

2023-2024 Series | Large Ensemble

University Band & Symphonic Band

Dr. Christian M. Noon, conductor
Neil Reed, conductor
Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell, conductor
Luke Haymon, guest conductor

February 20, 2025 | 7:00pm Missouri Theatre

University Band Program
Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell, conductor
Neil L. Reed, conductor
Luke Haymon, guest conductor

Red Giant (2019)
Neil Reed, conductor (b.1971)
Kentucky 1800 (1955)
Luke Haymon, guest conductor
Hymn to the Dawn (2004)
Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell, conductor
Abracadabra (2004) Frank Ticheli
(b. 1958)
Neil Reed, conductor
Fairest of the Fair (1908)
Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell, conductor (1854-1932)
Amanda Greenbacker-whichen, conductor
Intermission
Symphonic Band Program Christian M. Noon, conductor
Neil L. Reed, guest conductor
W/11 N/1.1.4.1 (2007)
Wild Nights! (2007)
Meditation (2005/2010)
Neil Reed, guest conductor
Courtly Airs and Dances (1995)
I. Intrada II. Basse Danse (France)
III. Pavane (England)
V. Sarabande (Spain)
VI. Allemande (Germany)
Unidad en Rítmo (2023) Michele Fernández

University Band Program Notes

Red Giant (2019)

Jorge L. Vargas (b.1971)

This fast-paced composition depicts a dying star in its final stages of existence as it expands and engulfs everything in its path. A soft, somewhat aggressive opening section builds in intensity as instruments are added. Bold melodies, powerful chords, and driving percussion are followed by a short and soft passage for upper woodwinds. The intensity then returns in a dramatic final section that concludes the piece.

- Program Note from The Instrumentalist

Jorge L. Vargas (b.1971) is a Mexican American composer, arranger, and clinician. Mr. Vargas holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from The University of Texas-San Antonio and a Master's Degree in Education from Lamar University. He currently teaches at Memorial Junior High in Eagle Pass, TX, where he directs the concert band and the mariachi group, and he coordinates the beginner classes. Mr. Vargas has written and arranged for concert band, marching band, string orchestra, and mariachi ensemble. Many of his works appear on several state and festival lists. Mr Vargas' music has been selected to the J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice list and Bandworld Magazine's Top 100, and several of his works have been featured at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. Mr Vargas was born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, and currently resides in Eagle Pass, TX, with his wife Adriana, a 5th-grade math teacher.

-Bio taken from the Composer's Website

Kentucky 1800 (1955)

Clare Grundman (1913–1996)

Kentucky 1800 is based on the tunes of three American folk songs: The Promised Land, Cindy, and I'm Sad and I'm Lonely, melodies which are reminiscent of the years the pioneers were forging westward. It is a rhapsodic tone poem in which thematic material is treated in great depth and with variety. The work is a band masterpiece which has long since become a favorite with audiences.

- Program Note from the Score

Clare Grundman (1913–1996) was a prolific composer who wrote over one hundred works for wind band, many of which feature folk melodies or arrangements of influential works from his time. Composed in the mid-1950s, Kentucky 1800 remains a staple of the wind band repertoire, noted for its rich orchestration and storytelling. The piece opens with the broad, expressive theme of The Promised Land, developing the broad landscape in which the following melodies unfold. The journey continues with the melancholic I'm Sad and I'm Lonely, a tune of unrequited love and hardship, before transitioning to the lively energy of Cindy, which drives the piece forward in a spirited march. Through these contrasting themes, Grundman masterfully demonstrates the common themes of early American life.

Hymn to the Dawn (2004)

Kimberly Archer (b. 1973)

Hymn to the Dawn was originally the second movement of a work for brass quintet. It was composed in memory of Charlie Carter, staff arranger for the Florida State University Marching Chiefs and one of my first composition teachers. Charlie became seriously ill while I was at graduate school. I

was reluctant to face the severity of his illness and hesitated to call him in the hospital; as a result, he passed away before I had a chance to say goodbye.

Although the title suggests moving forward, the music is meant to reflect the unresolved nature of my relationship with Charlie.

- Program Note from the Composer

Kimberly K. Archer (b. 1973 in Mendota, IL) is currently serving as Professor of Composition at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois. She teaches composition, orchestration, analysis, counterpoint, and music theory. Past appointments include Bowling Green State University in Ohio, Western Carolina University in North Carolina, and Southeast High School in Florida.

Archer holds a Bachelor of Music Education from The Florida State University, a Master of Music in Composition from Syracuse University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from The University of Texas at Austin. Her teachers include David Maslanka, David Gillingham, Andrew Waggoner, Donald Grantham, and Charlie Carter.

-Bio Taken from the Composer's Website

Abracadabra (2004)

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Abracadabra was composed in the summer of 2004, and was orchestrated the following November during a residency at the MacDowell Colony. 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's music has been described as being "optimistic and thoughtful" (Los Angeles Times), "lean and muscular" (New York Times), "brilliantly effective" (Miami Herald) and "powerful, deeply felt crafted with impressive flair and an ear for striking instrumental colors" (South Florida Sun-Sentinel). Ticheli (b. 1958) joined the faculty of the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music in 1991, where he is Professor of Composition. From 1991 to 1998, Ticheli was Composer in Residence of the Pacific Symphony.

Frank Ticheli's orchestral works have received considerable recognition in the U.S. and Europe. Orchestral performances have come from the Philadelphia Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, Detroit

Symphony, Dallas Symphony, American Composers Orchestra, the radio orchestras of Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Saarbruecken, and Austria, and the orchestras of Austin, Bridgeport, Charlotte, Colorado, Haddonfield, Harrisburg, Hong Kong, Jacksonville, Lansing, Long Island, Louisville, Lubbock, Memphis, Nashville, Omaha, Phoenix, Portland, Richmond, San Antonio, San Jose, Wichita Falls, and others. His clarinet concerto was recently recorded by the Nashville Symphony on the Naxos label with soloist James Zimmermann.

Ticheli is well known for his works for concert band, many of which have become standards in the repertoire. In addition to composing, he has appeared as guest conductor of his music at Carnegie Hall, at many American universities and music festivals, and in cities throughout the world, including Schladming (Austria), Beijing and Shanghai, London and Manchester, Singapore, Rome, Sydney, and numerous cities in Japan.

Frank Ticheli is the recipient of a 2012 "Arts and Letters Award" from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, his third award from that prestigious organization. His Symphony No. 2 was named winner of the 2006 NBA/William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest. Other awards include the Walter Beeler Memorial Prize and First Prize awards in the Texas Sesquicentennial Orchestral Composition Competition, Britten-on-the-Bay Choral Composition Contest, and Virginia CBDNA Symposium for New Band Music.

In 2018, Ticheli received the University of Michigan Alumni Society's highest honor, the Hall of Fame Award, in recognition for his career as a composer. He was also awarded national honorary membership to Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, "bestowed to individuals who have significantly contributed to the cause of music in America," and the A. Austin Harding Award by the American School Band Directors Association, "given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the school band movement in America." At USC, he has received the Virginia Ramo Award for excellence in teaching, and the Dean's Award for Professional Achievement.

Frank Ticheli received his doctoral and masters degrees in composition from The University of Michigan. His works are published by Manhattan Beach, Southern, Hinshaw, and Encore Music, and are recorded on the labels of Albany, Chandos, Clarion, Equilibrium, Klavier, Koch International, Mark, Naxos, and Reference.

-Bio Taken from the Composer's Website

Fairest of the Fair (1908)

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)

The Fairest of the Fair is generally regarded as one of Sousa's finest and most melodic marches, and its inspirations came from the sight of a pretty girl with whom he was not even acquainted. It was an immediate success and has remained one of his most popular compositions. It stands out as one of the finest examples of the application of pleasing melodies to the restrictive framework of a military march.

The Boston Food Fair was an annual exposition and music jubilee held by the Boston Retail Grocers' Association. The Sousa Band was the main musical attraction for several seasons, so the creation of a new march honoring the sponsors of the 1908 Boston Food Fair was the natural outgrowth of a pleasant business relationship.

In fairs before 1908, Sousa had been impressed by the beauty and charm of one particular young lady who was the center of attention of the displays in which she was employed. He made a mental note that he would someday transfer his impressions of her into music. When the invitation came for the Sousa Band to play a twenty-day engagement in 1908, he wrote this march. Remembering the comely girl, he entitled the new march "The Fairest of the Fair."

Because of an oversight, the march almost missed its première. Nearly three months before the fair, Sousa had completed a sketch of the march for the publisher. He also wrote out a full conductor's score from which the individual band parts were to have been extracted. The band had just finished an engagement the night before the fair's opening and had boarded a sleeper train for Boston. Louis Morris, the band's copyist, was helping the librarian sort music for the first concert, and he discovered that the most important piece on the program—"The Fairest of the Fair"—had not been prepared.

According to Morris's own story, the librarian, whose job it had been to prepare the parts, went into a panic. There was good reason; considerable advance publicity had been given to the new march, and the fair patrons would be expecting to hear it. In addition, the piano sheet music had already been published, and copies were to be distributed free to the first five hundred ladies entering the gates of the fair.

Morris rose to the occasion. He asked the porter of the train to bring a portable desk, which he placed on a pillow across his lap. He worked the entire night, and the parts were nearly finished when dawn broke. Both were greatly surprised by the appearance of Sousa, who had arisen to take his usual early morning walk. When asked about the frenzied activity, they had no choice but to tell exactly what had happened.

There were many times in the life of John Philip Sousa when he demonstrated his benevolence and magnanimity, and this was surely one of them. After recognizing Morris's extraordinary effort and remarking that it was saving the band from considerable embarrassment, he instructed him to complete his work and to take a well-deserved rest, even if it meant sleeping through the first concert.

With no one the wiser, Louis Morris—hero of the day—was asleep in his hotel as Sousa's Band played "The Fairest of the Fair" for the first time on September 28, 1908. Sousa did not mention the subject again, but Morris found an extra fifty dollars in his next pay envelope —the equivalent of two weeks salary.

-Progam Note taken from Paul E. Bierley, The Works of John Philip Sousa (Westerville, Ohio: Integrity Press, 1984), 43.

Symphonic Bands Program Notes

Wild Nights!

Wild Nights! is a joyous, colorful seven-minute musical journey inspired by Emily Dickinson's poem:

Wild nights! Wild nights! Were I with thee, Wild nights should be Our luxury!

Futile the winds
To a heart in port,
Done with the compass,
Done with the chart.

Rowing in Eden! Ah! the sea! Might I but moor To-night in thee!

Numerous composers have set the words of Wild Nights! to music (Lee Hoiby's song setting and John Adams' Harmonium come immediately to mind). However, to my knowledge, no one has used this wonderfully sensuous poem as the basis for a purely instrumental tone poem. This was my aim, and in so doing I focused most heavily on the lines "Done with the compass,/Done with the chart" and "Rowing in Eden!/Ah! the sea!" These words suggested the sense of freedom and ecstatic joy that I tried to express in my work.

Throughout the piece, even during its darker middle section, the music is mercurial, impetuous, optimistic. A jazzy syncopated rhythmic motive permeates the journey. Unexpected events come and go, lending spontaneity and a sense of freedom. The work is composed in five distinct sections, but contained within each section are numerous surprises and a devil-may-care swagger. Surprises are found at every turn, and continue right through the final cadence.

Wild Nights! was commissioned by the California Band Directors Association in celebration of their 50th anniversary.

-Program note by Frank Ticheli.

Meditation

In early 2004, I was contacted by Mr. Jeff Looman, director of instrumental music for the Calvin Christian Schools in Michigan. Looman entrusted me to create a special composition in memory of a former student, Nick Stegeman, who had lost his life several years earlier. *Meditation* combines two tunes, the Lutheran hymn *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* and the American folk song *Poor Wayfarin' Stranger*. It is actually the second of three movements that comprise a suite entitled Music for Bright Youth. The title refers not only to Nick, but all the young musicians with whom it has been my

pleasure to work over the years as well. In February of 2005, the combined bands of the Calvin Christian Schools, under the direction of Mr. Looman, premiered the entire suite as a part of their annual winter concert.

-Program Note by Dwayne S. Milburn.

Courtly Airs and Dances

Courtly Airs and Dances is a suite of Renaissance dances which were characteristic to five European countries during the 1500s. Three of the dances (Basse Danse, Pavane, and Allemande) are meant to emulate the music of Claude Gervaise by drawing on the style of his music as well as the characteristics of other compositions from that period. The festival opens with a fanfare-like Intrada followed by the Basse Danse (France), Pavane (England), Saltarello (Italy), Sarabande (Spain), and Allemande (Germany).

-Program note by Ron Nelson.

Unidad en Rítmo

"Afro-Latin Jazz" is often described as an infectious blend of European melodies and lush harmonies with a heartbeat rooted in the rhythm treasures of Africa. The collaborations of artists like Dizzy Gillespie and Tito Puente gave way to a worldwide love of an art form with humble, profoundly spiritual, and yes, even oppressive beginnings.

The intent of this original composition is not to add African rhythms in their purest form to Spanish- styled melodies reminiscent of my own ancestral heritage: rather, to pay respect to the result of the organic progression, through time -- of the humble cultures thrown together on a small island, and which contributed to the development of these very specific Afro-Cuban forms into what they are... today.

These four iconic styles range from ethereal, to joyful, poignant, and intense. In this work, many authentic patterns are woven into the fabric of the winds as well.

On a personal note: It is important to acknowledge that this artistic (and spiritual) union could not have occurred without the tragic circumstances surrounding the unforgivable transportation of enslaved people to the Caribbean. Thoughts often drifted to this fact while writing, and so some of the emotions stirred at the mere contemplation of their suffering may be felt in the Bolero and Afro-Cuban 6/8 sections.

Each brief section represents elements of life that are best experienced (or endured) through unity, mutual support, and appreciation for the trials each of us experiences in our own way.

It is also hoped that the exhilaration (in the wish to see others rise above their struggles) is also evident in the ending section, where the initial theme heard during the joyous (Son Montuno) returns towards the end of the Afro-Cuban 6/8 to represent the indomitable human spirit transcending the negative events that we may all suffer as a result of life's trials. Hopefully we may continue to teach our young people to actively look for those who are struggling and provide support, as well as embrace each other's uniqueness with respect and interest, and to celebrate life's triumph and sorrows together

in friendship and empathy through the music that many of our ancestors created ... together. -Program note by Michele Fernández.

Conductors

Christian M. Noon is Assistant Director of Bands and Assistant Teaching Professor of Music Education at the University of Missouri. At MU, he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in music education, conducts the University Band, assists in the direction of Marching Mizzou, and directs Mini Mizzou for women's basketball. His professional career began as a band and orchestra teacher in the public schools of Colorado, where he grew up.

As a conductor, Dr. Noon is a proponent of new, diverse, and sophisticated works for winds. He advocates for more equitable processes of repertoire selection among conductors that center quality and diversity in concert programming. He believes that doing so will create more diverse and engaging musical experiences for ensemble members and audiences.

Dr. Noon's research interests include philosophy, sociology, and social justice in music education, as well as preservice music teacher identity development and conducting. As a music teacher educator, he seeks to provide his students with tools, skills, and experiences that allow them to envision music education as an inclusive of, expansive, and diverse subject that enriches schools and communities.

Dr. Noon's scholarly work has been published in Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education, Journal of Music Teacher Education, Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education, and Update: Applications of Research in Music Education. He has also presented research at the Florida Music Educators Association conference, the Missouri Music Educators Association conference, and the NAfME Society for Music Teacher Education Symposium on Music Teacher Education. He holds professional memberships in NAfME, CBDNA, CMS, and the Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society, as well as honorary memberships in Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma.

Neil L. Reed is a second year PhD student in Music Education at the University of Missouri and serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the band program at MU.

Before coming to Mizzou, he served as a public school music teacher and band director for 10 years in the state of Texas, most recently as the Assistant Director of Bands at Canadian ISD in Canadian, TX. His responsibilities there included directing the varsity middle school band, as well as assisting with the high school band and teaching beginner band low brass class. The 8th grade band, under his direction, recently received the Texas UIL Sweepstakes award for their performance at the 2023 Region 1 Concert and Sight Reading Evaluation. Prior to his appointment at Canadian ISD, Mr. Reed was an Assistant Director of Bands at Dumas ISD for five years and Wellington ISD for four years. Ensembles under his direction have received multiple milestones and Sweepstakes awards.

Mr. Reed was a Graduate Assistant at the University of Northern Colorado where he received his Master of Music Education degree and performed on bassoon. His bachelor's degree is from the

University of New Mexico where he studied and performed on trombone in numerous ensembles. He served as drum major of the UNM Spirit Marching Band for two seasons and in 2009, received the Spirit of New Mexico Award, UNM's highest honor bestowed annually to a marching band member.

Mr. Reed is a native of Farmington, New Mexico. In addition to his duties at MU, he holds the rank of Staff Sergeant (SSG) in the New Mexico National Guard where he has proudly served his country for seventeen years as a performing member of the 44th Army Band. His professional associations include NAfME, MMEA, and Kappa Kappa Psi. He is a recipient of the John Philip Sousa Band Award.

Neil is married to his best friend, Abby. They live in Columbia, MO with their two cats, Chai and Friendly.

Amanda Greenbacker-Mitchell is a PhD Candidate in Music Education at the University of Missouri, where she serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the University Bands program and one of the Instructors of Record for University Band. Before her appointment at MU, Amanda served as a Teaching Assistant at Syracuse University and as the Director of Instrumental Music at Charlotte Valley Central School. She holds a B.M. in Music Education with a minor in Music History and Cultures, as well as a M.M. in Conducting from Syracuse University.

Ms. Greenbacker-Mitchell is a passionate educator, conductor, and growing scholar of music and the Holocaust. She is currently researching the musical experiences of children in Nazi ghetto Terezín as her dissertation. She is an active guest conductor and lecturer on the repertoire, circumstances, and musicians affected by the Shoah, having taught about music as a sociopolitical mechanism of the Holocaust in over fifty classrooms and educational series.

Luke Haymon is a music educator and percussionist from Athens, Alabama, now based in Columbia, Missouri. Currently studying for a Master's in Percussion Performance at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Luke serves as a Band Graduate Assistant and Assistant Director of the Marching Mizzou Drumline. He earned his bachelor's in music education from Jacksonville State University and has been active in teaching music in the Alabama and Georgia area. He is dedicated to both his growth as a musician and sharing his knowledge with others, embodying a passion for music that is exhibited in his teaching and performances.

University Band Personnel

Personnel listed in alphabetical order to emphsize each individual's contribution to tonight's performance.

Piccolo Anna Heiple

Flute

McKenzie Anderson Jonathan Bass Abigail Brakemeyer Josie Cable Mina Giurgius Megan Hentschel Elaina Jansen **Dofay Jiang** Molly Levine Kierra Marshall Liliana Moro Donnell Kate Potter Joey Novotny Austin Richard* Nora Scharer Sara Schmidt Allison Shoemake **Evy Smith** George Szabo Lainey VanNess Alyssa Wright

Oboe

Christina Zubillaga

Jordan Behrle Sophia Selby*

Bassoon

Ruby Hord* Lance Moore

Clarinet

Cole Bailey Nicholas Cokenour* Rachael Davis Payton Doege Annabelle Ewing Cobalt Gamble Allie Gifford Abby Hayes Yashshuah Horton Kaitlyn Laurentius Henry Miller Bonnie Niedermann Roni Ogdon **Emily Swanson** Baseba Tekle

Terra Veazev Natalie Wiseman

Bass Clarinet

Madeline Collins Reagan Laing **Dustin Wallace**

Alto Saxophone

Meredith Flippin Sophie Hynes Daniel Saab Abigale/Roger Shell Haley Stevens*

Tenor Saxophone

Doralynn Lee Aiden Maggiore Kristyn Morganthaler Hayden Rogers

Baritone Saxophone

Tatum Anderson Mary Jane Konieczny

Trumpet Carter Allen

Annabelle Bowman Lukas Carmen Elliott Dillon Nathan Fletcher Emma Knudson Sydney Lockridge* Michael Mischkot Mia Perez Cas Neyman Matthew Redshaw AJ Rivera Kaeden Schunk Caleb Taylor Sage Turner Ayaka Utaka William Westermann

French Horn

Gracie Berger* Anna Claunch Alyssa Dennis Quintin Frohman Hailey Hagg Isaiah Korte Atlas Stallings

Samuel Waldron Hayden Wiseman

Trombone

Daniel Adams Rachel Alvarez Krista Anderson Taylor Brown Luke Coonrod **Quincy Crawford** Olivia Ganley Anthony Klote Ian Ludwig Lauren Miller Tate Patton* Sierra Paul Paul Russell Karissa Simmons Emma Spalding William Wicks (Bass)

Euphonium

Alison Bledsoe Teak Carrier Hayden Close Christopher Ottenlips* Sophia Niedringhaus Nathan Robertson Thomas Skiendziel

Tuba

Evan Atterberry* Allison Collier Ember Kirkham Nick Kovaleski Eric Schultz

Percussion

Derrick Delson Owen Esry John Hess Brendan Horn Harris Kahn Ava Lairmore Ryan Lowe Keller Matthews Evelyn Miller Nat Parrott Dylan Pearce*

*Denotes Section Leader

Symphonic Band Personnel

Personnel listed in alphabetical order to emphsize each individual's contribution to tonight's performance.

Flute

Ainsley Bryson Rael Dye Emily Gomez Kamiah Kelly Haley Stevens (piccolo)

Clarinet

Madeline Collins
Daniel Garcia
Mina Giurgius
Ember Kirkham
Hung Nguyen
Sabrina Pan
Christina Sanchez
Jessica Yu

Bass Clarinet

Sam Kiethline

Alto Saxophone

Ethan Harmon Trent Fitzsimmons (soprano) Gauge Spier Parker White

Tenor Saxophone

Riley Snelson Krystiana Valelo

Baritone Saxophone

Lainey Sonnenberg

Trumpet

Harper Allie
Jackson Elsea
Emma Farris
Patrick Ferguson
Madelyn Ganley
Gunner Russell
Douglas Schaedler
Reagin Toten
Samuel Waldron

F Horn

Jack Callahan Megan Dierking Abby Oreskovich Nick Stover Sam Wren Emmett Wright

Trombone

Hope Both Abel Richardson Jacob Smith Hannah Smithey

Euphonium

Alyssa Daley Tiger Li Harry Tyrer Joseph Winterbower

Tuba

Ian Conroy Bryce Herin Michael Scott Greta Witt

Percussion Carson Allen

Kayley Coney
Mon Ieong Cheok Kai
Vanessa Graham
Luke Haymon+
William Kim
Joshua Kremer
Michael Tiffany
Gavin Waldrop

+Denotes Guest Musician