

PROGRAM NOTES

Frenergy

Frenergy was commissioned by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in 1998. Estacio's combination of "frantic" and "energy" into the work's title speaks as well to its nature and verve as any worded description could. Following the pounding opening of drums, the brief, brisk piece is comprised of four short melodic ideas that are tossed among the instruments. The first of these is a chromatic melody first heard in the woodwinds. It is then often complemented by a showy tune frequently presented by the brass. The third idea is first heard on flute and is perhaps the most substantial of any of the themes.

Composer John Estacio is one of Canada's most frequently performed and broadcast composers. He has served as Composer-in-Residence for the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic, and the Calgary Opera.

The Second Suite in F for Military Band (Op. 28, No. 2)

The Second Suite in F for Military Band is Gustav Holst's second and last suite for concert band. Although performed less frequently than the First Suite in E-flat, it is still a staple of the band repertoire. The Second Suite, written in 1911 and first published in 1922, dedicated to James Causley Windram, is longer and considerably more difficult to play than its sister suite.

During Holst's earlier years as a composer, he took interest (as did many composers at the time) in folk music, and wrote many pieces based on folk tunes. He provided piano accompaniments in 1909 to 16 songs collected by Dr. George Gardiner [disambiguation needed], for publication in *Folk Songs from Hampshire*, a volume in Cecil Sharp's County Songs series. Holst was very much taken with them and incorporated seven of these traditional tunes into the four movements of this suite.

Hammersmith

Hammersmith is a Prelude and Scherzo commissioned by the BBC in 1930 for Military Band. Holst later rewrote the work for full orchestra. About this work, Imogen Holst reflects:

"Those who knew nothing of his forty-year-old affection for the Hammersmith district of London were puzzled at the title. The work is not program music. Its mood is the outcome of long years of familiarity with the changing crowds and the changing river: those Saturday night crowds, who were always good-natured even when they were being pushed off the pavement into the middle of the traffic, and the stall-holders in that narrow lane behind the Broadway, with their unexpected assortment of goods lit up by brilliant flares, and the large woman at the fruit shop, who always called him "dearie" when he bought oranges for his Sunday picnics."

In *Hammersmith*, the river is the background to the crowd: it is a river that goes on its way unnoticed and unconcerned. Holst considered this work among his best.

Rhapsody in Blue

Rhapsody in Blue is one of George Gershwin's most loved compositions. This particular setting is a combination of Wind Ensemble scoring by Donald Hunsberger and Presidio Brass Quintet setting by University of Redlands Tuba teacher, Scott Sutherland. When Scott first approached me with this idea of performing and recording the Presidio Brass with the University of Redlands Wind Ensemble, his excitement was overwhelming and contagious. Tonight, this audience will be part of the West Coast premier of something incredibly enjoyable. Please enjoy. E.S.

The "Gum-Suckers" March

Percy Aldrige Grainger writes: "Gum-sucker" is an Australian nick-name for Australians born in Victoria, the home state of the composer. The eucalyptus trees that abound in Victoria are called "gums", and the young shoots at the bottom of the trunk are called "suckers"; so "gum-sucker" came to mean a young native son of Victoria, just as Ohioans are nick-named "Buck-eyes". The leaves of the "gum" are very refreshing to suck in the parching summer weather.

In this march Grainger has used his own "Australian Up-Country-Song" melody, written by him to typify Australia, which he also employed in "Colonial Song" for two voices and orchestra or for military band.

PRESIDIO BRASS

Since forming in 2006, Presidio Brass has rocketed to success as the face of a bold new generation in brass entertainment. By combining a brass quintet, piano and percussion instruments with fresh, original arrangements, their unique sound has become a trademark for the ensemble from San Diego, CA, captivating audiences everywhere.

Through their touring show of Hollywood's greatest hits, *Sounds of the Cinema*, these five young men present film music with a good dose of wit and humor that together have become hallmarks of every Presidio Brass performance. Audiences and music critics agree, *Sounds of the Cinema* is "Two Thumbs Up", a "Must See!" The show has been enjoyed internationally, with performances and educational outreach programs throughout North America. Presidio Brass has performed in over 40 states, conducted master classes at many of America's finest colleges and universities, and have been featured on National Public Radio.

Each member of the ensemble began his music career by joining their school's band program. Inspired by the dedication of their school music teachers, Presidio Brass came together with the primary mission to promote music education and music appreciation in youngsters. This is why at every opportunity, performances are coupled with a master class or school program for which the quintet volunteers their time.

Members of the Presidio Brass have performed with major symphony orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Las Vegas Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony and the San Diego Symphony. When not on tour, they continue to perform with orchestras, maintain private teaching studios at local universities, arrange and compose new music, assist with public school music programs, and operate an annual summer music camp for students of all ages.

In addition to performing as a brass quintet, Presidio Brass performs regularly as a part of Millennium Consort, one of the nation's premiere brass, organ and percussion ensembles. Millennium Consort is active in commissioning new works as well as arrangements of popular classical music. The latest recording by the ensemble, *Pictures of a New Beginning*, includes commissions of new music by Craig Phillips, John Hirten and Jon Naples, and features an arrangement of the orchestral favorite *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Presidio Brass' tubist, Scott Sutherland.

The Presidio Brass has released three recordings: *Stolen Moments*, a collection of popular classical and jazz selections, *Christmas Day*, an assortment of well-loved holiday favorites, and *Sounds of the Cinema*, which includes pieces from their signature stage performance of the same name. Look for their newest CD of popular American music, which will be released in 2013.

PRESIDIO BRASS MEMBERS

Born and raised in Falls Church, VA, trumpeter **STEVE O'CONNOR** joined the Presidio Brass in July of 2011. He enjoys an active freelance career in the Los Angeles area, including performances with the Los Angeles Opera, Pasadena Pops, the Ojai Festival Orchestra, the California and Riverside Philharmonics, as well as Santa Barbara, San Diego, Pasadena, Redlands and San Bernardino Symphonies. Steve has also performed with the Moscow Symphony during a tour of the United States. As a chamber musician, he performs with Jacaranda, the Mládí Chamber Orchestra, Pacific Brass Ensemble, and at various chamber music venues throughout Los Angeles.

In addition to performing, Steve serves as a trumpet instructor for the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at the California State University in Long Beach and at the Idyllwild Arts Academy. He earned a Bachelor's degree in music from Michigan State University and a Master's in Music from Cal State Long Beach. His teachers have included Tim Morrison, Jim Wilt, and Dave Washburn.

Originally from Lexington, NC, **DR. TIMOTHY J. TESH** joined the Presidio Brass in July of 2012. TJ is a Grammy-nominated performing artist, trumpet clinician and music educator. He has had the distinct pleasure of performing with Stevie Wonder, Natalie Cole, Patti Austin, Take 6, Quincy Jones, Dave Koz, Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band and many other music greats. He also played lead trumpet on the Grammy-nominated album "Self-Contained", recorded by the University of Kentucky Jazz Ensemble, and on an American and Canadian tour of Mel Brooks' award-winning Broadway hit, "The Producers".

TJ currently serves as Adjunct Instructor of Trumpet at the University of Southern California, where he recently completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in trumpet performance and music education. He received a Master of Music degree in trumpet performance from the University of Kentucky and a Bachelor of Arts in music from Mars Hill College.

In his free time, you can find TJ slaving away in the kitchen, his garden, or driving a golf ball 300 yards.

MIKE MCCOY, a San Diego native, has been the horn player for the Presidio Brass since its inception in 2006. In addition to Presidio Brass, he holds the position of 4th Horn with the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Mike was Co-Principal Horn with San Diego's Orchestra Nova, and currently performs regularly in the horn sections of the San Diego Symphony, San Diego Opera, and Pacific Symphony. His horn playing has accompanied the likes of Frank Sinatra Jr., Pink Martini, Liza Minnelli, Luciano Pavarotti, Aretha Franklin, Dave Brubeck, Burt Bacharach, among many more. Mike has performed with national touring Broadway shows, including "The Lion King", "Tommy" and "Wicked", as well as "The Lion King" production at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas. He is an active commercial recording artist including the movies soundtracks to "Mr. Jones", "Jackson", and "Arn 2 – The Knights Templar", as well as the video game soundtracks of "Diablo 3", "Bionic Commando Revived", and the original "Everquest". Past performances include the Billings (MT) Symphony, Riverside Philharmonic, Mexico City Philharmonic, Orchestra de Baja California, Strauss Symphony of America, as well as a tour of the West Coast as

soloist with the New England Youth Ensemble and playing lead horn under John Rutter in Carnegie Hall.

When not performing, he enjoys educating, having been an adjudicator for the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association and was featured on the horn demonstration videos for the series "Tradition of Excellence" from Kjos Music. Mike studied at the San Diego School for the Creative and Performing Arts, followed by San Diego State University and the Boston Conservatory of Music.

Third generation trombonist, **SEAN REUSCH**, originally from Toms River, NJ, is a founding member of the Presidio Brass. Sean began performing trombone when he was ten years old. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Penn State University and a Master of Music Degree in Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, he moved to San Diego, CA. Since then, Sean has performed with many groups including the San Diego Symphony, San Diego Opera, Orchestra Nova, Los Angeles Opera, Orquesta de Baja California, Pacific Symphony, Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, and the Barnum and Bailey Circus. Sean has performed with artists such as Dave Brubeck, Johnny Mathis, David Sanborn, Bernadette Peters, Eddie Daniels, Natalie Cole, and Marvin Hamlisch.

As an educator, Sean is currently on faculty at UCSD, Palomar College, Mira Costa College, and at the Idyllwild Arts Academy during the summer. Sean maintains a large private teaching studio and many of his students have gone on to study music at universities including USC, UCLA, San Francisco Conservatory, Oberlin Conservatory, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Eastman School of Music to name a few. Sean resides in Carlsbad, California, with his wife and two children.

A native of Los Angeles, **SCOTT SUTHERLAND** is the tubist, pianist and primary music arranger for the Presidio Brass. He is also a member of the Redlands Symphony, the Riverside County Philharmonic and has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Diego Opera, San Diego Chamber Orchestra and the New West, Long Beach and San Diego Symphonies. From 2005-2007, he was principal tuba of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. As a soloist, he has been featured with the San Diego Symphony, Riverside County Philharmonic, Burbank Philharmonic and the Idyllwild Arts Symphony Orchestra. Scott has played on motion picture and video game soundtracks, including the movie Pearl Harbor and has appeared with such artists as John Williams, Stevie Wonder, Quincy Jones, and Jerry Goldsmith. Scott is also active as a composer and arranger, with performances by the Pacific Symphony, Aguascalientes Symphony Orchestra in Mexico, USC Elf Jazz Ensemble and San Diego Winds.

As an educator, Scott is on faculty at the University of Redlands, Palomar College and the Idyllwild Arts Summer Program. He was a brass pedagogy teaching assistant while attending UCLA and spent a year as a certificated school band/orchestra director for the Pasadena Unified School District. Scott earned his Bachelor of Music degree from USC, a Master of Music degree from UCLA and has studied with Tommy Johnson, Jim Self, Norm Pearson and Doug Tornquist. In his free time, Scott enjoys hanging out with his wife, Christine, and their two children, Aly and Jake, at their home in Carlsbad, CA.