



Humboldt Bay Brass Band

conducted by Gilbert Cline

Friday April 2, 2004

Prelude (1971) Edward Gregson

Moorside Suite (1928) Gustav Holst

- I - Allegro
- II - Nocturne
- III - March

Fantasy on British Sea Songs (1969) Gordon Langford

Ravenswood March William Rimmer

-- Intermission --

Helden und Krieger (Heroes and Warriors) Rodney Newton

Moon River Henry

Mancini arranged by Don

Morrison

Cousins (duet for cornet and trombone) Herbert L. Clarke

Chris Cox, cornet

Bodie Pfost, trombone

Blenheim Flourishes (1986) James Curnow

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PROGRAM NOTES

The **Gregson** Prelude for an Occasion is a single movement work which begins as an orchestral-type fanfare, with cornets (serving as trumpets), trombones, and percussion. Among the primary and secondary themes there are solo bits for the main soloists in any brass band; the Solo 1st Cornet, the solo Euphonium, and the Eb Soprano Cornet.

The main work of the concert, and the first concert work we read this semester, is that programmed here in 1977. Moorside Suite was written by **Holst** in 1928 as the test piece for the national championships that year. (At the Championships then, as now, each competing band plays the same work; the audience, and the judges -- who are enclosed in a visually screened fabric box, sides and top -- hear the same piece all day long. One gets to hear the subtle contrasts between bands, and of course the judges are not influenced by what, or who, they see.) Holst was already known for his orchestral work The Planets; in the wind band (those bands having woodwinds!) world in the US he is known for his two suites (in Eb and in F) for "military" band. Moorside has a classic order of three movements: fast - slow - fast. As far as we know, the themes are original.

Langford has composed and arranged many works for brass band; insofar as we here reside so close to the ocean it only seemed fitting to program this work. The themes, in order, are: "A - roving" -- "Drummer and the Cook" -- "Blow the Man Down" -- "We're All Bound to Go" -- "What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor" -- and, "Sailor's Hornpipe."

Closing the first half of our concert is Ravenswood March, perhaps the most British of the band works on the program tonight. **Rimmer** was a solo cornetist in the 1880s, and was from a banding family; his father was bandmaster of the Southport Rifle Band. Rimmer later was a conductor, too, and had championship bands from 1905 - 1909.

Helden und Kreiger (Heroes & Warriors) is a serious sounding work by **Newton** which serves as a long fanfare. Making good use of timpani and percussion, it also treats the pairs of basses (tubas) in very low pitches; sometimes in octaves, sometimes in fifths.

Moon River by **Mancini** is one of those great American melodies, and some will recall it from the film "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Note the use of a unique kind of mute for cornets!

The second of our American pieces is that by **Clarke**, a leading cornet soloist of the turn of the century (1900!) respected 'round the world to this day for his books still used by trumpeters. **Cousins** features the cornet and its cousin (an octave lower) the trombone.

Ending the concert (no encore tonight!) is the terrific (or to the players, terrifying!) Blenheim Flourishes. **Curnow** is an American who has captured the Brass Band essence in this work in the "home key" of Eb, a vivo/vivace tempo of 144 beats per minute, and flurries of 16th notes. We hope it carries you away, too !