

# Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony

Scott A. Stewart, conductor  
Steve Stusek, alto saxophone

Sunday, November 11, 2012 8:00 pm  
North Carolina Music Educators Association State Conference  
Stevens Center for Performing Arts  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

## *Overture in C* (1792)

Charles Simon Catel (1773-1830)

Charles Simon Catel was a French composer, theorist, member of the French National Guard, and professor at the Paris Conservatory. In its elegance and clarity, *Overture in C* is characteristic of late eighteenth century style, one of the most delightful of all works composed for wind band during this period.

## *Mannin Veen* (1933)

Haydn Wood (1882-1959)

*Mannin Veen* is Gaelic for "Dear Isle of Man" (located in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland). This tone poem is based on four Manx tunes: "The Good Old Way," "The Manx Fiddler," "Sweet Water in the Common," and "The Harvest of the Sea."

## *Firefly* (2008)

Ryan George (b. 1978)

*Firefly* captures the magical charm of the lightning bug as imagined by the composer's daughter in their back yard: "Dad, that's not a firefly, that's Tinkerbell, and she's come to take me on an adventure."

## *Paean* (2012)

Steven Bryant (b. 1972)

Chant  
Triumph

*Paean* ("a song of triumph, or a solemn chant or song of praise") was commissioned in memory of Ernest and Donald Caneva by their family and friends. It pays tribute to these men and their years of accomplishments as bandleaders. The "chant" movement is built around *Chant and Jubilo* by Francis McBeth, Steven Bryant's mentor, and the "Triumph" develops the melody of Verdi's "Triumphal March" from *Aida*, a favorite of Ernie Caneva's.

## *Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble* (2000)

David Maslanka (b. 1943)

Song: "Fire of the Earth" (Moderately fast)

Steve Stusek, alto saxophone  
Associate Professor of Music, University of North Carolina-Greensboro

Walking through a Montana field on a brilliant late fall day, three images came in rapid succession: a distant row of red plant stems caught by the morning sun, snow on the surrounding high mountains, green grass at my feet. The following poetic image came:

Fire in the earth  
Snow in the heavens  
New green grass in the middle of November

This is a quiet, emotional music – sometimes not so quiet – contained by a very simple song form.

*Scherzo a la Britten* (xxxx)

John Lesczynski (b. 1987)

Imagine trying to understand two people talking to you at the same time – a nearly impossible task. This short, wild ride tests the limits of human perception, beginning with a virtuosic fugue which is passed around the ensemble and manipulated in multiple formats, with the height of complexity having all members playing different lines.

“Gypsy Dance” from *The Pearl of Iberia* (1902)

Joseph Hellmesberger (1855-1907)

Hellmesberger was an Austrian composer, violinist, and conductor in the late nineteenth century. This charming dance was transcribed by Dr. Robert Ambrose, Director of Bands at Georgia State University in Atlanta.