

Rondo

from *Music for Springtime*For Woodwind Quintet



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Winner, 2015 Bassoon Chamber Music Composition Competition

Composer's Notes

Music for Springtime was inspired in part by Samuel Barber's woodwind quintet Summer Music, a staple of the repertoire written in 1956. Music for Springtime is a not an homage to Barber's work but does reflect and touch upon some of the moods and character changes heard in Summer Music. Music for Springtime was also shaped by the circumstances and timing of its composition: I wrote it in the year after I moved from California back to my native Pennsylvania, shortly after the birth of my daughter, and mostly in the springtime. Thoughts of rebirth and rejuvenation, but also of the uncertainty of transition, were undoubtedly present while I wrote.

About the Composer

The music of Joseph Gregorio has been broadcast on American Public Media's *Performance Today* and WQXR's *Choral Mix*, has garnered prizes in several competitions, and has been performed in the United States and abroad by numerous and renowned soloists and ensembles at such venues as the Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the National Cathedral, and the Basilica di San Marco in Venice. Gregorio recently received a 2015 Commissioning Grant from the Ann Stookey Fund for New Music and commissions from Cantus and the ACDA Women's Commission Consortium. He served as 2011-2012 composer-in-residence of New York City ensemble Choral Chameleon, and as 2005-2006 composer-in-residence of the Sonoma County Chamber Singers. His music is published by Areté Music Imprints, E. C. Schirmer Music Company, Walton Music, and the National Collegiate Choral Organization, and has been recorded by the choirs of the St. Olaf Christmas Festival, Concerto Della Donna, the Washington Men's Camerata, the John Alexander Singers, the Rutgers University Glee Club, the Millikin University Men's Choir, the Cornell University Glee Club, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Concert Choir, The Capital Hearings, and Duo Del Sol.

Also active as a conductor, Gregorio is director of choirs at Swarthmore College. In 2011 he founded chamber choir Ensemble Companio, which won the 2012 American Prize in choral performance; he served as the group's artistic director from its founding until 2016. Gregorio has guest-conducted the Swarthmore College Orchestra, the Cornell University Glee Club, and the Mansfield University Concert Choir. He served from 2004 to 2006 as the assistant conductor of the San Francisco Conservatory Chorus, as assistant conductor of the San Francisco Bach Choir from 2005 to 2007, and as an assistant conductor of the Yale Camerata from 2002 to 2004.

Gregorio has studied composition with Steven Stucky, David Conte, Richard Brodhead, Alice Parker, and Matthew Greenbaum. He holds a M.M. in composition with departmental honors from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, a M.M. in choral conducting from Yale University, and a B.A. *magna cum laude* in music from Cornell University. While at Yale, he studied conducting with Marguerite Brooks and Simon Carrington, and received the Edward Stanley Seder, Richard French, and Hugh Giles prizes in choral conducting. Gregorio was a professor of music theory and musicianship at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music from 2008-2009. He also taught music theory at Temple University from 2011-2012, where he is presently a candidate for the D.M.A. in composition and was the recipient of a Presidential Fellowship.

About the BCMCC

The Bassoon Chamber Music Composition Competition (BCMCC) is a non-profit organization with a mission to expand new music for the bassoon and to offer opportunities to composers. The competition, typically held every other year, increases the chamber repertoire available to bassoonists by encouraging composers to write new music that includes this instrument. The competition judges, comprised of professional musicians, provide feedback to each composer that enters. The BCMCC works with the winning composers to have the pieces published, premieres the winning works, and creates a recording with professional musicians

PURPOSE

- 1. To increase repertoire for the bassoon.
- 2. To help in the creation of new, cutting edge music.
- 3. To help in the distribution of these pieces to musicians and the public by creating opportunities for access such as live performance, the publishing of the works, and recordings

The inaugural competition was held in 2010 and was a resounding success. The feedback strongly indicated the need for another BCMCC, so a Board of Directors was formed, the BCMCC was incorporated, and has become a 501c(3) National Arts organization public charity. Competitions have been held in 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2015.

The BCMCC has two CDs released on the MSR Classics label:

- 1. Bassoon and Friends. winning works from the 2010 competition.
- 2. *Elements*, winning works from both 2012 and 2014 competitions.

THE 2015 BCMCC

Winning Compositions

- "4 miniature per 4 strumenti a fiato" for flute, clarinet, bassoon, and horn by Fabio Massimo Capogrosso-
- "Rondo" from Music for Springtime for woodwind quintet by Joseph Gregorio
- "Desert Miniatures: Insects" for three bassoons by Robert McClure
- "A Breath of Life" for oboe, bassoon, violin, viola, and bass by Chun-Wai Wong

Honorable Mention Compositions

- "Myths" for bassoon, vibraphone, and piano by Nikolai Brücher
- "Instilling Hope" for woodwind quintet by Jabez Co

THE 2015 BCMCC JUDGES PANEL

The BCMCC would not be possible without the support of the bassoon and composing communities.

Jenni Brandon - composer

Bill Jobert - Wright State University bassoon professor

Nathan Koch - Sam Houston State University bassoon professor

Damian Montano - bassoonist, composer

Carl Rath - Lawrence University bassoon professor

Eric Rutherford - Heidelberg University bassoon professor

Jamie Sampson - ADJ-ective New Music, composer, bassoonist, author

Christin Schillinger - Miami University bassoon professor

Chris Weait - bassoonist, composer

Christin Webb - Ceora Winds, bassoonist

Dan Welcher - composer, conductor, bassoonist

David Wells - California State/Sacramento State University bassoon professor

For more information, please visit www.bassooncomp.org

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III.

Joseph Gregorio















