

KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY BANDS

*Kansas State University*

*Wind Symphony  
&  
Concert Band*

Dr Alex Wimmer, Conductor  
Dr. Zack Deininger, Conductor  
Rich Ebersole, Graduate Assistant Conductor  
Tyler Lee, Graduate Assistant Conductor



October 3, 2023  
7:30 PM  
McCain Auditorium

**Concert Band**  
**Dr. Zack Deininger, Conductor**

*Infinity* (2020).....Katahj Copley (b. 1988)

*Abracadabra* (2005)..... Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)  
Conducted by Rich Ebersole

*Benediction* (2002/2010)..... John Stevens (b.1951)

*West Highlands Sojourn* (1993).....Robert Sheldon (b. 1954)

*Block M* (1955/1983).....Jerry Bilik (b.1933)

**Wind Symphony**  
**Dr. Alex Wimmer, Conductor**

*Mt. Everest* (2010) .....Rossano Galante (b. 1967)

*Shenandoah* (2019) ..... arr. Omar Thomas (b. 1984)  
Conducted by Tyler Lee

*English Folk Song Suite* (1924)..... Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Black Horse Troop* (1925/1974)..... John Phillip Sousa (1854-1932)  
ed. Frederick Fennell (1914-2004)

## Concert Band Program Notes

*Infinity* (2020).....Katahj Copley (b. 1988)

Shooting stars, asteroids, and the movement of the heavenly bodies in the night sky have always fascinated humans. Some cultures have always had strong beliefs and superstitions in the meaning of shooting stars. Traditionally shooting stars also meant a new birth and changes in one's life.

With *Infinity*, I wanted to create the sense of shooting stars flying through the infinite playground known as space. As the piece begins, the world of space is filled with stars running through the skies. Throughout the piece, the shooting stars go through many different scenarios, both dark and light, until finally at the end of the piece, the stars – with their bright colors and lights – flash across the sky with spectacular grandeur.

Program note from the composer – Katahj Copley

*Abacadabra* (2005)..... Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

*Abacadabra* was composed in the summer of 2004, and was orchestrated the following November during a residency at the MacDowell Colony. *Abacadabra* was commissioned by the Driscoll Middle School Band in San Antonio, Texas under the direction of Richard Gonzales.

The piece is dedicated to my son, and is at once playful and serious, innocent, and mischievous. A sense of mystery pervades as the dark key of G minor is balanced by sudden shifts to bright and sunny major keys. Throughout the composition I was thinking about magic, not in an evil or frightening sense, but as a source of fun and fantasy. My wonderfully playful, sometimes mischievous young son was always in the back of mind, as were images of Halloween with its costumes and jack-o'-lanterns. As the piece nears its conclusion, the music rushes toward what seems to be an explosive finish. But the woodwinds interrupt, fanning out to a questioning whole-tone cluster. They are answered by a puff of sound, a final disappearing act.

In strictly musical terms, the piece is as clear an example of musical economy as anything I've composed. Almost everything is derived from the opening bars of the main theme. Indeed, virtually every note can be traced to the main melody or its accompaniment. Because of this heightened sense of unity, I had to choose other ways to achieve musical variety. The most important solution was through the sudden and frequent shifts of mood, mode, and tonality.

Program note from the composer – Frank Ticheli

*Benediction* (2002/2010)..... John Stevens (b.1951)

*Benediction* was originally a work for tuba/euphonium quartet. It was composed for the Sotto Voce Quartet in 2002 to be the final work on a recording of all of the composer's tuba quartets (Summit Records). This internationally acclaimed quartet is made up entirely of former students of John Stevens at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Benediction* was intended to be a sonorous "amen" of vocal character on this recording primarily comprised of more lively works. The composer's creation of this version for wind band was encouraged by and is dedicated to Scott Teeple, Director of Bands at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Program note from the composer – John Stevens

## Concert Band Program Notes

*West Highlands Sojourn* (1993).....Robert Sheldon (b. 1954)

*West Highlands Sojourn* was inspired by the composer's travels to the western hill country of England and Wales. The work is in three contrasting movements.

The first movement, *Stow-on-the-Wold*, refers to a rural destination, a market town in Gloucestershire, England. The town is full of stone houses, hotels, shops, and quaint restaurants and tea houses. The music of the first movement is a light, cheerful march.

*Bradford Ballade*, the second movement, takes us to a borough in Northern England. Bradford, currently a populous area, has an industrial history. The region is now a bustling, metropolitan area, full of shopping and culture, and surrounded by beautiful rolling hillsides and meadows. The lovely, gentle melodies of *Bradford Ballade* evoke a relaxing, mellow hike through the picturesque countryside.

The third movement, *Derwentwater*, takes its name from a big lake in northwest England. Derwentwater is a popular vacation destination, with walking trails, swimming, fishing, and boating. Sheldon composed the movement in a brisk 6/8, with several hemiolic interchanges between the brass and the woodwinds.

Program note from the composer – Nancy Moser

*Block M* (1955/1983).....Jerry Bilik (b.1933)

Initially published in 1955, *Block M* is a classic march that has been part of the basic band library for years. With its interesting harmonic structuring, it gives a pleasingly different sound within the traditional march format. The title is reminiscent of the composer's alma mater, the University of Michigan, where during the weekly pregame celebration the UM marching band forms the traditional Block M on the football field.

Program note from the composer Jerry Bilik

## Wind Symphony Program Notes

*Mt. Everest* (2010) .....Rossano Galante (b. 1967)

Comprised of robust brass melodies, sweeping woodwind lines, and rhythmic *ostinati*, this composition captures epic grandeur and beauty of Everest, the highest mountain on Earth.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Rossano Galante received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Trumpet performance from SUNY Buffalo in 1992. That same year he was one of nineteen people from around the world to be accepted to the University of Southern California's Film Scoring Program. He studied with the late Jerry Goldsmith, who won an Academy Award for his film score for *The Omen*. In 1999, Mr. Galante moved to California to pursue a career in film composition and orchestration. Since then, he has worked with two-time Oscar nominated composer Marco Beltrami, Christophe Beck, Brian Tyler and Wolfram de Marco.

Mr. Galante has served as orchestrator for over sixty studio films including, *A Quiet Place*, *Logan*, *Wolverine*, *Charlie's Angels*, *3:10 to Yuma*, *A Good Day to Die Hard*, *Trouble with the Curve*, *The Thing*, *Final Destination 5*, *Don't be Afraid of the Dark*, *Knowing*, *Max Payne*, *The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, *Live Free or Die Hard*, *Red Eye*, *The Tuxedo*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, among many others.

For his large-scale Wind Ensemble compositions, he has been commissioned by the Hofstra University Symphonic Band, Nebraska Wind Symphony, the Amherst Chamber Orchestra, Trenton State College, SUNY Buffalo, Grand Island Middle School, Syracuse Youth Symphony, Point Pleasant Borough High School, North Tonawanda High School, Lockport City School District, Edward Town Middle School, Duxbury High School Wind Ensemble, Allegro: The Chamber Orchestra of Lancaster, Franklin & Marshall College, West Genesee High School Wind Ensemble, East Stroudsburg High School, Grissom High School and the Erie County Wind Ensemble. Many in progress.

Mr. Galante has 49 published compositions for Alfred Publications, G. Schirmer, Hafabra, C.L. Barnhouse and Dehaske/Curnow.

Program note from the composer – Rossano Galante

*Shenandoah* (2019) ..... arr. Omar Thomas (b. 1984)

*Shenandoah* is one of the most well-known and beloved Americana folk songs. Originally a river song detailing the lives and journeys of fur traders canoeing down the Missouri River, the symbolism of this culturally significant melody has been expanded to include its geographic namesake -- an area of the eastern United States that encompasses West Virginia and a good portion of the western part of Virginia -- and various parks, rivers, counties, and academic institutions found within.

Back in May of 2018, after hearing a really lovely duo arrangement of *Shenandoah* while adjudicating a music competition in Minneapolis, I asked myself, after hearing so many versions of this iconic and historic song, how would I set it differently? I thought about it and thought about it and thought about it, and before I realized it, I had composed and assembled just about all of this arrangement in my head by assigning bass notes to the melody and filling in the harmony in my head afterwards. I would intermittently check myself on the piano to make sure what I was imagining worked, and ended up changing almost nothing at all from what I'd heard in my mind's ear.

This arrangement recalls the beauty of Shenandoah Valley, not bathed in golden sunlight, but blanketed by low-hanging clouds and experiencing intermittent periods of heavy rainfall (created with a combination of percussion textures, generated both on instruments and from the body). There are a few musical moments where the sun attempts to pierce through the clouds, but ultimately the rains win out. This arrangement of *Shenandoah* is at times mysterious, somewhat ominous, constantly introspective, and deeply soulful.

Omar Thomas (b. 1984, Brooklyn, N.Y.) is an American composer, arranger and educator. Born to Guyanese parents, Omar moved to Boston in 2006 to pursue a Master of Music degree in jazz composition at the New England Conservatory of Music. He is the protégé of Ken Schaphorst and Frank Carlberg, and has studied under Maria Schneider.

## Wind Symphony Program Notes

Omar's music has been performed in concert halls across the country. He has been commissioned to create works in both jazz and classical styles. His work has been performed by such diverse groups as the Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, the San Francisco and Boston Gay Men's Choruses, and the Colorado Symphony Orchestra.

He conducts the Omar Thomas Large Ensemble, a group was first assembled for Omar's graduate composition recital at the New England Conservatory of Music in the spring of 2008. He was awarded the ASCAP Young Jazz Composers Award in 2008 and was invited by the ASCAP Association to perform his music in their highly exclusive JaZzCap Showcase, held in New York City.

Mr. Thomas accepted a position in the composition area at the University of Texas in Austin in the fall of 2020. Previously he was a member of both the Harmony and Music Education departments at Berklee, where he taught all four levels of harmony offered, in addition to taking charge of the "Introduction to Music Education" course. Omar was an active member of the Berklee community, serving on the Diversity and Inclusion Council, the Comprehensive Enrollment Strategy Workgroup, and acting as co-chair of the LGBT Allies. Omar was nominated for the Distinguished Faculty Award after only three years at the college, and was thrice awarded the Certificate of Distinction in Teaching from Harvard University, where he served as a teaching fellow.

Program note from the composer – Omar Thomas

*English Folk Song Suite* (1924)..... Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*Folk Song Suite* (1924) was composed for British military band in 1924. It is in three movements ("March-*Seventeen Come Sunday*," "Intermezzo-*My Bonny Boy*," and "March-*Folk Songs for Somerset*."") The first movement contains the folk songs "I'm Seventeen Come Sunday," "Pretty Caroline," and "Dives and Lazarus." The second movement contains "My Bonny Boy" and "Green Bushes." The third movement contains "Morning Dew," "High Germany," "The Tree So High," and "John Barleycorn." *Folk Song Suite*, along with the two suites by Gustav Holst, was one of the first works in this century's repertoire of compositions specifically composed for band and is a true cornerstone of wind literature.

Ralph Vaughan Williams was born in Down, Ampney, England in 1872, and died in London in 1958. He was widely acknowledged as one of Britain's leading composers after the death of Sir Edward Elgar in 1934, and he was a leader of the twentieth-century English national school. From 1938 until his death, his time was devoted to composition, church music, music for amateur use, and folk song research and publication. His main contributions include nine symphonies, several orchestral works, including *Variations on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, solo works such as his tuba concerto, choral works, operas, and several works for band, including *Sea Songs*, *Toccata Marziale*, *Flourish for Wind Band*, and *Rhosymedre*. His *Symphony No. 8* contains *Scherzo alla Marcia*, a movement composed entirely for winds and often performed as an individual work by wind ensembles.

Program notes edited by – Alex Wimmer

*Black Horse Troop* (1925/1974)..... John Phillip Sousa (1854-1932)  
ed. Frederick Fennell (1914-2004)

The *Black Horse Troop* march was completed December 30, 1924, at Sousa's Sands Point, Long Island, estate. It was played for the first time about ten months later on October 17, 1925, at a concert of the Sousa Band in the Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio – and I was there. I had not been to such an event as this one. I remember that as Sousa's march was being played, Troop A rode [their horses] onto the stage and stood behind the band to the tumultuous cheering of all. The March King enjoyed a long relationship with the men and horses of Cleveland's Ohio National Guard Cavalry, known as Troop A. – Frederick Fennell

Many credit Frederick Fennell with being the primary catalyst with the creation today's modern wind ensemble. He received a Bachelor of Music degree, Master of Music degree, and an honorary doctorate from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. He served on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music and the University of

## **Wind Symphony Program Notes**

Miami School of Music. While at Eastman he founded the Eastman Wind Ensemble, receiving numerous awards for their monumental contributions to the modern wind band movement. He was also the principal conductor of Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra as well as the Dallas Wind Symphony as well as numerous other prestigious wind ensembles and orchestras. “Fred Fennell changed music. He was short in height, but huge in stature and character. He was a consummate professional and entertainer – and a class act in every way. He will be deeply missed, but never, ever forgotten.” – Mark Scatterday, current director of the Eastman Wind Ensemble.

Program notes edited by – Alex Wimmer

**Kansas State University – Concert Band**

**FALL 2023**

*listed in alphabetical order*

**FLUTE**

Paige Cannon (Picc)  
Tia Cole  
Kait Mock  
Salem Ponnuru  
\*Allison Reid

**OBOE**

\*Sylvia Cunningham

**CLARINET**

\*Angel Amaro  
Jackie Cook  
Payten Mayfield  
Emma Shulda  
Shelby Stolzenburg  
Havely Wolff

**BASS CLARINET**

\*Nicholas Camburako  
Bre Ledbetter

**BASSOON**

\*Simon Kirkeby

**ALTO SAX**

\*Chris Gutierrez  
Jarrett Smith  
Sebastian Ybarra

**TENOR SAX**

Ari Castillo

**BARITONE SAX**

Joe Gibbs

**TRUMPET**

Katie Bailey  
Karson Griffin  
\*Cameron Sadler  
Mark Thompson  
Emmett Williams

**HORN**

\*Craig Brinkman  
Carter McDonald  
Maddie Renner  
Karla Salto

**TROMBONE**

Jake Daley  
Jess Hargett  
Lucas Schneider  
\*Malachi Williams

**EUPHONIUM**

John Haefke  
\*Chase Keesling  
Stazzi Simmons

**TUBA**

Margaret Benson  
Sara Schieferecke

**PERCUSSION**

Kellen Broeckelmann  
\*Nathan Koupal  
Nathan Rath

**\*Principal/Section Leader**

**Kansas State University - Wind Symphony**

**FALL 2023**

*listed in alphabetical order*

**FLUTE**

Josephine Benson  
Tabitha Ellwood\*  
Melissa Fierro (Pic)  
Alexander Mueller  
Tegan Stratton

**CLARINET**

Kellen Brocklemann  
Sarah Jane Kelley  
Abbigail Rakes  
Anna Ridgway  
Alexis Sutton\*  
Alexis White

**BASS CLARINET**

Caleb Kisson  
Isabelle Mullinax\*

**OBOE**

Alli Gladfelder\*

**BASSOON**

Kiri Baker-Davies\*  
Andrew Leavitt  
Kela Schnelle

**ALTO SAX**

Cooper Carlson  
William Kufahl  
Abby Vetter\*  
Brenden Vining

**TENOR SAX**

Max Contreras

**BARITONE SAX**

Chase Burman

**TRUMPET**

Owen Genereux  
Tristan Lewis  
Emily Reed  
Caden Roark\*  
Jae Seefeldt  
Brett Wycoff

**HORN**

Tim Buehler  
Isabel Grafel  
Kendan Powers\*  
Justin Stratton

**TROMBONES**

Claire Albright  
Zach Elliott\*  
Shardae Sanders

**EUPHONIUM**

Sydney Smith\*  
Michael Thompson  
Kaden Williams

**TUBA**

Olivia Franco  
Isaiah Zinkan\*

**PERCUSSION**

Grey Fluke\*  
Chase Ivey  
August Siefkes  
Jasper Vallad  
Chris Wells  
Jessie Whelan  
Ryan Woodruff

**\*Principal/Section Leader**

## Concert Band Conductor

**DR. ZACK DEININGER** is the Assistant Director of Bands at Kansas State University. His duties include directing the Concert Band, Volleyball Band, Cat Band (basketball pep band), and Pub Crawl Band; serving as Assistant Director of the *Pride of Wildcat Land* marching band, including arranging and writing drill for the KSUMB; and instructor of undergraduate courses in conducting and the history of country music. During the summer, Dr. Deininger serves as the Assistant Coordinator of the K-State Summer Music Camp and K-State Leadership and Auxiliary Camp.

Dr. Deininger received a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Wind Conducting from the University of South Carolina where he served as a graduate assistant with the Carolina Bands. At the University of South Carolina, he assisted with all aspects of the concert and athletic bands, including arranging and writing drill for the University of South Carolina Marching Band, and assisted with undergraduate conducting courses. Prior to receiving his doctorate, Dr. Deininger served as the Assistant Director of Bands at Green Valley High School in Henderson, Nevada (a suburb of Las Vegas). In this position, he co-directed the 175-member Green Valley Marching and Athletic Bands, directed the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Band III, served as assistant conductor of the Symphonic Winds, and was instructor of the Advanced Placement Music Theory course and Chamber Class. In addition to his duties at Green Valley High School, he also served on the Nevada All State Band Committee and as Chairperson of the Southern Nevada Band Association's High School Honor Jazz Bands.

Receiving a Master's Degree in Music Education from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama, Dr. Deininger assisted with all aspects of the Auburn Band Program serving as conductor of the Auburn University Campus Band, assistant conductor of the Auburn University Symphonic Winds, instructor of the undergraduate advanced conducting course, and assistant to all aspects of the Athletic Band Program. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio where he studied horn under Grammy award winner Dr. Andrew Pelletier and served as Drum Major for the Falcon Marching Band for three years under Dr. Carol Hayward.

Dr. Deininger is a staff member of various summer camps throughout the country where he instructs drum majors and student leaders in leadership and conducting. He also serves as a music and marching staff member for the Macy's Great American Marching Band held over Thanksgiving each year in New York City. Dr. Deininger is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, the National Association for Music Education, the Kansas Music Educators Association, the Kansas Bandmasters Association, and the Society of Pi Kappa Lambda. He is an honorary member of Tau Beta Sigma.

## Wind Symphony Conductor

**DR. ALEX WIMMER** is currently serving as the Associate Director of Bands at Kansas State University. His duties include directing the Wind Symphony, Cat Band (basketball pep band), Volleyball Band, Pub Crawl Band, Assistant Marching Band Director for the Pride of Wildcat Land (KSUMB), arranger and drill designer for the KSUMB, and instructor of undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, arranging, and marching band techniques. He also serves as the faculty sponsor for Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. During the summer he coordinates the K-State Summer Music Camp and K-State Leadership and Auxiliary Camp, and serves as one of the Assistant Directors of the Manhattan Municipal Band. Prior to his appointment at Kansas State University, Dr. Wimmer was a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Kansas State University Bands. He assisted with all concert and athletic ensembles, undergraduate conducting courses, and Percussion Ensembles. His research interests include undergraduates conducting with expressivity and qualitative research.

Originally from Gretna, Nebraska, Dr. Wimmer received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, his Master of Music degree in Education with an emphasis in Wind Conducting from Kansas State University, and his Doctorate in Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University. Dr. Wimmer was the Director of Bands at Gretna High School and the Assistant Director of Bands at Gretna Middle School. He was a recipient of the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award in 2011 and served on the Nebraska Music Educators Association Leadership Academy from 2011-2012.

Dr. Wimmer is in demand as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator as well as a percussion specialist. His professional affiliations include the Kansas Music Educators Association, the Kansas Bandmasters Association, the National Association for Music Education, the College Band Directors National Association, the Percussive Arts Society, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Phi Kappa Lambda. He is currently the president of the Kansas Bandmasters Association, as well a co-chair of the New Band Director Bootcamp during the Kansas Bandmasters Association's summer convention.

## Graduate Assistant Conductors

**TYLER LEE** is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Tyler earned his Bachelor of Music degree in Trombone Performance from Kansas State University (2019), and earned his Master's of Music degree in Trombone Performance as well as his Graduate Certificate in Wind Band Conducting and Instrumental Studies from the University of Central Arkansas (2021,2022). During his time at the UCA, he served as a graduate assistant with the band area. He assisted with the day-to-day operation of the UCA band program and was on staff for the Bear Marching Band as well as the Purple Rage Basketball Band. He was also heavily involved in the trombone studio at UCA, performing with the Natural Slides trombone choir, the top trombone ensemble at UCA. Tyler is currently working on a Master of Music Education with Teaching Certification at Kansas State University and studying under Dr. Frank Tracz in the band program.

**RICH EBERSOLE** a native of Pennsylvania, Rich is a graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia PA, where he majored in Music Education and Jazz Studies. Upon graduating, Rich moved to Arizona to begin his teaching career. Over his ten years of teaching in public schools, he has worked with all levels of students. He taught elementary band, strings and general music for two years before moving to the high school level. He experienced great success in building the band program at Dysart High School, from 11 students to 65 in four years. From there Rich moved to Liberty High School in Peoria AZ, where he again grew the band program from 60 students to just over 120 total students between Marching, Concert and Jazz Bands. Rich is married to Melissa, has a two-year-old son Elliot, and a two-month-old daughter Addison. Rich is currently working with the band program while pursuing his Masters Degree with an Emphasis in Conducting.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**\*CONCERT BAND/WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT\***

Tuesday, November 28, 2023—7:30pm  
McCain Auditorium

**\*WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT\***

Wednesday, November 29, 2023—7:30pm  
McCain Auditorium

**\*CENTRAL STATES MARCHING FESTIVAL\***

Saturday, October 14, 2023  
Bill Snyder Family Stadium

**\*MARCHING BAND CONCERT\***

Sunday, November 26, 2023—3:00pm  
TBD

**\*CONCERT BAND CLINIC\***

January, 19-21, 2024

For more information, visit the K-State Bands website or email Courtney Greco at [cljensen@ksu.edu](mailto:cljensen@ksu.edu)