



WIND BAND CLASSICS



HEAVY WEATHER Wind Concertos

Susan Botti • Jess Langston Turner • Stephen Michael Gryc

Carrie Koffman, Saxophone

Scott Mendoker, Tuba

Marc Goldberg, Bassoon

Hartt Wind Ensemble • Glen Adsit



HEAVY WEATHER		
Wind Concertos		
Susan Botti (b. 1962)		
sull'ala: Concerto for Saxophone and Wind Ensemble (2014)		26:19
1	1. Propulsion	7:18
2	murmuration 1	3:34
3	2. Torque	6:58
4	murmuration 2	1:51
5	3. Aloft	6:28
Jess Langston Turner (b. 1983)		
Heavy Weather: Concerto for Tuba and Wind Ensemble (2013)		22:34
6	Heat Wave	9:25
7	Supercell	13:08
Stephen Michael Gryc (b. 1949)		
Guignol: Concerto for Bassoon and Small Orchestra of Winds and Percussion (2017)		13:07
8	Disputes	4:09
9	A Strange Occurrence In The Night	4:39
10	Running Amok	4:18

Recorded: 17 December 2013 1-5, 15 December 2014 6-7 and 17 December 2018 8-10 at the Lincoln Theater, University of Hartford, W. Hartford, CT, USA

Producers: Glen Adsit 1-10, Susan Botti 1-5, Carrie Koffman 1-5, Jess Langston Turner 6-7, James Jackson 6-7, Stephen Michael Gryc 8-10, Janet Arms 8-10, Edward Cumming 8-10

Engineers: Justin Kurtz 1-5 8-10, Matt Baltrucki 1-7, Gabe Herman 6-7, Koby Nelson 8-10

Assistant engineers: Nancy Conforti 1-5, Sean Tanguay 1-5, Jennifer Nulsen 6-7, Andrew Fiddler 6-7, William Jones 8-10, Bobbi Giel 8-10

Editors: Matt Baltrucki 1-5, Justin Kurtz 6-10

Heavy Weather

Wind Concertos

Susan Botti (b. 1962): sull'ala (2014)

Susan Botti's eclectic background and experiences are reflected in her music incorporating traditional, improvisational, and non-classical styles. Her awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Rome Prize, and she has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts.

Commissions include works for The Cleveland Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. Recent premieres include *Glaze*, given by the Alabama Symphony Orchestra with Carlos Izcaray, and *Bird Songs* for solo soprano 'in a nest of percussion', commissioned and premiered by Lucy Shelton. Works for wind ensemble include *Cosmosis* for soprano, wind ensemble, and women's chorus, and *Terra Cruda* – both commissioned by a consortium led by the University of Michigan (Michael Haithecock) and The Hartt School at the University of Hartford (Glen Adsit).

In addition to performing her own vocal works, Botti specialises in the performance of contemporary music by composers of diverse styles, including the role of Water in Tan Dun's opera, *Marco Polo* (Sony Classical).

www.susanbotti.com

sull'ala ('on the wing') is inspired by flight. Some of the different physical properties of flight suggested different musical expressions of rhythm, harmony and texture. The relationship of soloist to ensemble reflects the individual flyer's relationship to surrounding elements. The *murmurations* are small bridge movements for the soloist and sax sextet. (A 'murmuration' is a group of starlings, whose mesmerising group acrobatics fill the sky in sweeping clouds.)

Jess Langston Turner (b. 1983): Heavy Weather (2013)

Jess Langston Turner composes contemporary instrumental and choral music. He holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in trumpet performance from Bob Jones University, a Master's degree in composition from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford, and a Doctorate in composition from Indiana University Bloomington.

Turner has been the recipient of several national US awards, his accolades including First Prize at the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Composition Award, placing as finalist in the ASCAP Lotte Lehmann Art Song Competition for Young Composers and the Morton Gould Young Composer Awards (twice), and winning the John Ness Beck Award for Choral Composition, the 2011 Walter Beeler Memorial Prize, and the Merrill Jones Composition Contest for Young Bands. In recent years he has also served as composer in residence for many universities and high schools around the country.

Turner's teachers have included Dwight Gustafson, Kenneth Steen, Robert Carl, Don Freund, Sven-David Sandström, Aaron Travers, and P.Q. Phan. In addition, he has participated in masterclasses with prominent American composers Dan Welcher, Nancy Galbraith, Michael Colgrass, Jennifer Higdon, William Bolcom and Joseph Schwantner. Turner is frequently commissioned by many ensembles, ranging from middle school to professional, and his compositions have been performed by a variety of groups, including the Rivertree Singers of South Carolina, the West Point Band, the U.S. Coast Guard Band, the United States Marine Band, and the United States Navy Band, as well as numerous prominent college and high school wind band programmes around the US and the world.

www.jessiturnermusic.com

Susan Botti

Heavy Weather seeks to describe two powerful meteorological phenomena that can cause much damage and discomfort to humans – a heat wave and a supercell. Rather than simply describing how one may be affected by a first-hand experience with one of these weather events, *Heavy Weather* depicts the natural processes involved.

The first movement, *Heat Wave*, describes a high-pressure system that slowly builds over a large area of the countryside. As the high-pressure system strengthens, warm air (which naturally has the tendency to rise) is trapped close to ground level. As the system stalls, the mass of warm air builds, and the temperature on the ground soars to unbearable extremes.

Whereas a heat wave is the result of an overly stable atmosphere, a supercell is a product of a highly unstable atmosphere. When a cold dry air mass collides with a warm moist air mass, supercell thunderstorms can form. Compared to a normal thunderstorm, a supercell is much more severe and longer-lived. As the thunderheads build darker and higher, an upwardly rotating column of air (called the 'updraft') forms. The updraft is responsible for the formation of hail, and ultimately is essential in the formation of one of the most terrifying forces of nature: the tornado. As the storm slowly abates and then dissipates, tenuous stability returns to the atmosphere – until next time.

Jess Langston Turner

Stephen Michael Gryc (b. 1949): *Guignol* (2017)

Stephen Michael Gryc's expertise in writing for orchestral instruments has brought him commissions from some of the world's leading soloists, including the principal trumpet and trombone players of the New York Philharmonic. Gryc's music for large ensembles has been performed by groups such as the Minnesota Orchestra and the United States Marine Band. The composer has won awards such as the Rudolf Nissim Prize for orchestral composition from the ASCAP Foundation. Gryc's works are published by companies in New York

and Paris, and his discography spans nine different commercial labels. Gryc earned four degrees in music from the University of Michigan where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composers Leslie Bassett and William Bolcom. He is professor emeritus of music composition at The Hartt School at the University of Hartford where he taught for 35 years. In 2002 the University of Hartford presented him with the James and Frances Bent Award for Artistic Achievement.

www.stephengryc.com

The character of *Guignol* was created at the beginning of the 19th century by a dentist in Lyon, France, who attracted customers to his chair by presenting puppet shows. The verbally adept puppet characters were based on those of the Italian *commedia dell'arte*, and the stories were relevant to the social concerns of the day so the shows attracted adults as well as children. The scenarios inevitably ended with the clever and courageous *Guignol* defeating evildoers. The satirical music of the *Concerto* epitomises the witty banter and frenetic action of a puppet show, with the soloist playing the part of the comic hero.

Guignol was commissioned by conductor J. Thomas Seddon IV and the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse for bassoonist Richard Hoenich. The *Concerto* was completed in December of 2016 and was premiered on 23 April 2017 by soloist Hoenich and the UWL Wind Ensemble conducted by Dr Thomas Seddon.

Stephen Michael Gryc

Carrie Koffman



Photo: Jerome Stallings

Carrie Koffman is associate professor of saxophone at The Hartt School at the University of Hartford and lecturer of saxophone at the Yale School of Music. Prior to this, she held positions as assistant professor of saxophone at Penn State University and the University of New Mexico, and lecturer at Boston University. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in 26 states, 14 countries and on 5 continents. Praised by *Fanfare* magazine, commissions and premieres number some 52 compositions. Her students have placed in over 120 performance competitions, including winning 22 university concerto competitions at all five of the universities where she has taught. Koffman is a certified Kripalu Yoga teacher and teaches yoga for musicians. She is a Conn-Selmer artist/clinician, performing on Henri Selmer Paris saxophones.

www.carriekoffman.com

Scott Mendoker



Currently on the faculty of The Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Scott Mendoker has performed with the Chicago and New Jersey Symphony Orchestras, New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, Boston Pops Orchestra and The New York Pops, and in the Broadway hit *Ragtime*. Praised by *Fanfare* magazine, Mendoker has appeared throughout the US and abroad both as a soloist and with the award-winning brass quintet The Philadelphia Brass. His discography includes David Holsinger's tuba concerto *Kansas City Dances* with the Rutgers Wind Ensemble with Dr William Berz, and David Sampson's *Three Portraits for Tuba and Chamber Orchestra* with members of the Czech Philharmonic.

Marc Goldberg



A member of the New York Woodwind Quintet and St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble, Marc Goldberg is principal bassoonist of Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, American Ballet Theater, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and a member of the American Symphony Orchestra (ASO). Previously associate principal bassoonist of the New York Philharmonic, he has also been a guest of the Metropolitan Opera, Boston Symphony Orchestra and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, touring with these ensembles and joining them on numerous recordings. Solo appearances include performances with the Brandenburg Ensemble, Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, Saito Kinen Orchestra, ASO, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and Riverside Symphony. His active chamber music career includes guest appearances with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Musicians from Marlboro, Music@Menlo and Carnegie Hall's Zankel Band. He joined the faculty of The Hartt School in 1994, and also teaches at The Juilliard School Pre-College Division, Mannes College, New England Conservatory, Bard College Conservatory of Music and New York University.

Hartt Wind Ensemble



The Hartt Wind Ensemble is nationally recognised as one of the premier collegiate wind ensembles in the US. In 2010 the ensemble made its Carnegie Hall debut in the Isaac Stern Auditorium, performing the world premiere of *Dragon Rhyme* by Chen Yi. The Hartt Wind Ensemble has performed at national conferences of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) in Ann Arbor, Michigan (2007), Seattle, Washington (2011), and Tempe, Arizona (2019). It has also performed four times at Eastern Division CBDNA regional conferences. Critically acclaimed by *Gramophone* magazine, the ensemble has recorded three albums for Naxos: *Passaggi* (8.572109), *Dragon Rhyme* (8.572889) and *Raw Earth* (8.573342). A leader in commissioning new music, it has premiered over 40 works in the past 20 years and has hosted over 80 prominent guest performers and conductors.

Glen Adsit



Photo: Jerome Stallings

Glen Adsit is the director of bands at The Hartt School, where he conducts the Wind Ensemble and the Foot in the Door Ensemble. He also co-directs the graduate instrumental conducting programme. Professor Adsit was appointed director of bands at The Hartt School at the University of Hartford in the autumn of 2000, and in 2014 was awarded the outstanding teaching award at the University. In 2015 he was named one of the 'Top 40 Educators Making a Difference' by Music For All. Ensembles under his direction have performed at the Musikverein (Vienna), Benaroya's Illsley Hall (Seattle) Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium (New York), the Central Conservatory of Music (Beijing) Harpa (Reykjavik) and Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre (Rochester, US).

HEAVY WEATHER

Wind Concertos

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sull'ala: Concerto for Saxophone
and Wind Ensemble (2014) **26:19**
- 6–7** Jess Langston Turner (b. 1983)
Heavy Weather: Concerto for Tuba
and Wind Ensemble (2013) **22:34**
- 8–10** Stephen Michael Gryc (b. 1949)
Guignol: Concerto for Bassoon
and Small Orchestra of Winds
and Percussion (2017) **13:07**

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Carrie Koffman, Saxophone 1–5

Scott Mendoker, Tuba 6–7

Marc Goldberg, Bassoon 8–10

Hartt Wind Ensemble

Glen Adsit

A detailed track list and full recording details
can be found on page 2 of the booklet.

Recorded: 17 December 2013 **1–5**, 15 December 2014 **6–7**
and 17 December 2018 **8–10** at the Lincoln Theater,
University of Hartford, W. Hartford, CT, USA

Publishers: SUBO Music (ASCAP) **1–5**,
Jess Langston Turner **6–7**, Stephen Michael Gryc **8–10**

Booklet notes by the composers.

Cover image by Joe Belanger (iStockphoto.com)



The Hartt School Wind Ensemble presents recent concertante works by three contemporary American composers – demonstrating once more the versatility of the ensemble, heard here in conjunction with soloists. Susan Botti's *sull'ala* is inspired by flight, expressed in rhythm, harmony and texture, while Jess Langston Turner describes powerful meteorological phenomena in *Heavy Weather*. In *Guignol*, Stephen Michael Gryc conjures witty banter and frenetic action from his puppet hero.

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Playing
Time:
62:11