed until 1933. The second was writing his Serenade for Strings in E-flat Major, Op. 6. At the close of the spring semester of classes, Dvořák had suggested that Suk spend the summer trying to write a piece in a major key for a change. Suk took his advice and returned in the fall with his summer homework assignment complete. This piece was his first big success which really jumpstarted his career. It is obvious to anyone familiar with the works of Dvořák, that Suk used Dvořák’s String Serenade in E Major (1875) as his inspiration. This piece received its seal of approval from another famous composer, Johannes Brahms, who claimed, “Dear God, what a charming little thing!” when he looked upon the score. Brahms immediately saw
Suk’s talent and brought it to the attention of his publisher, just as he had down before with Dvořák. The piece itself begins with a slow, beautiful first movement, followed by a delicate waltz with a hint of Bohemian folk-dance, a slow nocturne for the third movement, and a fast, intense finale to complete and reverberate the grandness of the previous movements.

*Ben Davis*
PSU CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

FLUTE
A J Beu
Toni Dobratz

CLARINET
Dr. Joanne Britz
Haley Ruther

BASSOON
Dr. Russell Jones
Danica Robbins

HORN
Michael Gilliland
Andrew Sercer

VIOLIN I
Călina Ciotlăuș
Rebecca Cutler
Ben Davis
Blair Croan

VIOLIN II
Erman Türkili
Elisha Samuel
Amanda Reehl
Tomoko Shinjo
Michelle Daugherty
Mallory Brewer

VIOLA
Jonathan Gayman
Scott Alison

CELLO
Necati Giray
Stephen Denton
Pat Kirkpatrick
Martin Burke

BASS
Cameron Schmitz
UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 4, 2006 7:30 PM * SCMS Amadeus Trio at McCray Hall
- April 6, 2006 7:30 PM PSU Wind Ensemble (Band) at Memorial Auditorium
- April 8, 2006 all day Kansas Regional High School solo and ensemble competition
- April 9, 2006 3:00 PM Southeast Kansas Symphony at Memorial Auditorium
- April 11, 2006 3:30 PM Pittsburg Public Library Chamber Music Concert at Pittsburg Public Library (Walnut and Fourth)
- April 13, 2006 all day Kansas State High School large ensemble competition
- April 17, 2006 7:30 PM Waddill Chamber Music Competition Concert at McCray Hall
- April 22, 2006 all day Mid-America Music Festival
- April 25, 2006 7:30 PM PSU Jazz Ensembles Concert at McCray Hall
- April 26, 2006 7:30 PM Opera Scenes at McCray Hall
- April 27, 2006 7:30 PM Symphonic Band Concert at Overman Student Center
- April 28, 2006 7:30 PM Opera Scenes at McCray Hall
- May 7, 2006 3:00 PM PSU Oratorio Choral Concert at 1st Methodist Church
- May 11, 2006 7:00 PM PSU 4-State Bands Concert at Memorial Auditorium