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Oklahoma City Symphonic Band

Dr. Mark G. Belcik, Conductor

Dr. Sophia Ro, Guest Soloist

Celebrating Heroes!

A concert to honor our American Veterans!

Thursday, November 9, 2017

7:30pm

Oklahoma City University

Margaret E. Petree Recital Hall

Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center

2501 N Blackwelder Ave

Oklahoma City, OK 73106





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Veterans in our Band

In 1969, I graduated in May from East Central State University, got married in June and in August got my first job as band director for Capitol Hill HS. By Thanksgiving I was a member of the U.S. Army Reserve in the Vietnam War era. I was trained to fight but never saw the battlefield. Instead I saw the effects of what happened to many of those who did see it. My job was to play Taps at soldiers' funerals in Texas and Oklahoma and also performing in the concert, jazz and dance bands and the military parades. I didn't fully feel the impact and importance of Taps until my own dad's funeral in 2008. He had been a bomber pilot in WWII and the Korean War, and as the Taps farewell was being played and the U.S. flag was presented to me for him, I felt a deep sense of comfort and appreciation for this simple tribute to service paid to one's country. I understood that when I played Taps at a military funeral, I represented the whole country in saying goodbye and thanks to someone who had served. Although the bugle Taps was a call to "go to sleep", most veterans also know the words behind the funeral Taps' poignant and beautiful notes: "Day is done, gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh. Fading light, dims the sight, and a star, gems the sky, gleaming bright. From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night. Thanks and praise, for our days, neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky. As we go, this we know, God is nigh."

Gary Childers, Trumpet

TECH. Sgt. EUGENE F. CLOSE
271ST Infantry, 69th Division
August 1943 to December 1945

My father was raised on a farm in Kansas, near Abilene, Kansas, which was also the boyhood home of Dwight D. Eisenhower. General Eisenhower and my grandfather played high school football together. At the age of 20, my father enlisted in the Army. Previous to enlisting, he had worked for a defense contractor servicing military radar and radio equipment. When he enlisted, the Army noted his prior experience and assigned him to further training in radar and radio communications. Training complete, he was shipped with the 69th to the U.K. in late 1944. While in the U.K. one of his assignments was to repair the radio on General Eisenhower's vehicle. In early 1945 the 69th crossed the channel into France, then onto Belgium and finally Germany. My father never talked about the fighting, but he did have pictures of his buddies in the towns they passed through – all very exotic to a Kansas farm boy. He did share one memory. This was the liberation of prisoners from a death camp. He was proud to be part of the liberation but horrified by the inhumanity of the camps. He stayed in Germany until early 1946 and was discharged in April 1946. My entire family is proud that my father was one of the Greatest Generation and served to keep us free. Unfortunately he left us too soon, passing away in April 2004.

Kathryn McKinney, Bassoon



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.



Sophia Ro is an active recitalist, chamber musician, clinician and passionate educator. Since 2013, Dr. Ro has been an adjunct professor of violin and a member of the faculty string quartet in the Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University. She has appeared as an active violinist in the Oklahoma City area joining as a regular member at the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, the professional chamber ensemble *Tactus* and the professional jazz ensemble *City Cabaret*. She also performed on a faculty recital during the Distinguished Artists Series at Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Music Teachers Association, and performed as a featured soloist with Oklahoma Youth Orchestra and Oklahoma Virtuosi.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Sophia began her career as a featured soloist with the Seoul Symphony Orchestra and the Korean Chamber Orchestra while she was at the Kae-Won Arts High School in Korea. In 1996 she studied with Hyo Kang at the Aspen Music Festival, after which she decided to continue her studies in the United States. In 1999 Sophia moved to New York City to study with Lucie Robert, Curtis Macomber, and Grigory Kalinovsky at the Manhattan School of Music, where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in violin performance. She continued her music education at the Boston University with Yuri Mazurkevich. She continued her studies at the University of North Texas under the direction of Julia Bushkova and obtained a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Violin Performance. Dr. Ro has held Teaching Assistantship positions at the University of North Texas as a member of the Conductors' Quartet and the Nova Quartet ensemble, where she premiered numerous contem-

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Celebrating Heroes!

A concert to honor our American Veterans!

Dr. Mark G. Belcik, Conductor

Dr. Sophia Ro, Violin

Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 7:30pm

Governor's Honor Guard-Oklahoma National Guard

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SSG James Skrapka

SPC Austin Vasicek

MSG-Master Sergeant

SSG-Staff Sergeant

SPC-Specialist

Star-Spangled Banner

John Stafford Smith
Arr. John Philip Sousa

Marche Militaire Francaise

Camille Saint-Saens
Trans. Mark Hindsley

At Dawn They Slept (December 7, 1941)

Jay Bocook

Hymn to the Fallen

John Williams
Arr. Paul Lavender

Second Suite for Military Band in F Major

Gustav Holst

I. March

II. Song without words "I'll love my Love"

III. Song of the Blacksmith

IV. Fantasia on the "Dargason"

Intermission

Armenian Dances Part 1

Alfred Reed

Theme from Schindler's List

John Williams
Arr. Calvin Custer

Sophia Ro, violin

Chimes of Liberty

Edwin Franko Goldman

Armed Forces Salute

Arr. Bob Lowden

porary works and was selected to be on a recent released CD by the composer Adriana Manas. Dr. Ro's interest in Baroque music led her to pursue an Early Music minor degree at the University of North Texas. There she studied Baroque violin with Cynthia Roberts and actively performed in the UNT Collegium, chamber music recitals, master classes, and music festivals such as the International Baroque Institute at Longy and the Boston Early Music Festival.

Dr. Ro has been invited to give violin faculty recitals and master classes at schools such as San Francisco State University, Sacramento State University, the Booker T. Washington High School, High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Summer String Camp at Fort Smith Public High Schools, the University of North Texas Summer String Program (internship), and the Kae-won Arts High School in Korea. Sophia is a music director of the violin ensemble "OCUsticks" (*Acoustics*) at Oklahoma City University.

PROGRAM NOTES



March Militaire Francaise (1880) French composer Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921) showed an early aptitude for music and began attending the Paris Conservatoire at age thirteen. He was a talented organist and pianist and showed an interest in composition from a young age. In 1857, he was appointed organist at La Madeleine Church where he remained for 20 years. You have heard some of Saint-Saens' best-known orchestral compositions: "Carnival of the Animals" often played during children's orchestra concerts; the magnificent "Symphony No. 3

(Organ)", and "Danse Macabre", long a staple of horror movies' sound tracks. As an avid traveler, Saint-Saens made his first trip to Algeria in 1873, and it became a favorite destination. This work is the final movement of the 4-movement "Suite Algerienne". It is a traditional French march that uses only mild melodic references to traditional Algerian music. 'Marche Militaire Francaise' has become a favorite stand-alone piece, especially for the concert band. Sousa often performed a transcription of the Marche.



At Dawn They Slept (December 7, 1941) (2002) President Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered this declaration that to this day remains: "A date that will live in infamy—" the attack on Pearl Harbor bringing the United States into the Second World War. American composer and arranger Jay Bocook (1953) has written this musical tribute to the fallen heroes of that fateful day. Opening with a peaceful, flowing woodwind melody, the day is heralded in by a lone bugler. Ominous undertones, powerful scoring, dissonant themes, and bombastic percussion capture musically

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the chaos that followed. It is a memorable musical statement that concludes ultimately on an optimistic note that looks to a brighter future. Bocook has been director of Bands at Furman University and was recently inducted into the American Bandmasters Association and the Drum Corps International Halls of Fame. He served as chief arranger for the ten-time world champion, the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps, and currently serves in a similar role for the Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. He also composes music exclusively for a select group of high schools.



Hymn to the Fallen (1998) from the movie "Saving Private Ryan," John Williams (1948-) arranged by Paul Lavender is a beautiful, melodic piece behind scenes of heroic soldiers and the horrors of war. The piece often features a choir of singers. It plays during all the credits of the Academy Award-winning movie and was performed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus.

Composer John Williams was born in New York and moved with his family to Los Angeles in 1948. He attended UCLA. After serving in the Air Force, Williams returned to New York to study piano with Madame Rosina Lhevinne at the Juilliard School of Music. Then, moved back to LA where he began his career in the film music industry. In 1980, Williams became the conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. After his illustrious 13-year career, Williams is still composing film music. In a career that spans five decades, he has become one America's most accomplished and successful composers for film and for concert stage. (from www.johnwilliams.org)

Arranger and composer Paul Lavender is Vice President of Hal Leonard Corporation's Instrumental Publications. His recent association with John Williams has produced the prestigious Signature Series featuring Williams's authentic film scores and concert music. A prolific writer, Lavender had produced over 1,000 arrangements and compositions for the educational concert repertoire, including wind bands. Lavender transcribed "Hymn to the Fallen" for concert band in 1999. (from www.halleonard.com)



Second Suite for Military Band in F Major (1911) British composer Gustav Holst (1874-1934) used the traditions of Elizabethan folk music, infused with early 20th-century compositional techniques, to form a British style based on melody. In 1911, when this Suite was written, concert wind band music consisted of reductions of pieces originally scored for orchestras. Thus this suite was revolutionary in that it was written exclusively for wind band and is considered Holst's first step toward achieving his goal of making the concert band a serious concert medium. He studied at London's Royal

College of Music and spent the early part of his career playing trombone in opera orchestras. He also held teaching positions at both St. Paul's Cathedral Girls School and at Morley College. Holst composed from the very popular folk tunes of the day. Each of the 4 movements featured a particular tune: I. "March" was based on "Morris Dance" and "Swansea Town". II. "Song Without Words, I'll Love My Love" a folk song contrasting with that of the first movement. III. "Song of the Blacksmith" is percussive with mixed meter to emphasize the sounds of a smithy's hammer and anvil. IV. "Fantasia on the 'Dargason'" is based on a 16th century dance tune, "The Dance Master", with variations. The ever-popular "Greensleeves" euphonium solo is interwoven in the whirlwind fantasia finale. Listen for this beautiful theme as the band truly soars!



Armenian Dances (Part I) (1972) is a four-movement suite based on authentic folk songs from the Gomidas Vartabed, the founder of Armenian classical music. Part I is an extended symphonic rhapsody based on five Armenian folk songs. American composer Alfred Reed (1921-2005) has written this piece within the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic parameters of the symphonic wind concert band. Reed is remembered as a distinguished composer, conductor, and educator, specializing in symphonic wind ensemble music. Born in New York City, he began formal music training on the trumpet at age 10, with great interest in composition. After three years at

the Radio Workshop in New York, he spent the next 3 years as a member of the U.S. Air Force during WWII. After the war, he attended the Julliard School of Music. In 1948, he became a staff composer and arranger with NBC, and later, ABC, where he wrote and arranged music for radio, TV, and films. With over 200 published works in all media, Dr. Reed was one of the nation's most prolific and frequently performed composers.



Theme from Schindler's List (1993) When Director Steven Spielberg was in the planning process of this movie, of course he turned to maestro composer John Williams to write the score. He produced an exquisite and poignant theme, often referred to as "a simple, thoughtful inspiring" piece to fit the film. The movie score would win an unprecedented 5th Oscar for Williams.

A famed violinist played the solo in the sound track. So to, our Band will feature a violinist. John Williams (1932-) is one of the most popular and successful American orchestral and wind band composers and arrangers. He is a winner of 5 Academy Awards, 17 Grammys, and 2 Emmys as well as gold and platinum records. From 1980 to 1993,

Veterans in our Community

Anacleus "Gene" Queri



Gene joined the US Airforce in October 1947. He had recently graduated from High School. He did very well in the Armed Forces Entrance Exam so he was offered the opportunity to train as an air traffic controller. For this training, he was assigned to Biloxi, MS.

After completing this initial training, he was assigned for a short time to Frankfurt, Germany as part of the Berlin Blockade relief. He had an opportunity to serve for a period of time in Vienna, Austria. He volunteered for another opening in London, England. Some of the assignments where he served were not exactly tropical or cultural paradises. He experienced tour assignments to Labrador, Korea, and Japan. He also had many duty assignments in the United States. In total, Gene served 24 years in the Air Force and retired as a Master Sergeant.

Gene put his military training to good use in his personal life. He worked for 24 years for the FAA training air traffic controllers. After retiring from the FAA, he worked 3 years for the Department of Justice in aviation litigation. He spent another 9 years teaching air traffic control to international students from 13 different countries while he was a contract instructor at the University of Oklahoma.

In addition to this lifetime of service to his country, Gene helped organize and continues to participate as a referee supervisor for the Edmond youth soccer program. Gene and his wife, Janice, have been married for 54 years, reside in Edmond and have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. Gene is an example of a veteran who dedicated his life to his country, his family, and his community.



The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band has an instrument donation program. We currently assist the John Marshall High School band program 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.

Come support the band!

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band is teaming up with The Garage at Britton and May! The Garage will donate 10% of every purchase (including both food and drinks) between the hours of 6:00pm and 9:00pm on **Monday, November 13th.** Every purchase counts and customers do not have to tell them that they are supporting our organization.



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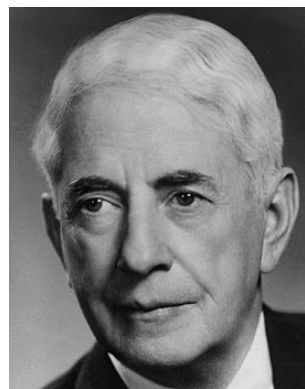
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he served as the conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. He has written many concert pieces and is also known for his themes and fanfares for the 1984, 1988, and 1996 Olympics. His long tenure as the composer of the musical scores for the "Star Wars" movies are familiar to all.



The Chimes of Liberty March (1998) Edwin Franko Goldman (1878-1956) was one of the America's premiere bandmasters. He was born into a musical family and was educated in New York where he studied composition with Antonin Dvorak. He played trumpet in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. In 1911, he formed his own wind band that became known as the Goldman Band, a professional concert band that played concerts in the parks of New York City. He was the founder of the American Bandmasters Association, an important exclusive professional organization for band directors. Through this group, Goldman would commission and premiere numerous new works that are now standard repertoire for wind bands. He was composer as well, with over 150 original works to his name, one of which was "The Chimes of Liberty" (1922) written for the Goldman Band. It has become a standard American march for all wind bands performed by high school, military service bands, and community bands. Featured is the piccolo solo that sounds very much like the "Stars and Stripes" piccolo obligato, and the Chimes solo in the trio is unique. (edited from conductor and music educator Andy Pease notes) Arranger Loras Schissel studied under Frederick Fennell and John Paynter. He currently is the music director and conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra's Blossom Festival Band.



Armed Forces Salute, arranged by Robert Lowden (1930-1998). This ever-popular collection of the U.S. military service songs honoring our active duty and veterans was arranged by Robert Lowden, a prolific composer, arranger, and renowned clarinetist. He penned over 400 advertising jingles in his long career, but orchestra and bands know him for his many arrangements of popular and show tunes. Lowden studied music education at Temple University. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Band, after which he taught music in New Jersey. He wrote for the Somerset record label and its feature group "101 Strings" and was the lead arranger for the Philadelphia Pops at the Music Pier. This spirited

medley salutes each branch of the American Armed Forces with their respective songs. The Army's "Caisson Song"; "Semper Paratus (Always Ready)"; the Coast Guard; "The Marine's Hymn", U.S. Marines; "Off We go in the Wild Blue Yonder, the U.S. Air Force; and the Navy's "Anchors Aweigh". Lowden has written catchy phrases to transition between the songs.

Program Notes by Sonie Liebler

Upcoming Concerts

Christmas Festival Concert
Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 5:30pm
Cherokee Hills Baptist Church
5700 NW 63rd St, Oklahoma City

Spring Concert
Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:30pm
Putnam City North High School
11800 N Rockwell Ave
Oklahoma City, OK

Young Artist Competition Winner Concert
Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:30pm
Putnam City High School
5300 NW 50th St
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