

NEC Preparatory School

Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble
Concert Band

&

Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind
Ensemble

Michael Mucci

Music Director, Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Alfred Dentino

Music Director, Concert Band

Allison Lacasse

Assistant Director, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensembles

Monday, May 13th, 2024

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT BAND

Vincent Persichetti **Divertimento for Band, Op. 42**
(1915-1987)

Joe Hisaishi **"Howl's Moving Castle" Symphonic Fantasy for Band**
(b. 1950)
Arr. by Hiroshi Goto

SENIOR MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

Omar Thomas **A Mother of a Revolution**
(b. 1984)

Warren Benson **The Solitary Dancer**
(1924-2005)

Frank Ticheli **Blue Shades**
(b. 1958)

SENIOR AND CONCERT BAND MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLES

Percy Aldrige Grainger **Country Gardens**
(1882-1961)
adapted for band
by John Philip Sousa
arr. Brion/Schissel

Satoshi Yagisawa **Hymn to the Infinite Sky**
(b. 1975)

John Philip Sousa **The Stars and Stripes Forever**
(1854-1932)

NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Program Notes

A Mother of a Revolution.....Omar Thomas

“A Mother of a Revolution!” is a celebration of the bravery of trans women, and in particular, Marsha "Pay It No Mind" Johnson. Marsha is credited with being one of the instigators of the famous Stonewall uprising of June 28, 1969 - a pivotal event in the gay rights movement of the 20th century. The disco vibe in the latter half of the piece is meant to honor club culture, a sacred space among LGBTQ people in which to love, live, mourn, heal, strategize, connect, disconnect, and dance. This piece was commissioned by the Desert Winds Freedom Band to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

-Program Notes by the composer

The Solitary Dancer.....Warren Benson

Warren Benson described “The Solitary Dancer” as “the quiet, poised energy that one may observe in a dancer in repose, alone with her inner music.”

He also encouraged young composers to:

“take a look at the repertoire and see what’s not there that is present in life. That thought is one of the reasons why I wrote The Solitary Dancer. There just wasn’t any work that was fast and exciting and quiet. Like when a group of people get together and whisper, there is a lot of intensity and excitement, but it never gets loud. It never goes anywhere in that sense. It may bubble and cook but it never really blows the lid off. There are a lot of situations in life like that — just quiet moments.”

Composed for the Clarence Sr. H.S. Band, Norbert J. Buskey, Dir., Clarence, NY & the 20th Midwest Band Clinic, Chicago.

-Program Notes by the composer

Blue Shades.....Frank Ticheli

In 1992 I composed a concerto for traditional jazz band and orchestra, "Playing with Fire", for the Jim Cullum Jazz Band and the San Antonio Symphony. I experienced tremendous joy during the creation of "Playing with Fire", and my love for early jazz is expressed in every bar of the concerto. However, after completing it, I knew that the traditional jazz influences dominated the work, leaving little room for my own musical voice to come through. I felt a strong need to compose another work, one that would combine my love of early jazz with my own musical style.

Four years, and several compositions later, I finally took the opportunity to realize that need by composing Blue Shades. As its title suggests, the work alludes to the blues, and a jazz feeling is prevalent -- however, it is not literally a blues piece. There is not a single 12-bar blues progression to be found, and except for a few isolated sections, the eighth-note is not swung.

The work, however, is heavily influenced by the blues: "Blue notes" (flatted 3rds, 5ths, and 7ths) are used constantly; blues harmonies, rhythms, and melodic idioms pervade the work; and many "shades of blue" are depicted, from bright blue, to dark, to dirty, to hot blue.

At times, Blue Shades burlesques some of the clichés from the Big Band era, not as a mockery of those conventions, but as a tribute. A slow and quiet middle section recalls the atmosphere of a dark, smoky blues haunt. An extended clarinet solo played near the end recalls Benny Goodman's hot playing style, and ushers in a series of "wailing" brass chords recalling the train whistle effects commonly used during that era. Blue Shades was commissioned by a consortium of thirty university, community, and high school concert bands under the auspices of the Worldwide Concurrent Premieres and Commissioning Fund.

- Program Notes by composer

**NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble and Concert Band Program
Notes**

The Stars and Stripes Forever.....John Philip Sousa

John Philip Sousa consistently stated that this march was divinely inspired and was born of homesickness. In his autobiography, *Marching Along*, he provides the details of its creation after he had received a cablegram in Italy that his manager, David Blakely, had died:

“Aboard the Teutonic, as it steamed out of the harbor on my return from Europe in 1896, came one of the most vivid incidents of my career. As I paced the deck, absorbed in thought, suddenly I began to sense the rhythmic beat of a band playing within my brain. It kept on ceaselessly, playing, playing, playing. Throughout the whole tense voyage, that imaginary band continued to unfold the same themes, echoing and re-echoing the most distinct melody. I did not transfer a note of that music to paper while I was on the steamer, but when we reached the shore, I set down the measures that my brain-band had been playing for me, and not a note of it has ever changed. The composition is known the world over as *The Stars and Stripes Forever* and is probably my most popular march.” (By permission of John Philip Sousa, Inc., New York City)

Paul Bierley states that *The Stars and Stripes Forever* is “by far the most popular march ever written, and its popularity is by no means limited to the United States.” A ten-year international march popularity survey confirms Bierley’s statement. The universal appeal of Sousa’s march is illustrated by an article in *The New York Times* by Harold Schonberg which tells of a tour to China by Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1973. After sitting politely but stonily through a program which ranged from Beethoven to Copland, the orchestra struck up *The Stars and Stripes*. “All of a sudden electricity permeated the hall. Faces broke into smiles; feet began tapping; there was a general air of understanding and happiness. Maybe,... (it) really is the greatest piece of music ever written by an American. In any case, it has made more friends for America than any other piece of music...”

- Program Notes from Program Notes for Band

NEC Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Concert Band

Alfred Dentino, Music Director

Piccolo

Isabella (Jace) Sawicka

Flute

Sojeong (Katie) Gu
Maya Kewalramani
Hanna Kim
Maggie Li
Albert Liu
Shreya Paranjape
Sylvia Sakata
Isabella (Jace) Sawicka
Vivian Shi
Addison Zha
Zilin Zhang
Emilly Zhou

Oboe

Corinne Foley *

Clarinet

Rei Brown
Boyi Cao
Grace Chen
Sam Hendrickson
Ajay Krishnan
Henry Moriarty
Leila Mostaghimi
Sungsan Park
Lilac Shi
Quinn Zhao
Ethan Zhou

Bass Clarinet

Oscar Li

Bassoon

Eli Coleman +

Saxophone

Benjamin Hanna
Charlotte Johnson
Ching Hei Andre Leung
Oscar Li
Jonathan Peng
Rohan Sarikonda
Emily Umholtz

Tenor Saxophone

Vladyslav Dovhan *

Trumpet

Antonio Fitanides
Adam Sugarman
Ko-Te Chen *

Trombone

Ethan Kim
Quinn McGillis
Allie Klaire Ledbetter

Tuba

Peter Lopes

Percussion

Izzy Butler *
Doyeon Kim *
Felix Ko *
Stella Ovcharova +
Eli Reisz *

* NEC College Musician

+ MYWE Peer Mentor

NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Michael Mucci, Music Director

Flute

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

Oboe

Amanda Wang
Alexander Zheng

Clarinet

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

Bass Clarinet

James Bramley
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
Sarah Miksis
Daniel Shi
Yuxiang (Gordon) Wei

French Horn

Jonathan Choi
Erik Hellgren
Charlotte Lyng
Abigail Wong

Trombone

Theodore Collins
Benjamin Conley
Kyle Pinto
Joseph Repaci
Ethan Lehman *

Euphonium

Siyang Ding
Amrit Hari Madhav

Tuba

Robert Lowrance
Lili Rigoulot

Percussion

Elise Dupont
Denali Enzmann
Mason Kahn
August Kim
Jacob Liu
Stella Ovcharova

* NEC College Musician

Alfred Dentino

Music Director, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Concert Band

Alfred Dentino, an alumnus of Concord-Carlisle Regional High School in Concord, Massachusetts, received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from The Ohio State University in 1976. While at Ohio State, he was principal clarinetist and President of the Ohio State University Concert Band under the direction of Dr. Donald E. McGinnis. He earned his Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Harvard University in 1991 where he won the Crite Prize for his research into the portrayals of musical instruments in ancient Greek Art.

Mr. Dentino has taught in the Columbus, Ohio Public Schools, Wachusett Regional School District in Holden, Massachusetts, the Concord Public Schools, and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District. From 1993 until he retired from public school teaching in 2012, he served as Director of Bands at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School where his responsibilities included directing the Repertory and Concert Bands, Pep Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Bands as well as conducting the Pit Orchestra for the school's annual musical. Under his direction, the CCHS Concert Band earned nineteen gold medals at the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) State Concert Festival. The CCHS Concert Band undertook extremely successful tours of Hokkaido, Japan in 1998, 2004, 2007 and 2010 and the CCHS Jazz Band visited Beijing, China in 2000. The CCHS Concert Band has performed at some of the finest concert venues in the world. Among these are Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts, Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood, Symphony Hall in Boston, and Kitara Hall in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. The joint Sapporo and Concord-Carlisle concerts at Symphony Hall (Japan Night At Symphony Hall) in 2003 and 2008 were incredible experiences for both performer and audience member alike.

In retirement, Mr. Dentino continues to teach. He is currently an Emeritus Teacher of Music Theory at Concord-Carlisle, maintains an active private teaching schedule, and is Assistant Director of the Lexington Bicentennial Band. He has served as Treasurer,

Vice-President, and President of MICCA. Mr. Dentino has conducted the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) Western District Festival Band, the All Cape Cod and Islands Band, and the Nashua (New Hampshire) Honors Band. He is the recipient of the MICCA Hall of Fame award for 2001 and continues to serve

MMEA and MICCA as a clarinet and ensemble adjudicator and clinician. Mr. Dentino and his wife, Chris, currently reside in Lancaster, Massachusetts where they operate a small equestrian boarding and riding facility.

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-six 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 Director, Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

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

Wednesday, May 15 2024

Youth Jazz Orchestra

8:00 PM in BrownHall

Thursday, May 16th 2024

Youth Philharmonic Orchestra

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

Monday, May 20th 2024

Youth Brass Ensemble &

Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

Tuesday, May 21st 2024

String Chamber Orchestra &

Baroque Chamber Orchestra

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

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