

KANSAS STATE

University Bands

presents their

Wind Ensembles
Chamber Groups

Conductor

Dr. Frank Tracz

Guest Conductors

Mr. Eric Thompson

Ms. Shelly Alexander

April 28, 2021 - 7:00 PM

McCain Auditorium



Wind Ensembles

Let Freedom Ring (2016) Ryan Nowlin (b. 1978)
Eric Thompson, Guest Conductor

Romanian Folk Dances (1915/2017) Béla Bartók (1881-1945)
Arr. Akihiki Nakamura
Shelly Alexander, Guest Conductor

Cosmopolitan America (1904/2014) Helen May Butler (1867-1957)
Arr. James Lamb
Shelly Alexander, Guest Conductor

Congratulations and good luck to the following Wind Ensemble 2021 graduates: Brett Butler, Taylor Crawford, Thomas Denk, Clark Elford, Deandre Horner, Jacob Peterson, Rylie Toom, and Sarah Wolfe.

2021 Wind Ensemble

FLUTE

Jenna Dominguez
Nicole Hoppas
Jessica Minnich •
Amaya Molinar
Bailey Tadda
Rylie Toom

OBOE

Taylor Crawford
Deandra Horner •

BASSOON

Josh Brandt

CLARINET

Mark Ahlman
Taton Bennett
Audrey Farrell
Matthew Johnson •
Crystal Rathburn

BASS CLARINET

Megan Paulsen

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Hannah Mancini
Jacob Peterson
Nosara Vargas •

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Sarah Wolfe

BARITONE SAX

James Probst

TRUMPET

Mitchell Betancourt
Gillian Falcon
Kyle Grimes
Caleb Niehoff
Haley Schwartz •
Jessica Vanstory

FRENCH HORN

Kylee Gardner
Katie Kimmel
Elliot Peters
Sophia Shaar •

TROMBONE

Jakob Keith •
Tyler Long
William Osorio
Daniel Smith

EUPHONIUM

Jakob Ferreria
Justin Koegeboehn •

TUBA

Clark Elford •
Chris Hovis

PERCUSSION

Braedon Bomgardner
Brett Butler •
Taylor Clark
Thomas Denk
John Eldridge
Brandon Wells

PIANO

Thomas Denk

• *Principal Section Player*

Wind Ensemble

Program Notes

Let Freedom Ring

Ryan Nowlin (b. 1978)

Before The Star-Spangled Banner officially became the national anthem in 1931, there were many popular hymns that served as de facto anthems for the United States, including My Country 'tis of Thee. The lyrics of this patriotic American song were written by Samuel F. Smith and set to the melody of God Save the Queen, the anthem of the United Kingdom. Let Freedom Ring, an arrangement of My Country 'tis of Thee, was penned by staff arranger SSgt. Ryan Nowlin and was performed by the U.S. Marine Band on January 21, 2013, at the second inauguration of President Barack Obama. Drawing his inspiration for this piece directly from Smith's patriotic words, Nowlin says his "simplistic treatment of the theme is to portray a deep reverence." Shining through the texture on numerous occasions, great emphasis is placed on the lyrics, "land where my fathers died," a strong reminder that America would not be what it is were it not for the sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

Romanian Folk Dances

Béla Bartók (1881-1945) Arr. Akihiki Nakamura

Composed between 1915 – 1917, Romanian Folk Dances, originally titled Romanian Folk Dances from Hungary", is a compilation of six short movements based on dances. The piece was composed while Bartok was traveling to Transylvania. During the time of composition Transylvania was a part of Hungary, but in 1918 after the defeat of Austria-Hungary in World War I Transylvania united with Romania, hence the title change (Leadbeater, 2019). Seven original folk tunes were used to create the six movements of Romanian Folk Dances. The folk tunes would have originally been performed on violin and shepherd flute. The folk dances were performed at special occasions such as weddings, baptisms, and village days. (Iacob, 2020)

Movement 1. Jocul cu Bata, which translates to "Stick Dance" is based on a dance for one young man that would kick the ceiling or hit the ceiling with a stick. Movement 2. Brail, which translates to "sash dance", is a dance where a group of people form a line or circle while wearing a traditional outfit with a sash. In the line or circle the dancers will hold on to each other's sashes, or shoulders and stamp, kick and cross step. All dancers in the ensemble move in unison. Movement 3. Pe Loc, which translates to "In one spot", is a dance where the participants will form short lines and hold each other's shoulder. The dancers will make small movements but roughly stay in one spot. (Carnie, 2014). Movement 4. Buciumeana is a hornpipe from present day Bucsony or Bucium. (Pine, 2020). Movement 5. Poarga Romanesca, which translates to Romanian Polka, is a children's dance with changing time. The melody was collected in Beius. The dance has many stops and changing pirouettes. The final movement, Movement 6. Maruntelul, translates to "Quick Dance"; this would be performed by a group of couples. The men are the only ones moving and would perform solos. During the dance, the performers would sing and shout (Hungarian National Philharmonic, 2020).

Cosmopolitan America

Helen May Butler (1867-1957) Arr. James Lamb

Composed by renowned bandleader Helen May Butler, *Cosmopolitan America* was written for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and was selected as the official march for Theodore Roosevelt's presidential campaign. Butler was a virtuoso in her own right and her ensembles had a well-earned reputation for musical excellence. Butler directed the premier band of professional female musicians, and she was frequently referred to as the Female Sousa.

Helen May Butler:

Composed for the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition, commonly known as the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, "*Cosmopolitan America*" is Helen May Butler's best-known composition. A stately march with quotes from "O Tannenbaum" and "Serenata Nocturna - Minueto" by Mozart, and "The Star-Spangled Banner"; the piece is enjoyable for both the players and the audience. *Cosmopolitan America* has not quite stood the test of time like other marches from its time composed by John Philip Sousa. Though, programming of the march has picked up since 2015 with performances by the Mid America Freedom Band, University of Illinois Champaign, Triangle Pride Band, Michigan Technological University Superior Wind Symphony, and the United States Coast Guard Band. (The Wind Repertory Project, 2021)

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, the 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 and undergraduate conducting, advisor to Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, and 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, and the Kennedy Center. The marching band was awarded the prestigious Sudler Trophy in 2015. The Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform 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, adjunct faculty of the American Band College, past member of the Music Education Journal Editorial Board, contributor to the Teaching Music Through Performance In Band series, and was recently appointed Chair of the Sudler Trophy Project of the John Philip Sousa Foundation. 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, named a Lowell Mason fellow, and 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 is married to GERALYN, and has three daughters, Jessica Tracz Kelly, Kelley Tracz, and Carly Tracz-Morris.

Guest Conductors

SHELLEY ALEXANDER is a second-year master's student at Kansas State University. She received her B.M.E. from Troy University in Troy, Alabama in May 2019. While at Troy University was a member of The Sound of the South Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and the South East Alabama Community Band. At Kansas State University, she teaches Music 100, Fundamentals of Music Theory, and assists in teaching several music history courses. Shelly is also a collegiate member of NAFME and a sister of Sigma Alpha Iota. She plays euphonium in the Kansas State Wind Symphony and the Tuba Euphonium Ensemble.

ERIC THOMPSON received his Bachelors in Music Education from the University of Georgia. While at UGA, Eric performed as principal trumpet of the Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band, trumpet soloist with the Redcoat Marching Band, and as a featured trumpet soloist at Midfest. Additionally, he traveled abroad to China for a 15-day performance tour and studied under the world-renowned trumpet player, Fred Mills. Eric has nine years of teaching experience in the Georgia Public Schools, specifically at Treutlen High School and, most recently, at Mary Persons High School. Bands under his direction have experienced a dramatic increase in enrollment and have consistently received superior evaluations and best in class awards. Eric is an active member of the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA), National Band Association (NBA), International Trumpet Guild, and Phi Mu Alpha, the men's national music fraternity. Eric married his best friend Dory in June of 2018.

KANSAS STATE

University Bands

As the first land-grant institution established under the 1862 Morrill Act, we acknowledge that the state of Kansas is historically home to many Native nations, including the Kaw, Osage, and Pawnee, among others. Furthermore, Kansas is the current home to four federally recognized Native nations: The Prairie Band Potawatomie, the Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. Many Native nations utilized the western plains of Kansas as their hunting grounds, and others – such as the Delaware – were moved through this region during Indian removal efforts to make way for White settlers. It's important to acknowledge this, since the land that serves as the foundation for this institution was, and still is, stolen land. We remember these truths because K-State's status as a land-grant institution is a story that exists within ongoing settler-colonialism, and rests on the dispossession of Indigenous peoples and nations from their lands. These truths are often invisible to many. The recognition that K-State's history begins and continues through Indigenous contexts is essential.

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