

NANCY GALBRAITH SYMPHONIC WINDS

CARNEGIE MELLON WIND ENSEMBLE

Denis Colwell conductor

Donna Amato piano

Wind Symphony N° 1 (16:53)

- 1 I. (6:26)
- 2 II. (5:07)
- 3 III. (5:20)

Concerto for Piano & Wind Ensemble (22:27)

- 4 I. (7:49)
- 5 II. (6:58)
- 6 III. (7:40)

TOTAL TIME: 39:20

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Wind Symphony N° 1

Concerto for Piano & Wind Ensemble

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NANCY GALBRAITH has been composing music since the late 1970's, creating instrumental and vocal sound praised for its rich harmonic texture, rhythmic vitality, emotional and spiritual depth, and wide range of expression. With major contributions to the repertoires of symphony orchestras, concert choirs, wind ensembles, chamber ensembles, and soloists, she plays a leading role in defining the sound of American contemporary classical music.

Galbraith is also an accomplished pianist and organist, and has composed a number of sacred choral and organ works in her years as a church musician. She resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, where she is Professor and Chair of Composition at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music, and holds the Vira I. Heinz Professorship of Music endowed chair at CMU's College of Fine Arts.



Galbraith's music for concert bands first drew national attention with the 1995 recording of *wind brightness round about it*. A short time later, *Danza de los Duendes* was featured as the opening work on the Klavier Records CD, *Dream Catchers*, recorded by the North Texas Wind Symphony, and quickly became a popular favorite with wind ensembles around the globe. To date, her wind repertoire includes *Audible Images*, *Elfin Thunderbolt*, *Euphonic Blues*, *Febris Ver (Spring Fever)* and *Washington's Landing*. In 1999, Galbraith's epic *Missa Mysteriorum* was premiered by Maestro Robert Page's Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh, accompanied by the Carnegie Mellon Wind Ensemble. This disc features Galbraith's two most extensive concert band works:

WIND SYMPHONY N° 1 (1997) was commissioned for the 20th Anniversary celebration of The Women's Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin. It was premiered and recorded by the Waukesha Area Symphonic Band, led by Larry Harper. In three haunting musical landscapes, the composer "mixes lush harmonies and minimalist pulsings with gamelan-style superimpositions of long, slow lines over faster ostinatos..." (American Record Guide).

CONCERTO FOR PIANO & WIND ENSEMBLE (2000) was commissioned by the Slippery Rock University Wind Ensemble in Pennsylvania, who performed the premiere in 2001 with conductor James Berry and pianist Nanette Kaplan Solomon, to whom the work is dedicated. "The splendid concerto has a divertingly quirky energy and wit, tinged with the inflections of jazz and blues, framing a soulful slow movement with exuberant studies in sheer musical *joie de vivre*, tempered with an insistent, driven and at times almost hectic gaiety..." (Records International).

DENIS COLWELL is the current head of the Carnegie Mellon University School of Music, where he has served as professor of music since 1993, assistant head of the school from 1988 to 1995, and music director of the Carnegie Mellon Wind Ensemble from 1993 to 2011. His 1996 recording with the wind ensemble was hailed as "...one of the best band recordings in recent years..." by the American Record Guide (March/April 1996). Colwell joined the River City Brass Band in 1982 where he served as assistant principal solo cornetist. From 1994 to 2009, he served as music director of the ensemble, with whom he performed over 1,450 concerts throughout the USA. He also founded the Carnegie Mellon Youth Brass Band and the River City Youth Brass Band, and served as conductor of both ensembles. Colwell received BA and MA degrees in trumpet performance at Carnegie Mellon.



Recordings: Carnegie Free Library Music Hall, Carnegie, Pennsylvania
Wind Symphony N° 1 – Apr 26, 1997 • Concerto for Piano & Wind Ensemble – Feb 16, 2002
Audio recording & engineering: Riccardo Schulz
Art design & liner notes: Matthew Galbraith
Both works are published by Subito Music Publishing (ASCAP)

DONNA AMATO was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she debuted with a youth orchestra at the age of fourteen and studied with American virtuoso Ozan Marsh. After graduating college with Honors in music (1983), she traveled to Europe to immerse herself in the European piano tradition, studying with Louis Kentner in London and Gaby Casadesus in Paris. At Guido Agosti's masterclass series in Siena, Italy, she was awarded the discretionary Diploma d'Onore. She continued studies in Mexico with Angelica Morales von Sauer. Her concert and recording career then flourished, with appearances in Europe, Mexico, Canada, and the United States; radio broadcasts on the BBC; and numerous recordings of classical and contemporary composers. Amato teaches piano at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, and works at Carnegie Mellon as an Assisting Artist.

