

THE BENNINGTON COLLEGE MUSIC DIVISION

Presents

VOX NOVA QUINTET

Wednesday
November 6, 1985

8:15 p.m.
Greenwall Music Workshop

Quintet, op. 79

AUGUST KLUGHARDT

Allegro non troppo
Allegro vivace
Andante grazioso
Adagio, Allegro molto vivace

Serenade No. 14 for Oboe Solo, op. 159

VINCENT PERSICHETTI

Prelude
Episode
Intermezzo
Dance
Epilogue

Summer Music, op. 31

SAMUEL BARBER

INTERMISSION

Flight: A Fantasy for Woodwind Quintet

GERALD GABEL

Six Bagatelles for Woodwind Quintet

GYÖRGY LIGETI

Allegro con spirito
Rubato, lamentoso
Allegro grazioso
Presto ruvido
Bela Bartok in memoriam: Adagio, mesto
Molto vivace, Capriccioso

Sponsored in part by a grant from the Woolley Fund.

A reception will follow the concert.

1) QUINTET, op. 79 by August Klughardt (1847 - 1902)

August Klughardt was born in Cothen, West Germany, the same town where J.S. Bach had been Kapellmeister over 100 years earlier. While he was Court Music Director in Weimar, Klughardt befriended both Franz Liszt and Richard Wagner. Wagner, especially, was to influence Klughardt's music in his later years. His Quintet, op. 79 is a four movement work, in a symphonic form. The textural and virtuosic richness of this piece might make one wonder if his original intention had been to write a symphony.

2) SERENADE NO. 14 for OBOE SOLO, op. 159 by Vincent Persichetti

Among Vincent Persichetti's many honors and awards are three Guggenheim Fellowships, grants from the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities and the National Institute of Arts and Letters, the Columbia Records Chamber Music Award, and the Symphony League Award. This Serenade for Oboe Solo was first performed in 1983 in New York City. The work is in five contrasting movements. Persichetti utilizes the full spectrum of tone character and range of the oboe to create a work of many moods, from despair to blissful joy.

3) SUMMER MUSIC by Samuel Barber (1910 - 1983)

Often deemed as one of the most attractive personalities and composers of American music, Samuel Barber was of the Benjamin Britten generation, resembling both Britten's compositional approach and style. Summer Music was commissioned by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit in 1956. About this work Barber had said: "It's supposed to be evocative of summer -- summer meaning languid, not killing mosquitoes. I think Henry Cowell once wrote a piece in which the orchestra members had to clap their hands as if to kill mosquitoes -- 'brilliant innovation', the critics said. But really, there's not much to say about Summer Music except that everyone plays it too slowly."

4) FLIGHT: A FANTASY FOR WOODWIND QUINTET by Gerald Gabel

The short story Flight by John Steinbeck was an important extra-musical source in the generation of my quintet. An attempt was made to reflect the overall pacing of the story in a musical setting. Flight commences by providing insight into the personalities of the characters. Since not all the characters portrayed play a large role in the main body of the story itself, this introduction is rather matter of fact and lacks the vitality which ensues. After the main character has committed an emotional and quite circumstantial murder, the flight from prosecution begins. From this point onwards, the pace at which events occur gradually accelerates. Simultaneously, the emotional level intensifies to a frenzied peak. As the main character meets his doom, the story comes to an abrupt halt.

In Flight: Fantasy for Woodwind Quintet, this accelerated motion is achieved 1) by gradually increased pitch activity, 2) by rapid alternation between varied textural units, 3) by an increase in the dynamic level, and 4) by an increase in the temporal rate at which events occur. The culmination of this motion occurs very late in the work and is characterized by sustained sonorities which are in direct contrast to the inflected nature of the development. The importance of textural evolution can not be understated. It is the primary means by which disjunct materials interact and evolve into strikingly varied textural statements.

Gerald Gabel joined the faculty at Dartmouth College this past year and composes in a variety of media. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Community Arts of San Diego, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and the Le Shay Foundation. His works are published by Seesaw Music Corp. of New York.

5) SIX BAGATELLES by György Ligeti (1923 -)

Long a leading member of the European avant garde, much of György Ligeti's music is devoted to color and sound density changes. From 1951 - 1953, Ligeti wrote a set of piano pieces, Musica ricercata. In 1953, he arranged six of these beautiful, sometimes-folksy, always rhythmic pieces into the Six Bagatelles for woodwind quintet. This work exemplifies extremely condensed music in all six movements, in which small, concise motives repeat relentlessly.