



BRAZOS VALLEY
Symphony Society

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Nika Hancock
Phone: 979-696-6100
E-mail: office@bvso.org
Website: www.bvso.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRAZOS VALLEY SYMPHONY'S NEXT CONCERT HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

College Station, TX—January 21, 2011—

The Brazos Valley Symphony's first spring concert has something for everyone, including marimba and flute soloists, and a work for Jazz Quartet and String Orchestra. The "World Premiere" concert, led by Music Director, Marcelo Bussiki on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at 5pm, will be a presentation of diverse appeal. The program will take place at Rudder Theatre in College Station on the Texas A&M University campus and will feature the symphony's principal percussionist and local connection Sarah Burke on marimba, principal flutist Penny Zent, and Rob Clearfield and the jazz quartet Fitted Shards in an exciting world premiere commissioned just for our community.

What: "World Premiere"

When: Sunday, February 20, 2011 at 5:00 PM

Where: Rudder Theatre in College Station on Texas A&M campus

Program:	Grant Still	Danzas de Panama for Strings
	Ewazen	Concerto for Marimba and String Orchestra <i>Sarah Burke, marimba</i>
	Lord	"To Notice Such Things" Suite for Solo Flute, Piano & String Orchestra <i>Penny Zent, flute</i>
	Ward	Concerto for Jazz Quartet and String Orchestra, World Premiere <i>Rob Clearfield, piano - Jeff Greene, bass</i> <i>Quin Kirchner, drums - Greg Ward II, saxophone</i>

"This is one of the most unique programs that the BVSO has attempted in the last few years. Our audience will have the opportunity to hear live works that are very rarely performed, along with the premier of a new BVSO commission," said Bussiki. "We open the concert with the work *Danzas de Panama for Strings* by the American Composer William Grant Still. This piece was originally composed for string quartet, which I heard for the first time performed by the Marian Anderson String Quartet in a recital at Blinn College. I enjoyed the work so much that I did some digging and found a string orchestra version of the work for the symphony to perform," Bussiki continued.

Music Director Bussiki is also excited about spotlighting some of the symphony's principal musicians and local connection Rob Clearfield for this concert, which is sponsored in part by Shirley Borden and

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Robert C. Borden. The symphony will feature a Concerto for Marimba by American composer Eric Ewazen, described by the Music Director as a delightful piece to listen to, with plenty of virtuoso playing for the soloist, Sarah Burke. The audience will then enjoy hearing from long time symphony member and principal flutist Penny Zent, who was recently honored for her many contributions to the community. Zent will perform a piece composed by Jon Lord which Bussiki describes as “a work that is intense, lyrical and, at moments, profoundly touching”.

Composer Jon Lord is the former keyboard player from the band Deep Purple and he now has several well reviewed classical albums under his belt. The piece programmed for this concert is from his latest and notably successful album, “To Notice Such Things”, which recently made the UK’s official classical chart as high as number 4 in April of 2010.

“I am sure Penny Zent and Sarah Burke will dazzle our audience with their solos. Needless to say, these are musicians of the highest caliber, ones that audience members have repeatedly expressed the desire to hear in a solo. So, here is your opportunity,” said Bussiki.

For the finale, the Brazos Valley Symphony has commissioned a new work for Jazz Quartet and String Orchestra to premiere it at this concert. The Fitted Shards jazz quartet comes to us through a local connection: Rob Clearfield is the grandson of notable community members, Ruth & Abe Clearfield. Rob has made a name for himself as one of Chicago’s most original piano improvisers. In December 2009, Clearfield released his first solo album “A Thousand Words,” a collection of improvised piano works and following this release, he has begun performing completely improvised concerts. Clearfield also performs with many groups, including Fitted Shards.

The premiere work is composed by Greg Ward II, a young composer from Chicago whose critical acclaim keeps coming. Greg Ward’s Fitted Shards’ most recent album: “South Side Story” has been cited by the Chicago Tribune’s art critic as the #1 most memorable recording of 2010. The Tribune’s critic Howard Reich said the album “teems with the spirit of Chicago’s jazz avant-garde. It also bursts with a creativity that transcends mere geography. Ward is emerging as an unusually imaginative composer.” Bussiki is certain the new work will display the same imagination critics admire in Ward’s other compositions.

“The idea for this commission was born out of a conversation with a fellow musician Rob Clearfield at a conference in Chicago a couple of years ago. We were discussing the possibility of a solo with the BVSO when he mentioned that he had just performed a brand new piece composed by the saxophonist and composer Greg Ward. I became immediately intrigued by the unusual configuration of the ensemble and began to collect more information about the composer,” said Bussiki. “This orchestra is not afraid of experimenting with new musical languages along with the traditional orchestral repertoire,” Bussiki continued.

Individual tickets (\$32 for adults/\$12 for students & children) for this concert are on sale now and can be purchased in person at the MSC Box Office, located in the Rudder Auditorium lobby, by phone at (979) 845-1234, , or on-line at <http://boxoffice.tamu.edu>. **Tickets will also be on sale at the door the night of the concert.** Please call the Symphony Office at (979) 696-6100 with any further questions or visit our website.

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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 2010--2011 Season, please visit the Brazos Valley Symphony Web site at www.bvso.org.

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