



BRAZOS VALLEY
Symphony Society

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRAZOS VALLEY SYMPHONY'S AMERICAN CONCERT INCLUDES WORLD PREMIERE

College Station, TX—February 9, 2009—

The Brazos Valley Symphony's twenty-seventh season continues Sunday, March 8, 2009 with Music Director Dr. Marcelo Bussiki conducting "American Landscapes" at Christ United Methodist Church in College Station. All selections programmed for this performance have an American connection. The concert features a world premiere performance of *by an American*, composed by College Station native Craig Biondi.

Dr. Bussiki said, "I try to balance the presence of more modern work with the audience's taste, which is not very easy . . . but that's one of the important aspects of building a season, a season that also has an educational purpose." Bussiki feels that the audience will enjoy this performance and said, the "program is intended to expose our community to music that is American [and] that is very pleasant to hear. I mean—it doesn't get more pleasant than Copland and Bernstein."

What: "American Landscapes"

When: Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 5:00 PM

Where: Christ United Methodist Church in College Station

Program:

Biondi – *by an American*, World Premiere Performance

Coleridge-Taylor – *Symphonic Variations on an African Air*

Copland – *Old American Songs*

Texas A&M Century Singers

Copland – *Appalachian Spring*

Bernstein – *On the Town: Three Dance Episodes*

Dr. Bussiki feels it is important to expose new symphonic works and said, "Music is a living entity and we can't stop in time, we need to produce—that is what humans do." The program includes a world premiere performance of *by an American*, composed by Craig Biondi. Biondi's home town is College Station and he was a band student of the symphony's principal trumpet player, John McSpadden.

Biondi said, "I owe a great debt of gratitude to BVSO principal trumpet player John McSpadden for not kicking me out of 6th grade band for bad behavior in 1986. That *really* did almost happen!" Biondi received assistance from McSpadden to get the piece played and said, "It was

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John who gave a score of *by an American* to Marcelo, who then contacted me about performing it with the BVSO.”

Biondi is excited to have his music premiere in College Station and said, “It feels wonderful! College Station provided me with a wealth of opportunities to grow as a young musician . . . Most of all, I know that this is going to be a special treat for my family.”

In connection with the American theme, this concert will honor area Armed Forces Servicemen and Veterans, and a 1/3 off discount is offered on adult tickets for any local veterans (by phone and in person only). “Many Americans have answered their country’s call to duty. We are proud of those men and women who have played an important part in defending our freedoms throughout history,” said Symphony Society President Jim Kracht. “We can’t repay the debt, but the BVSO can say thank you by providing a wonderful afternoon of American music,” added Kracht.

Individual tickets for all subscription concerts are on sale now and can be purchased in person at the MSC Box Office, located in the Rudder Auditorium lobby, by phone through the MSC Box Office (979) 845-1234, , or on-line at <http://boxoffice.tamu.edu>. Please call the Symphony Office with any further questions. This program is generously funded in part by a grant from the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and City of College Station.

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About the Brazos Valley Symphony: The Brazos Valley Symphony is a non-profit performing arts organization with the mission to maintain a symphony of high artistic standards, and to promote the musical arts for cultural and education purposes in the Brazos Valley. For more information about the Symphony’s 2008-2009 Season, please visit the Brazos Valley Symphony Web site at www.bvso.org.

The Brazos Valley Symphony Society wishes to recognize and thank our programming sponsors, grant funding providers, and charitable trust contributors:

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