

Century Chamber Orchestra to premiere *Of Lakes and Legends*

by Catherine Carey

The world premiere of “Of Lakes and Legends, Scenes from White Bear Lake” will be performed by the Century Chamber Orchestra at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 7, in the West Campus Theatre. The composition is a beautiful, four-movement suite inspired by the history, historic locations and stories of White Bear Lake.

Of Lakes and Legends was written by Century Music faculty member, Dr. Shirley Mier, during a fall semester sabbatical. It was commissioned by and is dedicated to the Century Chamber Orchestra.

Music Director Elliot Wilcox will conduct the Chamber Orchestra during the performance.

The work consists of four movements: Legend of the White Bear (Manitou Island), Ride on the Rails (Lake Superior & Mississippi

Railroad Depot), Parlor Recital (Fillebrown House) and Regatta (White Bear Yacht Club). Sources include White Bear Area Historical Society’s “History of White Bear Lake,” Cynthia Vadnais’ “Looking Back at White Bear Lake: A Pictorial History of the White Bear Lake Area” and White Bear Stereoptics Co., 2008.

The first movement, Legend of the White Bear (Manitou Island), is based on the Native American love story of a Chippewa brave and Sioux maiden and the battle he fights to save her from a blood-thirsty white bear.

“You can hear the lovers meeting. The sustained strings and harp set the scene using whole tones to evoke a mysterious, floaty and ethereal image,” said Mier. “Then at the height of the drama you hear drums and horns blasting followed by

mourning music.”

The second movement, Ride on the Rails (Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad Depot) is based on the 1868 inaugural train ride into White Bear Lake and the establishment of the community as a resort town.

“There’s a lot of excitement that builds in the style of Aaron Copland as people enjoy a beautiful day aboard the train and a celebration,” said Mier.

The third movement, Parlor Recital (Fillebrown House) is a waltz that evokes the elegance of the Victorian cottage on the lake and the family who called it home.

“Helen Fillebrown was an accomplished business woman and pianist who gave piano lessons and hosted recitals on the Steinway grand piano in her parlor,” said Mier. “This part is a little bittersweet and nostalgic sounding with the strings hanging onto notes and the use of timpani to unify it with the beginning of the piece.”

The fourth movement, Regatta (White Bear Yacht Club), is nice and fast to bring to mind a fun day of sailing on choppy waters as the wind picks up and dies down.

“It features the big build-up that I’m famous for,” said Mier, with a laugh.

Anyone who loves classical music will love this free concert. *Of Lakes and Legends* will take you on an aural and visual journey that you’ll never forget.

“It’s going to be great. I knew it the minute she handed me the score,” said Wilcox. “And it’s all the more fun when you know someone and trust them.”

For more information, visit century.edu/performingarts.



Dr. Shirley Mier and Elliot Wilcox with music from *Of Lakes and Legends*.
(photo by Catherine Carey)

Century College

Fine & Performing Arts Spring Semester 2017 Event Calendar

Mar 12

Century Concert Band
2 p.m., West Campus Theatre

March 30

Visiting Artist Reception
Noon to 1 p.m., Niche
Teaching Gallery, West
Campus

**April 21 & 22
April 27-29**

Century College Theatre
7:30 p.m., West Campus
Theatre
Performing HAIR: The
American Tribal Love-Rock
Musical by Gerome Ragni

April 30

Century College Choir
w/Normandale Concert Choir
7:30 p.m., Church of St.
William

May 4-6

Century College Theatre
7:30 p.m., West Campus
Theatre
Performing HAIR: The
American Tribal Love-Rock
Musical by Gerome Ragni

May 7

Century Chamber Orchestra
3 p.m., West Campus Theatre

Century Concert Band
7 p.m., West Campus Theatre

May 21

Century Jazz Ensemble
3 p.m., West Campus Theatre

Music Department Granted Accreditation

On November 20, 2016, Century College's Music Department was granted accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). In earning this accreditation at the Fall 2016 NASM annual meeting, Century College has demonstrated that it meets all national standards for a quality music program in higher education.

Century's Associate in Fine Arts degree (AFA) in Music meets these high standards, is specifically designed for easy transfer to four-year music programs at colleges and universities, and is offered at a fraction of the cost of other schools.

"We've been given a 'gold seal' of approval by NASM," noted Elliot Wilcox, Music Department faculty. "Accreditation was a rigorous process which has made our program even stronger. This means that our music students receive a high-quality, affordable education which transfers to the four-year institution."

NASM's accreditation process acknowledges the excellence and experience of Century's music faculty and its high-quality program, as well as the many opportunities for performing with various campus ensembles, including Concert Band, Orchestra, Choir, Theatre Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, Piano Ensemble, and the new Popular Styles Ensemble. Other highlights of our program: private hour-long lessons with expert faculty, rigorous Theory & Ear Training curriculum, acting opportunities in musical theatre, and a new Songwriting course.

For more information, visit century.edu/programs/music or facebook.com/centurycollegemusic.



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