



## LETTER: World premiere highlights concert

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NORTH NEWTON —

The first-ever performance of “Goodnight, Goodnight,” recently composed by Steve Danyew (born 1983), was a most modern version of a lullaby. Played by the Bethel College Wind Ensemble under the direction of Timothy Shade, the piece was interesting and captivating, with a lulling melody in spite of mildly discordant combinations of notes, and had a momentary rise in intensity and volume.

That was followed by another 2010 number that premiered April 11, “Event Horizon,” by Paul Rudy, Bethel’s composer-in-residence. In the same group was another modern piece: “Nitro” by Frank Ticheli, exploring explosive dangers in musical sound.

In direct contrast were two melodies treated by Percy Grainger (one was the familiar “Danny Boy,” as if Shade wanted to make sure some listeners would love at least one number).

Different was Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 1,” with four movements well performed by the Bethel College Chamber Orchestra.

In the third movement is a neat dialogue between strings and winds. As often has been pointed out, Beethoven was at first somewhat influenced by Hayden and Mozart, but even then he was innovative in a new way, so his first symphony hints at what will flower in his strong third.

— Esther Groves,

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