

Montgomery Philharmonic

Intersecting with the Community

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Montgomery Philharmonic 2019 - 2020

Our 14th Season : Editions

Concert 3, February 24, 2020 at 7 PM – The Young Musician Edition

Haydn | String Orchestra | Concert Band | Combined Bands and String Orchestras

Concert Band

Furioso – Robert W. Smith

Furioso is a great first overture for band. This high energy piece is filled with passion, spirit, and vigor. Smith has composed a piece that uses a the skills of first and second year musician that shows off what they know, their never–ending energy, and their excitement and love of playing.

Instrumentation: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, timpani, xylophone, snare drum, bass drum, toms, crash cymbals, suspended cymbals, shaker, claves

About Robert W. Smith –

Robert W. Smith has over 600 publications in print with the majority composed and arranged through his long association with Warner Bros. Publications and the Belwin catalog. A graduate of Troy State University and the University of Miami, Smith studied composition with Paul Yoder and Alfred Reed. He returned to Troy State University to become the Director of Bands in 1997 until 2001 when he took a full time position at Warner Brothers Publications as the Band Music Editor. He returned to Troy State in 2006 to become the Coordinator of Music Industry Program and also serves as Director of Product Development for the C.L. Barnhouse Company.

Mr. Smith’s credits include many compositions and productions in all areas of the music field. His original works for winds and percussion have been programmed by countless military, university, high school, and middle school bands throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, South America and Asia. His *Symphony #1* (The Divine Comedy), *Symphony #2* (The Odyssey), *Symphony #3* (Don Quixote), *Inchon* and *Africa: Ceremony, Song and Ritual* have received worldwide critical acclaim. His educational compositions such as *The Tempest*, *Encanto*, and *The Great Locomotive Chase* have become standards for developing bands throughout the world.

Mr. Smith’s music has received extensive airplay on major network television as well as inclusion in multiple motion pictures. From professional ensembles such as the United States Navy Band, United States Air Force Band, Boston Pops and the Atlanta Symphony to school bands and orchestras throughout the world, his music speaks to audiences in any concert setting. As a conductor, clinician and keynote speaker, Mr. Smith has performed throughout North America, Asia, South America, Europe and Australia. His music has been recorded by various ensembles and is available on CD and download through iTunes, Amazon, and other recorded music outlets.

Mr. Smith is the President/CEO of RWS Music Company, exclusively distributed through C. L. Barnhouse. In addition, he is currently teaching in the Music Industry program at Troy University in Troy, Alabama. His teaching responsibilities are focused in music composition, production, publishing and business.

Born: October 24, 1958, Daleville, Alabama

Education: Bachelor of Music from Troy State University, Master of Arts in Media Writing and Production from the University of Miami

Compositions: Over 170 band compositions, 3 symphonies, a music curriculum that takes students from elementary instrumental music through high school, several compositions written especially for drum and bugle corps that are performed by 42 corps in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

Artifact –

[score with audio performance](#)

[Robert W. Smith’s website](#)

YouTube.com Links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPgT2fmhyQk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mg9AVxySQE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kPesp7_LTy8

Congo Caves – Ralph Ford

Congo Caves is a fun piece written especially for developing band. Ford wanted to write a piece that was both interesting and fun for young musicians. The piece that resulted is one that requires great counting skills, listing across the band sections, and the ability to play counterpoint with a strong sense of pulse. There’s lots of great percussion work and each section has something interesting to play. *Congo Caves* is inspired by the mysterious caves in the Congo region of Southern Africa.

Instrumentation: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, timpani, bells, snare drum, bass drum, congas, suspended cymbals, shaker, triangle

About Ralph Ford –

Ralph Ford is a composer, arranger, conductor, and clinician. In addition to his twenty nine years of university teaching experience, Ralph has enjoyed a wide variety of professional experiences in the music, media, and broadcast industries. He is an exclusive composer and arranger for the Belwin division of Alfred Publishing Company in Los Angeles, California, with over 250 titles available worldwide for orchestra, concert band, jazz ensemble, and marching band. A frequently commissioned composer, his music has been premiered and performed by university, military, professional, community, and school ensembles around the world. He has received international and regional advertising awards for his jingles and 3-D animation. His work in media includes live radio broadcasts, host, voice-over for television, commercials, and video productions, conducting live musical productions, recording sessions, produced recordings for release on traditional discs and other types of new media, compose and record news music packages for national network affiliates, and producing programs for television, radio, and the internet. His work as a professional arranger began at age fifteen as a student in Panama City, Florida. While attending Troy State University, he was appointed as Director of Jazz Ensemble I during his sophomore undergraduate year, a position he held for fifteen years. During his senior undergraduate year, he began his tenure as the staff arranger for the university band program. Upon completing his undergraduate degree in 1986, he was appointed to the music faculty as staff arranger and assistant director by his collegiate director and mentor, Dr. John Long, where he also taught courses in orchestration, arranging, theory, technology, jazz studies, and applied brass for the next fifteen years. He earned his Master of Science degree in 1988 from Troy while serving on the faculty as fulltime instructor. In 1999, he began his career as an exclusive composer/arranger from Warner Brothers Publications, a relationship that he proudly continues today with Alfred Publications. Ralph retired from Troy University in June 2011 following a ten year appointment as the Director of Bands, Coordinator of Winds and Percussion, and Professor of Music. In addition to his usual production schedule, Ralph is also in demand as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and guest lecturer throughout the United States and abroad. He has received local, state, regional, and national recognition and proclamations for his artistic achievements from academic, artistic, and government organizations. With a wide variety of professional and educational experiences, he brings a unique personality to his work with colleagues and students alike. His professional affiliations include the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity, and holds honorary memberships in Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Beta Mu, Tau Beta Sigma, and Sigma Alpha Iota. He was selected by Rotary International to serve as a Rotary Fellow to Namibia and South Africa. In March 2009, he was elected to membership in the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. Ralph resides in Troy, Alabama with his wife, Amanda, daughters Melanie and Abby, Basset Hound Angel, Jack Russell terrier Gizmo, and the fabulous Miss Kitty.

Born: b. 1963

Education: Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from Troy State University

Compositions: Over 170 concert band compositions, 92 compositions for marching band, 35 compositions for full orchestra, 40 compositions for jazz ensemble, 16 compositions for string orchestra

Artifact –

[score with audio performance](#)

YouTube.com Links –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BO9Q_vn1w0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1sHNn8gjdM>

On Wings of Freedom – Ayatey Shabazz

On Wings of Freedom is a great overture for advanced middle school band. A unique selection for middle school groups by a bright new composer that is a wonderful choice for all concert or contest performances. The adagio section features short solos for clarinet, flute and baritone. Utilizes harmonic materials not usually found in compositions at this grade level yet very playable and musical.

Instrumentation: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, timpani, bells, snare drum, bass drum, wind chimes, crash cymbals, suspended cymbals

About Ayatey Shabazz –

Ayatey Shabazz is a native of Biloxi, Mississippi, where he currently works and resides. He received his formal training in Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi where he also studied composition and jazz arranging with Dr. Albert Gower. Shabazz taught elementary, Jr. High and high school band in the Mississippi Gulf Coast region, and has written custom arrangements and field shows performed by high school and college marching ensembles throughout the country as well as drum corps in Europe.

Mr. Shabazz is in demand as a composer of original works in the concert idiom. In addition to his many published concert works, he has been commissioned to write multiple works for ensembles in the US and abroad as well as music for film and Television including orchestrating and arranging underscore for the hit movie *Incredibles 2*.

Mr. Shabazz is the Founder, President, and CEO of The Devmusic Company and Devmusic Educational Systems, the professional development branch for education. The company focuses on quality print music for marching bands, concert bands, jazz bands, and percussion ensembles.

The company also provides administration, engraving and music preparation services for a variety of composers, artists and other publishing companies. The Devmusic Company is a global music publishing company with worldwide distribution.

Ayatey is a member of multiple professional and industry organizations, including the Music for All Board of Directors, (NARAS) The National Recording Academy, (AFM-47) American Federation of Musicians Local 47, (AIMP) Association of Independent Music Publishers, (ASMAC) American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers and (ASCAP) American Society of Composers Authors & Publishers, California Copyright Conference, National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM), (NFHS) National Federation of State High School Associations.

Born: Biloxi, Mississippi

Education: Bachelor of Music from University of Southern Mississippi

Compositions: Over 20 concert band compositions, 24 original compositions for marching band, 30 arrangements for marching band, 29 percussion compositions and contributions to percussion scores, 1 film score

Artifact –

[Shabazz’s home page on C.L.Barnhouse](#)

[On Wings of Freedom](#), listen and view the conductor’s score

YouTube.com Links –

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4iv4WnmD00>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xCrcL0sUJE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFQLa-o3npq>

Bugler’s Rag – James Ployhar

Bugler’s Rag is a lot’s of fun for advanced middle school band. A great chance for a middle schooler to learn ragtime, it has a trumpet feature and also a percussion feature. Written in A – B – A form, there is a spirited introduction that leads to the main theme featuring the trumpet section. The second section is stop chorus that gives an opportunity for a solo trumpeter and the percussion section to show off. The piece finishes with a repeat of the main theme followed by a tag ending.

Instrumentation: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, snare drum, bass drum, crash cymbals, suspended cymbals, temple blocks

About James Ployhar –

James D. Ployhar was an American composer, music educator, and film producer. Ployhar attended Valley City State University (VCSU) in Valley City, North Dakota, was initiated into the Beta Rho chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity in 1952, and also originated the Fargo Big Band All-Stars, a musical group that frequently performed in and around Fargo, North Dakota, including regular engagements at Silent Movie Night, held at the historic Fargo Theatre.

Mr. Ployhar taught nineteen years in the public schools and was enthusiastically welcomed throughout the United States and Canada as a clinician and a conductor.

He was considered to be one of the most prolific writers in the field of music education. He was responsible for many great American songs, including the instrumental piece, *Cool Blues* for Trumpets, *March of the Irish Guard*, *Crazy Clock* and *Korean Folk Song Medley*. He was the author of the *Contemporary Band Course*, Belwin-Mills Publishing Corporation of New York, composer of *The Fickertail*, official North Dakota march, and recipient of the citation of excellence by the executive committee of the National Band Association. Mr. Ployhar was past president of the VCSU Alumni Association (1975-76) and is a member of the V-500 Foundation. Ployhar received the National Band Association’s Citation of Excellence and membership into the American Bandmasters Association. On May 20, 1977, Mr. Ployhar was given the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Valley City State University. In 2006, Ployhar became the first alumnus to be inducted into the VCSU Music Hall of Fame. In 1994, he was one of the co-producers of the Disney film *Iron Will*.

Born: September 22, 1926, Valley City, North Dakota

Died: January 2, 2007, Fargo, North Dakota

Education: Bachelor of Music from Valley City State University, Valley City, North Dakota, Master of Arts in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado, Doctoral studies at the University of California at Los Angeles

Compositions: over 600 compositions for concert band, over 80 compositions for full and string orchestra, 95 authored and co-authored method books, orchestrations for the Danish Royal Philharmonic, 40 publications for brass, 22 publications for woodwinds, 9 publications for marching band, 1 film score

Artifact –

[Ployhar’s obituary](#)

[James Ployhar Honor Band in North Dakota](#)

YouTube.com Links –

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0dYq6EImWY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQ7ogdo6lWA>