Notes from the PEACE CORPS

Knuth Music Hall
San Francisco State University

March 19, 2022
3pm
Notes from the Peace Corps

Hands Across the Sea
John Philip Sousa

State Anthem of Ukraine
“The Glory & Freedom of Ukraine Has Not Yet Perished”
Music by Mykhailo Verbytsky; Lyrics by Pavlo Chubynsky

On The Steppes of Central Asia
Alexander Borodin; Transcribed by Randy Navarre

Canton Folk Song Suite
Traditional; Arranged by Jack Loh

Lesotho Variations
Featured Soloist: Carlos McMillan Fuentes
Daniel Carr

Intermission

Peruvian Fanfare No. 1
Antonio Gervasoni

Folksong of Midu
Li Chan

Persian Dance No. 2
Amir Molookpour

Danza Final (Malambo)
from Estancia Dances
Alberto Ginastera; Arranged by David John

Zacatecas
Genaro Codina; Arranged by Andrew Glover
**Artistic Notes**

**Hands Across the Sea**  
*John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)*
Premiering in 1899, the march was addressed to no particular nation, but to all of America’s friends abroad. Sousa was inspired by a line by John Hookham Frere which was printed on the front cover of the music, “A sudden thought strikes me…. Let us swear an eternal friendship.”

— *John Philip Sousa: A Descriptive Catalog of His Works*

**On the Steppes of Central Asia**  
*Alexander Borodin (1833-1887)*
In the silence of the monotonous steppes of Central Asia is heard the unfamiliar sound of a peaceful Russian song. From the distance we hear the approach of horses and camels and the bizarre and melancholy notes of an oriental melody. A caravan approaches, escorted by soldiers, and continues safely on its way through the immense desert. It disappears slowly. The notes of the Russian and Asiatic melodies join in a common harmony, which dies away as the caravan disappears in the distance.

**Canton Folk Song Suite**  
*Traditional; Arranged by Jack Loh (b. 1987)*

**Merry-Go-Round** A youngster would prefer to go play and spin in the garden rather than to go with their parents to see the Dragon Boats during the Dragon Boat Festival.

**Heavy Rain** A pair of children selling their family wares in a rainstorm focus happily on the brightly colored shoes & clothing of the young girl.

**Take a Bath** A simple song encouraging bathing.

**Moonlight Lullaby** A lullaby in which an older family member sings fondly to a young sibling to hurry and grow up to help with the family’s workload. This song dates back 1000 years to the Song & Ming Dynasties.

**Finale** A closing movement integrating all the song melodies into a rousing finale. The piece closes with the intonation of “gaii gong laam,” a familiar call of street vendors of “rooster olives.”
Lesotho Variations
Daniel Carr (b. 1972; Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, Lesotho, 1995-1997)

Twelve Variations based on the National Anthem of Lesotho. The composer lived in Lesotho from 1995-1997 as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Each variation is based on a scene from Lesotho; some are everyday activities such as plowing fields or looking out over the mountains. The earlier variations are more light-hearted than the later variations which grow in intensity. The variations are:

1. Mountains
2. Old Man Looking at Mountains
3. Herdboy Playing Pipe In Field
4. Plowing Field as Storm Approaches
5. Children Chasing Chicken
6. Drunken Men Fighting At Bar
7. Witchdoctor
8. Chief Struggles With New World
9. Sun Hardens Ground: Drought
10. War
11. AIDS
12. Mountains Remain

Peruvian Fanfare No. 1
Antonio Gervasoni (b. 1973)

This work is based on two traditional dances from the coast of Peru: The Marinera and the Festejo.

Folksong of Midu
Li Chan (b. 1981)

This composition is based on an old tune of Southwest China. Midu County is in the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture located in west-central Yunnan Province.

Persian Dance No. 2
Amir Molookpour

Persian Dance No. 2 uses some of the peculiarities of the Persian traditional and folkloristic music with a mixture of various rhythmic and structural approaches. Iranian composer Amir Molookpour uses traditional Persian scales with a strong tendency towards the creation of melodies in the same way used by the Iranian composers of the traditional music in past centuries. This strong emphasis on traditional melody is joined with Western compositional techniques.
Danza Final (Malambo) *from* Estancia Dances

**Alberto Ginastera (1916-1983)**

Ginastera’s 1941 Ballet *Estancia* is based on a poem of José Hernández documenting the Gaucho life and the challenges to their rural life created by military and political struggles and urbanization. The *Danza Final* encapsulates the spirit and rhythm of the malambo. The highly syncopated patterns evoke the sharp gestures involving hands and feet, all leading to a wild conclusion.

---

**Zacatecas**

**Genaro Codina (1852-1901)**

In 1891, Fernando Villalpando, Municipal Band Conductor of Zacatecas, decided to sponsor a march composition contest during a gathering of musicians at his home. Both Villalpando and his brother-in-law Genaro Codina (using his faithful harp) worked tirelessly on their manuscripts, and while Villalpando’s march was described as “beautiful” by the other musicians, Codina won the contest. His brother-in-law exhibited his good sportsmanship not only by premiering the work, but also by assisting with the arrangement. Soon after, it was performed by the largest bands in the cities as well as by every conceivable type of ensemble in the villages. *Zacatecas* has become Mexico’s “second national anthem.”

---

**Help Support the NorCalPCA Afghan Refugee Fund**

Approximately 80,000 people from Afghanistan arrived in the U.S. shortly before, during, and after the fall of the Afghan government on August 15, 2021. The majority arrived in the U.S. at military bases, and the resettlement agencies working with the federal government are overwhelmed. In all communities, affordable housing is an enormous challenge. Despite this challenge, hundreds of families have arrived and continue to come to Northern California because of the well-established Afghan communities here. **That is why NorCalPCA is involved.**

NorCalPCA is collaborating with Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) in resettling one or more of these families in Northern California. **We aim to raise $5,000** to assist JFCS in resettling Afghan families here in the Bay Area.

[Click Here to Donate]

https://tinyurl.com/NorCalPCAFund
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Pete Nowlen

FLUTE
Taka Aoki
Travis Hatfield
Sadie Hewitt
Ruth Keys
Julie Williamson
Sarah Winer

OBOE
Chris Hewes
Keith Sklower

ENGLISH HORN
Keith Sklower

CLARINET
Keith Cantrelle
Sarah Cassidy
Kate Foust
Kathy Hennig
Doug Litwin
Emily Vogelsperger

BASSOON
Barbara Jones

BASS CLARINET
Moira Wilmes

SOPRANO SAXOPHONE
Rene Caparros

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Rene Caparros
Brandon Moss

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Pedro Acevedo
Chris Mills
Jessica Quiroga

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Scott Shelp

HORN
Rebecca Holm
Steven Keys
Bruce Sinor
Mike Wong
Jonathan Young

EUPHONIUM
Adrian Quince

TUBA
Michael Mehr

STRING BASS
Susanne DiVincenzo

PERCUSSION
Shannon Aquino
Gary Cozzi
Linda Hitchcock
Jessica Quiroga
Cynthia Seagren
Neila Waters
Linda Werner

Guest Soloist

Carlos McMillan Fuentes  Piano

Carlos McMillan Fuentes is an African-American composer, classically-trained pianist, and singer-songwriter. He composed his first opus for piano in 2001 — and ten years later completed his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Composition with a focus in Piano Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

He has appeared in concert with the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera, the Symphony d’Oro (Rancho Cordova) with whom he serves as composer-in-residence, and the Camellia Symphony Orchestra. In 2018, his piano-clarinet duo “Carlos & Brennen” won first prize in the Chamber Music Group C at the Golden Classical Music Awards. As part of their prize, the Golden Classical Music Awards invited Carlos & Brennen to perform at Carnegie Hall (March 18, 2018) in New York City, New York.
San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band is the first openly-gay musical organization in the world, inspiring the formation of LGBTQ+ bands, choruses, and performing groups around the globe.

Founded in 1978 by Jon Sims at the height of Anita Bryant’s anti-gay crusade, the Band has made music to build understanding among communities of all sexual orientations and identities for more than four decades. In recognition of the Band’s 40th Anniversary in 2018, the City of San Francisco approved an ordinance proclaiming the Band as “The Official Band of San Francisco!”

Founded in 1982, NorCalPCA fosters a lifelong commitment to Peace Corps ideals by connecting, engaging, and promoting its members as they continue to make a difference in communities in California and around the world. NorCalPCA provides care packages to Californians currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers, awards grants for projects all across the globe, hosts send-off events for Peace Corps Invitees, and coordinates events and services for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

As a member group of the National Peace Corps Association, NorCalPCA is also dedicated to advocating for, contributing to, and supporting the betterment of the Peace Corps.
Today’s performance is presented free of charge thanks to generous donations & grants provided by:

Jesse Schofield

Northern California Peace Corps Association