



School of Music
University of Missouri

2025-2026 Series | Large Ensemble

Waynesville Wind Ensemble

Jared Sabatasso, conductor

University of Missouri Symphonic Band

Dr. Amy M. Knopps, conductor

Jared Sabatasso, guest conductor

Sophie Browning-Brodack, graduate guest conductor

April 26, 2026 | 3:00pm

Missouri Theatre

Waynesville Wind Ensemble Program

Jared Sabatasso, conductor

Sea Songs **Ralph Vaughan Williams**
(1872-1958)

Irish Tune From County Derry **Percy Grainger**
(1882-1961)

Illumination **David Maslanka**
(1943-2017)

Intermission

Symphonic Band Program

Dr. Amy M. Knopps, conductor

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Arsenal Concert March (1995) **Jan Van der Roost**
(b. 1956)

Jared Sabatasso, guest conductor

My Lyre Within the Sky (2025) **James M. David**
(b. 1978)

Heartland Verses for Wind Symphony (2019) **James M. David**
(b. 1978)

I. Flow, blue.

II. the dust of his wings

joyRIDE (2005/rev. 2014) **Micheal Markowski**
(b. 1986)

Sophie Browning-Brodack, graduate guest conductor

Waynesville Wind Ensemble Program Notes

***Sea Songs*** **Ralph Vaughan Williams**
(1872-1958)

Written in 1923 for the following year's Wembley Exhibition, *Sea Songs* is a march medley of three well-known sea shanties: *Princess Royal*, *Admiral Benbow*, and *Portsmouth*.

Written in typical march form with a trio, it was published simultaneously for brass band and wind band, and was later transcribed by the composer for symphony orchestra.

It should be noted that *Sea Songs* was originally intended to be the final movement of Vaughan Williams's *Folk Song Suite*

***Irish Tune From County Derry*** **Percy Grainger**
(1882-1961)

Irish Tune from County Derry (published 1918) is based on earlier settings that date back as early as October 1902 with an essentially identical setting of this melody for wordless mixed chorus. Later versions for solo piano (1911) and string orchestra with two optional horns (1912) followed. The wind band setting is cataloged as British Folk Music Setting Nr. 20, and like all his settings of British folk music is "lovingly dedicated to the memory of Edvard Grieg." The composer's brief program note states, "This tune was collected by Miss J. Ross, of New Town, Limavady, Co Derry, Ireland and published in *The Petrie Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland, Dublin, 1855*."

- Program Note by R. Mark Rogers.

***Illumination*** **David Maslanka**
(1943-2017)

"*Illumination*" -- lighting up, bringing light. I am especially interested in composing music for young people that allows them a vibrant experience of their own creative energy. A powerful experience of this sort stays in the heart and mind as a channel for creative energy, no matter what the life path. Music shared in community brings this vital force to everyone. *Illumination* is an open and cheerful piece in a quick tempo, with a very direct A-B-A song form.

Illumination: Overture for Band was composed for the Franklin, Massachusetts', public

schools. The commission was started by Nicole Wright, band director at the Horace Mann Middle School in Franklin, when she discovered that my grandnephew was in her band. The piece was initially to have been for her young players, but the idea grew to make it the center of the dedication concert at the opening of Franklin's new high school building. Rehearsals of *Illumination* were actually the first musical sounds made in their fine new auditorium.

- *Program note by the composer.*

Symphonic Band Program Notes

Arsenal Concert March (1995) **Jan Van der Roost**
(b. 1956)

Jan Van der Roost (b. 1956) is a Belgian composer, conductor, and educator whose works are widely performed throughout the world, particularly in the wind band repertoire. Born in Duffel, Belgium, he studied at the Lemmensinstituut in Leuven and later at the Royal Conservatories of Ghent and Antwerp, where he trained in both conducting and composition. In addition to his work as a composer, Van der Roost is an active teacher and guest professor, with engagements in Europe and Japan. He has also appeared internationally as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. His music spans a wide range of genres, including orchestral works, concertos, chamber music, choral compositions, and numerous pieces for wind band. Known for its strong craftsmanship and expressive character, his music continues to be performed and recorded by ensembles around the globe.

Arsenal is one of Jan Van der Roost's most widely performed concert marches and a staple of the modern wind band repertoire. Composed in 1995, the work demonstrates the composer's command of traditional march form while incorporating a contemporary harmonic language and vibrant orchestration. The piece opens with a bold and energetic introduction, leading into a driving first strain characterized by rhythmic precision and bright brass writing. A contrasting trio section provides a more lyrical and flowing melody, highlighting the ensemble's expressive capabilities before building toward a powerful and triumphant final statement. Throughout, Van der Roost balances clarity of form with fresh musical ideas, resulting in a march that is both accessible and artistically engaging. This piece remains a favorite among performers and audiences alike for its excitement, craftsmanship, and effective blend of tradition and modern style.

My Lyre Within the Sky (2025) **James M. David**
(b. 1978)

My Lyre Within the Sky (2025) attempts to address the nature of grief and loss stemming from the lifelong struggles of those closest to us. The title is drawn from Edgar Allen Poe's poem *Israfel* which describes an angel whose "heart-strings are a lute" and sings with the most beautiful voice in all creation. Poe laments the angel's ability to perfectly capture the deepest of emotions while we on earth are left with only a "mortal melody." The author knows that, if taken to heaven, he could sing with a "bolder note" from his "lyre within the sky." My composition will interpret both Poe's words as well as my own encounters with

grief to hopefully express a musical connection to those who we have lost and will lose. Emerging from a single sustained note that frays and reknits, a solo clarinet melody is presented alternately between consonant and dissonant accompaniments. This gives way to a slowly building asymmetrical ostinato as a “bolder note” that culminates in an explosive arrival that recall’s *Elsa’s Procession*. This massive cadence then subsumes again into a single pitch, forever fraying and knitting into the infinite. This work was commissioned for the Cincinnati Wind Band by Randell Bertsche and is dedicated to the memory of his brother Jeremiah Page.

Program notes by the composer, January 2025, Fort Collins, Colorado.

***Heartland Verses for Wind Symphony (2019)* James M. David
(b. 1978)**

- I. Flow, blue.
- II. the dust of his wings

Heartland Verses is a two-movement composition based on the works of Iowa native and U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser. The first movement, "Flow, blue" is based on a short poem that describes the patterns of the China plates owned by the author's aunt. The raspy sound of shakers and maracas interact with a simple tune to portray the old woman who is both weathered and sweetened by her many years. In "the dust of his wings," a species of moth is cited that will drink from the tears of sleeping animals. Kooser's beautiful poem describes the sleeper and the insect as conversing through dreams and awakening renewed at the dawn. A nervous and darting motive is accompanied by the fluttering of wings (snare drum with brushes) as the melody from the first movement is transformed into a bright and optimistic conclusion. This work was commissioned by ten university and high school band programs from the state of Iowa led by Myron Peterson, past president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association. This work is dedicated to my high school English teacher Mrs. Fischer who knew that I loved poetry almost as much as music.

Program notes by the composer, summer 2019.

***joyRIDE (2005/rev. 2014)* Micheal Markowski
(b. 1986)**

Michael Markowski is an American composer whose music for wind band and orchestra has been performed throughout the world. A graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in Film Practices, Markowski began his musical journey as an alto saxophonist and has since developed a distinctive compositional voice influenced by both concert and film

music traditions. His early success came in 2006 when *Shadow Rituals* earned First Prize in the Frank Ticheli Composition Contest. Since then, his works have been performed in venues ranging from the Musikverein in Vienna to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and by ensembles including the Phoenix Symphony, Houston Symphony, and premier U.S. military bands. He has also served as composer-in-residence for organizations such as Music for All and the Mid Europe Wind Band Festival. In addition to his concert works, Markowski is active as a film and commercial composer, with credits including *The Last Movie Ever Made*, as well as advertising campaigns for national brands. He has further expanded his artistic work as an orchestrator, collaborating with conductor Steven Reineke and the New York Pops. Currently based in Brooklyn, Markowski remains an active composer, educator, and clinician, frequently working with ensembles of all levels while continuing to refine his craft across multiple musical disciplines.

From the composer: "When my band director, Jon Gomez, first received word that our high school music department was selected to perform in New York, he asked me if I'd like to write something to open the concert and commemorate the trip—something that was bursting with joy. "Maybe," he suggested, "it would be cool to take something more traditional, like Beethoven's Ode To Joy, and blend it with something more modern, like John Adams." The idea was so simple and so astounding that the assignment excited me immediately—it excited me so much that within ten days, I had completed the first complete draft of *joyRiDE*, a two-and-a-half-minute concert opener that borrows Beethoven's infamous melody and dresses it in a tie-dye blazer of rhythm and texture that nod humbly to John Adams's *Short Ride In A Fast Machine*. *joyRIDE* was the second piece of music that I'd written for concert band, and as a 12th grader at the time, it included some beautiful mistakes. For instance, 12th Grade Me really wanted to hold true to the spirit of Beethoven's "*Symphony No. 9*" by keeping my mash-up in Beethoven's original key of D Major. However, looking back, I realize that while D Major is a string player's best friend, it is not so copacetic with band players, who often prefer their tonal centers to be flat (pun intended). Luckily, Eb Major is just up the block so for this 2014 revision, I decided it best to raise a portion of the piece by a half-step. Other edits included re-spelling accidentals, re-notating rhythms, filtering out an impractical 2nd Tenor Saxophone part, re-managing the percussion forces, and polishing the overall orchestration in a few key sections that seemed a bit sloppy. For the longest time, though, I wrestled with whether or not I should even revise the piece—thinking that it should be kept exactly as-is, that I should honor the original as a sort of time capsule of myself and where I was—but I think this version finds a healthy balance between preserving what my 18-year-old self musically intended while maximizing the piece's playability. Although I've improved the piece since 2005, don't worry. I'm not exactly George Lucas and I'm not trying to remake Star Wars."

Program notes from the composer's website.

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.

In 2026, Dr. Knopps earned the Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, one of the highest honors for faculty in the University of Missouri System and the state of Missouri. Only one faculty member from each UM System campus is selected annually for this distinction, recognizing outstanding educators who demonstrate exceptional teaching, advising, service to the university community, and a profound commitment to student success, achievement, and educational leadership. She is the 34th faculty member from the University of Missouri to receive this prestigious award.

Jared Sabatasso is in his twenty-second year of teaching and currently serves as the Head Band Director for the Waynesville R-VI School District, overseeing the instrumental music program for grades 7–12. He directs the 240-member Waynesville Tiger Pride Marching Band, as well as the Waynesville High School Jazz Program, which has expanded to include two full jazz ensembles. In the spring semester, he conducts the WHS Wind Ensemble, which, along with the Jazz Bands, consistently earns exemplary ratings at competitions throughout Missouri.

Under Mr. Sabatasso's leadership, the Waynesville High School Band Program has grown significantly in both size and participation, welcoming an increasing number of students each year. This growth reflects the program's reputation for excellence and the engaging, student-centered environment he and his colleagues foster. The band program now includes the WHS Tiger Pride Marching Band, WHS Jazz Bands 1 and 2, WHS Percussion Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and the WHS Pep Band. He also co-teaches the Waynesville Middle School ensembles, which include Beginning Band, Tiger Winds, Honor Band, and the Percussion Ensemble.

Mr. Sabatasso is committed to creating a fun, friendly, and safe learning environment that is inclusive for all students, ensuring that every member feels valued and supported while pursuing musical excellence. Across all levels, the performing ensembles he directs regularly achieve the highest ratings in adjudicated events.

In addition to his work in the district, Mr. Sabatasso has served as a Missouri All-State Trumpet Judge for the past sixteen years. His ensembles are frequently invited to perform at local, community, and statewide events, reflecting both their musical achievement and their strong connection to their community.

Sophie Browning-Brodack is a PhD student in Music Education at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Her current graduate assistantship includes performing with the New Music Ensemble as a clarinetist, teaching undergraduate music education courses in pedagogy and rehearsal techniques, and supervising student teachers. She has also served as a GTA in the bands area, assisting with university concert and athletic bands. Before beginning her doctoral studies, Sophie was the Woodwind Specialist and Band Director in the Clayton School District. She has served as co-director of the St. Louis Wind Symphony Youth Ensemble since 2023. Sophie holds a Master of Music in Clarinet Performance from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance and Music Education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

As an active researcher, Sophie has presented at the Missouri Music Educators Association Conference and the National Association for Music Education biennial conference. Her work has been published in the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education* and the *Journal of Music Teacher Education*.

Dr. James M. David (b. 1978) is a leading American composer for winds and percussion who serves as professor of music theory and composition at Colorado State University. His symphonic works have been performed and recorded by many prominent ensembles

including the U.S. Air Force Band, the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own”, the U.S. Army Field Band, the U.S. Navy Band, the Des Moines Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, the Showa Wind Symphony (Japan), the Osaka Shion Wind Orchestra, and the North Texas Wind Symphony.

His music has been performed at more than eighty national and international conferences including the Midwest Clinic, the College Band Directors National Association Biennial Conference, the American Bandmasters Association Convention, the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Conference, the International Clarinet Fest, the International Trombone Festival, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the International Horn Symposium, and the World Saxophone Congress. Dr. David was the winner of the 2025 CBDNA Frederick Fennell Prize, the 2022 William D. Revelli Composition Contest, named a three-time finalist for the Sousa-ABA Ostwald Award, winner of the ACC James Croft Grant, winner of an ASCAP Morton Gould Award, and won national contests sponsored by the Music Teachers National Association and the National Association of Composers (USA). Commissions include projects for the National Band Association, the Atlantic Coast Conference Band Directors Association, Joseph Alessi (New York Philharmonic), John Bruce Yeh (Chicago Symphony), James Markey (Boston Symphony), and hundreds of university faculty and ensembles. His works are represented on over twenty commercially released recordings on the Naxos, Summit, Mark, Albany, Parma, MSR Classics, Bravo Music, GIA Windworks, and Luminescence labels and are published by Murphy Music Press, C. Alan Publications, Potenza Publishing, and Excelcia Music. He is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association and an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia National Music Fraternity.

As a native of southern Georgia, Dr. David began his musical training under his father Joe A. David, III, a renowned high school band director and professor of music education in the region. This lineage can be heard in his music through the strong influence of jazz and other Southern traditional music mixed with contemporary idioms. Dr. David received degrees in music education and music composition from the University of Georgia and the Florida State University College of Music. He studied composition with Guggenheim recipient Ladislav Kubik, Pulitzer recipient Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Lewis Nielson, and Clifton Callender as well as jazz composition and arranging with Sammy Nestico.

Biography from composer’s website.

Waynesville Wind Ensemble Personnel

Piccolo

Elaine Wu

Flute

Serina Chen
Ericah Njuguna
Jasmine Rivera
Tyler Silbanuz
Emma Adkins
Jennifer Cortez

Clarinet

Teyla Byrom
Vivien Liu
Chloe Williams
Yeya Short
Reese DePontee
Sarah Pierce
Ashlyn Osborn
Dominique Scott
Lynne Rizk
Sunshine Moua
Myra Gutierrez

Bass Clarinet

Isaiah Williams
Cam Watson

Alto Saxophone

Kevin Connor
Aliyah Bowers
Justin Brickey
Zoey Heacock

Tenor Saxophone

Noah Forte
Benjamin Ornburn

Baritone Saxophone

Kaitlyn Colgan
Riley Chase

French Horn

Willa Demmon
Isabella Torres
Monica Smith

Trumpet

Juliet Piper
Avanne' Thomas
Ziarlene Bituin
Jenna Ballard
Andrew Hickey
Emily Lund
Brelan Liggins
Kaleb Ellson

Oboe

Sophia Wagasky

Trombone

Kayden Wass
Jeffrey Hickey
Nicholas Duncan
Mikaila Knight
Aiden Bio
Zacheriah Heighton
Victoria Green
Carson McCleary
Evelyn Kelley

Euphonium

Blaine Cantu
Chloe Hudson
Trent Boerner

Tuba

Landon Boswell
RJ Peace
A'Nyyah Tollison

Percussion

Harley Atchison
Ellyia Bagby
Jackson Gasek
Emmanuel Aguirre
Abigail Hanna
Aaron Chen
Elina Wu
Klaus Gillette

Symphonic Band Personnel

Piccolo

Kate Sellers

Flute

Tatum Anderson

Helen Cory

Avery Haner

Arissa 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

Piano

Sarah Liu

Percussion

Carson Allen

Lex Henderson

Joshua Kremer

Dylan Pearce

Geddy Rice

Gavin Waldrop

Guest Musicians

Percussion

Sam Jones

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