

Half Moon at Checkerboard Mesa by Phillip Kent Bimstein (b. 1947)

The alternative classical music of environmentalist mayor and former MTV rocker **Phillip Kent Bimstein** has been performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Aspen Music Festival, American Dance Festival, and the Bang on a Can Festival. Bimstein has received grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, Meet The Composer, Continental Harmony, and Austria's Prix Ars Electronica. His CD, *Garland Hirschi's Cows*, released by Starkland, garnered rave reviews around the world. Bimstein has been featured on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," and in *Parade* and *Outside* magazines. Lately, Bimstein has been singing and writing songs for his acoustic quartet, blue haiku.

On a summer night several years ago, not far from my home in Southern Utah, an unsuspecting group of frogs sang by a slickrock waterhole up a narrow side canyon in Zion National Park. Little did they know their voices would soon be heard on concert stages all across the world and on the Internet. And they certainly never expected to share the bill with chirping crickets, howling coyotes, and a classical musician.

But I was hiding nearby and had stealthily placed a microphone and a digital recorder at the edge of the waterhole. I also recorded the sounds of coyotes, crickets, rocks, thunder, and the rushing waters of the Virgin River. After transferring these natural sounds into my computer, I shaped and arranged them on my synthesizer keyboard. Finally, I orchestrated the sounds into a piece of music for tape, and wrote an accompanying score for a live musician to interact with the natural sounds. - Phillip Kent Bimstein

Bimstein composed *Half Moon at Checkerboard Mesa* as a part of his three-year *Meet The Composer* residency, which celebrates the landscapes of Southern Utah. It was originally written for Sierra Winds' oboist Stephen Caplan, who premiered the work in Las Vegas, Nevada in 1997. Bimstein arranged *Half Moon at Checkerboard Mesa* for clarinet for Michael Dean in 1998. Dean recorded *Half Moon at Checkerboard Mesa* on his *Red Mesa Trio* CD – available at vcisinc.com. The work has also been arranged for other solo instruments such as horn, trombone, bassoon, flute, and violin.

The sheet music and CD accompaniment for *Half Moon at Checkerboard Mesa* are available from the composer at www.bimstein.com.

Florida Tour 2009 Program Notes

Summer Sunrise on the Mississippi by Robert Fruehwald (b. 1957)

There is an eloquence of silence...
There is a haunting sense of loneliness...
The tranquility is profound, infinitely satisfying.

That is all beautiful, soft and rich and beautiful,
A pink flush, a powder of gold, a purple haze.

from *Life on the Mississippi* by Mark Twain

I teach music composition and theory at Southeast Missouri State University. Every day, when walking home, I would see a glint of blue through the trees on the horizon. For many months, I thought I was seeing the sky. Then, one day, I saw a stern-wheel steamboat squarely in the middle of that patch of blue - what I had been seeing was the Mississippi River. Every day after that, I would watch the river and observe its moods. It's been my daily companion ever since.

Recently, our music department at Southeast Missouri moved from the main university campus to a new one on the banks of the Mississippi. Now I observe the river up close. I see different things every day.

I decided to write a piece about the river, a piece that expresses its mood on a warm day, early in the morning, just as my own day would begin. I looked to Mark Twain for some lyrics and found a suitable passage in his *Life on the Mississippi*. I thought Twain's words would make a great basis for a song, and I think that someday they will; however, instead of a vocal work they inspired me to write an instrumental solo: *Summer Sunrise on the Mississippi*.
- Robert Fruehwald

Summer Sunrise on the Mississippi was commissioned by clarinetist Michael Dean. This tour features the premiere of the work. It will be on the upcoming CD, *Woodwind Music of Robert Fruehwald* – available at cdbaby.com for purchase and digital download in summer 2010.

The sheet music and CD accompaniment for *Summer Sunrise on the Mississippi* are available from the composer at rfruehwald@semo.edu.

***Terpsichore* by Robert Fruehwald**

Composer and teacher **Robert Fruehwald** (b. 1957) grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, where he played flute in the Louisville Youth Orchestra. He attended the University of Louisville, where he received a BM degree in composition (with honors). While in Louisville, he studied composition with Nelson Keyes, Claude Baker and Dan Welcher, and flute with Francis Fuge. He earned his MFA degree at the California Institute of the Arts, studying with Mel Powell, Morton Subotnick and Leonard Rosenman.

He returned to the Midwest to work on a Ph.D. at Washington University in St. Louis. There, he studied under Robert Wykes and finished his doctorate degree in 1985. Before accepting a teaching position in the late 1980s, Dr. Fruehwald developed a series of computer programs to print musical examples for scholarly journals and books. In 1989, he took a teaching position at Southeast Missouri State University. He served as chair of the Department of Music from 1995-2000. He is currently Professor of Music Theory and Composition.

Dr. Fruehwald's recent compositions include instrumental works for large ensemble, chamber groups, and solo performers. He has also recently written music for children and for dance. His music has been performed at National Flute Association Conventions and on the St. Louis Symphony Discovery Series. The Missouri Music Teachers Association named him "Composer of the Year" in 1997. Robert Fruehwald's professional web page is www.semo.edu/music/faculty/index_5192.htm.

***Terpsichore, A Quodlibet on Melodies by Michael Praetorius for Solo Clarinet* by Robert Fruehwald** was commissioned by Michael Dean and his wife to celebrate the birth of their daughter. Michael Dean premiered the work at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri in February of 2003.

Terpsichore, by Michael Praetorius, is the quintessential collection of Renaissance dance music. It contains dances that were extremely well known in their own time and that are still widely performed today. This quodlibet combines three of these dances: a Bransle, a Bouree, and a Volte. - Robert Fruehwald

Terpsichore is on Michael Dean's new CD, *Desertscape: New Music for Clarinet* –available at cdbaby.com, iTunes.com, and Amazon.com. The music for *Terpsichore* is available from the composer at rfruehwald@semo.edu.

***Andy and Me* by Robert Fruehwald**

Andy and Me was commissioned by Michael Dean. He premiered the work at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri in December of 2006.

Andy and Me is a whimsical look at the relationship between Mike and the newest addition to his family, Andy. The sounds on the CD accompaniment represent (and feature) Andy in a kind of conversation with the clarinet music played by Mike. - Robert Fruehwald

Andy and Me is on Michael Dean's new CD, *Desertscape: New Music for Clarinet* – available at cdbaby.com, iTunes.com, and Amazon.com. The sheet music and CD accompaniment for *Andy and Me* are available from the composer at rfruehwald@semo.edu.

***September* by Jeffrey Hoover (b. 1959)**

Jeffrey Hoover's work - ranging from compositions for soloist to symphony orchestra - has been recognized through national and international awards, grants, fellowships, and over twenty commissions. Also a visual artist, he is known for creating unique interdisciplinary works where he combines his paintings with his compositions. Recognized for distinguished achievement as a composer, he is a member of the ACME roster of Mu Phi Epsilon. Dr. Hoover is Associate Dean of Arts and Communications at Illinois Central College, East Peoria, Illinois.

September was commissioned by Michael Dean. He premiered the work at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York in April of 2007.

September has always been a month of change and transition - a time when nature embraces both summer and fall, and life unfolds in new ways for individuals and society. The music of *September* is set in two related and contrasting sections: music of thoughtful reflection and music of engaging the present. The sound and music of *September* possess an autumnal quality spanning the psychological and emotional gap between the sound of memories and the music of now.
- Jeffrey Hoover

September is on Michael Dean's new CD, *Desertscape: New Music for Clarinet* – available at cdbaby.com, iTunes.com, and Amazon.com. The sheet music and CD accompaniment for *September* are available from the composer at jeffrey.hoover@comcast.net.