WALNUT CREEK CONCERT BAND

presents

HANDS ACROSS THE SEA A Musical Salute to Walnut Creek's Sister Cities

NOCETO, ITALY AND SIOFOK, HUNGARY



Harvey Benstein, Music Director and Conductor Johnny Johnson, Assistant Conductor Monday, March 8, 2010 - 7:30PM Lesher Center for the Arts, Hofmann Theater Ronald Garrison, Narrator Douglas Monroe, Guest Artist



Tonight's performance is made possible through the support of a Walnut Creek Civic Pride Grant and the Walnut Creek Sister Cities Exchange Program

Italian National Anthem Hungarian National Anthem Stars Spangled Banner

Caderna, Italian March

Prelude to Act I of La Traviata

"Nessun Dorma" from Turandot

L'Inglesina "The Little English Girl"

Introduction, Theme and Variations

Michele Novaro (1822-1885) Ferenc Erkel (1810-1893) Francis Scott Key

A. D'Arcangelo, edited by Arnald Gabriel

Giuseppe Verdi, arranged by Leonard Falcone

Giacomo Puccini, arranged by Jay Bocook

D. Delle Cese

Gioachino Rossini edited by David Glazer arranged by Ralph Hermann

Dr. Douglas Monroe, Clarinet

Intermission

Puszta: Four Gypsy Dances

Jan Van der Roost

Roumanian Folk Dances

Bela Bartok, arranged by Bruce R. Smith

Hungarian Dance No. 2

Franz Lizst

Éljen A Magyar (Hail to Hungary) polka schnell for orchestra, op. 332

Johann Strauss, Jr. transcribed by Scott Lubaroff

Hands Across the Sea

John Philip Sousa

Douglas Monroe has enjoyed a varied and exciting career as both clarinetist and conductor. His



performances have taken him to forty-seven states, Canada, and nine European countries, where he has performed at venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Royal Albert Hall in London, and the Schauspielhaus in Berlin.

In 1987, he was appointed principal clarinetist of the Arizona Opera. Following his tenure there, Monroe spent three years with the United States Army Field Band in Washington, D.C., the Army's premier touring ensemble. While there, he was a

frequent featured soloist, including concerto performances at the Chatauqua Institute, the Interlochen Center for the Arts, Music Hall in Cincinnati, and Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Dallas. Over the past seventeen years, Monroe has been a conductor, and clarinetist in various United States Air Force Bands, winning awards for his example of musical excellence. He has also performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Aspen Festival Orchestra, the Coronado Trio, Los Vientos Wind Quintet, and the Kalamos Clarinet Quartet. His performances have garnered acclaim from reviewers around the country. The Green Valley (AZ) News wrote, "Monroe was flawless in his technique, impeccable in his intonation, and dramatic in his interpretation." The Lancaster (OH) Eagle-Gazette said, "In one word, Monroe was inspiring." The Lima (OH) News reported, "His playing was serious. Monroe's fingers never missed a note."

As a conductor of Air Force bands, Monroe led over five hundred performances and conducted on six compact disc recordings. His eight wind band commissions have included composers Adam Gorb and Michael Gandolfi. Monroe has produced chamber music recordings for *Klavier*, over thirty recordings for the United States Air Force, and has appeared as clarinetist on four commercial compact discs. Most recently, he commissioned Hollywood film composer George Roumanis to write *The Seven Ages of Man; A Tone Poem for Clarinet and Piano*. In 2010, Monroe will premier and record Michael Gandolfi's *Serenade for Clarinet and Wind Ensemble* with the New England Conservatory's *Jordan Winds*.

Monroe's teachers have included James Pyne, Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr, Charles West, Joaquin Valdepeñas, and Leon Russianoff. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Ohio State University, a Master of Music from the University of Arizona, and a Bachelor of Music from Michigan State University. Additionally, he has studied at the Manhattan School of Music and the Aspen Music Festival. Dr. Monroe is the professor of clarinet at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND.

Conductors . . .

Harvey Benstein has served as Music Director and Conductor of the Walnut Creek Concert Band since



1998. Trained and educated in Michigan, Maestro Benstein has devoted his career to music education teaching in the public schools of Michigan, then training teachers and conductors at The Ohio State University in Columbus, McNeese State University in Louisiana and at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Benstein was the music director and conductor of the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra (a regional community orchestra) from 1999–2007 and is

the director of instrumental music at Campolindo High School in Moraga, developing one of the outstanding music programs in Northern California. Maestro Benstein maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor, clinician and teacher recently conducting in Oahu, Hawaii and Lecturing at the Capitol Section California Music Educators Association Fall Conference. He will join the faculty of the Donner Mine Music Camp this summer conducting the high school Symphonic Band. He has conducted in such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, Sydney (Australia) Town Hall and Sydney Opera House, and Cappella Hall, St. Petersburg, Russia. Ensembles under his direction have toured Europe, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and Russia.

O. L. (Johnny) Johnson, IV is a graduate of McNeese State University, where, studying with Harvey



Benstein, he earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree. He is also a graduate of Sacramento State University where, studying with Dr. Robert Halseth, he earned a Master of Music degree in conducting. He is currently the Director of Instrumental Music at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill where he oversees the musical growth of three wind bands, two jazz bands, and a symphony orchestra. In 2005, Mr. Johnson led the College Park Wind Ensemble in a Silver Award performance at the

Pacific Basin Music Festival and in a Gold Award performance at the DC Band and Orchestra Festival in the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2007. The Wind Ensemble also completed a very successful performance tour of Chicago in April 2009. The jazz program is very active, having received high placements at both the Folsom and Reno Jazz Festivals and a Unanimous Superior rating at the 2010 CMEA Jazz Festival. In 2011, the College Park Symphony Orchestra will perform in Carnegie Hall as part of the New York International Music Festival.

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*denotes Section Leaders

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- Sally Johnson
- Michele Thompson

Web site: Hal Engel, David Stodola Graphic Design: Joe Simon

Membership in the Walnut Creek Concert Band is open to adult musicians from the greater Walnut Creek area. If you are interested in becoming part of the band, contact our personnel manager, Johnny Johnson.

> email: walnutcreekband@gmail.com website: www.walnutcreekband.org PO Box 5541, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-1541

Become a patron of The Walnut Creek Concert Band.

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MAY 31, 10 AM ~ MEMORIAL DAY CIVIC REMBERANCE, CIVIC PARK JULY 4TH, 6 PM ~ PARKONCERT AT CIVIC PARK

Wednesday, July 21, 2010, 7:30pm ~ Stars, Stripes and Sousa, LESHER ARTS CENTER

Internationally renowned conductor, Keith Brion, presents an action packed program in the style of John Philip Sousa: marches, overtures and world-class soloists.

