

Program Notes

“Fiesta!”

Serenata

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) was one of the greatest American composers of light classical music. He held many posts with the Army, Harvard University, and as composer and arranger for the Boston Pops for over twenty years. During that time, he composed and arranged literally hundreds of pieces for the orchestra, many of which became immensely popular standards, including *Sleigh Ride*, *The Syncopated Clock*, *The Typewriter Song*, and *Blue Tango*. Another famous by Anderson hit was *Serenata*, which by definition is a beguine. A beguine is a sprightly Latin dance in a moderate duple meter, with a specific emphasis on consecutive offbeats. Though the beguine originated in the Caribbean island of Martinique, many compositions from Latin countries, as well as the United States, employ this pleasant rhythm.

South of the Border

Jimmy Kennedy & Michael Carr teamed up in 1939 to compose a theme song for a movie entitled *South of the Border*. The song used the same name, and became an instant hit in both the United States and Mexico. The original recording, performed by cowboy movie legend Gene Autry, was quite popular, but in 1953, Frank Sinatra produced a jazzy version of the same tune that is most frequently heard today. This arrangement, by the great jazz arranger Billy Byers (1927-1996), was performed by several bands, including the great Count Basie.

Black Orpheus

The first part of our bossa nova salute is a beautiful melody often credited to Antonio Carlos Jobim. However, it was Luiz Bonfá (1922-2001) who penned the tune for the 1959 movie *Orfeu Negro*. Often, the tune is called by the name *Manha de Carnaval*, but whether that name or *Black Orpheus*, it is a hauntingly beautiful melody that never gets old. Interestingly, Jobim also composed music for the same film, which might be the reason for mistakenly thinking *Black Orpheus* was his. Tom Kubis recently arranged this great tune for big band and trombone solo.

Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars (Corcovado), Meditation (Meditacao)

One of the greatest musical influences of the twentieth century has been the work of the Brazilian pianist/guitarist and composer Antonio Carlos Jobim (1927-1994). Although his list of compositions is not that large, the bossa novas he composed were so enthusiastically received in America and all over the world, that he attained the status of a

musical giant. Perhaps the greatest commercial successes he enjoyed were his collaborations with jazz saxophonist Stan Getz. The release of Stan Getz's performances of Jobim's music, particularly *The Girl from Ipanema*, remain standards to this day. Tonight, Nevada Pops features two arrangements of Jobim melodies for Les Brown's "Band of Renown." The first, *Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars*, is arranged by Les Brown himself. That tune will be followed by a lovely arrangement by Bob Florence of *Meditation*.

Malaguena

One of the great Latin melodies of the twentieth century comes from Cuba, and the pen of bandleader Ernesto Lecuona (1895-1963). *Malaguena* was composed, probably in the late 1920s, as part of the *Andalucia Suite Espagnole*. It has since been recorded and performed by literally hundreds of artists and ensembles, including such diverse performers as Roy Clark, Stan Kenton, Jose Feliciano, and even Bill Haley and the Comets! In every rendition, the beauty of each successive melodic adventure stands out. This is not a simple tune; rather, it is an episodic adventure in Latin rhythm, harmony, and melody. Ferde Grofe orchestrated this masterpiece for full orchestra in 1934.

INTERMISSION

(Jose Hernandez, Mariachi, Pops, etc.)