

FORBES CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

School of Music

presents the

JMU Symphonic Band

Chris DeVona, *conductor*
Hannah Caraker, *graduate conductor*
Augusta Nafziger, *soprano*
Ryan Walker, *piano*

Thursday, February 27, 2025

7:30 pm

Concert Hall



There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Program

Motu MUC Christopher Buchanan
(b. 1984)

Shared Spaces Viet Cuong
(b. 1990)

Undertow John Mackey
(b. 1973)
Hannah Caraker, *graduate conductor*

March in B-flat, op. 99 (arr. Yoder) Sergei Prokofiev
(1891-1953)

15-Minute Intermission

Points of Departure Roshanne Etezady
(b. 1973)

Augusta Nafziger, *soprano*

Ryan Walker, *piano*

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personal computers, and any other electronic devices.

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of this production is strictly prohibited
in adherence with Federal copyright laws.

Symphonic Band Personnel

Chris DeVona, *conductor*

Hannah Caraker, *graduate assistant*

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Vanessa Britton – Madison
Gabriel Bryson – Salem
Emily Hughes – Honolulu, HI
*Emma Lisson – Bethlehem, PA

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

*Jasper Dirks – Fredericksburg
Lynette Salins – Fairfield

BASSOON

*Hannah Gerick – Virginia Beach
Miguel Resendiz-Perez – Elkton

CLARINET

*Jona Benson – Stephens City
Maxwell Cooper – Charlottesville
Clara Jacob – Fredericksburg
Samuel Sheehan – Round Hill
Grey Simpson – Fredericksburg

BASS CLARINET

Delaney Starkey – Fredericksburg

ALTO SAXOPHONE

*Tyler Huffstetler – Weyers Cave
Jaylen Swafford – Virginia Beach

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Luke Lerner – Virginia Beach

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Iris Leffler – Mechanicsville

TRUMPET

*Chris Atkinson – Charlottesville
Charlotte Connolly – Sykesville, MD
Nathan Domine – Round Hill
Connor Fink – Ashburn
Daniel Huggins – Mechanicsville
Liam Meadows – Henrico
*Max Parrish – Woodbridge

HORN

Ethan Boswell – Herndon
*Kendall Hicks – New Kent
Jake Hix – Fredericksburg
James Carsner – Burke
Jacob Taylor – South Riding

TROMBONE

*Gabriel Caballero – Winchester
Thomas Murphy – Hanover
Eli Marshall – Williamsburg
William Shanahan – Warrenton

BASS TROMBONE

Gavin Torrence – Forest

EUPHONIUM

*#Hannah Caraker – Tampa, FL
Andrew Donaldson – South Riding
Zachary Kovats – Stafford

TUBA

Zikeria Gray – Richmond
*Jackson Lee – Waynesboro
Ian Wallace – Annandale

BASS

Grey Sheridan – Houston, TX

PIANO

#Shkurte Gashi – Prishtina, Kosovo

PERCUSSION

Benjamin Domanski – Stroudsburg
Logan Douglas – Tucson, AZ
Andrew Harper – Aldie
Rowan Lane – Williamsburg
Levi Rosenberry – Front Royal
*Ryan Secrist – Harrisonburg

*Denotes principal/co-principal

#Denotes graduate student

The James Madison University Symphonic Band uses a rotational seating system to emphasize the importance of each performer. Therefore, each section is listed in alphabetical order

Program Notes

Motu (2022)

Motu was written for the Midwest Clinic at the request of Capt. Kenneth Collins, and has proven quite the exciting addition to wind band repertoire. The title comes from the Latin term meaning "of motion" and was inspired by Buchanan's interests in running and pop music. In his words:

The only time I can think is when I'm moving. To this end, I've also been influenced by the process and pulse-based music of Steve Reich and Terry Riley, as well as Zack Browning, one of my professors at the University of Illinois, who encouraged me to embrace my first love, popular music, in more classical forms of composition.

I also endeavored to explore the nature of motion, at least in my own experience. In some sections, the motion itself acts as the primary force driving the work forward. During others, overlapping, independent lines written in phase impart a sense of stillness to the work, the goal of which being to completely obscure the pulse. Given all the factors above stated, not only do I find myself most able to concentrate while I'm in motion, but it's frequently the time I feel most at peace.

- *Program Note from United States Navy Band concert program, 19 December 2022*

Shared Spaces (2024)

Shared Spaces was commissioned by Dr. Eric Laprade and Dr. Colleen Sears for the Wind Ensemble of The College of New Jersey for The Artivism Project: Life After Loss. My goal in writing this piece was to convey some part of my own experience with loss in such a way that might resonate with others, as perhaps an antidote to the loneliness that accompanies loss, the piece insists on its performers coming together. The performers are asked to crossfade on almost every note, essentially handing off their sound to each another in brief shared moments. These notes coalesce in simple, overlapping harmonies, creating further shared spaces within a piece that I humbly offer as a sanctuary for collective healing.

- *Program Note from score*

Program Notes - *continued*

Undertow (2008)

Though many of his pieces are extremely virtuosic, *Undertow* is the first of Mackey's works written specifically for intermediate band. It was commissioned by the Hill Country Middle School Band and premiered by that ensemble with its conductor, Cheryl Floyd, in May 2008. The work is significantly different than much of Mackey's output in terms of technical difficulty, but many characteristic elements of his writing are nonetheless present, including biting semitone dissonance within a tonal context, frequent use of mixed meter, heavy percussion effects and, perhaps most importantly to this work, a pervasive ostinato. The metric pattern for the piece is an alternation of 7/8 and 4/4 time, which provides an agitated "out-of-step" pulsation throughout. The energetic opening melody cycles through several repetitions before washing away into a gentle stream of percussive eighth notes. From here, a countermelody emerges that slowly ratchets the energy back up to its original level, where the initial melody returns to round out the explosive conclusion.

- *Program Note by Jake Wallace*

March in B-flat, op. 99 (1944)

Written towards the close of World War II, this work captures the military spirit common in so many contemporary Russian works from this period. Prokofiev's tendency to employ humor in his compositions is very evident in this march, which is optimistic in mood and humorous in execution. Sounding like music fit for the most colorful big-top circus show, this work is not the militaristic somber exposition that listeners might expect from an embattled Russian composer -- but it is consistent with Prokofiev's early works.

Considering the music from the societal comedy, *For the Love of Three Oranges*, and the farcical music for the film score of *Lieutenant Kijé*, it is little wonder that such mischievous and vibrant music flowed from Prokofiev's pen. Written in a time when there was little to be optimistic about, this work was the forerunner of a long-delayed and much happier time.

- *Program Note from Baylor University Wind Ensemble concert program, March 2, 2020*

Program Notes - *continued*

Points of Departure (2010)

Points of Departure is a 15-minute song cycle, performed without pause, that uses the theme of different modes of travel as a unifying factor through the voices of four different personae.

The first character is the travel agent. We catch the agent during a day at the office; the phone keeps ringing, and she has to deal with some rather difficult customers. In the second movement, we hear from a teenage girl who is about to take her driver's license test. The third movement begins with an amateur pilot musing on famous female pilots who died tragically young, but achieved incredible goals at an early age. The final movement features a cruise ship entertainer. Working as a musician on a cruise ship seems like it would be a fun, glamorous job, until one thinks about the extreme working conditions. Singers can bank on singing several shows every night, rehearsing during the day, and living for weeks in close quarters with a roommate they may or may not enjoy. While their audiences are there to enjoy themselves, singers are hard at work, away from home for weeks or months at a time, basking in the spotlight when time allows.

Points of Departure was premiered by the West Point Band on March 12, 2010, at the College Band Directors National Association Eastern Division convention in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

- *Program Note from Heritage Encyclopedia of Band Music*

Woodwind, Brass, & Percussion Faculty

Beth Chandler Cahill	Flute
Jeanette Zyko	Oboe
Šarūnas Jankauskas.....	Clarinet
Sue Barber	Bassoon
David Pope	Saxophone
Chris Carrillo	Trumpet
John Abbracciamento	Trumpet
Ian Zook	Horn
Andrew Lankford	Trombone
Kevin J. Stees	Euphonium/Tuba
Casey Cangelosi	Percussion
Aaron Trumbore	Percussion

JMU Band Program Personnel

Chris Cicconi	Director of Bands
Scott D. Ridders	Director of Marching Royal Dukes/ Associate Director of Bands
Chris DeVona	Assistant Director of Bands/ Director of Pep Band
Amy Birdsong.....	Lecturer
Kirk Weaver	Administrative Assistant
Hannah Caraker.....	Graduate Assistant
Josh Holsinger.....	Graduate Assistant
Josh Sheppard	Graduate Assistant

School of Music Staff

Dr. John Allemeier	Director, School of Music
Dr. John Peterson	Associate Director, School of Music
Dr. William Dabback	Director of Graduate Studies
Dr. Jeremiah Padilla	Administrative Assistant
Sarah Macomber	Operations Coordinator
Kimberly Velazquez	Executive Assistant
Donna Wampler	Program Support Specialist

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