



The University of Vermont
School of the Arts
Program in Music

Sunday, April 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Music Building Recital Hall

Vermont Wind Ensemble

D. Thomas Toner, *conductor*

"Songs and Dances"

Program

Overture to Candide (1955)	Leonard Bernstein/Beeler
The Fairest of the Fair (1908)	John Philip Sousa/Brion & Schissel
Fantasy on a Theme by Sousa (2003)	Andrew Boysen
Armenian Dances (Part One) (1972)	Alfred Reed
Near Woodstock Town (1903)	Percy Grainger/Cramer
Havendance (1982)	David R. Holsinger
Chorale and Shaker Dance (1971)	John Zdechlik

Please silence all electronic devices and refrain from the use of flash photography during the performance.
Thank you!

Program Notes

Candide, written in 1955, was Bernstein's third Broadway musical, a collaborative adaptation of an 18th-century satire by Voltaire. Though the musical was not immediately successful, its overture quickly became one of Bernstein's most performed works. The overture is Bernstein at his high-spirited best - full of rhythmic energy and soaring tunes that would become so familiar to audiences in his music for "West Side Story". - DTT

The Fairest of the Fair is generally regarded as one of Sousa's most melodic marches. It stands out as one of the finest examples of the application of pleasing melodies to the restrictive framework of a military march. The Boston Food Fair was an annual exposition and music jubilee held by the Boston Retail Grocers' Association. The Sousa Band was the main attraction for several seasons, so the creation of a new march honoring the sponsors of the 1908 Boston Food Fair was the natural outgrowth of a pleasant business relationship. - Paul Bierley

Fantasy on a Theme by Sousa was commissioned by the Cedar Rapids (IA) Jefferson High School Band Parents Association in honor of the career of former Director of Bands Earle Dickinson. As one of hundreds of alumni of the Jefferson Band program under Mr. Dickinson, I was enormously honored to be given the opportunity to compose a work in his honor. The course of my life was affected greatly by this wonderful person and, although he would be hesitant to admit it, the same is true of many who passed through the "Band of Blue". How then to write a piece that would appropriately pay tribute to Mr. D? I wanted to write something that Mr. D would like and so I asked him what pieces he enjoyed the most throughout his career. One of the things he mentioned was his recent interest in the music of John Philip Sousa. This prompted me to think of my favorite Sousa march, **The Fairest of the Fair**. I decided that a composition based on that theme might be able to incorporate many of the things Mr. D loves most. - Andrew Boysen

Armenian Dances (Part One) is based on five Armenian folk songs collected by Godimas Vartabed (1869-1935) that demonstrate the typical Armenian use of drone, ornamented melodies, and additive rhythms. The first section uses two songs transcribed in the early 1900's: *Tzirani Tzar* ("The Apricot Tree") and *Gakavi Yerk* ("The Partridge's Song"). *Hoy, Nazan Eem* is a lively, lyric love song that utilizes additive rhythmic groupings of 2 + 3. *Alagyaz* depicts the majestic Armenian mountain of the same name. The last section, based on *Gna, Gna* ("Go, Go"), is a humorous, fast-paced song.

Near Woodstock Town is a tune is from "The Songs of England" (a collection of over 200 songs published in the late 19th century) and is listed as a melody from the 17th century. It was a broadside ballad of that era meaning that the words were printed on a single-sided paper and could be handed out as a leaflet. Broad sides contained only the words and a reference to the common melody to which they were set, hence the many different sets of words used with the same melody.

Near Woodstock Town in Oxfordshire,
As I walked forth to take the air,
To view the fields and meadows round,
Methought I heard a mournful sound.

Down by a crystal riverside,
A gallant bower I espied,
Where a fair lady made great moan,
With many a bitter sigh and groan.

Alas, quoth she, my love's unkind,
My sighs and tears he will not mind!
Soon after he had gain'd my heart,
He cruelly from me did part.

The green turf served her as a bed,
And flowers a pillow for her head;
She laid her down and nothing spoke,
Alas! for love her heart was broke.

For her earliest holiday costume, my daughter Haven wanted to be dressed as a ballerina. It was a passion that has not stopped to this day. **Havendance** was the first of my “children’s dances” (including **Nilesdance** in 1987, and **Graysondance** in 1995). In 1982 I was teaching in Chillicothe, Missouri, and was asked to write a piece for an anniversary concert of a North Central Missouri honor band. Haven was eight and constantly leaping and dancing about the house, and she seemed the perfect subject for a “dance” piece. Thus **Havendance**.
- David Holsinger

Chorale and Shaker Dance is made up of two main ideas: the first is the simple melody found in the opening Chorale; the second is the melody of the well-known Shaker Hymn "The Gift to Be Simple". The composer transforms both themes throughout the work, often presenting them at the same time, but in different keys. The composer also incorporates jazz rhythms and harmonies. The Shaker theme isn't heard completely until near the end of the piece, when the trumpets play it above long note supportive harmonies in the brass and low woodwinds.

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

D. Thomas Toner is a Professor in the Program in Music in the University of Vermont's new School of the Arts, where he teaches percussion and conducts the Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Vermont Wind Ensemble. Dr. Toner was awarded both the Doctor of Musical Arts degree and the Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, a Master of Music degree and Artist Diploma from the Yale School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Massachusetts/Amherst. An active guest conductor, he has conducted groups throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. As a percussionist, Dr. Toner's eclectic career has included performances before Princess Grace and Princess Caroline of Monaco, at a world music festival in Bali, and with a native troupe in a torrential lightning storm in Ghana. Dr. Toner joined the Vermont Symphony Orchestra at the age of 18 and became Principal Percussionist a few years later. In addition to appearing as a soloist with the VSO, he has presented recitals and masterclasses at the Inner Mongolian Arts College in Hohhot, China. Dr. Toner is an endorser of Grover Pro Percussion.

Personnel

Flute

Carena Allen, '26, *Pittsburgh, PA*
Ellie Armitage, '25, *Cranberry Township, PA*
Leah Gagnon, '12, *Stowe*
Mallie Higgins, '26, *Nashville, TN*
Rose Petitti, '24, *Latham, NY*

Oboe

Ruby Brezinsky, *So. Hero*
Jordan Mitchell, '21, *Campbell Hall, NY*

Clarinet

Isabel Birney, '22, G '23, *Chevy Chase, MD*
Bailey Brown, '22, *St. Albans*
Ginny Churchill, '20, *Richmond*
Max Gailey, '23, *South Portland, ME*
Philip Hampson, *South Burlington*
Jenna McCue, '22, *Suffield, CT*

Bassoon

Tina Kalfus, '93, *Colchester*
Brooke Nadzam, '99, MED '18, *E. Montpelier*

Saxophone

Elan Bell, '23 (+ soprano), *Peru, NY*
Scott Holley, *Milton*
Katherine Loalbo, '23, *Coventry, CT*
Cory Raymond, '21, *Richmond*
Pam Simays, '03, *Milton*
Marie Friedman, '89 (tenor), *Essex Jct.*
Breydan Medbury, '23 (bari), *Old Saybrook, CT*

Trumpet

Victoria Bell, '25, *Huntington, NY*
Abigail Densmore, '23, *Merrimac, MA*
David Messier, '87, *Williston*
Leslie Stewart, *Burlington*
Ethan Vincent, *Burlington*
Dean Williams, '76, *So. Burlington*

Horn

Kateri Grice, '24, *Dillsburg, PA*
Marissa Jedziniak, '23, *East Hampton, CT*
Mary Micklas, *Lincoln*
Tom Whitney, *Hinesburg*

Trombone

Michael Berglund, *Colchester*
Thomas Button, *South Hero*
Brook Cornely, *Vergennes*
Samuel Handy, '23, *St. Albans*
Whitney Lussier, *Charlotte*

Euphonium

Mary Elise Holley, *Milton*
Dale Long, *So. Burlington*
Ella Paulson, '24, *Omaha, NE*

Tuba

Tessa Sedlar, '26, *Burke, VA*

Percussion

Ryan Anderson, '24, *So. Burlington*
James Heininger, '66, MS '68, *Shelburne*
Anna Kalfus, '24, *Colchester*
Luke Nawrocki, '24, *Andover, MA*
Barbara Russ, '79, MED '84, *So. Burlington*
Jen Sprafke, '99, *Barre*