

Illinois State University
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
School of Music

Symphonic Band

Professor Lauren Bobarsky, *conductor*
Colby Powers, *graduate conductor*

Symphonic Winds

Dr. F. Mack Wood, *conductor*
Wesley Anderson, *graduate conductor*

Center for Performing Arts
September 30, 2025
Tuesday Evening
8:00 p.m.

This is the thirteenth program of the 2025-2026 season.

Program

Please silence all electronics for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

His Honor Henry Fillmore
(1881-1956)

American Riversongs Pierre LaPlante
(1943-2024)

Shine Michael Markowski
(born 1986)
Colby Powers, *graduate conductor*

With Love and Grace Nicole Piuanno
(born 1985)

Aquarium Johan de Meij
(born 1953)
I. Allegretto grazioso
II. Andante
III. Finale

~ Intermission ~

Pegasus John Wesley Gibson
(born 1946)

Goodnight Moon Eric Whitacre
(born 1970)
trans. Verena Möesenbichler-Bryant

After a Gentle Rain Anthony Iannaccone
(born 1943)
I. The Dark Green Glistens with Old Reflections
II. Sparkling Air Burts with Dancing Sunlight
Wesley Anderson, *graduate conductor*

First Suite in Eb Gustav Holst
(1874-1934)
I. Chaconne
II. Intermezzo
III. March
ed. Colin Mathews

Capricho Kevin Day
(born. 1996)

Program Notes

His Honor

Duration - 3'

Some of Fillmore's marches, overtures and novelty pieces were composed especially for his own band of professional musicians, organized in 1927 in Cincinnati. His Honor, composed in 1933 and published the following year, was one such favorite of both his band members and audiences alike. The title refers to Mayor Russell Wilson, a man who impressed the composer with his sense of humor as well as his executive ability. With its unexpected melodic and rhythmic changes and its various performance possibilities, *His Honor* is still one of Fillmore's most popular marches

Program notes by Norman E. Smith, "Program Notes for Band"

American Riversongs

Duration - 6'

This marvelous work is a moving tribute to an earlier time, when our rivers and other waterways were the lifelines of our growing nation. Featuring *Down The River*; *Shenandoah (Across The Wide Missouri)*; *The Glendy Burk* and a delightful Creole bamboula tune.

Program notes from publisher

Shine

Duration - 5'

Shine is an exploration of brighter instrumental colors within a world of softer, more muted textures. For me, the imagery of light becomes all the more striking when rationed against these darkly romantic landscapes.

You can hear this sort of rationing throughout the piece. For example, the piece begins with a tight, sustained three-note cluster that is meant to induce a kind of quiet, harmonic friction. The saxophones enter first, flickering, and are soon joined by the French horns, whose flutter tonguing intensifies the aural electricity. The rhythmic and melodic energy builds to several short, brighter moments, but these joyful moments don't stay long as we quickly submerge back into the more meditative tones.

Shine was composed in 2010 and received its premier performance by the Rhoads Junior High School Band in Mesa, Arizona, Keith Kuczynski,

conductor, on May 18, 2010. I humbly dedicate the piece to the Rhoads band program, my own alma mater.

Program notes by composer

With Love and Grace

Duration - 3.5'

With Love and Grace is a musical representation of a closing salutation. It can be a way of saying thank you or expressing honor for a special occasion. It can be a way of expressing forgiveness or saying goodbye. It can also signify the closing of a chapter in life. The music captures the complex emotions that often accompany these significant life changes or important moments.

Commissioned by Lake Travis High School. Premiered at the 2024 Midwest Clinic.

Program notes from score

Aquarium

Duration - 9'

The suite Aquarium is Johan de Meij's third composition for symphonic band and features six tropical fishes, each of them represented by a motif, and surfacing as such in several guises. The composition consists of three movements, of which the second and third merge uninterruptedly into each other.

1. Allegretto grazioso (Neon Tetra, Electric Eel and Angelfish)
2. Andante/Adagio (Sea Horse and Zebra fish)
3. Finale: Allegro giocoso (Guppy & Co.)

The neon tetra motif functions as a kind of 'leitmotiv' and describes the beautifully coloured, frisky fish: A number of variants have been derived from this theme and will also appear in the other movements. The electric eel is fact is not represented by a motif, but by a rhythm based on the restless electric pulses made audible in some aquaria. The angel fish is represented by elegant chord clusters.

In the second movement the sea horse emerges out of the water vegetation and starts a dialogue with the zebra fish, which is represented by one melodic phrase in unison getting more and more threatening by adding parallel fifths and octaves. Simultaneously with the sea horse motif the neon tetra theme emerges, this time in 3/4 time and in Eb minor.

The third movement starts with only two instruments (trumpet and xylophone), but as it is often the case with guppies, their number rapidly increases. Piccolo and alto saxophone introduce the guppy theme, followed by several instrumental combinations. Every theme from the first movement 'swims by' once more, after which the principal motif leads us to a brilliant ending.

Aquarium was commissioned by the Dutch Music Foundation "Fonds voor de Scheppende Toonkunst."

Program notes from score

Pegasus

Duration: 1:50'

Pegasus is the winged horse of Greek mythology that carried his rider into many daring exploits. Zeus rewards his heroism by making him a constellation in the stars. In Medieval times he became the symbol of wisdom and remains one of the most recognized icons in the world today. This fanfare for band is from *The Spirit Sleeping*, written in celebration of the life of Howard Dunn.

Program notes from publisher

Goodnight Moon

Duration: 4:15'

Over the past few years I must have read *Goodnight Moon* to my son a thousand times -- maybe more. Somewhere around reading number 500, I began hearing little musical fragments as I read, and over time those fragments began to blossom into a simple, sweet lullaby. I knew it was a long shot, but I asked my manager, Claire Long, to contact HarperCollins and see if they would allow the text to be set to music. To my surprise and delight they agreed -- the first time they had ever allowed *Goodnight Moon* to be used in such a way.

I composed the piece relatively quickly, originally setting the text for harp, string orchestra, and my son's mother, soprano Hila Plitmann. I later arranged *Goodnight Moon* for SATB choir and piano. More recently, my dear friend Verena Mösenbichler-Bryant arranged the piece for wind ensemble and soloist.

The melody of ***Goodnight Moon*** will forever make me think of those quiet nights, reading my son to sleep.

Program notes by Composer

After a Gentle Rain

Duration: 6:30'

After a Gentle Rain is a work in two contrasting movements – the first quiet, meditative and introverted and the second sparkling, dance-like and extroverted. The work is dedicated to Max Plank and the Eastern Michigan University Symphonic Band.

The first movement – *The Dark Green Glistens With Old Reflections* – begins with a gently rippling arpeggiated figure containing the main harmonic and melodic idea of the entire piece: two superimposed major triads. The figure subtly changes color as it migrates through various registers, spacings, and doublings. While the external shape of the sextuplet seems frozen, one can hear an internal, textural progression of changing resonance qualities. Against this backdrop is painted a wide spectrum of both dark and bright mixtures of soft brass, reeds, and percussion. Those colorful mixtures constantly redefine the background and foreground of this introverted scenario.

The play on words in the title suggests images of light reflecting off moist green foliage, in turn evoking reflections “off” old memories in a quiet, meditative context. Memories, images and colors become bolder and more powerful, culminate in a climax and gradually recede into the past with the same delicate afterglow of soft bell sounds heard in the opening measures.

The movement *Sparkling Air Bursts with Dancing Sunlight* is extroverted and dance-like in nature. The movement gallops with the joy and freshness that seems to fill the air after a gentle rain. The cleansed air sparkles with a sense of rebirth and the celebration of life.

Program notes by Norman E. Smith, “Program Notes for Band”

Capricho

Duration: 5:50'

Caprichio is an energetic piece that explores the unpredictability of the human mind. Commissioned by the Minnesota Symphonic Winds and their director, Dr. Timothy Mahr. Through Capricho, composer Kevin Day invites the audience to embark on a musical journey that mirrors the fleeting and emotional rollercoaster that is the mind. With sudden starts and stops and mood changes, this piece will spark your imagination and spontaneity.

Biographies

Professor Lauren Bobarsky currently serves as Assistant Director of Bands at Illinois State University where she directs the Symphonic Band, University Band, Pep Band, and assists with the Big Red Marching Machine. Lauren is also the Camp Director for the ISU Junior and Senior High Summer Band Camps.

Prior to her current position, Lauren was the Music Undergraduate Admissions Coordinator at Illinois State University. She worked closely with the admissions process for prospective students auditioning into the School of Music. Lauren was also the Drumline Instructor for the Illinois State University Big Red Marching Machine where she regularly arranged the drumline parts for the organization and oversaw all operational logistics for the drumline.

Lauren was previously a graduate teaching assistant at Illinois State University where she received her master's degree in Wind Conducting and studied with Dr. Anthony C. Marinello, III. While at ISU, Lauren worked extensively with the wind bands, athletic bands, and taught undergraduate conducting. In 2022, Lauren was awarded the CBDNA Mike Moss Conducting Grant.

Before serving in her current position at ISU, Lauren was a 5th through 12th grade band director and drumline instructor at several schools throughout Central Illinois. Her most recent position was serving as Director of Bands at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington, IL. Lauren is an active conductor, clinician, and percussion adjudicator and continues to serve the music education community as the Percussion Coordinator for the Illinois Music Education Conference.

Lauren graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Music Education. Lauren holds memberships with The National Band Association, National Association for Music Education, Illinois Music Education Association, Percussive Arts Society, and Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys spending time with her husband Kevin and doggies Pumpkin and Thunder.

Dr. Mack Wood is in his sixth year the Associate Director of Bands and Director of the Big Red Marching Machine at Illinois State University. Prior to his appointment at ISU, he was a graduate assistant and pursuing a Doctor of Music and Arts degree in Wind Conducting at The University of Miami, Frost School of Music where he studies primarily with Dr. Robert M. Carnochan. Mack also has the great fortune to learn from Dr. J. Steven Moore, conductor of the Frost Symphonic Winds and Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Professor Jay C. Rees, Director of Athletic Bands, and Professor Douglas McCullough, Assistant Director of Athletic Bands. At the Frost School of Music, Mack has the

opportunity to assist, and guest conduct the Frost Wind Ensemble, Frost Symphonic Winds, and co-conducts the University Band with his fellow graduate colleagues. Mack also has the opportunity to assist with all aspects of the Frost Band of the Hour marching band, including arranging some pep band charts.

Prior to his time at The University of Miami, Mack was a Graduate Assistant pursuing a master's degree at Louisiana State University where he studied Wind Conducting with Dr. Damon Talley, Dr. Dennis Llinás, and Dr. Kelvin Jones. He assisted with and guest conducted the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, co-conducted the LSU Chamber Winds, worked with all aspects of The Golden Band from Tigerland marching band, and with the Bengal Brass athletic band. Mack had the great fortune and opportunity to arrange music and design drills for both Tigerband and the Bengal Brass.

Before attending graduate school, Mack was the Director of Bands at North Forney High School just east of Dallas, TX. He opened North Forney High School and created the band program in 2009 where he oversaw all operations of the high school bands and middle school feeder program. Opening a high school was a special opportunity for Mack to learn how to build a band from the ground up. While at North Forney High School, Mack's ensembles received numerous awards and accolades, but most importantly, many of his students continued on to participate in music beyond high school.

Mack earned his undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin in Music and Human Learning. While at UT, Mack served as the drum major of the Longhorn Band from 2003-2005 and as a trumpet section leader in 2002. Once Mack graduated from UT, he was an assistant director at Irving Nimitz High School in the DFW metroplex and then moved to be an assistant director at Forney High School just east of Dallas, TX. An active adjudicator, clinician, music arranger, and drill designer, Mack truly loves all aspects of the wind band world. In his spare time, Mack enjoys cooking and bar-b-que (they are very different according to him), playing golf, and spending time with his wife Rachel and daughter Imogen.

Colby Powers has a bachelor's degree in music education with a minor in Jazz Studies from Illinois Wesleyan University. He currently attends Illinois State University as he pursues his Master of Music in Wind Band Conducting. His duties include assisting with the Big Red Marching Machine, Pep Band, assisting with undergraduate conducting courses, as well as guest conducting the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, and University Band. While his primary instrument is the clarinet, he has also taken lessons and performed on the alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, and bassoon. Colby has played in Orchestras, Wind Ensembles, Jazz bands, Jazz Combos, and Musical Pits at both the collegiate level and as a gigging musician. Professionally, Colby has made a name for himself in Bloomington-Normal as a jazz band director, private studio

teacher, performer and conductor. Since 2023, Colby has been an Assistant Jazz Band Director with the Normal West High School jazz bands, where he directs the “Jazz Katz” ensemble. In Spring 2024, Colby added an additional jazz band position as a Jazz Director at George Evans Junior High. In both positions, Mr. Powers has been responsible for leading and scheduling rehearsals, choosing appropriate music, and preparing for performances. Outside of teaching in public schools, Colby also is the Program Manager of the Bloomington-Normal Youth Orchestra based in Bloomington-Normal as well as the conductor of the Concert Orchestra in the Youth Music Illinois Program based in Peoria Illinois. Colby also runs a personal studio, currently made up of over 14 students all from a wide variety of backgrounds. Colby is also a teacher through Illinois Wesleyans preparatory program which supplies lessons to local kids in the Bloomington-Normal Area. As an up-and-coming music educator Colby strives to inspire his students to follow their passion and go find what makes them happy in this world.

Wesley Anderson is a conductor, educator, and bassist currently serving as a Graduate Assistant with the Illinois State University Band Department. Wesley also serves as a Sergeant and Musical Performance Team Leader with the 144th Army Band, where he has led over 50 missions, revived the Big Band, and conducted and composed for major civic events, including the Illinois Polish Freedom Day Ceremony. Wesley’s military education includes the Army School of Music Advanced Individual Training (earning a Distinguished Honor Graduate award), Basic Leaders Course (earning Commandant’s List honors), and Advanced Leaders Course (earning a Distinguished Honor Graduate and Distinguished Leader awards).

An active educator, Wesley earned his master’s in teaching from Western Illinois University and directed the award-winning music program at ROWVA High School from 2022–2025. Wesley doubled student participation in music every school year, secured full program funding to make music free for all students, led ROWVA to its first top three finish in the IHSA, and founded the district’s first Tri-M Music Honor Society. Wesley’s ensemble consistently earn superior ratings at contests. Wesley earned Teacher of the Year for his district and the Illinois State Board of Education’s Award of Meritorious Service.

A summa cum laude graduate of Berklee College of Music in Film Scoring and Composition, Wesley was awarded the prestigious Wachter Fellowship while in his undergraduate studies. Wesley has recorded over 50 film and video game projects, performs regularly as a jazz musician and with the Knox-Galesburg Symphony, and is an active conductor, clinician, composer, arranger, and drill designer. Wesley remains committed to fostering a community of musicians who show up, bring a positive attitude, and have fun making music together.

Illinois State University Symphonic Band

Professor Lauren Bobarsky, *conductor*

Flute

Peyton Cheek, Bonne Terre, MO
Sarah Cosenza, Ellsworth
Maya Denic, Arlington Heights
Catherine Harrison, Libertyville
Adele Mau-Bridges, Kankakee
Arya McClintock, Normal
Viktor Medina, Joliet
Rylan Oreta, Plainfield
*Paul Pituch, Barrington
Madison Ulanowski, New Lenox

Oboe

Elizabeth Abbott, Streator
Marion Casey, Woodridge
*Marilyn Ochoa, Belvidere

Bassoon

Jaz Argueta, McHenry

Clarinet

Carly Bridgewater, Eureka
Mia Buchheister, Park Ridge
David Burmann, Streamwood
Anna Cagwin, New Lenox
*Casper Faltz, Oswego
Audrey Hjerpe, Winfield
Pat Griffin, Warrenville
Stacey Schroeder, Aurora
Will Scudder, Freeport
Ryan Rubio, Oak Forest
Xavier Blanco, bass, Plainfield
Brooke Czopek, bass, Orland Park

Saxophone

Jon Dioneo, Norridge
Jack Hawkins, Lombard
*Abram Kamm, Villa Park
*David Lukaszczyk, Glenview
Kalli Reeves, Villa Park
Andrew Shadel, Schaumburg

Horn

Levi Antoniuk, Bloomington
*Caleb Baca, Normal
Franklin Daviau, Tinley Park
Emerson Ford, Arlington Heights
Avery Mayoral, Rock Falls
Will McNally, Bartlett
Sammie Wagner, Granville
Julez Windham, Wood Dale

Trumpet

*Tyler Belan, East Moline
Payton Byers, Macomb
Grace Comeaux, Huntley
Payton DeWitt, Sandwich
December Estes, Danville
Emily Gleason, Montgomery
Matthew Lee, Tremont
Grace Morris, Dallas, GA
Lauren Wallace, New Lenox
Matt Weaver, New Lenox

Trombone

Sean Creighton, Naperville
Lily Culp, Franklin, IN
Caden Ford, Decatur
*Keaton Empey, Morton
Brian Jones, Belleville
Kiya Henderson Willis, Schaumburg
Raymond Churchill, bass, Plainfield
Riley Hobart, bass, Palos Heights

Euphonium

*Zander Cremer, Elwood
Philip Johnson Jr., South Holland
Josephine Welko, Bolingbrook
Angel Trader, Litchfield

Tuba

*Paul Gazze, Tinley Park
Aidan Hanley, Mackinaw
Rachel Goodman, Phoenix, AZ
Eugene Howard, Aurora
Nathan Klaas, Highland

Percussion

Brendan Boss, New Lenox
*Jack Cacciabondo, Arlington Heights
Casey Judge, Schaumburg
Emily Mobley, Algonquin
Lily Pelo, Staunton
Harry Plohr, Libertyville
Lucas Piazza, Quincy
Cooper Rademacher, Bloomington

Piano

Cheisa Goulart, Bagé, Rio Grande do Sul,
Brasil

*Denotes Principal or Co-Principal

Illinois State University Symphonic Winds

Dr. Mack Wood, *conductor*

Flute

Isabella Budinko, O'Fallon
Mallory Dennis, Pontiac
Cassie Floyd, Crystal Lake
Chou Jui-Chien, Taipei, Taiwan
Sam Kapus, Crystal Lake
*Jess Noga, Orland Park

Oboe

*Campbell Manning, Brighton, MI
Kathryn Tepen, Carrollton

Bassoon

Sam Skinner, East Moline
*Kirk Whitsitt, Bloomington

Clarinet

Olivia Ariza, Houston, TX
Kaden Filson, O'Fallon
Peyton Fox, Lacon
Benito Huizar-Carillo, Lafayette, IN
Ben Keene, Shorewood
● Jenna Klockenga, Hudson
Thaddeus Spencer, Homer Glen
Lucas Vergara, Joliet
Nick Wagner, Schaumburg

Saxophone

Quinn Barker, Metamora
*Alexander Cosat, Danville
Megan Daniels, Geneseo
*Caitlin Fallert, Brookfield
Chris Olson, New Lenox
Natalie Pearson, Mt. Prospect
Gunnar Tejes, Campus

Horn

Spencer Armistead, Germantown Hills
John Danz, Hampshire
Abigail Heischmidt, Effingham
*Hunter Johanson, Woodstock
Elizabeth Purk, Palos Hills
Adelaide Webb, Des Plaines
Jessica Wenc, Palos Hills

Trumpet

Olivia Burgan, St. Charles
Leonard Dozier, Collinsville
Braden Lueking, Rochester
*Allison Schmuldt, Lombard
Andrew Sniegowski, Aurora
Jordan Story, Aurora
Liam Tipple, Ottawa
Ezra Tirado, Chicago
Aiden Whitehead, Bloomington

Trombone

Azalea Morgan, Oak Park
*Alyssa Greer, Lemont
Angelina Kekev, Geneva
Rylan Anderson, bass, Danville

Euphonium

*Nora Lacey, Grayslake
Isabelle Pray, Le Roy
Alison Richards, Manteno
Alexa Sobieszczyk, Plano

Tuba

Jack Fritz, Newburgh
*Lilly Hartley, Moline
Emily Kinder, Bloomington
Lucas Logacho, Lombard

Percussion

Bridget Hagen, Winfield
Alex Harper, Metamora
*Kyle Heissler, Bloomington
Christian Luedtke, Peoria
Jayden Rohr, Minooka
Abbey Schiller, Round Lake

Piano

Xinyi Li, Shenyang, China

*Denotes Principal or Co-Principal