

WINTER PARK HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Saturday, March 1, 2014 – 4:00 p.m.
Winter Park High School – Ann Derflinger Auditorium

WINTER PARK HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND

Christopher Blackmer, conductor

Normandy Beach (1982).....John Edmondson
(b. 1933)

Gail Brechting, guest conductor

Wyoming Portrait (1992).....David L. Wells
(b. 1952)

Barbarossa (1995).....William Himes
(b. 1949)

WINTER PARK HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND

Michael Clemente, conductor

Brighton Beach (1954/2001).....William P. Latham
(1917 – 2004)

Amazing Grace (1994).....Frank Ticheli
(b. 1958)

Gail Brechting, guest conductor

Variations on a Korean Folk Song (1965).....John Barnes Chance
(1932 – 1972)

WINTER PARK HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE

Christopher Blackmer, conductor

Bullets and Bayonets (1918/2005).....John Philip Sousa
(1854 – 1932)
ed. Frederick Fennell

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night (1996).....Mark Camphouse
(b. 1954)

Incantation and Dance (1960/2011).....John Barnes Chance
(1932 – 1972)

Gail Brechting, guest conductor



GUEST CONDUCTOR/CLINICIAN



GAIL BRECHTING is in her eighteenth year as the conductor and music director of the West Michigan Concert WINDS. Under her direction, the WINDS performed at the 2005 National Convention of the Association of Concert Bands in Quincy, IL - as well as became the 2005 recipient of the Sudler Silver Scroll, an international award recognizing excellence in adult community bands, administered by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Central Michigan University and a Master of Arts degree from Western Michigan University. She has performed trombone with the Traverse City Symphony, the Lansing Concert Band, the West Shore Symphony, many area musical ensembles and eleven years as the principal trombonist with the WINDS. She also is a much sought after soprano vocal soloist in the West Michigan area.

The WINDS have toured three times abroad under her direction - to Wales, England, Ireland, Austria Germany and Switzerland. In 2006 she was invited twice as a guest conductor to Louisiana, once with the Acadia Winds, and again as the featured conductor with the Louisiana Middle School Honors Band. In 2007 Mrs. Brechting went to Arkansas as the guest conductor of the Hot Springs Community Band. From 1996-1999 Mrs. Brechting represented MSBOA as the State Representative for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, held on the campus of Western Michigan University. For the past thirty years, she has been an active district and state level adjudicator for low brass, bands and orchestras and has taught private trombone and tuba lessons for all ages for over thirty-five years.

Presently, she is the band director at Muskegon Community College and is in her thirty-fifth year of music education, the past twenty-eight with the Reeths-Puffer School District. Mrs. Brechting is a member of the Association of Concert Bands, the National Band Association, the College Band Directors National Association, the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, P.E.O. and the Woman Band Directors Association; recently finishing a six year term as a national board member of the Association of Concert Bands, and was the first woman selected to be a member of the John Philip Sousa Foundations, Sudler Silver Scroll Award Selection Committee.

Mrs. Brechting lives in Spring Lake, MI with her engineer/pianist husband Frank, their daughter Annelise.

PROGRAM NOTES

Normandy Beach – John Edmondson

Written to emulate the style of a stately British march, the Normandy Beach march commemorates the Allied invasion of Normandy nearly seventy years ago, “D-Day,” June 6, 1944. Part of the largest amphibious invasion in modern history that marked a significant turning point in the defeat of Germany, and the beginning of the end to World War II.

John Edmondson received his BA from the University of Florida and his MM in Composition from the University of Kentucky, studying with Kenneth Wright and R. Bernard Fitzgerald. He taught public school music in the central Kentucky region for ten years, during which he wrote extensively for his own students. At this same time, he was the staff arranger for the University of Kentucky Wildcat Marching Band, and also arranged for several other universities and regional high school marching bands. In addition to freelance composing and arranging, John was a professional trumpet player and pianist, and developed his own educational publishing firm.

Wyoming Portrait – David L. Wells

Wyoming Portrait programmatically depicts the simplistic qualities of the Old West, focusing on the wide-open country of Wyoming. The tune, “Amazing Grace,” is recognized briefly in the legato opening melody, then is used unconventionally as the theme for a rhythmic and percussive Rodeo section. The very familiar tune returns in a powerful and dramatic closing which quietly concludes with a gospel “Amen.”

David L. Wells is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is currently the Director of Bands at Northview High School. He holds degrees from Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo) and Calvin College (Grand Rapids).

Barbarossa – William Himes

In the summer of 1940, German dictator Adolf Hitler was making plans to expand Germany’s control beyond Europe with an invasion of the Soviet Union – namely Moscow. The invasion, named Operation Barbarossa, began on June 22, 1941. While it went largely unchallenged at first, the Russian citizens soon rallied against the invasion, prolonging the conflict well into the Russian winter – something that the German troops were not prepared for. Running low on fuel and resources, and not equipped to

handle the bitter cold of winter, the German forces withdrew on December 5. The following day, the Russians went on the offensive, and by the end of December, they had recaptured much of the territory lost in the previous months.

William Himes earned his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Michigan. For five years he taught instrumental music in the public schools of Flint, Michigan, where he was also adjunct lecturer in low brass at the University of Michigan-Flint. Mr. Himes continues to be in demand as conductor, composer, lecturer, clinician, and euphonium soloist and has appeared throughout the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Jamaica, Argentina, Japan, and the United Kingdom. Since 1977, Mr. Himes has been music director of The Salvation Army's Central Territory, which encompasses the eleven Midwestern states. In this capacity, he is also conductor of the Chicago Staff Band, an internationally recognized ensemble which he has led on successful tours of New Zealand, Chile, Canada, Jamaica, Mexico, Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong, England, South Korea, and Australia.

Brighton Beach – William Latham

Brighton Beach, a concert march composed in 1954, was William Latham's first published work for band. It was an immediate success with school band directors and was listed among the 100 most popular marches by *The Instrumentalist* four times between 1960 and 1976. The style is British, in the tradition of Edward Elgar, Gustav Holst, William Walton, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. The title refers to the famous resort on the southern coast of England.

Amazing Grace – Frank Ticheli

The composer writes: "I wanted my setting of *Amazing Grace* to reflect the powerful simplicity of the words and melody - to be sincere, to be direct, to be honest - and not through the use of novel harmonies and clever tricks, but by traveling traditional paths in search of truth and authenticity. I believe that music has the power to take us to a place that words alone cannot. And so my own feelings about 'Amazing Grace' reside in this setting itself. The harmony, texture, orchestration, and form are inseparable, intertwined so as to be perceived as a single expressive entity."

The spiritual, "Amazing Grace," was written by John Newton (1725-1807), a slave ship captain who, after years of transporting slaves across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World, suddenly saw through divine grace the evilness of his acts. First published in 1835 by William Walker in *The Southern Harmony*, "Amazing Grace" has since grown to become one of the most beloved of all American spirituals. This arrangement of *Amazing Grace* was commissioned by John Whitwell, in loving memory of his father, John Harvey Whitwell. It was first performed on February 10, 1994, by the Michigan State University Wind Symphony, John Whitwell conductor.

Variations on a Korean Folk Song – John Barnes Chance

John Barnes Chance was born on November 20, 1932 in the town of Beaumont, Texas. Chance enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1956 with the understanding that he would be stationed at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. He expected to complete his military obligation there with the Fourth Army Band. To his chagrin, he was dispatched to the Eighth Army Band in Seoul, South Korea.

Variations on a Korean Folk Song is based upon a folk tune that the composer learned while serving the U.S. Army in Seoul, Korea. The tune is known as "Arrirang," a parting song sung by a woman who does not want the man she loves to leave her. In autumn 1966, for the *Journal of Band Research*, Chance said: "I became acquainted with the folk song while serving in Seoul, Korea, as a member of the Eighth U.S. Army Band in 1958-59. The tune is not as simple as it sounds, and my fascination with it during the intervening years led to its eventual use as the theme for this set of variations."

Bullets and Bayonets – John Philip Sousa / ed. Frederick Fennell

Considered by many to be his best march, Sousa composed *Bullets and Bayonets* at the height of America's involvement in World War I to salute the efforts of the U.S. infantry in that conflict. He originally dedicated the march "To the officers and men of the U.S. Infantry." In the trio, one can hear the percussion beating out a staccato rhythm meant to recall machine gun fire!

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night – Mark Camphouse

Commissioned by the St. Louis Youth Wind Ensemble, *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*, is a hymn for all children portraying the loneliness, loss of innocence, and yet enduring hope of the survivors of child abuse. The work is a musical tribute to survivors, often dreamlike in nature, as seen through the eyes of a child. The title, taken from John Bowring's 1825 text setting of George Elvey's church hymn, "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night," is also known as the Thanksgiving hymn, "Come Ye Thankful People Come."

*Watchman, tell us of the night. For the morning seems to dawn;
Traveler, darkness takes its flight; Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease; Hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, yes; it brings the day. Healing wholeness now has come!*

Mark Camphouse holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in music from Northwestern University where he studied conducting privately with John P. Paynter and trumpet with Vincent Cichowicz. A Chicago Civic Orchestra scholarship enabled Camphouse to study trumpet privately for two years with legendary Chicago Symphony Principal, Adolph Herseth. Largely self-taught as a composer, Camphouse began composing at an early age, with the Colorado Philharmonic premiering his First Symphony at age 17. His 15 published works for wind band have received widespread critical acclaim and are performed frequently here and abroad. Mr. Camphouse has served as guest conductor, lecturer, and clinician in 38 states, Canada, and Europe. He is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association and serves as coordinator of the National Band Association Young Composer Mentor Project. Mr. Camphouse is Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Radford University in Virginia, a position he has held since 1984.

Incantation and Dance – John Barnes Chance

Incantation and Dance was the first composition for band by John Barnes Chance. It was composed for the Greensboro Senior High Band and director Herbert Hazelman in 1960. The original title for the work was *Nocturne and Dance*, but when Chance later revised the composition, he not only deleted thirty-one measures, but also changed the name to its current title. The “Incantation” section of the work formally serves as an introduction and presents a thirteen-measure theme from which all other melodic material is derived. The “Dance” section begins quietly with the building of a complex and driving rhythmic pattern in the percussion. As the rest of the band enters, the music becomes more and more frenzied, continuing its wild dance with complete abandon up to the final measure.

Upcoming Winter Park Band Events

Thursday, March 6

Symphonic Band MPA Performance, 4:00 p.m., Olympia High School

Friday, March 7

Concert Band MPA Performance, 12:00 p.m., Olympia High School
Wind Ensemble, MPA Performance, 5:00 p.m., Olympia High School

Wednesday, March 12

Senior Concerto Competition, 1:30 p.m., WPHS Band Room

Thursday, March 13

Orchestra MPA, Time TBA (during school day), WPHS Auditorium

Tuesday, March 18

1st Incoming Freshman Parent/Student Meeting, 7:00 p.m., WPHS Band Room

Thursday, March 20

State Jazz MPA Performance, Time TBA, Seminole High School (Sanford)

Thursday, March 20 – Saturday, March 22

State Solo & Ensemble MPA, Time TBA, Seminole High School (Sanford)

Wednesday, April 16

Drum Major Auditions, 1:30 p.m., WPHS Band Room

Thursday, April 17

2nd Incoming Freshman Parent/Student Meeting, 7:00 p.m., WPHS Band Room

Wednesday, April 30

Spring Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., WPHS Auditorium

Friday, May 9

Band Banquet, 6:00 p.m., WPHS Main Campus

Friday, May 23

Night of Chamber Music, 7:00 p.m., WPHS Auditorium