

presents its 88th program of the 1991-92 season:



## THE HARP ENSEMBLE

Pamela Vokolek, director

Tonight's performance is part of this year's SEATTLE SPRING INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

APRIL 13, 1992 8:00 PM MEANY THEATER

School

Music

of

of

University

Washington

## PROGRAM : PH

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Transcriptions of familiar works by famous composers are featured on the first half of tonight's concert. They add variety to programs and acquaint young performers with those composers who could not or did not write for the modern double-action pedal harp.

Harpist Linda Booth, formerly of Tacoma, transcribed Handel's *Sarabande and Allegro* for two harps. We were saddened to learn of her recent death and dedicate this performance of the work to her memory.

Carlos Salzedo wrote *The Suite of Eight Dances* for solo harp in 1943. The composer suggested the following notes:

The <u>bolero</u>, like the Spanish fandango, is of Moroccan origin. We have been made aware of the impact of this dance form by Maurice Ravel's famous *Bolero for Orchestra*. Carlos Salzedo has revealed within the confines of a shorter *Bolero for Harp* the tonal resources of that instrument. He has made subtle use of the dynamic range of the harp and has intensified the sonorous effect of the climax by a sudden drop to unexpected softness and a final pianissimo.

The seguidilla is a quick, happy Spanish dance.

Side B

The <u>tango</u>, a national dance form of Argentina, is a languorous melody set to the background of a rigid accompaniment. It is similar to the Spanish Habanera, which was imported into Cuba from Africa.

The <u>rumba</u> comes from Cuba, where it originated...its rhythm has a barbaric consistency.

Robert Priest, founder and artistic director of the performance ensemble <u>Marzena</u> started the annual SEATTLE SPRING INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CONTEMPORARY AND WORLD MUSIC, DANCE, DRAMA, FILM, FOOD AND THE VISUAL ARTS five years ago. We are pleased to be part of the festival again this year.

Hand from Sky (1992), by Minako Tanahashi-Tokuyama, was commissioned by Marzena for this year's SEATTLE SPRING. The world premiere was April 10, 1992 at the Seattle Mime Theater with tonight's performers. We are pleased to have the composer with us tonight. She writes:

Someone is born or dies during every moment of the day—every day. But, when someone dies at a young age, or tragically (as in a shooting), I want to believe that a hand, a very BIG hand, comes down from the sky to transport the departed soul to paradise.

In my work...I use two pitches (B and A) as symbols for a young and beautiful woman, Hanna Senesch...a resistance fighter during Hungary's occupation during World War II. The three instruments used in this work are symbolic; clarinet = life and pain; harp = wind, and sho = hand from sky... In addition to Hanna Senesch, I would like to dedicate this piece to the memory of all people who have died fighting for their beliefs.

Internationally acclaimed composer Toru Takemitsu first received recognition in 1957 for his *Requiem for Strings*, commissioned and performed by the Tokyo

Symphony Orchestra. A frequent prize-winner, he has traveled widely as a guest lecturer, adjudicator, and Composer-in-Residence. His orchestral works often include two harps. Other harp works include *Stanza II* (1971) for harp solo and tape, *Toward the Sea III* (1989) for alto flute and harp, and *Rain Spell* (1982) for flute, clarinet, harp, piano and vibraphone.

Bryce was commissioned by the Canada Council and dedicated to Bryce Engelman. The composer's performance notes indicate "It is desirable that the piece be performed as slowly as possible." We are honored by having Toru Takemitsu present this evening.

## Guest performers:

UW School of Music graduate Naomi Kato is a frequently-heard performer in Seattle. Equally at home as an orchestral harpist or performer of new music (Marzena) she plays regularly with the Broadway Symphony and at the UW Faculty Club.

Mayumi Miyata is considered to be Japan's foremost performer on the sho (ancient Japanese mouth-organ with seventeen vertical bamboo pipes). She is also in demand internationally as a contemporary music specialist. She will present John Cage's *Music for Sho*, written expressly for her, later this year. She currently lives in Yokohama and teaches at the Kunitachi College of Music.

Del Hungerford is presently a free-lance performer and music educator. She received her a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Idaho, and a Master of Music from the Yale University School of Music. Active as a researcher, she is being introduced to Seattle audiences with her four performances during SEATTLE SPRING.

Notes by Pamela Vokolek

**Upcoming Concerts** 

University Symphony; April 21, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater Contemporary Group; April 27, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater

University Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band; April 28, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater

Littlefield Organ - Distinguished Alumnus Concert; May 2 at 8:00 PM, May 3 at 3:00 PM

Collegium Musicum; May 7, 8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium

UW Opera: The Turn of the Screw; May 13 & 15 at 8:00 PM, May 17 at 3:00

PM, Meany Theater