

Welcome

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY

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NEC Wind Ensemble

Charles Peltz, conductor

with

NEC Tango Ensemble

Delfina Cheb Terrab, director

NEC Jewish Music Ensemble

Hankus Netsky, conductor

CMA Sacred Harp Singers

Eden MacAdam-Somer, director

Dr. Thomas Duffy, guest conductor

Michael Lewis '23 MM, conductor

A Valentine to CMA (Contemporary Musical Arts)

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Michael Gandolfi
(b. 1956)

Vientos y Tangos (2004)

NEC Tango Ensemble
Delfina Cheb Terrab, director

Hankus Netsky
(b. 1955)

Nonantum Bulgar (2013)

NEC Jewish Music Ensemble
Hankus Netsky, conductor

Joaquín Rodrigo
(1901-1999)

Adagio para Orquesta de Instrumentos de Viento (1966)

Michael Lewis'23 MM, conductor

Brief Intermission

Thomas Duffy
(b. 1955)

Three Places in New Haven: Concerto for Marimba and Wind Ensemble (for Robert Van Sice) (2001)

Castle in the Sky (Rollo Reads a Book)
The Long Wharf (Rollo Sails Away)
City Band March (Rollo Gets a Job)

Eli Geruschat, Ross Jarrell, Danial Kukuk,
soloists

Dr. Thomas Duffy, conductor

William Billings
(1746–1800)

When Jesus Wept
Chester

CMA Sacred Harp Singers
Eden MacAdam-Somer, director

William Schuman
(1910–1992)

from *New England Triptych* (1956)
When Jesus Wept
Chester

Charles Peltz, conductor

The NEC Wind Ensembles are first in line when given a chance to celebrate NEC musicians making music across disciplines. Today it is appropriate to send a valentine to our CMA colleagues, bringing together musicians of the Wind Ensemble and the CMA department to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the CMA department. We take the stage together to play Hankus Netsky's Klezmer *Nonantum Bulgar* and Gandolfi's landmark tango variations. Vocalists provide colonial New England shape note singing as prelude to Schuman's arrangements of the Bostonian Billing's hymns of religion and revolution. Composer and scholar Thomas Duffy joins us from Yale for his *sui generis* *Three Places in New Haven*. Rounding out the program is a touch of Spain in Rodrigo's touching *Adagio*.

The process in which we have delighted for the past weeks has been "very NEC": Netsky, Cheb Terrab, and Duffy bringing ideas from other "countries" in the world of music as we together tore down borders to explore this music.

– Charles Peltz

Gandolfi *Vientos y Tangos*

Vientos y Tangos (Winds and Tangos) was commissioned by the Frank L. Battisti 70th Birthday Commission Project and is dedicated to Frank Battisti in recognition of his immense contributions to the advancement of concert wind literature. It was Mr. Battisti's specific request that I write a tango for wind ensemble. In preparation for this piece, I devoted several months to the study and transcription of tangos from the early style of Juan D'arienzo and the "Tango Nievo" style of Astor Piazzolla to the current trend of "Disco/Techno Tango," among others. After immersing myself in this listening experience, I simply allowed the most salient features of these various tango to inform the direction of my work. The dynamic contour and the various instrumental combinations that I employ in the piece are all inspired by the traditional sounds of the bandoneon, violin, piano, and contrabass.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Battisti for his inspirational leadership as director of the New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble for over thirty years. I first heard Mr. Battisti's work when I was a student at NEC in the late 1970s. I was instantly moved by his high artistic standards, his ability to motivate young musicians, and the respect for composers, past and present, that he always eloquently expressed to his students. I would also like to thank Dr. Frederick Harris, Jr. for his professionalism, collegiality and adept work in organizing the commission project."

– Michael Gandolfi

Netsky *Nonantum Bulgar*

Nonantum Bulgar was commissioned by the American Composers forum in 2012 as part of their "BandQuest" series. ACF asked me to write a "klezmer-style" piece that could be played by a local middle-school band. Since my local middle school is located in close proximity to Nonantum, the oldest neighborhood in Newton, Massachusetts, I decided to imagine the celebratory Jewish music that might have been played by the klezmer band that led the parade down Adams Street, the "Main Street" of my neighborhood, in honor of the dedication of the Adams Street Shul, the

city's oldest synagogue, on December 15, 1912. As soon as we started rehearsing the piece, I became a major celebrity among the local middle-schoolers, who would gather after school let out at the Dunkin' Donuts that I frequented on most afternoons.

A *bulgar* is a popular dance most often associated with the city of Odessa in Southern Ukraine. This particular version of the dance begins with a rubato trumpet solo followed by a rhythmic trombone figure that leads into the dance section, which features a solo clarinet, the low brass, and a variety of percussion. Since the early 1980s NEC has been considered a pivotal force in the contemporary resurgence of Eastern European Jewish music, and I am delighted that, as part of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of NEC's Contemporary Musical Arts department, Charles Peltz has invited our department's Jewish Music Ensemble to join the conservatory's Wind Ensemble for tonight's performance of the piece.

– *Hankus Netsky*

A multi-instrumentalist, composer, and ethnomusicologist, Dr. **Hankus Netsky** is co-chair of New England Conservatory's Contemporary Musical Arts Department, founder and director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band, an internationally acclaimed Yiddish and Klezmer music ensemble, and former Vice President for Education at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. He has composed extensively for film, theater, and television, collaborated closely with Itzhak Perlman, Robin Williams, Joel Grey, Theodore Bikel, Robert Brustein, Eden MacAdam-Somer, composer and flutist Linda Chase, and former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, and produced numerous recordings, including ten by the Klezmer Conservatory Band. He has taught at McGill University, Hampshire College, Wesleyan University, and Hebrew College. His essays on Jewish music have been published by the University of California Press, the University of Pennsylvania Press, Indiana University Press, the University of Scranton Press, Hips Roads, and the University Press of America. Temple University Press published his book *Klezmer, Music and Community in 20th Century Jewish Philadelphia* in 2015.

Rodrigo *Adagio para Orquesta de Instrumentos de Viento*

Joaquín Rodrigo was a Spanish composer and pianist. A student of Paul Dukas, he is most known for raising the Spanish guitar to prominence as a concert instrument, writing several masterful works for the instrument and ensemble accompaniment. His *Adagio para Orquesta de Instrumentos de Viento*, or *Adagio for Orchestral Wind Instruments*, is his first and only commission for wind ensembles, written at the request of conductor Robert Bordreau and The American Symphony Wind Orchestra. It was written and premiered in 1966 and has since then become a standard work for ensembles of this specific instrumentation. The work is composed in an A-B-A-B-A, alternating between slow, serene sections consisting of virtuosic solos and Spanish-inspired melodies, to more frantic and bombastic sections consisting of sporadic passages and fanfares, ultimately leading to a nearly inaudible, tranquil close.

– *Michael Lewis*

Duffy *Three Places in New Haven*

Charles Ives (Yale '98) spent four years on the Yale campus in New Haven, CT, from 1894–1898. Many of the places that he frequented are still intact. Each movement of this concerto addresses one particular place in New Haven. Each is frequented or visited by “Rollo”, Ives’ fictional character of lowest-common denominator aesthetic sophistication and taste.

I. Castle in the Sky (Rollo Reads a Book)

Castle in the Sky. The stone masons who built Yale’s library fashioned the air vents on the roof into a miniature medieval castle, complete with flying buttresses and cobbled walls. From some distance, one can see this castle, perched curiously on the top of a ten-story building. In this movement, one hears the opening bustle of students scurrying to class. The motives are made of Charles Ives’ name through the ancient technique of *soggetto cavato* (carved subject). C = c, H = b, A = a, R = re = d, L = la = a, E = e, S = Eb, and I = ti = b. But, in the library, Rollo has a very short attention span, and he daydreams. He wonders why he studies at all—what’s the use? (The metaphysical question is presented by the trumpet—in the style of a question that ‘goes unanswered.’) Rollo fantasizes that a military maneuver is taking place in the castle in the sky—one hears the sounds of percussion marching troops here and there. The solo marimba attempts to “question” Rollo’s daydream, and things end with neither an answer to the question nor a firm sense of whether the dream is real or the reality a dream.

II. The Long Wharf (Rollo Sails Away)

The Long Wharf. Rollo opts to spend Sunday morning not in church, but sailing off the Long Wharf in the New Haven bay. The sun comes up on the peaceful waters of the harbor and Rollo floats about in a state of blissful detachment. Rollo dozes on the boat, here and there one (and perhaps he) hears the sounds of the church service – the hymn that wafts out over the harbor contains a message—it is *Wachet Auf* (Sleepers Wake!).

III. City Band March (Rollo Gets a Job)

City Band March is homage to Charles Ives’ 1903 *Country Band March*. This march follows the form of its country cousin, including a da capo exposition and a coda, in which things become complicated. Rollo works in a factory, and dreams throughout the workday of the pleasant train ride home to the country. He himself is a mass product; he dresses like everyone else, he rides the train in like everyone else, he repeats the same task all day like everyone else, and at day’s end, he joins the long trudging line of automatons as the masses move in synchronicity, coming and going to their assigned jobs (here their robot-like cadence, two quarter-notes, two eighth-notes, and one quarter note!). Does the piece end with Rollo boarding a train that

increasingly speeds him home, or is it his imagination—the acceleration representing his increasing desperation to be out of the factory and on his own? You decide.

– Thomas Duffy

Thomas Duffy is Professor (Adjunct) of Music and Director of University Bands at Yale University; where he has worked since 1982. In 2017, he was appointed Clinical Professor in the Yale School of Nursing. He has established himself as a composer, a conductor, a teacher, an administrator, and a leader. His compositions have introduced a generation of school musicians to aleatory, the integration of spoken/sung words and “body rhythms” with instrumental performance, and the pairing of music with political, social, historical and scientific themes. He has been awarded the Yale Tercentennial Medal for Composition, the Elm/ Ivy Award, the Yale School of Music Cultural Leadership Citation and certificates of appreciation by the United States Attorney’s Office for his “Yale 4/Peace: Rap for Justice” concerts—music programs designed for social impact by using the power of music to deliver a message of peace and justice to impressionable middle and high school students.

From 1996 to 2006, he served as associate, deputy and acting dean of the Yale School of Music. He has served as a member of the Fulbright National Selection Committee, the Tanglewood II Symposium planning committee, the Grammy Foundation Music Educators Award Screening Committee, and completed the MLE program at the Harvard University Institute for Management and Leadership in Education.

He has served as: president of the Connecticut Composers Inc., the New England College Band Directors Association and the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA); editor of the CBDNA Journal, publicity chair for the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles; and chair of the Connecticut Music Educators Association’s Professional Affairs and Government Relations committees. For nine years, he represented music education in Yale’s Teacher Preparation Program. He is a member of American Bandmasters Association, American Composers Alliance, the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, Connecticut Composers Incorporated, the Social Science Club, and BMI. Duffy has conducted ensembles all over the world and was selected to conduct the 2011 NAFME National Honor Band in the Kennedy Center, Washington, D. C.

Billings *Chester; When Jesus Wept*

Contemporary Bostonians think of ourselves as marching in the forefront of battles for good. Even as we may be, we are pale imitations of those Bostonians of 1775 who marched to that “rude bridge that arched the flood”, inspired by the music of a one-eyed, gimpy tanner named William Billings.

The song *Chester* was written in 1770 by Billings, then Boston’s premier musician, and was one of many songs Billings wrote in support of the American Revolution. These songs (along with his marriage to the daughter of one of George Washington’s officers) provide sufficient evidence that Billings was not only a master tunesmith in the roughcut style of the American colonies, but was a patriotic

supporter of the cause of American independence and democracy. This is clearest in *Chester's* first and fourth verses:

Let tyrants shake their iron rod
And slav'ry Clank her galling Chains;
We fear them not; we trust in God —
New-England's God forever reigns.

The Foe comes on with haughty Stride,
Our troops advance with martial noise;
Their Vet'rans flee before our Youth,
And Gen'als yield to beardless Boys.

Billing's *When Jesus Wept* is a round to be sung by congregants as a devotional; a reminder of the tragic end of the Passion with its painful death necessary for the Resurrection.

When Jesus wept, the falling tear
In mercy flowed beyond all bound;
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear
Seized all the guilty world around.

Colonial music had its rough edges in composition and in performance the roughness was heard through distinctive shape note singing. Yet roughness did not preclude multi-part sophistication. The hymn and fuguing tune was a colonial staple, with a first part in homophony followed by the kind of polyphony heard in *When Jesus Wept*.

Schuman *New England Triptych*

William Schuman was omnipresent on the post-war American musical scene. Pulitzer-winning composer, president of Juilliard and then Lincoln Center, Schuman was a practitioner of the post-Boulanger American school: bitonal harmonies of tensile strength propelled by syncopations of New World energy. His *New England Triptych* for orchestra was commissioned by the US State Department to be played by an American touring orchestra led by Andre Kostelanetz. At the time of the commission Schuman had discovered Billings and was captivated by the genuinely American texts and music that offered rich possibilities. These two movements, arranged by the composer himself for wind band, are especially imaginative in their use of variation in the one, and in the other, exploiting the timeless intimacy of duet in meaningful expression.

– Charles Peltz

NEC Tango Ensemble

Rosario Rivas, voice
Carson McHaney, violin
Nikita Manin, clarinet
G Korth Rockwell, guitar
Alvaro Emiliano López, guitar
Mattias Kauffman, accordion
Avi Randall, piano
Solomon Caldwell, bass
Delfina Cheb Terrab, director

Jewish Music Ensemble

Itay Dayan, Chris Ferrari, clarinet
Vladislav Dovhan, saxophone
Aidan Coleman, trombone
Carson McHaney, Michele Zimmerman, violin
Giulia Haible, cello, piano
Agne Giedraityte, piano
Jamie Eliot, bass
Isabella Butler, mallets, percussion
Jiangcheng Guan, drums
Hankus Netsky, conductor

CMA Sacred Harp Singers

Litha Ashforth
Roman Barton-Sherman
Morgan Brookman
Itay Dayan
Jamie Eliot
Agne Giedraityte
Kyle Henry
Tejas Nair
Daniela Pyne
Avi Randall
Yannick Yan
Haoyu Zheng
Eden MacAdam-Somer, director

NEC Wind Ensemble

Charles Peltz, *conductor*

Flute

Javier Castro
Chia-Fen Chang
Anne Chao
Jeong Won Choe
Anna Kevelson
Jay Kim
Elizabeth Kleiber
Amelia Libbey
Yang Liu
Elizabeth McCormack
Yechan Min
Subin Oh
Mara Riley
Erika Rohrberg
Dianne Seo

Oboe

Dane Bennett
Donovan Bown
Robert Diaz
Gwen Goble
Kian Hirayama
Kelley Osterberg
Samuel Rockwood
Nathalie Graciela Vela

Clarinet

Thomas Acey
Tyler J. Bourque
Aleksis Martin
Soyeon Park
Andrew Salaru
Erica Smith

Bassoon

Andy Brooks
Andrew Flurer
Matthew Heldt
Evan Judson
Miranda Macias
Julien Rollins
Richard Vculek

Saxophone

Vladyslav Dovhan
Lila Searls
Zeyi Tian
Juchen Wang

French horn

Logan Fischer
Sam Hay
Karlee Kamminga
Xiang Li
Hannah Messenger
Willow Otten
Tess Reagan
Paolo Rosselli
Tasha Schapiro
Sophie Steger
Jenna Stokes

Trumpet

Jake Baldwin
Daniel Barak
Michael Harms
Sarah Heimberg
Eddy Lanois
Reynolds Martin
Nelson Martinez
David O'Neill
Dimitri Raimonde

Trombone

Eli Canales
Puyuan Chen
Zachary Johnson
Alex Knutrud
Quinn McGillis

Bass Trombone

Chance Gompert
Ki Yoon Park

Euphonium

Jack Earnhart

Tuba

Jimmy Curto
Masaru Lin
David Stein

Percussion

Isabella Butler
Eli Geruschat
Doyeon Kim
Ross Jarrell
Danial Kukuk
Nga ieng Sabrina Lai
Parker Olson
Eli Reisz
Michael Rogers
Jeff Sagurton
Leigh Wilson

Bass

Brian Choy

Wind Ensemble Graduate

Assistants

Weizhe Bai
Rachel Brake
Minchao Cai
Iverson Eliopoulos

Charles Peltz

Director of Wind Ensemble Activities

Besides his work with the NEC Wind Ensemble, Charles Peltz is music director of the Glens Falls Symphony, and his guest conducting has included the Syracuse Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Merrick Symphony on Long Island, Pacific Symphony in Los Angeles, Hamilton (Canada) Philharmonic, and the New Jersey Ballet.

Peltz has recently had regular engagements with the Orquesta Nacional in Bogota, Colombia, and the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland. He served for eleven seasons as Music Director and conductor of the orchestra at the Luzerne Summer Music Center. An award winning educator, he received NEC's Krasner Teaching Excellence Award and the 1992 Milton Plesure Excellence in Teaching Award from SUNY at Buffalo. His sixth CD on the Mode label features music from his 2000 appearance at the Lincoln Center Festival, where he conducted the New York-based Ensemble Sospeso as part of the festival's exploration of electronic music in the twentieth century.

Upcoming Wind Ensemble Concerts at NEC

NEC SYMPHONIC WINDS & CHAMBER SINGERS, William Drury, conductor
Ellington *Sacred Concert* – Patrice Williamson, soprano, Helen Sung, piano
Françaix *Sept Danses*, Iverson Eliopoulos '23 MM, conductor
Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC WIND ENSEMBLE & SYMPHONIC WINDS

Charles Peltz and William Drury, conductors

Mozart *Concerto for Clarinet in A Major*, K. 622; Dahl *Sinfonietta for Concert Band*
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Other Upcoming Concerts at NEC

Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert and ticketing information

"BLACK IS CANON", BSU concert

Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., Eben Jordan

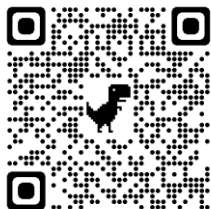
ARTIST DIPLOMA RECITAL: YeonJae Cho, soprano

YeonJae Cho '24 AD studies with Bradley Williams

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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