

University of Texas at El Paso

From the Selected Works of Dominic Dousa

December 16, 2007

"Christmas Morning" for orchestra

Dominic Dousa, *University of Texas at El Paso*



SELECTEDWORKS™

Available at: http://works.bepress.com/dominic_dousa/31/



EL PASO SYMphonies

EL PASO SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS
BENJAMIN LOEB, MUSIC DIRECTOR

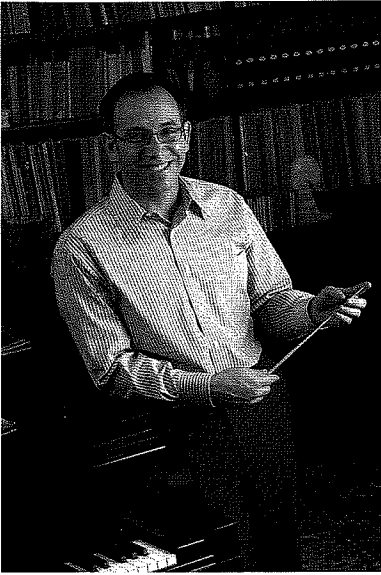
WINTER CONCERT

IN HONOR OF OUR
MUSIC TEACHERS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2007

ABRAHAM CHAVEZ THEATRE

MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



I would like to welcome you all to the EPSYO's Winter Concert. Usually December is a time filled with holiday cheer, but this particular season is filled with sadness for the entire EPSYO's and El Paso Symphony family. Earlier this month, we lost one of our beloved musicians and teachers, Jorge Avedaño. Jorge's direct teaching influence shows strongest in his three students who play with us: Daniel Landis, Jared Lucky and Benjamin Vasko. However, his impact runs much deeper with his dedicated teaching at Hornedo Middle School, in his tremendous playing in the El Paso Symphony, and his generosity and love for music which he shared with everyone. While this concert honors all our music teachers, we would like to dedicate this concert specifically to Jorge's memory.

We are blessed to have such committed and knowledgeable teachers in the El Paso region. I believe that we cannot recognize their work enough. Truly, without their hours of sharing and instruction we would not have the Region's Best Young Musicians on our stage this afternoon. The comments by our students that you will read in this program express only a small share of the gratitude they and we all feel.

This afternoon we have two of my very good friends as soloists with the EPYO - Livia Sohn on violin and Bion Tsang on cello. I have known Livia since my Juilliard days in the 90's. Both Livia and Bion are prodigious talents who grew from wondrous whiz-kids to fully developed artists. Livia and I met at Juilliard more than 15 years ago and have played many chamber concerts together. We recently released a CD on Naxos of Opera Fantasies, one of which I arranged. Bion and I were friends and colleagues since even further back - freshman year at Harvard in 1984. We were thrown together to perform at a small recital by our beloved mentor, Luise Vosgerchian, and have played many more since. Both are dedicated teachers themselves, Livia at Stanford and Bion at UT Austin, and it is a great pleasure for me to be able to collaborate with them on this concert and that they are able to come and share their artistry and teaching with the members of the orchestra in master classes this past week.

But perhaps the greatest offering we can make is that of a World Premiere. The act of bringing music alive is the best gift one can have or receive. This afternoon we have a piece by our Composer-in-Residence and UTEP faculty member, Dominic Dousa. The piece came to us untitled and I left it up to the members of the orchestra to find the most appropriate one; I think we did. It is a delightful and buoyant impression of the season.

In this particular time of a co-mingling of sorrow and joy, remember to be grateful for the beauty that these teachers have helped us offer you today.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Loeb
Music Director, El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras

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El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras
Winter Concert

Sunday, December 16, 2007, 3:00 PM

Abraham Chavez Theatre
Benjamin Loeb, Music Director

Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

R. Wagner

El Paso Youth Orchestra
Benjamin Loeb, conductor

Music for the Royal Fireworks

G.F. Handel, Arr. Michael Story

Le Froid de L'Hiver (The Cold of Winter)

S. H. Newbold

Danse Russe, "Trepak" from *The Nutcracker*

L. Taylor

El Paso Youth String Philharmonic
Nancy Morey, conductor

"Ase's Death" from *Peer Gynt Suite*

E. Grieg

Divertimento in D Major K. 136
Allegro

W.A. Mozart

El Paso Youth String Ensemble
Guillermo Quezada, conductor

Overture to "Cosi fan tutte"

W.A. Mozart

"Nimrod" from *Enigma Variations*

E. Elgar

French Folk Song Suite

R. Vaughn-Williams

No.1 March - "Seventeen Come Sunday"

No. 2 Intermezzo - "My Bonny Boy"

No. 3 March - "Folk Songs from Somerset"

El Paso Youth Symphony
Benjamin Vickers, conductor

- INTERMISSION -

Christmas Morning (2007) *World Premiere*

D. Dousa

Concerto for Violin, Cello, and Orchestra in A minor Op. 102

J. Brahms

Allegro

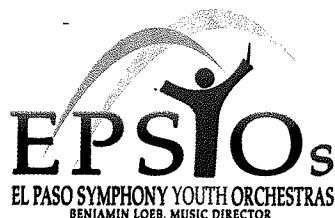
Andante

Vivace non troppo

Livia Sohn, violin • Bion Tsang, cello
El Paso Youth Orchestra
Benjamin Loeb, conductor



This concert is being recorded for archival purposes. Please muffle your coughs and be sure the electronic signal on your watch, pager or cell phone is switched off before the concert begins. No video, audio taping or cameras are allowed in the hall. If young children are getting fussy or disruptive, we ask that you take them into the lobby. Thank you for your cooperation.



Artistic Staff

Benjamin Loeb, Music Director
Benjamin Vickers, Staff Conductor/Conductor, EPYS
Guillermo Quezada, Conductor, EPYSE
Nancy Morey, Conductor, EPYSP
Vanessa Cedillos (EPYSP)
Adria Dunn (EPYSP)
Colleen Ferguson (EPYSP)
Jesse Hernandez (EPYSP)
Dominic Dousa, Composer-In-Residence

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Lesley Chen, Administrative Director
Linda Fischer, Finance Manager

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Igor Borodin, U North Texas
Anthony DiLorenzo, Trumpet
Susan Dubois, U North Texas
Adria Dunn, Americas HS/EPSO
Misha Galaganov, Texas Christian University
Diana Gilliland, El Paso HS/EPSO
Shirley Givens, Juilliard School/Peabody Conservatory
Raymond Harvey, El Paso Opera
Jesse Hernandez, EPSO
Susan Hernandez, Franklin HS/EPSO
Nancy Morey, Hanks HS/EPSO
Guillermo Quezada, NMSU/EPSO
Larry Rachelff, Rice University
Rosetti String Quartet
Sander Schiller, EPSO
Stephanie Schweigart, UTEP/EPSO
Livia Sohn, Violin
Lara St. John, Violin
Curt Thompson, Texas Christian University
Bion Tsang, UT Austin
Benjamin Vickers, EPSO/EP Conservatory
Don Wilkinson, UTEP/EPSO
Harry Wimmer, Cello
Joy Zalkind, EPSO
DaXun Zhang, UT Austin

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Julian Bonilla, UTEP
Trae Blanco, NMSU
Sonia Candelaria, NMSU
Chelsey Fields, NMSU
Frank Gonzalez, UTEP
Adam Houpt, NMSU
Andrew Jordan, NMSU
Tyler Jordan, NMSU
Michael Medina, NMSU
Allegra Quezada, NMSU
Jessica Shin, NMSU
Travis Smith, UTEP
Kevin Telles, UTEP
James Watters, UTEP

El Paso Youth Orchestra (EPYO)

VIOLIN I

Constance Shing, Coronado HS, concertmaster
Jensine Caranto, Coronado HS, asst. concertmaster
Jordan Belknap, Chapin HS
Andrea Calderon, Franklin HS
Eva Deemer, UTEP
Melissa Dominguez, Franklin HS
Kristin Elliott, Hanks HS
Elijah Evans, Coronado HS
Juan Flores, El Paso HS
Samantha Garcia, El Chamizal
Isabela Guevara, El Chamizal
Nadia Herrera, Coronado HS
Meagan Lewis, EPCC
Erik Maese, Mayfield HS
Grace Park, Coronado HS
Maricarmen Rubio, Franklin HS
Kevin Telles, UTEP

VIOLIN II

Allegra Quezada, principal, NMSU
Jesus Rodriguez, asst. principal, Coronado HS
Ramon Acosta, El Dorado HS
Barbara Aguilera, Hanks HS
Jennifer Archuleta, Burges HS
Elbert Belk, Home School
Marisol Cardenas, Montwood HS
Haena Chung, Las Cruces HS
Antonio Cifuentes, Franklin HS
Christina Hernandez, Burges HS
Nadia Herrera, Coronado HS
Veronica Marinelarena, Franklin HS
Grace Park, Coronado HS
Aileen Renteria, UTEP
Carlos Urrutia, Hanks HS
Diego Vazquez, Coronado HS

VIOLA

Mara Arredondo, Franklin HS, principal
Matthew Cox, Coronado HS, asst. principal
Christopher Alley, Coronado HS
Ray Arreola, Franklin HS
Alexandra Hernandez, Chapin HS
Kara Ortiz, Franklin HS
Uju Nduka, Franklin HS
Franceska Sena, Franklin HS
Michael Staffeldt, Coronado HS
Bianca Veloz, Americas HS

CELLO

Travis Smith, UTEP, principal
Katie Oppenheim, Coronado HS, asst. principal
Mathew Arrellin, Hanks HS
Christian Flores, UTEP
Christopher Gomez, UTEP
Zoei Hantzopulos, Coronado HS
Cecilia Jensen, Andress HS
Alice Morris, Andress HS
Laura Rios, Coronado HS
Alina Vazquez, Coronado HS
James Watters, UTEP

BASS

Salvador Calderon, UTEP, principal
Michael Minor, Coronado HS, asst. principal
Zachary Fields, Alamogordo HS
David Peña, Hanks HS
Adam Quintana, Montwood HS
Michael Simon, Jefferson HS

FLUTE

Sonia Candelaria, NMSU @ *
Chelsey Fields, NMSU ^
Janella Saad, Franklin HS

OBOE

Esteban Martinez, Onate HS @*^
Shane Molina, Silva Magnet HS

CLARINET

Julian Hernandez, Montwood HS @
Robert Palacios, Coronado HS
Peter Podruchny III, Onate HS ^
Jessica Shin, NMSU *

BASSOON

Michael Medina, NMSU @*
Dale Payne, Coronado HS
Alexandra Von Wolff, Mayfield HS ^

HORN

Sebastian Granados, Jefferson HS ^
Bryan Ewing, NMSU
Adam Houpt, NMSU @*
Jorge Tena, Bel Air HS

TRUMPET

Julian Bonilla, UTEP ^
Mario Chavez, UTEP *
Andrew Jordan, NMSU @

TROMBONE

Tyler Jordan, NMSU
Aaron Landis, Coronado HS @^
Gregory Taylor (bass trombone), Coronado HS

TUBA

Daniel Landis, NMSU @
Jared Lucky, Coronado HS ^

TIMPANI & PERCUSSION

Trae Blanco, NMSU, co-principal
Frank Gonzalez, UTEP, co-principal

@ Principal, Wagner

^ Principal, Dousa

* Principal, Brahms

Richard Wagner

Richard Wagner, born May 22, 1813, was a German composer, conductor, and a theorist known greatly for his operas. The unusual truth about Wagner as an opera composer was that he always wrote the scenarios for his works himself. Wagner was born into the world not knowing his father due to the fact he died 6 months after he was born. Richard Wagner's mother, Johanna Rosine Wagner, began living with the actor and playwright Ludwig Geyer, who had been a friend of Richard's father. In August, 1814 Johanna Rosine married Geyer, and moved with her family to his residence in Dresden. For the first 14 years of his life, Wagner was known as Wilhelm Richard Geyer.

Wagner made highly significant, possibly controversial, contributions to art and culture. In his lifetime, and for some years after, Wagner inspired devotion in his followers, and was occasionally considered by them to have a near 'godly' status. His composition broke important new musical ground. For years afterward, many composers felt compelled to align themselves with or against him. Wagner also made significant changes to the conditions under which operas were performed. It was Wagner who first demanded that the lights be dimmed during dramatic performances, and it was his theatre at Bayreuth which first made use of the sunken orchestra pit. Wagner's operas, writings, his politics, beliefs and unorthodox lifestyle made him a controversial figure during his lifetime. Many such as Tchaikovsky and Rossini broke away from the Wagnerian innovations.

It was debated if Wagner wrote with more of a Nazi motivation because of the fact that Adolf Hitler was an admirer of his music. Although Hitler himself was obsessed with his music, many in the Nazi hierarchy were not, and most deeply resented the prospect of attending these lengthy stories at Hitler's expense. Wagner was seen with much controversy and changed the face of the musical world of his time. He passed of a sudden heart attack in 1883, in Venice just one year after his last opera 'Parsifal' was staged.

James Watters, UTEP, EPYO

Wagner Prelude to *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

Completed in 1867, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* is Wagner's only opera that can be called a comedy. It is about a nobleman who enters a singing contest to try and win a lady's hand in marriage. The prelude to the opera is an orchestral piece, about ten minutes in length, and includes the major leitmotifs of the opera. A "leitmotif" is a "recurring musical theme, associated within a particular piece of music with a particular person, place, or idea."

During the Prelude there are several solos, including solos between the string basses and tuba (this piece is commonly considered a staple in the orchestral tuba's repertoire). *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* is unique not only because it is the only comedy among Wagner's mature operas, but it is also the only one based on an entirely original story (written by Wagner) rather than a mythical story or legend.

Ramon Acosta, El Dorado High School, EPYO

Christmas Morning

I wrote the festive overture *Christmas Morning* this past summer specifically for the EPYO's December 2007 concert, but originally without a seasonal theme in mind. The title itself was suggested by musicians in the orchestra, and indeed, it wonderfully expresses the spirit and mood of the piece. My intention was to write a work conveying feelings of joy, hope, wonderment, energy, and affirmation of life. At its best, the Christmas season offers an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to experience these feelings and affirm the goodness of humanity. Through the overture *Christmas Morning*, I hope to reflect these sentiments.

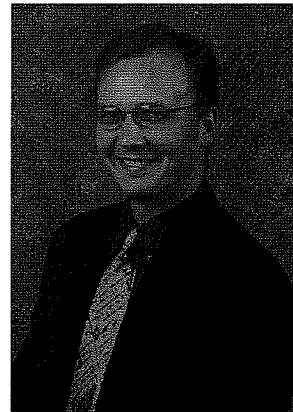
Dominic Dousa

Dear Mr. Beach,

I have missed being in your band. Our conversations were always fun and full of fun music facts and discussions. God has blessed me to have had the opportunity to have been under your baton and caring education. I have taken many of your wise words to heart during college. May God encourage and strengthen you in your music and you walk with Him!

Jessica Shin, Clarinet, NMSU

Dominic Dousa, a native of Rochester, Minnesota, has been Composer-in-Residence for the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras since the founding of the organization in 2005 and a member of the faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Music since August of 2004. At UTEP, he has taught courses in 2nd-year theory and aural skills, seminars on specialized topics in theory, and all levels of composition. Before coming to El Paso, Dr. Dousa held teaching positions at St. Mary's University in Winona, MN (aural skills, music appreciation) and Rochester (MN) Community and Technical College (business & economic statistics).



He holds degrees in music from Ball State University (D.A., 2003), Central Michigan University (M.M., 2000), and Harvard University (A.B. summa cum laude, 1995) and in statistics from Iowa State University (M.S., 1998). He also has studied composition in Prague. His primary composition teachers include Jody Nagel, David Gillingham, Craig Weston, and Milan Slavický.

Dousa's compositions have received performances at recitals, festivals, and conferences in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Peru, China, the Czech Republic, and Finland. Two of his song cycles, "With a Song in My Heart" and "Six Songs on the Poetry of Langston Hughes", have been recorded by baritone Gerald J. Blanchard (with Dousa at the piano) and released on the CD "With a Song in My Heart" by Blue Griffin Recording. This CD features art songs set to texts of African American poets. Dousa has two works published by Dorn Publications and upcoming publications with TRN Music and Pebble Hill Music Publishers.

In addition to his activities as teacher and composer, Dousa has remained active as an accompanist and chamber musician. He has performed in numerous recitals at various universities with faculty, guest artists, and students and served as an official accompanist for the 4th Annual International Singing Competition in Trujillo, Peru in August of 2000.

A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, **Benjamin Vickers** holds the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of New Mexico; the Master of Music degree from Arizona State University; and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the University of Michigan. Benjamin was conductor of the Campus Symphony Orchestra at the University of Michigan, and has conducted the University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra in several concert appearances, including in public masterclasses with conductors Lorin Maazel and Helmuth Rilling. He has served as assistant conductor for the New Hampshire Symphony Orchestra, and also served as conducting assistant for the University of Michigan orchestras and as assistant conductor for the university's productions of *Così fan tutte* and *The Dreamy Kid*, a one-act blues opera by James P. Johnson. Benjamin has been selected to participate in several conducting workshops, including those of the American Symphony Orchestra League, Conductors Guild, International Conducting Workshop and Festival, Brevard Music Center, as well as the Conductors Retreat at Medomak.



As a cellist, he has performed with the Santa Fe and Roswell Symphony Orchestras in New Mexico; collaborated in performances of the works of George Crumb with the composer in attendance; and played in the pit for Ballet Arizona and the Bolshoi Ballet on a U.S. tour in Phoenix, Arizona. Benjamin was featured as continuo player in several scenes from Monteverdi's opera *The Coronation of Poppea*, presented at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D. C. by the University of Michigan; and performed on that institution's multiple-Grammy winning recording of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, conducted by Leonard Slatkin.

Currently, Benjamin is staff conductor of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras, and a cellist in the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. He is also a member of the faculty at the El Paso Conservatory of Music, teaching cello and music theory.

Thank you, **Mr. Vickers**. You are a very nice man, and you have taught me well so far. I hope you will stay the same way when you are my conductor in the future.

Nicholas Gutierrez, Cello, Sun Ridge Middle School

Ms. Blair was my favorite teacher and without her I probably wouldn't know mostly everything I know now. She was strict but I think that it helped me a lot. Thank you, Ms. Blair, you are the best.

Leslie Abraham, Viola, Morehead Middle School

Dear **Mr. Alvillar**,
Thank you for helping me when I'm confused.

Steven Cosgrove, Violin, Brown Middle School

I think **Ms. Ferguson** is a good teacher. I've learned a lot, and now I think I'm a better violinist.

Devany Serrano, Violin, John Drugan School