



*Nassau-Suffolk*  
PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Youth Band, Wind Symphony,  
and Alumni Band

1:00 pm

An Afternoon of Jazz:  
Jazz Band and Jazz Ensemble

4:30 pm

Honor Band and Concert Band

7:00 pm

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts

*This season of Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and colleague Gina Pellettiere.*



**Gina Pellettiere**  
**1979-2023**



*Nassau-Suffolk*  
PERFORMING ARTS

**Youth Band • Honor Band  
Concert Band • Wind Symphony  
Jazz Band • Jazz Ensemble  
Alumni Band**

# MAY & JUNE AUDITIONS

**OPEN TO STUDENTS  
IN GRADES 5-12**

**[www.nassausuffolk.org](http://www.nassausuffolk.org)**



**Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts** is a non-profit organization founded in 1994 in order to provide talented student musicians from across Long Island and the metropolitan area with additional rehearsal and performance opportunities in the jazz and concert band genres. Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts is comprised of students who represent over fifty Long Island school districts and range in age from grades five through twelve. Members of Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts receive instruction and coaching from music educators and active performers. Guest soloists and clinicians have included acclaimed soloists, jazz artists, composers and conductors including members of the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Past performances have included NAFME Conferences in Atlantic City, Hartford, New York City, Washington DC, the NYSSMA Winter Conference in Rochester, NY and three successful tours of the Hawaiian Islands. We would like to thank and acknowledge the Music Educators of Long Island for their continued support of our program. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with talented young musicians over the course of the last thirty years. We are committed to offering a high quality educational and performance-based program that will provide enriching experiences and memories that foster a lifetime love of music.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Abby Behr, Executive Director  
Zachary deVries, Ensembles Manager

### **CONDUCTORS**

Larry Ballereau, Jazz Ensemble  
Mandy Fara Boonshaft, Honor Band  
James Dragovich, Jazz Band  
Gary Henderson, Youth Band  
James Kraus, Concert Band  
Joel Levy, Wind Symphony

### **ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE**

Michael Blutman  
Steven Blutman, percussion coordinator  
Alexandria deVries  
Stephanie Ruppert  
Jessica Sinisi

**NASSAU-SUFFOLK PERFORMING ARTS**  
**WWW.NASSAUSUFFOLK.ORG**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 - 1:00 PM**

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**NASSAU-SUFFOLK YOUTH BAND**

Gary Henderson, Conductor

To A New Beginning.....	James Swearingen (Barnhouse)
The Pit and the Pendulum.....	Michael Story (Alfred Music)
The Year of the Dragon.....	Michael Sweeney (Hal Leonard)
Perseus and the Sea Monster.....	Michael Grady (Kjos Music)

**NASSAU-SUFFOLK WIND SYMPHONY**

Joel Levy, Conductor

American Overture for Band, Op. 13.....	Joseph Wilcox Jenkins (Theodore Presser)
Danzón No. 2.....	Arturo Marquez transcribed by Oliver Nickel (Peer Music Classical)
City Trees.....	Michael Markowski (Michael Markowski)
Machu Picchu - City in the Sky (Mystery of the Hidden Sun Temple).....	Satoshi Yagisawa (Bravo Music)

**NASSAU-SUFFOLK ALUMNI BAND**

Joel Levy and James Dragovich, Conductors

To Soar With Angels.....	Vincent Oppido (Vincent Oppido/East ParkWood Music [ASCAP])
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**\*\*\* WORLD PREMIERE \*\*\***

**for Gina Pellettiere: with love, from her Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts family**

Old Scottish Melody (Auld Lang Syne).....	Charles Wiley (TRN Music)
Othello: A Symphonic Portrait for Wind Ensemble (after Shakespeare).....	Alfred Reed (Hal Leonard)

1. Prelude (Venice)
2. Aubade (Cyprus)
3. Othello and Desdemona
4. Entrance of the Court

# NASSAU-SUFFOLK YOUTH BAND

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## FLUTE

Natalie Calabrese

Megan Chi

Lily Han

Dahna Jeong

Kotaro Kasai

Abigail Kim

Victoria Koo

Jayden Lam

Michelle Ok

Cassandra Oswanigam

Ashley Peng

Daisy Tang

Anya Trivedi

## OBOE

Clara Jo

## CLARINET

Beatrice Assa

Jonah Capuano

Andy Chiu

Brandon Chiu

Eliot Christ

Sydney Hsu

Romina Kim

Michelle Lee

Bryce Lin

Amelia Ma

Hanna Miller

Leo Perret

Nivin Peter

Liviya Plotkin

Benjamin Schneider

Justin Wang

Aria Yim

## BASS CLARINET

Kyle Krauz

## ALTO SAXOPHONE

Ethan Ascher

Daniel Paciaroni

Kaizen Redito

Samuel Rosen

Benjamin Sinisi

Jason Wu

## BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Amanda Present

## HORN

Robert Cruz

Luke DiBiasi

Livia Feusi

Jaxon Reiman

## TRUMPET

Harry Frieese

Jack Hsiao

Leo Li

Ethan Marin

Benjamin Milgrim

Tye Myint

Samuel Peng

Wesley Perret

Scott Plotkin

Luke Serna

## TROMBONE

Christian Barton

Joseph Cardarelli

Saya Kodama

Hudson Liang

Christian Lung

Jayden Yeo

## EUPHONIUM

Hridhaan Shetty

## TUBA

Advay Danwale

Ethan Fong

Daniel Zheng

## PERCUSSION

Kendall Evans

Tanvi Kaniganti

Matthew Lucie

Nirav Nataraj

Isabella Shin

Ezra Smolow

# NASSAU-SUFFOLK WIND SYMPHONY

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## **PICCOLO**

Madison Cohen

## **FLUTE**

Prisha Agarwal

Stephen Buff

Katherine Fei

Catherine Li

Savannah Romano

## **OBOE**

Avery Eisaman

## **BASSOON**

Alessandra Dealbuquerque

## **CLARINET**

Kenneth Chen

Hailey Chi

Michael Ducorsky

Joe Funatomi

Brian Karaman

Scott Serafin

Aaron Turbek

Anderson Wang

## **BASS CLARINET**

John Ryan Chaplin

Heather Cuevas

Darren Leung

## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Matisse Byrnes

Kevin Mauri

Ryan Panzarino

## **TENOR SAXOPHONE**

Jackson Jacobs

## **BARITONE SAXOPHONE**

Matthew Tall

## **HORN**

Avery Aaronson

Elliot Jaklitsch

Aidan O'Sullivan

Roberto Oquendo

Joel Rivera

Jaden Rudnicki

## **TRUMPET**

Samuel Abrons

Ryan Borruso

Katarina Curcio

Kayleigh Hacker

Mike Hanna

Evan Korman

Kerry McKenna

Caleb Yu

## **TROMBONE**

Anthony DiSalvio

Philip Joseph

Rieve Nydegger

## **BASS TROMBONE**

Thomas Kerrigan

## **EUPHONIUM**

Charlotte Huang

Michael Jimenez

## **TUBA**

Bradley Armand

John Turnbull

## **PERCUSSION**

Alessandra DeStefano

Christopher Izzo

Jessica Lubell

Sophia Stehlik

Anastasia Theodoropoulos

Will Wysolovski

## **PIANO**

Sissi Goh

## **CELLO**

Elliot Jaklitsch

## **BASS**

Michael Cascardi

# NASSAU-SUFFOLK ALUMNI BAND

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## **PICCOLO**

Mandy Boonshaft

## **FLUTE**

Megan Ashe

Melissa Callegari

Trish Dunn

Edona Mehmeti

Alexandra Michaelis

Jessica Ringston

Nicole Rode

Stephanie Ruppert

Genny Seifert

Jessica Shenker

Jessica Sinisi

## **OBOE**

Nicole Altamura

Georgina Pryor

## **BASSOON**

Steven Waters

Alessandra Dealbuquerque

## **CLARINET**

Monica Benstock

Alicia Brown

Amanda Cicio

Alexandria deVries

Zachary Dornfeld

Mindy Dragovich

Erica Hartmann

Lauren Kinane

Jenna Leen

Steven Lensky

Dennis McLoughlin

Elena Scarano

Grace Schene

## **BASS CLARINET**

Nick Coacci

Matthew Levine

Jonathan Shmuel

## **CONTRABASS CLARINET**

Anthony Pomponio

## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Lynda Maniscalco

John Marshall

Gregory Sisco

Greg Warnokowski

## **TENOR SAXOPHONE**

Evan Diamond

Paul Mardy

Nisarg Shah

Eric Volaski

## **BARITONE SAXOPHONE**

Nicholas Massimo

## **HORN**

Susie Babcock

Riana Bader

Andrew Brunson

Amara Nogee

Karl Siewertsen

Molly Tittler-Ingoglia

## **TRUMPET**

Mike Blutman

Christine Brasch

Daniel DellaMonica

Michael Giannetta

Kenneth Kamping

Ryan Rafferty

Matthew Saltzman

Kristen Warnokowski

Daniel Wendelken

## **TROMBONE**

Jared Belferder

Anthony DeCola

Jen Iovino

Jason Lensky

Katie LoRusso

Justin Peterson

Austin Remson

## **EUPHONIUM**

David Abrams

Sophia Gianfrancesco

Kevin Mecchella

Charles Seich

## **TUBA**

Zach deVries

Andrew Dolgon

Melissa Quartararo

Joseph Randazzo

Andre Rizzuto

## **PERCUSSION**

David Atkinson

Steve Blutman

Nicholas Dabreu

Jim Dragovich

Amy Koo

Jacob Krug

## **BASS**

Michael Cascardi



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 - 4:30 PM**

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**NASSAU-SUFFOLK JAZZ BAND**

James Dragovich, Director

Mamacita.....	Joe Henderson arranged by Alan Baylock (Belwin Jazz)
My Funny Valentine.....	Richard Rodgers arranged by Rick Hirsh (Belwin Jazz)
Fast Track Shuffle.....	Doug Beach (Kendor Music)
Phat Chance!.....	Carl Strommen (Smart Chart Music)

**NASSAU-SUFFOLK JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

Larry Ballereau, Director

The Blues Machine.....	Sammy Nestico (Kendor Music)
Bolivia.....	Cedar Walton arranged by Eric Richards (Belwin Jazz)
Boppin' To P-Town.....	Doug Stone (Kendor Music)
I've Paid My Dues.....	Mike Tomaro (Kendor Music)
Swingin' For The Fences.....	Gordon Goodwin (Alfred Music)

# NASSAU-SUFFOLK JAZZ BAND

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## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Vikram Hanjan  
Edwin Ko  
Noah Mallalieu

## **TENOR SAXOPHONE**

Maximo Lopez  
Sofiiia Nosarievaa  
Maximus Wong

## **BARITONE SAXOPHONE**

Daniel Nidetch

## **TRUMPET**

Harrison Baek  
William Blanco  
Jacob Goldstein  
Harrison McKenna  
Nicholas Quan

## **TROMBONE**

Aster Cayabyab  
Harper Falivene  
Joseph Herman  
Omar Rojas

## **PIANO**

Ryan Raichoudhury

## **GUITAR**

Matt Schneider

## **BASS**

Daniel Blanco

## **DRUMS**

Cooper Gottcent

# NASSAU-SUFFOLK JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Alexander Babzien  
Brandan Mazzullo

## **TENOR SAXOPHONE**

Spencer Galfunt  
Tyler Varlack

## **BARITONE SAXOPHONE**

Lizzie Shyer

## **TRUMPET**

Chase Aaronson  
Ethan Benstock  
Saad Khan  
Charlie Schneider  
Jonathan Steiner

## **TROMBONE**

Ben Hasselbring  
Aidan Tse

## **PIANO**

Liam Osborne

## **GUITAR**

Owen Cashman

## **BASS**

Vanessa Patterson

## **DRUMS**

Jacob Yousha

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Mineola School District

Mineola High School Music Department, Administration and Custodial Staff

Karen Bernstein, Michael Cascardi, Daniel DellaMonica, Nicholas Massimo, Justin Peterson, Georgina Pryor, Elena Scarano, Noah Silverman, Daniel Wendelken

Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts alumni

Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts staff and conductors, past and present

Music educators across Long Island for their continued support of our program

# SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 - 7:00 PM

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## NASSAU-SUFFOLK HONOR BAND

Mandy Fara Boonshaft, Conductor

Amber Moon.....	Naoya Wada (Grand Mesa Music)
Scarborough Fantasy.....	Christina Huss and R. Alan Carter (Carl Fischer)
Abracadabra.....	Frank Ticheli (Manhattan Beach Music)
Appalachian Journey (Featuring Traditional Fiddle Tunes).....	Brant Karrick (Alfred Music)

## NASSAU-SUFFOLK CONCERT BAND

James Kraiss, Conductor

Spirit of the Falcon.....	Richard L. Saucedo (Hal Leonard)
Abram's Pursuit.....	David R. Holsinger (TRN Music)
Nostalgia.....	Rossano Galante (Alfred Music)
Jungle Fantasy.....	Anonymous arranged by Naohiro Iwai (Curnow Music)

# NASSAU-SUFFOLK HONOR BAND

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## **PICCOLO**

Kayla Yang

## **FLUTE**

Florence Chang  
Lillian Chen  
Grace Deng  
Scarlet He  
Jiachen Liu  
Queen Su  
Kayla Yang  
Emily Zheng

## **OBOE**

Neil Chen

## **BASSOON**

Skylla Blythe  
Matthew Ho

## **CLARINET**

Michael Bonafede  
Lena Chaberek  
Lexie Chen  
Olivia Choe  
Ananeah Danamjay  
Gia DiMaggio  
Sophia Driscoll  
Danielle Kim  
Ethan Kim  
Julie Kim  
Theodore Li  
Emily McCarthy  
Oliver Smith  
Angelina Wong  
Lui Yamamoto  
Sean Zamorano

## **BASS CLARINET**

Adrija Datta  
Benjamin Donaghy  
Gustav Jusiega

## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Nina Altarac  
Ennio Del Vecchio  
Dylan Ng  
Joshua Schneider  
Andrew Tsai

## **TENOR SAXOPHONE**

Paul Moon  
Lucas Yim

## **BARITONE SAXOPHONE**

Jack Kelleher  
Howie Woltmann

## **HORN**

Juliette Chapman  
Avi Levin  
Jack Prindle  
Junze Qu  
Aiden Yoo

## **TRUMPET**

Jordan Belferder  
Michael Deaner  
Sophia Gebbie  
Nathan Hasselbring  
Anthony Henderson  
Brayden Johnson  
Lena Kim  
Faye Kontos  
Ryan Schmidt

## **TROMBONE**

Caroline Carey  
Anthony Carillo  
Logan D'Elia  
Joseph Herman  
Dean Korinis  
Jonah Sefick  
Claud Tung  
Roger Wang

## **EUPHONIUM**

Joshua Lee  
Matthew Rubenstein  
Madeline Zehnter

## **TUBA**

Jordan Adelman  
Aaryan Chopra  
Matthew Talluto  
Cameron Tsai

## **PERCUSSION**

Nathan Chen  
Dhruvi Dani  
Norman Jiang  
Jaydon Li  
Ty Thadal  
Vincent Wilbur

## **PIANO**

Jiachen Liu

# NASSAU-SUFFOLK CONCERT BAND

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## **PICCOLO**

Lilith Mangal  
Becky Neikens

## **FLUTE**

Nawar Aboud  
Maya Aboutaleb  
Stephanie Guida  
Andrew Lee  
Lilith Mangal  
Becky Neikens  
Ishi Rai  
Abigail Vuong  
Ethan Yeung

## **OBOE**

Grace Wong

## **CLARINET**

Brenden Muller  
Isabella Smith  
Kyla Timpug  
Ethan Wu

## **BASS CLARINET**

Elizabeth Neofitos

## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Alexander Babwah  
Anthony Ferreira  
Elisa Massa  
Ray Tao  
Richard Wong

## **TENOR SAXOPHONE**

Kayleigh Murphy  
Matthew Tymchynyuk

## **HORN**

Robert Marrali  
Jayden Merino  
Mekiyah Parker

## **TRUMPET**

Bryce Cohen  
Anton Fitzko  
Shane Kelly  
Cameron Nocera  
Charlotte Tsekerides

## **TROMBONE**

Victor Cassano  
Nicolas Esposito  
Brian Gay

## **EUPHONIUM**

Thomas Lasher  
Brandon Rivas

## **TUBA**

Nolan Farrelly  
Sydney Krowles  
Paul McKenna  
Katherine Murillo  
Bezaleel Philogene  
Jason Ricciardi

## **PERCUSSION**

Michael Bodzin  
Margina Chen  
Charlie DellUniversita  
Jake Marin  
Francisco Martinez  
Oscar Zhang

# VINCENT OPPIDO

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A rising talent in Hollywood, **Vincent Oppido's** music has been performed and recorded in Europe and Japan, and across the United States from Carnegie Hall to the Hollywood scoring stages of Warner Brothers and Sony Pictures Studios.

Oppido's recent scoring credits include Magic the Gathering: Wizards of the Coast, Fortnite, the indie films Alien Code (Archstone/Sony Home Pictures - starring Kyle Gallner and Richard Schiff), Watch the Sky (Breaking Glass Pictures - starring Renee O'Connor), and the CollegeHumor series Troopers: Rise of the Budget. He has also composed additional music for projects including Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order, Star Wars: Squadrons, Jedi Temple Challenge, Star Wars: Hunters, Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween and TruTV's Adam Ruins Everything: Reanimated History. Other writing credits include original music for Sinclair Oil's 2017 commercial advertisements and musical source arrangements for projects such as It Happened In LA (Sundance Selected) and the Paramount Pictures film What Men Want. He also provided musical arrangements for the 2021 Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Show and the 2021 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Also an orchestrator and conductor, Oppido has worked on projects such as Fortnite, Cobra Kai, The Suicide Squad, League of Legends, Age of Empires, Guardians of the Galaxy: Volume 2, and NBC's Timeless. His first job in Hollywood, as a music proofreader, enabled him to work on dozens of motion pictures and television shows including Star Wars: The Force Awakens, Frozen, Family Guy and The 2013 Oscars.

In addition to work in film and television, Oppido has received numerous commissions for the concert hall, garnering performances in such prestigious venues including The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Symphony Hall in Boston and Carnegie Hall. His most recent work, A Cosmic Perspective, was commissioned and premiered by The United States Air Force Band of the West. Vincent collaborated on this work with Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson who composed an original text. In December 2018 his work, Cosmic Escapades, was premiered by The United States Army Band at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. Past commissions include Fanfare to an American Heritage for the United States Army Bugle Corps, An American Expedition for the Montana All-State Orchestra, and New York, New York: Postcards for Home for the Nassau Music Educators Association Division V All-County Band. Oppido also composed Patriot Pride, George Mason University's alma mater and arranged an overture for Brian Stokes Mitchell's concert show. His most recent commission for Alto Saxophone Solo and Wind Ensemble, Three Happenings While Walking Down Main Street, will receive its premiere by the United States Air Force Band in 2024.

Originally from Long Island, New York, Vincent studied conducting and composition at George Mason University with Anthony Maiello and Mark Camphouse and was invited to attend the Scoring for Motion Picture and Television program at the University of Southern California. He was selected as a 2012 participant in the ASCAP Film Scoring Workshop with Richard Bellis and also spent a summer studying at the Aspen Music Festival. Oppido is a member of ASCAP.

# ABOUT THE STAFF

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**Laurence Ballereau** was a member of the music faculty of the Syosset Central School District for 35 years, and retired in June 2020. At Syosset he was the Director of Bands at the High School, conducting the Jazz and Wind Ensembles. Mr. Ballereau holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Hofstra University and a Masters Degree in Music Education from Long Island University, C.W. Post campus.

In 2010 Mr. Ballereau was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame as the Educator of Note. He was recognized for his development of a three-course curriculum for students who are interested in pursuing a career in the music industry. The courses, Commercial Music, Recording for Musicians and Improvising Music, helped the Syosset Music Department attain national recognition, including a 2001 Kennedy Center Award and five-time designation as a Grammy Signature School. The Wind Ensemble, under Mr. Ballereau's direction, has received numerous Level VI Gold with Distinction, NYSSMA ratings.

In 2011 the PTA of the Syosset Central School District presented Mr. Ballereau with the Jenkins Award, acknowledging the significant contributions he has made to students through music education. In addition, has been recognized throughout his educational career by Who's Who Among American Teachers.

In 2017 Mr. Ballereau became a Grammy Music Educator Quarterfinalist. Mr. Ballereau has been nominated to Who's Who Among American Teachers numerous times and he is a sought-after educational clinician and guest conductor.

Mr. Ballereau is currently the conductor of the Jazz Ensemble for Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts and is an adjunct professor at Hofstra University teaching woodwind methods. He previously served as an adjunct professor of saxophone at Teacher's College at Columbia University. Mr. Ballereau is a member of the NYSSMA Technology Committee and is a certified member of TI:ME (Technology in Music Education).

In addition to his career as an educator, Mr. Ballereau works as a band leader, woodwind player, guitarist and vocalist, and has performed with such well known artists as Dave Brubeck, Tony Bennett, Liza Minnelli, Jeff Kashiwa, Conrad Korsch, Michael Feinstein, Idina Menzel, Phoebe Snow and Billy Taylor. He has also performed in and conducted numerous pit orchestras for regional theatre companies.

In addition to conducting and performing, Mr. Ballereau runs his own recording studio, where he mixes, arranges and produces independent recordings for broadcast television and film. He has released two CDs of his original compositions, available on all streaming platforms.

**Mandy Fara Boonshaft**, conductor of the Nassau-Suffolk Honor Band since its inception in 2010, is a member of the music education faculty of the Syosset Central School District. She is currently a band director at South Woods Middle School. Prior to her appointment in Syosset, she was a band director at both Commack Middle School and George W. Hewlett High School.

Mrs. Boonshaft is a graduate of Hofstra University, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education with a concentration in flute performance, graduating cum laude with departmental honors. Mrs. Boonshaft also holds a Master of Arts degree in Wind Conducting from Hofstra University, where she served as the Graduate Conducting Associate from 2005-2008, conducting both the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band.

Ensembles under Mrs. Boonshaft's direction have received numerous Gold with Distinction ratings at NYSSMA Major Organization Festivals, have been invited to perform at the New York State Band Director's Symposium, and have performed at clinics and workshops for composers and conductors such as Robert W. Smith, Christian Wilhjelm, and Sean O'Loughlin. In addition to performances on Long Island, The Nassau-Suffolk Honor Band has commissioned and premiered works by renowned composers Richard Saucedo and Randall Standridge and was chosen to perform at the prestigious National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

A composer of works for concert band and percussion ensemble, Mrs. Boonshaft is currently published by Row-Loff Publications. In addition, she continues to keep an active performance schedule. She is a founding member of the Long Island Flute Quartet and has performed with a number of regional orchestras and ensembles. She has studied flute and piccolo with Carol Wincenc, Patricia Spencer, Susan Deaver, Mindy Kaufman, John Oberbrunner, Ted Mordoff, John Littlefield and John Wion.

Mrs. Boonshaft is an active member of the Nassau Music Educators Association, the New York State Band Directors Association and the New York State School Music Association, for which she is a certified Major Organization and Woodwind Adjudicator. Extremely active as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator and workshop presenter for band festivals, universities, schools and conferences, she has served as guest conductor for the Hampton Music Educators Association High School Honors Band Festival, Suburban Council (Albany) Music Festival, Suffolk County Music Educators Association Division 2 East All-County Band, Orange County High School All-County Band, the Bristol Township School District Honors Band in Bucks County (Pennsylvania), the Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) Region 10 Middle School Band 1, and most recently, the Sweetwater District Honor Concert Band in Chula Vista, California. She has served numerous times as an adjudicator for the prestigious Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival in Sydney, Australia; was a session presenter at the Sydney Music Education Conference, Maryborough Music Conference, New York State Band Director's Symposium and the New York State School Music Association Conference; and presented masterclasses in flute performance in Queensland, Australia. Mrs. Boonshaft was also the featured artist on the KHS America Academic Alliance Reference video for Jupiter flutes. She resides in Garden City, NY with her husband Peter and their two kitties, Graham and Emerson.



**James Dragovich** was a band director for the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools for thirty-three years, twenty-nine spent as Director of Bands at George W. Hewlett High School. Under his direction the Hewlett bands received numerous awards and recognitions. Both the Hewlett High School Wind Ensemble and Concert Band received Gold ratings at NYSSMA Majors, the Hewlett Marching Band received a first place award in the NYC Columbus Day Parade and the Hewlett Jazz Orchestra performed at many jazz festivals and conferences including the 2014 NYSSMA Winter Conference. All of his high school ensembles toured on a regular basis and performance destinations included Walt Disney World, Montreal and Quebec Canada, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Carnegie Hall and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Dragovich received his bachelor's degree in Music Education with a concentration in percussion performance from Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus. Upon graduation Mr. Dragovich was offered a graduate assistantship to continue his studies at LIU, where he graduated with a master's degree in Music Education. He went on to serve on the music faculty of LIU Post teaching percussion methods for thirteen years. Mr. Dragovich also studied at Hofstra University where he received a master's degree in Wind Conducting. While attending Hofstra he served as the Graduate Conducting Associate to both the Hofstra Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Upon his graduation Mr. Dragovich joined the Hofstra Music Faculty and taught both brass and percussion methods on the graduate and under graduate level for nine years.

As a conductor Mr. Dragovich has commissioned and conducted the world premieres of numerous works written for both symphonic band and jazz ensemble. Guest soloist with his ensembles include Stanley Drucker, Joseph Alessi, Mike Davis, Erik Ralske, Cecil Bridgewater, John Riley, Jack Schatz, Dave Pietro, Pete McGuinness, Jim Snidero and Mike Carubia, to name a few. As a performer Mr. Dragovich has always maintained an active schedule and has worked with many artists including Billy Ekstine, Jerry Vale, the Four Freshman, Clem DeRosa's Mighty Swing Machine, Ray Alexander and the Four Freshman, in addition to various bands, orchestras and theater productions in the metropolitan region, including his own 17 piece jazz orchestra, the Hit The Bricks Big Band.

At present Mr. Dragovich is Director of Undergraduate Music Education and Director of Bands at Five Town College and also directs the Nassau-Suffolk Jazz Band. Mr. Dragovich is an adjudicator for Music in the Parks, Festivals of Music and the Long Island Music Festival while serving as a guest clinician for Educational Tours, Inc. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Best Bands and Choirs International and the American Chamber Ensemble. Mr. Dragovich works as a BOCES Artist in the Schools and continues to be in demand as a guest conductor, clinician and performer while maintaining his own teaching studio specializing in concert percussion, drum set and conducting.

**Gary Henderson** has been teaching instrumental music in the New York public school system for the past twenty three years. Currently, he is the band director at Bowling Green Elementary School in East Meadow, NY. Gary received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Hofstra University and a Master of Jazz and Commercial Music Degree from Five Towns College.

Mr. Henderson is the director of the Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts Youth Band. He is an active clinician and has served as guest conductor for several All-County and All-District Festivals. As a composer of elementary level band music, he has been commissioned to write pieces for several local school districts. His piece "The Path of The Viking" was recently selected to appear in the NYSSMA Manual as a Level One Band composition. His Bowling Green Fifth Grade Band has won several awards, including a Level 2 "Gold with Distinction" rating at the NYSSMA Majors Festival.

Mr. Henderson has written and co-authored several books published by Pinnacle Music Press, Inc, including "The Prerequisites: A Sequential Method for Beginner Winds" (with Frank Bonasera), "Foundations: 120 Progressive Chorales, Warm Ups, and Targeted Exercises for Band" (with Joey Devassy), "Foundations for Orchestra" (with Kristen Bean), and "Five Pieces for First Year Band".

Mr. Henderson is the founder and co-director of the Interplay Jazz Orchestra. The big band just released their fourth studio album entitled "It's Christmas Again" which features his arrangement of "Little Drummer Boy". The IJO's album "Detour", placed at #9 on the CMJ Year-End Jazz Radio Charts for 2016, peaking at #4 for three straight weeks that February. The group's fifth studio album is scheduled to be released this Spring.

Mr. Henderson is a purple belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu under Professors Milton Regis and John Passannante. He is the owner of Long Island Jiu Jitsu Network, along with Mr. Passannante.

Mr. Henderson is a member of BMI; his song writing credits include music used for MTV's "Say What? Karaoke", the myNetworkTV soap opera "Desire", and even a Japanese game show! Mr. Henderson has performed all across the United States and most of Europe. In 1997 he was nominated for "Instrumentalist of the Year" as part of the Long Island Music Awards as well as a "Concert Promoter of the Year" by the Long Island Voice. Mr. Henderson resides in West Islip, New York with his wife Joni, son Anthony, and daughter Mackenzie.

**James Kraiss** completed his undergraduate studies in Music and Education at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, and Dowling College in New York. He received his Master's Degree from SUNY Stony Brook. He has taught elementary band, middle school band, and general music in the Herricks School District, and high school band, and music theory at Holy Trinity High School. Mr. Kraiss is currently in his thirty fourth year at West Islip High School for which he has been Director of Bands since 1999. He is the director of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz "A" Ensemble, Marching Lions, and All District Band. He is also the High School Drama Coordinator, House Manager for the Performing Arts Center, as well as Coordinator for the West Islip Summer Music Program.

Mr. Kraiss is a certified NYSSMA adjudicator and NYSSMA jazz adjudicator, has been the instrumental chairperson for the SCMEA All-County Jazz Festival and the All-County Jazz Ensemble, and has chaired the NYSSMA solo and ensemble festival in Nassau County. Mr. Kraiss has been listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers several times and is the 2010 recipient of the Harvard University Distinguished Teacher Award. Mr. Kraiss has also served as guest conductor for the Hampton Music Educators Association Festival Honors Jazz Ensemble and he is also the founder and director of the Long Island Wind Band Consortium, which as its latest project, commissioned a piece in memory of fallen line of duty New York City Police Officers.

Under his direction, the West Islip High School Marching Lions have performed throughout the east coast and have consistently placed among the top groups in the annual Columbus Day Parade in New York City. His concert and jazz ensembles have been consistent recipients of Gold and Gold with Distinction awards at NYSSMA Major Organization Festivals, and have been host to many acclaimed composers and clinicians throughout the years including; Jerry Nowak, Anthony Maiello, James Swearingen, Carl Strommen, Bob Mintzer, Peter Boonshaft, Ron Sutherland, Will Rapp, Glenn Drewes, Dennis DeBlasio, Ben Fritz, John Whitwell, Johan de Meij, Andrew Boysen Jr., Jack Stamp, Brian Balmages, and Michael Sweeney, from whom a piece was commissioned and premiered in May 2009. Mr. Kraiss's ensembles have most recently been featured ensembles at the L.I.U. Post Composers Wind Band Festival, New York State Band Directors Association annual Symposium, the Mid-Atlantic Honors Wind Band Festival, Walt Disney World, Carnegie Hall, and the 2014 NYSSMA Winter Conference.

**Joel Levy** received a Bachelor of Music Degree from SUNY Potsdam, and a Master of Music Degree in Performance from Stony Brook University. As an active musician in the New York metropolitan area, Mr. Levy has performed with the Merrick Symphony, Long Island Concert Pops, Queens Festival Band, Long Island Masterworks Orchestra, Francis C. Roberts and company, and the New York Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Levy played frequently in the Broadway production of Thoroughly Modern Millie. Additional Broadway credits include Fosse, Little Women, Sweet Charity and Young Frankenstein. Currently Mr. Levy performs with the Richie Jaona Bad Little Big Band, Interplay Jazz Orchestra, Leon Petruzzi Jazz Orchestra, Jim Dragovich Hit the Bricks Big Band, Jazz Loft Big Band and the FM Steely Dan Tribute Band. He also performs as the Engemen Theater, Argyle Theater, Gateway Theater and the Bay Street Theater in Sag Harbor.

Mr. Levy taught at both the middle and high school levels on Long Island since 1980. He retired as band director and department chair at East Meadow High School after a 34 year teaching career. His various ensembles have won numerous awards of distinction, which include 13 first place finishes in the New York City Columbus Day Parade.

Joel Levy has been a guest soloist and clinician for several Long Island school districts and he has served as guest conductor for the Suffolk All-County Festival Bands. He has been the guest conductor at the U. S. Eastern Music Camp at Colgate University, at George Mason University in Virginia and at the CW Post Band Festival. He has also served as guest conductor and clinician at Fresno State University in California and for the Fairfax, Virginia school district.

Under Mr. Levy's direction, the Nassau-Suffolk Wind Symphony has performed at MENC National and Eastern Division Conferences. Guest soloists with the Wind Symphony have included Phil Smith, Joe Alessi, Stanley Drucker, Carol Wincenc, Lew Tabackin, Erik Ralske, Michael Blutman, Steven Blutman, Julian Rose, Patrick Sheridan and Ed Joffe. Mr. Levy is also conductor of the Nassau-Suffolk Alumni Band and the Bay Shore/Brightwaters Community Band.

Mr. Levy has taught courses for Five Towns College, SUNY Potsdam and was a faculty member of the C.W. Post, Long Island University faculty, teaching clarinet, saxophone and flute. Mr. Levy is pleased to have been listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers on numerous occasions. In addition, Mr. Levy has been featured on Rico's thelessonroom.com, and is a D'Addario educational clinician and performing artist.

**Abby Behr** is the co-founder and Executive Director of Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts. In November of 2018, she was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame as the 2017 Educator of Note. Mrs Behr is a past president of the Nassau County Chapter of the New York State Council of Music Administrators of Music Education and of the Nassau Music Educators Association. She has served on the New York State School Music Association Awards and Recognition Committee since 1998 and was the Eastern Division Chairperson of Tri-M Music Honor Society from 2000 to 2012. Mrs. Behr has been cited in several editions of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" and was recognized for her commitment to music education at the 1996 New York State School Music Association's County Presidents' Assembly. She was awarded the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers PTA Award for outstanding service to all children and youth in 1993 and 2002.

Abby Behr was the Director of Music and Art for the East Meadow Public Schools from 2001 until her January 2015 retirement. Under her leadership, the district had the distinction of being one of only twelve school districts in the United States recognized by the National Association for Music Education as having a Model Music Education Program, the only New York State school district selected as recipient of the prestigious NYSSMA Presidential Citation Award twice, and awarded "One of the Best Communities for Music Education in America" annually by the NAMM Foundation. During her tenure as a teacher in East Meadow, she was a band director on the elementary, middle and high school levels. Mrs. Behr was the chapter sponsor and advisor of East Meadow High School's Tri-M Music Honor Society and Color Guard Director of the marching band. She has taught music in the Brentwood, Lawrence and East Meadow Public Schools. Mrs. Behr holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Music and a Professional Degree in Educational Administration from Long Island University, C. W. Post College.

**Michael Blutman** enjoys a diverse career as a trumpeter and music educator. A graduate of The Juilliard School and the University of Maryland, some of his performing and recording credits include: Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, the National, Albany, New Haven, Harrisburg, Hartford, Stamford, and American symphonies, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, American Ballet Theater, Sting, David Parsons Dance Company, Jonathan Batiste Jazz Band, Broadway's Phantom of the Opera, David Bowie's band, and many others. Michael's trumpet instructors include: Chris Gekker, Mark Gould, Steven Hendrickson and William Vacchiano.

As an educator, some of Michael's teaching credits include: Jericho School District (music theory instructor, jazz ensemble director, assistant band director), Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts (artist in residence), Five Towns College, Usdan Center for the Arts (department co-chair, jazz director, trumpet and chamber music instructor), East Meadow's Fusing Culture and Curriculum (coordinator and teaching artist), Ithaca College (sabbatical assistant professor), and the American Symphony Orchestra (former education manager). He is also a clinician for colleges, primary and secondary schools, maintains a private trumpet studio, and is a published music education author (featured articles in NYSSMA's School Music News and the International Trumpet Guild journal).

Michael and his brother Steven (also an artist in residence with Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts) co-founded the music education publishing company, Pinnacle Music Press, and are co-authors of its Festival Sight Reading series ([www.pinmusicpress.com](http://www.pinmusicpress.com)).

A classical and jazz musician, percussionist **Steve Blutman** has performed and recorded with some of the top orchestras, jazz ensembles, and show productions. Highlights include performances with The Cleveland Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, Honolulu Symphony, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Canton Symphony, Youngstown Symphony, Mansfield Symphony, Akron Symphony, Erie Philharmonic, New World Symphony, Blue Man Group and Broadway and Off-Broadway productions. Music Festivals include multiple summers with the Orchestra of the Americas (South America) and the AIMS Orchestra (Graz, Austria). Steve has also done extensive touring with The Cleveland Orchestra throughout Europe and the United States.

An avid educator, Steve is 'Director of Percussion Studies' at Long Island University (LIU Post) and an Adjunct Professor of Music at Hofstra University. He is an "Artist-in-Residence" for school districts on Long Island and a regular guest clinician for public schools and colleges in the greater New York area. Steve frequently leads professional development sessions on percussion pedagogy with educators across the country. In addition, he proudly serves as the percussion coordinator for Nassau Suffolk Performing Arts and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Long Island Youth Orchestra. A previous appointment was as Percussion Co-Chair for New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA).

Steve is the majority owner of Pinnacle Music Press, Inc, established in 2012. The company has published dozens of unique books including the 19 volume Festival Sight Reading series, of which he is the co-author. His thriving private teaching studio is also a division of Pinnacle Music Press, Inc.

A graduate of Cleveland Institute of Music (Masters of Music) and Hofstra University (BS in Music Ed), Steve's primary instruction occurred under the tutelage of Paul Yancich, Richard Weiner, Pablo Rieppi, David Ratajzak, and Tony Tedesco.

**Alexandria deVries** pursued her musical education at the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY, achieving both her Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education and Master of Music Degree in Clarinet Performance. Throughout her time at the Crane School of Music, she garnered recognition for her contributions, earning awards from the school and a humanitarian award for her dedicated work at the Reachout Crisis Hotline.

With fifteen years of experience in public school education, including ten years in the East Meadow School District, Alexandria has made significant contributions. At Meadowbrook Elementary School, she teaches band, directs the musical, serves as the union vice president while also serving as a woodwind instructor and color guard director at Woodland Middle School and East Meadow High School.

As a woodwind doubler, she has performed in Off-Broadway productions such as 42nd Street, The Sound of Music, and Fiddler on the Roof. Alexandria co-founded the East End Winds woodwind trio. Her mentors include Robert Dalpiaz, Alan Woy, Julianne Kirk-Doyle, and conducting teacher Brian K. Doyle.

In addition to her performing career, Alexandria manages a private woodwind studio, where her students have achieved remarkable success at NYSSMA fes-

tivals and received invitations to prestigious events like All-County, All-State, and All-National Conferences. Alexandria has been an artist-in-residence for the Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts for seven years, working with their high school ensembles. Notably, Alexandria is the author of “5 Solos for the Beginning Clarinetist,” published by Pinnacle Music Press.

**Zachary deVries** graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education and completed his Master of Music Degree in Music Education at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Currently, Mr. deVries serves as a middle school band director and brass instructor at Woodland Middle School in the East Meadow School District. In East Meadow, he has directed various ensembles, including the Woodland Jazz Band, Jazz Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, and the East Meadow High School Marching Band.

Mr. deVries’ students have achieved significant success at NYSSMA festivals and have been selected for participation in All-County, All-State, and All-Eastern ensembles. Students from his studio have been chosen to perform at international competitions such as the Leonard Falcone Tuba Euphonium Competition and have pursued further studies at universities and conservatories nationwide. Before his role in the East Meadow School District, Mr. deVries served as the Director of Athletic Bands at Boston University, leading the Marching Band and Pep Band. Under his guidance, the Boston University Bands excelled in regional and national performances, including the NCAA Basketball and Hockey Tournaments. Notably, he directed the Marching Band as the opening act for J. Geils Band and Aerosmith at Fenway Park in 2010.

Between 2008 and 2014, Mr. deVries was on the faculty at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute alongside Mike Roylance, principal tuba of the Boston Symphony and Pops Orchestras. During this time, he collaborated with Mr. Roylance in co-writing and teaching the Tuba Euphonium Workshop curriculum.

An alumnus of the Nassau-Suffolk ensembles, Mr. deVries now serves as the Ensembles Manager and Low Brass Artist-in-Residence for Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts. As an active performer, he has performed with various ensembles, including the Long Island Tuba Quartet, Long Island Wind Ensemble, Nassau-Suffolk Alumni Band, Jazz Loft Big Band, and Atlantic Wind Symphony.

Throughout his career, Mr. deVries has had the privilege of performing in concerts or recitals with notable musicians such as Joseph Alessi, Bob Carpenter, Stanley Drucker, Claude Kashnig, Eli Newberger, Dennis Nulty, Mike Roylance, and Philip Smith. Over the years, he has studied with Mike Roylance, Bill Troiano, and Willie Clark.



**Stephanie Ruppert** is a band teacher in the New Hyde Park-Garden City Park School District where she has been teaching elementary school band since 2011. Prior to working in the New Hyde Park-Garden City Park School District, Stephanie taught band in the Farmingdale School District for two years.

Mrs. Ruppert holds a Bachelor of Music Education Degree and Flute Performance from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, as well as a Master of Music History and Performance Degree from LIU Post.

Mrs. Ruppert maintains a private flute studio and actively performs with the St. Martin of Tours orchestra in Amityville. Mrs. Ruppert teachers include Helen Campo - flute player from Broadway's "Wicked", Susan Deaver, Kenneth Andrews, and Kathleen Miller. Mrs. Ruppert serves as an artist-in-residence with the Youth Band and Honor Band. In addition, Mrs. Ruppert is a proud alumna of the Nassau-Suffolk Concert Band and Wind Symphony.

**Jessica Sinisi** is a teacher in the Bethpage School District, where she has taught for the past seventeen years. Currently, Ms. Sinisi teaches elementary band and orchestra and previously served as the director, vocal director, and pit orchestra conductor for the high school theater department. Ms. Sinisi received her Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from the Hofstra University Honors College and her Masters of Music Degree from SUNY Stony Brook.

Ms. Sinisi maintains a private studio and has performed with the Massapequa Philharmonic Orchestra, the Long Island Wind Ensemble, and has performed in numerous pit orchestras both at the John W. Engeman Theater and in theaters across New York. An active member of the Nassau Music Educators Association, Ms. Sinisi was the chairperson for the Nassau All-County Division IV Band and also served as the secondary chairperson for the Long Island String Festival Association for several years.

Ms. Sinisi is a proud alumna of the Nassau-Suffolk Concert Band and Wind Symphony and performs in the Nassau Suffolk Alumni Band. Ms. Sinisi has toured Hawaii with the Nassau-Suffolk Vocal Jazz Ensemble and worked for several years as the Vocal Jazz sound technician. Ms. Sinisi currently serves as an artist in residence for the Youth Band and Honor Band.



# PROGRAM NOTES

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## NASSAU-SUFFOLK WIND SYMPHONY

The **American Overture for Band** was originally written for the U.S. Army Field Band and is known for the virtuoso playing it requires of the French Horn players. It is the most popular work of American composer Joseph Wilcox Jenkins. Before deciding on music as a career, Philadelphian Joseph Willcox Jenkins (b. 1928) received a pre-law degree at St. Joseph's College. Jenkins studied composition under Vincent Persichetti at the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. He earned his Bachelor and Masters of Music degrees at the Eastman School of Music and his Doctorate at the Catholic University of America. Jenkins began his musical career as a composer and arranger for the United States Army Field Bands and the Armed Forces Network. He is Professor of Theory and Composition at Duquesne University, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1960. He has received numerous prestigious commissions and has nearly 200 original compositions, works for band, orchestra, chorus, solo instruments and theatrical pieces, plus hundreds more vocal and instrumental arrangements to his credit. The ASCAP Serious Music Award has been awarded annually to Jenkins for nearly two consecutive decades.

Originally written for orchestra, **Danzón No. 2** has enjoyed significant popularity on performance programs everywhere. The danzón itself was Cuban-born, from a natural synthesis of Spanish, British, and French dance forms, and this work is built on a beautiful, elegant main theme, stated on clarinet, building in intensity before erupting into passionate rhythms later. The composer says "The idea of writing the Danzón No. 2 originated in 1993 during a trip to Malinalco with the painter Andrés Fonseca and the dancer Irene Martínez, both of whom are experts in salon dances with a special passion for the danzón, which they were able to transmit to me from the beginning, and also during later trips to Veracruz and visits to the Colonia Salon in Mexico City. From these experiences onward, I started to learn the danzón's rhythms, its form, its melodic outline, and to listen to the old recordings by Acerina and his Danzonera Orchestra. I was fascinated and I started to understand that the apparent lightness of the danzón is only like a visiting card for a type of music full of sensuality and qualitative seriousness, a genre which old Mexican people continue to dance with a touch of nostalgia and a jubilant escape towards their own emotional world; we can fortunately still see this in the embrace between music and dance that occurs in the state of Veracruz and in the dance parlors of Mexico City." The Danzón No. 2 is a tribute to the environment that nourishes the genre. It endeavors to get as close as possible to the dance, to its nostalgic melodies, to its wild rhythms, and although it violates its intimacy, its form and its harmonic language, it is a very personal way of paying my respects and expressing my emotions towards truly popular music. Danzón No. 2 was written on a commission by the Department of Musical Activities at Mexico's National Autonomous University and is dedicated to my daughter Lily.

**City Trees...**The composer says "I had just moved from Arizona to New York City when I began sketching the first fragments of City Trees. After being born, growing up, and living in the desert for 25 years of my life, moving to New York so suddenly was and continues to be one of the most challenging things I've ever done. I think it has also been one of the bravest. I left my friends, my family, and my ridiculously cheap rent all without much planning. Every time I walk down a street in New York, I notice the trees shackled by the sidewalk. Some have little fences around them, many have trash nestled up next to their exposed roots, and others have grown so big and become so strong that they have broken right through the concrete pavement. As I pass beneath them, they all seem to wave their leafy pom-poms in the

wind, a thousand leaves applauding, cheering me on as if I had just returned from the moon. These trees have learned how to brave the concrete jungle, and it gave me solace knowing that they had flourished in such a challenging environment. Over time, the impossibilities of the city have become familiar, and although I continue to learn new lessons everyday, I've slowly begun to assimilate, finding my way around, discovering new places, and making friends while still keeping close with those who aren't close by. The music in City Trees began to take on a growing sense of perseverance, embodied by the expansive melodies that sweep over the pensive, rhythmic undercurrent. For me, City Trees is a reflection of the bravery that it often takes to venture into new worlds, embrace other cultures, and lovingly encourage new ideas. I am deeply honored to dedicate this piece to the Lesbian and Gay Band Association. Although I may never completely understand the unique challenges my friends have faced and had to overcome, I am inspired by the overwhelming courage that has been so firmly planted for 30 years and that continues to grow, perhaps slowly, but always stronger."

Explaining the significance of **Machu Picchu** begins with remembering the Incan empire at its zenith, and its tragic encounter with the Spanish conquistadors. The great 16th century empire that unified most of Andean South America had as its capital the golden city of Cuzco. Francisco Pizarro, while stripping the city of massive quantities of gold, in 1533 also destroyed Cuzco's Sun Temple, shrine of the founding deity of the Incan civilization. While that act symbolized the end of the empire, 378 years later an archaeologist from Yale University, Hiram Bingham, rediscovered "Machu Picchu," a glorious mountaintop Incan city that had escaped the attention of the invaders. At the central high point of the city stands its most important shrine, the Intihuatana, or "hitching post of the sun," a column of stone rising from a block of granite the size of a grand piano, where a priest would "tie the sun to the stone" at winter solstice to ensure its seasonal return. Finding the last remaining Sun Temple of a great city inspired the belief that perhaps the royal lineage stole away to his holy place during Pizarro's conquest. After considering these remarkable ideas, I wished to musically describe that magnificent citadel and trace some of the mysteries sealed in Machu Picchu's past. Three principal ideas dominate the piece: 1) the shimmering golden city of Cuzco set in the dramatic scenery of the Andes, 2) the destructiveness of violent invasion, and 3) the re-emergence of Incan glory as the City in the Sky again reached for the sun.

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## NASSAU-SUFFOLK ALUMNI BAND

**To Soar With Angels...**The most difficult subject matter for any composer is the heartbreaking passing of a beloved person. Gina Pelletiere tragically passed away in the Farmingdale High School bus accident of September 2023. Gina was a spit-fire personality filled with kindness, love, and generosity. She was a respected and beloved colleague and a devoted teacher and mentor to her students. *To Soar With Angels* is a gift in Gina's honor from her Nassau-Suffolk Performing Arts family. The piece was conceived to celebrate her legacy rather than mourn her untimely passing. It consists of two parts - the first being a dignified fanfare, and the second being a lyrical song. This lyrical song develops into a celebratory finale, which we hope will uplift both Gina's legacy and all those who knew and loved her.

This **Old Scottish Melody**, *Auld Lang Syne*, in Scottish dialect means "old long since," or days gone by. This setting was made for Dr. John Gray and his wife, Mary. It was first performed by the Lamar University Symphonic Band at a farewell concert for Dr. Gray upon his retirement as president of Lamar University in December 1976. Charles A. "Pete" Wiley (2 March 1925, Abilene, Texas - 2 June 1992) was an American composer, arranger and educator. Dr. Wiley began school in Abilene, but when his father, Dr. D. O. Wiley became band director at Texas Tech, the family moved to Lubbock where Pete graduated from Lubbock High School in 1942. He attended Texas Tech, earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He received a master's degree in music from the University of Texas, and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Colorado. While attending Tech, Wiley played oboe and was drum major of the Texas Tech Band conducted by his father. He also did undergraduate study in music at the University of Kansas where he assumed the duties of drum major, and played first oboe in the band and orchestra, both conducted by his father's brother, Russell Wiley. Dr. Wiley served a year as oboe instructor at the University of Kansas, and three years as assistant band and orchestra director with Weldon Covington at Austin High School in Austin, Texas. In 1952, he became director of bands at Lamar Tech, later to become Lamar University, in Beaumont, Texas.

**Othello** is one of many works by Reed written for band. Reed's first composition, inspired by William Shakespeare's *Othello*, was for the University of Miami's Ring Theater. This was scored for 16 brasses and three percussion. There are parts of this work incorporated in the wind band score. Ithaca College Band, as part of the Memorial Commission Series, commissioned this work for Walter Beeler. The work was published in 1976. The Ithaca College Band then premiered *Othello* on October 12, 1977. The symphonic portrait for concert band/ wind ensemble is written in five scenes to reflect different moods from scenes in the play. The first movement, *Prelude (Venice)*, sets the militaristic mood that characterizes most of the play. This section is preceded by a quote, "The tyrant custom hath made the flinty and steel couch of war my thrice-driven bed." The second movement, *Aubade (Cyprus)*, reflects Act III, Scene I, as referenced by the quote preceding the movement "Good Morning, General." This is a light movement that depicts musicians playing under the window of *Othello* and *Desdemona*. The third movement, *Othello and Desdemona*, is a heartfelt and tender section. The movement is preceded by the text "She loved me for the dangers I had passed, and I loved her that she did pity them." This is from *Othello's* speech to the Venetian Senate in Act I. The fourth movement, *Entrance of the Court*, reflects on Act IV, Scene I. This depicts *Othello's* outrage towards *Desdemona* when he strikes her in front of the court. Above this movement is the text "Behold, the Lion of Venice!" These words are spoken by Iago, the antagonist, while he is mocking *Othello*.

# PROGRAM NOTES

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## NASSAU-SUFFOLK HONOR BAND

**Amber Moon...**A mysterious opening leads to a driving theme propelled by a rhythmic low wind ostinato. The energetic melody features syncopation and strategically placed accents to convey the power of the piece. The composer writes: "Dedicated to Saki, my best friend."

**Scarborough Fantasy** is a hauntingly beautiful composition for band, featuring exquisitely original and traditional melodies with lush harmonic construction. The composers have created a multi-layered setting based on the traditional English folk song, Scarborough Fair. This inspiring work features a variety of sections in a modern take on a timeless classic.

**Abacadabra...**The composer writes: "The piece is dedicated to my son, and is at once playful and serious, innocent and mischievous. A sense of mystery pervades as the dark key of G minor is balanced by sudden shifts to bright and sunny major keys. Throughout the composition, I was thinking about magic, not in an evil or frightening sense, but as a source of fun and fantasy. My wonderfully playful, sometimes mischievous young son was always in the back of my mind, as were images of Halloween with its costumes and jack-o'-lanterns. As the piece nears its conclusion, the music rushes toward what seems to be an explosive finish. But the woodwinds interrupt, fanning out to a questioning whole-tone cluster. They are answered by a puff of sound, a final disappearing act."

**Appalachian Journey...**The Appalachians, stemming from Maine to Tennessee, represented one of America's first frontiers, and frontier music became one of the first truly American forms of musical expression. Promising opportunity, the region of Appalachia attracted hard-working immigrants, mostly from Britain, who settled and brought with them folk music from their homelands. Instrumental music became very important to these communities, who would come together for dances, and the single most important instrument was the fiddle. Appalachian Journey is a medley of four infectious fiddle tunes and was composed for the Cooper Middle School Band in Mclean, VA. This composition provides both players and audiences a real toe-tapping treat! The tunes included are: "After the Battle of Aughrim" and "Lord Mayo I," both Irish in origin, and "Bonaparte Crossing the Rocky Mountains" along with "Whiskey Before Breakfast," adapted from old-time fiddle tunes.

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