

# Allan Gilliland

## ***DREAMING OF THE MASTERS I***

A JAZZ CONCERTO FOR CLARINET AND ORCHESTRA



*Dreaming of the Masters*, a jazz suite for solo clarinet and orchestra was written by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's Composer in Residence Allan Gilliland; given its World Premiere with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in September 2003; And its USA premiere by the legendary Boston Pops at Symphony Hall in Boston in May and June, 2004.

Canadian clarinet virtuoso James Campbell, a native of Leduc, Alberta, was the featured soloist at both performances, conducted by Boston Pops Principal Guest Conductor Bruce Hangen.

*Dreaming of the Masters* is dedicated to and written for James Campbell.

Photo L to R: James Campbell, Allan Gilliland, Bruce Hangen

### ***ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE***

-- Gilliland's "Dreaming of the Masters", has wit and charm, and James Campbell made a sensationally virtuosic and versatile soloist, in the sultry whispers of the slow movement and in the squeeling high jinks of the finale.

THE BOSTON GLOBE

-- Bright Ontario [Ottawa]debut for Edmonton orchestra...Following the final measures of Allan Gilliland's "Dreaming of the Masters", people throughout the hall jumped to their feet, clapping and shouting bravos.....the bravos undoubtedly rewarded the virtuoso playing of the soloist, clarinetist James Campbell.

TORONTO STAR

### ***ABOUT THE PIECE – ALLAN GILLILAND WRITES...***

For a few years I have been thinking about how to combine my experience as an orchestral composer with my background as a jazz player. I wanted to write a series of Jazz Concertos for soloists who were comfortable in both the classical and jazz idioms. The idea that took shape was a series of Jazz Concertos for soloists who were comfortable in both the classical and jazz idioms. Each concerto would be inspired by the great jazz soloists of that particular instrument; hence the title *Dreaming of the Masters*, and the allowance of the player the opportunity to improvise. This is the first work in that series. The complete title of the work is *Dreaming of the Masters I*, a Jazz Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra and as mentioned above, an important jazz clarinetist inspires each movement.

1. Movement I, subtitled *Benny's Bounce*, is inspired by Benny Goodman. The sound of this movement is very much in the style of *Sing Sing Sing*, one of Benny's biggest hits. This movement also begins with one of the most famous moments in the clarinet repertoire, which I won't give away.
2. Movement II is the slow movement and is inspired by some of the great clarinetists of the '20s and '30s; artists like Pee Wee Russell and Barney Bigard. The subtitle, *Stranger on the Prairie*, is an inside joke. One of the biggest hits for the clarinet is Acker Bilk's *Stranger on the Shore*. Since Jim Campbell is from the Canadian prairies, I titled my movement *Stranger on the Prairie*.
3. The last movement is called *Rhythm Buddy* and the inspiration comes from Buddy DeFranco, one of the few clarinetists from the Bebop era. It is written on the chord changes to *I Got Rhythm* and gives the soloist a chance to show off their technique. It is written on the chord changes to *I Got Rhythm* and gives the soloist a chance to show off their technique.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS ...

### Allan Gilliland, composer

Born in Darvel, Scotland in 1965, Allan Gilliland immigrated to Canada in 1972. He holds a diploma in Jazz Studies (trumpet) from Humber College, a Bachelor of Music degree in performance and a Master of Music degree in composition from the University of Alberta where he studied with Violet Archer, Malcolm Forsyth and Howard Bashaw.

He has written music for solo instruments, orchestra, choir, brass quintet, wind ensemble, big band, film, television and theatre. His music has been performed by many ensembles including the Canadian Brass, the Edmonton, Vancouver, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestras, Pro Coro Canada, the Tommy Banks Band, the Missoula Symphony Orchestra and the brass section of the New York Philharmonic.

In 1999 Allan Gilliland was appointed Composer-in-Residence with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and since then has written 7 works. Allan is an Associate Composer with the Canadian Music Centre and a member of the Canadian League of Composers and has taught at the University of Alberta and Red Deer College. Since 2003 Allan is Head of the Writing Major at Grant MacEwan College.

### James Campbell, clarinet

Called "Canada's pre-eminent clarinetist and wind soloist" by the Toronto Star, James Campbell has performed solo and chamber music concerts in 30 countries, has been soloist with over 60 orchestras, including the Boston Pops, the London Symphony, the Russian Philharmonic, and the Montreal Symphony and has performed Copland's Clarinet Concerto four times with Aaron Copland conducting. He has appeared with over 30 string quartets, including the Amadeus (when he replaced an ailing Benny Goodman on a tour of California), Guarneri, Vermeer, New Zealand and St Lawrence Quartets. He has made 40 recordings, including the Debussy Rhapsody with Glenn Gould, the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, and the premiere recording of the Berio arrangement of the Brahms F minor Sonata with the London Symphony. His recording of the Brahms Clarinet Quintet was chosen by the BBC and London Times as the best available. More than 30 works have been written for him, including works by James Macmillan (Scotland) Jacques Hetu (Canada), David Baker (USA), George Shearing (UK/USA), Wilhem Jetts (Holland), and Keiko Harada (Japan).

He has over 30 works commissioned, a Juno Award, Canada's Artist of the Year, the Queens Jubilee Medal, and Canada's highest honour, the Order of Canada.

James Campbell has been Professor of Music at Indiana University since 1988 and Artistic Director of the Festival of the Sound since 1985.

### Bruce Hangen, conductor

Bruce Hangen is Principal Guest Conductor of the Boston Pops. He is also Principal Conductor of the Indian Hill Symphony at Indian Hill Arts in Littleton, MA. Maestro Hangen has just resigned his post as Artistic/General Director of the Portland Opera Repertory Theatre in Maine, a company he founded in 1995.

Nationally recognized since 1979, his ongoing affiliation with the Boston Pops has included everything from series programs to outdoor, touring and private concerts. Maestro Hangen was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from the University of New England in 1981, and was the recipient of the ICAN Foundation's 1990 Browning Award for Career Excellence and Vision. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Mr. Hangen was a conducting fellow for two summers at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, winning the prize for Outstanding Conducting Fellow in 1973.