

Wind Symphony

Scott C. Tobias, conductor
Sarah Dawson, conductor
Jeffrey Hadfield, conductor
Hakeem Bilal, trombone
Robert Traugh, composer

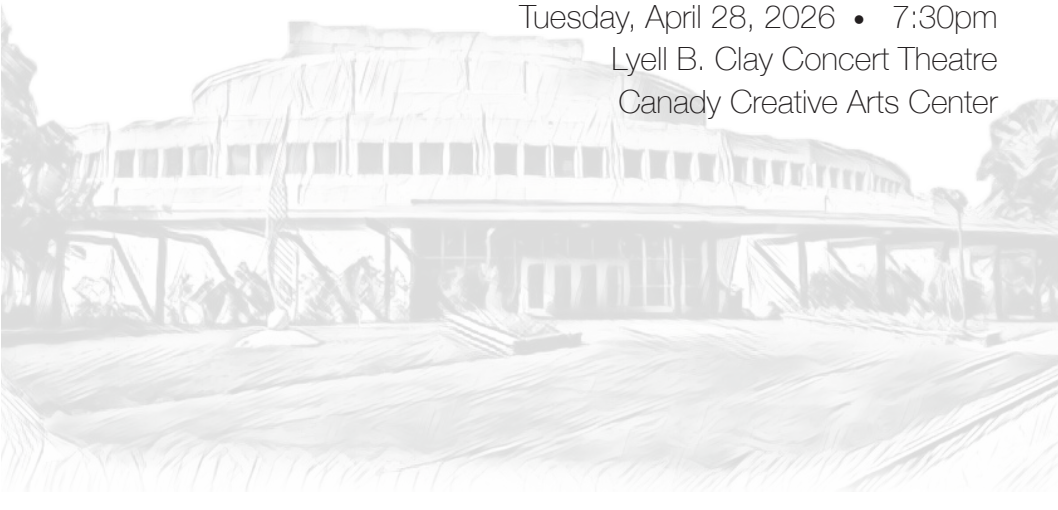
Thomas Jefferson High School Honors Band, guest performers

Be Our Guest!

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 • 7:30pm

Lyell B. Clay Concert Theatre

Canady Creative Arts Center



PROGRAM

WVU Wind Symphony

Scott C. Tobias, conductor

SCOTT BOERMA
(b. 1964)

Zoom

GUSTAV HOLST
(1874-1934)

Jupiter from "The Planets"

with guest performers from Thomas Jefferson High School

Z. RANDALL STROOPE
(b. 1953)
trans. Frederick Umar

Amor de mi alma

Sarah Dawson, conductor

ROBERT TRAUGH
(b. 1984)

Abandoned Structures

- I. Divergence
- II. Abandoned Spaces
- III. Restoration

Hakeem Bilal, trombone

****World Premiere****

GIOACHINO ROSSINI
(1792-1868)

La Boutique Fantasque

OTTORINO RESPIGHI
(1879-1936)

- I. Danse Cosaque
- II. Nocturne
- III. Allegro non troppo
- IV. Mazurka
- V. Tarantelle
- VI. Valse lente
- VII. Can-can
- VIII. Andantino
- IX. Galop

Jeffrey Hadfield, conductor

KARL L. KING
(1891-1971)

The Melody Shop

PROGRAM NOTES

Zoom / *Scott Boerma (b. 1964)*

The word “zoom” took on a new meaning during the pandemic of 2020-21. Meetings, classes, social gatherings, and holiday celebrations took the form of online video conferences that were generically called “Zooms.” Those of us in the musical profession often had to resort to makeshift, substitute forms of ensemble performances that often resembled these gatherings. One upside for me was a weekly Zoom hang that developed with four of my closest friends (all university band conductors) from across the country. One of those friends is Jamie Nix, for whom I was commissioned by his former graduate students to write this piece, in celebration of his tenth year as Director of Wind Ensembles at Columbus State University. A common theme in our weekly chats was our unbridled enthusiasm (and impatience) to get back to what we love the most, making live music with our students. All of us have felt like we’ve been feverishly revving our engines behind the starting line, breathlessly waiting to see the green flag fly, knowing that the checkered flag awaits on the other side. Well, start your engines...because here we go...full speed ahead!

- Scott Boerma

Jupiter from “The Planets” / *Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*

Debuted in 1918, *The Planets* by Gustav Holst is a seven-movement suite with each movement based on a planet from our solar system and reflecting its astrological character through music. The fourth movement, *Jupiter - The Bringer of Jollity* is introduced by a genial syncopated dance, appropriately so since a happy and festive mood is maintained throughout this movement. Holst’s love of English folk song and dance is readily demonstrated here. The middle section presents a surprising contrast -- a majestic flowing melody in 3/4 meter which Holst later used for a patriotic song, *I Vow to Thee, My Country*.

- Note from *Program Notes for Band*

Amor de mi alma / *Z. Randall Stroepe (b. 1953)* *trans. Frederick Umar*

In the fall of 2009, I had the honor to study conducting, orchestration, and arranging under Takayoshi ‘Tad’ Suzuki -- principal conductor of the TAD Wind Symphony (Japan) -- when he was a member of the faculty and staff at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. From the moment we met, I was deeply moved by the passion with which he listened, arranged, and conducted music. Regardless of the genre, he seemed to be able to find the core emotions of the work -- those moments that the composer or arranger set as ‘crucial to express’ for the success of the work at large. After many weeks of watching him convey these emotions with ease, I was compelled to ask him to teach me such an art. He obliged, and over the next two-plus years, our lessons would begin and end with a parable or two -- a story or life experience that seemed to convey a deeper meaning it was important I grasp. Some days, these parables were all we would discuss, as Takayoshi asked questions of me, seeking to see if I could convey those things profoundly between the words, the phrasing, the sentences, and the overall story line. Once he was satisfied with my response, Takayoshi would ask me to conduct what I had just uncovered from the parable within a work. It changed the way I saw every composition. He would later expand upon this approach as he taught me to develop a sense of tonal texture and harmonic awareness in arrangements I would set for the wind band..

This work is the result of those beautiful lessons together. The textures, the phrasing, the moments of anticipation and musical awe you will experience reflect a depth of love we should all seek to experience, to reflect. I do so hope you are able to express these syllables in your own personal performance(s). If you truly wish to express the composer’s and arranger’s intent, it is these that should become the most important aspects of your performance.

- Frederick Umar

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

Abandoned Structures / *Robert Traugh* (b. 1984)

Today, seemingly every choice is tracked, optimized, and algorithmically recommended, making it increasingly difficult to define what is truly authentic. A growing movement seeks to step away from the digital landscape, with individuals dedicating themselves to the restoration of neglected structures, transforming them into homes off the modern grid.

I've always been drawn to the idea of taking a ruin and restoring it. To me, the process of fixing up a neglected structure feels a lot like the journey of finding an artistic voice; there's a beautiful parallel in breathing new life into something once forgotten. It's about seeing potential where others see irrelevance, imagining what a space could become, and then doing the work to bring that vision to life. It is essentially an interaction with an old idea, using the past to inspire something entirely new. This concerto for tenor trombone and wind band, "Abandoned Structures," is a three-movement work created to engage that idea musically, referencing the Passacaglia from Bach's Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor, music I have long admired.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the remarkable Hakeem Bilal, Dr. Scott Tobias, and the WVU Wind Symphony for their dedication to bringing this challenging work to life for its world premiere.

- Robert Traugh

La Boutique Fantasque / *Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)* *Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936)*

Ottorino Respighi based this ballet suite on the earlier opera piano music of Gioachino Rossini. The ballet was premiered on June 5, 1919, at the Alhambra Theatre in London. Set in France in 1860, the work centers on a world-famous toymaker who has created dancing dolls in his magic toyshop. These dolls entertain customers by performing dances from around the world, including a mazurka, a waltz, a tarantella, and others. Two new dolls, a pair of can-can dancers, are introduced and immediately catch the attention of two families in the shop. An American family plans to purchase the male dancer while a Russian family would like to purchase the female dancer. Payments are made, and the toymaker makes arrangements for delivery of the dolls to take place the next morning.

After closing, when darkness falls, the dancing dolls magically come to life. Upset that the two can-can dancers are going to be separated, the dolls devise a plan to hide them before the next morning. When the customers return to pick up the dolls and discover that they cannot be found, they blame the toymaker and violently attack him. At this moment the dolls come to life and spring to the toymaker's rescue. As the ballet concludes, the customers are driven from the shop and are left watching through the window as the joyous dolls dance with the toymaker and the re-united can-can dancers.

The Melody Shop / *Karl L. King (1891-1971)*

As a composer, Karl King ranked alongside Henry Fillmore and only just behind John Philip Sousa as one of the most prolific and popular in the history of band music. He composed at least 291 works, including 185 marches, 22 overtures, 12 galops, 29 waltzes, and works in many other styles. His music continues to be performed worldwide by bands of all experience levels.

King dedicated *The Melody Shop* to E.E. Powell and Al Shortridge, owners of the Powell Music Co. Melody Shop in Canton, Ohio, King's hometown at the time. The nineteen-year-old composer was playing euphonium with Robinson's Famous Shows and was on tour much of the time, but he always enjoyed returning to Canton to see his family and friends. March researcher Robert Hoe wrote that "of all the marches ever written, this one is considered the ne plus ultra (summit of achievement) for baritone-euphonium players."

- note from *Program Notes for Band*

PERSONNEL

Flute

Abigail DeKam
Platte, SD - Music Business & Industry (BA)

Kaitlyn Dotson
Murrysville, PA - Music (BA)

Greta Hulterstrum
Litchfield, MN - Music Performance (BM)

Jackson Thee
West Milton, OH - Music Performance (MM)

Emma Wright
Fairmont, WV - Music Education (BM)

Oboe

Taylor Antigo
Wheeling, WV - Music Performance (BM)

Georgia Palmatory
Morgantown, WV - Music (BA)

Bassoon

Madison Cardenas
Mundelein, IL - Music Performance (DMA)

Anderson Lee
Pittsburgh, PA - Music (BA)

Clarinet

Ella Boyce
Morgantown, WV - Music Education (BM)

Owen Cosner
Morgantown, WV - Music & Health (BS)

Gabriel Flanagan
Morgantown, WV - Music Therapy (BM)

Joel Panas
St. Clairsville, OH - Music Performance (DMA)

Tiara Simon
Dallas, TX - Music (BA) & Psychology (BA)

Helena Townsend-Grove
Galena, IL - Music Performance (BM) & Psychology (BA)

Michael Taylor
Middleway, WV - Music Education (BM)

Bass Clarinet

Jenna Carpenter
Wheeling, WV - Music Education (BM)

Alto Saxophone

Evan Barnette
Ripley, WV - Music Education (BM)

Alexis Mason
Waynesburg, PA - Music Performance (BM)

Tenor Saxophone

Catherine Glodowski
Weirton, WV - Music Performance (BM)

Baritone Saxophone

Elliot Henry
Morgantown, WV - Music & Health (BS)

Horn

Collin Briggs
Martins Ferry, OH - Music Education (MM)

Isaac Price
Paden City, WV - Music Education (MM)

Ryan Shriver
Clarksburg, WV - Music Education (BM)

Aiden Swan
Alma, WV - Music Composition (BM)

Gwyn Wheeler
Clarksburg, WV - Music Education (BM)

Trumpet

Angelo Buffalini
North Huntingdon, PA - Social Studies Ed (BS)

Samara Chamberlain
Charleston, WV - Music (BA)

Leah DeGarmo
Kansas City, MO - Music (BA)

Carter Egesimal
Duluth, MN - Conducting (MM)

Jameson Loop
Morgantown, WV - Music Performance (BM)

Garrett Materne
Buckhannon, WV - Music Education (BM)

Bethany Piercy
Harpers Ferry, WV - Music (BA) & Criminology (BS)

Trombone

Sarah Harris
Daniels, WV - Music Performance (BM)

Brody Keller
Ripley, WV - Music Education (BM)

Nicholas Parker
Weirton, WV - Finance (BS)

Olivia Smith
Hillsboro, VA - Criminology (BS)

Jordan Wattie-Shear
Roanoke, VA - Mechanical Engineering (BS)

Euphonium

Sebastian Duenas-Diaz
Morgantown, WV - Biomedical Lab Diag. (BS)

Jacob Tucker
Ashburn, VA - Physics (BS)

Zachary Tunick
Fairfax, VA - Music (BA)

Tuba

Ewan Smith
Weston, WV - Music (BA)

Aveline Stimeling
Morgantown, WV - Music Composition (BM)

Caleb Rowan
Mineral Wells, WV - Music Education (BM)

Piano

Ryan McWilliams
Perryopolis, PA - Music Performance (BM) & Music Composition (BM)

PERSONNEL (cont.)

Percussion

Isaac Beverlin

Paden City, WV - Music Education (BM)

Jose Gonzales

Somerville, TX - Music Performance (DMA)

James Kawasaki

Wheeling, WV - Music Performance (BM)

Jeremiah Rogers

Flemmington, WV - Music Business & Industry (BA)

Jude Thomas

Moundsville, WV - Music Composition (BM)

Harp

Brittany Blair

Faculty - West Virginia University



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL HONORS BAND

Flute

Katherine Graham
Charity Korhnak
Christian Hoff
Gianna Cardillo

Clarinet

Mackenzie Laslo
Ava Lobaugh
Lily Doyle
Ashlyn Williams

Bass Clarinet

Kaitlyn Luff

Alto Saxophone

Enrique Ochoa
Olivia Rubel

Tenor Saxophone

Jessica Mutmansky

Baritone Saxophone

Isaac Stiteler

Trumpet

Colin Turnquist
Keaton Cryder
Theodore Dworek
Adam Wilson
Abigail Lattner

Trombone

Nolan Kiefer
Matthew Olenak

Tuba

Elliot Stiteler

GUEST ARTISTS



Hakeem Bilal is one of the most sought-after trombonists today. His performances have been called “A dynamic concert experience” by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and he has been featured on *Pittsburgh Today Live* on CBS and *Talking Pittsburgh* on NBC. Mr. Bilal performs across many genres of music with ease and teaches internationally. Most recently, he performed a three week tour of Asia, performed at the *Indianapolis 500*, and taught masterclasses in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Beijing, China. Mr. Bilal holds degrees from The Peabody Conservatory and Carnegie Mellon University and now resides in Pittsburgh, PA.

Mr. Bilal is Associate Professor of Trombone at West Virginia University and remains in high demand as an orchestral player and soloist. He is a regular extra with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony; he has recently performed with the Malaysian Philharmonic

Orchestra, the Atlanta Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and West Virginia Symphony. He also serves as the Bass Trombonist of C Street Brass, a member of River City Brass, and the MC of Beauty Slap. Mr. Bilal was featured as a guest artist at the 2016 Trombone Summit in Fort Worth, Texas and was invited to perform at the 2018 International Trombone Festival in Iowa. His main teachers include Randall Campora of the Baltimore Symphony, Dr. Denson Paul Pollard of the Metropolitan Opera, Dr. David Begnoche of Texas Christian University, and Murray Crewe of the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Prior to his appointment at West Virginia University, Mr. Bilal was on faculty at Youngstown State University in Ohio. In addition to being seen in various education and performance videos on YouTube, Mr. Bilal can be heard on all streaming formats with Beauty Slap, C Street Brass, River City Brass Band, and on PBS Great Performances with The Cleveland Orchestra.



Robert Traugh is a composer, conductor, educator, and performer. His work spans various genres, including compositions for wind bands, orchestras, jazz ensembles, dance, and multimedia collaborations.

With a background as a public school teacher and jazz studies, Robert brings this perspective to his music. He has worked with notable artists such as Cassandra Eisenreich, Pathos Trio, and Voces8, and his works can be found on streaming platforms, on the screen, as well as at international conferences. Robert is an Assistant Professor of Composition (Music Technology) at the Mary Pappert School of Music, as Program Director of the Composition for Media Degree, and also conducts the Wind Symphony at the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra. He is also a founding board member of the Pittsburgh Creators' Project.

Robert is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at West Virginia University. He holds a Master of Music in Electronic Composition from Duquesne University, as well as a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from The Dana School of Music. Robert Traugh is a versatile composer, conductor, educator, and performer, with work spanning wind bands, orchestras, jazz, dance, and multimedia. Drawing on his background as a public school teacher and in jazz studies, he has collaborated with artists like Cassandra Eisenreich, Pathos Trio, and Voces8. His works are available on streaming platforms, in media, and at international conferences.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Michael McGinley Production Manager

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Jeffrey Hadfield..... Graduate Assistant

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