



Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg, Kansas

# Music Department

presents

## The Music of Markwood Holmes



McCray Hall

Friday-May 6, 1977 8:00 P.M.

## PROGRAM

### I

#### Street Scenes

- I Carnival
- II Mirror Pool
- III Little Trolley Car
- IV Public Auction

Markwood Holmes, Violinist  
Robert Schott, Clarinetist  
Carol Sue Maxwell, Pianist

### II

#### Island (Donald Atwell Zoll)

Black Cay

Vodung

Margaret Thuenemann, Mezzo-Soprano  
Martha Pate, Pianist

### III

#### March Fantasy

Mary Elliott James, Violist  
Marcia Schirmer-Stone, Pianist

### IV

By the Greatness of His Might (ISAIAH, 40:21, 22, 26,  
28, 29; 41:1)

Patty Broyles, Gail Hamilton, Carol Sue Maxwell,  
Gina Ferraro, Janice Gordon, Judith Lee, Jo  
Ellen Taylor, Laura Tobler, Margaret Thuenemann  
David Lowe, Pianist

V

Four Piano Miniatures

Prelude-Chorale

Broken Music Box

Dream Carnival

Colored Lights

Donna Harrington, Pianist

VI

Love Duet from TELEMACHUS (Eugene Larkin)

Janice Gordon, Soprano

Kim Scharff, Tenor

Carol Sue Maxwell, Pianist

VII

Preamble, Elegy and Fugue

Paul Carlson, Violinist

James Poulos, Violinist

Mary Elliott James, Violist

Walter Osadchuk ~~Carlton McCroery~~, Cellist

John MacKay, Pianist

VIII

"Lebe Wohl" from AN AFRICAN FARM (Ray Hooker)

Burton Parker, Baritone

Carol Sue Maxwell, Pianist



## PROGRAM NOTES

### Holmes Recital

#### STREET SCENES

The descriptive titles of the four movements bring to mind the various "scenes" depicted in the work. Each of the first three movements is relatively free of special complexities. The finale, "Public Auction", contains beside the "Sold American" theme, a fugue with two subjects, the second bringing back a theme from the first movement, "Carnival". In 1961 the piece was arranged for four-octave chromatic harmonica and piano for John Sebastian and his pianist, Glen Clugston. It has been heard in the Orient, Central Europe and West Africa, and in this country from Los Angeles to Boston.

#### ISLAND

A song cycle with text by former faculty member, Donald Zoll, comprising four poems--impressions of a South Sea Island area. It follows a free plan of Sonata form, each poem, with instrumental interlude between the first two, considered as a section. First theme, interlude; second theme, development and recapitulation. Instead of themes, each represents a special harmonic treatment. There are elements of twelve-tone technic, handled freely, the first row derived from the last tone of each arpeggiated chord in the beginning, and clearly announced in the last twelve syllables of the vocal part in the first poem. The development section, third poem, is the turbulent climax of the whole cycle.

#### MARCH-FANTASY

Written in 1973 for Mary Elliott James, violist, and Marcia Schirmer, pianist, who played it the same year in Tulsa and Wichita, as well as Pittsburg. It was intended as an equally challenging vehicle for the performers, and demands a sincere joint effort by two gifted and accomplished artists such as the musicians for whom it was written. The work might be described as a fantasy in the style of a march. The strict march character is soon abandoned, and the piece moves swiftly to a brilliant climax.

#### BY THE GREATNESS OF HIS MIGHT

This choral work, written in 1949, won a portion of the Ernest Bloch award the same year. The text, taken from the fortieth chapter of Isaiah, imposes the mood coloring, the rhythmic forward drive, and even the length. A contrapuntal, rather than a chordal style, accompaniment was chosen to accentuate the flow of the text.

#### FOUR PIANO MINIATURES

The individual names of these short piano solos are descriptive enough to obviate further discussion. Written at different periods, the earliest, in the late twenties, started out as a chorale for a harmony assignment.



### LOVE DUET FROM "TELEMACHUS"

The opera "Telemachus" was begun in 1950 while the composer and librettist, Eugene Larkin, former art department head, were on vacation in Northern Minnesota. By 1954 it was completed and within a year or so was produced in Pittsburg and in Wichita for a regional music convention audience. Later it was heard over WNYC, New York radio presentation during National Music Week. Excerpts from the work have been heard in the Midwest. The duet, by Prince Telemachus and Ilia, his betrothed, depicts the first break in their relationship due to the sinister maneuvering of the prince's father, King Abner.

### PRELUDE, ELEGY AND FUGUE

This piano quintet has been played on several composers' forum concerts including those at Dallas and St. Louis. The first movement is bitonal, the piano and three upper strings playing the "white key" chords while the cello is assigned the five-tone "black key" notes, pizzicato. Later the roles are reversed, all the strings voicing the five-tone theme while the piano alone has the responsibility for the consonant chords. This movement has a simple A B A form, the "B" theme turning out to be a mildly plaintive, whimsical affair in contrast to the animated "A" section. The Elegy is a patently unorthodox "Passacaglia" section---- a repeated eight-bar theme usually, but not always, in the bass, on which are superimposed several variations. The "Elegy" theme is but five measures long, each measure in a different time signature: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, and 6/4, repeated, with the inevitable variations "on top". The last movement is a five-voice double fugue. Each member of the quintet is assigned both subjects at different times. At the concluding stretto, the first subject undergoes an abrupt change of tempo and rhythm, bringing the work to a swift close.

### LEBE WOHL

A German term of endearment used as the title of a song directed to two little girls who, in the play, must bid good-bye to their beloved overseer of an African farm who has been dismissed by a prejudiced manager. "An African Farm", title of a nineteenth century novel by Olive Shriver, was adapted for the stage by Rae Hooker of New York. As a musical it reached the off-Broadway rehearsal point several years ago, but not beyond, due to an actor's strike and concern over a lagging stock market.