



The Varsity Band is the University Band for the MSU campus! Marches, show tunes, and symphonic works! This ensemble is primarily for non-music majors and music majors playing secondary instruments. The Varsity Band also serves as a "lab band" for students in the Instrumental Conducting Class.

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Music
Morehead State University

*The Morehead State University
Department of Music Presents:*

The University Band

Nicholas R. Denham, conductor




Thursday, May 5, 2005
1:50 pm
The Fulbright Rehearsal



Off the Podium

Resting in the Peace of His Hands

..... John Gibson

“Resting in the Peace of His Hands” was composed in 1994 for Dr. Jack Delaney and The Southern Methodist University Meadows School of the Arts Wind Ensemble. I have found the composer’s own words the only proper way to communicate the music’s inspiration:

“While visiting the Busch-Reisinger Museum at Harvard University, I encountered a relief sculpture by Kaethe Kollwitze (1867-1945) titled “Resting in the Peace of His Hands.” I knew nothing of the artist, nothing of the origin of the work, and nothing of the origin of the title at the time of the encounter. I knew only that the work expressed to me a remarkable sense of peace and that I would never lose the impression it made upon me at that chance encounter.

I discovered that Kollwitz was a significant German artist who was constantly exposed to the suffering of the unfortunate and forgotten people of society through her husband, a physician assigned to care for the indigent. Her efforts to express that suffering in the midst of her own personal suffering (she lost her son, Peter to World War I, and her grandson, Peter Jr. to World War II) earned her enormous respect and high position among mainstream German artists, and enemies within the Nazi government. “Resting in the Peace of His Hands” was a very personal work for Ms. Kollwitz, intended to express “the feeling of utter peace,” contrary to the major body of her work, intended to express utter torment. She named the work after a quote from Goethe, and intended that it be the central element in the headstone of her family tomb.” - John Gibson

This work is an amazing portrayal of emotion, lending itself to the growth of the ensemble’s musical capabilities. Exposed solo lines allow for individual contribution, while the slow tempo emphasizes tone production, blend, and dynamic contrast. This piece is exceptionally demanding of every player, but creates a strong emotional connection with the music that reminds us that this is why we do what we do.

John Gibson is a native of Dallas and has a large catalogue of commissions from many areas including the Texas Music Educators’ Association and The Revelli Foundation for Bands of America. His compositions range from band works to choral and orchestral pieces, not to mention percussion ensemble and musical theatre. Gibson has a wide range of teaching experience including the Amarillo public schools and several universities. He now serves as the resident composer for the Dallas Wind Symphony.