

Alfred Reed (1921-2005)

El Camino Real (1985) [5 min]

El Camino Real (literally "The Royal Road" or "The King's Highway") was commissioned by, and is dedicated to, the 581st Air Force Band (AFRES) and its Commander, Lt. Col. Ray E. Toler. Composed during the latter half of 1984 and completed in early '85, it bears the subtitle: "A Latin Fantasy."

The music is based on a series of chord progressions common to countless generations of Spanish flamenco (and other) guitarists, whose fiery style and brilliant playing have captivated millions of music lovers throughout the world. These progressions and the resulting key relationships have become practically synonymous with what we feel to be the true Spanish idiom. Together with the folk melodies they have underscored, in part derived by a procedure known to musicians as the "melodizing of harmony," they have created a vast body of what most people would consider authentic Spanish music.

The first section of the music is based upon the dance form known as the Jota, while the second, contrasting section is derived from the Fandango, but here altered considerably in both time and tempo from its usual form. Overall, the music follows a traditional three-part pattern: fast-slow-fast.

Julie Giroux (b. 1961)

Symphony No. IV: Bookmarks from Japan (2013) [11 min]

Julie Giroux was gifted six Japanese bookmarks by some friends. Each paper bookmark had beautiful color sketches of scenes or places by famous Japanese artists.

This afternoon, we will perform three movements from this six movement symphony for band:

I. Mount Fuji - "Fuji-san": The sketch *Fine Wind, Clear Morning* (Gaifu kaisei), also known as South Wind, Clear Sky or Red Fuji, by Hokusai Katsushika is the inspiration for this work which is subtitled "Fuji-san." In early autumn when, as the original sketch title specifies, the wind is southerly and the sky is clear, the rising sun can turn Mount Fuji red. Fuji-san has many different looks depending on the viewer's vantage point, time of year, weather and even time of day.

Big, bold and easily recognized yet shrouded in mystery and lore, Mount Fuji offers a multitude of inspirational facets. This piece is based on one view of Mt. Fuji covered in mist and low clouds which slowly burns off as the day progresses.

Orchestration and composition techniques follows this scenario starting off with mysterious, unfocused scoring. As the piece progresses, the scoring gets more focused and bold with the final statement representing Fuji-san in a totally clear view.

V. Evening Snow at Kambara – “Light is the Touch”: The subtitle "Light is the Touch" refers to snow softly falling on the skin. In this piece, the falling snow symbolizes spiritual healing. The piece starts with solo piano, harp and alto flute. The melody is simple yet haunting and grows with the slow addition of players. The piece ends with the same 3 soloists it began with. It is a song in structure, a song representing the soft touch of healing.

IV. Kinryuzan Temple in Asakusa – "Thunder Gate": The bookmark print represents the Kaminari-mon gate of Asakusa Kannon Temple. This large gate features 4 statues. The Shinto gods Fujin and Raijin are located on the front of the gate and the Buddhist god Tenryu and goddess Kinryu stand on the reverse side. Fujin displayed on the front east side of the gate is the god of wind and Raijin on the west side is the god of thunder giving the gate its nickname of "Thunder Gate."

Julie Giroux (b. 1961)
Riften Wed (2013) [7 min]

Riften is a city in Skyrim located in the expansive world of Elder Scrolls, the fifth installment of an action roleplaying video game saga developed by Bethesda Game Studios and published by Bethesda Softworks.

Skyrim is a beautiful world from mountainous snowy regions to open tundra plains, sea coasts, beaches, thick woods, lakes and hot spring fed swamps. Large cities, villages, forts, ancient ruins, caves, lone houses, sawmills and abandoned shacks dot the atlas. It is also a deadly world, torn apart by civil war and dragons who have resurfaced after thousands of years, not to mention the cult of vampires that are also threatening to take over the world.

Riften is a seedy, crime filled and nearly lawless city. It is also the location for the worlds orphanage and the place where the good citizens of Skyrim must go to get married.

Weddings in Skyrim are about survival as much as fondness or imagined love. Although this game feels somewhat like the iron age with magic and dragons, it has a progressive, flourishing society.

In Skyrim, if so desired, your spouse can and will fight beside you. They will die for you or with you. For most of them, that death is permanent. Skyrim weddings are happening in the middle of a world full of violence, disease, war and death. Something Earth is all too familiar with.

Riften Wed is the music for loves and unions, past and present such as this. A love, a wedding, a lifetime shared by two people in the middle of a storm that threatens to tear them apart. Where "'til death do us part" is not only a reality, it's a given. Where love is a gift worthy of all the joy and pain it demands.

Dana Wilson (b. 1946)
Shortcut Home (1998) [3 min]

Shortcut Home is a rousing fanfare that features each section of the ensemble. With exciting drive and jazz-based interludes, the piece cascades towards its home of C-major.

Dana Richard Wilson is an American composer, jazz pianist, and teacher. He is the Charles A. Dana Professor of Music at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York, where he teaches music composition. Wilson was awarded the Ph.D. from the Eastman School of Music in 1982, where he studied composition with Samuel Adler. Wilson also holds degrees from the University of Connecticut (M.A.) and Bowdoin College (B.A.).

James Curnow (1943)
Romanza (2017) [8 min]

The composer is very honored to write this composition for the Metropolitan Wind Symphony. This is the second-time James Curnow has composed a new work for the MetWinds, the first

being *Four Colonial Country Dances*, a piece that has gone on to receive world-wide exposure and performances.

He is also most pleased to be able to write a work for Lewis J. Buckley, a fellow colleague, conductor, clinician, composer and trumpet soloist.

The Italian term Romanza is often described as a solo instrumental composition with ensemble accompaniment that contains both a technical and expressive mood. *Romanza*, in this instance, is designed to feature a Solo Trumpet with Wind Symphony in a kaleidoscope of musical color, technical dexterity and musical expression for both the soloist and the wind symphony.

The composer has developed several sketches (variations) on an old and beautiful English (sometimes credited as being English, Irish, Scottish or Welsh) folk melody, *O Waley, Waley*, in an effort to imitate the old style of Theme and Variation solo compositions from the past centuries, but with new harmonic and rhythm interest. In the past, the variations have been short and concise while using the same musical material between each variation.

O Whaley, Whaley has most often been associated with the texts; *The Water is Wide* and *Amazing Grace*, but here the composer has chosen to capture the passion, tenderness, yet sadness of the original love song text, when the tune is finally presented in the middle of the composition.

Eric Coates (1886-1957) arr. J. Cacavas
Knightsbridge March (1933, 1970) [3 min]

The British composer Eric Coates composed a three-movement orchestral suite entitled the *London Suite*, also known as *London Everyday*. *Knightsbridge March* is the 3rd movement of this suite. *Knightsbridge March* was used by the BBC to introduce its popular radio program *In Town Tonight* from 1933-1960.

Eric Coates was a violist and composer of light classical music. He attended the Royal Academy of Music in London and was the principal violist with the Queen's Hall Orchestra from 1912-1919.

Adam Gorb (1958)
A Little Tango Music (2007) [5 min]

A Little Tango Music is a short sequence of melodies inspired by the curvaceous, melancholic and dangerous dance from Argentina that is the tango. The work is in three brief movements.

Adam Gorb is a British composer and winner of the Walter Beeler Prize in composition for his wind band work *Metropolis*. He is the Head of School of Composition at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England.

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) arr. B. Beck
March of the Trolls (1905) [7 min]

Edvard Grieg was a Norwegian composer and is widely considered one of the leading Romantic era figures. His use and development of Norwegian folk music in his own compositions put the music of Norway in the international spectrum, as well as helping to develop a national identity, much as Jean Sibelius and Antonín Dvořák did in Finland and Bohemia, respectively.

March of the Trolls is the third movement of Grieg's *Lyric Suite*, op. 54 for piano. Grieg orchestrated the *Lyric Suite* in 1905. *March of the Trolls* was transcribed for wind band by Brian Beck in 2010.

Johan De Meij ()

At Kitty O'Shea's () [17 min]

Johan de Meij has earned international fame as a composer and arranger of original compositions, symphonic transcriptions and arrangements of film scores and musicals. The MetWinds has performed several of de Meij's works, including *The Wind in the Willows* (a MetWinds commission) and, *Symphony No. 1, Lord of the Rings*.

In the Hilton & Towers Hotel in Chicago resides Kitty O'Shea's, a delightful pub that is well known by the attendees of the annual *Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic*. de Meij has been a frequent clinician and conductor at the Clinic. It was during these visits that the composer became enchanted by the place, where "new friendships are formed, old ties are strengthened, plans are created (most of which will not be carried out), the laughter is contagious and many toasts are made."

Max McKee, founder and Executive Director of the American Band College, approached his friend Johan de Meij about the possibility of a new band piece for band, based on lesser known Irish tunes. The work was commissioned by a consortium of 70 members (including MetWinds).

At Kitty O'Shea's contains 5 movements:

The Darling Girl from Clare was composed by Roscommon-born Percy French (1854 - 1920), among the most popular and prolific of Irish comic songwriters.

Deirín De - Irish children used to play a game in which they would light the tips of sticks in a fire, each player swinging this *deirín de* around while singing a nonsense song set to this melody. The winner was the child whose stick was the last to burn out.

The Star of the County Down is one of the most common in the Irish tradition, long used both as a song air and for dance tunes of various rhythms. It is best known today as the air of Cathal MacGarvey's song *The Star of the County Down*.

Siúil a Rún (*Walk my Love*) is a so-called 'macaronic' song, which mixes the Irish and English language, and dates from the mid-19th century. *Siúil* (pronounced like *shool*) means to walk or ramble.

The Kerry Dances is a parlor ballad published in 1879, with some of the flavor of traditional music. It is attributed to James Lynam Molloy (1837 - 1909), who borrowed the first section from *The Cuckoo*, a 1790 song published in London by a Miss Margaret Casson. It was featured in the soundtrack of *The Quiet Man*, a hugely popular American film of the 1950's starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara.

Finale: Jigs & Reels is a compilation of jigs and reels that includes *The Rocky Road to Dublin*, *Rakes of Westmeath*, *Yellow Stockings*, *The Fermoy Lasses*, *Gravel Walks* and *Sleepy Maggie*. *The Rocky Road to Dublin* appears twice, first in its original form as a slip jig in 9/8 time and later as a reel.

[Movement descriptions: Don Meade, New York]

Program notes by Gregory C. Depp