SHEPHERD SCHOOL SHOWCASE

featuring graduate students of

The Shepherd School of Music

Tuesday, May 4, 1993
8:00 p.m.
Stude Concert Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY
PROGRAM

Sonata for flute and piano  
Allegro malinconico  
Cantilena  
Presto giocoso  
Elizabeth Buck, flute  
Laura Melton, piano

Sonata in D minor  
Allegro moderato  
Larghetto ma non troppo  
Rifat Qureshi, viola  
Brian Connelly, piano

Zigeunerweisen, Op. 20  
Mihaela Oancea, violin  
Brian Connelly, piano

Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52  
Laura Melton, piano

INTERMISSION

Vier Stücke, Op. 5  
Mäßig  
Sehr langsam  
Sehr rasch  
Langsam  
Xin-Yang Zhou, clarinet  
Donald Doucet, piano

Sonata in D minor  
Prologue  
Sérénade et Finale  
Darrett Adkins, cello  
Thomas Jaber, piano

Serenade for Six Players (1993) (Premiere)  
Songs  
Jokes  
Homages  
Kevin Noe, conductor  
Elizabeth Buck, flute  
Mihaela Oancea, violin  
Xin-Yang Zhou, clarinet  
Rifat Qureshi, viola  
Laura Melton, piano  
Darrett Adkins, cello

Francis Poulenc  
(1899-1963)

Mikhail Glinka  
(1804-1857)

Pablo de Sarasate  
(1844-1908)

Frédéric Chopin  
(1810-1849)

Alban Berg  
(1885-1935)

Claude Debussy  
(1862-1918)

Paul Cooper  
(b. 1926)
PROGRAM NOTE

The Serenade for Six Players was composed for Sylvia and Aubrey Farb on the occasion of their 45th wedding anniversary and for the 98th birthday of their mother, Sophia. I wished to compose a celebratory work that would embrace aspects of my personal credo and aesthetic: humanity, humor, and humility. The composition was begun in Eze-sur-Mer, France, in June of 1992 and completed in Houston on March 9, 1993.

Songs incorporates several quotes from love songs I composed for my late wife, a most distinguished poet with whom I made numerous collaborations. (April 30 would have been our 40th anniversary.) Obviously, the movement has new materials, new orchestration, and new architecture.

Jokes is a "user-friendly, listener-friendly" jest. I wished to poke gentle and good-natured fun at some of the actions and attitudes of the past twenty or thirty years. I start with myself, move to other composers, conductors, and prima donnas, and append a wry commentary on audiences. It is very difficult to have humor emerge from the music itself—a trait that was so completely successful in the music of Haydn—so I suppose I have resorted to a "paste up." The conductor will coach you in one section to cover your ears. If, at other times, you wish to rattle your programs, twist the paper of your cough drops, talk to your neighbor, boo and hiss, you are most cordially invited to do so. In any case, have fun and enjoy.

Homages is a very special movement and involves premises that I have never before used. I am an avid devotee of Agatha Christie, having read all eighty-some of her detective novels at least once, and in some instances, three or four times. Musical clues are given from the beginning, and the borrowed theme is subsequently stated as an inner voice, but the denouement comes quite late in the movement with two phrases of Schubert's Who is Sylvia? which is followed by a short coda. What a challenge and pleasure to compose!

— Note by the composer

BIOGRAPHIES

PAUL COOPER made his professional debut with a commission from the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra in 1953 and since that time has built an international reputation as a composer, author, critic, and teacher. He has received virtually every music award offered in the U.S., including a Fulbright Fellowship to France to study with the famed Nadia Boulanger, two Guggenheim Fellowships, and awards and grants from Ford, Rockefeller, Rackham, the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and twenty-five consecutive ASCAP awards.

His highly selective publisher's catalogue cites nearly eighty compositions, listing six symphonies, six concertos, six string quartets, four oratorios, and a vast amount of instrumental and vocal chamber music. He has substantial listings in Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians (International and American), in the International Who's Who, and in Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians.

I have come to feel that Paul Cooper is one of America's most distinguished composers. His music has deep emotional motivation and at the same time a clarity that comes from his mastery of craft. The inner fabric is so subtle and the melodic flow is so natural that on each hearing I find relations I had not previously noted. Perhaps I like his music so much because it so much like my own.
ELIZABETH BUCK, flutist, holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School of Music and is currently a doctoral student of Carol Wincenc at the Shepherd School of Music. She has been a prize winner in numerous solo competitions, among them the 1990 New York Flute Club Competition, the 1987 National Arts Club Competition, and the Juilliard School Concerto Competition. An active chamber musician and performer, Ms. Buck performs with the Manhattan Wind Quintet, concertizing throughout the metropolitan New York area. Additional appearances have been with Da Camera in Houston and the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago.

Originally from Toronto, Canada, RIFAT QURESHI began studying the viola at age fourteen at the Royal Conservatory of Music. He won several local competitions and prizes which led to solo and chamber concerts. He then went on to study in the U.S., first at the Eastman School of Music and then at the Shepherd School of Music where he received his master's degree. Mr. Qureshi has been invited to many of the leading music festivals, including Tanglewood, Aspen, Keystone, and the Music Academy of the West. In 1990, he was listed in Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. Mr. Qureshi is presently pursuing a doctoral degree in viola at the Shepherd School of Music as a student of Sergiu Luca.

MIHAELA OANCEA came to the U.S. from Romania in 1987 to study violin performance with Sergiu Luca at the Shepherd School of Music after completing twelve years at Georges Enescu Music High School. She was First Prize winner of Citta di Stressa International Violin Competition in Italy (1984). Currently studying for her master's degree at the Shepherd School, she has also attended several summer festivals, including Rutgers Summer Festival in New York, Cascade Head Festival in Oregon, and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival in Connecticut.

LAURA MELTON is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in piano performance at the Shepherd School of Music as a student of John Perry. She is also Mr. Perry's teaching assistant. The winner of several international piano competitions, including the Mendelssohn Competition (Berlin), the New York Recital Competition, the Young Keyboard Artists Competition, and the Young Artists Competition, Laura Melton was also the only remaining American in the semi-finals of the 1991 Clara Haskil Competition in Switzerland. As a result of winning the National Symphony Young Artist Competition, she has performed four times with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

XIN-YANG ZHOU is currently studying for a doctoral degree in clarinet performance at the Shepherd School of Music with David Peck. Originally from China, he received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Tech University and Florida State University, respectively. He is the winner of several competitions, including Second Prize of the 1989 International Clarinet Society Young Artist Competition (Minneapolis/St. Paul). He has also participated in the Grand Teton Orchestral Seminar in Wyoming. During the summer of 1993, Mr. Zhou will perform with the American Wind Symphony Orchestra.

DARRETT ADKINS is currently studying for his master's degree in cello performance at the Shepherd School of Music with Norman Fischer. He was the first place winner of the 1992 Shepherd School Concerto Competition and the winner of awards from the Tanglewood Music Center, the Washington International Competition, the Chicago Cello Society, and the National Society of Arts and Letters. As a member of the Maud Powell Quartet, he was a winner of the 1990 Coleman Chamber Music Competition and the 1989 Fischhoff Competition. Mr. Adkins performed as principal cellist of the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra under Leonard Bernstein (his penultimate concert) and Marek Janowski. Mr. Adkins has been involved in over thirty premiere performances, including several works written specifically for him.

KEVIN NOE is working toward a master's degree in orchestral conducting at the Shepherd School of Music as a student of Larry Rachleff. He is co-director of Rice University's Campanile Orchestra. He received his bachelor's degree in trumpet performance from the University of North Texas. While there, he conducted both the symphony and chamber orchestras as well as the symphonic band. In 1991 he was appointed co-director of the university's brass choir. Mr. Noe was also a winner of the university's concerto competition and performed as a soloist with the symphony during its 1991 tour of Spain. For the past two summers, Mr. Noe has been the staff choir director at the Interlochen National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan.
PROGRAM CHANGE

Due to injuries from an accident, Darrett Adkins is unable to perform this evening. The prognosis for his recovery is excellent.

Eric Kutz has graciously and generously agreed to play in place of Darrett Adkins on Paul Cooper's Serenade for Six Players, and Mr. Kutz will perform the following with pianist Daniel Velicer in place of the Debussy Sonata in D minor:

First Rhapsody
Lassù
Friss

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)

ERIC KUTZ is currently studying cello performance at the Shepherd School of Music with Norman Fischer. He has performed concerti with several orchestras in his native North Dakota. In 1992 he was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center and this summer will be touring Europe with the North Carolina School for the Arts Festival Orchestra.