

**University of Texas at El Paso**

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**From the SelectedWorks of Dominic Dousa**

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October 11, 2007

## Solo Composition Recital (October 11, 2007)

Dominic Dousa, *University of Texas at El Paso*



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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO DEPARTMENT OF

# Music

PRESENTS

**Faculty Recital Series**

**Dominic Dousa, composer/piano**

*with*

**Melissa Colgin-Abeln, flute**

**John Siqueiros, guitar**

**Don Wilkinson, soprano and alto saxophones**

**Larry White, vibraphone**

*and*

**Students from the UTEP Department of Music and  
Musicians from the El Paso community**

Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall 7:30pm

## PROGRAM

### *Suite for Flute and Guitar (2006)*

- I. Rubato, moderato
- II. With a lilt
- III. With energy and spirit

Dominic Dousa (b. 1973)

Melissa Colgin-Abeln, flute  
John Siqueiros, guitar

*\*Premiere performance*

### *Pastorale (2007)*

UTEP Flautistas  
Melissa Colgin-Abeln, director

### *Outdoors Music (2003)*

- I. Cool Spring Day in the Country
- II. Festive Dance

Lesley Chen, violin  
Colleen Ferguson, violin  
Nancy Morey, viola  
Benjamin Vickers, cello

*\*Premiere performance*

## INTERMISSION

### *Airstreams (1999)*

- I. Wind
- II. Breeze
- III. Blast

Don Wilkinson, alto saxophone  
Larry White, vibraphone

### *Quintet for SATB Saxophone Quartet and Piano (2006)*

Don Wilkinson, soprano saxophone  
Larry Adame, alto saxophone  
Wesley Hovis, tenor saxophone  
Aaron Doyle, baritone saxophone  
Dominic Dousa, piano

## PROGRAM NOTES

### *Suite for Flute and Guitar*

Composed March-June 2006; Santa Teresa, NM

Performance time: Approximately 15 minutes

After collaborating with UTEP faculty guitarist John Siqueiros on a set of pieces for solo guitar, he and I embarked on this chamber music project for solo flute and guitar with UTEP faculty flutist Melissa Colgin-Abeln. To gain familiarity with the possibilities of this instrumental combination, I studied Robert Beaser's *Mountain Songs* as a model. The suite that I ended up writing does not feature some of the virtuosic elements of Beaser's work, though I was intrigued by his incorporation of folk elements in his composition (the *Mountain Songs* were based primarily on Appalachian folk songs). Throughout the suite, the melodic writing has a folk-like spirit, from the gentle and free opening melody, to the dance-like second piece, and the tuneful finale. To me, this sound has a zest, energy, and spirit that I seek to convey in many of my compositions.

### *Pastorale*

Composed February-March 2007; Santa Teresa, NM

Performance time: Approximately 5 minutes

Like the flute/guitar suite, *Pastorale* was the result of a collaborative effort, this time involving both UTEP faculty and students. Dr. Melissa Colgin-Abeln asked me to write a short piece that she and the UTEP Flautistas, the flute choir she directs here, could present at the 2007 National Flute Association annual convention in Albuquerque. With the gentle and airy timbre of the flute choir, a sweet and mellifluous sound came to mind. Although I did not have a particular scene or place in mind when writing this piece, the main ideas came to me while I was sitting in my living room, with the beautiful landscapes of rural southern New Mexico and upper Rio Grande valley farmland in front of me. The title of the piece suggests the pastoral character of the music.

### *Outdoors Music*

Composed Spring 1999, April 2003; Mt. Pleasant, MI / Muncie, IN

Performance time: Approximately 10 minutes

In the spring semester of 1999, while a graduate student at Central Michigan University, the changing of the seasons and trips to the countryside brought back memories of times I spent on the other side of Lake Michigan, in Minnesota and Iowa. These memories, along with hearing the work of Edgar Meyer, one of the leading contrabassists in the world and an excellent composer of rhythmically vivacious and folk-influenced music, inspired me to work on a piece for string quartet.

I originally planned an extensive multi-movement piece; however, when, four years later, I edited and finalized what I had already written, I settled on a work consisting of the two pieces on tonight's program. The year before I wrote the first versions of these pieces, I had completed my Master's degree in statistics at Iowa State University, with Dr. Paul Hinz serving as my advisor. Dr. Hinz was a wonderful mentor who shared my love of travel and the outdoors (every time I pass through Ames, IA, I meet up with the Hinzes to swap stories). He retired from ISU following the 1998-1999 academic year. To celebrate his life's work and mentorship to me, as well as our Midwestern roots and enthusiasm for the outdoors, I dedicated *Outdoors Music* to Dr. Hinz.

### ***Airstreams***

Composed April-July 1999; Mt. Pleasant, MI  
Performance time: Approximately 18 minutes

The title of this three-movement composition for alto saxophone and vibraphone, *Airstreams*, was suggested to me by John Nichol, professor of saxophone at Central Michigan University, who commissioned the piece for a performance at the 2000 World Saxophone Congress in Montreal. Given my interest in observing meteorological phenomena, I immediately embraced the idea. Each piece is an expression of the mood I sense when experiencing the movement of air, one of the most basic elements of the weather. *Wind* evokes an invigorating feeling of constant motion. A calmer, more reflective atmosphere permeates *Breeze*, the second movement. With *Blast*, the work closes in a whirlwind of energy.

### ***Quintet for SATB Saxophone Quartet and Piano***

Composed June 2006; Santa Teresa, NM  
Performance time: Approximately 11 minutes

*Quintet for SATB Saxophone Quartet and Piano* was written for Daniel Gordon, professor of saxophone at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh for a performance featuring the Frontier Saxophone Quartet. This work was one in a series of pieces composed for the Frontier Quartet in its effort to promote new music for the ensemble. The piece is cast in traditional sonata form with a coda, and features vibrant, rhythmically lively melodies and, like many of the pieces on tonight's program, a cheerful folk spirit.

## **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**Dominic Dousa**, a native of Rochester, Minnesota, has been a member of the faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Music since August of 2004. There he has taught courses in 2<sup>nd</sup>-year theory and aural skills, seminars on specialized topics in theory, and all levels of composition. Before coming to UTEP, 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. In 2005, Dousa became Composer-in-Residence for the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras. He has two works published by Dorn Publications, and upcoming publications with TRN Music and Pebblehill 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 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Singing Competition in Trujillo, Peru in August of 2000.

**Melissa Colgin-Abeln**, Associate Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, has completed 20 years of service to the music faculty. She is also principal flutist of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Colgin earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Alabama, as well as Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. She also has studied in Paris and at the Yale School of Music on a performance fellowship. Her major teachers include Sheryl Cohen, Raymond Guiot, Torkil Bye, Karl Kraber, and Bernard Goldberg. In addition to her performing activities, she has published articles with the National Flute Association's *Flutist Quarterly* and the Marcel Moyse Society. In March of 2006, Dr. Colgin gave master classes at the Conservatoire Rachmaniov in Paris and performed at the American Church in Paris. She has been invited to return in 2008 to again perform for the Atelier Series.

**John Siqueiros** joined the faculty of the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Music in 2002. He earned degrees in guitar performance from UTEP (B.M.) and the University of California at San Diego (M.A.). At UCSD, he studied under the direction of the renowned guitar master Pepe Romero. He has participated in a master classes directed by Manuel Barrueco, Leo Brouwer, Sharon Isben, and Michael Lorimer. Mr. Siqueiros has over 30 years of teaching experience. He has held teaching positions at the University of California at San Diego, New Mexico State University, and Houston's Jr. High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Before returning to El Paso, he spent 12 years in the San Francisco Bay Area where he was active as a performer and teacher.

### ***UTEP Flautistas***

**Raul Chavira, Alex Diaz, Terri Diaz, Pearl Holguin, Krystal Mata, Kristin Nieto, Gildardo Perez, Jennifer Rodriguez, and Megan Valles** are flute students in the studio of **Dr. Melissa Colgin-Abeln**. **Adrian Baule** is a recent UTEP graduate and is currently Assistant Band Director at Jefferson High School, as well as a flutist in the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. **Lorry Hartley** is Head Band Director at Morehead Middle School.

**Lesley Chen** was born and raised near Boston, Massachusetts, and enjoys a diverse musical career. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Graduate Performance Diploma in violin performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and a Master of Music degree in violin performance from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Her principal teachers include Yuval Yaron, Shirley Givens, Marylou Speaker-Churchill, Magdalena Richter, and Melba Sandberg. Also a composer, she has studied with Rodney Lister and Chen Yi. Currently, Ms. Chen teaches at the El Paso Conservatory of Music and performs with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and the El Paso Opera. She is also Administrative Director of the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras.

**Colleen Ferguson** is currently in her fourth year as a full-time elementary school orchestra teacher with the Socorro Independent School District. As a violinist, she performs with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, and the El Paso Opera. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music education from the University of Texas at Austin. During her time in Austin, Ms. Ferguson taught four years with the UT String Project. She has completed and registered 9 of 10 violin teacher-training courses with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Her teachers and mentors include Dr. Laurie Scott, Liz Arbus, Joanne Bath, Nancy Lokken, Helen Brunner, Paula Bird, and Eugene Gratovich.

**Nancy Morey** is currently Director of Orchestras at J. M. Hanks High School. Prior to working in the Ysleta School District, she taught in the El Paso Independent School District, at public schools in New Mexico and South Dakota, and at Black Hills State University. Ms. Morey holds a B.S.Ed. degree from Black Hills State University and a Master of Music degree in violin performance from New Mexico State University. She is an active member of the Texas Music Educators Association and also plays professionally throughout the region as a regular member of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and the El Paso Opera.

**Benjamin Vickers** is a staff conductor for the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras and performs as 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. A native of Albuquerque, Dr. Vickers holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of New Mexico, a Master of Music degree from Arizona State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the University of Michigan.

**Don Wilkinson** teaches oboe, bassoon, saxophone, and woodwind methods at the University of Texas at El Paso and also has directed the Basketball Pep Band. For 15 years, Dr. Wilkinson served as band director at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels in the public schools of California. He has also taught woodwinds and jazz band at Hastings College in Nebraska, and oboe, saxophone, and jazz band at Western Kentucky University. His doctorate, completed at the University of Arizona in 1984, is unique in that it was the university's first woodwind performance degree granted with all five woodwinds emphasized equally. Dr. Wilkinson is active as an oboist, bassoonist, and saxophonist with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, El Paso Opera, and many other ensembles in the region. He is currently finishing a larger research project involving oral cavity acoustics and intuitive teaching techniques for wind instruments.

**Larry White** has been a professor at the University of Texas at El Paso since 1980. He served as Assistant Chairperson of the Music Department from 1995-98, and is timpanist and principal percussionist with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra and El Paso Opera. Mr. White earned his undergraduate degree at East Carolina University and his Master's degree at Baylor University. He previously taught as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech (1979-80) and at the University of London, England (1990-91). Mr. White has given percussion clinics at the Texas Music Educator's Association and Texas Bandmaster's Association conventions, presented three master classes at the Royal College of Music in London, England, and performed percussion/marimba recitals in El Paso, Albuquerque, Blacksburg, VA, and London, England. In 1992, Mr. White was awarded UTEP's highest teaching honor, the Chancellor's Council Award for Teaching Excellence. He is the Anthology Committee chair in the Percussive Arts Society. His *Six Etudes for Concert Percussion* is published through Southern Music Company of San Antonio.

**Larry Adame, Wesley Hovis, and Aaron Doyle** are saxophone students in the studio of **Dr. Don Wilkinson**.