

NOTES



No. 30

March 23, 2010

"Perfection in music is elusive, but excellence is attainable and sustainable."

performance of the St. Olaf College band in a church. An mp3 of a complete performance is attached.

BAND MEETINGS

The next Band Board meeting is April 5, 7 p.m., Community Conference Room, Morris Lawrence Building, WCC.

There are no other known meetings scheduled.

Hungarian Dance No. 6 (Brahms).

This piece was originally written for piano duet in 1869. However, Brahms himself was involved in setting this for orchestra and it has been a favorite in the orchestral literature for many decades.

The band arrangement, by Robert Longfield, is from 2005. Mr. Longfield was born and raised in Grand Rapids. He graduated with honors from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Jerry Bilik and was a member of the band under William Revelli and George Cavender. He then earned a degree from the University of Miami where he was a student of Alfred Reed.

FORTHCOMING MUSIC

See YCB Notes25 for information about and links to recordings of "William Tell," "Warsaw Concerto," and "Federal March." See YCB Notes29 for information on "Suite of Old American Dances." (Back issues of the Notes are on the YCB web site, on the "director's blog" page.)

Fortress Variations. The composer of "Fortress Variations" (2008), Dr. Tim Waters, currently is the director of bands at Oral Roberts University. He is a native of South Carolina and hold degrees from Furman University and the University of Georgia.

The piece is based on the well-known hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and the composition was inspired by a

For 15 years, Mr. Longfield was the band and orchestra director at Davison High School, during which time he was the recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award from the MSBOA. Since 1987 he has been the band director at Miami Palmetto Senior High School in Florida.

A complete (but amateurish) complete recording may be found at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqd_s7iLvpo. A better, but incomplete, recording may be heard by going to [jwpepper.com](http://www.jwpepper.com), searching for "Hungarian Dance 6 Longfield," (no quotes) and then clicking on mp3.

Mary Poppins. The 1964 Disney movie "Mary Poppins," starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke, won five Oscars. In more recent times, it has been made into a stage musical (the reverse of the way these things usually happen), and it has been playing on Broadway for several years. In fact, a touring company will present it in Detroit this fall!

A good recording may be heard by going to www.jwpepper.com, searching on "Mary Poppins Ricketts" (don't use quotes) and then clicking on mp3. A community band recording may be seen/heard at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GL2E2FIV_FA.

Amazing Grace. Commissioned in 1994 to write in memory of John Harvey Whitworth, highly popular contemporary composer Frank Ticheli produced "Amazing Grace." It was first performed by the Michigan State University Wind Symphony, conducted by John Whitwell, who made the commission in memory of his father.

Mr. Ticheli writes that "the spiritual, 'Amazing Grace,' was written by John Newton (1725-1807), a slave ship captain who, after years of transporting slaves across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World, suddenly saw through divine grace the evilness of his acts."

Frank Ticheli was born in 1958 in Louisiana. His first degree was from Southern Methodist University and he received two graduate degrees from the University of Michigan, where he studied under Pulitzer-prize-winners Leslie Bassett and William Bolcom. He is currently on the faculty at the University of Southern California.

A good recording may be heard at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z14mMJgfCco>.

HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FIFTH ANNUAL ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Sunday afternoon's Fifth Annual Ensemble Concert, organized and hosted by Eric Walters, was an enormous success. Approximately 37 YCB members participated in one or more ensembles. Counting duplicates, there were more than 75 appearances by YCB members! Fourteen ensembles were included and about 125 persons were present for at least a portion of the event.

ENSEMBLE CONCERT RECORDING

This message from Eric Walters:

"I will be working on the recording of the ensemble concert this coming weekend. Lately when I do a recording I send out the individual tracks as MP3 files rather than burning CDs. . . . Anyone that would like to be on the distribution list for those MP3s should email me at cew@ypsiwalt.com.

This is not my usual email address and should only be used for this purpose. It is received on the machine where I do my audio editing. I will not be making distinctions on the weekend as to which cuts anyone might want. I will be emailing all to all who want them. After this weekend if someone wants an individual track, contact me at my usual email address and I'll send it. (If you send that request before I've done the edit, I'll probably lose it. It's better to wait till they are all done.)"