

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Mary LaMonaca. I am the treasurer of the Yellowstone Chamber Players of Billings, and will serve as project director for the out-of-town concerts that we hope to present if our grant, # 1240, is funded.

The project that we are proposing is an extension of what our organization has been doing for the past 26 years. The Yellowstone Chamber Players began giving an annual series of chamber music concerts in Billings in 1980. We are a group of about twelve professional musicians who have chosen to live here because we love Montana. We bring training and professional experience from all over the country. Because of the successful establishment of our concert series each season, we are interested in presenting these concerts in other towns that have limited concert opportunities. The City of Billings has agreed to be our government sponsor during this granting period that covers the next two concert seasons.

During the 10-year period of 1986-1995 we were fortunate to obtain funding through Cultural and Aesthetic grants, which we were able to match with funding from the various towns where we presented concerts. We served over thirty communities - primarily, but not exclusively, in the Eastern part of Montana. From colleges to churches to art museums, we have brought "Montana-made" music to more Montanans, many who would not have otherwise had an opportunity to hear this kind of live music. That is our mission.

We have always made every effort to make these concerts affordable for the communities that present them. We limit the size of the groups to six members so that we can all fit in one vehicle, to keep mileage costs to a minimum. Most of the concerts are done on a "run-out" basis within a 200- mile radius so that we don't have the expense of overnight accommodations. When we do have communities that are interested in having us come that are farther away, we try to plan weekend tours that allow us to split the costs between two or three communities. We have usually been able to have in-kind contributions for housing. Performing venues are required to be in-kind contributions since we can perform in smaller areas like museums, community halls, libraries, and churches. We have also kept our performer fees extremely low, only \$150 per person per out-of-town concert.

It seems a shame that many smaller communities have limited concert opportunities unless the people are willing to drive many miles to larger cities. Rather than expecting lots of people to drive to the concert, doesn't it make more sense to have the concert, with only six musicians, come to them! Furthermore, in these home town settings we can offer the audience a more personal experience as we sit closer to them, talk to them about our music, and spend time talking with them after the concert. The motto of Yellowstone Chamber Players has always been more music for more Montanans! Please help us make this a reality with more equal musical opportunities for both urban and rural communities!

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EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2/13/07
MB 9

2006-2007
SEASON

 YELLOWSTONE
CHAMBER
PLAYERS



This Concert Made Possible By:
Jessica and Ed Stickney

Daniel Kortan

Yellowstone Chamber Players gratefully acknowledge the following donors:

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In Memory of Roger Menda
by Melinda Payne Sanders

Our Musicians for this Concert:

JOHN DUTTON began musical studies at age five, at eight he began studying the french horn and within six years won a position with the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. Following completion of a Bachelors of Music in Performance at the Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, Mr. Dutton studied with Barry Benjamin and Dale Clevenger at Northwestern University in Chicago, completing a Masters in Music Performance. While there, he was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and performed for the Chicago Symphony's chamber music series. Mr. Dutton performed for three years with the Boise Philharmonic and then detoured slightly by joining the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Dutton left the Corps of Marines to visit the lands of the Corps of Discovery and came to Billings in 2003 after winning an audition for Principal Horn.

BARBARA FORDHAM won a national audition while in high school to perform with the United States Collegiate Wind Band that resulted in a tour of eleven countries in Europe. As an undergraduate, she won positions with the Baton Rouge Symphony and the Baton Rouge Opera Orchestra. Following graduation, she performed with the UA/Oberlin Conservatory Steel Drum Band at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention and with the AIMS Orchestra in Austria, conducted by Cornelius Eberharter. She returned to teach at LSU and also performed with the New Music Ensemble at Weill Recital Hall, Carnegie Hall. Barbara's greatest joy in Billings has been working with music students; the MSU-Billings Percussion Ensemble students earned first place and outstanding soloist awards at national MENC competitions in Los Angeles and New Orleans. She currently plays with the Billings Symphony and the Rimrock Opera Orchestra and is working with percussionists for the upcoming Disney's *High School Musical* production.

LYNETTE LARSON, flute, has played chamber music in Billings for over 20 years. She is a member of the Billings Symphony, where she has performed as piccoloist, 2nd flute and acting principal flute. She is also principal flute of the Rimrock Opera Orchestra and has played for each of their productions. Lynette received her M. Music degree from the University of Idaho's Hampton School of Music and her M. Ed. Degree from MSU-B. She is formerly an adjunct flute instructor at MSU-B and is currently a primary music specialist at Lockwood Schools. In addition to her public school teaching, Lynette serves as a frequent adjudicator at district and state music festivals and teaches a private flute studio.

LAUREL LINDE has been a clarinet and saxophone player in Billings for many years. After graduating from Billings Senior High, Laurel completed a clarinet performance degree at the University of Montana and a Master's degree in Clarinet performance at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Currently, Laurel is principal clarinet in the Billings Symphony and the Rimrock Opera Orchestra. She also maintains a private studio and is an adjunct faculty member at Rocky Mountain College. Along with her husband Steve, Laurel manages the Yellowstone Park KOA campground and a small fudge business. Most of all Laurel loves spending quality time with her three sons, arguably the cutest boys ever.

SUE LOGAN, principal oboist of the Billings Symphony and the Rimrock Opera Orchestra, maintains an oboe teaching studio at Rocky Mountain College and plays with the Yellowstone Chamber Players. Educated at Louisiana State University and the Juilliard School, Ms. Logan formerly lived in Denver, Colorado, where she taught at CU Boulder and Metropolitan State College of Denver, and played in most of the Front Range orchestras.

SUSAN WADSWORTH, principal bassoon of the Billings Symphony and the Rimrock Opera Company, received a Master of Music from Boston University following graduation from the New England Conservatory. She has enjoyed playing chamber music at festivals in the Grand Tetons, Tanglewood, Red Lodge and Paros, Greece. Susan came to Montana 18 years ago after playing in orchestras and freelancing in Boston, Washington, Brazil and Colorado. She maintains a private studio teaching bassoon and other woodwinds and has recently recorded a CD of Native American flute improvisations.

Program Notes

The music of Alec Wilder (1907-1980) is truly original. With elements of jazz, American poplar song and classical forms, it does not fit neatly into any category. The melodies tend to be sinuous and angular and they rarely fall into predictable eight-bar phrases. Mitch Miller and Frank Sinatra first brought Wilder's music to the public by respectively recording his now-legendary Octets and some of his solo wind works with string orchestra. Sinatra conducted the latter sessions, later recorded many more of Wilder's popular songs and remained a close friend throughout life. Such individual relationships with musicians were pivotal as Wilder was not a self-promoter, shunned publicity and wrote mostly for friends. An abbreviated list of musicians who have championed his music include: Eileen Farrell, Erich Leinsdorf, Gunther Schuller, Marian McPartland, John Barrows, Stan Getz, Cab Calloway, Keith Jarrett and Mabel Mercer. Best-known for *I'll Be Around*, *It's So Peaceful in the Country*, *While We're Young* and *A Children's Introduction to the Orchestra*, Wilder also co-authored with James T. Maher, *American Popular Song — (The Great Innovators 1900-1950)*, still considered the definitive book on the subject.

Eugene Joseph Bozza (b. Apr. 4, 1905, Nice, France-d. Sept. 28, 1991, Valenciennes, France) studied composition, conducting and violin at the Paris Conservatoire. He was a brilliant student, taking first prize in all three. In 1931, he was briefly conductor of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo under Diaghelev. From 1939-1948, Bozza served as conductor of the Paris Opera-Comique. Following that post, he served as the director of the Ecole Nationale de Musique in Valenciennes from 1951-1975. In 1956, he became a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Although he wrote five symphonies, operas, ballets and won the Prix de Rome in 1934 for his cantata, "La Legende de Roukmani", he is known outside of France primarily for his chamber works. Bozza's chamber music for winds is both idiomatic and challenging, yet it also retains the elegant and expressive melodic style of 20th century French wind writing. This makes for a satisfying experience for both the players and the audience members, who might imagine themselves in the intimate atmosphere of a cabaret. The "Variations sur une theme libre, op. 42" was published in 1943, and has been delighting performers and audiences ever since.

Carl Nielsen (1865-1931) was inspired to write this wind quintet after hearing the Copenhagen Wind Quintet perform at a friend's house in the autumn of 1921. It is one of his most often performed works along with his flute and clarinet concertos, and his six symphonies. British musicologist Robert Simpson writes, "Nielsen's fondness of wind music is related to his love of nature, his fascination for living, breathing things. He also intensely interested in human nature, and his quintet, composed deliberately for five friends, each part is cunningly made to suit the individuality of each player." Nielsen himself provided a description of the quintet, "The composer here has attempted to present the characteristics of the various instruments. Now they seem to interrupt one another and now they seem to sound alone." The theme for the quintet is the composer's own composition "*Min Jesus, lad min Hjerte, faa and saaden Smaa paa dig*" (My Jesus, make my heart to love thee.) The first movement is in sonata form, the second is a rustic minuet, and the third is a short Praeludium followed by variations. Nielsen called the variations, "gay and grotesque, elegiac and solemn, ending with the theme simply and gently expressed." The work was performed at Nielsen's funeral service and first performed by the Copenhagen quartet in 1922.

Bill Holcombe (b.1924) is known by wind groups of all combinations, as well as big band players as an arranger of great medleys and original works. Holcombe studied piccolo with Harold Bennett and played saxophone with Tommy Dorsey and Fred Waring among others. Holcombe also was hired to play first flute and alto sax for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer at their New York radio station, WMGM. In the late fifties, Bill wrote the music for several film scores. Throughout the sixties, Bill wrote for the recording orchestra *101 Strings* during the day and played Broadway musicals at night. No wonder then that Holcombe wrote such a wonderful arrangement of some MGM movie hits for wind quintet. Included in this collage is "I Feel a Song Coming On", "You Stepped Out of a Dream", "Singin' in the Rain", "Over the Rainbow", and "The Trolley Song." In the spirit of Holcombe's crowd pleasing style, we have made our own additions to this fine medley that is ending the concert.

Yellowstone Chamber Players

Sunday, February 11, 2007

Cisel Hall, MSU-Billings

3:00pm

Sextette for Marimba and Wind Quintet Alec Wilder

- I. Quarter note = 96
- IV. Quarter note = 60
- V. Dotted quarter note = 64

The Sweetgrass Quintet: Lynette Larson, flute, Sue Logan, oboe,
Laurel Linde, clarinet, Susan Wadsworth, bassoon and
John Dutton, horn, with Barbara Fordham, marimba

Variations sur un theme libre, Op. 42 Eugene Bozza

Andantino

- Variation 1 — Allegretto
- Variation 2 — Andantino
- Variation 3 — Allegro
- Variation 4 — Calme
- Variation 5 — Allegro
- Variation 6 — Allegro Vivo
- Variation 7 — Lento

INTERMISSION

Kvintet, Op. 43 Carl Nielsen

- I. Allegro ben moderato
- II. Menuet
- III. Praeludium — Adagio & Tema con variazione, Un poco andantino

A Salute to MGM Arranged by Bill Holcombe

- I Feel a Song Coming On
- You Stepped Out of a Dream
- Singin' in the Rain
- Over the Rainbow
- Trolley Song

The Yellowstone Chamber Players

Now in its 26th season, the Yellowstone Chamber Players continues to offer a varied series of chamber music concerts. It was organized originally to offer serious local musicians the incentive and opportunity to explore and perform the vast chamber music repertoire. It also offered these musicians the opportunity to continue their own professional growth and satisfaction. The idea originated with a duo, which enlarged to a trio, and continued to expand to include groups of many different sizes and configurations as different personnel became interested in the project. The organization continues to adapt to the ideas and enthusiasms of those musicians interested in playing with the group. It is our sincere hope that the Yellowstone Chamber Players contributes to the healthy and ever increasing cultural activities of Billings and the state of Montana.

For more information contact Caron Schultz at 373-5844 (local).

2006-2007 Season

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| October 8, 2006 3:00 p.m. | St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 180 24th St. West |
| November 19, 2006 3:00 p.m. | 1st Presbyterian Church 2420 13th St. West |
| December 3, 2006 3:00 p.m. | St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 180 24th St. West |
| January 28, 2007 3:00 p.m. | Cisel Hall, MSU-Billings 1500 University Drive |
| February 11, 2007 3:00 p.m. | Cisel Hall, MSU-Billings 1500 University Drive |
| March 11, 2007 3:00 p.m. | St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 180 24th St. West |