

## LINCOLN HOME SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA

### First Violins:

Catherine Dowd (solo in *π Acres Suite*)  
Helen Dowd  
Daniel Gaskell  
Laura Gaskell  
Dylan Hoover

### Second Violins:

John Dowd  
Barbara Gaskell  
Sophie Hines  
Angelica Hoover  
Ashley Hoover  
Dylan Hoover

### Violas:

Jane Dowd  
Margaret Fairchild  
Elsa Hines  
Elizabeth Webster (solo in *Windy Hill Suite*)

### ‘Cellos:

Noah Hines  
Lesley Hoover  
Kaitlyn Hurdle

### Double Bass:

Lily Ealey

### Conductor:

Martin Gaskell

We are a family-oriented string orchestra, comprised mostly of Lincoln area home school families. We're always looking for more string players. Fall rehearsals of the Lincoln Homeschool Senior String Orchestra will be on Monday afternoons from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. here at Zion church. Since we are family oriented, we encourage string-playing parents and older siblings who can play the music and attend rehearsals to play too. We are also working on starting a Junior String Orchestra that will meet at the same time as the Senior String Orchestra. Families interested in either orchestra should contact Barbara Gaskell (464-9664 or [gaskell@inetnebr.com](mailto:gaskell@inetnebr.com)).

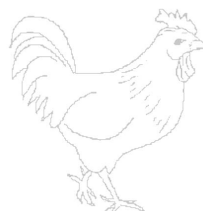
Further orchestra information (including sample music) can be found on the web at [http://incolor.inebraska.com/gaskell/homeschool\\_senior\\_string\\_orchestra.html](http://incolor.inebraska.com/gaskell/homeschool_senior_string_orchestra.html)

## LINCOLN HOME SCHOOL STRING ORCHESTRA PRESENTS:

# *“Summer in Nebraska” – Two Nebraska Suites*

**Saturday July 29, 2006  
4:00 p.m.**

**Zion Church  
Lincoln, Nebraska**



## PROGRAM

National Anthem

“ $\pi$ Acres” – a Nebraska Suite for String Orchestra	Martin Gaskell
1. Prelude <i>Allegro energetico</i>	(Opus 3.14159265)
2. <i>Allegretto Grazioso</i>	
3. <i>Tempo di Menuetto – Piu Mosso</i>	
4. Saraband and Intermezzo - <i>Adagio</i>	
5. Finale – <i>Alla Marcia - Nobilemente</i>	

INTERMISSION

Windy Hill Suite – a Second Nebraska Suite for Strings	Martin Gaskell
2. <i>Tempo di pollo</i>	
4. Air – <i>Adagio – molto tranquillo</i>	
5. <i>Allegro alla gigue – Largamente assai – Glorioso</i>	

## Introduction

Somewhere towards the end of the last millennium (that sounds impressively long ago, doesn't it?) my wife, Barbara, suggested to me, “you should write something for strings!” “Sure,” I replied, and so the idea of composing what became two suites for strings was hatched.

Over the next few years God made it possible for us to realize one of Barbara's life-long dreams and move out to a house she had largely designed herself on an acreage in the country. When you home school, everything is an education, so Barbara took the dimensions of our new property and had our sons, Timothy and Daniel, figure out how many acres it actually was. According to their calculation, our nominal three acres turned out to be 3.14 acres, “ $\pi$  acres!” they said, and so our new place had a name: “Pi Acres.” During our busy year of remodeling and extending our new house, my relaxation was working on and off on the first suite you're hearing today, and in my mind it became more and more associated with our new acreage. So the suite got a name, *Pi Acres Suite* (and Daniel was quick to point out that it needed an opus number of 3.14159265!). We gave the *Pi Acres Suite* a first performance, conducted by Scott Kratzer, at a house concert out at Pi Acres in July 2005.

But there was a problem: I had some movements that would not fit into the *Pi Acres Suite*. These orphaned, unwanted movements began to gather themselves into what I temporarily called an “Orphan Suite”, but that seemed like a rather sad name. The movements were also largely inspired by living out at  $\pi$  Acres, so they needed a name to reflect that.  $\pi$  Acres is on a hill, and often the wind will blow long and hard, so I called the second suite – *Windy Hill*.

Well, it's summer in Nebraska again and time for some more string-playing fun. This year we're giving a second (improved!) performance of the *Pi Acres Suite*, and a premiere of three of the movements of the *Windy Hill Suite*. Our little orchestra that premiered the *Pi Acres Suite* has now grown too big to play in our

house, especially if anyone were to listen to us, so here we are. We also thought that it was time to give a few more people a chance to hear us since, starting this fall, homeschool string playing joins the Lincoln homeschool bands and homeschool choirs in getting on a more formal footing.

But why are we only doing *three* movements of the *Windy Hill Suite* this afternoon? Well, the answer is that we haven't had enough rehearsal time to rehearse the remaining two!

## Some Notes on Individual Movements

### Pi Acres Suite

1. Prelude – *Allegro Energetico* – “The Workers”. This seemed to reflect the energy of the family working away on our new house.

2. *Allegretto Grazioso* - “In the Living Room – Mommy and Daddy growing older together by the fire”

3. *Tempo di Menuetto – Piu mosso* – “Laura and Daddy go Dancing”. My daughter Laura and I have long had a monthly date going to the first-Saturday Lincoln Contra Dances. This movement isn't a contra dance though. I think of it as more like a ballet scene. It begins with a stately syncopated court dance, and then there is a faster waltz-like middle section. You can make up your own plot, but I like to think of the middle section as a prince and princess dancing together, and then all the courtiers joining in and swirling around in the dance.

4. Saraband and Intermezzo – *Adagio* – “To the Stars”. Think of yourself standing outside on the hill at Pi Acres, looking up at the expanse of the stars above, and contemplating your place in the universe. Think of Psalm 8:3-4 “*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained: what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*” A saraband is a slow dance in triple time.

5. Finale – *Alla Marcia – Nobilemente* – “Homeward Bound”. Think of combine harvesters marching across wheat fields triumphantly bringing home the harvest. We've already had one person say that he'd like to get married to the march tune of the middle section!

### Windy Hill Suite

2. *Tempo di Pollo* – “Or why guineas should not be kept within the city limits”. The *real* sounds of  $\pi$  Acres! Our chickens and guinea fowl are a never-ending conversation topic at our house. I have to acknowledge my musical debt here to my friend and mentor Bill Mathews of Santa Cruz and the *Antiquarian Funk Consort* who put on an *entire concert* of chicken music in the late 1970s!!

4. Air – *Adagio – molto tranquillo* – OK. Time to get serious again! The middle section features a viola solo accompanied by muted strings.

5. Finale – *Allegro alla gigue – Largamente assai – Glorioso*. I wrote an English country-dance to go with the dance tune of the first part of the movement. We danced it a few years ago at one of our musical garden parties. The *Largamente assai* brings back a theme of the first movement. Wait a bit; we didn't play the first movement, you say? Well, in that case you're getting a preview!

M. G.