

*Kansas State University*  
*Wind Ensemble*

Dr. Frank Tracz, Conductor

Rich Ebersole, Graduate Assistant Conductor

Ben Rajewski, Graduate Assistant Conductor



November 20, 2024

7:30 PM

McCain Auditorium

**Wind Ensemble**  
**Dr. Frank Tracz, Conductor**

*Symphony for Brass and Percussion* (1952/1967).....Alfred Reed (1921 - 2005)  
Conducted by Ben Rajewski

*Chorale in Blue* (2018).....James Stephenson (b. 1969)

*Fantasie of Passage* (2016/2020).....Marcus Grant (b. 1975)  
Dr. John Kilgore, soloist

*Variations on "America"* (1891/1968).....Charles Ives (1874 - 1954)  
orch. William Schumann  
Conducted by Rich Ebersole

*Deciduous* (2023).....Viet Cuong (b. 1990)

# Wind Ensemble Program Notes

## *Symphony for Brass and Percussion (1952/1967)*.....**Alfred Reed (1921- 2005)**

The *Symphony for Brass and Percussion*, originally completed in the summer of 1952, received its first performance in December of that year at the College Band Directors National Association convention in Chicago, by members of the Oberlin Symphonic Band under the direction of Donald I. Moore, to whom the work is dedicated. It is the composer's second major work for the Wind-Brass-Percussion ensemble, following *Russian Christmas Music*, and represents an attempt at exploring the possibilities for utilizing brass and percussion sonorities in an extended piece.

The music is in three movements. The first opens with a broad introduction in which most of the thematic material of the movement is exposed. The allegro section takes the form of an intensive hard-driven march, but it is in triple rather than the usual duple time. The basic theme, already presented in the introduction, is treated with alternate quartal and tertial harmonies, although it is built mainly in fourths throughout. A quiet, almost chorale-like middle section follows the dying away of this first part, after which the original march-like theme returns and brings the first movement to an ending of great sonority.

The second movement, by contrast, is in three-part song form, beginning with a long, lyrical line in baritone, horn and tuba colorings, which is later taken up by the trumpets and trombones. The second part begins as a six-part fugato developing over pedal point in the timpani. This reaches a high climax which dies away in preparation for the return of the original theme. This is now heard in tuned percussion colors, finally to be taken up again by the original baritone, horn and tuba grouping, bringing the movement to a quiet close.

The third movement is a rondo built on Latin-American rhythms, with the percussion section augmented by three tom-toms, tuned to low, middle and high pitches. It begins with an undulating rhythmic background over which the tubas state a motive which rises higher and higher in register until it is caught up by full trumpets and trombones. This is developed with rhythmic alterations, then dies away, yielding to the second part, which consists of a long lyrical line in canon between the trumpets, set over an inner pedal point figure in the horns. A basso ostinato is sounded by baritone and tuba in octaves. The horns, first in two and then in four parts, take over this theme in turn, followed by trumpets and trombones returning to the first section and its hard-driving rhythms. A short, broadened version of the first theme forms the coda, bringing the movement, as well as the entire Symphony, to a powerful conclusion.

-Program note from score

## *Chorale in Blue (2018)*.....**James Stephenson (b. 1969)**

*Chorale in Blue* was inspired by nothing other than the thought of a dark street at night, perhaps lit up by a solitary street lamp, and the thoughts that might occur in one's mind in such a spot.

It is also an exercise in the blues scale, in several keys, so that the players might have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the constructs of such an important musical root of our American history.

The music is sometimes thoughtful, or sometimes animated, and sometimes gritty, but should always hopefully be fun to play.

-Program note by composer James Stephenson

## Wind Ensemble Program Notes

***Fantasie of Passage* (2016/2020).....Marcus Grant (b. 1975)**

*Fantasie of Passage* is a 2-movement piece about a journey into enlightenment. Movement I is named after the rune "Wunjo", eluding to the harmony of like forces such as family, friendship, and community. Movement II is named after the rune "Raidho", meaning "adventure" or "journey through life".

The Wind Band Version was created via consortium and premiered by the Clover Hill High School Wind Ensemble from Midlothian, VA, Directed by Mrs. Brianna Gatch and featuring Trumpet Soloist Brandon Sklute.

-Program note by composer Marcus Grant

***Variations on "America"* (1891/1968).....Charles Ives (1874 -1954)  
orch. William Schumann**

*Variations on "America"* was originally a composition for organ. Composed in 1891 when Ives was seventeen, it is an arrangement of a traditional tune, known as *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, and was at the time the de facto anthem of the United States. The tune is also widely recognized in Thomas Arne's orchestration as the British National Anthem, *God Save the Queen*, and in the former anthems of Russia, Switzerland, and Germany, as well as being the current national anthem of Liechtenstein and royal anthem of Norway.

The variations are a witty, irreverent piece for organ, probably typical of a "silly" teenage phenom like Ives. According to his biographers, the piece was played by Ives in organ recitals in Danbury and Brewster, New York, during the same year. At the Brewster concert, his father would not let him play the pages which included canons in two or three keys at once, because they were "unsuitable for church performance – They upset the elderly ladies and made the little boys laugh and get noisy!"

This work was transcribed for orchestra in 1964 by William Schuman and for band in 1968 by William Rhodes.

-Program note by composer Charles Ives

***Deciduous* (2023).....Viet Cuong (b. 1990)**

For a long time after my father passed away, I felt like I had "lost my leaves." In the way that leaves harness light to create energy for trees and plants, I felt like I had so little left to harness creatively. Many days I feared those leaves would never grow back. After struggling for months to write, I finally found some healing while creating *Deciduous*. This involved revisiting chord progressions that brought me solace as a child and activating them in textures that I have enjoyed exploring as an adult. The piece cycles through these chord progressions, building to a moment where it's stripped of everything and must find a way to renew itself. While I continue to struggle with this loss, I have come to understand that healing is not as much of a linear process as it is a cyclical journey, where, without fail, every leafless winter is following by a spring.

Thank you to the Florida Bandmasters Association for commissioning *Deciduous* in 2023.

-Program note by composer Viet Cuong

# Kansas State University - Wind Ensemble

## FALL 2024

*listed in alphabetical order*

### **FLUTE**

Laura Bogner  
Sienna DelBorrell  
Anna Peery  
Alexis Rigsby  
Tegan Stratton\*  
Grace Woydziak\*

### **CLARINET**

Angel Amaro\*  
Chloe Crooks  
Erin Flax  
Maddie Murnahan  
Kamryn Myrick  
Abigail Rakes  
Alexis Sutton  
Theresa Wood  
Alexis White

### **BASS CLARINET**

Jordan Culton\*  
Isabelle Mullinax

### **OBOE**

Jalima Diaz  
Natalie Myers\*  
Lucas Reed

### **BASSOON**

Ethan Karnes  
Simon Kirkeby  
Tom Stark\*

### **ALTO SAX**

Mason Ringer\*  
Sara Schieferecke  
Jordan Somers  
Diego Umaña Conejo

### **TENOR SAX**

Keith Carter

### **BARITONE SAX**

Craig Brinkman

### **TRUMPET**

Chase Bond  
Kiersten Glass  
Kyle Grimes\*  
Shelton Lauderbaugh\*  
Caden Roark  
Bryce Schreiber  
Brett Wyckoff

### **FRENCH HORN**

Josie Anderson\*  
Nathan Dembski  
Kendan Powers  
Aspen Tallent

### **TROMBONE**

Ryan Bayliff  
Blake Davis\*  
Jared Eck  
Ben Rajewski\*  
Aidan Torkelson

### **EUPHONIUM**

Joseph Horne\*  
Drake Thompson

### **TUBA**

Lloyd Dodson\*  
Chase Keesling  
Chase Wassom

### **PERCUSSION**

Devon Autry  
Noah Dian  
Houston Fleischmann\*  
Grey Fluke  
Jacob Morgan  
August Siefkes  
Jessi Solorzano  
Jake Wall

\* Principal/Section Leader

## Wind Ensemble Conductor

**DR. FRANK TRACZ** is Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Kansas State University. He earned his B.M.E. from The Ohio State University, M.M. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University. He has public school teaching experience in Wisconsin and Ohio and has also served as Assistant Director of bands at Syracuse University and Director of bands at Morehead State University. Dr. Tracz has served as an adjudicator, clinician, speaker in various schools and conferences and has conducted All-State and Honor bands across the United States as well as in Canada, Singapore, South Africa, Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand.

At Kansas State, he directs the Wind Ensemble and the Marching Band, teaches graduate conducting, acts as an advisor to the Band Ambassadors, and administers and guides all aspects of a large BIG XII comprehensive band program. Ensembles under his direction have been invited to perform at numerous State conferences, MENC, two CBDNA regional conferences, The Larry Sutherland Wind band Festival at Fresno State, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and the American Bandmasters Association Conference. The marching band was awarded the prestigious Sudler Trophy in 2015. The Wind Ensemble has also performed at the International Convention of the American Bandmasters Association in 2019 in Loveland, CO.

Dr. Tracz is on the faculty of the Conn-Selmer Institute, on the adjunct faculty of the American Band College, is a past member of the Music Education Journal Editorial Board, is a contributor to the Teaching Music Through performance In Band series, and is past Chair of the Sudler Trophy Project of the John Philip Sousa Foundation in 2017. His honors include the Stamey Award for outstanding teaching, Kansas Bandmasters Outstanding Director award, Wildcat Pride Alumni Association award, the Tau Beta Sigma Paula Crider Outstanding Band Director award, being named a Lowell Mason Fellow, and membership in the Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Fraternity. He has also received the Conn- Selmer Institute Hall of Fame award, the Kansas State Professorial Performance award, and was elected to the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. Dr. Tracz was awarded an honorary doctorate from Doane University in May 2021. Dr. Tracz also led a very successful fundraising campaign raising over five million dollars for a new hall for the athletics band program. The “Tracz Family Band Hall” opened early spring 2023.

Dr. Tracz is married to Geralyn, and has three daughters, Jessica Tracz Kelly, Kelley Tracz, and Carly Tracz Morris, and one grandson, Caden Tracz Kelly!

## **Guest Conductor**

**RICH EBERSOLE** is a native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, where he majored in Music Education and Jazz Studies. Upon graduating, Rich moved to Arizona to begin his teaching career. Over his ten years of teaching in public schools, he has worked with all levels of students. He taught elementary band, strings and general music for two years before moving to the high school level. He experienced great success in building the band program at Dysart High School, from 11 students to 65 in four years. From there Rich moved to Liberty High School in Peoria AZ, where he again grew the band program from 60 students to just over 120 total students between Marching, Concert and Jazz Bands. Rich is married to Melissa, has a three-year-old son Elliot, and a one-year-old daughter Addison. Rich is currently working with the band program while pursuing his Master's Degree with an Emphasis in Conducting.

**BEN RAJEWSKI** is currently a second-year graduate student pursuing his Master's in Music Degree with an emphasis in Instrumental Conducting. He received his Bachelors in Music Education from Kansas State University in 2020. Ben taught for three years in Winfield, KS, where he was the Director of Bands at Winfield High School and the Assistant Director of Bands at Winfield Middle School. Ben enjoys spending his free time with his dog Peanut Butter, being outdoors, and exercising.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

November 24, 2024  
Marching Band Concert  
Bramlage Coliseum  
6:30 pm

January 24-26, 2025  
K-State Concert Band Clinic

February 28, 2025  
Wind Ensemble @ KMEA  
Wichita, KS  
3:00 pm

March 4, 2025  
Concert Band & University Band Concert  
McCain Auditorium  
7:30 pm

March 5, 2025  
Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony Concert  
McCain Auditorium  
7:30 pm

April 27, 2025  
Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony Concert  
McCain Auditorium  
3:30 pm

April 28, 2025  
Concert Band & University Band Concert  
McCain Auditorium  
7:30 pm

For more information, visit the K-State Bands website or email Courtney Grecu at [cljensen@ksu.edu](mailto:cljensen@ksu.edu)