

Program

Fanfare For The Third Planet	Richard L. Saucedo
Snakes! (for Symphonic Wind Ensemble)	Thomas C. Duffy
Shannon Lake	Brant Karrick

Alpharetta High School Symphonic Band II Michael J. Walsh, Conductor

Shortcut Home	Dana Willson
West Highlands Sojourn	Robert Sheldon
1. Stow-On-the-Wold 2. Bradford Ballade 3. On Derwentwater	

Alpharetta High School Symphonic Band I Michael J. Walsh, Conductor

Festive Overture Opus 96.....	Dmitri Shostakovich
Irish Tune from County Derry	Percy A. Grainger
Shepherd's Hey	Percy A. Grainger
Whip and Spur Galop	Thomas S. Allen / arr. Cramer
Arabesque	Samuel R. Hazo

Alpharetta High School Wind Ensemble Michael J. Walsh, Conductor

Program Notes

Characteristic of **Richard Saucedo's** distinctive style, *Fanfare For The Third Planet* features a rhythmic vitality throughout, along with fresh harmonies and skilled orchestrational devices. Amid the powerful fanfare-like phrases, Mr. Saucedo creates a brief calm section using the woodwinds and a unique layering effect before building to the dynamic ending.

Snakes! by **Thomas Duffy** is a short programmatic piece which explores different sounds that one might associate with different snakes. After an introduction which hints of hissing and the dangerous potential of snakes, the “rattlers” in the percussion section are joined by an overlay of melodies. One of the melodies resembles the tune with which the Indian snake charmer entices the swaying cobra from the wicker basket. The piece ends with a section of writhing tendrils of sounds (the snake pit) and a brief recapitulation to the catchy melody and rhythm of the snakecharmer's cobra!

Sit back and imagine yourself enjoying a warm sunny day, swimming, fishing, water skiing, and generally enjoying outdoor life near Shannon Lake in West Kelowna, British Columbia. That would be the vision **composer Brant Karrick** would share while listening to his work *Shannon Lake*. This fast-slow-fast overture contains two main themes with harmonies that are primarily triadic. Occurrences of simultaneously sounding major chords create a sense of bitonality throughout the work.

Shortcut Home by **Dana Wilson** is a rousing fanfare that features each section of the ensemble. With exciting drive and jazz-based interludes, the piece cascades towards its “home” of C-major. Dana Wilson holds a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music, and is currently Charles A. Dana Professor of Music in the School of Music at Ithaca College.

The movement titles for **Robert Sheldon's** *West Highlands Sojourn* are taken from historic English destinations. **Stow-on-the-Wold** is a market town in Gloucestershire, England, known for its trading fairs. This first movement is a light march in 2/4 with most of the melody in woodwinds and trumpet. The second movement **Bradford**, a borough located in West Yorkshire, England, is an industrious city known for its part in the Industrial Revolution and its wool production. This is a slow ballade in 3/4 time with solos for trumpet, alto saxophone, and clarinet. Tempos change often, and there is plenty of room for rubato. Movement three, **Derwentwater** is a scenic body of water in England's Northern Lake District National Park. The movement is a dance in 6/8 time with a driving ostinato pattern and an opportunity for polyrhythmic playing between brass and woodwinds.

Festive Overture was written by **Dmitri Shostakovich** in 1954 for a concert held at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the October Revolution (which took place in 1917). The Bolshoi's conductor, Vassili Nebolsin, found himself without a suitable new work to open the concert, and contacted Shostakovich just days before. The composer set to work on the overture with great speed, completing it in three days. While the style reflects Shostakovich, the piece as a whole uses very conventional classical devices of form and harmony. The overture begins with a fanfare in the brass, followed by a fast melody in the winds. The piece reaches a climax with a four-note motif. Suddenly the music reaches a more lyrical melody in the horns while the tempo remains the same. Shostakovich develops this material in his typical style, using both themes in counterpoint before the fanfare returns and leads to a rousing coda.

Percy Grainger's setting of *Irish Tune from County Derry* was written in 1909 and is based on a tune collected by Miss J. Ross of New Town, Limavady, County Derry, Ireland, and published in *The Petrie Collection of Ancient Music of Ireland* in 1885. *Shepherd's Hey* is Grainger's 1918 setting for military band of a traditional English Morris Dance tune. In agricultural districts 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 tunes played on the fiddle or on the "pipe and tabor" (a sort of fife and drum). Both works were dedicated "lovingly and reverently" to the memory of Edvard Grieg.

Whip and Spur is a delightful march composed by **Thomas Allen** of Natick, Massachusetts. Although it is labeled as a march, it is more appropriately called a galop, a fast type of music used to accompany circus acts.

Commissioned by the Indiana Bandmasters Association for the 2008 All-State High School Honor Band, *Arabesque* is a stunning work from the pen of **Samuel Hazo**. The work is a "tour de force" of Middle Eastern sounds for the contemporary wind band. From delicate and sensual soloistic writing to full-blown ensemble passages with rapid fire tutti rhythms and frenzied percussion, the work will leave you wanting more!

Out of respect for the performers and the audience, please review concert guidelines:

- **Turn off all communication devices** for the duration of the concert.
- Please enter or leave the auditorium **between selections only**.
- When listening to multi-movement works, **hold applause** until **all** movements are finished.
- *NO flash photography* during performances

Future Alpharetta High School Band Events

For more information, visit www.alpharettaband.org

-Second Annual Chamber Music Concert, May 17, 2011, 7pm

AHS Theater, sponsored by Tri-M Music Honor Society

-AHS Leadership Training: May 28; 31 @ AHS

Featuring Mr. Peter Ferrito and Mr. Scott Lang

-AHS Graduation (Select students): May 29, Verizon Amphitheatre

-MB Percussion Camp (ALL marching band percussion): July 18-22

-MB Rookie Camp (all NEW marchers and leadership): July 20-22

-Marching Band Camp: July 25-29, 2011, Rock Eagle 4H Camp
Eatonton, GA

-DCI Southeastern Championship @ the Georgia Dome; July 30

The Band would like to give a special thanks to the many parents who have given their time, talents, and resources to our program this year. We appreciate you!!

THE ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND PRESENTS

THE 7TH ANNUAL ALPHARETTA HIGH SCHOOL

SPRING CONCERT

APRIL 26, 2011, 7:00

PM

***ALPHARETTA HIGH
SCHOOL THEATRE***

Dr. Cindy Loe, Fulton County Superintendent
Katie Reeves, School Board District 2
John LaForge, Coordinator of Music Education
Gene Dunn, Principal, Alpharetta High School
Michael J. Walsh, Director of Bands