

Montgomery Philharmonic

Intersecting with the Community

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Montgomery Philharmonic 2014 - 2015 Concert Season – SINGULARITY

Chamber Music – Sunday, June 7, 2015

Ravel - String Quartet (1903) | Nielsen – Quintet for Winds | Spohr – Nonet | Arnold – Quintet for Brass

About Carl Nielsen –

Carl August Nielsen was a Danish musician, conductor, and violinist, widely recognized as his country's greatest composer. Nielsen's parents were talented amateur musicians who encouraged him to study music. As a youngster, he played trumpet in a military band and also studied the violin and piano. Nielsen enrolled in the Royal Conservatory of Music in Copenhagen in 1884, where he studied composition with Niels Gade, violin with Valdemar Tofte, and music theory with Orla Rosenhoff.

His compositions display energetic rhythms, brilliant orchestration, and his individual voice. Nielsen's musical voice included sweeping rich melodies and harmonic vitality that included lots of flattened sevenths and minor thirds. This harmonic language is said to have been typically Danish.

Although Nielsen died well before World War II, it was not until after the war that his compositions became popular. In 1962, Leonard Bernstein recorded his fifth symphony, which was the beginning of Nielsen's popularity worldwide. In 2015, the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Alan Gilbert, completed recordings of Nielsen's six symphonies and three concertos.

Born: June 9, 1865, Sortelung, Denmark

Died: October 3, 1931, Copenhagen, Denmark

Compositions: 6 Symphonies, 2 Operas, 19 compositions as incidental music to dramas including Aladdin, Violin Concerto, Flute Concerto, Clarinet Concerto, Several miscellaneous orchestra works, 12 Choral Cantatas, 5 String Quartets, 1 Wind Quintet, 3 Violin Solos, Several Solo Piano Pieces, Several Solo Organ Pieces

Education: Royal Conservatory of Music, Copenhagen

Parents: Niels Jørgensen

Spouse: Ann Marie Carl-Nielsen (m. 1891)

Children: Carl August Nielsen, Rachel Siegmann, Irmlin Nielsen, Anne Marie Nielsen, Hans Børge Nielsen

Carl Nielsen – *Quintet for Winds*, Opus 43 (1922)

Nielsen started composing the wind quintet in the fall of 1921 after hearing four members of the Copenhagen Wind Quintet rehearse Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with pianist Christian Christiansen. Nielsen was on the phone with Christiansen and heard them rehearsing in the background. He liked the instrumentation and decided that it was time for him to write a wind quintet. Nielsen was always fond of wind instruments because they reminded him of his love of nature and his fascination for living, breathing things. Because he knew the members of the Copenhagen Wind Quintet well, each movement and solo was written to highlight each musician's abilities..

In a program note, Nielsen provided a description of the work: "The quintet for winds is one of the composer's latest works, in which he has attempted to render the characters of the various instruments. At one moment they are all talking at once, at another they are quite alone. The work consists of three movements: a) Allegro, b) Minuet and c) Prelude – Theme with Variations. The theme for these variations is the melody for one of C.N.'s spiritual songs, which has here been made the basis of a set of variations, now merry and quirky, now elegiac and serious, ending with the theme in all its simplicity and very quietly expressed."

Instrumentation – flute, oboe, clarinet, horn in F, bassoon

Artifact –

<http://carlnielsen.dk/pages/biography/a-pile-of-works.php> - Nielsen Society, Denmark

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Nielsen#/media/File:Carl_Nielsen_family_at_Fuglsang_Lolland.jpg – Nielsen and his family c. 1915

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Nielsen#/media/File:Carl_Nielsen_ca_1880.jpg – Nielsen at age 14 in Odense

iTunes Links –

Trio for Oboe, Clarinet and Bassoon, Op. 73: II. Larghetto - Swiss Woodwind Quintet

Carl Nielsen - Woodwind Quintet Opus 43, Serenata in Vano, and other works - John Wion, Arthur Bloom, Alan Brown, William Brown, Robert Gardner, Jeffrey Levine, Scott Nickrenz, Ibbey Croneberg-Brown, The Lark Woodwind Quintet & Humbert Lucarelli

Nielsen, Haas, Hindemith & Eisler: Wind Quintets - Ma'alot Quintett

Amazon.com Links –

Nielsen: Wind Chamber Music - Complete Edition

Marlboro Music Festival 40th Anniversary - Barber: Summer Music; Nielsen: Woodwind Quintet; Hindemith: Octet for Winds & Strings

Hindemith: Kleine Kammermusik; Ligeti: Sechs Bagatellen; Nielsen: Quintett

QUINTET FOR WINDS OP. 43 FL/ OB/CL/FH/BSN REVISED CRITICAL EDITION SCORE

YouTube Video Links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow0sYQH-8HQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIwM6tQmfa4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2atLSWgV5FY>