

# NEC Preparatory School

## Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Jared Cassedy

*Music Director, Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble*

## Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Michael Mucci

*Music Director, Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble*

Allison Lacasse

*Assistant Director, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensembles*

Tuesday December 12th, 2023

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

*PROGRAM*

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JUNIOR MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

**Randall Standridge**

(b. 1976)

**Affirmation**

**Alfred Reed**

(1921-2005)

**Alleluia, Laudamus Te**

**Frank Ticheli**

(b.1958)

**Joy Revisited**

**David Maslanka**

(1943-2017)

**Illumination**

SENIOR MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

**Morton Gould**

(1913-1996)

**American Salute**

**Kenneth Froelich**

(b.1977)

**Small Messages**

**Gordon Jacob**

(1895-1984)

**An Original Suite**

I. March

II. Intermezzo

III. Finale

**Morten Lauridsen**

(b.1943)

arr. by Robert Reynolds

**O Magnum Mysterium**

**Oscar Navarro**

(b.1981)

**Hispania**

## NEC Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Program Notes

### **Affirmation.....Randall Standridge**

This one is for all the outcasts, the geeks, the marginalized, the wallflowers, and the people who are “different.”

Every once in a while, I believe you get to “say something” with a piece of music. When I was in high school, I was definitely NOT one of the popular crowd. My tastes in music, art, and movies were too weird. I was awkward. I was not a very attractive guy. Generally, I was that “gay, artsy kid.” If I could go back in time, I would give that younger me a hug and say “you are FINE the way you are. You are AMAZING.”

This new work, Affirmation, commissioned by the Barrington Middle School Band and their director, Mr. David Triplett-Rosa, is an anthem for all the kids who ever felt like they didn’t belong. It was originally scheduled to be premiered last year [2020], but was pushed to this spring. A huge thank you again to David and the band for letting me write this work and trusting me with its message.

It would have been easy to write something soft, lyrical, and saccharine, but I wanted to take a different approach ... I wanted it to be a celebration. This is the single happiest thing I have ever written in my career. So this one goes out to the band geeks, the nerdy kids, the art kids, the drama kids, the punk rockers, the LGBTQA+ kids, the kids of color, and the all the people (kids and adults) who have ever been made to feel “less than” because of who they are.

*You are beautiful.*

*You are JUST FINE the way you are.*

*And you are WORTH celebrating.*

*We all have more in common than we have different...our common humanity. Peace, Love, and Music.*

-Program Notes by Randall Standridge

### **Alleluia, Laudamus Te.....Alfred Reed**

Alleluia! Laudamus Te is a hymn of praise without words, with the band serving as a single massive choir and, at times, broken down into individual sections, each performing as a separate choir. The music is based on three main themes, the first being a massive chorale in the brass, the second a long flowing line in the horns and

woodwinds, and the third a quasi-fanfare figure first heard in the trumpets and then spreading throughout the other sections of the orchestra as it is developed.

The work was commissioned by Richard S. Mountford and the Malone College Concert Band, which premiered the work, conducted by Reed, at its third annual band festival in February 1973.

- Program notes by William Johnson for the San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra concert program, 11 December 2011

### **Joy Revisited.....Frank Ticheli**

Joy, and its companion piece, Joy Revisited, are the results of an experiment I have been wanting to try for many years: the creation of two works using the same general melodic, harmonic, and expressive content. In other words, I endeavored to compose un-identical twins, two sides of the same coin -- but with one major distinction: Joy was created with young players in mind, while Joy Revisited was aimed at more advanced players. Thus, Joy is more straightforward than its companion piece. Where Joy sounds a dominant chord (as in the upbeat to measure 10), Joy Revisited elaborates upon that chord with a flourish of 16th notes. While Joy Revisited moves faster, develops ideas further, and makes use of a wider register, Joy is more concise.

Despite these and many more differences between the two works, both come from the same essential cut of cloth. Both were composed more or less simultaneously, and both were born out of the same source of inspiration. In short, Joy and Joy Revisited serve as two expressions of the feelings experienced by one expectant father (who happens also to be a composer) on one wonderfully anxious and exciting day.

- Program Note by Frank Ticheli

### **Illumination.....David Maslanka**

"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 notes by David Maslanka

### **NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Program Notes**

#### **American Salute.....Morton Gould**

"American Salute" is a vibrant and spirited musical tribute to the American spirit and the men and women in uniform. Morton Gould, a prolific American composer and conductor, created this work during World War II, a time when patriotic sentiment was high and the country was actively engaged in the conflict. The piece is a set of variations on the well-known and beloved Civil War melody "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Gould's arrangement captures the essence of American folk music and transforms it into a dynamic wind ensemble showcase.

-Program Notes by Michael Mucci

#### **Small Messages.....Kenneth Froelich**

"Small Messages", composed for the University of Las Vegas, Nevada Wind Ensemble, is inspired by Twitter, the social media news service known for its short, 140-character news bites. There are obvious allusions to Twitter in the music, such as the length of the work (exactly 140 measures), as well as some more obscure references, such as the use of five short motives that are repeated -- or "retweeted" -- throughout the music. Perhaps the most obscure reference is the fact that each of these five motives also represents a group of characters from a tweet about Twitter: "The world tweets in silence, yet billions attempt to listen to this utterly nonsensical and noiseless cacophony that sums up our daily routine."

-Program Notes by Michael Mucci

### **An Original Suite.....Gordon Jacob**

"An Original Suite" was Gordon Jacob's first work for the band medium and was completed in 1928. It is assumed that the word "original" in the title was to distinguish it from transcriptions that made up the bulk of the band repertoire at the time or to alert listeners that the "folk song" themes were original. The three-movement work was composed while Jacob was a student at the Royal Academy of Music.

-Program Notes by Michael Mucci

### **O Magnum Mysterium.....Morten Lauridsen, arr. by Robert Reynolds**

Morten Lauridsen's choral setting of "O Magnum Mysterium" (O Great Mystery) has become one of the world's most performed and recorded compositions since its 1994 premiere by the Los Angeles Master Chorale conducted by Paul Salamunovich. The work was commissioned by Marshall Rutter in honor of his wife Terry Knowles. The wind band arrangement by H. Robert Reynolds, retired director of the University of Michigan Bands, can claim similar accolades within wind band circles.

-Program Notes by Michael Mucci

### **Hispania.....Oscar Navarro**

"Hispania" is a Spanish fantasy for Wind Band dedicated to the "Municipal Band of Alicante" (Valencia, Spain) on its First Centenary (1913-2013) and a homage to the great Spanish composers of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Those composers nurtured the musical culture of our country and took it beyond our borders. Composers who have made their music part of our lives and the Spanish national culture before, now and forever.

With this piece, I wanted to give a wink to the nationalist compositional language of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, giving it a fresh touch without losing the traditional essence and, of course, using traditional dances and rhythms of our folklore.

The programming of the Alicante Municipal Band has never lacked music from our ancestors, so with this piece I want to offer an insignia to the Band, that they can proudly wear everywhere under a stamp with Alicante roots, such as mine.

-Program Notes by Oscar Navarro

# NEC Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Jared Cassedy, Music Director

## *Flute*

Chloe Carrano  
Madoka Hubbard  
Leah Kim  
Christina Kim  
Catherine Li  
Rachel Liu  
Abigail Robinson  
Alina Shi  
Amelia Shen  
Natalie Xiao  
Yolanda Yu  
Jenny Zhou  
Xiuhan (Harry) Zhu

## *Oboe*

Ian Kim

## *Clarinet*

Aya Kita (Oren) Bernstein  
Idan Sitao Chen  
Kevin Jinsong Han  
Sungin (Eric) Pyo  
Paul Son  
Tianjia Xiao  
Isabella Zhang  
Emily Zhu

## *Bass Clarinet*

Rohan Miovic +

## *Bassoon*

Garrett Comrie \*  
Matthew Heldt \*

## *Alto Saxophone*

Lucas Cao  
Daniel Jin  
Andrew Qiao  
Ian Swinger  
Benjamin Zhang

## *Tenor Saxophone*

Meenakshi Senthil

## *Baritone Saxophone*

Owen Somers +

## *Trumpet*

Nishanth Bangalore  
Timothy Choi  
Eli Gewurz  
Jacob Gruneich  
Hugo Eung Im  
Tyler Kim  
Hojoon (Russell) Lee  
John Song-Lin Qi  
Tobin Schenker  
Madeline Sjoblom

## *French Horn*

Sylvie Kotsonis  
Matthias Bengtsson \*  
Abigail Wong +

## *Trombone*

Elliott Shoemaker

## *Euphonium*

Miles Settembre

## *Tuba*

Ryan Kim

## *Percussion*

Eric Choi  
Lucca Cobas  
Felix Ko \*  
Aarav Mehta  
Aditya Mehta  
Stella Ovcharova +

+ MYWE Mentor Student

\* NEC College Musician

## NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Michael Mucci, Music Director

### *Flute*

Amanda Chang  
Maria Huang  
Remy Kim  
Seungju (Cindy) Lee  
Yiwen Lin  
Irene Song  
Muzi (Bella) Yu

### *Oboe*

Amanda Wang  
Alexander Zheng

### *Clarinet*

Aidan Chen  
Ultraviolet (Violet) Gates  
Ellie Kim  
Lauren Kim  
Su Min Pyo  
Silas Schenker  
Deepak Viswalingam  
Feiya Wang  
Ethan Weisman-Kasparian  
Emily Zhou

### *Bass Clarinet*

Rohan Miovic

### *Bassoon*

Eli Coleman  
Adam Chen \*

### *Saxophone*

Samuel Richman  
Owen Somers  
Conor Zachary Tsang  
Sanket Vankayalapati  
Tian (Jason) Yu

### *Trumpet*

Jack Benson  
Parker Brookins  
Ian Choi  
Sarah Miksis  
Daniel Shi  
Yuxiang (Gordon) Wei

### *French Horn*

Jonathan Choi  
Erik Hellgren  
Charlotte Lyng  
Abigail Wong

### *Trombone*

Theodore Collins  
Benjamin Conley  
Richard Lau  
Kyle Pinto  
Joseph Repaci

### *Euphonium*

Siyang Ding  
Amrit Hari Madhav

### *Tuba*

Robert Lowrance  
Lili Rigoulot

### *Double Bass*

Colby Heimburger \*

### *Percussion*

Elise Dupont  
Denali Enzmann  
Mason Kahn  
August Kim  
Stella Ovcharova

\* NEC College Musician



## **Jared Cassedy**

*Music Director, Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble*

Jared L. Cassedy is the K-12 Performing Arts Coordinator for Lexington Public Schools, Massachusetts where he oversees and supports all music and dramatic arts programming and curriculum development in collaboration with the performing arts teachers, and also conducts the LHS Wind Ensemble. He is the recipient of the 2015 GRAMMY Music Educator Award furnished by the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy having been selected out of a pool of more than 7,200 nominees nationwide and was most recently recognized as a 2022 National Music Teacher of Excellence by the Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation. Jared is President-Elect for the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) and is the Past Chairperson for the MMEA Northeastern District. He serves on the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Equity Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and the Council of Music Program Leaders. Prior to coming to Massachusetts, he was the President-Elect for the New Hampshire Music Educators Association (NHMEA).

Jared is also the conductor of the New England Conservatory Preparatory School's Jr. Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble, a position he has held since 2016 where he works with students within the Greater Boston area who rehearse and perform actively throughout the school year. Additionally, Jared is on the faculty of The Longy School of Music of Bard College where he teaches conducting classes for the Masters of Music in Music Education program and is an Artistic Director for Longy's Side-by-Side Music Program.

Beginning his career in 2005 as a music teacher at Windham Middle School, in Windham, NH, Jared was appointed as the first Director of Bands for the newly constructed Windham High School directing all instrumental ensembles in 2009. Until 2016, Jared held the position as Director of K-12 Fine and Performing Arts responsible for the supervision and evaluation of teachers as well as the development of curriculum. From 2016 to 2018 Jared spent two years working as the first Director of K-12 Performing Arts for the Salem School District in New Hampshire (his alma mater) where he helped to define, develop, and strengthen the department's capacity through curriculum and assessment development, collaboration, teacher supervision and effectiveness, and district-wide programming.

Jared's continued collaboration with his students and colleagues has enabled his ensembles to be selected to participate in a myriad of national performances and festivals in New York City (National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall and the New York Wind Band Festival at Carnegie Hall), Chicago (Festival of Gold), and at the Bands of America (BOA) National Band Festival sponsored by Music for All and Yamaha in Indianapolis. His ensembles have also been selected to perform at

the NAFME Eastern Division Conference, for the Mayor of Quebec City and Governor of Montreal, the Pacific Basin International Music Festival in Honolulu, Hawaii (2023), and will be performing at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts participating in the Washington D.C. International Music Festival (2024).

Jared is a much sought after conductor and clinician conducted a myriad of regional honor bands across all states in New England, has given a variety of lectures on leadership and best practices in teaching including TEDx talking about his journey and philosophies through education, and co-presented the session, "Fine Tuning Ensemble Culture and Why it Matters: Intentionally Creating a Positive Community through Conversation and Collaboration" at the International Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in 2021. In 2011 the New Hampshire Band Directors Association honored Jared with the "Outstanding Young Band Director of the Year Award." He was also nominated for New Hampshire Teacher of the Year in 2014. Jared graduated Summa cum Laude from the University of New Hampshire – Durham where he received his Bachelors of Music degree in Music Education and has a Masters of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus in Educational Leadership from Southern New Hampshire University. He is a member of NAFME, MMEA, NBA, and ASCD, and the prestigious Pi Lambda Theta Education Honors Society.

## **Michael Mucci**

*Music Director, Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble*

Michael Mucci retired from the Longmeadow Public School System, in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, in 2013, where he taught for thirty-five years, and was Chairman of the Music Department and Director of Instrumental Music at Longmeadow High School. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York, where he was awarded the Undergraduate Teaching Award, the Departmental Scholar Award, and the Crane-McMenamin Scholarship. He also holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Mr. Mucci's Longmeadow ensembles performed at the National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall, the National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana, and at the International Association of Jazz Educators Convention. Under his direction, the Longmeadow High School Symphony Orchestra received the 2010 American Prize for Secondary School Orchestral Performance and the Longmeadow High School Music Department was awarded three Grammy Signature Awards by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Mucci is currently in his twenty-fifth season as Director of the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble at the New England Conservatory of Music. Under his leadership, MYWE has performed in the National Band Festival at Carnegie Hall, and was featured as part of "Winds Across the Century," a nationwide wind symposium held at the New England Conservatory of Music. MYWE has also shared the stage with the Metropolitan Winds and the Boston College Wind Ensemble, performed at the National Music Educators All Eastern Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, and toured Italy, performing concerts in Florence, Naples, Rome, and the Vatican City, where they played for Pope John Paul II. Under Mr. Mucci's leadership, MYWE has also performed in Austria, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, and Wales.

Mr. Mucci serves as an adjudicator for the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association and has appeared as a guest conductor with festivals throughout New York and New England. He has received the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association and the 2011 Lowell Mason Award from the Massachusetts Music Educators Association for outstanding leadership in music education. He has also received the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award; the New England Public Radio Arts and Humanities Award; the Singer Family Prize for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching, awarded by the University of Rochester; and the Jean Stackhouse Award for Excellence in Teaching, given by the New England Conservatory of Music. Mr. Mucci was elected into the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association's Hall of Fame in 2017. He and his

family reside in Longmeadow, MA, where the Longmeadow High School Concert Hall was named in honor of Mr. Mucci on November 24, 2015.

**Allison Lacasse**

*Assistant Music Director, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensembles*

Allison Lacasse is the Director of Bands at Belmont High School in Belmont, Massachusetts. At the University of Rhode Island, Allison is the Artistic Director of Summer Music Academy Chamber Music Intensive program and the Head Volunteer for the URI Music Alumni Network. Allison is a member of the operational staff for the Western International Band Clinic (WIBC) in Seattle, Washington and the American Band College (ABC) in Ashland, Oregon. At the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, Allison serves as the Assistant Conductor of the Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble.

As a professional flutist and chamber musician in Boston, Massachusetts, Allison is a member of the Cambridge Symphony and is a regular substitute within the community music circuit in Boston. Allison maintains a private studio of intermediate and advanced level flute students in the Greater Boston area and serves as an adjudicator and clinician for local area festivals and band programs.

Allison received Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Performance from the University of Rhode Island, where she studied with Susan Thomas. Allison earned a M.Ed. degree from Cambridge College and a Master's Degree in Music Education from the American Band College of Central Washington University. Allison was a semifinalist for the 2017 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. In 2018, Allison was selected among her peers for the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Advocacy Award.

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### Upcoming NEC Preparatory School Large Ensemble Events

**Monday, December 18th 2023**

Youth Repertory Orchestra &

Junior Repertory Orchestra

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

**Monday, December 19th 2023**

Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Concert Band &

Youth Brass Ensemble

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

**Monday, December 20th 2023**

String Chamber Orchestra

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

**Monday, December 18th 2023**

Youth Chorale &

Children's Chorus

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

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