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NEC Preparatory School

Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble
&
Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Concert Band
&
Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Michael Mucci

Music Director, Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Alfred Dentino

Music Director, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Concert Band

Jared Cassedy

Music Director, Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Allison Lacasse

Assistant Director, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensembles

Monday December 16th, 2024

7:30 p.m.

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

JUNIOR MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

Jeremy Bell

(b.1986)

Einherjar

Yukiko Nishimura

(b.1967)

Smiling After the Rain

Katahj Copley

(b.1998)

Iridessi

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT BAND

Tohoko Takagi

(b.1989)

March Blue Sky

Yasuhide Ito

(b.1960)

Festal Scenes

Joe Hisaishi

(b. 1950)

Ponyo on a Cliff by the Sea

PROGRAM (CONT.)

SENIOR MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

Gala Flagello
(b.1994)

Bravado (2023)

Percy Grainger
(1882-1961)

Colonial Song (1918)

William Walton
(1902-1983)

Crown Imperial - A Coronation March (1937)
Arranged for Military Band by W.J. Duthoit

SENIOR, CONCERT BAND, AND JUNIOR MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND
ENSEMBLES COMBINED

Sally Lamb McCune
(b. 1966)

Taken

Leroy Anderson
(1908-1975)

Sleigh Ride

JR. MYWE PROGRAM NOTES

Einherjar.....Jeremy Bell

In Norse mythology, warriors that died in combat were chosen by Odin to enter Valhalla to prepare for Ragnarok or were sent to the field Fólkvangr ruled by the goddess Freyja. Those that were chosen to enter Valhalla were known as the Einherjar, (pronounced "En-hair-ee-are"). Einherjar: Warriors of Valhalla evokes the courage, strength, and valor of these Viking soldiers, with its heroic sound characterized by heavy accents, aggressive percussion, and driving ostinatos. This challenging work brings a feeling of adventure and excitement to the concert band setting.

- Program Notes by Composer

Smiling After the Rain.....Yukiko Nishumra

Commissioned by the Niitsu Wind Ensemble - Yasuyuki Wakabayashi, conductor, harmonically rich, the scoring of *Smiling After the Rain* for concert band is used to great effect to achieve significant moments. The heartfelt inspiration behind the piece makes it perfect for teaching expressive concepts and phrasing. As noted by the composer, "I wanted to create something that brings happiness and smiling, which we find in small, daily events.

- Program Notes from publisher

Iridessi.....Katahj Copley

Iridescence - a lustrous rainbow-like play of color caused by differential refraction of light waves that tends to change as the angle of view changes; a lustrous appearance Life is a luminous halo, an envelope surrounding us from the beginning of consciousness to the end. Life is iridescent. Iridessi is an embodiment of life and light. The piece begins with a shimmering small light from the percussion instruments and grows into a luminous and vibrant dance of discovery. Throughout the work, different club-type beats in the winds and percussion are used to give Iridessi the life it needs. I wanted to display the different types of colors associated with light- from warm to harsh and pastel colors to saturated palettes. Finally, at the end of the piece, after this electric dance from the ensemble, the music evaporates into the air, leaving only the metallic instruments to fade away into the iridescent and invisible.

- Program Notes by Composer

MYWE CB PROGRAM NOTES

The MYWE Concert Band is delighted to bring you this evening's All-Japanese performance. I am excited to continue to share my passion for Japanese wind band compositions with our students and our audiences. Music, after all, is an international language, and the sharing of musical ideas is one way we can share our world.

March Blue Sky, by **Tohko Takagi**, is one of my favorite Japanese marches. It was composed in 2007 expressly for the All-Japan Brass Band national competition sponsored by the All-Japan Band Directors Association. This means that every single high school band in Japan that entered the competition...and there are literally hundreds of bands each year that enter this most rigorous evaluative process...was required to play this march. One wonderful aspect of Japanese marches is that they are not boring. They adhere to the standard Western march format, but unlike Sousa, or many other American march composers, they are in many ways more European; every band member has something to do!

Festal Scenes (Jojoteki - "Matsuri") by the famous Japanese wind band composer **Yasuhide Ito**, is a concert piece inspired by four festival ("Matsuri") folk songs from the Aomori prefecture (northern Honshu) of Japan.

Ponyo on a Cliff by the Sea - Fantasy for Band, by **Joe Hosaishi** and arranged by Yo Goto, is a wind band arrangement of the music from the famous Studio Ghibli and Hayao Miyazaki film, *Ponyo*. Four of the main music themes in this beautiful animated film are presented in this arrangement...*Deep Sea Pastures, Ponyo Flies, Mother Sea, and Ponyo on a Cliff by the Sea*. This is the seventh in what I hope to be a ten composition cycle of the magnificent collaboration between composer Joe Hosaishi and animator Hayao Miyazaki for the MYWE Concert Band. Yes...we have performed seven in a row over the past seven years! With any luck, music from *The Boy and the Heron, Kiki's Delivery Service, and Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*, will complete the cycle over the next three years.

-Program Notes by Mr. Alfred Dentino

SR. MYWE PROGRAM NOTES

Bravado.....Gala Flagello

Bravado (2023) was written for the Tanglewood Music Festival 2023 orchestral readings and explores the many connotations of the word "bravado," a descendent of the Old Italian adjective bravo, meaning "wild" or "courageous." A person with bravado can be seen as bold or reckless, daring or arrogant, confident or overbearing. The wind ensemble musically embodies this range of traits through the transformation of the piece's primary melody.

-Program Notes by Mr. Michael Mucci

Colonial Song.....Percy Grainger

Grainger initially wrote Colonial Song in 1911 as a piano piece as a gift to his mother, Rose. Of his piece, Grainger wrote that it was "an attempt to write a melody as typical of the Australian countryside as Stephen Foster's exquisite songs are typical of rural America". Although the piece seems to have been intended as part of a series of 'Sentimentals,' Grainger never wrote any other pieces in this series. Unlike many of Grainger's other compositions, the melodies of Colonial Song are not based on folk song, but are original melodies.

-Program Notes by Mr. Michael Mucci

Crown Imperial... William Walton, arr. by W. J. Dutoit

This work was commissioned by the British Broadcasting Corp. for the coronation of King George VI on May 12, 1937. The BBC Orchestra had premiered the work (with many composer recalls) six days earlier. The title is taken from the poem In Honour of the City of London by William Dunbar (1465-1520) and the quotation "In beauty bearing the Crown Imperial," was quoted by Walton at the head of his original score.

The enormous strength and sense of tonality of this brilliant coronation march come from the Tudor choral style which Walton knew so well. The first section has a quietly rhythmic opening which gradually builds to a splendid climax. A broad and stately melody, typically English in its majestic sonority, then provides the contrast to the first section, and the two themes are repeated and varied in the march to the finale.

-Program Notes by Mr. Michael Mucci

SR. MYWE PROGRAM NOTES (CONT.)

Taken.....Sally Lamb McCune

(Co-Commissioned by the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Program)

Taken was inspired by a speech given by Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Ala. (1965), the day after Bloody Sunday:

If a man happens to be 36 years old, as I happen to be, some great truth stands before the door of his life -- some great opportunity to stand up for that which is right. A man might be afraid his home will get bombed, or he's afraid that he will lose his job, or he's afraid that he will get shot, or beat down by state troopers, and he may go on and live until he's 80. He's just as dead at 36 as he would be at 80. The cessation of breathing in his life is merely the belated announcement of an earlier death of the spirit. He died...A man dies when he refuses to stand up for that which is right. A man dies when he refuses to stand up for justice. A man dies when he refuses to take a stand for that which is true.

It is difficult to write an instrumental work that 'stands' for something. Although I focused on a topic of great concern while writing Taken, I prefer not to prescribe a specific interpretation of the work. I consider Taken to be an invitation to the listener to consider those things which we hold dear -- our civil liberties, our civil rights, our loved ones, our environment, our attention, our data, our dignity; the list goes on. Identifying what we hold dear allows us to consider the ways in which our lives reflect these values. How do we spend our time? What do we stand up for? When we live a conscious life, we are in a position to make a difference in our communities. When we don't, what we hold dear is more at risk of being taken.

- Program Note by composer

NEC Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Jared Cassedy, Music Director

Piccolo

Chloe Trester Carrano

Flute

Chloe Trester Carrano

Talia M Chin

Alina E Falcao

Andrew Fugh

Suyun (Amy) Hou

Karen Hua

Elaine Jang

Solonga Julia Jin

Esther Kim

Arya Koul

Satsuki Morita

Sarang Park

Jiwan Ryu

Lexing (Lexi) Sun

Bella Tan

Xiuhan (Harry) Zhu

Oboe

Ian Kim

Louisa Sun

Clarinet

Idan Sitao Chen

Sophie Grochowski

Anewmi Joseph Paluszek

Jayden Kim

Ethan Yee Sern Lam

Cecilia Hayon (CeCe) Lee

Yujeong Janice Lee

Clara McGill

Irene Yoonseo Park

Sungjin (Eric) Pyo

Alyssa Chunyi Wang

Bass Clarinet

Javeed Moussignac

Carla Fortmann *

Bassoon

Raymond Liu

Alto Saxophone

Andrew Ming Qiao

Ryan Wang

Benjamin Zhang

Tenor Saxophone

Meena Senthil

Baritone Saxophone

James Bramley +

Trumpet

Peter Aloisio

Nishanth Bangalore

Evelyn Braman

Timothy Juwon Choi

Eli Gewurz

Jinyu (Ann) Gu

Penelope June Halpainy

Tyler S. Kim

Harry Lee

Russell Hojoon Lee

Maddie Sjoblom

French Horn

Aviva Bella Abramowitz

Ashley Chiang *

Flynn Ewer *

Brianna Kirkland =

Trombone

Cheng (Tiger) Qian

Elliott Shoemaker

Nola Lourdes Xavier

Euphonium

Ben Edward Hubbard

Miles H Settembre

Tuba

Riley McMahan *

Percussion

Sihan Chen

Winston Longley

Yida (Nathan) Zhou

Patrick Sorah *

Camden Briggs *

Stella Ovcharova +

+ MYWE Mentor Student

* NEC College Musician

= NEC Staff Member

NEC Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Concert Band

Alfred Dentino, Music Director

Piccolo

Sylvia Sakata
Kabir Devgan

Flute

Emilly Zhou
Maggie Li
Jace Sawicka
Hanna Kim
Kabir Devgan
Catherine Li
Valentina Fayzullina

Oboe

Caroline Wu *

Clarinet

Felix Cao
Ava Bernstein
Qingyin Yang

Chasity Thompson *

Rohan Miovic *
Colin Merkovsky *

Bass Clarinet

John McCurley

Bassoon

Owen Schigiel *

Alto Saxophone

Benjamin Hanna
Charlotte Johnson
Andre Leung
Jonathan Peng
Abigail Cartisser
Alexander Chen
Ian Swinger

Tenor Saxophone

Aznye Mo

Baritone Saxophone

Lauren Barr

French Horn

Abigail Wong +
Erik Hellgren +
Charlotte Lyng +
Brianna Kirkland =

Trumpet

Jacob Gruneich
Adam Sugarman
John Qi
Richard Taylor *
Noah Semsar *
Marlon Teruel Flores *

Trombone

Quinton Krull *
Alvin Ho *

Euphonium

Jeffrey Davison *

Tuba

Peter Lopes

Percussion

Stella Ovcharova +

+ MYWE Mentor Student

* NEC College Musician

= NEC Staff Member

NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Michael Mucci, Music Director

Flute/Piccolo

Muzi (Bella) Yu

Albert Liu

Remy Kim

Amanda Chang

Alina Shi

Giulia Vitolo

Sojeong (Katie) Gu

Zilin (Zz) Zhang

Addison Zha

Abigail Robinson

Alto Saxophone

Tian (Jason) Yu

Matthew Chen

Daniel Jin

Jackson Taylor

Tenor Saxophone

Conor Tsang

Baritone Saxophone

James Bramley

Bass

Nicolette Kindred *

Harp

Yvonne Cox ^

Percussion

Elise Dupont

August Kim

Stella Ovcharova

Samuel Carpenter

Oboe

Alicia Wen

Katherine Filiss *

French Horn

Owen Veith

Erik Hellgren

Charlotte Lyng

Abigail Wong

* NEC College Musician

^ Guest Musician

Clarinet

Su Min Pyo

Deepak Viswalingam

Ellie Kim

Leila Novak Mostaghimi

Silas Schenker

Ultraviolet Gates

Grace Chen

Feiya Wang

Loanne Kim

Ajay Krishnan

Trumpet

Yuxiang (Gordon) Wei

August Lee-Kovach

Tobin E. (Toby) Schenker

Parker Brookins

Derek Huang

Trombone

Nathan Robinson

Hibiki Yoshikawa

Theo Collins

Ethan S. Kim

Bass Clarinet

Sam Hendrickson

Oscar Xinming Li

Euphonium

Amrit Hari Madhav

Lili Rigoulot

Bassoon

Eli Coleman

Hank Hicks

Tuba

Ryan Kim

Robert Lowrance

Jared Cassedy

Music Director, Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Jared L. Cassedy is the Performing Arts Department Head and High School Band Director for the Masconomet Regional School District, MA. Prior to joining this community, he was the K-12 Performing Arts Coordinator for Lexington Public Schools, Massachusetts (2018-2024) where he oversaw and supported all music and dramatic arts programming and curriculum development in collaboration with the performing arts teachers, and also conducted 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 has served 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 the Artistic Director for Longy's Side-by-Side Orchestra 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 - 2022), 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 most recently performed 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.

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.

Allison Lacasse

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.

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.

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Tuesday, December 17th 2024

Youth Brass Ensemble &
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7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

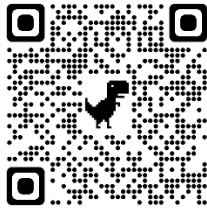
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Baroque Ensembles Performance
11 AM in Brown Hall

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