

Program Notes

AMERICAN OVERTURE FOR BAND — Joseph W. Jenkins

American Overture for Band was written for the United States Army Field Band and dedicated to its conductor at the time, Chester E. Whiting. The overture is written in a neo-modal style being flavored strongly with both Lydian and Mixolydian modes. Its musical architecture is a very free adaptation of sonata form. The musical material borders on the folk tune idiom although there are no direct quotes from any folk tunes. The work calls for near-virtuoso playing in several sections, especially the horns. Although *American Overture* was Jenkins's first band piece, it remains his most successful work, and in his words, he is "hard-pressed to duplicate its success."

CONCERTO FOR TRUMPET — Harry James

Jazz trumpeter and actor Harry James was hitting his stride in 1944 at the height of the Big Band era. James was born in Albany, Georgia in 1916, the son of a circus bandleader and an acrobat, and he learned to play trumpet from his father. He was a natural talent and began to perform with several prominent dance bands while still in his teens, eventually ending up in the famed Benny Goodman Band. He flourished in the trumpet section of the band and earned a reputation as an astounding technician with a beautiful tone. He left Goodman's band in 1939 to strike out on his own, forming a group he called *Harry James and His Music Makers* and employing a talented but then-unknown singer named Frank Sinatra. About this time, James began to appear in feature films and his rise to national stardom happened simultaneously on the hit parade and the big screen. His immersion in the Hollywood culture became complete when he married actress Betty Grable in 1943. In all, James appeared in more than a dozen films (often playing himself) and recorded an impressive number of hit singles during the thirties and forties, becoming one of the most widely known jazz trumpet players of his era. He continued to perform until the 1980s

IN MEMORIAM — Mark Camphouse

In Memoriam is an elegiac work based on the *Salvation is Created* hymn by Russian composer Pavel Chesnokov. Following the death of L.J. Hancock, a respected music educator and member of the national organization Bands of America (BOA), L. Scott McCormick, BOA Executive Director asked Camphouse to consider a commission in memory of the long-time music educator and Norwin High School Director of Bands, North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Camphouse began work on the piece immediately and felt it appropriate to use the Russian hymn-tune *Salvation is Created* as the basis for the work, as Mr. Hancock had used it for years as a warm-up for the Norwin High School Band. The *Salvation is Created* hymn is one in a cycle of ten Communion Hymns composed by Chesnokov while a precentor at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Moscow and is used for Communion on Fridays. *In Memoriam* received its premiere performance on June 29, 2002, with the Bands of America Summer Symposium Director's Band, Alfred Watkins, conducting.

MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME — William Rimmer

My Old Kentucky Home is a folk song composed by Stephen Foster in 1853. Foster's lyrics were revised in 1968.

The sun shines bright in My Old Kentucky home,
'Tis summer, and people are gay;
The corn-top's ripe and the meadow's in the bloom
While the birds make music all the day.
The young folks roll on the little cabin floor
All merry, all happy and bright;
By 'n' by hard times comes a knocking at the door
Then My Old Kentucky Home, good night!

Weep no more my lady
Oh! weep no more today!
We will sing one song
For My Old Kentucky Home
For My Old Kentucky Home, far away.