



School of Music
University of Missouri

2025-2026 Series | Large Ensemble

University Band & Symphonic Band

Dr. Amy M. Knopps, conductor

Dr. Christian M. Noon, conductor

Kate Sellers, graduate guest conductor

Andrew Friesen, graduate guest conductor

February 19, 2026 | 7:00pm

Missouri Theatre

University Band Program

Dr. Christian M. Noon, conductor

Andrew Friesen, graduate guest conductor

Cenotaph (1992) **Jack Stamp**
(b. 1954)

This Cruel Moon (2014/2017) **John Mackey**
(b. 1973)

Hope Glowing in the Sky (2025) **Naoya Wada**
(b. 1986)

Andrew Friesen, graduate guest conductor

The Purple Carnival March (1933) **Harry Alford**
(1879–1939)
ed. Frank Erickson

Intermission

Symphonic Band Program

Dr. Amy M. Knopps, conductor

Kate Sellers, graduate guest conductor

I Am (1990) **Andrew Boysen**
(b. 1968)

Dusk (2004/rev. 2008) **Steven Bryant**
(b. 1972)

In Living Color (2021) **Katahj Copley**
(b. 1998)

Kate Sellers, graduate guest conductor

University Band Program Notes

Cenotaph (1992)

A cenotaph is a “statue or monument to a person not buried there.” The Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monuments are familiar examples of cenotaphs. This fanfare connotes a breathtaking structure such as one of these cenotaphs.

After the explosive percussion introduction, the work begins with a five-part fugue. An accelerando leads to a layering of ostinatos including a 7/8 hemiola in the woodwinds. The fugue subject returns in augmentation and is harmonized in a chorale style.

Cenotaph was commissioned by Mitchell Fennell and the California State University at Fullerton Bands for the 1992 Southern California All-State Band.

Program note by Jack Stamp.

This Cruel Moon (2014/2017)

(Adapted from *Wine-Dark Sea: Symphony for Band, mvt. 2: Immortal Thread, So Weak*)

After ten years of bloody siege, the Trojan War was won because of Odysseus' gambit: A horse full of soldiers, disguised as an offering. The people of Troy took it in as a trophy, and were slaughtered. Odysseus gave the Greeks victory, and they left the alien shores for home. But Odysseus' journey would take as long as the war itself. Homer called the ocean on which Odysseus sailed a wine-dark sea, and for the Greek king it was as murky and disorienting as its name; he would not find his way across it without first losing himself.

This movement is the song of the beautiful and immortal nymph Kalypso, who finds Odysseus near death, washed up on the shore of the island where she lives all alone. She nurses him back to health, and sings as she moves back and forth with a golden shuttle at her loom. Odysseus shares her bed; seven years pass. The tapestry she began when she nursed him becomes a record of their love.

But one day Odysseus remembers his home. He tells Kalypso he wants to leave her, to return to his wife and son. He scoffs at all she has given him. Kalypso is heartbroken.

And yet, that night, Kalypso again paces at her loom. She unravels her tapestry and weaves it into a sail for Odysseus. In the morning, she shows Odysseus a raft, equipped with the

sail she has made and stocked with bread and wine, and calls up a gentle and steady wind to carry him home. Shattered, she watches him go; he does not look back.

Program Note by A. E. Jaques.

Hope Glowing in the Sky (2025)

Hope Glowing in the Sky begins with an impressive theme performed by solo horn and solo flute. That theme is then carried over and developed throughout the piece. The calm ending that follows the lively second half will satisfy people's hearts. Beautiful, hopeful, melodies and harmonies are present throughout this fascinating work that will appeal to both players and audiences

Program note by Belwin Music.

The Purple Carnival March (1933)

Harry LaForrest Alford was an American arranger and composer of dance band, concert orchestra pieces, and band marches. He was a prolific composer and arranger who is best known by two of his marches for concert band: *Glory of the Gridiron* (1932; written for Albert Harding and the University of Illinois Band) and *Purple Carnival* (1933; dedicated to Glenn Cliffe Bainum and the Northwestern University Wildcat Marching Band).

The Purple Carnival March premiered in 1933, and its minor tonality and low winds features have stood the test of time, giving this unique march a place as a staple in the march literature for bands.

Program note adapted from multiple sources.

Symphonic Band Program Notes

I Am (1990)

I Am was commissioned by Craig Aune and the Cedar Rapids Prairie High School Band of Cedar Rapids, Iowa in February 1990. It was written in memory of Lynn Jones, a baritone saxophone player in the band who was killed in an auto accident during that winter. The work is basically tonal in nature, but includes extended techniques such as an aleatoric section and singing from members of the ensemble. The aleatoric section is intended to represent the foggy morning of the crash in which Jones died. The words “I Am” are taken from a poem that he wrote just days before his death. The piece is not intended in any way to be an elegy. Instead, it is a celebration, a reaffirmation, of life.

I Am

Life, Music, Competition.

I like exciting things, and doing good for others.

Beauty, Successfulness and Smartness are important to me.

I like to achieve recognition.

I can succeed if I really put my mind to it.

I am very set in my ways,

But I can change when I realize my ignorance.

I like a simple nonchalant lifestyle.

I hate ignorance.

I hate structuredness.

This is me. I am!

-Lynn Jones

January, 1990

Andrew Boysen, Jr. is presently a professor in the music department at the University of New Hampshire, where he conducts the wind symphony and teaches conducting and composition. Under his leadership, the UNH wind symphony has released seven recordings and been invited to perform at regional conventions of the College Band Directors National Association and National Association for Music Education. Previously, Boysen taught at Indiana State University and Cary-Grove (IL) High School, and was the music director and conductor of the Deerfield Community Concert Band. He remains active as a guest conductor and clinician, appearing with high school, university, and festival ensembles around the world. Boysen earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as conductor of the Eastman Wind Orchestra and assistant conductor of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. He

received his Master of Music degree in wind conducting from Northwestern University in 1993 and his Bachelor of Music degree in music education and music composition from the University of Iowa in 1991. He maintains an active schedule as a composer, receiving commissions from festival, university, and high school concert bands across the United States. Boysen won the International Horn Society Composition Contest in 2000, the University of Iowa Honors Composition Prize in 1991 and has twice won the Claude T. Smith Memorial Band Composition Contest, in 1991 and 1994. Boysen has several published works with the Neil A. Kjos Music Company, Wingert-Jones Music, Alfred Music, Masters Music, and C. Alan Publications, including pieces for band, orchestra, clarinet and piano, and brass choir. Recordings of his music appear on the Sony, R-Kal, Mark, St. Olaf and Elf labels.

Program note by Andrew Boysen.

Dusk (2004/rev. 2008)

Dusk is a quiet, reflective work that focuses on a moment many people recognize but rarely pause to consider—the stillness that settles in as day gives way to night. Written in a simple, chorale-like style, the piece captures the calm of evening while also reflecting the intensity of a sunset’s glowing colors. There is a sense of contrast throughout the music: warmth and restraint, motion and stillness, simplicity and depth. Bryant has described dusk as feeling almost epic despite its silence, like watching something vast unfold in slow motion. That idea shapes the pacing of the piece, as long, sustained lines and rich harmonies create an atmosphere of suspended time. Rather than building toward a dramatic climax, *Dusk* finds its passion in restraint, allowing the music to breathe and linger. The work serves as the opening piece in Bryant’s three-part “night cycle,” followed by *The Marbled Midnight Mile* and concluding with *First Light*. *Dusk* was commissioned by the Langley High School Wind Symphony under the direction of Andrew Gekoskie and premiered in April 2004 at the MENC National Convention.

Steven Bryant (b. 1972) is an American composer known for tightly crafted, expressive works that combine lyricism, dissonance, and innovative use of color and technology. His music is widely performed by wind ensembles, orchestras, and chamber groups around the world. Bryant is especially recognized for *Ecstatic Waters* for wind ensemble and electronics, one of the most frequently performed works of its kind, later adapted for orchestra and premiered by the Minnesota Orchestra. Other notable works include *Concerto for Wind Ensemble*, *Loose Id for Orchestra*, and the immersive multimedia project *The Treachery of Sounds*. His music has been commissioned and performed by ensembles such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Winds, Chicago Symphony

Orchestra's MusicNOW series, and the U.S. Air Force Band of Mid-America. Being the son of a professional trumpeter and educator, Bryant strongly values music education and has written extensively for young and developing musicians. He studied composition at The Juilliard School, the University of North Texas, and Ouachita University, and currently resides in Durham, North Carolina.

Program note by Steven Bryant.

In Living Color (2021)

Katahj Copley is an American composer who was born in Georgia in 1998. He earned two bachelor's degrees from the University of West Georgia in Music Education and Composition in 2021 and a master's in composition from UT Austin in 2023, studying with Omar Thomas and Yevginy Sharlat. He is currently studying composition at Michigan State University. He has written over 100 works for chamber ensemble, wind ensemble, and orchestra, and his compositions have been commissioned and performed by the Cavaliers Brass, the California Band Director's Association, Admiral Launch Duo, and the "President's Own" Marine Band.

Copley wrote *In Living Color* as an ode for live music following the COVID-19 pandemic. According to him, "With the global pandemic of COVID-19, so many of life's simple joys were taken, including the opportunity to perform music. To me, music is one of the greatest means of communication. When it was taken away, the language of music became foreign- and for some, a passion for the subject disappeared. Now, as the world slowly takes its turn again, a love for music has grown- through separation, we grew stronger". He was inspired by the melodies by Snarky Puppy, Estelle (singer of *American Boy*), and George Gershwin, and the strong jazz and funk influences are evident throughout the work.

Program note by Katahj Copley.

Conductor Biographies

Amy M. Knopps is the Co-Interim Associate Director of the School of Music, Associate Director of Bands, Director of Athletic Bands, and Area Coordinator of Large Ensembles at the University of Missouri, where she directs Marching Mizzou, Mini Mizzou, and Symphonic Band, while also teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the School of Music.

Since her appointment in 2017, Marching Mizzou has grown from 245 members to a current capacity of 350. Under her leadership, the ensemble performed in the 96th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2022—leading the parade and appearing in the opening number alongside Lea Michele and the cast of *Funny Girl*—and earned the distinction of “Best Overall Band” in the 2024 St. Patrick's Festival Parade in Dublin, Ireland. In another significant milestone, Marching Mizzou has been invited to participate in London Band Week in June 2026, an invitation-only international event recognizing elite musical ensembles from around the world. This appearance will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Marching Mizzou's 1975 tour of England, when the ensemble was proclaimed the Official Bicentennial Band of the State of Missouri by then-Governor Christopher Bond.

Prior to returning home to Mizzou, Dr. Knopps served for seven years as a tenured Associate Professor of Music, Associate Director of Bands, and Director of Athletic Bands at Eastern Michigan University. During her tenure, she was named a Faculty Spotlight Recipient, became the inaugural recipient of the Thank-A-Teacher Award, and was featured in the historic exhibition *In Her Shoes: Forging Paths at EMU*. She made institutional history as the first woman to direct the EMU Marching Band and, alongside her colleague Dr. Mary Schneider, formed the first all-female collegiate Director and Associate Director of Bands leadership team in the nation.

Dr. Knopps earned degrees from The University of Georgia (DMA, 2010), the University of Kansas (MM, 2007), and the University of Missouri (BS, Ed., 2001) where her principal conducting teachers were Dr. John P. Lynch and Dr. Dale J. Lonis. While at Georgia and Kansas she held conducting associate positions that involved conducting both concert and athletic bands as well as teaching courses in the music curriculum. During her time at The University of Georgia, Dr. Knopps earned the Hugh Hodgson School of Music Director's Excellence Award and was selected by the faculty to give the student address at her commencement ceremony. At the University of Kansas, she received the prestigious Russell L. Wiley Graduate Conducting Award in recognition of her excellence in conducting and pedagogy.

Additional teaching experience includes numerous years as Director of Bands at Center High School and Center Middle School in her hometown of Kansas City, Missouri, where she began her career and guided all aspects of this diverse, award-winning band program, and served as Fine Arts Coordinator. The Center High School band program holds personal significance, as her father, Jacob Knopps, served on faculty as a mathematics teacher alongside legendary composer and educator Claude T. Smith. During her time in the Center School District, Dr. Knopps was honored with the 2003 Missouri Fine Arts Outstanding Teacher Award and the 2004 You Make the Difference Award for her inspiring impact made on the students in her ensembles. In 2003, she solely commissioned and premiered Jonathan Newman's 1861 for concert band, launching her long-standing commitment to commissioning and advancing new and diverse wind band repertoire, a commitment she continues today through commissions for the University of Missouri Bands program.

Dr. Knopps remains highly active as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and keynote speaker across the United States and internationally having worked and performed throughout Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, and South America. In 2025, she was officially named Associate Conductor of the Kansas City Wind Symphony after several years of service as a guest conductor with the professional ensemble.

For more than a decade, she has served as a head clinician/instructor at the Smith-Walbridge Clinics, the first summer training program for elite high school and collegiate drum majors and student leaders from across the country. Her scholarly and professional publications include several articles in *School Band and Orchestra Magazine*, *The Instrumentalist*, eight contributions to the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series, and a feature in the 2023 book *Women in Wind Band*, a publication that thoughtfully looks at why female-identifying conductors are still a minority in the field. She has also conducted significant research on American-sponsored overseas secondary band programs, inspired by her passion for cultural exchange and making music abroad.

Dr. Knopps maintains professional affiliations with the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), currently serving as Chair of the CBDNA Athletic Bands Committee in her second term, the first woman to ever serve in this position, and as Chair for the state of Missouri, also in her second term, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), National Band Association (NBA), Missouri Women's Band Directors Association (MWBD), Phi Beta Mu, Tau Beta Sigma, Kappa Kappa Psi, currently serving as the sponsor for the Eta Upsilon chapter, the Griffiths Leadership Society for Women, currently serving on the Executive Committee as Past Chair, and QEBH, the oldest of six secret honor societies at the University of Missouri when she was Honor Tapped in 2018,

during her first year on faculty at Mizzou.

Her recognitions at Mizzou include earning Associate Professor of the Year and the Purple Chalk Teaching Award from the College of Arts and Science in 2021. In 2022, Dr. Knopps was named to the 2022-2023 University of Missouri Provost Leadership Program Cohort, a program with the goal of developing academic leaders who will guide Mizzou into the future. In 2023, Dr. Knopps earned the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Arts and Science, the Faculty and Alumni Award from the Mizzou Alumni Association, and was inducted into the Marching Mizzou Hall of Fame in honor of her time as an undergraduate student in Marching Mizzou as a Piccolo Section Member, Piccolo Section Leader, Drum Major, Head Drum Major, and now as Director of Athletic Bands.

In 2024, Dr. Knopps earned the William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, the highest award offered at Mizzou. In 2025, she was inducted into the Lee's Summit High School Hall of Fame, joining her brother, Anthony Knopps, an eight-time Emmy Award-winning journalist, author, educator, Tedx speaker, and advocate for traumatic brain injury awareness since his own survival, as one of the first set of siblings to receive this honor.

In that same year, Dr. Knopps joined Jupiter Band Instruments as an endorsed artist and educator, furthering her commitment to excellence, creativity, and dedication to technological advances of the collegiate marching arts and music education for all.

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.

Kate Sellers is a first year Ph.D. student in music education at the University of Missouri and serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant with the Marching Mizzou, the concert bands program, and the music education department. Prior to her doctoral studies, Kate earned her master's degree in music education and performance certificate in instrumental conducting from Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland, and studied conducting with Dr. Christopher Cicconi. She served as a graduate assistant at Towson with the instrumental music department and was the assistant director of the Towson University Indoor Color Guard. Kate also worked for four years as an instrumental music teacher at La Plata High School in Charles County, Maryland. While at La Plata, she taught grades 9-12 band, string and symphony orchestras, marching band, jazz band, piano, AP Music Theory, pit orchestra, percussion ensemble, and founded and directed a county-wide indoor color guard. Kate earned her undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University and was a member of the Schreyer Honors College.

In addition to her doctoral studies, Kate is an active clinician, drill writer, choreographer, and designer in the marching arts. Kate was named a 2023 Bluecoats Fellow, a program created to bring more diversity into the marching arts design space, and studied with Bluecoats drill writer Jon Vanderkolff. She is also the research committee manager for the Marching Arts Access, Safety, and Inclusion Network (MAASIN), an organization that strives to make the marching arts a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. Outside of band, Kate enjoys reading for fun, crochet, and spending time with her two cats, Brioche and Yennerfer

Mr. Andrew Friesen, a native of Kirkwood, Missouri, is a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the University of Missouri Bands program and is now in his second year of pursuing a master's degree in music education. At Mizzou, he assists with Marching Mizzou,

Mini Mizzou, works with the undergraduate band program as a rehearsal assistant, and supports leadership development within marching and concert ensembles. He also coaches sectionals and contributes to rehearsal planning. An active trumpet player, he was recently named the Graduate Division winner of the 2025 Missouri Music Teachers Association (MMTA) Competition. In addition to his graduate responsibilities, Mr. Friesen clinics beginner and middle school concert and jazz band camps in the St. Louis area and provides private trumpet lessons to students of all levels.

Mr. Friesen earned his bachelor's degree in Instrumental Music Education from Missouri State University in 2021, where he studied trumpet and performed in the University Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, and various jazz ensembles. Before beginning graduate studies, he taught 7–12 band, choir, and general music at Charleston Jr./Sr. High School in Charleston, Missouri, where he built an after-school band program that significantly increased student engagement and ensemble retention. He developed curricula for both concert and jazz bands, prepared students for solo and ensemble competitions, and led multiple successful performances for school and community events. Prior to this appointment, he completed his student teaching in the Lindbergh School District, working with beginning woodwind and brass classes, middle school band, and assisting with both the Lindbergh Spirit of St. Louis Marching Band and Concert Band. Mr. Friesen also serves as a high brass specialist, aiding in brass pedagogy while fostering musicianship, leadership, and a lifelong love of music in his students.

University Band Band Personnel

Piccolo

Anna Heiple

Flute

Noelle Abend
Abby Brakemeyer
Josie Cable
Lee Crosslin
Eris Eyberg
Avery Haner
Michelli Horton
AJ Joerling
Lili Moro Donnell
Nin O'Brien
Kate Potter
Madalynn Riley
Nora Scharer
Lainey VanNess
Alyssa Wright
Christina Zubillaga

Oboe

Jordan Behrle
Kyleigh Huse

Bassoon

Cole Bailey
Teresa Dollenmeyer
Ruby Hord
Alexander King
Lancing Moore

Clarinet

Allison Collier
Layla Cox
Rachael Davis
Payton Doege
Kamren Fox
Kayla Hahn
Yahshuah Horton
Grace Hunsley
Maggie Howell
Ashley McDonough
Roni Ogden
Boden Ross
Mason Sledge
Nick Storey
Ashlynn Tredway
Natalie Wiseman

Bass Clarinet

Jasper Stockton
Cathryn Wolf

Alto Saxophone

Jack Dearing
Meredith Flippin
Logan Hawn
Spencer Kleist
Caden McCullough
Abby Serati
Riley Snelson
Whitney Vu

Tenor Saxophone

Maxmillian Castillo
Aden Cox
Doralynn Lee
Aiden Maggiore
Carleigh Rackers

Baritone Saxophone

Kassie Jamieson
Mary Jane Konieczny
Hayden Rogers

Trumpet

Carter Allen
Annabelle Bowman
Theodore Burk
Elliott Dillon
Nathan Fletcher
Dylan Liegey
Michael Mischkot
Parker Quinones
AJ Rivera
Lily Stewart
Charlie Tomiser
Reagin Toten
Haley Welsh
William Westermann
Logan Wilson
Aiden Yant
Jessica Yu

F Horn

Gracie Berger
Lukas Carman
Alyssa Dennis
Henry Miller
Devon Richter
Allison Shoemake
Charlie Tomiser
Sam Waldron

Trombone

Daniel Adams
Luke Coonrod
Natalie Jobe
Anthony Klote
Misha McNeil
Jacob Mischkot
Joseph Sanders
Karissa Simmons
Sara Westcott
William Wicks
Zaden Zika

Euphonium

Teak Carrier
Anna Claunch
Timothy Comish
Sophie Hynes
Nate Knarr
CJ Ottenlips
Thomas Skiendziel
Harry Tyrer

Tuba

Evan Atterberry
Cole Baklashev
Taylor Brown
Hayden Burkett
Ethan Gonzales
Isaiah Korte
Nick Kovaleski
Ian Loyd
Owen Madden
Sean McDonnor
Eric Schultz

Percussion

Josh Davis
Brendan Horn
Harris Kahn
Sam Jones
Keller Mathews
Nat Parrott
Elijah Vandyne
Chloe Vargo
Evy Virtue

**Program listed in alphabetical order to emphasize each individual's contribution to tonight's performance.*

Symphonic Band Personnel

Piccolo

Kate Sellers

Flute

Tatum Anderson
Helen Cory
Avery Haner
Arisa Mills
Kate Sellers

Oboe

Damiana Winemiller

B-Flat Clarinet

Abby Adair
Madeline Collins
Caleb Furrer
Daniel Garcia
Mina Giurgius
Reagan Thomas

Bass Clarinet

Hung Nguyen

Contrabass Clarinet

Holden Fox

Alto Saxophone

Holden Fox
Porter Sayers
Krystiana Valelo
Cameron Watson

Tenor Saxophone

Joshua Davis
Callee Groves

Baritone Saxophone

Aaron Busing

Trumpet

Harper Allie
Zach Beran
Emma Farris
Zachary Jenkins
Connor Kleypas
Sydney Lockridge
Connor Long
Matt Redshaw
Gunner Russell

Horn

Audrey Frizzell
Cameron Kelly
Grant Lee
Jessica Tuncel
Emmett Wright

Trombone

Justin Cox
Bo Ross
Jacob Smith
Hannah Smithey

Euphonium

Sam Belanus
Adam Chitta
Alyssa Daley
Max Duncan
Nate Robertson

Tuba

Watinsi Dobbs
Michael Scott

Percussion

Carson Allen
Lex Henderson
Joshua Kremer
Dylan Pearce
Geddy Rice
Gavin Waldrop

Guest Musicians

Percussion

Sam Jones
Camihle Williams

**Program listed in alphabetical order to emphasize each individual's contribution to tonight's performance.*