

Southshore Concert Band

presents

"All the Sounds of the Earth Are Like Music"



Dale L. Reuss, Conductor

*Mendel Center Mainstage
Sunday, April 26, 2009 2:00 p.m.*

ALL THE SOUNDS OF THE EARTH ARE LIKE MUSIC

Today's program will be performed without announcements from the stage. Our goal is to present a musical portrait celebrating our home ... our Earth and the people who reside here. We invite you to let the music create your personal portrait of Mother Earth in all its beauty, diversity, grandeur and to musically dramatize our relationship with her. Applause between numbers is welcomed.

IN ALL ITS GLORY by James Swearingen

Our home planet glistens blue in the heavens. Neil Armstrong said, "It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the Earth. I put up my thumb and shut one eye, and my thumb blotted out the planet Earth. I didn't feel like a giant. I felt very, very small."

COME HOME TO THE SEA by Chip Davis; arr. by Robert Longfield

The Sea has a mystical draw for all of us – her vastness; her mysteries; and her beauty draw all humans to her shores. John Masefield said, "I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky; and all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by."

VISIONS OF AUSTRALIA by Graham Lloyd

Visions of Australia begins with the sounds of the aboriginal didgeridoo and moves musically through the history of that land down under – from the arrival of Captain Cook to the dreams of the present and the future. In the early 1800s, English Sea Captain Charles Sturt said, "Australia is properly speaking an island, but it is so much larger than every other island on the face of the globe, that it is classed as a continent in order to convey to the mind a just idea of its magnitude."

BORA BORA by Scott Boerma

Located northwest of Tahiti, Bora Bora has been described by James Michener, author of "Tales of the South Pacific," as "the most beautiful island in the world." This suite in three connected movements musically illustrates the grandeur, beauty and native traditions of this paradise.

BUFFALO JUMP RITUAL by Daniel Bukvich

Musically recreating the danger and excitement of a Native American buffalo hunt from the 19th Century, this selection begins with the mysterious sounds of preparing for the hunt and continues through the encounter between tribal man and magnificent beasts.

BEYOND THE SUMMIT by Brian Balmages

This composition is a musical celebration. The title refers to our human nature to constantly strive higher and higher. While many directors play a significant role in helping us climb our own mountain, this musical metaphor reminds us to continue the journey on our own and to never stop, even when we think we have reached the summit.

INTERMISSION – 15 minutes

THE GRAND TETONS by Carl Strommen

The majestic Rocky Mountains create the great divide between the Great Plains and the Pacific Coast. John Muir said, "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you... while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

OKLAHOMA! by Rodgers and Hammerstein, arr. by Robert Russell Bennett

All the sounds of the earth are like music,
All the sounds of the earth are like music,
The breeze is so busy it don't miss a tree,
And an ol' Weepin' Willer is laughin' at me.

Oh what a beautiful morning,
Oh what a beautiful day,
I've got a wonderful feeling,
Everything's going my way.

RIVER OF LIFE by Steven Reineke

Simone Schwarz-Bart said: "All rivers, even the most dazzling, those that catch the sun in their course, all rivers go down to the ocean and drown. And life awaits man as the sea awaits the river."

WHEN THE TEARS FELL by Ed Huckeby

This selection is based on the 1838-1839 historical trek of the Cherokee known as the "Trail of Tears." Over 4,000 men, women and children died during the process of relocation from their eastern state homes to Indian Territory (modern day Oklahoma). There are four major sections in the composition, representative of various phrases of the famous "Trail of Tears." These include: *The Gathering*; *The Journey*; *The Harsh Winter*; and *Spring, a New Nation*.

'TIS A GIFT by Anne McGinty

Our concluding selection is based on the familiar Shaker hymn "Simple Gifts." This arrangement is a celebration of the insuppressible and eternal spirit of humanity. This composition is written in three distinct sections, each representing a different characteristic of the human spirit. The first section illustrates the innocence of youth, with an eagerness to experience all life has to offer. Based on small motifs from the hymn, this section is lighthearted and joyous with a contrasting, songlike interlude. The second section, a simple interpretation of "Simple Gifts," depicts the gift of understanding and the willingness to forgive. The third section symbolizes the courage to persevere and eternal optimism, a playful and free-spirited romp, again using motivic elements from the hymn.

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