



FREDERICK LOEWE SYMPOSIUM ON AMERICAN MUSIC
THE MUSIC OF JOAN TOWER

Thursday October 24nd, 2013 - 8 p.m.
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

2013 Loewe Medal for American Music presented to Joan Tower by Dr. Ralph W. Kuncel
and Dr. Andrew Glendening

Descending (2012)

Joan Tower
(b. 1938)

Chapel Singers
Nicholle Andrews, conductor
Janie Vail, soprano

Can I (2007)

Madrigal Singers
Joseph Modica, conductor
David Mantle, percussion
Becca Allen, soprano

Celebration Fanfare (1993)

Symphonic Band
David Scott, conductor

Fascinating Ribbons (2001)

Wind Ensemble
Eddie Smith, conductor

Mad in America (2004)

University Orchestra
Co Boi Nguyen, conductor

Descending (2012)

Descending for chorus is only my third work involving the voice. The first was Can I composed for the New York-based youth choir project Transient Glory. The second was Up High for the soprano Dawn Upshaw. Walking into the vocal world at this later stage in my life has been challenging. I believe that the mix of words and music as representing two different types of expression creates a kind of “split” set of meanings. For a basically instrumental composer like myself (also for Beethoven and Tchaikovsky who had their own problems writing for voice), the musical expression is more subjective and abstract without the words. To ease this challenge, in Descending, the words are kept to a bare minimum. They are directed towards loss and grief, and the surrounding vowels are used to place more emphasis on the pure expression of those feelings.

My older sister Ellen and my dearest friend passed away in October of 2012. The work is dedicated to her memory with love.

Can I (2007)

CAN I was my first vocal piece -written for the multicultural youth choir Transient Glory (Francisco Nuñez, director). Many children try to be heard by their parents. This song portrays that struggle in a multicultural way using Spanish and Jewish phrases.

There is also a percussionist that provides rhythmic and pitch support, and solos occasionally with latin-type rhythms.

Fascinating Ribbons (2001)

I am happy to be finally entering the band world—a generous and hard-working world that has generated so many excellent wind, brass, and percussion players. It seems also to be a place of people that actually love living composers! Since this was my first foray into the band world, I decided that a short piece would be the wisest course. In naming the piece, I noticed that there are many contours of motives that are shaped in curved “ribbon” patterns. I immediately thought of the word “fascinating.” And the ending dotted-rhythm reminded me of Gershwin’s Fascinating Rhythms—hence the title. It is dedicated to Jack Stamp, that intrepid “stalker” of composers who will not give up until he gets a band piece from them. (I should know; it took him five years to get me to write one!)

Made in America (2004)

I crossed a fairly big bridge at the age of nine when my family moved to South America (La Paz, Bolivia), where we stayed for nine years. I had to learn a new language, a new culture, and how to live at 13,000 feet! It was a lively culture with many saints’ days celebrated through music and dance, but the large Inca population in Bolivia was generally poor and there was little chance of moving up in class or work position.

When I returned to the United States, I was proud to have free choices, upward mobility, and the chance to try to become who I wanted to be. I also enjoyed the basic luxuries of an American citizen that we so often take for granted: hot running water, blankets for the cold winters, floors that are not made of dirt, and easy modes of transportation, among many other things. So when I started composing this piece, the song “America the Beautiful” kept coming into my consciousness and eventually became the main theme for the work. The beauty of the song is undeniable and I loved working with it as a musical idea. One can never take for granted, however, the strength of a musical idea — as Beethoven (one of my strongest influences) knew so well. This theme is challenged by other more aggressive and dissonant ideas that keep interrupting, unsettling it, but “America the Beautiful” keeps resurfacing in different guises (some small and tender, others big and magnanimous), as if to say, “I’m still here, ever changing, but holding my own.” A musical struggle is heard throughout the work. Perhaps it was my unconscious reacting to the challenge of how do we keep America beautiful.

CHAPEL SINGERS

Soprano

Gina Chapman
Adrian Laufer
Hannah Lim
Bridget O'Connell
Helen Tait
Sophie Tait
Mayu Uchiyama
Janie Vail

Alto

Keziah Baltz
Kari Bush
Emily Collins
Teresa Fleming
Valerie McGlasson
Angela Mihelich
Kira Rojanaroj
Ruston Ropac

Tenor

Brandon Dennewitz
Gary Gao
Benjamin Grafton
Zachary Krug
Jakub Kukla
Zachary Pappas
John Reinschmidt
Taylor Schult

Bass

Kevin Enriquez
Rodney Flucas
Bradley Franklin
Milton Jackson
Noah Kaufman
John Morin
Alex Ruiz

MADRIGAL SINGERS

Soprano 1

Kaely Clapper
Marinda Convis
Megan Griffiths
Sara Jackson
Angie Quigley
Christina Slusarczyk
Emma Wiszowaty

Soprano 2

Becca Allen
Alexandra Bidwell
Phoebe Jaurequi
Shaina Knox
Lacy Mason
Mounika Parimi
Zoe Petersen
Iris Trikha

Alto 1

Jessica Bondy
Christie Lovstad
Jessica Mayuga
Sierra Meza
Jordan Otis
Sasha Paredes
Tali Rappaport
Hannah Young

Alto 2

Michelle Balian
Gabbie Clemente
Kathryn McDaniel
Sophia Ohanian
Isabella Raymond
Chandler Talbott
Seana Thompson

SYMPHONIC BAND

Flute

Stacie Lindenbaum, co-principal
Valerie McGlasson, co-principal
Hope Watts
Sofia Gomez
Courtney Otis, piccolo

Megan Thudium, Principal 2nd
Justine Morales
Tanner Shimkus
Cheyenne Hernandez
Tanya Camper

Oboe

Selena Yates

Clarinet

Matt Dearie, principal
Rebecca Holzer
Maureen Montoya, principal 2nd
Sasha Paredes
Taylor Vandervoort, principal 3rd
Jessica Nunez
Tyeisha Lee
Melissa Sobolik

Bassoon

Larry Dang, principal
Rachel Darney-Lane

Alto Saxophone

Michael Taylor, principal
Bradley Witter

Tenor Saxophone

Austin Davis
Thomas Wilson

Bari Saxophone

Manuel Perez

Horn

Enrique Macias, principal
Diana Lopez
Zackary Schrimpf

Cornet

Dan Adams, principal
Tyler Neill
Katie Fiorito
Anne Thorson

Trumpet

Michael McGill-Davis
Ubaldo Batiz

Trombone

Kevin Throne, principal
Amanda Weinland
Andrew Will, bass trombone

Euphonium

Gustavo Chino, principal
Rebecca Montes
John Brownfield

Tuba

Victor Mortson, principal
Chris Dell'Acqua
Brian Hotchkiss
Hava Young

Percussion

Chase Nissen, principal
Quentin Jones
Dylan Lopez
Lilibeth Alverado
Andrew Jelsma
Marley Crean
Juan Anecito

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

WIND ENSEMBLE

Flute

Michelle Chavez, principal
Kelly McGrath
Emily Hall, Piccolo

Clarinet

Taylor Heap, co-principal
Kira Golombek, co-principal
Amara Markley
Wendy Rummerfield
Rebecca Holzer
Jessica Nunez

E♭ Clarinet

Kira Golombek

Bass Clarinet

Matt Dearie

Contra-Bass Clarinet

Sasha Paredes

Oboe

Juliana Gaona, principal
Ian Sharpe

Bassoon

Simona Seres, principal
Kevin Enriquez

Alto Saxophone

Kelsey Broersma, co-principal
Cameron Nabhan, co-principal

Tenor Saxophone

Wyatt Maggard
Nicolai Gervasi-Monarez

Baritone Saxophone

David Moreland

Horn

Kerrie Pitts, co-principal
Eduardo Contreras, co-principal
Greg Reust
Johnson Ung

Cornet

Dan Adams, principal
Brandon Hanson
Michael McGill-Davis

Trumpet

Matthew Busch, principal
Tyler Neill

Euphonium

Andrew Will

Trombone

Steven Stockman
Joel Rangel
Zachary Krug

Tuba

Curtis Allen, principal
William Bundy

Piano

Leah Oubre

Percussion

David Mantle, principal
Chase Nissen
Danielle Kammer
Quentin Jones
Zach Lindt

Timpani

Bill Schlitt

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

ORCHESTRA

First Violin

Laura Evans, concertmaster
Sara Jones
Pamela Barton
Ian Kaminski
Devon Fox
Sahak Karapetyan

Viola

Alireza Tousi, principal
Sakari Dixon
Emery Hebert
Liesl Oerstreicher
Kira Blumberg

Flute

Michelle Chavez, principal
Kelly McGrath

Oboe

Juliana Gaona, principal
Ian Sharpe

Clarinet

Kira Golombek, principal
Taylor Heap

Bassoon

Simona Seres, principal
Kevin Enriquez

Percussion

David Mantle, principal
Danielle Kammer
Chase Nissen

Second Violin

Colin Barstad, principal
Kaylene Pecora
Danielle Cook
Karen Palmer
Stephanie Kime Popa
Zoe Kinsey
Mathew Dickinson

Cello

Xue Chen, principal
Jeremy Boersma
Seanna Thompson
Madlen Sarkissian

Bass

Paulina Silva, principal
Benjamin Purper
Jennifer Quan

Horn

Kerrie Pitts, principal
Gregory Reust

Trumpet

Matthew Bush, principal
Brandon Hanson

Trombone

Zachery Krug, bass trombone