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WVU BANDS OFFICE
Canady Creative Arts Center, Suite 2101
P.O. Box 6111
Morgantown, WV 26506
304-293-3097

bands.wvu.edu



Dr. Cheldon R. Williams, conductor

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 • 7:30pm
Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre
College of Creative Arts and Media
School of Music

WVU Symphonic Band

Dr. Cheldon R. Williams, conductor

JACK STAMP
(b. 1954)

Gavorkna Fanfare

PERCY GRAINGER
(1882 - 1961)
Ed. by Joseph Kreines

The Immovable Do

JAMES CURNOW
(b. 1943)

Nathan Hale Trilogy

I. Intrada
II. Intermezzo
III. The Rangers

WILLIAM PITTS
(b. 1986)

Revelry

ERIC WHITACRE
(b. 1970)

Lux Aurumque

LUIGI DENZA
(1846 - 1922)
Arr. Yo Goto

Funiculi-Funicula Rhapsody



BANDS FACULTY & STAFF

Scott C. Tobias
Director of Bands

Cheldon R. Williams
Associate Director of Bands

Sarah Dawson
Graduate Assistant

Jeffrey Hadfield
Graduate Assistant

Mallory Williams
Graduate Assistant

Brandon Lojewski
Program Assistant

STUDIO FACULTY

Nina Assimakopoulos
Flute

Cynthia Anderson
Oboe

Andy Sledge
Bassoon

Keeheon Nam
Clarinet

Jeffery Siegfried
Saxophone

Robert Sears
Trumpet

Albert Houde
Horn

Hakeem Bilal
Trombone

Carson McTeer
Euphonium/Tuba

George Willis
Percussion

Brittany Blair
Harp



Dr. Cheldon Williams holds the positions of Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at West Virginia University. Additionally, Williams teaches Music Arranging for Public School Groups as part of the undergraduate music education curriculum. Before his appointment at WVU, Dr. Williams earned his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Education degrees from Florida State University in 2004 and 2014, served as Interim Associate Director of Bands at New Mexico State University in 2016, and earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at The University of Texas at Austin in 2020.

Dr. Williams works as a guest clinician and adjudicator for middle and high school bands, orchestras, and color guards across the United States. His research involves providing developing teachers and directors with the

tools to assess the quality of an ensemble's music performance, which he initially presented at the 2019 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and other national and international music educators' conferences since. Dr. Williams recently contributed to the Vol. 12 edition of *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*. Moreover, he is currently arranging and transcribing music for the wind band medium to introduce conductors and young musicians to historically underrepresented composers with his Rediscovery Series project. His work is under distribution through Murphy Music Press, and many major national and international universities and secondary ensembles perform his transcriptions.

Dr. Williams is a former member of the Texas Music Educators Association, New Mexico Music Educators Association, Florida Bandmasters Association, Florida Music Education Association, Florida Orchestra Association, Broward Music Educators Association, and a current member of the West Virginia Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education.

Gavorkna Fanfare / Jack Stamp

This work exploits the idea of a fanfare for full wind band, rather than a traditional brass and percussion instrumentation. The opening pyramids lead to a melodic minor third cluster heard in original and inversion simultaneously. A polychordal transition based on the upcoming "fugato" subject leads to a minimalist accompaniment to the 4-part counterpoint. The opening idea returns with a coda based on the melodic minor third.

Gavorkna Fanfare was composed for and dedicated to Eugene Corporon and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Wind Symphony.

– Jack Stamp

The Immovable Do / Percy A. Grainger

The Immovable Do (composed 1933–1939) draws its title from one of the two kinds of tonic Sol-fa musical notation: one with "moveable Do" ('Do' corresponding to the tonic or key-note of whatever key the music is couched in, from moment to moment – thus the note designated by 'Do' varies with modulation) and the other with an "immovable Do," in which 'Do' always designates the note C. In my composition – not based on folk-song or any popular tune – the "immovable Do" is a high drone on C, which is sounded throughout the entire piece. Although the organ version was not written out until June 1941, my conception of the composition, from the first (1933), was for organ (or harmonium) or voices, or both together (with possible association of string and wind groups, or orchestra, or band). For very generous and helpful advice regarding registration, I wish to thank T. Stanley Skinner, Dean of Music, Drury College, Springfield, Missouri.

–Percy Grainger

Nathan Hale Trilogy / James Curnow

Nathan Hale (1755–1776) was an American patriot of the Revolutionary War. He was hanged by the British as an American spy when he was only 21 years old. His conduct and his courage have made him one of America's best-remembered heroes.

This triptych (three movements) represents three important places or events in Nathan Hale's life:

I - Intrada – In July 1775, he received a lieutenant's commission from the Connecticut Assembly and fought in the siege of Boston.

II - Intermezzo – Halesite – a monument that marks the place of his capture and death. Before he was hanged, he made a speech, concluding with the words which have since inspired Americans: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

III - The Rangers – a small fighting group, of which he was a member, that was respected for their fighting qualities and their daring leadership in dangerous missions.

– James Curnow

Revelry / William Pitts

Revelry was composed and dedicated to the directors and students of the Dobyns-Bennett Band Program (Tenn.), Lafe Cook, director, along with the community of Kingsport in celebration of its past, present, and future.

Pitts provided the following: “When Lafe asked me to write a piece celebrating the centennial of Kingsport’s founding, I was excited to celebrate a community spirit that was so familiar to me. Revelry is a celebratory fanfare that uses a nine-note theme as its core. The theme is a cryptogram of sorts, spelling out ‘K-I-N-G-S-P-O-R-T’ using a 19th-century French system, in which the musical notes we know (A–G) are the basis for spelling out words using melodic lines.”

- William Pitts

Lux Aurumque / Eric Whitacre

Lux Aurumque began its life as an a cappella choral work that I wrote in the fall of 2000. When the Texas Music Educators Association and a consortium of bands commissioned me to adapt it for symphonic winds, I rewrote the climax and included the grand ‘Bliss’ theme from my opera Paradise Lost.

Lux Aurumque received its premiere at the 2005 conference of the Texas Music Educators Association and is dedicated with deep admiration to my dear friend Gary Green.

- Eric Whitacre

Funiculi-Funicula Rhapsody / Luigi Denza

Yo Goto’s arrangement of **Funiculi, Funiculà Rhapsody** for wind band reimagines Luigi Denza’s timeless 1880 Italian song, “Funiculi, Funiculà,” capturing the essence of Italy’s vibrant spirit and rich musical heritage. Denza composed the original tune to celebrate the opening of the first funicular railway on Mount Vesuvius, a marvel of engineering that symbolized progress and optimism in 19th-century Italy. The song’s infectious melody and joyful character quickly made it a global sensation, embodying the warmth, passion, and zest for life that define Italian culture.

Yo Goto, a skilled arranger and composer, brings his unique voice to this beloved melody, crafting a version that highlights the versatility and dynamic range of the modern wind band. Known for his ability to balance tradition with innovation, Goto infuses the piece with fresh energy while honoring its Italian roots. His arrangement reflects the picturesque landscapes of Italy—rolling hills, sunlit vineyards, and the majestic presence of Vesuvius—while evoking the communal joy of Italian festivals and gatherings.

The essence of Italy is woven into every note of this rhapsody, from its lively rhythms and lyrical warmth to its celebratory spirit. Goto’s adaptation not only pays tribute to Denza’s original but also serves as a musical postcard, transporting listeners to the heart of Italy. It is a reminder of music’s power to connect us to places, traditions, and emotions that transcend time and borders. Whether performed on stage or in the open air, **Funiculi, Funiculà Rhapsody** is a joyous celebration of Italy’s enduring cultural legacy.

-Cheldon Williams

Flute

Aaron Brown
Colliers, WV - Music Education (BM)
Cooper Gibson*
Beaver, WV - Music Education (BM)
Abigail Lawrence
Fallonsbee, WV - Music Therapy (BM)
Cristina Wilcox
Columbia, MD - Music and Health (BS)

Bassoon

Ky Moore*
Morgantown, WV - Music Business and Industry (BM)
Maximilian Remy
Ft. Lauderdale, FL - Political Science (BA)

Clarinet

Victoria Chandler
Westfield, IN - Forensic Examiner (BS)
Erwin Dorsanville
Miami, FL - Music Performance Jazz (BM)
Aaron Engle
Elkview, WV - Political Science (BA)
Marissa Gilliland
Baldwinsville, NY - Health and Well-Being (BS)
Abigail Sheets*
Ripley, WV - Biochemistry (BS)

Bass Clarinet

Jace Thompson
Wardensville, WV - Engineering (BS)

Alto Saxophone

Cole Adams
Charleston, WV - Music Education (BM)
Colin Dorcy
Butler, PA - Aerospace Engineering (BSAE)
Riley Fitzgerald
Pittsburgh, PA - Music Business and Industry (BM)

Tenor Saxophone

Jiagang Ren*
Shandong, China - Music Performance (DMA)

Baritone Saxophone

Ashly Yost
Lock Haven, PA - Music Education (BM)

Horn

Andrew Checchi*
Normal, IL - Music Business and Industry (BM)
Malia Lewis
Houston, TX - Music and Health (BS)
Isaac Stutzman
Mt. Prospect, IL - Forensic Chemistry (BS)
Brodi Wilson
Davisville, WV - Music Education (BM)

Trumpet

Leah DeGarmo
Kansas City, MO - Music (BA)
Ellen Kemp*
Shepherdstown, WV - Music Education (BM)
Tyler Nick
Dillsburg, PA - Music Business and Industry (BM)
Delany Pergola
Monongahela, PA - Music Education (BM)
Alex Skiles
Aurora, WV - Music Education (BM)

Trombone

Justin Butcher
Shinnston, WV - Music Education (BM)
Badyn Woodford*
St. Clairsville, OH - Music Education (BM)
Trevor Wotring
Fairmont, WV - Music Education (BM)

Euphonium

Max Mollish
Washington, PA - Mathematics (BS)
Lauren Rice*
Moundsville, WV - Music and Health (BS)
Jacob Tucker
Ashburn, VA - Aerospace Engineering (BSAE)

Tuba

Andrew Phifer*
Leesburg, VA - Music (BSBAD)
Ewan Smith
Weston, WV - Music (BA)
Philip Moore
Gibsonia, PA - Sports and Adventure Media (BSJ)

Percussion

Isaac Beverlin
Paden City, WV - Music Education (BM)
Tyler Cable
Dunbar, PA - Music Education (BM)
Jose Gonzales*
Wheeling, WV - Music Performance (BM)
Jude Thomas
Wheeling, WV - Music Composition (BM)

Double Bass

Taryn Daniels
Streetsboro, OH - Exercise Physiology (BS)

Piano

Alex Skiles
Aurora, WV - Music Education (BM)

* denotes principal