

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

GREATBATCH SCHOOL OF MUSIC

presents

Lillian Delia Blakeslee

Harp

in

Senior Recital

Assisted by

Dillon Hirsch, Violin

Recital Hall

Center for the Arts

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Program

Winter Wind

Frank Voltz
(b. 1955)

Goin' Fer a Lope

Joyce Rice
(b. 1935)

Irish Set

Off to California
Rights of Man

Traditional

Contes Vagues

Bernard Andrès
(b. 1941)

Promenade a L'automne

Marcel Tournier
(1879-1951)

Dillon Hirsch, Violin

Great Day

Nancy Gustavson
(1921-1996)

Program Notes

Frank Voltz is a contemporary composer. He is an accomplished musician on piano, organ and harp. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Piedmont Chapter of the American Harp Society.¹ This piece, **Winter Wind**, is a brilliantly haunting piece. It is comprised of triplet runs in the right hand and steady left hand that is reminiscent of a consistent chilling breeze.

Joyce Rice is a retired harpist who started playing the harp at the age of four. When she was ten she had already joined a community orchestra. She is a composer, arranger and publisher, and author of the book "Teaching the Lever Harp". Over her career she freelanced and taught more than 100 harp students.² Her piece **Goin' Fer a Lope** is a fun little piece that

Both of the pieces from the Irish set have unknown origins. It is assumed that **Off to California** was popular in Ireland before the twentieth century, and that it gained popularity in America where it got the name that it is most closely associated with. This tune does however go by other names including Whiskey Hornpipe, Fireman's Reel, and Humors of California³. The tune **Rights of Man** is sometimes attributed to Scottish born Fiddler and composer James Hill but that authorship is disputed.⁴ Both of these pieces appear in Sylvia Woods' book of harp tunes called "Irish Dance Tunes for All Harps". They both have an A and a B section which is typical of Irish dance tunes. You will hear the A and B section of each piece repeated, with the B section of Off to California ending the set.

¹ "Home | Frankvoltz.com." Home | Frankvoltz.com. Accessed April 03, 2018.
<https://www.frankvoltz.com/>.

² Joyce Rice Harp Music. Accessed April 03, 2018. <http://www.seanet.com/~joycerice/>.

³ "Off to California (G)." Slowplayers.org. February 15, 2015. Accessed April 08, 2018.
<http://slowplayers.org/2014/05/04/off-to-california-g/>.

⁴ "James Hill." The Irish Tune Composers' Pages. Accessed April 03, 2018.
<https://irishtunecomposers.weebly.com/james-hill.html>.

‘Contes Vague ‘Le petit Poucet semait sur son chemin
des cailloux par poignées:
des gros, des petits, des précieux. L’eau des sources clapotait.
Le vent sifflait dans les grands arbres creux.
Tout a coup, ue maison apparut.’ -Marie Laheurte

‘Tomb thumb was walking along the path tossing pebbles:
some big, some small, some precious. The water in the spring lapped the banks.
The wind whistled in the tall dead trees.
Suddenly a house appeared.’

Bernard Andres is a French composer who plays harp and piano. He studied it at the Music Conservatories of Besançon and Strasbourg and at the Higher National Music Conservatory of Paris.⁵ A rough translation of the title **Contes Vague** is ‘Vague Stories’. This piece tells the story of this poem by using many extended techniques on the harp, including xylophone (holding some of the strings at the sound board and plying with the other hand) PDLT (playing close to the sound board), finger nail glissandos above the tuning pins, and more.

Marcel Tournier was a composer who primarily wrote for harp. He was born in Paris in 1879. He enrolled at the Paris conservatory to study harp when he was sixteen. Two years later he won first prize in harp performance at the conservatory, however he decided to focus on composing.⁶ Promenade a l’automne is a beautiful piece that showcases how the harp can be used for accompaniment. This piece was written to accompany cello or violin. It features a gorgeous sweeping melody in the violin accompanied by lush arpeggiated harmonies in the harp.

Nancy Gustavson was born in 1921. She attended the University of California, Berkley where she studied Chemistry. She started playing the harp as an adult, and soon took up composition. She wrote books of harp compositions; Great Day is out of her book ‘Sparklers’.⁷ It is an upbeat piece that uses glissandos and frequent pedal changes.

⁵ "Bernard Andrès." Bernard Andrès - Long Biography - Music Sales Classical. Accessed April 03, 2018. <http://www.musicsalesclassical.com/composer/long-bio/Bernard-Andrès>.

⁶ Cummings, Robert. "Marcel Tournier | Biography & History." AllMusic. Accessed April 03, 2018. <https://www.allmusic.com/artist/marcel-tournier-mn0001748614/biography>.

⁷ "Nancy Gustavson Books." SYLVIA WOODS HARP CENTER. Accessed April 03, 2018. <https://www.harpcenter.com/category/harp-music-books-nancy-gustavson>.

Lillie, a student of Ms. Suzanne Thomas, is performing this recital in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education instrumental focus.

As a courtesy to the performer and your fellow audience members, please be certain that all cell phones, watch alarms, and pagers are either turned off or set for silent operation. Flash photography can be very disconcerting to performers and is not permitted during the performance. Thanks for your cooperation.

We would like to thank the Houghton College administration for its faithful support of the Greatbatch School of Music.

Shirley A. Mullen, President

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