# Oklahoma City Symphonic Band Dr. Mark G. Belcik, Conductor presents

## Soaring!

Featuring
Young Artist Competition Winner
Isaac Marks, trumpet

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 7:30pm

Yukon Fine Arts Center 850 Yukon Ave Yukon, OK

www.okcband.org



Dr. Mark G. Belcik is the Associate Dean of the Wanda L Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University, a position he has held since 2001. He holds degrees in Music Education from The University of Michigan, a Master's in Horn Performance from The University of Oklahoma and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting from The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Belcik's teaching experiences include appointments at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was the Associate Director of the Longhorn Band, the

University of New Mexico, Valdosta State University, Bear Creek High School (CO) and Ardmore High School (OK). His high school bands have earned national recognition and won sweepstakes awards in Oklahoma and Colorado. Dr. Belcik is an active clinician, judge and guest conductor. He has conducted All State and Honor Bands in several states and has presented clinics at State, Regional and National Conventions. He currently serves as the Principal Conductor and Music Director of the Oklahoma City Symphonic Band, and is past President of the Oklahoma Association of Music Schools. He is on the board of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra and Oklahoma Concert Band Foundation.



Isaac Marks plays the trumpet and is a Junior at Carl Albert High School. He is a two-time all-stater in Orchestra and Jazz and has made the CODA/OSCDA Regional Honor Band for the last four years. He also plays for his school's top jazz band, is a member of his band's leadership team, and is a member of the Oklahoma Youth Jazz Ensemble. Isaac plans to major in music in college and wishes to take his trumpet playing to the professional level someday.

## Thank you to the following individuals and businesses whose financial contributions help support our band.

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Dr. Barbara Masters Daryle Plemmons

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David Craig

Louann Dillard

Dr. Robert Smith

#### Oklahoma City Symphonic Band

Piccolo
DeLee Francis \*
Lauren Hampton
Flute

Ivy Douglas
DeLee Francis \*
Wendy Fruendt
Lauren Hampton
Sonie Liebler
Candi McDonald \*
Katie Messerly
Martha Stone \*

Cathy Voorhies Oboe

Ned Hughes Bonnie Jump Eugene Steinberg

Clarinet
Fran Ayres
Nancy Baxter
Cathy Birchall
Warren Cadwell
Betty Cain
Jonathan Craig

Nancy De Graff Sherry Di Jorio Cyndi Gustafson \* Lexi Harris Diana Jones Sharon Kieklak

Chelsea Madden Kathy Rattan Hollis Taylor

Tasmin Williams

<u>Bass Clarinet</u>

Kristen Kirch

Daryle Plemmons

Bob Qualls

Bassoon
Joan Baird
Martin King
Kathryn McKinney \*
Robert Smith
Alto Saxophone
Jennifer Fessler
Alan Harvey
Drew Hoelscher \*

John Humphreys Tenor Saxophone Faye Sullivan \*

Robert Westbrook \*
Baritone Saxophone

Nathan Leonard Trumpet

Mike Banowetz Gary Childers Marshall Douglas

Mike Forcina Drew Harris Erin Purnell

Joshua David Smith Stacy Southerland Larry Taylor Kendall Wahpepah Ben White

French Horn
Tommy Chau
Mary Ellen Davis
Louann Dillard
Jenny Beth Jones
Mike Luther

Barbara Masters Lacy Rice Shari Rose Rick Spence Trombone Jeffrey Cain

Kimberly Donnelly \*
Kevin Fruendt

Jesse Hadley Louis Hemphill Myles Madden Matt Sanders Garv Shults

Ross Thanscheidt Jonathan Whitford Duncan Woodliff

Bass Trombone

Kimberly Donnelly <u>Euphonium</u>

Dennis Beringer Rebecca Reyes Phyllis Smith

<u>Tuba</u>

Connor McCain Richard Moore Robbie Rattan Jared Salisbury Percussion

Paul Dodson Cole Llanusa Vega Martinez Owen Moore Eric Odland Tia Self

Jackson Young Harp

**Emily Duncan** 

<sup>\*</sup> Oklahoma Concert Band Foundation Board Member

#### Oklahoma City Symphonic Band Dr. Mark G. Belcik, Conductor Soaring! Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 7:30 pm Yukon Fine Arts Center

Where Never Lark or Eagle Flew James Curnow

Rocketship! Kevin Day

Concerto Alexander Arutiunian

transc. Guy M Duker

Isaac Marks, trumpet

Intermission

Midway March John Williams

transc. Paul Lavender

Hymn to the Infinite Sky Satoshi Yagisawa

Fly Me To the Moon Bart Howard

arr. Takashi Hoshide

Soaring with John Williams John Williams

arr. Robert W. Smith



## Become an individual or a corporate sponsor of the Oklahoma Concert Band Foundation, Inc.

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band is an all volunteer band. While there is no charge for concerts we welcome support. Financial support for the band goes toward promoting concert band music in the Oklahoma City metro area, audience development, guest artists, personnel costs, concert venues, equipment and hosting our annual Young Artist Competition.

Corporate sponsors will have their business information listed on our website and your ad will be printed in all concert programs throughout the concert series. Individual sponsors will be listed as contributors in the programs.

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For information about sponsoring or making a donation, visit our website at www.okcband.org.

You may also make a tax deductible contribution at any level by mailing a check payable to the Oklahoma Concert Band Foundation to this address:

Oklahoma Concert Band Foundation, Inc. PO Box 721406 Oklahoma City, OK 73172-1406



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#### **Instrument Donations**

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band has an instrument donation program. We currently assist school programs with donated instruments. Instruments will be put to good use. If you are interested in making a donation, contact us via e-mail at info@okcband.org.

#### **Our Mission**

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band's mission is to provide a challenging and enriching musical experience for its members, to offer quality concerts for the community, and to inspire future generations of musicians.

#### Thank you to our host

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band members wish to thank our hosts, the Yukon High School and Middle School Bands. Yukon directors James Rivera and Tanner Brown have been very gracious to our band. Thank you for promoting and encouraging band music in our community!

## Upcoming Oklahoma City Symphonic Band Concerts

#### Blanchard's Independence Day Celebration

Thursday, July 3, 2025 at 8:30pm NE 10th St and Highway 62 Blanchard, OK 73010

#### **Summer Concert In the Park**

Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 7:00pm Chisholm Trail Park 500 W Vandament Ave Yukon, OK 73099

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Links to original publications of all program notes and biographies are included after each note to credit source. The notes included here are minorly adapted in some instances but otherwise are true to the original published version.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr., was 19 years old when he was killed in action on December 11, 1941. Magee was born in Shanghai, China, to an American father and a British mother, who both worked as Anglican missionaries. He came to the United States for a visit and, due to the war, was unable to return to Europe. The U.S. had not yet entered the war, so Magee joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. A poem in a letter to his parents shortly before his death has become a classic and the inspiration for this composition.

James Curnow was commissioned by the Graduates Association of Tenri High School Band in Nara, Japan, to write a piece for concert band in honor of its 50th anniversary. Curnow composed *Where Never Lark or Eagle Flew* with the subtitle, "Based on a poem by John Gillespie Magee, Jr".

High Flight

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward, I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
Where never lark, or even eagle, flew;
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

- Program Note by Austin (Texas) Symphonic Band concert program, 7 February 2015 (program note and biography reproduced from the Wind Repertory Project)



James Curnow (b. 1943, Port Huron, Mich.) is an American composer.

Curnow received his first musical instruction in the public schools of Michigan and The Salvation Army Instrumental Programs. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree from Wayne State University and a Master of Music from Michigan State University, where he studied conducting with Harry Begian and euphonium with Leonard Falcone. Curnow studied composition with F. Maxwell Wood, James Gibb, Jere Hutchinson, and Irwin Fischer.

He has taught all areas and levels of instrumental music and has received numerous awards for teaching and composition: the Outstanding Educator of America (1974), the Citation of Excellence from the National Bandmaster's Association (1980), the Volkwein Award (1977 & 1979), the Ostwald Award (1980 & 1984), and the International Competition for Original Compositions for Band (1985).

Currently he resides in Kentucky, where for years he was the owner of Curnow Music Press, Inc. He also serves as Composer-in-Residence Emeritus for Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky.

**Rocketship!** is an energetic concert piece formed by two sections which express energy in different ways. The first is composed of short rhythmic patterns that start quietly before building to the end of each phrase. The second section introduces a marching snare drum solo accompanied by open fifths, known

as power chords, in the winds. Brief motives accompany the sustained power chords, but quickly dissipate as a new motive begins. The different sections shrink as the composition develops until they are played one after the other at the very end.

- Program Note by Cole Hairston for the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, University Band concert program, 18 November 2021

The work was commissioned by and dedicated to Paul Rosales, Director of Bands at William James Middle School, and the students of the William James Middle School Band Program, Fort Worth ISD.

- Program Note from score



Kevin Day (b. 23 February 1996, Charleston, W. Va.) is a composer, conductor, producer and multi-instrumentalist from Arlington, Texas.

Day's father was a prominent hip-hop producer in the late 1980s, and his mother was a sought-after gospel singer, singing alongside the likes of Mel Tormé and Kirk Franklin. Kevin Day plays euphonium and tuba, and is a self-taught pianist and composer.

He received a Bachelor of Music degree in euphonium/tuba performance from Texas Christian University (TCU), studying under Richard Murrow for tuba and euphonium and Dr. Neil Anderson-Himmelspach and and <u>Till MacIvor Meyn</u> for composition. He holds a Master of Music in Composition from the University of Georgia, studying with composers <u>Peter Van Zandt Lane</u> and <u>Emily Koh</u>, and conductor Cynthia Johnston Turner.

Day, whose music often intersects between the worlds of jazz, minimalism, Latin music, fusion, and contemporary classical idioms, has more than 150 compositions. A winner of the BMI Student Composer Award and other honors, his works have had numerous performances throughout the United States, Russia, Austria, Australia, Taiwan, South Africa, and Japan. His works have been programmed by the Boston Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, and more. Day has collaborated with the likes of Steven Cohen, Jens Lindemann, Demondrae Thurman, and Jeremy Lewis on concertos for their respective instruments, as well as chamber ensembles like Ensemble Dal Niente, The Puerto Rican Trombone Ensemble, The Zenith Saxophone Quartet, The Tesla Quartet, and many more. He has worked with and has been mentored by distinguished composers Gabriela Lena Frank, Frank Ticheli, John Mackey, William Owens, Julie Giroux, Marcos Balter, Anthony Cheung, Matthew Evan Taylor, and Valerie Coleman.

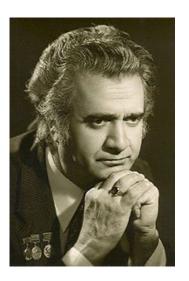
He is the composer-in-residence for the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra in Mesquite, Texas, for their 2019-2021 seasons, and is currently [2022] assistant professor of composition at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Day is also one of eight founding members of the Nu Black Vanguard, a composers collective dedicated to the promotion and advancement of Black composers in the medium of music. Mr. Day began studies for his DMA at the University of Miami (Fla.) in the fall of 2021. In 2024 he joined the faculty at the University of California San Diego as a lecturer in theory and musicianship.

- Bio from composer website

Arutiunian conceived the main theme for his **Trumpet Concerto** in 1943. Like most of his themes, it first came to him while he was asleep. He was encouraged to complete the work by a longtime friend, Zolak Vartasarian, who was principal trumpet in the Yerevan Opera Orchestra. Unfortunately, Vartasarian died in the war that same year, and the concerto was not completed until 1950. It was premiered then by Timofei Dokshizer in Moscow. The movements are *Andante, Allegro energico, Meno mosso,* and *Allegro*. A long virtuoso cadenza brings the concerto to an abrupt but stylish close.

Since Arutiunian composed this work (also known as *Concerto in A flat*), it has continued to grow in popularity. In 1990-1991, for example, it led a list of eighty-two solos performed by approximately 150 professional, faculty, and student members of the International Trumpet Guild.

- Program Note from Program Notes for Band



Alexander Arutiunian (b. 23 September 1920, Yerevan, Armenia - 28 March 2012, Yerevan) was an Armenian composer.

He studied composition at the Komitas Conservatory in Yerevan, Armenia, and was at the Moscow Conservatory with Ilya Litinsky, Nikolai Ivanovich Peyko, and Viktor Zuckermann. He was music director of the Armenian Philharmonic (1954-1990) and taught at the Yerevan Conservatory beginning in 1965. His compositions include concerti for flute, oboe, piano, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and violin as well as an opera, a requiem and various film scores.

- biography reproduced from the Wind Repertory Project

Guy Duker (1916-1998), conductor, composer, and arranger, appeared as a guest conductor for many high schools and Universities throughout the country. Mr. Duker began his career as the supervisor of music and the director of bands in the Highland and Alton public schools in Illinois for a total of fifteen years before he joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in 1953. He was the associate director of bands and a professor of music at the University of Illinois until he retired in 1978.

Mr. Duker published many music transcriptions for bands, which have been performed throughout the world. He continued transcribing orchestral music for bands until his death. The words he wrote for the march, "Illinois by Goldman", are sung by the Marching Illini every time they march to the stadium for home football games.

Mr. Duker was a member of the College Band Directors National Association and served as secretary-treasurer, national vice president and national president of the association. He also was a member of the University Club, the University President?s Council, the University Quarterback Club, the University Rebounders Club and the First United Methodist Church of Champaign.

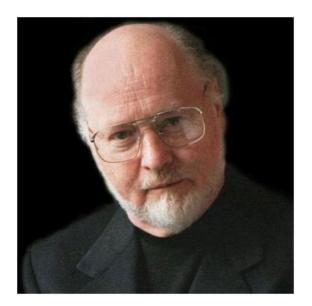
- from the University of Illinois archives

The Battle of Midway was a victory that some say was the turning point of the U.S. war against Japan during World War II. The jaunty nature of the march celebrates the victory but omits the high cost of a battle. The victory was so important to American morale that the name found its way into the lexicon of the country. Chicago's Midway Airport, for example, was named for the battle. Key to the victory was the breaking of the Japanese Naval encryption codes. The war had been going badly for the U.S. and the Japanese planned to deliver a devastating blow to finish off the U.S. fleet at Midway. However, due to the

U.S. Signals Intelligence breaking the Japanese encryption code, the U.S. was able to plan a counterattack that led to eventual victory, although with great loss of U.S. life.

Williams references the code in his march with a repetitive set of staccato notes in the brass. The march was composed in 1976 as part of the soundtrack for an epic movie. Despite its big-name cast, the movie was not a smashing success, but in June 1992, a more successful re-edit of the extended version aired on the CBS network commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Midway. Regardless of the success of the film, the score produced one of Williams's most popular marches, *Midway March*.

- Program Note by the Austin (Texas) Symphonic Band concert program, 7 February 2015 (program note and biography reproduced from the Wind Repertory Project)



John Towner Williams (b. 8 February 1932, Floral Park, N.Y.) is an American composer, conductor, and pianist.

Born just one month shy of the death of <u>John Philip Sousa</u>, the son of a jazz drummer, Williams studied piano and composition at the University of California at Los Angeles and The Juilliard School in New York City. By the time he was in his late twenties, Williams was an active jazz and studio pianist and began composing music for television and films. In 1974 he met an ambitious young director named Steven Spielberg, and the two forged a friendship that would prove to be one of the most successful partnerships in the history of filmmaking. That year, the pair worked together on a film called *Sugarland Express* starring Goldie Hawn and a year later teamed up again for *Jaws*. It wasn't long before Williams' music garnered international attention unlike any American composer since Sousa.

In a career that spans six decades, Williams has composed many of the most famous film scores in Hollywood history, including *Star Wars, Superman, Home Alone*, the first three Harry Potter movies, and all but two of Steven Spielberg's feature films, including the *Indiana Jones* series, *Schindler's List, E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Jurassic Park* and *Jaws*. He also composed the soundtrack for the hit 1960s TV series *Lost in Space*.

Williams has composed theme music for four Olympic Games, the NBC Nightly News, the inauguration of Barack Obama, and numerous television series and concert pieces. He served as the principal conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra from 1980 to 1993, and is now the orchestra's laureate conductor.

Williams is a five-time winner of the Academy Award. He has also won four Golden Globe Awards, seven BAFTA Awards and 21 Grammy Awards. With 45 Academy Award nominations, Williams is, together with composer <u>Alfred Newman</u>, the second most nominated individual after Walt Disney. He was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame in 2000, and was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004.

Paul Lavender is an American composer, music businessman and arranger.

Lavender studied music theory and composition at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, where he obtained both his Bachelor of Music, 1973, and Master of Music degrees. At this institute he also taught music theory, sight singing and ear training. During this period, he also started his first arrangements for the Central Michigan University Marching Band, then led by Norman Dietz and Jack Saunders. In 1980 he became an arranger and collaborator at the music publishing house Jenson Publications, and in 1989 he joined the music publishing house Hal Leonard Corporation in the same position. He is currently [2021] vice president of instrumental publications. In addition to numerous adaptations of classical music for wind orchestras, he also wrote his own compositions for this orchestral form, as well as chamber music and pedagogical works.

- Biography reproduced from the Wind Repertory Project

*Hymn to the Infinite Sky* is a tone poem based on the words of the conductor of the school band who commissioned the work:

The sky has to be a symbol of peace. However, there is sky where combat planes are flying when children look up. That is very sad. I wish there would be no more conflict on the Earth. I hope that children all over the world will hold onto their dreams towards the sky. I pray to the infinite sky for world peace.

- Program Note from publisher

Commissioned by the Nihama Primary School, Ichikawa City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan. Shinichiro Tagawa, conductor of the school's wind band, hopes that this piece will be performed by many bands, and that the audience will feel peace and compassionate through listening to it.

- Program Note from score



Satoshi Yagisawa (b. 3 April 1975, Iwate Prefecture, Japan) is a Japanese composer.

Yagisawa was graduated from the Department of Composition at Musashino Academia Musicae, and later completed the master's coursework at the graduate school of Musashino Academia Musicae. He studied composition under <a href="Kenjiro Urata">Kenjiro Urata</a>, Hitoshi Tanaka, and Hidehiko Hagiwaya, in addition to studying trumpet under Takeji Sekine and band instruction under Masato Sato.

His compositions for wind orchestra are popular in Japan and many other countries. They were introduced in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*, published by GIA Publications in the United States, published by De Haske Publications in Holland and Bravo Music in America, selected as a compulsory piece for the University of North Texas Conductors' Collegium, and performed at the 12th World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) in Singapore and the Midwest Clinic (2008) in Chicago.

In Japan, he has composed music for National Arbor Day, National Sports Festival, Japan Intra-High School Athletic Meets as well as numerous leading ensembles in Japan. Yagisawa was appointed Ceremonial Music Director for the National Sports Festival 2010 in the State of Chiba, Japan. He is one of the most energetic young composers in Japan today. Amongst Yagisawa's major works for winds are *A Poem for Wind Orchestra - Hymn to the Infinite Sky; Machu Picchu: City in the Sky - The mystery of the hidden Sun Temple;* and *Perseus - A Hero's Quest in the Heavens.* In addition to his band compositions, he has composed for several other genres, including orchestral, chamber, and choral works.

- Biography reproduced from the Wind Repertory Project

**Fly Me to the Moon,** originally titled *In Other Words*, is a song written in 1954 by Bart Howard. Kaye Ballard made the first recording of the song the year it was written. Since then, it has become a frequently recorded jazz standard often featured in popular culture; Frank Sinatra's 1964 version was closely associated with the Apollo missions to the moon. It is also used in the Japanese animated series Neon Genesis Evangelion as the closing music at the end of each episode.

- Program Note from Wikipedia

Takashi Hoshide (b. 1962, Yamaguchi, Japan) is a Japanese composer. Hoshide played trombone and conducted bands during school days. During his stay University, he became engaged with the possibilities of the synthesizer and therefore built at home a whole studio with some computers. After his studies, he first worked for a music publisher and independently composed music for wind band. In addition to the concert band music he composed musicals and works for ceremonies.

**Soaring with John Williams!** You can't think of outstanding film scores without thinking of composer John Williams. Three of his melodies that soar both literally and figuratively have been selected for this work. Themes featured are: *Superman March, Cadillac of the Skies* and *Star Wars March*.

- Program Note from publisher (reproduced from the Wind Repertory Project)

Robert W. Smith (24 October 1958, Daleville, Ala. – 21 September 2023, Montgomery, Ala.) was an American composer, conductor, arranger and educator.

He attended high school in Daleville, after which he left for Troy State University, where he played lead trumpet in the Sound of the South Marching Band. While at Troy, he studied composition with Dr. <a href="Paul">Paul</a> Yoder. Upon his graduation from Troy State with a Bachelor of Music Education degree, Smith pursued his musical career in South Florida, where he earned the master's degree in media writing and production from the University of Miami, while studying with Dr. <a href="Alfred Reed">Alfred Reed</a>.

Mr. Smith has over 600 publications in print, with the majority composed and arranged through his long association with Warner Bros. Publications and the Belwin catalog. He serves as the Director of Product Development for C. L. Barnhouse and Walking Frog Records.

Mr. Smith taught in the Music Industry program at Troy University in Troy, Ala. His teaching responsibilities were focused in music composition, production, publishing and business. In addition, he was a managing partner and conductor/producer for American Audio Unlimited, an audio production company specializing in recordings for concert band and orchestra.

- Biography reproduced from the Wind Repertory Project