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Green valley High School Symphonic Band & UNLV Wind Orchestra

Diane Koutsulis

Green Valley High School, dkoutsu@interact.ccsd.net

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Zane Douglass

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

David Waybright

University of Florida

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UNLV

Department of Music
College of Fine Arts

presents

**Green Valley High School
Symphonic Band
Diane Koutsulis, conductor**

**UNLV Wind Orchestra
Thomas G. Leslie, conductor
Zane Douglass, conductor
David Waybright, conductor**

PROGRAM

Frank Ticheli
(b. 1958)

Nitro

Ronald lo Presti
(1933-1985)

Elegy For A Young American

Diane Koutsulis, conductor

INTERMISSION

Paul Basler
(b. 1963)

World Premier
David Waybright, conductor

Celebration

Philip Sparke
(b. 1951)

Zane Douglass, conductor

Sunrise at Angel's Gate

Arturo Márquez
(b. 1950)

Thomas G. Leslie, conductor

Danzón No. 2

INTERMISSION

Michael Daugherty
(b. 1954)

Lost Vegas
I. Viva
II. Mirage
III. Fever

Thursday, October 6, 2011

7:00 p.m.

**Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall
Performing Arts Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

Frank Ticheli's *Nitro*, an energy-charged three minute fanfare for band, was commissioned by the Northshore Concert Band, Mallory Thompson, Music Director, in celebration of their 50th anniversary season, and received its premiere performance by them on April 9, 2006. Nitrogen is the most abundant component of the Earth's atmosphere (78 percent by volume), and is present in the tissues of every living thing. It is the fifth most abundant element in the universe, created by the fusion deep within stars; it has recently been detected in interstellar space. The sheer prevalence of nitrogen in all of nature, and the infinite range of compounds it is part of – life –giving, energizing, healing, cleansing, explosive – all appealed to me, and served as the inspiration for my music." Ticheli, Frank. 1996. *Nitro*. New York: Manhattan Beach Press.

Ronald Lo Presti, clarinetist and composer, was born in 1933 in Williamstown, Massachusetts. After graduating from the prestigious Eastman School of Music, he served as the "Composer-In-Residence" for the Ford Foundation and taught at Texas Technical University, Indiana State College, and Arizona State University. *Elegy For a Young American* was composed in 1964 in memory of President John F. Kennedy and premiered in April 1964 by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Wind Ensemble. Miles, Richard, ed. *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band, Volume 1*. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 1996.

Paul Basler's *Celebration* is an exciting flourish for wind band and was commissioned by Dr. David Waybright, Director of Bands, University of Florida, in 2011 and is being premiered in tonight's performance. Basler "serves as Professor of Music at the University of Florida where he teaches horn and composition. He taught at Western Carolina University for four years and the North Carolina Visiting Artist in Residence at Caldwell Community College. He received his B.M. degree from the Florida State University, M.M., M.A. and D.M.A. degrees from Stony Brook. Dr. Basler is widely recognized as one of the most important instructors of horn in the United States, and his published textbooks on horn pedagogy and performance etudes are used by hundreds of schools of music and conservatories." College of Fine Arts at the University of Florida. "CFA Faculty Biography." <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/bio.aspx?PID=159> (accessed September 30, 2011).

Philip Sparke's *Sunrise at Angel's Gate* was commissioned by Colonel Finley Hamilton, conductor of the United States Army Field Band, and first performed in March 2001.

In October 1999, I was privileged to be invited to Flagstaff, Arizona to take part in the centenary celebrations of Northern Arizona University. The University is two hours drive from the Grand Canyon, so a visit was compulsory! It's really not possible to describe this amazing natural phenomenon — it's just too big. You can't even photograph it effectively but it undoubtedly leaves a lasting impression on anyone who visits it. Sunrise and sunset are the best times to view the canyon, as a sun low in the sky casts shadows that give depth and form to the vast panorama. Angel's Gate is one of the many named rock formations on the northern side of the canyon and in this piece, I have tried to depict the sights and sounds of dawn there, birdsong in the early morning sky and the gradual revelation of the canyon itself as sunlight reaches into its rocky depths. The faster central section depicts the arrival of the tourist buses, which run back and forth along the southern rim, and towards the end of the piece, to the sound of a tolling bell, we are reminded of the dangers that the beauty of the Grand Canyon so cleverly hides. Sparke, Philip. 2001. *Sunrise at Angel's Gate*. Wembley, England: Anglo Music Press.

Arturo Marquez was born in Alamos in the state of Sonora, Mexico, and began his musical schooling in La Puente, California. He studied piano and music theory and the Conservatory of Music of Mexico, and composition at the Taller de Composition of the Institute of Fine Arts of Mexico. Marquez received his first inspiration for *Danzon No. 2* while traveling to Malinalco in 1993 with painter Andres Fonesca and dancer Irene Martinez, who both loved to dance. The pair later brought Marquez to dance halls in Veracruz near Mexico City where Marquez discovered the music from the inside out. *Danzon No. 2* was commissioned by the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico in 1994, and dedicated to his daughter Lily. Program Notes. "Arturo Marquez *Danzon No. 2*." http://www.barbwired.com/barbweb/programs/marquez_danzon.html (accessed September 30, 2011).

Michael Daugherty composed *Lost Vegas* (2011) for symphonic band, and was commissioned by the University of Michigan Symphony Band, Michael Haithcock, Director, and the University of Miami Wind Ensemble, Gary Green, Director.

Lost Vegas is my musical homage to bygone days in the city of Las Vegas, Nevada. I recall the enormous neon signs punctuating the "Strip," promoting casinos and hotels ruled by the underworld, and the massive marquees trumpeting performances by pop music legends such as Frank Sinatra and Elvis. Performed without pause, *Lost Vegas* is divided into three movements. The first movement, *Viva*, is inspired by the seminal book *Learning from Las Vegas* (1968 – 72), by modernist architects Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, who likened the symbolism of the Vegas "Strip" to the Piazza Navona in Rome. The music in *Viva* unfolds as catchy musical riffs are layered and phased in various polytonal guises and orchestrations. *Mirage*, the second movement, is inspired by my recent drive through the forbidding desert of Death Valley. Located 88 Miles west of Las Vegas, Death Valley is one of the lowest, driest, and hottest locations in North America. A serpentine oboe solo, later doubled by trumpets with harmon mutes, are surrounded by steamy brass chords and twisting countermelodies played by winds and percussion keyboards. Accompanied by an ominous bass drum, the music in *Mirage* appears and disappears, like an optical illusion one might encounter in the scorching desert, or driving from the pitch-black darkness of Death Valley in the dead of night toward the bright lights of Las Vegas.

The final movement, *Fever*, is a swinging tribute to an earlier epoch, when legendary entertainers such as Elvis, Peggy Lee, Esquivel, Bobby Darin, Stan Kenton, and Frank Sinatra's "Rat Pack" performed in intimate and swanky showrooms of the Sands, Tropicana, and Flamingo hotels. Torn down long ago, the original neon signs, casinos and hotels of the Vegas "Strip" have been replaced by impersonal, corporate glass towers. The cozy nightclubs, where the "Rat Pack" once performed edgy material, have been replaced by large arenas with commercialized family entertainment. My composition for symphonic band is a trip down memory lane to an adventurous and vibrant Vegas that once was and returns, if only for a moment, in *Lost Vegas*. Daugherty, Michael. 2011. *Lost Vegas*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Michael Daugherty Music.

UNLV WIND ORCHESTRA

Piccolo

Katharine Jensen Las Vegas, NV

Flute

Carmella Cao Reno, NV
Chrissy McHugh^ Kintnersville, PA
Donald Malpass*^ Cheney, WA
Katharine Jensen Las Vegas, NV
Kaitlyn Zigterman^ Aurora, IL

Oboe

Alexandra Gilroy*^ Clovis, CA
Ben Serna-Grey Vancouver, WA
Chris Fujiwara* Honolulu, HI

Bassoon

Brock Norred Las Vegas, NV
Clinton Williams*^ Fort Smith, AR
Kim Kehau Chai II^ Sapulpa, OK

B-Flat Clarinet

Annie Douglass Sutherlin, OR
Audrey Wood Lehi, UT
Isaiah Pickney Las Vegas, NV
Jennifer Iles*^ Denton, TX
Jonathan Cannon Bountiful, UT
Jason Manalo Las Vegas, NV
Guillermo Ramasasa Las Vegas, NV

Bass Clarinet

Gizmo Hall Las Vegas, NV
Jordan Mathison Chicago, IL

Contra Alto Clarinet

Scott McKell Mendon, UT

Contra Bass Clarinet

Brian Murphy Campbellford, ON

Alto Saxophone

Patrick Garcia Las Vegas, NV
Ronald Holmes Las Vegas, NV

Tenor Saxophone

John Summers* Las Vegas, NV

Baritone Saxophone

Emilio Rivera San Pedro, CA

Trumpet

Benjamin Franke Minneapolis, MN
Jorge Machain Lazaro Cardenas, MX
Justin Bland^ Clinton, MD
Matt Ara Los Angeles, CA
Matt Kleopfer^ Wichita, KS
Mitch Gabel Las Vegas, NV
Phil Parsons*^ Dayton, OH

Horn

Chris Golden^ Fresno, CA
Erin Paul^ Waterford, CT
Jordan Rush Las Vegas, NV
Fred Stone* Las Vegas, NV

Trombone

Steve Meyer* Omaha, NE
Dustin Stevens Las Vegas, NV

Bass Trombone

Paul Munger Salt Lake City, UT

Euphonium

Brad Bradley Las Vegas, NV
Leanne Stamp* Las Vegas, NV
K.C. Singer Las Vegas, NV

Tuba

Garrison Gillham Broken Arrow, OK
Saxon Lewis Collinsville, OK

Cello

David Warner Las Vegas, NV

Double Bass

Hayden Bryant Logandale, NV
Tim Harpster Lincoln, NE

Timpani

Chris Tusa^ Baltimore, MD

Harp

Melaney Scarberry Las Vegas, NV

Piano/Celesta

Lisa Maresch Las Vegas, NV

Percussion

A.J. Merlino*^ West Long Branch, NJ
Brandon Bell^ Buffalo, NY
Charles Gott Las Vegas, NV
Michael Smith Bismarck, ND
Sonne Bustos Immokalee, FL

Rehearsal Assistant

Daniel Uhrich Henderson, NV

*Principal

^Graduate Teaching Assistant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Anthony LaBounty, Associate Director of Bands
Zane Douglass, Visiting Instructor of Conducting

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Diane Koutsulis is the Director of Bands and Arts Department Chair at Green Valley High School. Originally from Chicago, Diane has been teaching in the Clark County School District for the past 29 years. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Western Illinois University. After teaching junior high band in Oswego, Illinois, for three years, she went on to complete the Masters of Music Education degree at Louisiana State University, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she studied with Frank Wickes. During her tenure in Las Vegas, Diane has built fine band programs and music departments at both Las Vegas High School (1982-91) and Green Valley High School (1991-present). Her groups have consistently garnered recognition for fine performances and she has served as both guest clinician and conductor at various conferences throughout the Southwest. Diane was named the 1999 Nevada Teacher of the Year and received the 1999 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. A member of the Clark County School District Teacher Hall of Fame, in March of 2003, she was inducted into the Nevada State Education Hall of Fame. In 2004, the Green Valley High School Symphonic Band performed at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL. In 2005, the Symphonic Band performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City. This coming year, the Green Valley HS Marching Band will perform in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. Diane is a member of College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) as well as holding memberships in Nevada Music Educators Association (NMEA), Music Educators National Conference (MENC), and National Band Association (NBA).

Dr. David A. Waybright received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees at Marshall University and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in orchestral conducting from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He taught initially at Wahama High School in Mason, West Virginia and since that time has served as Director of Bands at Ferrum College, Plymouth State College, and Director of Bands and Orchestra at McNeese State University. Dr. Waybright is currently Director of Bands at the University of Florida, where he holds the rank of professor and is the head of the conducting area. He directs the wind symphony and supervises the band program and the graduate and undergraduate conducting curricula. Dr. Waybright is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician with wind bands, orchestras, and choirs, and has appeared in that capacity in most of the 50 states, throughout Europe, Asia and Australia. He has held residencies at many of the nation's leading music schools. In addition, he is active in the commissioning and performance of new music and has won the praise of composers such as Dana Wilson, Michael Torke, Donald Grantham, John Corigliano and Leslie Bassett for his interpretation of their works. There are many recordings available featuring the University of Florida Wind Symphony under his direction. Dr. Waybright is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association where he serves on the Board of Directors and is a lifetime member of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles. He is also a member of the College Band Director's National Association, Music Educators National Convention and Florida Music Educators Association. Ensembles under his direction have performed invited concerts at conferences sponsored by all of those organizations.

Dr. Zane Douglass is in his first year as Visiting Instructor of Conducting at UNLV. His duties at UNLV include teaching Graduate and Undergraduate Conducting, the UNLV Brass Ensemble; and assisting with the Wind Orchestra, Community Band, Symphonic Winds, 'Star of Nevada', and UNLV Basketball Pep Band. Prior to returning to UNLV, Dr. Douglass was Director of Bands and Low Brass Studies at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. He was Conductor and Music Director for the Montana State Wind Symphony, and directed the "Spirit of the West" Marching and Pep Band. He taught courses in Music Education, Brass Pedagogy, Conducting and Graduate Theory and History, and coordinated and taught the Trombone/Euphonium/Tuba studio. During his tenure at Montana State University, the 'Spirit of the West' doubled in enrollment, and the low brass studio enrollment increased three-fold. Students from Dr. Douglass's studio have been selected to perform in various clinics and honor groups, including the Rafael Mendez Institute and the American Intercollegiate Wind Ensemble. Dr. Douglass has diverse professional experience as a conductor and music educator, conducting symphony orchestras, wind orchestras, choirs, brass ensembles, chamber ensembles and percussion ensembles. Active as a conductor and clinician, Dr. Douglass has given clinics and performances throughout the country, has served as guest conductor for the Lake Charles (Louisiana) Symphony Orchestra, and is currently principal trombone with the Bozeman Symphony, the Montana Ballet Orchestra, and performs in the Intermountain Opera Orchestra. His 2007 performance of Keith Gates' An American Requiem with the Voices of London has aired numerous times on Louisiana Public Television. He has guest conducted at the Louisiana Music Educators State Conference, the College Band Directors National Association bi-annual conference, and has presented at the Montana Music Educators Conference and the Montana Bandmasters symposium. Dr. Douglass has attended numerous clinics and seminars hosted by various conductors throughout the country, including a session with former conductor and concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, Michael Gilbert. Dr. Douglass is committed to enhancing the image of the wind band as a means of artistic expression through creative programming, discovering and commissioning new works of artistic merit, transcribing quality orchestral repertoire, and unique musical interpretation.