

Program

- Rollo Takes a WalkDavid Maslanka
Harry's Wondrous WorldJohn Williams /arr. Brubaker

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

- Dreams and FanciesTimothy Broege
(4 short mvnts)
Rampage!Todd Stalter

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

- "The Gum-Suckers" MarchPercy Grainger
See Rock CityBrant Karrick
Godzilla Eats Las VegasEric Whitacre
Juny Kim, Piano
Steven Yu, String Bass
Sheldon Fisher, video "Q-er"
Romanian Overture – "Meleaguri mistice"Thomas Doss

Alpharetta High School Wind Ensemble Michael J. Walsh, Conductor

Program Notes

Rollo is a fictional character created by American Composer Charles Ives and used in many of his musical writings to illustrate ultra conservative musical tastes. *Rollo Takes a Walk* is David Maslanka's development of this character. It is intended as a good-humored, gentle parody of the old "concerts in the park" and of some of the bands in which the composer has played where tuning was "less than perfect!" This exploration of the "microtonal" character is viewed by Maslanka as a forceful, original element in American music history.

John Williams has won multiple Oscars, Golden Globes, and other awards for his movie soundtracks. His music for the *Harry Potter* movies has been critically acclaimed and the melodies from *The Chamber of Secrets* have been captured in this fun medley arranged by Jerry Brubaker. *Harry's Wondrous World* will allow you "re-live" the movie moment!!

Dreams and Fancies is the story of sleepless night; "fancy" is the old English word for musical fantasy. There are musical episodes, some of which are associated with definite pictures: the three accented pulses of the main theme signifying a kind of fate, a demented waltz which breaks down, a love theme in the middle, then a wild jazz party. Musically, the piece is unified in two ways: Firstly, all themes are built from the opening 15 bars. Secondly, the pulse of the music remains virtually constant. This means the tempi need to relate to each other, a difficult task for ensemble and conductor!

Rampage by Todd Stalter is a relentless, aggressive work that requires wind and percussion alike to play with both a great deal of force and finesse. Strong statements in the brass, the interwoven wind parts, and a contrasting introspective section provide opportunities for expression and nuance, making the piece virtually leap off the page!

"Gum Suckers" is a nick-name for Australians hailing from the state of Victoria, the home of Percy Grainger. Apparently the leaves of the "gum" (Eucalyptus) tree are very refreshing to suck in parching, summer weather. As a matter of reference, the trees themselves are called "gums" and the young shooters at the bottom of the trunk called "suckers." Grainger has used his own "Australian Up-Country Song" melody to create "*The Gum-suckers March*." Composing the wind version in 1942, this march is actually the 4th movement of Grainger's "In A Nutshell" Suite for orchestra.

See Rock City is a fun, rock jam session for concert Band! Partly inspired by driving through the southeastern part of the United States, particularly Tennessee, it is hard to miss the words painted on barns, birdhouses, and billboards – See Rock City! The attraction atop Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga displays the region's quirky sense of humor as well as its breathtaking beauty. Whether looking at seven states, standing under a waterfall, or walking through a cavern full of glowing gnomes, Rock City –like this namesake piece – is just pure, simple FUN!

Godzilla Eats Las Vegas – Eric Whitacre is quickly becoming one of the bright stars of the American composer scene. His music has received performances throughout the world. Eric has studied composition with John Corigliano and David Diamond. He holds a Master of Music from the Juilliard School of Music. "Program Music" is a type of art music that attempts to *musically render* an extra-musical narrative. This is "program music" at its best! Notes for tonight's performance will be "visual." Enjoy the show! (sorry we didn't serve popcorn!)

Romanian Overture is the first of 6 movements in a larger body of work by composer Thomas Doss titled Romanian Dances. Romania boasts an endless wealth of folk music and culture. While the music of Northern Romania still sounds familiar to Western European ears, it becomes gradually faster and fierier towards the South. The passages of the work are not to sound strictly classical; in fact, it is by design, amateur-musician sounding! A Romanian wedding band playing these dances would not sound authentic without its wild and free character. There are natural sounds such as a pan flute, the shepherd's flute, and the taragot – which is a Turkish wind pipe that looks similar to a clarinet but has very loud and raucous sound, eventually abandoned from concert halls due to its incredibly loud volume.

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, always visit www.alpharettaband.org*

-Third Annual Chamber Music Concert, May 14, 2012, 7pm

AHS Theater, sponsored by Tri-M Music Honor Society

-AHS Leadership Training: May 2-23 @ AHS

Featuring Mr. Peter Ferrito and Mr. Scott Lang

-AHS Graduation (Select students): May 19, Verizon Amphitheatre

-MB Percussion Camp (ALL marching band percussion): July 23-27

-MB Rookie Camp (all NEW marchers and leadership): July 25-27

-Marching Band Camp: July 30-August 3, 2012

@Rock Eagle 4H Camp Eatonton, GA

-DCI Southeastern Championship @ the Georgia Dome; July 28

-60th Annual Old Soldiers Day Parade August 4, 2012

(Downtown Alpharetta, 9:30 AM)

Thanks to:

David Snyder – Band Recordings

Sheldon Fisher – behind-the-scenes details this year

AHS Administration – continued support in the tough economic times!

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

Alpharetta High School Presents

The 8th Annual Alpharetta High School Bands Spring Concert

*April 24, 2012, 7:00 PM
Alpharetta High School Theatre*

Dr. Robert Avosa, Fulton County Superintendent
Katie Reeves, School Board District 2
John LaForge, Coordinator of Music Education
Shannon Kersey, Principal, Alpharetta High School
Michael J. Walsh, Director of Bands