Compositions by Wilbur Funk and J. George Hummel to be featured at Centennial Concerts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Works by professor of music at Montana State University and Northern Montana College will be heard on the Centennial concerts to be presented at MSU Sunday, according to Dean Charles W. Bolen of the School of Fine Arts.

"The Mission Mountains Suite," an orchestral composition by Wilbur Funk of NMC, will be performed at the first concert, at 3 p. m. in the University Theater. Two choral works by J. George Hummel of MSU will be sung at the concert at 8:15 p. m. in the MSU Recital Hall.

Hummel's "The Dove" and "Wild Geese" will be performed by the MSU men's chorus. "The Dove" utilizes a traditional melody, a lullaby of the Flathead Indians, as a flute obligato against the choral parts. According to legend, it was taught to a member of the tribe many years ago by a wild dove. "Wild Geese" is a musical portrayal of the power, mystery and majesty of geese in flight.

Funk's composition is a three-movement work inspired by the Mission Range of the St. Ignatius area. In the programmatic work the composer has portrayed his impressions of the majestic peaks and the people of the area.

Funk was born in Belgrade and attended high school in Manhattan and Bozeman. He earned bachelor and master of music degrees from MSU. He has taught in the St. Ignatius and Lewistown school systems and in Austin, Minn. He directed the Austin Choralaires mixed chorus that won state and national festival championships and performed in Europe.

Hummel is a native of New York City, where he acquired his earliest professional experience as a trumpeter. During World War II he was Chief Warrant Officer Band Leader of the 513th AAF Band in the United States, England and Germany. In 1950, after graduation from the Juilliard School of Music and Columbia University, he came to MSU, where he teaches piano and music literature. 

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