

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

IMANI WINDS

Friday, February 15 – 7:30 PM

Benjamin Franklin Hall, American Philosophical Society

PROGRAM *(Selection of Program Notes)*

Quintet for Winds

John Harbison

Born: December 20, 1938, in Orange, NJ

Composed: 1979

Duration: 25 minutes

I was determined to deal in mixtures rather than counterpoints, and to strive for a classical simplicity of surface—to maximize what I felt to be the great strength of the combination, the ability to present things clearly. The piece especially emphasizes mixtures and doublings and maintains a classically simple surface. It is extremely challenging to play, and one of the principal rewards of the piece has been the opportunity to work with a number of resourceful, inquisitive, and fearless wind players in the mutually beneficial expansion of their repertory.

—John Harbison

La Nouvelle-Orléans

Lalo Schifrin

Born: June 21, 1932, in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Composed: 1987

Duration: 9 minutes

La Nouvelle-Orléans is among several compositions by Schifrin in which European derived compositional techniques are employed to juxtapose a sort of elaborated primitivism with what he called "universal thoughts." The work ruminates on the principle of renewal, as verbally expressed by the Chinese philosopher and founder of Taoism, Lao-Tsu (*Be worn and you will remain new*), by the prominent astronomer Carl Sagan (*Death is the secret of evolution*), and in an old New Orleans saying (*Eleven macks a-riding to the graveyard but only ten a-coming back*). The title symbolizes the advent of the new emerging from the old.

Six Bagatelles

György Ligeti

Born: May 28, 1923 in Târnăveni, Romania

Died: June 12, 2006, in Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1953

Duration: 12 minutes

No less than 16 years after their completion (Ligeti had meanwhile emigrated to the West and was already regarded as a prominent composer), the Six Bagatelles for Wind Quintet were first performed by the Stockholm Wind Quintet, and since then they have remained a highlight of the repertoire for all ambitious wind quintets, attesting to the cycle's brilliant originality. Each movement inhabits its own world in terms of structure and hidden associations.

Tzigane

Valerie Coleman

Born: in 1970, in Louisville, KY

Composed: 2011

Duration: 11 minutes

Tzigane (not to be confused with Ravel's famous violin work of the same name) is a new work for wind quintet by Valerie Coleman that celebrates the virtuosity of each member within the ensemble. Written in the fall of 2011, Coleman was inspired by two occurrences: Imani Winds' collaboration with Palestinian oud player Simon Shaheen, and her recent completion of *ROMA*, a work for wind ensemble celebrating the culture of the Romani people (commonly referred to as 'gypsies'). The work itself represents the third installment within a series inspired by the combination of Romani and Middle Eastern styles, the first two being a nonet for wind quintet and strings, and the previously mentioned wind ensemble.