Welcome to the 2022-2023 Season opener of the UW Bands in this concert of popular music! Ranging from one of Rossini’s “sins of old age” through band standards and ending with Sousa, we present tunes that are particular favorites of the conductor. Enjoy tapping your foot along with us – that is if you can keep up with us in the last of the Armenian Dances.
Program

La Danza (1835)
Giacchino Rossini
(1792-1868)
arranged by Frank Erickson

Variations on a Korean Folk Song (1967)
John Barnes Chance
(1932-1972)

Meditation from “Thais” (1894)
Jules Massenet
(1842-1912)
arranged by Merle Isaac

March of the Resistance (2015)
John Williams
(b. 1932)
transcribed by Paul Lavender

Old American Songs (1954, band version 2007)
I. The Little Horses
II. The Golden Willow Tree
III. Simple Gifts
IV. Ching-a-Ring Chaw
Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)
arranged by John Moss

Clair de Lune (1890, band version 1995)
Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)
arranged by Tom Wallace

Armenian Dances (1972)
Alfred Reed
(1921-2005)

The Stars and Stripes Forever (1896)
John Philip Sousa
(1854-1932)
edited by Robert Belser
Wind Symphony Personnel
(Listed alphabetically within section).

**Piccolo/Flute**
- Rayne Goins, Sheridan
- Ashlie Gold*, Green River
- Monica Mendoza*, Salinas CA
- Lucas Regnell, Laramie

**Oboe**
- Scarlett Bainbridge*, Cheyenne
- Audrey Johnson, Casper

**Bassoon**
- Katherine Garrett, Rapid City SD
- Daniela Garzón*, Bogotá, Colombia

**Soprano Clarinet**
- Aidan Giraldo, Laramie
- Maren Glasser, Wright
- Jayden Parrill, Littleton CO
- Shawn Peterson, Sheridan
- Lauren Regnell*, Laramie
- Whitney Zigweid, Evanston

**Bass Clarinet**
- Chase Maddox, Cheyenne

**Soprano / Alto Saxophone**
- Colby Turpen*, Nampa ID
- Ryan Larsen, Gillette
- Bradley Walgren, Laramie

**Tenor Saxophone**
- Isabelle Carson, Cheyenne

**Baritone Saxophone**
- Haylie Gavin, Green River

**Horn**
- Kristien Bravo, Oroville CA
- Keaton Phipps, Sheridan
- Lain Prior, Cody
- Lance Reutlinger*, Buffalo

**Trumpet**
- Kirsten Caskey*, Douglas
- Tim Hosler, Pinedale
- Darik Johnson, Granbury TX
- Tyler, Longfellow, Parker CO
- Samuel Parks, Ft. Collins CO
- Jonah Vasquez, Rapid City SD

**Trombone**
- Ryan Bosley, Sheridan
- Elijah Dugal, Sheridan
- James Handy, Strasburg CO

**Bass Trombone**
- Chris Robinson, Yankton SD

**Euphonium**
- Kai Burgett, Douglas
- Tori Herrboldt*, Lesterville SD
- Aarón Loya, Torrington

**Tuba**
- Antonia Garner*, Casper
- Luke Kahl, Chadron NE
- Mae Pierson, Cheyenne

**Double Bass**
- Mary Ward, Laramie

**Percussion**
- Parker Allen*, Rock Springs
- Carmyn Buckman, Worland
- Lucas Donato, Brasilia, Brazil
- Brock Huntington, Cheyenne
- Logan Otto, Casper
- Carson Rabou, Albin
- Abigail Tharp, Casper
- Ethan Walsh, Cheyenne

*Principal, Co-Principal
Program Notes

A tarantella has been popular since the time of the Romans, and the style immediately makes the listener muse “it must be Italian” – and what is more Italian than a patter song by Rossini, La Danza, or the dance. Composed as one of his “sins of old age” it is the eighth song in his set of Les soirées musicale,s a collection of chamber parlor music for friends. Noted composer Frank Erickson arranged the popular tune into this wonderful toetapper for concert band.

A band classic, Variations on a Korean Folk Song was immediately popular at its premiere in 1965 – as were any new works by John Barnes Chance – and is based on a folk song from the 15th Century, Arirang. Chance often heard the song often while serving with the U.S. Army in South Korea in the late 1950s, and on his return set these variations for wind band with what was in that era of band music, an extensive percussion section. It has remained a favorite work in the literature for decades.

Meditation from “Thais” is an instrumental entr’acte from Act II of Massenet’s opera Thais, whose libretto relates the encouraged conversion of a beautiful and hedonistic courtesan (Thais) to a life of devotion to God. Originally set for solo violin and orchestra, this beautiful UW Bands has been arranged as a solo work for almost every possible instrument, and for full ensemble performance such as this version for wind band.

Conducting the Meditation is Gillette native, Amber Sturdevant. She is a McMurry Graduate Teaching Assistant serving the UW Bands and is a conducting student of Robert Belser, and is planning to pursue a DMA in Conducting in the near future.

Who can resist the excitement of any of the Star Wars saga, or at least, the dramatic power and energy that the music of John Williams provides for any movie for which he scores? Music history courses should, instead of using the music of Wagner when teaching about leitmotifs, switch to Williams’ film scores in is use of a well-designed tune to represent a character, or in this case, the good people fighting evil. First heard in “Star Wars: Episode VII, The Force Awakens,” it has been used in subsequent movies in the saga, and who knows, one may hear it again, and again, and again . . .

Copland arranged two sets of American songs in 1950 (Set 1) and 1952 (Set 2) originally for voice and piano, and due to their popularity, later for baritone voice and full ensembles. Of the four tunes masterfully arranged in this set by John Moss, Simple gifts is from Set 1, and the other three from set 2.

This third and ultimately most popular movement of the Suite bergamasque for piano by Claude Debussy has been arranged for almost any ensemble possible, and in this version by Tom Wallace with added percussion creating an almost ethereal ambiance. A poem by Paul Verlaine inspired Debussy to pen this “reflection on the light of the moon” and recently inspired a fictional group of criminals to reflect on their heist in that it seemed right – at least to the devious mind - as they looked upon the fountains of the Bellagio in Vegas.

Commissioned by Harry Begian as a celebration of music of his childhood, Reed used tunes collected by Komitas Vartibed, noted as the founder of Armenian classical music, as basis for his Armenian Dances. This set of melodies alternating from grand to playful to soaring, ends with an ever-accelerating dance tune in the perfect eastern European game of seeing who can keep up with the music and be left dancing at the end. Tunes included are “Tzirani Tzar (the Apricot Tree),” “Gakavi Yerk (Partridge’s Song),” “Hoy, Nazan Eem” (Hoy, my Nazan), “Alagyaz” (a beautiful village in Armenia), and “Gina, Gna” (Go, Go!).

It would not be a proper pops concert for wind band without a Sousa march, and what better than The Stars and Stripes Forever. Composed in 1896, it was named by Congress as our National March in 1936.

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2022-2023 UW Bands in Concert

Thursday, October 6 - Wyoming Jazz Ensemble
Friday, October 28 – Jazz Ensemble II with Jordan Vanhemert
Monday, November 7 – Civic Chorus and Community Band
Thursday, November 10 – Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band
Monday, November 14 – Percussion Ensemble
November 15-17 – Ben Markley Big Band residency
December 10 and 11 – Gala Holiday Concerts, Wind Symphony and UW Choirs
Thursday, February 23 – Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band
Friday, March 31 – Percussion Ensemble
Thursday, April 20 – Jazz Ensembles
Monday, April 24 – Civic Chorus and Community Band
Saturday, April 29 – Wind Symphony
Monday, May 1 – Symphonic Band

Friends of the UW Bands

Would you like to do more to show your support of our bands? Consider giving to the “Friends of the UW Bands” through the UW Foundation. Your contributions help us to insure continued success of the Bands in special projects, outreach, and instrument needs – enhancing the wind and percussion students’ musical experience in our bands. For information on giving, contact Robert Belser at belserrs@uwyo.edu

This the 5th concert in the 2022-2023 UW Music Department Season.