San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band Presents

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS**

**Symphony № 1**
by Johan de Meij

**Guest Conductor and AD Candidate - Dr. Martin H. Seggelke**

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**FRIDAY**

**March 15**

8PM

Ebenezer Lutheran Church
678 Portola Drive, San Francisco

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**SUNDAY**

**March 17**

4PM

Temple Isaiah
945 Risa Road, Lafayette

SFLGFB.org  FREE CONCERTS
San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band Presents

**Symphony No. 1**  
*“The Lord of the Rings” (1988)*  
Johan de Meij (b. 1953)

I. **Gandalf** (The Wizard)  
II. **Lothlórien** (The Elvenwood)  
III. **Gollum** (Sméagol)  
IV. **Journey in the Dark**  
   a) The Mines of Moria  
   b) The Bridge of Khazad-Dûm  
V. **Hobbits**

Dr. Martin H. Seggelke conducts the Band in a performance of Johan de Meij’s Symphony No. 1. “Lord of the Rings”. Composed in 1988, more than a decade before the release of the Oscar-winning film trilogy, Meij’s classic symphony for concert band captures the spirit of Tolkien’s Middle Earth in five distinct movements.

*Symphony No. 1 “The Lord of the Rings”* is Johan de Meij’s first symphony, and won the Sudler Composition Award in 1989. It was written specifically for symphonic wind ensemble, although an orchestral version was also arranged and premiered in 2001. The music is based on the trilogy of the same title by J.R.R. Tolkien. These books have fascinated millions of readers since their publication in 1955. A recent movie trilogy contributed significantly to the story’s popularity. *Symphony No. 1 “The Lord of the Rings”* consists of five separate movements, each illustrating a character, a location, or an important event from the books.
Symphony No.1 “The Lord of the Rings”
de Meij (b. 1953) began his musical career at age 15, studying the trombone and euphonium in the Harmonie Forum Hadriani, a concert band in Voorburg, Netherlands. He received his musical education at The Royal Conservatory of Music at The Hague, studying trombone and conducting. After his graduation, he gained an international reputation as an arranger and composer. Besides Symphony No. 1 “The Lord of the Rings”, de Meij has written a number of other compositions, and is currently a trombonist in the De Volharding Orchestra.

Introduction of Characters and Plot:

Symphony No. 1 “The Lord of the Rings” is based on the series of books of the same name that were penned by J. R. R. Tolkien. Johan de Meij’s composition elegantly captures the epic plot that begins with the one evil ring that controls everything. The ring has been in the possession of the creature Gollum for a very long time, and it has consumed his mind and body. Gollum now yearns to reclaim the ring, which has fallen into the possession of Frodo, the Hobbit. Frodo and the Fellowship of the Ring, a group of Elves, Dwarfs, Men, and a wizard named Gandalf, resolve to destroy the Ring in order to save the world of Middle Earth. Gandalf the Wizard is the hope for the Fellowship, leading them through mystical and treacherous lands. Along their journey they travel through the great Mines of Moria, the once sacred home of the Dwarfs that is now overrun with Orks and the fiery Balrog, a demon from ancient times. As the Fellowship nears the end of the Mines, they arrive at the Bridge of Khazad-Dûm, where Gandalf battles the fierce Balrog and saves the Fellowship from certain doom. Their journey continues on through Lothlórien, the Elvenwood, where Frodo has frightening visions of his immediate future. After leaving this place of beauty, the Fellowship’s expedition continues on through formidable environments and many encounters with terrifying creatures. Frodo and his Fellowship of the Ring preserve and save Middle Earth, freeing the race of men from the evil Eye of Sauron. Upon completing their duty to destroy the Ring, the Hobbits finally return to their happy home in The Shire.

Movement 1: Gandalf

This movement musically portrays the wise and gracious wizard Gandalf, one of the principal characters of the trilogy. This magical wizard is the hope for the Fellowship of the Ring. The movement starts out with a marvelous fanfare, which recurs throughout Symphony No 1’s five movements as a tribute to Gandalf’s leadership, wisdom, and bravery. As the movement continues, another motif is introduced, this time depicting Gandalf riding on his magnificent horse, Shadowfax. The theme is passed between the sections of the ensemble, and the changing timbres represent the different places that Gandalf travels through on the glorious ride to save the lives of men.
Movement 2: Lothlórien

*Lothlórien*, the Elvenwood, is one of the homes to the elves, immortal, beautiful creatures with supernatural powers. Meaning “Dreamflower” in the Elvish language, *Lothlórien* is also known in common speak as “the Golden Wood” because of its golden mallorn-trees. A haven of peace isolated from the outside world, few have ever looked upon its beauty. The tranquil melodies of this movement reflect the peaceful beauty of *Lothlórien*. Sounds of exotic birds and plants and the running of a river can be heard throughout the movement, capturing the natural environment of the wooded Elven land. The meeting of the Hobbit Frodo with the Elven Queen Lady Galadriel is embodied in a charming Allegretto; in the Mirror of Galadriel, a silver basin in the wood, Frodo glimpses three visions, the last of which, a large ominous eye torments him.

Movement 3: Gollum

*Gollum* is a strange, mysterious creature. Having possessed for many years the One Ring, which extends immortality to its bearer, *Gollum* has lived far longer than nature intended. This has caused him great pain and misery. However, he still lusts for the Ring and cannot bear to see it in Frodo’s hands. He is a creature not to be trusted. Johan de Meij portrays *Gollum* through the solo clarinet. The disconnected, spontaneous movement of the melody shows *Gollum* to be not only quick, but also cunning. Through strange-sounding accompaniments and unpredictable silences that disfigure the music, it is easy to picture *Gollum* lurking in dark places, cursing and mumbling about his “precious” Ring, hissing and lisping, whining and snickering. As the movement progresses, the transformation that *Gollum* has undergone through his years with the Ring is revealed, leaving the listener with an image of an alternately pitiful and malicious creature.

Movement 4: Journey in the Dark

The beginning of this movement is haunted by the regular pulse of the timpani, which alludes to the rhythm of the footsteps of the Fellowship as they follow Gandalf the Wizard deeper and deeper into the dark tunnels of the *Mines of Moria*. The low brass, percussion and the piano further emulate the sense of dread and fear that is shared by the entire group on their laborious journey. After fleeing from hostile Orks, the Fellowship encounters the fiery Balrog on the *Bridge of Khazad-Dûm*. Gandalf battles the monstrous demon, urging his companions to flee, and crashes from the bridge into a fathomless abyss. A musical battle erupts as the conflict progresses, and a funeral march at the end of the movement conveys the heartbreaking outcome of the blazing combat, as the survivors grieve for Gandalf and search for the only way out of the *Mines*. 
Movement 5: Hobbits

The carefree life of the happy little Hobbits serves as inspiration for the musical theme of the fifth and final movement. This movement begins with Gandalf’s recurring fanfare, originally featured in the first movement. The music continues in celebration of the happy ending in the battle for Middle Earth. A high-spirited folk-dance melody creates a colorful portrait of Hobbits and their happy lives, followed by a hymn portraying their determination and noblesse. At the end of the fifth movement, the music refocuses to reflect the very peaceful and resigned mood as Frodo and Gandalf sail away on the final ship leaving Middle Earth to live eternally with the Elves in “The Grey Havens.”

Dr. Martin H. Seggelke

Guest Conductor and SFLGFB Artistic Director Candidate

Dr. Martin H. Seggelke is a member of the music faculty at the School of Music and Dance at San Francisco State University. He serves as Director of Wind Ensembles, conducting the SFSU Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds, leading the Master of Music program in Wind Conducting, and teaching undergraduate classes in conducting. In addition, he is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the San Francisco Wind Ensemble, a professional level wind ensemble in the Bay Area, and a member of the conducting faculty at the Performing Arts Institute at Wyoming Seminary and the SUNY Fredonia Summer Music Festival.

Prior to his appointment at San Francisco State University, Dr. Seggelke served as Music Department Chair and Director of Wind Ensembles at the University of Minnesota Morris. He previously taught conducting at the Eastman School of Music and served as Assistant to the Director of the Eastman Wind Ensemble and the Eastman Wind Orchestra. Dr. Seggelke holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music, where he worked with Mark Scatterday, Neil Varon, Brad Lubman, and Donald Hunsberger. He also completed a Master of Music in Conducting at SUNY Fredonia, a Diploma of Fine Arts in Conducting at the University of Calgary, and a Master of Music in Music Education and a Master of Science in Geography at the University of Bremen, Germany.
MUSICIANS

PICCOLO
Taka Aoki
Ruth Keys
Julie Williamson

FLUTE
Taka Aoki
David Doan
Victoria Evans
Ruth Keys
Jason LeBrun
Michelle Sepe
Julie Williamson

OBOE
Keith Sklower
Stardust

ENGLISH HORN
Stardust

Bb CLARINET
Patty Cummings
Lee Francke
Nina Gannes
Kathy Hennig
Katie Krolikowski
Doug Litwin
Danessa Miller
Donella Olsen
Craig Peck
Chauncey Roach
Jerry Wright

BASS CLARINET
Wes Asakawa

CONTRA BASS CLARINET
Jeff Bowles

BASSOON
Ron Hermenau
Barbara Jones
Lukas Prassinos
Sheldon Stewart

SOPRANO SAXOPHONE
Dave Slattengren

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Guy Danus
Dave Slattengren

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Wes Kashiwagi
Dave Slattengren

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
David Tucker

FRENCH HORN
Kathleen Flanagan
Tyler Fong
Bruce Sinor
Baz Wenger
Mike Wong

TRUMPET
Heidi Beeler
Bradley Connlain
Sue Leonardi
Erin Luther
Daniel Minjares
Ginnie Padgett
Alejandro Rios
Michael Sese

MAREK SZESZYCKI
DANNY WEINSTEIN

TROMBONE
Billy Green
Mark Narins
Tim Phelan

EUPHONIUM
Suz Houghton
David Smith
Kevin Tam

TUBA
Michael L. Mehr
Dan Priven
Jacky Quan

PERCUSSION
June Bonacich
Sally Canjura-Clayton
Gary Cozzi
Richard Gibson
Linda Hitchcock
Cynthia Seagren
Gary Sponholtz
Katie Steele
Linda Werner

STRING BASS
Martin Thoolen

PIANO
Leigh Korn
ABOUT THE BAND

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is the first openly gay music organization on earth, inspiring the formation of social activist lesbian and gay bands, choruses and performing troupes around the world. Founded in 1978 by Jon Sims at the height of Anita Bryant’s anti-gay crusade, the Band debuted by marching behind Supervisor Harvey Milk’s convertible in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. The Band has been making music to build understanding between gay and non-gay communities for 35 years, and celebrates its 35th anniversary this season. Each year, the 70-piece wind ensemble performs its Community Concert Series, an award-winning series featuring challenging wind ensemble music and culminating in the Band’s wacky holiday production, the Dance-Along Nutcracker®. The Band also performs at a variety of parades, pep band events and civic events.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Through Seneca Falls, Selma & Stonewall
Friday, May 31  Conducted by Pete Nowlen

2013 Annual Pride Concert: Ripped From the Headlines
Saturday, June 22  Conducted by Bradley Connlain

Presenting the SFLGFB’s New Artistic Director
Friday, September 20

2013 Dance-Along Nutcracker®
Saturday, December 14 & Sunday December 15
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Mike Wong

Librarians
Kevin Tam
Mike Wong
Baz Wenger

Logistics
Barbara Jones

Publicity
Heidi Beeler
Bonnie Chen
Tyler Fong
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Danny Weinstein

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The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is proud to be sponsored in part by the Grants for the Arts of the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, Jon Sims Endowment Fund for the Performing Arts, SF LGBT Pride Committee, Betty’s List, Cummings Properties and Castro Lions Club.

Visit us at www.SFLGFB.org