

NEC Preparatory School

Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble  
Concert Band

&

Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind  
Ensemble

Michael Mucci

*Music Director, Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble*

Alfred Dentino

*Music Director, Concert Band*

Allison Lacasse

*Assistant Director, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensembles*

Monday, May 13th, 2024

7:30 p.m.

NEC's Jordan Hall

*PROGRAM*

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MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT BAND

**Vincent Persichetti**                      **Divertimento for Band, Op. 42**  
(1915-1987)

**Joe Hisaishi**                              **"Howl's Moving Castle" Symphonic Fantasy for Band**  
(b. 1950)  
Arr. by Hiroshi Goto

SENIOR MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

**Omar Thomas**                            **A Mother of a Revolution**  
(b. 1984)

**Warren Benson**                         **The Solitary Dancer**  
(1924-2005)

**Frank Ticheli**                            **Blue Shades**  
(b. 1958)

SENIOR AND CONCERT BAND MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLES

**Percy Aldridge Grainger**              **Country Gardens**  
(1882-1961)  
adapted for band  
by John Philip Sousa  
arr. Brion/Schissel

**Satoshi Yagisawa**                      **Hymn to the Infinite Sky**  
(b. 1975)

**John Philip Sousa**                      **The Stars and Stripes Forever**  
(1854-1932)

# NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Program Notes

## **A Mother of a Revolution.....Omar Thomas**

“A Mother of a Revolution!” is a celebration of the bravery of trans women, and in particular, Marsha "Pay It No Mind" Johnson. Marsha is credited with being one of the instigators of the famous Stonewall uprising of June 28, 1969 - a pivotal event in the gay rights movement of the 20th century. The disco vibe in the latter half of the piece is meant to honor club culture, a sacred space among LGBTQ people in which to love, live, mourn, heal, strategize, connect, disconnect, and dance. This piece was commissioned by the Desert Winds Freedom Band to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

-Program Notes by the composer

## **The Solitary Dancer.....Warren Benson**

Warren Benson described “The Solitary Dancer” as “the quiet, poised energy that one may observe in a dancer in repose, alone with her inner music.”

He also encouraged young composers to:

“take a look at the repertoire and see what’s not there that is present in life. That thought is one of the reasons why I wrote The Solitary Dancer. There just wasn’t any work that was fast and exciting and quiet. Like when a group of people get together and whisper, there is a lot of intensity and excitement, but it never gets loud. It never goes anywhere in that sense. It may bubble and cook but it never really blows the lid off. There are a lot of situations in life like that — just quiet moments.”

Composed for the Clarence Sr. H.S. Band, Norbert J. Buskey, Dir., Clarence, NY & the 20th Midwest Band Clinic, Chicago.

-Program Notes by the composer

**Blue Shades.....Frank Ticheli**

In 1992 I composed a concerto for traditional jazz band and orchestra, "Playing with Fire", for the Jim Cullum Jazz Band and the San Antonio Symphony. I experienced tremendous joy during the creation of "Playing with Fire", and my love for early jazz is expressed in every bar of the concerto. However, after completing it, I knew that the traditional jazz influences dominated the work, leaving little room for my own musical voice to come through. I felt a strong need to compose another work, one that would combine my love of early jazz with my own musical style.

Four years, and several compositions later, I finally took the opportunity to realize that need by composing Blue Shades. As its title suggests, the work alludes to the blues, and a jazz feeling is prevalent -- however, it is not literally a blues piece. There is not a single 12-bar blues progression to be found, and except for a few isolated sections, the eighth-note is not swung.

The work, however, is heavily influenced by the blues: "Blue notes" (flatted 3rds, 5ths, and 7ths) are used constantly; blues harmonies, rhythms, and melodic idioms pervade the work; and many "shades of blue" are depicted, from bright blue, to dark, to dirty, to hot blue.

At times, Blue Shades burlesques some of the clichés from the Big Band era, not as a mockery of those conventions, but as a tribute. A slow and quiet middle section recalls the atmosphere of a dark, smoky blues haunt. An extended clarinet solo played near the end recalls Benny Goodman's hot playing style, and ushers in a series of "wailing" brass chords recalling the train whistle effects commonly used during that era. Blue Shades was commissioned by a consortium of thirty university, community, and high school concert bands under the auspices of the Worldwide Concurrent Premieres and Commissioning Fund.

- Program Notes by composer

**NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble and Concert Band Program  
Notes**

**The Stars and Stripes Forever.....John Philip Sousa**

John Philip Sousa consistently stated that this march was divinely inspired and was born of homesickness. In his autobiography, *Marching Along*, he provides the details of its creation after he had received a cablegram in Italy that his manager, David Blakely, had died:

“Aboard the Teutonic, as it steamed out of the harbor on my return from Europe in 1896, came one of the most vivid incidents of my career. As I paced the deck, absorbed in thought, suddenly I began to sense the rhythmic beat of a band playing within my brain. It kept on ceaselessly, playing, playing, playing. Throughout the whole tense voyage, that imaginary band continued to unfold the same themes, echoing and re-echoing the most distinct melody. I did not transfer a note of that music to paper while I was on the steamer, but when we reached the shore, I set down the measures that my brain-band had been playing for me, and not a note of it has ever changed. The composition is known the world over as *The Stars and Stripes Forever* and is probably my most popular march.” (By permission of John Philip Sousa, Inc., New York City)

Paul Bierley states that *The Stars and Stripes Forever* is “by far the most popular march ever written, and its popularity is by no means limited to the United States.” A ten-year international march popularity survey confirms Bierley’s statement. The universal appeal of Sousa’s march is illustrated by an article in *The New York Times* by Harold Schonberg which tells of a tour to China by Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1973. After sitting politely but stonily through a program which ranged from Beethoven to Copland, the orchestra struck up *The Stars and Stripes*. “All of a sudden electricity permeated the hall. Faces broke into smiles; feet began tapping; there was a general air of understanding and happiness. Maybe,... (it) really is the greatest piece of music ever written by an American. In any case, it has made more friends for America than any other piece of music...”

- Program Notes from Program Notes for Band

# NEC Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Concert Band

Alfred Dentino, Music Director

## *Piccolo*

Isabella (Jace) Sawicka

## *Flute*

Sojeong (Katie) Gu  
Maya Kewalramani  
Hanna Kim  
Maggie Li  
Albert Liu  
Shreya Paranjape  
Sylvia Sakata  
Isabella (Jace) Sawicka  
Vivian Shi  
Addison Zha  
Zilin Zhang  
Emilly Zhou

## *Oboe*

Corinne Foley \*

## *Clarinet*

Rei Brown  
Boyi Cao  
Grace Chen  
Sam Hendrickson  
Ajay Krishnan  
Henry Moriarty  
Leila Mostaghimi  
Sungsan Park  
Lilac Shi  
Quinn Zhao  
Ethan Zhou

## *Bass Clarinet*

Oscar Li

## *Bassoon*

Eli Coleman +

## *Saxophone*

Benjamin Hanna  
Charlotte Johnson  
Ching Hei Andre Leung  
Oscar Li  
Jonathan Peng  
Rohan Sarikonda  
Emily Umholtz

## *Tenor Saxophone*

Vladyslav Dovhan \*

## *Trumpet*

Antonio Fitanides  
Adam Sugarman  
Ko-Te Chen \*

## *Trombone*

Ethan Kim  
Quinn McGillis  
Allie Klaire Ledbetter

## *Tuba*

Peter Lopes

## *Percussion*

Izzy Butler \*  
Doyeon Kim \*  
Felix Ko \*  
Stella Ovcharova +  
Eli Reisz \*

\* NEC College Musician

+ MYWE Peer Mentor

## NEC Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

Michael Mucci, Music Director

### *Flute*

Amanda Chang  
Maria Huang  
Remy Kim  
Seungju (Cindy) Lee  
Yiwen Lin  
Irene Song  
Muzi (Bella) Yu

### *Oboe*

Amanda Wang  
Alexander Zheng

### *Clarinet*

Aidan Chen  
Ultraviolet (Violet) Gates  
Ellie Kim  
Lauren Kim  
Sam Kutsman  
Su Min Pyo  
Silas Schenker  
Deepak Viswalingam  
Feiya Wang  
Ethan Weisman-Kasparian  
Emily Zhou

### *Bass Clarinet*

James Bramley  
Rohan Miovic

### *Bassoon*

Eli Coleman  
Adam Chen \*

### *Saxophone*

Samuel Richman  
Owen Somers  
Conor Zachary Tsang  
Sanket Vankayalapati  
Tian (Jason) Yu

### *Trumpet*

Jack Benson  
Parker Brookins  
Sarah Miksis  
Daniel Shi  
Yuxiang (Gordon) Wei

### *French Horn*

Jonathan Choi  
Erik Hellgren  
Charlotte Lyng  
Abigail Wong

### *Trombone*

Theodore Collins  
Benjamin Conley  
Kyle Pinto  
Joseph Repaci  
Ethan Lehman \*

### *Euphonium*

Siyang Ding  
Amrit Hari Madhav

### *Tuba*

Robert Lowrance  
Lili Rigoulot

### *Percussion*

Elise Dupont  
Denali Enzmann  
Mason Kahn  
August Kim  
Jacob Liu  
Stella Ovcharova

\* NEC College Musician

## **Alfred Dentino**

*Music Director, Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble Concert Band*

Alfred Dentino, an alumnus of Concord-Carlisle Regional High School in Concord, Massachusetts, received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from The Ohio State University in 1976. While at Ohio State, he was principal clarinetist and President of the Ohio State University Concert Band under the direction of Dr. Donald E. McGinnis. He earned his Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Harvard University in 1991 where he won the Crite Prize for his research into the portrayals of musical instruments in ancient Greek Art.

Mr. Dentino has taught in the Columbus, Ohio Public Schools, Wachusett Regional School District in Holden, Massachusetts, the Concord Public Schools, and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District. From 1993 until he retired from public school teaching in 2012, he served as Director of Bands at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School where his responsibilities included directing the Repertory and Concert Bands, Pep Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Bands as well as conducting the Pit Orchestra for the school's annual musical. Under his direction, the CCHS Concert Band earned nineteen gold medals at the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association (MICCA) State Concert Festival. The CCHS Concert Band undertook extremely successful tours of Hokkaido, Japan in 1998, 2004, 2007 and 2010 and the CCHS Jazz Band visited Beijing, China in 2000. The CCHS Concert Band has performed at some of the finest concert venues in the world. Among these are Mechanics Hall in Worcester, Massachusetts, Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood, Symphony Hall in Boston, and Kitara Hall in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. The joint Sapporo and Concord-Carlisle concerts at Symphony Hall (Japan Night At Symphony Hall) in 2003 and 2008 were incredible experiences for both performer and audience member alike.

In retirement, Mr. Dentino continues to teach. He is currently an Emeritus Teacher of Music Theory at Concord-Carlisle, maintains an active private teaching schedule, and is Assistant Director of the Lexington Bicentennial Band. He has served as Treasurer,

Vice-President, and President of MICCA. Mr. Dentino has conducted the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) Western District Festival Band, the All Cape Cod and Islands Band, and the Nashua (New Hampshire) Honors Band. He is the recipient of the MICCA Hall of Fame award for 2001 and continues to serve

MMEA and MICCA as a clarinet and ensemble adjudicator and clinician. Mr. Dentino and his wife, Chris, currently reside in Lancaster, Massachusetts where they operate a small equestrian boarding and riding facility.



## **Michael Mucci**

*Music Director, Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble*

Michael Mucci retired from the Longmeadow Public School System, in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, in 2013, where he taught for thirty-five years, and was Chairman of the Music Department and Director of Instrumental Music at Longmeadow High School. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York, where he was awarded the Undergraduate Teaching Award, the Departmental Scholar Award, and the Crane-McMenamin Scholarship. He also holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Mr. Mucci's Longmeadow ensembles performed at the National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall and Boston Symphony Hall, the National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana, and at the International Association of Jazz Educators Convention. Under his direction, the Longmeadow High School Symphony Orchestra received the 2010 American Prize for Secondary School Orchestral Performance and the Longmeadow High School Music Department was awarded three Grammy Signature Awards by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Mr. Mucci is currently in his twenty-six season as Director of the Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble at the New England Conservatory of Music. Under his leadership, MYWE has performed in the National Band Festival at Carnegie Hall, and was featured as part of "Winds Across the Century," a nationwide wind symposium held at the New England Conservatory of Music. MYWE has also shared the stage with the Metropolitan Winds and the Boston College Wind Ensemble, performed at the National Music Educators All Eastern Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, and toured Italy, performing concerts in Florence, Naples, Rome, and the Vatican City, where they played for Pope John Paul II. Under Mr. Mucci's leadership, MYWE has also performed in Austria, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Scotland, Spain, and Wales.

Mr. Mucci serves as an adjudicator for the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association and has appeared as a guest conductor with festivals throughout New York and New England. He has received the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association and the 2011 Lowell Mason Award from the Massachusetts Music Educators Association for outstanding leadership in music education. He has also received the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award; the New England Public Radio Arts and Humanities Award; the Singer Family Prize for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching, awarded by the University of Rochester; and the Jean Stackhouse Award for Excellence in Teaching, given by the New England Conservatory of Music. Mr. Mucci was elected into the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association's Hall of Fame in 2017. He and his family reside in Longmeadow, MA, where the Longmeadow High School Concert Hall was named in honor of Mr. Mucci on November 24, 2015.

## **Allison Lacasse**

*Assistant Director, Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble*

Allison Lacasse is the Director of Bands at Belmont High School in Belmont, Massachusetts. At the University of Rhode Island, Allison is the Artistic Director of Summer Music Academy Chamber Music Intensive program and the Head Volunteer for the URI Music Alumni Network. Allison is a member of the operational staff for the Western International Band Clinic (WIBC) in Seattle, Washington and the American Band College (ABC) in Ashland, Oregon. At the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, Allison serves as the Assistant Conductor of the Senior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble.

As a professional flutist and chamber musician in Boston, Massachusetts, Allison is a member of the Cambridge Symphony and is a regular substitute within the community music circuit in Boston. Allison maintains a private studio of intermediate and advanced level flute students in the Greater Boston area and serves as an adjudicator and clinician for local area festivals and band programs.

Allison received Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Performance from the University of Rhode Island, where she studied with Susan Thomas. Allison earned a M.Ed. degree from Cambridge College and a Master's Degree in Music Education from the American Band College of Central Washington University. Allison was a semifinalist for the 2017 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. In 2018, Allison was selected among her peers for the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Advocacy Award.

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### Upcoming NEC Preparatory School Large Ensemble Events

**Wednesday, May 15 2024**

Youth Jazz Orchestra

8:00 PM in Brown Hall

**Thursday, May 16th 2024**

Youth Philharmonic Orchestra

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

**Monday, May 20th 2024**

Youth Brass Ensemble &

Junior Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

**Tuesday, May 21st 2024**

String Chamber Orchestra &

Baroque Chamber Orchestra

7:30 PM in Jordan Hall

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contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.  
Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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