

KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY BANDS

# *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](mailto: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