



WIND BAND CLASSICS



SHADOW OF SIRIUS

Steven Bryant • Joel Puckett • John Mackey

Marianne Gedigian, Flute

The University of Texas Wind Ensemble

Jerry F. Junkin



Shadow of Sirius

Steven Bryant (b. 1972): Concerto for Wind Ensemble (2007/2010)

Steven Bryant's *Concerto for Wind Ensemble* came into existence in two stages, separated by three years. The first movement came about in 2006, when Commander Donald Schofield (then director of the USAF Band of Mid-America) requested a new work that would showcase the band's considerable skill and viscerally demonstrate their commitment to excellence as representatives of the United States Air Force. Initial discussions centered on a concerto grosso concept, and from this, the idea evolved into one of surrounding the audience with three groups of players, as if the concertino group had expanded to encompass the audience.

As the piece took shape, Bryant realized he wanted to write much more than the "five to seven minutes" specified in the original commission, so he intentionally left the end of the work "open." In 2009, Jerry Junkin, Director of Bands at The University of Texas at Austin, graciously agreed to lead a consortium to commission the project. "Economy of materials" is a guiding principle of Steven Bryant's approach to composing this five-movement work.

Joel Puckett (b. 1977): Shadow of Sirius (2009)

Joel Puckett's *Shadow of Sirius* was the product of a consortium of American wind ensembles led by Michael Haithcock and the University of Michigan and is dedicated to Amy Porter. The work grew from the composer's healing process after experiencing a personal tragedy in the Winter of 2009 that left him "unsure of how to even breath, let alone grieve."

Soon after this tragedy, Puckett found a collection of poetry by W.S. Merwin entitled *The Shadow of Sirius* and was filled "with a profound sadness that is, at the same time, brimming with hope." Each movement of this concerto for flute and wind ensemble offers the composer's reflection on a single Merwin poem from the collection and seeks to explore a virtuosity of expression in addition to a virtuosity of technique. Puckett utilizes a spatial arrangement of flutists around the audience to envelope the listener.

The soloist on this recording is Marianne Gedigian, Professor of Flute and holder of the Butler Professorship in Music at The University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music.

John Mackey (b. 1973): Kingfishers Catch Fire (2007)

John Mackey was commissioned to compose *Kingfishers Catch Fire* by a consortium of Japanese wind ensembles organized by Mamoru Nakata. A kingfisher is a bird with beautiful, brilliantly colored feathers that appears as if it were on fire in sunlight. Kingfishers are extremely shy birds and are rarely seen, but when they are seen, they are undeniably beautiful.

The first movement is suspended in tone, but with hope, depicting the kingfisher slowly emerging from its nest in the early morning stillness, just after a heavy rain storm. The second movement imagines the bird flying out into the sunlight and features antiphonal trumpets placed behind the audience to give the listener a surround sound experience.

Anthony C. Marinello, III

Marianne Gedigian



Marianne Gedigian, Professor of Flute and holder of the Butler Professorship in Music at The University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music, was a regular performer with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for over a decade, including several seasons as Acting Principal Flute under Seiji Ozawa. As Principal Flute with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra and Acting Principal Flute with the Boston Pops, she has been heard on dozens of recordings and Evening at Pops television broadcasts as well as the nationally broadcast Fourth of July specials. Her solo performances have taken her around the world, including recitals in Japan, Australia, England, and Armenia and she has appeared as concerto soloist numerous times with the Boston Pops Orchestra and with the Armenian Philharmonic performing her own transcription of the Khachaturian *Violin Concerto*. Marianne Gedigian was a first prizewinner in the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition, and the James Pappoutsakis Memorial Flute Competition. She is a founding member of the Boston-based Walden Chamber Players and was formerly a member of the Dorian Wind Quintet.

The University of Texas Wind Ensemble



The University of Texas Wind Ensemble has given world première performances of works by composers such as John Corigliano, Michael Daugherty, Donald Grantham, David Maslanka, and Dan Welcher, and held residencies with Samuel Alder, Thea Musgrave, Stephen Stucky, and Pulitzer Prize winners John Adams, John Corigliano, and Gunther Schuller. The Wind Ensemble made its international début at the Fifth Conference of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles in Manchester, England in 1991, and its New York début at Carnegie Hall in February 1998. In addition, the ensemble's commercial recordings on the Reference, Klavier, and Naxos labels have garnered many accolades, including an

enthusiastic *New York Times* review of *Bells for Stokowski* that reads: "The skilled and enthusiastic playing of the young performers leaps off the disc... they make a glorious noise."

Jerry F. Junkin



Jerry F. Junkin holds the Vincent R. and Jane D. DiNino Chair for the Director of Bands at The University of Texas at Austin, where he also holds the title of University Distinguished Teaching Professor. He has served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Dallas Wind Symphony since 1993, and in 2003 he was also appointed Music Director and Conductor of the Hong Kong Wind Philharmonia. He has also served on the faculties of both the University of Michigan and the University of South Florida. In addition to his responsibilities as Professor of Music and Conductor and Music Director of The University of Texas Wind Ensemble, he serves as Head of the Conducting Division and teaches courses in conducting and wind band literature. Performances under his direction have won the praise of such notable musicians as John Corigliano, David Del Tredici, Gunther Schuller, Karel Husa, William Kraft, Jacob Druckman and Michael Colgrass, among many others. He records for the Reference, Klavier and Naxos labels.

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