



Rudi E. Scheidt
School of Music

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS Symphonic Band

presents,

MUSIC FOR A WINTER'S NIGHT

Dr. William Plenk, conductor
Jon Yopp, guest conductor
Erin Duke, guest conductor

DECEMBER 2, 2025 7:00 PM

PLOUGH CONCERT HALL

Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music
Jacob Allen, Interim Director
College of Communication and Fine Arts
Debra Burns, Dean

PROGRAM

Lauds (Praise High Day)

Ron Nelson (1929-2023)

Jon Yopp, guest conductor*

Selections from the Danserye

Tielman Susato (1510/15~1570)

IV. Fagot

arr. Patrick Dunningham

V. Den hoboecken dans

IX. Pavane: LaBataille

Erin Duke, guest conductor†

Nocturne

Zhou Tian (b. 1981)

arr. David Thornton & Zhou Tian

Wild Nights!

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Russian Christmas Music

Alfred Reed (1921-2005)

*In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Masters of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting

†In partial fulfillment of the Doctor of Music degree in wind conducting

PERSONNEL

Flute

Miley Jaimez
Asa Pankewycz
Ellie Pappas*
Jennifer Perez
Natalie Severs

Oboe

Quinn Milne*
Jesus Salazar**

Bassoon

Mollie Coates*
Valeria Ramirez*
Caiden Ross*
Avery Wiggs
Lora Yopp*

Clarinet

Kaden Bailey
David Champlin
Chandler Golden
Onyinye Igboanugo*
Hayden Mitchell
Erin Moore
Jaylon Williams

Alto Saxophone

Alan Blair
(soprano/alto)*
Angel Rubio (alto)
Caleb Hunt (tenor)
Blake Pelayo (bari)

Trumpet

Dallas Banks
Remi Hicks*
Alise Jordan
Owen Kearney
Logan Pack
Mason Stinson
Jacob Turner

French Horn

Elijah Evans
Juan Garay
Kelsey Pegues*
Rhys Roberts

Trombone

Chandler Chrestman
Bilal Muhaimin
Alexis Perez
Constance Robinson*

Euphonium

Marie Bice
Alexander Chan*
Skarlett Wahlquist

Tuba

Christopher Blackston
Alucard Simpson*
Lyle Stephens

Piano

JingYi Bai

Percussion

Willie Castellanos
Benjamin Gravatt
Will Hankins
Jermal Lewis, Jr.
Mia Perez
Mason Threlkeld
J.T. Ungurait
Jesse Wickman*

Piano

Sui Lin**

***Principal Player**

****Guest musician**

PROGRAM NOTES

Lauds (Praise High Day)

Ron Nelson (1929-2023)

Ron Nelson's *Lauds* is a short piece of praise and glorification. Named after one of the seven canonical hours – divisions of the day marked by the prayers that occur during them – *Lauds* specifically, is the hour just following *Matins*, which occurs early in the morning. To this regard, *Lauds* succeeds in evoking the palette of colors in the sky at sunrise. The form of the piece consists of large and spectacular fanfares, interjected by contemplative chorales which transform the piece into a new key for its final declaratory fanfare.

Lauds was commissioned by the United States Air Force Band, who gave its premier at the College Band Directors National Association conference in Charlotte, NC, 1992.

Selections from the Danserye

Tielman Susato (1510/15~1570)

arr. Patrick Dunningham

The Danserye is a set of instrumental dances based on popular renaissance tunes, arranged by Susato and published in 1551 as *Het derde musyck boexken*. With more than 50 individual dances in a variety of forms, the collection is notable for its simple textures and strict homophony. Specific instrumentation is not indicated, thus suggesting that the tunes were performed by whatever combination of winds and strings was available.

Selections from "The Danserye" is a new setting for wind band consisting of nine dances fashioned into an extended symphonic suite. The arrangement utilizes the full resources of the modern wind band, featuring various sections (or consorts of instruments) in alteration with powerful tutti passages. While the wind parts remain faithful to the original material, the dances are energized with a healthy dose of contemporary percussion effects. This blend of sound generates a new but familiar element, thus making something very modern out of music that is more than 450 years old.

The arrangement was created for the Florida State University Symphonic Band and was premiered on April 17, 2002. The professional premiere by the Dallas Wind Symphony, Jerry Junkin conducting, was on November 19, 2002, at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Texas.

- Program Note by Patrick Dunnigan

Nocturne

Zhou Tian (b. 1981)
arr. by David Thornton & Zhou Tian

Expressive and romantic *Nocturne* evokes the feeling of the winter night upon which it was composed. Calm, songlike melodies are passed around between soloists as a lush accompaniment follows in parallel motion, until it arrives at a passionate and expansive climax. This work was originally written as a movement of a string quartet, though, through multiple reorchestrations, including versions for string orchestra and later a wind ensemble transcription by David Thornton. This version has been further arranged by the composer, creating brand new material in the process.

Nocturne was premiered by the Michigan State University Symphony Band in East Lansing, Michigan in 2021. Conducted by Dr. David Thornton.

Wild Nights! is a joyous, colorful seven-minute musical journey inspired by Emily Dickinson's poem:

*Wild nights! Wild nights!
Were I with thee,
Wild nights should be
Our luxury!*

*Futile the winds
To a heart in port,
Done with the compass,
Done with the chart.*

*Rowing in Eden!
Ah! the sea!
Might I but moor
To-night in thee!*

Numerous composers have set the words of *Wild Nights!* to music (Lee Hoiby's song setting and John Adams' *Harmonium* come immediately to mind). However, to my knowledge, no one has used this wonderfully sensuous poem as the basis for a purely instrumental tone poem. This was my aim, and in so doing I focused most heavily on the lines "Done with the compass,/Done with the chart" and "Rowing in Eden!/Ah! the sea!" These words suggested the sense of freedom and ecstatic joy that I tried to express in my work.

Throughout the piece, even during its darker middle section, the music is mercurial, impetuous, optimistic. A jazzy syncopated rhythmic motive permeates the journey. Unexpected events come and go, lending spontaneity and a sense of freedom. The work is composed in five distinct sections, but contained within each section are numerous surprises and a devil-may-care swagger. Surprises are found at every turn, and continue right through the final cadence.

Wild Nights! was commissioned by the California Band Directors Association in celebration of their 50th anniversary.

Russian Christmas Music

Alfred Reed (1921-2005)

Though this work exists as a single, continuous movement, the original conception by the composer had it separated into four labeled scenes: the “Children's Carol”, “Antiphonal Chant”, “Village Song”, and lastly the “Cathedral Chorus.” The piece is permeated by motivic ideas inspired by Eastern Orthodox liturgical and service music, including the ancient Russian Christmas carol: *Carol of the Little Russian Children*. Quiet chorales, celebratory fanfares of chant melodies, lyrical solos, and great hymn-like choruses can be heard throughout this diverse and colorful work.

Russian Christmas Music was written in 1944, commissioned for a special concert in Denver, CO, by a group of musicians from five service bands stationed near the area.

MUSIC BIOGRAPHIES

DR. WILLIAM PLENK, Director

Dr. William Plenk is Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands for the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis. In this role, he oversees the UofM Marching Band and Pep Band, conducts the Symphonic Band, and teaches music education courses.

Outside of the University, Dr. Plenk is active as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. He has worked with concert bands, marching bands, and drum corps from across the United States, Singapore, and Japan, including a three-season tenure with the Tenrikyo Aimachi Marching Band from Nagoya, Japan. Dr. Plenk has presented or conducted at the CBDNA Western/Northwestern and Southern Division Conferences, as well as the CBDNA National Athletic Band Symposium.

Before arriving in Memphis, Dr. Plenk served as Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Nevada, Reno, developing the athletic band program into one of the most respected in the region. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he was Conductor of the UCLA Symphonic Band, Associate Conductor of the UCLA Wind Ensemble, and Associate Conductor of the UCLA Brass Ensemble. He also received a Master of Music degree in tuba performance from UCLA, and a Bachelor of Music degree in tuba performance from Ithaca College.