PROGRAM

THE SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE

Donald C. Clough, Conductor

Hands Across the Sea — **John Philip Sousa** *(American)* **(1854-1932)**

John Philip Sousa was born in Washington D.C. His father was born in Spain of Portuguese parentage and his mother was born in Bavaria. Young Sousa received his early education in Washington public schools while simultaneously studying violin in a private music conservatory. At the age of twenty he became concert violinist and conductor of various theater orchestras. He directed the U.S. Marine band and then formed his own concert band which became world famous. He wrote music in many forms, including operettas, descriptive pieces, waltzes, and music for the background of silent films but his many marches have made Sousa immortal in the minds of many music lovers. *Hands Across the Sea (1899)* was composed shortly after the Spanish-American War and the title refers to bonds of friendship between the countries of the world.

oVerture to Zampa — **L. J. F. Hérold** *(French)* **(1791-1833)**

Louis Joseph Ferdinand Hérold was born in Paris, France. He was the only child of an able pianist of the school of *C. P. E. Bach* at Hamburg. Hérold entered the Paris Conservatory in 1806 and immediately won the first piano prize. In 1812 he carried off the *Grand Prix de Rome* for a cantata. *Zampa* is an *opera comique* in three acts. The plot is concerned with Zampa, a pirate, who, having betrayed his sweetheart, Albina, returns from the sea in after years and jestingly offers to wed the statue of Albina, which, when he puts a ring on its stony finger, raises its arm menacingly. Zampa forces another girl, Camille,to marry him, although she is betrothed to Alphonse. On the eve of the marriage Camille flees Zampa, who, when he pursues her, is suddenly confronted with the statue of Albina which seizes him and throws him and itself into the sea.

Pavane pour une Infante Defunte — **Maurice Ravel** *(French)* **(1875-1937)**

Maurice Ravel was born in the French-Basque town of Cibourne. He entered the Paris Conservatory in 1889 and became a composition pupil of *Gabriel Faure* who influenced him greatly. In 1902 Ravel won the *Prix de Rome*. He composed his first two important piano pieces in 1899, one of which was *Pavane pour une Infante Defunte (Pavane for a Dead Princess)*. Ravel was on to the most brilliant orchestrators of all time and in 1910 he re-wrote *Pavane* for orchestra. This band arrangement is simply another medium by which an audience can hear one of the most famous and most beautiful melodies of all time.

Marche Sarcastique *(from, Incidental Music to Shakespeare's "Hamlet")* **Dmitri Shostakovich** *(Russian)* **(1906-1975)**

Dmitri Shostakovich was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. In 1919 he entered the Leningrad Conservatory where he was a student of *Nikolaev, Steinberg, and Glazunov*. Shostakovich left the Conservatory in 1925 after disclosing extraordinary precociousness as a composer. He was ninteen when he composed his *First Symphony*. While this particular work was an immense success, Shostakovich had been put down many times by the leaders and critics in his country. The *Incidental Music to Hamlet* will give the listener precious little insight to the workings of Shakespeare. Instead, we have a musical mirror of Soviet culture transition. The *Marche Sarcastique* in the suite is actually a funeral march. The arrangemet performed today, however, is an "up-tempo" version of the same march found as background music in a 1964 Soviet film score written by Shostakovich.

INTERMISSION

Military Symphony in F — **Francois Gossec** *(Belgian)* **(1734-1829)**

Francois Gossec was born in Vergnies, Hainault. He studied violin and organ at an early age at the Cathedral of Antwerp. In 1751 Gossec went to Paris and became conductor of the private band maitained by the *Fermier-General La Poupelinire*. Gossec lived an extreemly long life for men in his time, and although he did not leave any works of great depth he exerted a great influence on the development of instrumental music in France. His *Military Symphony in F* is one of three pieces written for bands during his time. While the instrumentation is now a bit different than that of bands during Gossec's time the stiring and beautiful themes remain an example of good band writing.

selections from My Fair Lady — **Frederick Loewe** *(Austrian-American)* **(1904-)**

Frederick Loewe was born in Vienna, Austria. He studied in Berlin under *d'Albert, Nikolaus, and Busoni (Kurt Weill's teacher.)*. At the age of thirteen he was the youngest piano soloist ever to appear with the Berlin Symphony. In 1924 he came to the U.S. as a concert pianist but soon turned to American popular music. To his credit, along with lyricist Alan Jay Lerner, are the great musical comedies *Brigadoon, Paint Your Wagon, and My Fair Lady*. The latter is based on Shaw's *Pygmalion*. Strangely enough, several great music writing teams,including Rodgers and Hammerstein, turned down the offer to "set Pygmalion to music".

Moorside March *(from, A Moorside Suite)* — **Gustav Holst** *(English)* **(1874-1934)**

Gustav Holst, born *Gustavus von Holst* in Cheltenham, is considered to be one of the major composers of England. He was educated in the Royal College of Music and composed for all areas of music performance including choral works, orchestral compositions, and music for military band. He is probably most famous for *The Planets,* although his *First Suite in Eb for Military Band* is felt to be the first significant work for modern bands. *A Moorside Suite* was written in 1928 for English brass band (no woodwinds, alto horns instead of French horns, etc.) as a contest piece.

Hands Across the Sea