

July 21, 2010

Urgent Press Release:

What: Jubilee! Summer Orchestra, with special Guests Jonathan Scales Fourchestra, Sirius B, and Patrick Littlejohn, the Worldbeat Band, and a Choir

When, etc.: Sunday, August 1, 7:30 pm, 46 Wall St in Asheville, admission by donation

Why this is PR is so late: This concert is so **over the top** (about 75 performers) that we just got time

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Musicians Find Common Ground Amidst Heavenly Harmonies

The Jubilee! Summer Orchestra is once again about to boldly go where no orchestra has gone before, in a night of **surround-sound orchestra**, playing music in many new dimensions of space. Aside from Nature herself, there is probably no better example of unity in the midst of diversity than a large orchestra or choir. Many cultures around the world have evolved large musical ensembles, for 20, 50, or more players, where instrumentalists, singers and personalities of all stripes come together to join their unique characters into a powerful force going beyond what any individual could achieve on their own. And there is perhaps no more elaborate and rich tradition than the now-global symphonic orchestra.

On August 1st, the orchestra presents *Jubilee! In the Dark*, new and traditional compositions and improvisations performed in the round in an orchestral micro-cosmic “symphony system.” The orchestra's director, Eric Scheider, said when asked: “The usual model of performer-over-here and audience-over-there creates a pretty major split between participants in a concert, which ought to include the audience in a big way. For this concert, we're taking up a new model: based on nature's patterns of the solar system, cells, atoms, etc., where the orchestra performs in a ring around the audience, with key soloists moving through the interior of the room at various times. This new experience with the orchestra in the rehearsals has been like walking into a planetarium or an IMAX dome with surround sound as compared to watching a movie at home on TV. I wanted the audience to be able to experience how it feels as a performer to be right in the middle of the action.”

The first half of the music for the concert takes some heavenly works from the historical tradition and puts them into warp speed, in the orchestra's own versions. Holsts “Neptune, the Mystic” from *The Planets* (1916) will be played in concert with the recorded sounds of blue whales in a synthesized ambient sea (Neptune is the Roman god of the sea). Alessandro Striggio, a friend of Vincenzo Galilei (the musician father of Galileo), wrote the the music for *Ecce Beatam Lucem* (“Behold the blessed light”-1560's) at the height of Renaissance Florence's mystical fascination with things celestial. Originally written for 10 choirs of 4 voices each (40 unique voices!) performed in a large circle, the work is newly orchestrated for this concert for 24 voices doubled with strings, and four choirs of winds and brass. Singers from churches and ensembles around Asheville were invited to participate in this celebration of unity in diversity. The 60 performers in this work alone represent quite an eclectic ecumenism. Charles Ives's “The Unanswered Question” (1906-originally paired with “Central Park in the Dark”), and the famous opening to *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (with a very surprising timpani), round out the historical fare.

New and improvisational music commands the second part of the evening. Special guests the Jonathan Scales Fourchestra (www.jonscales.com), folk-punk absurdists Sirius.B (www.siriusbmusic.com), jazz pianist Patrick Littlejohn, and Jubilee's World Beat Band have all agreed to join the orchestra in the Common Ground Project. A simple eight-note musical seed was given to each group to realize into their own creation. The orchestra and the audience will then join together

with all the groups for a heavenly improvisational musical garden to close the evening.

The Jubilee! Summer Orchestra is in it's fourth season under Director Eric Scheider. Founded in 1993 by Maestro Early Hefly, the orchestra brings together Western North Carolina's most fun amateur and professional musicians for a concert or two in lovely downtown Asheville. The orchestra continually and ambivalently strives to one day outpace Bele Chere's attendance totals. More at www.jubileeorchestra.net.