



School of Music
University of Missouri

2023-2024 Series | Large Ensemble

University of Missouri

Wind Ensemble

Dr. Brian A. Silvey, conductor
Faith Hall, guest conductor
Theo Learnard, soloist

Nixa High School

Wind Ensemble

Craig Finger, director
Erika O'Bryant, conductor

April 26, 2024 | 7:00pm
Missouri Theatre

Program

University of Missouri Wind Ensemble

Haywire (2018) **Katahj Copley**
(b. 1998)

Starlight (2019) **Katahj Copley**
(b. 1998)

Three Miniatures for Tuba (1990) **Anthony Plog**
(b. 1947)

- I. Allegro Vivace
- II. Freely or Slowly
- III. Allegro Vivace

Theo Learnard, soloist

Symphonic Dances from West Side Story (1967/2008) **Leonard Bernstein**
(1918-1990)

Faith Hall, guest conductor

Nixa High School Wind Ensemble

Choose Joy **Randall Standridge**
(b. 1976)

On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss **David Holsinger**
(b. 1945)

Toward a Northern Star **Gary Gilroy**
(b. 1958)

Program Notes

University of Missouri Wind Ensemble

Haywire (2018)

Katahji Copley is a young American composer who is making his name known in the band space. He earned a music education degree from the University of West Georgia, a master's in composition at the University of Texas at Austin, and is currently enrolled at Michigan State University for his DMA in composition. Copley was first commissioned to write a piece in 2017 and since has written over sixty pieces. Now, his compositions are featured in high school and collegiate ensembles across the country.

He provides a definition of the word haywire when writing that “it stands for erratic and out of control.” He further describes his work: “This piece is based off the idea of imagination gone out of control. How much chaos can be fit into one piece? From chaos comes beauty and from beauty comes madness again. Throughout the piece there is this motif played by the marimba that serves as a small sense of stability through the piece; this leads to erratic entrances and sudden dynamic changes. Finally, the piece’s melody is played by the first trumpet. From trills to glisses this piece is what happens when your imagination goes a little out of control.”

Copley explains how he uses music education as a means to teach young students the joy of discovering music and its purpose as an impactful language. He notes that in his experience music “can soothe, it can enrage, it can quiet and it can evoke emotions that are beyond him and this world we live in. He believes that music is the ultimate source of freedom and imagination, and the most freedom he has had as a musician was through composing. Composition is like opening one’s heart and showing the world his spirit, drive, and passion.” *Haywire* is no exception in displaying the emotion and energy that music creates.

Starlight (2019)

Copley wrote the following about his piece:

“When looking up in the sky, the stars are ever so freeing. Filled with wonder and filled with hope, they are the sketches of the universe. With this lyrical piece, a melody is brought and it evolves into something stellar. I’ve written many pieces about the sky, and this one has a different theme to it this time: what joys and wonders can a star and its light bring to a night sky. The opening clarinet is our first star, and from the opening motif begin to show up until the climax where the sky is at its brightest. After the climax the sky begins to settle in for the end of the night -- the stars begin to fade as the sun appears. This piece is an ode to the colors, the worries, and the joys of wonder. This is Starlight.”

Three Miniatures for Tuba (1990)

Anthony Plog is a well-known composer and trumpeter in America. He got an early start in music as he was an extra trumpet with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at age 19. He later became the principal trumpet in the San Antonio Symphony but left the performing space to focus on composition. While composing, he performed trumpet for the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Pacific Symphony. He has also had a variety of teaching positions in universities around the globe.

Three Miniatures for Tuba was originally written for tuba player Daniel Perantoni. Since its commission, the piece has been played all over the world. It is now regarded as a staple of the tuba repertoire and regularly appears on repertoire lists at international tuba competitions. It features quick lines by the tuba, uncharacteristic to the instrument's typical role in an ensemble. The piece features precise, quick rhythms split up by a soothing cadenza. Altogether, it makes for an exciting and unique listening experience. The piece is divided into three movements: *Allegro Vivace*, *Freely or Slowly*, and *Allegro Vivace*.

Symphonic Dances from West Side Story (1967/2008)

Leonard Bernstein is a Russian composer and conductor who immigrated to the US to study music. He studies at Harvard and the Curtis Institute of Music under world-renowned conductors. He became the assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic in 1943, and later was promoted to Music Director. In this role, Bernstein advocated for new music, developed a series of Young People's Concerts, and recorded Mahler's symphonies. Bernstein received numerous awards such as Emmys, the Kennedy Center Honor for Lifetime of Contributions to American Culture Through the Performing Arts, and a Grammy.

Symphonic Dances from West Side Story is a collection of dances from the popular Broadway musical "West Side Story." The story is a spin-off of Romeo and Juliet, but instead set in New York City. Two teenagers of rival gangs fall in love, and these themes are clearly reflected in the dynamic music. The work has been described in this way: "The work is noted for its extraordinary dance sequences, melodic characterization, musical continuity, cohesive plot construction, and excellent orchestration. With a romantic setting against a background of social and racial and ethnic strife, Bernstein's music reflects the countless emotions which permeate Stephen Sondheim's lyrics. From a basic mood of studied nonchalance and defiance by the juvenile set, the music at times becomes devout and tender or, in contrasting sections, dynamic in intensity."

This transcription of *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* is made up of nine difference dances from the musical: *Prologue*, *Somewhere*, *Scherzo*, *Mambo*, *Cha-Cha*, *Meeting Scene*, *Cool*, *Rumble*, and *Finale*. Each movement has its own unique character and recognizable melody. Enjoy the contrasts in style and let the dances transport you to this classic tale.

Nixa High School Wind Ensemble

On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss

Horatio G. Spafford, a Chicago Presbyterian layman and successful businessman, planned a European trip for his family in 1873. In November of that year, due to unexpected last minute business developments, he had to remain in Chicago; but he sent his wife and four daughters on ahead as scheduled aboard the S.S. Ville du Havre. He expected to follow in a few days. On November 22, the ship was struck by the Lochearn, an English vessel, and sank in twelve minutes. Several days later the survivors were finally landed at Cardiff, Wales, and Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband, "Saved Alone." Shortly afterward Spafford left by ship to join his bereaved wife. It is speculated that on the sea near the area where it was thought his four daughters had drowned, Spafford penned this text with words so significantly describing his own personal grief, "When sorrows like sea billows roll..." It is noteworthy, however, that Spafford does not dwell on the theme of life's sorrows and trials, but focuses attention in the third stanza on the redemptive work of Christ. Humanly speaking, it is amazing that one could experience such personal tragedy and sorrow as did Horatio Spafford and still be able to say with such convincing clarity, "It is well with my soul..."

Toward a Northern Star

Program notes have never been discovered for this piece. The Nixa Wind Ensemble encourages the audience to create their own story that is inspired by this colorful, exciting and moving piece.

About the Nixa Band Program

The Nixa band program serves over 800 students across the Nixa Public Schools district. Instrumental music is offered in three intermediate buildings and is introduced at the beginning of the sixth grade year with students participating in like instrument classes 50 minutes, twice a week. The junior high band program is comprised of six 7th grade band classes and eighth grade band. The high school band program consists of the 240 member Crimson Corps marching band, jazz band, concert band, symphonic band, and wind ensemble. Both the JH and HS has active winter guard programs. The band program also has a chapter of United Sound which is a program that brings instrumental music to students with special needs.

Conductor and Guest Artist Biographies

Brian A. Silvey (BME, Morehead State University; MME, Wichita State University; PhD, University of Texas-Austin) is Director of Bands, Professor of Music Education, and Associate Director of the School of Music at the University of Missouri. At MU, he teaches undergraduate and graduate music education courses, supervises music education doctoral students, conducts the Wind Ensemble, and provides oversight to the entire band program. Dr. Silvey has presented music education research and teacher preparation clinics at state, national, and international venues. Recent presentations have included the National Association for Research in Music Education Music Research and Teacher Education National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia (2024), the International Society for Music Education conference in Helsinki, Finland (2024), the Clifford K. Madsen Symposium on Research in Music Behavior in Asheville, North Carolina (2024), the Society for Music Teacher Education in Salt Lake City, Utah (2023), and the College Band Directors National Association conference in Cincinnati, Ohio (2023).

He is published in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *International Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Psychology of Music*, *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, *Research Studies in Music Education*, *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, *Journal of Band Research*, *Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Research and Issues in Music Education*, the *Choral Conductor's Companion*, and the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series. A co-authored book chapter on conducting with Dr. Steven Morrison from Northwestern University was published in the *Oxford Handbook of Music Performance* in 2022. He currently serves as Editor of the National Association for Music Education journal, *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, and on the editorial boards of the *College Band Directors National Association Research Journal* and the *Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education*. Dr. Silvey is the Research Grant Chair for the American Bandmasters Association. He previously served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Research in Music Education* and as Editor of the *Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education*.

His research interests include conducting expressivity and effectiveness, instrumental conducting pedagogy, intonation strategies, and preservice teacher preparation. While at the University of Missouri, Dr. Silvey has received the Writing Intensive Teaching Excellence Award, the School of Music Faculty Excellence Award, the Gold Chalk Award for Teaching Excellence, and the William T. Kemper Award for Teaching Excellence, the highest teaching award given to faculty at MU. He was appointed as a Fulbright Scholar by the United States government to conduct research and teach at the University of Melbourne in Australia during the Spring 2025 semester. He is an experienced events adjudicator, guest conductor, and guest clinician, having worked with bands across the United States.

Faith Hall is a 3rd year Ph.D. in Music Education student at the University of Missouri and holds a Graduate Teaching Assistantship with the MU Bands. She taught high school and middle school instrumental music for six years in Yuma, AZ, and Sioux City, IA. She has earned a Masters in Music Education degree from Florida State University (2021) and a Bachelors in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa (2013).

Theo Learnard is a freelance musician and educator in central Missouri. He graduated with a degree in music education from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2020. After earning his bachelor's degree, Theo began his master's at the University of Missouri. During that time, he had an assistantship to play with the faculty-graduate brass quintet, Mizzou Brass. He also performed with the University Wind Ensemble and University Philharmonic while at Mizzou. He graduated with a master's in music performance in 2023.

In addition to his academic endeavors, Theo has performed with groups such as the Missouri Symphony, which he has served as principal tuba since the Fall of 2021; the Kansas City Symphony; and the Miami Music Festival Orchestra. Additionally, he currently holds the position of Adjunct Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri. His duties include teaching private lessons and directing the Tuba Euphonium Ensemble. Theo's principal instructors have been Dr. Angelo Manzo, Jeffrey Hudson, and Dr. Ross Walter, and he has also received significant additional instruction from Joe LeFevre and Thomas Stein.

Craig Finger is in his 27th year as Director of Bands for Nixa Public Schools. During his tenure he has overseen the growth of the district program from 250 students to close to 800. In addition to program management, his primary teaching duties include conducting of the Crimson Corps marching band, Concert band, Symphonic band, Wind Ensemble, and assisting with the 8th grade band. Ensembles under his leadership have consistently earned Superior ratings at State festivals, as well as high placements at local and regional events. He began his teaching career in Mtn Grove Missouri.

Mr. Finger holds a BS in Education and a MS in Educational Administration from Missouri State University. He is a member of MBA, MMEA, NafME, Percussive Arts Society and Phi Beta Mu. Mr. Finger served as the band Vice President for SCMMEA for six years, band Vice President for MMEA for two years, and is currently the Mentoring Chair for SCMMEA. Craig is proud to be married for 28 years to his wife Shawn and to be the father of Luke (19) and Levi (13). For all of his professional accomplishments he is most proud to be named a "Top 10 Dad" by "417" magazine in 2011.

Erika O'Bryant is in her fifth year of teaching at Nixa Public Schools where she enjoys teaching the High School Marching Band, Concert Band, High School Wind Ensemble, Piano Class, 7th grade flutes and clarinets, and 6th grade flutes. Prior to her time at Nixa, Erika spent several years working with children's non-profit organizations. She began her teaching career in Branson, Missouri. Erika earned both a BS in Music Education and an MS in Music Education at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. During her time at MSU, she was a member of the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Pride Band Colorguard, and the Pride of Missouri State Winter Guard. She holds memberships with NAFME, MMEA, MSTA, and Sigma Alpha Iota.

In her free time, Erika enjoys riding her Peloton, weight training, and spending time with her husband, Kelly, two teenage sons, Duncan and Declan, and her bulldog, Agnes.

University of Missouri Wind Ensemble Personnel

Piccolo

Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell

Flute

Lexie Cheek
Emily Gomez
Kyrsten Wehner

Oboe

Kara Balthrop
Sadie Middleton

Bassoon

Luke Frith

B-Flat Clarinet

Maddie Balsman
Samantha Decker
Elizabeth Ganey
Jane Guillot-Beinke
Harrison Lingle
Ava Rittgers
Emily Stokes

Bass Clarinet

Meghan Brown

Alto Saxophone

Jackson Huenefeldt
Andrea Lee

Tenor Saxophone

Abby Reed

Baritone Saxophone

Nate Leslie

Trumpet

Emily Rahn
Jesse Hamilton
Brandon Sconce
Layden Dukes
Madison Haugsven
Matthew Redshaw

Horn

Hayden Alley
Brandon Guillen
Sydney Hendrickson
Erica Ohmann
Abby Oreskovich

Trombone

Andrew Jaggi
Tyler Martindale
Neil Reed
Chloe Wilson

Euphonium

Reece Hinton
Noah Wright

Tuba

Jonah Hammontree
Atticus Schlegel

Percussion

Alex Baur
Anders Harms
Chloe Hart
Luke Haymon
Greyson Smallen
Michael Tiffany
Camihle Williams

String Bass

Sam Caldwell

Piano

Garrett Peterman

Harp

Tashianna Merryman

Nixa High School Wind Ensemble Personnel

Piccolo

Ally Eckels

Flute

Lauren Bailey
Randy Bartels
Lucy Mikolajczyk
Makenna Winkler

Oboe

Duncan O'Bryant

Bassoon

Nile Marmouget

Clarinet

Kayla Bare
Emily Beaver
Jasmine Eisterhold
Malena Fleming
Abigail Haupt
Naomi Peters
Brittany Spencer
Michael Taylor
Morgan Uptown-Rowley

Bass Clarinet

Lexi Gates
Nora Overstreet

Contra Clarinet

Jacob Cariker

Alto Sax

Louie Fuentes
Ethan Gordon
Collin Scott

Tenor Sax

Kalid Mondragon-Garcia

Bari Sax

Caylee Cruise

Trumpet

Carlina Biondo
Junyoung Choi
Jacob Clark
Elliott Dillon
Adelyn Janssen
Ben McGehee
Hunter McNeal
Damon Raines
Elijah Shiver

Horn

Taylor Farr
Grant Lee
Alexis Selle
Nathan Upton-Rowley
Ethan Warnecke
Duncan O'Bryant
Adelaide Crayon

Trombone

Lucas Bays
Alex Gaudlin
Ben Haupt
Kat Parton
Blake Smith
David Swyhart
Hunter Wicklund

Euphonium

Dalton Jones
Ross Pyle

Tuba

Reznik Crawford
Emma Snow

Percussion

Adelaide Crayon
Layton Huff
Bronwyn Long
Maddie McCrea
Olivia McCully
Braden Middleton
Jonathan Turner
Julia Worthley