

Kansas State University

Wind Ensemble

Dr. Frank Tracz, Conductor
Travis Slaughter, Graduate Assistant Conductor



December 3, 2025
7:30 PM
McCain Auditorium

Wind Ensemble
Dr. Frank Tracz, Conductor

Festive Overture (1954).....Dmitri Shostakovich (1906 – 1975)

Old Scottish Melody (1977).....Charles Wiley (1925 – 1992)
Conducted by Travis Slaughter

Lincolnshire Posy (1937).....Percy Grainger (1882 – 1961)

Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral (1848).....Richard Wagner (1813 – 1883)

Three Latin Dances (2019)Jeff Tyzik (1951)

Folk Dances (1942).....Dmitri Shostakovich (1906 – 1975)

Wind Ensemble Program Notes

***Festive Overture* (1954).....Dmitri Shostakovich (1906 – 1975)**

The *Festive Overture* was composed in 1954, in the period between *Symphony No. 10* and the *Violin Concerto*. Its American premiere was given by Maurice Abravanel and the Utah Symphony Orchestra on November 16, 1955. In 1956, the New York Philharmonic under Dmitri Mitropoulos presented the overture in Carnegie Hall.

A Russian band version of the overture was released in 1958 and utilized the standard instrumentation of the Russian military band, i.e., a complete orchestral wind, brass and percussion section plus a full family of saxhorns, ranging from the Bb soprano down through the Bb contrabass saxhorn. This new edition has been scored for the instrumentation of the American symphonic band.

The *Festive Overture* is an excellent curtain raiser and contains one of Shostakovich's greatest attributes -- the ability write a long sustained melodic line combined with a pulsating rhythmic drive. In addition to the flowing melodic passages, there are also examples of staccato rhythmic sections which set off the flowing line and the variant fanfares. It is truly a "festive overture."

Note from the score, by Donald Hunsberger

***Old Scottish Melody* (1977).....Charles Wiley (1925 – 1992)**

Robert Burns' 1788 poem is based on a traditional Scottish ballad, which also served as bases for poems that predated Burns', such as Robert Ayton and James Watson. The text invites us to remember days of yore. In addition to its appearance as we recognize the onset of the new year, the song is used across the world for other occasions such as funerals (Chile) and graduation ceremonies (Hungary).

*For auld lang syne my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For auld lang syne.
Auld lang syne.*

Program Note by San Luis Obispo (Calif.) Wind Orchestra

***Lincolnshire Posy* (1937).....Percy Grainger (1882 – 1961)**

Lincolnshire Posy was commissioned by the American Bandmasters Association and premiered at their convention with the composer conducting. It is in six movements, all based on folk songs from Lincolnshire, England. Grainger's settings are not only true to the verse structure of the folk songs, but attempt to depict the singers from whom Grainger collected the songs. Since its premiere, it has been recognized as a cornerstone of the wind band repertoire.

Lincolnshire Posy, as a whole work, was conceived and scored by me direct for wind band early in 1937. Five, out of the six, movements of which it is made up existed in no other finished form, though most of these movements (as is the case with almost all my compositions and settings, for whatever medium) were indebted, more or less, to unfinished sketches for a variety of mediums covering many years (in this case, the sketches date from 1905 to 1937). These indebtednesses are stated in the score.

This bunch of "musical wildflowers" (hence the title) is based on folksongs collected in Lincolnshire, England (one notated by Miss Lucy E. Broadwood; the other five noted by me, mainly in the years 1905-1906, and with the help of the phonograph), and the work is dedicated to the old folksingers who sang so sweetly to me. Indeed, each number is intended to be a kind of musical portrait of the singer who sang its underlying melody -- a musical portrait of the singer's personality no less than of his habits of song -- his regular or irregular wonts of rhythm, his preference for gaunt or ornately arabesqued delivery, his contrasts of legato and staccato, his tendency towards breadth or delicacy of tone.

Program Note by Percy Aldridge Grainger

Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral (1848).....Richard Wagner (1813 – 1883)

Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral is appropriate for performance by school and college ensembles. While technical difficulties are minimal, many younger performers may struggle with the maintenance of tone quality throughout the expansive Wagnerian melodies. This piece is one seamless musical gesture, and performers have the responsibility to shape flowing melodies and countermelodies while retaining proper ensemble balance. Additionally, players require patience and restraint when allowing the music to build logically and cohesively to its magnificent climax. With a seasoned ensemble, this work can be an exciting concert finale.

Notes from Great Music for Wind Band

Three Latin Dances (2019)Jeff Tyzik (1951)

Three Latin Dances was composed for the Eastman Wind Ensemble at the request of Mark Scatterday in September of 2018. In the past twenty years, Mark has been very instrumental in encouraging me to compose wind music. I am grateful for the many wind ensemble projects and recordings we have collaborated on including *IMAGES*, our CD that was released in October 2018.

I've always been attracted to the music of great Latin composers, including de Falla, Gimenez, Chapi, Piazzolla, Ginastera, Lacuona, and many others. In this short suite, I used three different popular Latin dance forms. The first dance section is based on the Danzón, a Cuban dance that is slow, formal, and elegant. The Danzón transitions into a Cha Cha, another Cuban dance that is a medium tempo rhythmic dance that I first experienced during my student days at Eastman when I played in local Latin bands. After a brief recap of the Danzón, another transition evolves into a Malambo, an Argentine dance that is exciting, up-tempo, and whose roots can be traced back to the 1600s.

As one might imagine, the percussion section is very busy and featured throughout, from the elegant and lyrical introduction to the exciting finish.

Program Note by composer Jeff Tyzik

Folk Dances (1942).....Dmitri Shostakovich (1906 – 1975)

Composed in Shostakovich's light-hearted style, this single-movement work is filled with the joy and exuberance of the Russian people. The many folk melodies are combined in a string so that musical energy abounds and the spirit of folk dances can easily be imagined.

Program Note from publisher Carl Fischer Music

Kansas State University - Wind Ensemble
FALL 2025
listed in alphabetical order

FLUTE

Sienna DelBorrell
Ella Greenup
Jessica Minnich*
Anna Peery
Tegan Stratton
Grace Woydziak

CLARINET

Angel Amaro*
Lexi Brown
Chloe Crooks
Wesley Janssen
Carter Meerpohl
Madeline Murnahan
Abbigail Rakes
Theresa Wood

BASS CLARINET

Jordan Culton*
Caleb Kissoon

OBOE

Jenna Eshelman
Kelsey Farr*
Lucas Reed

BASSOON

Ryan Katzer
Grace Maxwell
Tom Stark*

ALTO SAX

Diego Umaña Conejo*
Jordan Somers

TENOR SAX

Keith Carter
Sara Schieferecke

BARITONE SAX

Jarrett Peabody

TRUMPET

Kay Carson
Owen Genereux*
Kiersten Glass
Karson Griffin
Paige Roberts
Preston Schuetz
April Teoh
Brett Wyckoff*

FRENCH HORN

Josie Anderson*
Nathan Dembski
Kendan Powers
Maddie Renner
Aspen Tallent

TROMBONE

Mason Burnett
Jared Eck*
Adrian Rodriguez
Aidan Torkelson
Trek Wedel

EUPHONIUM

Joseph Horne*
Drake Thompson
Sydney Smith

TUBA

Lloyd Dodson
Camdon Findlay
Asmodeus Hull
Chase Wassom*

PERCUSSION

Devon Autry
Javi Garza*
Mark McKinley
Brenden Scaglione
August Siefkes
Jessi Solorzano
Jasper Vallad
Chris Wells
Ryan Woodruff

STRING BASS

Rawlan Cave

* Co-Principal/Co-Section Leader

Wind Ensemble Conductor

DR. FRANK TRACZ is Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Kansas State University. He earned his B.M.E. from The Ohio State University, M.M. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University. He has public school teaching experience in Wisconsin and Ohio and has also served as Assistant Director of bands at Syracuse University and Director of bands at Morehead State University. Dr. Tracz has served as an adjudicator, clinician, speaker in various schools and conferences and has conducted All-State and Honor bands across the United States as well as in Canada, Singapore, South Africa, Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand.

At Kansas State, he directs the Wind Ensemble and the Marching Band, teaches graduate conducting, acts as an advisor to the Band Ambassadors, and administers and guides all aspects of a large BIG XII comprehensive band program. Ensembles under his direction have been invited to perform at numerous State conferences, MENC, two CBDNA regional conferences, The Larry Sutherland Wind band Festival at Fresno State, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and the American Bandmasters Association Conference. The marching band was awarded the prestigious Sudler Trophy in 2015. The Wind Ensemble has also performed at the International Convention of the American Bandmasters Association in 2019 in Loveland, CO.

Dr. Tracz is on the faculty of the Conn-Selmer Institute, on the adjunct faculty of the American Band College, is a past member of the Music Education Journal Editorial Board, is a contributor to the Teaching Music Through performance In Band series, and is past Chair of the Sudler Trophy Project of the John Philip Sousa Foundation in 2017. His honors include the Stamey Award for outstanding teaching, Kansas Bandmasters Outstanding Director award, Wildcat Pride Alumni Association award, the Tau Beta Sigma Paula Crider Outstanding Band Director award, being named a Lowell Mason Fellow, and membership in the Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Fraternity. He has also received the Conn- Selmer Institute Hall of Fame award, the Kansas State Professorial Performance award, and was elected to the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. Dr. Tracz was awarded an honorary doctorate from Doane University in May 2021. Dr. Tracz also led a very successful fundraising campaign raising over five million dollars for a new hall for the athletics band program. The “Tracz Family Band Hall” opened early spring 2023.

Dr. Tracz is married to Geralyn, and has three daughters, Jessica Tracz Kelly, Kelley Tracz, and Carly Tracz Morris, and one grandson, Caden Tracz Kelly!

Guest Conductor

TRAVIS SLAUGHTER is a first-year master's student at Kansas State University and is a graduate assistant for K-State bands. Travis is pursuing his master's in music with an emphasis in wind band conducting. Before Kansas State University, Travis earned his bachelor's in music education with a minor in jazz studies at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Travis's main goals as a music educator are to provide opportunities inside and outside of music for students, foster a strong sense of community within programs, and engage the broader community through music and service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERT BAND CLINIC

January, 23-25, 2026

For more information, visit the K-State Bands website or email Courtney Grecu at cljensen@ksu.edu

CONCERT BAND/UBAND CONCERT

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – 7:30 pm

McCain Auditorium

WIND ENSEMBLE/WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT

Wednesday, March 11, 2025 – 7:30 pm

McCain Auditorium