

Nevada Pops
Program Notes
February 28, 2009

Mission: Impossible Theme

Lalo Schifrin's irresistible 5/4 rhythm in this landmark TV theme did as much as Brubeck's *Take Five* to prove that toe-tapping music does not have to be in 2, 3 or 4. As much as any theme in TV history, Mission Impossible defines the genre, and to this day, there is no other musical piece that depicts the hard-edged, secret agent type more eloquently.

Superman, Selections

John Williams' memorable score to the 1978 action adventure blockbuster featured some of his most familiar melodies, including the haunting "Can You Read My Mind." In his recent Signature Series orchestral publication of the Superman March, Williams dedicated the entire score to the memory of actor Christopher Reeve, whose courage in the face of tragedy has been an inspiration to all of us.

Highlights from "The Lion King"

Elton John and Tim Rice teamed up to create music that is both brand new, and still evocative of the history of the African continent. Delightful, memorable melodies abound in this fantastic Broadway extravaganza that is coming soon to Las Vegas!

Leroy Anderson Salute

For a quarter of a century, Leroy Anderson established himself as the Norman Rockwell of American composers and arrangers while he worked with the great Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops. Dozens and dozens of familiar compositions and arrangements that we grew up with came from his fertile imagination. From *Sleigh Ride* to *The Syncopated Clock*, the music of Leroy Anderson will be forever associated with America's best times. Featured now are three classic Anderson compositions: *The Typewriter Song*, featuring actual solo typewriter, *A Trumpeter's Lullaby*, featuring the Pops' principal trumpeter Tom Wright, and the energetic *Bugler's Holiday*.

A Celebration of the Oscars!

It's Oscar week, and to celebrate a great American tradition, Laura Taylor joins with Nevada Pops to remember some melodies that were nominated for the Academy Awards. Not all the great tunes win, and some of the nominees may surprise you! We'll keep the titles as a surprise for now, but expect Disney Studios to be well represented. We are pleased to welcome brilliant composer, pianist, and vocalist Laura Taylor to this evening's performance of Oscar-nominated music.

Love for Sale

Cole Porter's famous standard has been adapted and re-arranged for virtually every type of jazz band or cabaret singer. However, the Pete Myers arrangement for the Buddy Rich Big Band stands as the most exciting rendition, without question. Designed as a vehicle for tenor sax and trumpet improvisation, the real sparks fly when the band revs up for one of the best shout choruses ever, punctuated by drum solos made famous by the immortal Buddy Rich.

Malaguena

Speaking of classic big band powerhouses, the Stan Kenton orchestra of the 1960s added to their awesome power with the addition of mellophoniums. Similar in many ways to the French horn, mellophoniums filled the gap in range between the trumpets and the trombones. The Nevada Pops horns join with the Walt Boenig Big Band to recreate this timeless Bill Holman classic.

Tribute to Irving Berlin

One of America's most beloved songwriters, Irving Berlin (1888-1989) has composed such immortal melodies as *God Bless America*, *White Christmas* and *Easter Parade*. Upon his death at age 101, he left a legacy of more than 3,000 compositions, including 21 Broadway shows. As one might imagine, there have been many arrangements of Berlin's works, but none better than this fine compilation of favorites by Warren Barker.

The Stars and Stripes Forever

One might say that no band concert is complete without a Sousa march. There is a reason for that; no single composer is so instantly recognized as American as is John Philip Sousa. His 200+ marches are eternally optimistic and catchy. His gift for melody is matched only by a handful of the greatest songwriters and composers. And, of all his works, *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, composed in 1896, stands as the quintessential Sousa march. It was played by the Sousa band more than 2,000 times, right up to his death in 1932. It has since been recognized by our government as the official march of the United States. Most people, however, never get a chance to listen to the march in a concert setting. Normally one hears it under a car commercial or during fireworks displays. Take this opportunity to really hear one of the most famous musical works of the past 150 years.