A Little Background Info

Times have been hard lately for Daniel and Rebecca Mayton, a young married couple in their late 20s. They are in financial disarray and their 6 year old daughter Cynthia seems to do nothing but increase their stress level. Unbeknownst to them, they are contestants on a bizarre reality TV show simply entitled GAME SHOW! This show is the source of all of the trouble the Maytons face. Hosted by the charming Peter Fortune and assisted by the lovely Ms. Vanity White, GAME SHOW! regularly airs the lives of the Maytons as they deal with all of the trials, tribulations and misfortunes of their every day lives (all of these misfortunes have been orchestrated by GAME SHOW! in order to better entertain their viewing audience). However, each contestant on GAME SHOW! (Rebecca, Daniel and Cynthia) can earn large cash prizes simply by abandoning their personal beliefs and compromising their morals (but they will not be made aware of this until after the game is over, otherwise it would spoil an awful lot of fun).

As you may recall, on last week’s episode the American viewing public was given the opportunity to vote off their least favorite contestant. In doing so, GAME SHOW! will cause the untimely death of that contestant and broadcast it all live. This afternoon, we are very pleased to bring to you the penultimate, 12th episode of GAME SHOW!, live from Hertz Hall.

GAME SHOW! (a chamber opera in one act)

Fred McIlroy IV as Mr. Peter Fortune (Game Show Host)
Sam Radke as the lovely Ms. Vanity White (Game Show assistant)
Maria Manuela Aispuro as Mrs. Rebecca Mayton (contestant)
Greg Fryhling as Mr. Daniel Mayton (another contestant)

The GAME SHOW! band is:
Adam Pelandini: alto sax
Ben Petersen: tenor sax
Bryan Drassal: baritone sax
Michael Lundquist: trumpet
Jeff Vogel: trombone
Matt Pelandini: Drum Set

The orchestra of reality is:
Clifford Dunn: flutes and piccolo
Patty Crispino: clarinets
Allison Calhoun: vibraphone
Aaron Inglis: violin
Jennifer Lynch: violin
Kelly Moore: viola
Joe Sokolik: cello

Brenden would like to publicly apologize for being so anti-social this year, you are about to hear why...

Brenden would like to thank the following: God; all of his friends (who he has neglected all year); his family; CWU Opera Club; Society of Composers Inc. CWU student chapter; all of the CWU Music Dept. staff; particularly Dr. Eric Flesher, Dr. Mark Polishook, Dr. Hal Ott, and Dr. Peter Gries; the Farrell Merit Scholarship Committee; every person who has contributed to this project (especially the 17 who are on stage with him); his roommates and his dog.

Central Washington University
Department of Music
Presents:

Joint Composition Recital

Brenden Smith
Farrell Merit Scholarship Performance

&

James Ogburn
Senior Composition Recital

Saturday, June 5, 2004
Hertz Recital Hall
1:00 pm
PROGRAM

Game Show!  Brenden Smith
A chamber opera in one act

Intermission

Shapeshifter for percussion quartet  James Ogburn
Davy Nefos, Andrew Angell, Jamie Moultine, Matt Pelandini

Pure for solo flute  Clifford Dunn  James Ogburn

Quod Tantos Iuvat for two sopranos  James Henry, Maria Aispuro  James Ogburn

Angel Caido  James Ogburn
For Percussion, Piano, Contrabass Clarinet, and Cello
Allison Calhoun, percussion; Joel Thoreson, piano;
Samantha Oak, contrabass clarinet; Joe Sokolik, cello

PROGRAM NOTES

Shapeshifter – In Shapeshifter I attempt to discuss dishonesty and betrayal. Unfortunately, I find that many people’s paths are compromised by the inability to live honestly, to pursue that which they desire, to indulge in their own satisfaction. Often, in my experience, this hinders the experience of living and can even be detrimental to the happiness of friends, family, and lovers. I chose to represent these ideas within this work through both theatrical and musical means. To employ theatrics, I ask the performers to “chase” one another from station to station. This action refers to the propensity for self-deceiving persons to relegate decision-making and their own fates to the control of others. The central musical construct supportive of my theme is the gradual breakdown of rhythmic unity within and between the players. I believe this requires no explanation.

Pure – I don’t believe that absolute music exists.

Quod Tantos Iuvat - This piece is, essentially an anti-war statement. I was commissioned to write the piece as my country was engaged in a war with questionable motives. I question the motives of all military conflict. It is my contention that there is really no place for war in this world. It is never warranted, it is never justified, and can usually be prevented. Often, examples of tyranny or invasion are elicited as a means of justification. I believe that even the most abhorrent examples of tyranny and plunder could have been preempted. The fact is that it makes no sense for young men to die for people in business suits with dollar signs in their eyes.

Angel Caido – Upon returning from my recent excursion to Europe, I moved into a house inhabited by Christians for the first time in my life. Not subscribing to any particular faith myself, this seemed like an interesting dynamic upon which to develop a piece. In Angel Caido, I interwove the meters of 6/8 and 7/8, such that groups of three of each overlap, symbolizing the coexistent elements of contrasting faith in my house. This piece is about other things as well. In it, I delve into the issue of “falling from grace“. The title refers to an amazing statue at El Parque Del Buen Retiro, in Madrid. In Angel Caido, which happens to be the first statue in world history dedicated to the devil, Lucifer dragged Earthward by vipers. It’s really cool, you should check it out.

Gratitude – Big loads of gratitude to everyone.  

—James Ogburn

Please don’t be insensitive to the world. Turn off cell phones and pagers during the concert. PLEASE DO NOT DISRUPT PERFORMANCES! Thank you 😊