Music at the Corcoran presents...

GW UNIVERSITY BANDS

The GENIUS of

PERCY GRAINGER

Professor ROBERT BIRCH, conductor

featuring Percy Grainger’s biggest hits, as well as works by Aaron Copland, John Mackey, and others

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 at 3:00 P.M.

MARVIN CENTER, GRAND BALLROOM

800 21ST STREET NW
Music at the Corcoran presents

GW BANDS

The GENIUS of

PERCY GRAINGER

Professor Robert Birch, conductor

Wind Ensemble

The Duke of Marlborough Fanfare
Percy Aldridge Grainger
(1882–1961)

Variations on a Shaker Melody
from Appalachian Spring
Aaron Copland
(1900–1990)

Lincolnshire Posy
Percy Aldridge Grainger
1. Lisbon (Sailor’s Song)
2. Harkstow Grange (The Miser and his Man: a local Tragedy)
5. Lord Melbourne (War Song)

Sheltering Sky
John Mackey
(b. 1973)

Country Gardens
Percy Aldridge Grainger

Awayday
Adam Gorb
(b. 1958)

Intermission

Symphonic Band

Flight of the Piasa
Robert Sheldon
(b. 1954)

Ye Banks And Braes O’Bonnie Doon
Percy Aldridge Grainger

Persistence
Richard Saucedo
(b. 1982)

Irish Tune from County Derry
Percy Aldridge Grainger

Shepherd’s Hey
Percy Aldridge Grainger

Pulse
Randall Standridge
(b. 1976)
Introduction by Director Robert Birch

Welcome to this performance of the GW Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band celebrating the music of Percy Grainger. My first performances of Grainger compositions were in 1970 and I have been fascinated with his music ever since. It is not easy to describe Grainger because he was a composer, concert pianist (one of the most sought after for two decades in Europe, Australia, and the United States), folksong collector, linguist (fluent in six languages and he read another half dozen) and experimentalist. He also was a man of contradictions: a renowned pianist who detested concertizing, a virtuoso who despised virtuosity, a vegetarian who didn’t like vegetables, a preeminent collector of folksongs who on many occasions stated that he really didn’t care for folk music!

Today we will focus on the genius of Grainger the composer. Mostly self-taught as a composer, he was a brilliant orchestrator who preferred to compose for wind bands rather than orchestras because of the greater number of different instruments in the standard ensemble of that genre. Grainger’s standing as a relative unknown among twentieth-century composers (outside of the band world) is difficult to understand. He was among the first to use irregular rhythms and meters (10 years before Stravinsky), he experimented with electronic music before Varese, and he conceived aleatoric music at the end of the nineteenth century. As you will hear from student announcers throughout the program, Grainger derived the vast majority of his compositions from folksongs. He went directly to the sources and recorded them. This explains the many uneven meters and sometimes quirky melodies. I hope that you enjoy this afternoon’s concert that features the music of Percy Grainger, one of my very favorite composers of band literature.

As I end my career at GW, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the students that have made my job so enjoyable and richly rewarding. It has been a pleasure to work with the talented and engaging students that make up the GW band program. I am also extremely fortunate to have an amazing group of officers, teaching assistant, and staff that run the daily operations so that I can focus on being the musical leader of the bands. Your contributions as leaders in the band have been exceptional and help to ensure the continued success of the GW Bands. Thank you! The current and future officers and staff are listed on page 6.

I would like to thank the following students, in order of their appearance, for sharing the program notes this afternoon:

Simon Lazev, Daniel Israelsson, Becca Spendley, Nell Gordon, Andrew Magie, Nathan Smith, Vikram Albrecht, Anastasios Kalfas, Connor Bryant, and Kaitlyn Paeth
## Wind Ensemble Members

**Piccolo**  
Meghan Gall - Quakertown, PA

**Flute**  
**+** Becca Spendley - LaGrangeville, NY  
Mona Dong - Austin, TX  
Nick Swart - Red Hook, NY  
Kathryn Wolfe - Annapolis, MD

**Oboe**  
+ Andrew Magie - Templeton, CA  
Lizzie Stricklin - Lafayette Hill, PA  
* Nell Gordon - Walpole, MA

**Bassoon**  
Noah Merck - Gainesville, GA

**Clarinet**  
**+** Jillian DiPersio - Merrimack, NH  
Alex Shusko - Winston-Salem, NC  
Derek Dickehuth - Leesburg, VA  
Savannah Richardson - Huntington, NY  
Emma Marszalek - Stirling, NJ

**Bass Clarinet**  
+ Chelsea Connolly - Rockville Centre, NY  
* Alex Capelonga - Merrick, NY

**Alto Saxophone**  
+ Haley Jetter - East Windsor, NJ  
Steven Chao - San Jose, CA

**Tenor Saxophone**  
Julia Smith - Mission Viejo, CA

**Baritone Saxophone**  
Jake Lieberfarb - Delray Beach, FL

**Trumpet**  
**+** Alexis Emerson - Salisbury, MD  
Melanie Braun - Hauppauge, NY  
Hannah DelVecchio - Duxbury, MA  
Ryan Janov - Malibu, CA  
Ali Januzzi - Harrisburg, PA  
Justin Thompson - Fort Washington, MD

**French Horn**  
**+** Nora Wolcott - Buffalo, NY  
Leah Rodewald - Oconomowoc, WI  
Keshav Yerabati - San Ramon, CA  
* Noah Wexler - Plantation, FL

**Trombone**  
+ Ellie D’Andria - Urbana, IL  
Vasu Kushalnagar - Washington, DC  
Carly Uehling - Glenside, PA  
Henry Eccles - Wahiawa, HI

**Euphonium**  
+ Zach Snyder - Arvada, CO  
* Noah Curtiss - Skillman, NJ

**Tuba**  
+ Daniel Israelsson - Fair Lawn, NJ  
* Simon Lazev - Stratham, NH

**Piano**  
Joel Ayau - Guest Artist

**Percussion**  
+ Jared Gozinsky - Long Island, NY  
Nina Feliciano - Baltimore, MD  
* Josh Marcil - Albany, NY  
Fiona Berk - Phoenix, AZ  
Erik Homovich - Camp Hill, PA  
Addison Fry - Salisbury, NC

* indicates graduating student  
+ indicates principal player
**Symphonic Band Members**

**Flute**
- * Becca Spendley - LaGrangeville, NY
- Meghan Gall - Quakertown, PA
- * Kate White - Deerfield, IL
- Annie Roberts - Bryn Mawr, PA
- Camellia Minervini - Traverse City, MI
- Anika Krishnan - Oak Park, CA
- Tabitha Ato - Oakdale, MN
- * Claudia Zurita - Falls Church, VA

**Oboe**
- + Andrew Magie - Templeton, CA
- * Nell Gordon - Walpole, MA
- Avani Gandhi - Wayne, PA
- Kaitlyn Paeth - Merrick, NY

**Clarinet**
- + Savannah Richardson - Huntington, NY
- Derek Dickehuth - Leesburg, VA
- Hunter Brazal - East Hampton, CT
- Bianca Punger - Deer Park, NY
- * Robert O’Shaughnessy - Old Saybrook, CT
- Jeremy Payano - Maplewood, NJ
- Morgan Atherton - Hudson, NH
- Kate Partridge - Knoxville, TN
- * Claire Gray - Morgantown, WV

**Bass Clarinet**
- Chelsea Connolly - Rockville Centre, NY

**Alto Saxophone**
- + Angelina Snegach - Bedford, NH
- John Peloquin - Westfield, MA
- Meghan Scarlott - Hingham, MA
- William Stein - Fair Haven, NJ
- Nicol Bless - Charlotte, NC

**Tenor Saxophone**
- + Haley Jetter - East Windsor, NJ
- Lauren Gomez - Millburn, NJ

**Baritone Saxophone**
- + Ben Heidloff - Grayslake, IL
- Jack Dallessio - Hopewell, NJ

**Trumpet**
- + Alexis Emerson - Salisbury, MD
- Melanie Braun - Hauppauge, NY
- * Tasos Kalfas - Swedesboro, NJ
- Ali Januzzi - Harrisburg, PA
- * Justin Thompson - Fort Washington, MD
- Edward Lee - Chicago, IL
- Noah Perl - Pound Ridge, NY
- Nathan Smith - Gaylord, MI
- Alicia Harris - Oakley, CA
- Ford Oster - Keene, NH
- * Ben Adams - Campton, NH

**French Horn**
- + Leah Rodewald - Oconomowoc, WI
- * Noah Wexler - Plantation, FL
- * Chris Vito - Crystal Lake, IL
- Rachel Milia - East Patchogue, NY
- Erin McNamara - Merrick, NY

**Trombone**
- + Carly Uehling - Glenside, PA
- Vasu Kushalnagar - Washington, DC
- * Vikram Albrecht - Winchester, MA
- Hallie Anders - Chillicothe, OH
- Henry Eccles - Wahiawa, HI

**Euphonium**
- +* Connor Bryant - St. Louis, MO
- Ethan Frink - Howards Grove, WI

**Tuba**
- + Daniel Israelsson - Fair Lawn, NJ
- * Simon Lazev - Stratham, NH
- * Emily Bau - Wallingford, CT
- Nicholas Streb - Lansing, NY

**Percussion**
- + Nina Feliciano - Baltimore, MD
- * Josh Marcil - Albany, NY
- Erik Homovich - Camp Hill, PA
- Addison Fry - Salisbury, NC
- Donnie Peterson - Auburn, ME
- Spencer Worrell - North Wales, PA
- Kara Vecchione - Merrick, NY
- Julie Apagya-Bonney - Austin, TX
- Jack Rusher - Bainbridge Island, WA

* indicates graduating student
+ indicates principal player
Robert Birch, conductor
Robert Birch performs as a member of the National Philharmonic and the Chesapeake Orchestra and is Visiting Director of Bands and teaches trumpet at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Locally, he has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Washington National Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, PostClassical Ensemble, Opera Lafayette and Washington Bach Consort. Internationally, he has toured Japan with both the Washington Opera and the New Sousa Band, Germany with the Washington Bach Consort, and Great Britain with the Brass Band of Battle Creek. He has performed with artists as diverse as Wynton Marsalis, Frederica Von Stade, Placido Domingo, James Taylor, Sarah McLachlan, Terrance Blanchard, Clark Terry and Van Cliburn. As a soloist, Dr. Birch was a guest artist at International Trumpet Guild conferences in Albuquerque, NM, Baton Rouge, LA, and Richmond, VA. Additionally he has performed solo recital tours in Germany and the southeastern US. He has also performed dozens of recitals in the metro D.C. area. He can be heard on recordings with the Concert Artists of Baltimore, PostClassical Ensemble, Washington Winds, Brass Band of Battle Creek, Cantate Chamber Singers, Bowie Brass Quintet and Washington Revels Brass Quintet. He has published music in the areas of trumpet pedagogy and brass chamber music. He served as Principal Trumpet and Soloist of the US Navy Band in Washington, D.C., 1979–1996 and earned degrees from the University of New Hampshire (B.M., cum laude), the Ohio State University (M.M.) and the Catholic University of America (D.M.A.).

The George Washington University Bands
The University Band program consists of three ensembles: Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and the GW Colonial Brass. Symphonic Band rehearses Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and holds concerts in the fall and spring semesters. The Colonial Brass pep band performs at men’s and women’s home basketball games, NCAA tournaments, and other events. The Wind Ensemble is a select auditioned group whose mission is to advance wind band literature and to develop the highest possible performance standards. The Wind Ensemble performs with the Symphonic Band at the fall and spring concerts, and at GW’s Graduation on the Mall in May.

2018–2019 Band Officers and Staff
Connor Bryant, Teaching Assistant
Simon Lazev, President  Nell Gordon, Vice President
Melanie Braun, Treasurer  Vikram Albrecht, Secretary

2019–2020 Band Officers
Daniel Israelsson, Teaching Assistant
Melanie Braun, President  Julia Smith, Vice President
Erik Homovich, Treasurer  Nathan Smith, Secretary

Current Band Staff
Kaitlyn Paeth and Emma Marszalek, Librarians
Nathan Smith and Noah Perl, Logistics
THE BENNO FRITZ MEMORIAL FUND

The Benno Fritz Memorial Fund was established to honor the memory of our beloved teacher, mentor, and band director. Gifts to the fund will benefit the George Washington University’s band program.

To give online, please visit go.gwu.edu/fritzfund
Music at the Corcoran
MainStage Events

MAY 4
GW WOMEN’S ENSEMBLE: SPRING SHALL BLOOM
4:00 p.m., Flagg Building, Hammer Auditorium
500 17th Street NW

MAY 5
GW UNIVERSITY SINGERS: CHORAL JOURNEYS
3:00 p.m., Flagg Building, Center Atrium
500 17th Street NW

APRIL 29
IVAN PIRSL, TRUMPET AND VOICE
7:30 pm, Flagg Building, Hammer Auditorium
500 17th Street NW

Camerata Recitals

APRIL 28
CHAMBER CARMERATA (HIPP FOCUS)
7:30 pm, Flagg Building, Hammer Auditorium
500 17th Street NW

APRIL 30
CHAMBER CARMERATA
FEAT. THE GW PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
7:30 pm, Phillips Hall, B-120
801 22nd Street NW

Student Recitals

MAY 3
KRYSTEN DAHLBERG
AND ALISSA INDECK, VOICE
7:30 pm, Phillips Hall, B-120
801 22nd Street NW

MAY 4
ANGELA LENTINI, VOICE
AND CLAUDE SU, VIOLIN
7:30 pm, Flagg Building, Hammer Auditorium
500 17th Street NW

MAY 16
PETER BRACCIA
AND BRAY MCDONNELL, ORGAN
5:30 pm, St. Paul’s Church
2430 K Street NW

@GWMusicDept /GWDeptOfMusic

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC