



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

— in the —
College of Communication,
Fine Arts and Media

Presents

A December Revue

featuring

UNO University Band
with
Peter Wilger, Conductor

and

Nebraska Wind Symphony
with
Joshua Kearney, Conductor
Keith Davis, Associate Music Director
Jānis Puriņš, Visiting Conductor
Alexandria Plumb, Narrator

Sunday, December 8, 2024
Jan & John Christensen Concert Hall
Strauss Performing Arts Center
3:00 PM

PROGRAM

UNO UNIVERSITY BAND

Prof. Peter Wilger, conductor

Gavorkna Fanfare Jack Stamp

Prelude, Siciliano, and Rondo Malcolm Arnold
tr. Paynter

Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company John Philip Sousa
Jānis Puriņš, Visiting Conductor

Bugler's Holiday Leroy Anderson
*University Band Music Major Trumpets:
Even Belt, David Bogacz, Caden Cervantes, Michael Pearce,
Tatum Pelly, Roman Windham*

A Very Merry Heart and Soul arr. Julie Giroux

(Brief Intermission)

NEBRASKA WIND SYMPHONY

Dr. Joshua Kearney, conductor

Merry Music Frigyes Hidas
Jānis Puriņš, Visiting Conductor

Ubi Caritas Paul Mealor
tr. Kearney
Keith Davis, Associate Music Director

The Snowman Howard Blake
tr. Littlemore
Alexandria Plumb, Narrator

A Christmas Festival Leroy Anderson
Gina Simpson, Organ

UNO UNIVERSITY BAND
PROF. PETER WILGER, CONDUCTOR

Flute

Maiah Davis, Wayne, NE
Macey Ver Hoef, Sioux City, IA
Nathan Gardner, Millard West
Emily Gonzalez, Omaha Central
Morgan Pierson, Millard North
Leah Retelsdorf, Omaha Central

Oboe

Maria Butler, Pius X
Lauren Holmes, Papillion La Vista

Clarinet

Dilan Aguirre-Valdes, Omaha Central
Terri Layton, Bellevue East
Abby Lewis May, Burke
Cambelle Nieman, Hartington, NE
Anna Stednitz, Gretna
Fredy Vazquez, Schuyler Central

Bass Clarinet

Autumn Fisher, Air Academy, CO

Bassoon

Joel Anderjaska, Millard South

Saxophone

Keegan Benson, Waverly High School
Calvin Johnson, Papillion LaVista
Zach Onken, Bellevue East
Izzie Peetz, Seward
Thomas White, Gretna

Trumpet

Evan Belt, Greenwood, IA
David Bogacz, Westside
Avery Herman, Wayne, NE
Aubrey Jantz, Cornerstone Christian
Emily Long, Homeschool, La Vista
Brenden Olson, Millard West
Michael Pearce, Millard North
Tatum Pelley, Millard South
Eden Penly, Ralston
Roman Windham, Omaha Central

Abby Zylstra, Falcon, CO
Caden Cervantes, Westside

Horn

Caleb Digiacomio, Papillion La Vista
Edward Lautrup, Fort Calhoun
Delaney Lynam, Omaha, NE
Iman Pearson, Ralston

Trombone

Taylor Hogan, Omaha Central
Kurtis Kathel, Hartington, NE
Scott Wright, Petersburg, NE

Euphonium

Natalie Malcom, Eustas, NE
Haley Reagan, Bellevue West

Tuba

Alyssiah Green, Fairbanks, AK
Kylie Seefus, Aebron, NE
Kyla Velandres, Papillion La Vista South

Double Bass

Calvin Sneider, Brownell Talbot

Percussion

Carol Van Lancker, Ralston
Lance Mattice, Omaha, NE
Clemens Nichtie, Holdrege, NE
Rashawn Thompson, Bellevue East

Librarians

Noah Edwards, Blair
Morgan Thompson, Blair

Student Assistants

Kitty Camero, Tacoma, WA
Lance Mattice, Omaha, NE

NEBRASKA WIND SYMPHONY

DR. JOSHUA KEARNEY, CONDUCTOR

Flute

Nancy Boyer, Retired School Secretary
Fran Coren, Retired
Lisa Erickson, Adult Basic Education Instructor
Lisa Heaton, Clerk, State of Nebraska
Lisa Line, Attorney, USPS
Paula Markuson, Social Service Worker
Anne Ratashak, Retired Medical Technologist,
Mary Sanderson, Retired

Oboe

Jan Hayhurst, Semi-Retired
Allison Malcolm, COO & CFP, Harrison Financial Services

Clarinet

Lucas Abraham, Administrative Assistant, Pediatric
Therapy Center
Dwight Barbour, Brass and Woodwind Repair Technician
Preston Casey, Band Teacher, McMillan Middle School
Tami Cervantes, Medical Social Worker, Children's
Hospital & Medical Center
Sue Corwin, Retired
Myra Coveney, Clarinet Shop Manager,
Thompson Music
Carol Curry (Bass), Retired
Roger Kruger, Retired
Miriam Moran, IT Professional, Oriental Trading
Dan Pearson, Scrum Master, National Indemnity
James Reed, Fiction Writer
Gary Roth, Sr. IT Security Engineer at
Nebraska Medicine
Pat Stronck, Medical Billing Specialist
Barb Teter, Veterinarian, The Pet Clinic
Allie West, Band Director, Skutt High School

Bassoon

Heather Holland, ERM and Insurance Specialist,
Omaha Steaks
Hunter Holoubek, Band Director, Plattsmouth
High School

Saxophone

Donald Jacobson, Conductor, Iowa Western
Community Band
Debra Lund (Tenor), Retired Band
Teacher/Administrator
Randy Mimick, Business Consultant, Aflac
Sarah Stratton, Music Administrator, Omaha Public
Schools
Greg Williamson (Tenor), Band Director, Lewis Central
High School

Trumpet

Caden Cervantas, UNO Student
Wayne Harrison, Retired Professor, UNO
Bethany Kraci, School Counselor, Bellevue Public Schools
Christopher Ramsay, Machine Maintenance, Fiserv.
Rebecca Shively, Education Specialist, Farm Credit
Services of America
Jessica Todd, Omaha Dog Bar and Sweet Magnolia's
Erica Wasson, Music Teacher, Papillion La Vista Community
Schools

Horns

Christi Bierman, Bilingual Sales Support Specialist, Mutual
of Omaha
Andrew Braun, Music Teacher, Omaha Public Schools
Keith Davis, Composer/Arranger
Anna Helzer, High School Spanish Teacher, Ralston Public
Schools
Helen Jordon, Artist, Retired
Abra Prescott, Special Education Teacher, Ashland
Greenwood Public Schools

Trombones

Kyle Avery, Music Teacher, Gretna Public Schools
John Baker, Retired Pathologist, UNMC
Amber Bock, Band Director, Omaha North High School
Dale Irvin, Retired
Alan Lightbody, Retired
Brian Lund, Retired
Alex Toews, Software Developer, Wisconsin Physicians
Service

Euphoniums

Forrest Griffith, Field Technician, Omaha Public Schools
Joe Phillips, Biology Professor, Creighton University
Mark Simerly, Solutions Consultant, NCR

Tubas

Kenny Baires, Band Director, Omaha South High School
Mark Dauner, Marketing, Self-Employed
Ryan Everette, Attorney, Kutak Rock LLP
Kevin Gilreath, Retired IT
Brian Kraci, Manager Margins, Charles Schwab
Bill Lindau, Retired Human Services

Percussion

Kyle Ackley, Electrician
Amber Bock, Band Director, Omaha North High School
Steve Jordon, Writer
Stephen Michael, Dentist/Pilot, Summit Dental/Oracle
Aviation



Jānis Puriņš Guest Conductor

Professor Puriņš was born in 1960 in Latvia. He graduated from the Latvian Academy of Music in 1984 and studied conducting with Prof. Vasily Sinaisky. He served as assistant conductor (1977-1990) and Artistic Director (1990-1992) of the Student Band of Latvia Technical University. This group won many prizes in international festivals, including locations such as Rostock, Gesecke, Augsburg (Germany), Neerpelt (Belgium), and St. Pol sur Mer (France).

Professor Puriņš serves as an Associate Professor and Head of Wind Orchestra

Conducting at the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music. He also served the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the professional Wind Orchestra RIGA from 1991 to 2007, giving guest performances internationally including locations such as Rostock, Valencia, Wien, Vilnius, and Moscow. He was a founder for the Youth Symphonic Band of Latvia in 1996 - this group has also won many international accolades, including performances Rostock, Zürich, Seinajoki, Kerkrade, Schladming, and Interlaken.

Professor Puriņš has guest conducted student bands at the University of Northern Iowa, Brigham Young University, and at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, as well as many other countries, such as Sweden, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Estonia, and Lithuania. He has performed and collaborated with famous soloists, including James Gourley (tuba), Reijer Dorresteijn (trumpet), Wolfgang Bauer (trumpet), Steve Leisring and Leonard Candelaria (trumpet), and Igar Lešnik (percussion). He also guest conducted at the Latvian Song and Dance Festival many years, as well as at song festivals in Nordic and Baltic countries and in Riga.

He has also served as a judge and jury member for the Norwegian Wind Band Competition and Estonian Wind Band Competition, Youth Music Festival in Neerpelt. He helped found the Wind Ensemble of the University of Latvia in 2008 and was the Artistic Director of the International Trumpet Days in 2006 and 2008. He is currently the President of the Latvian Association of Symphonic Bands.



PROF. PETER WILGER
UNO University Band Conductor

Prof. Peter Wilger earned a Bachelors and Master of Music from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He began his career as a 5-12 grade Instrumental Music Teacher at Yutan, Nebraska. Wilger became the Instrumental Music Instructor at Omaha

Central High School in 1991 and the Music Department Head in 1993. He helped create the position of Performing Arts Department head. Prof. Wilger was selected as a recipient of the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher award and the Omaha Central Teacher of the year award. He was selected as the Nebraska Music Educator of the Year by the Nebraska Music Educators Association and was inducted into the UNO Bands Hall of fame. The Central High School Wind Ensemble has performed at the NSBA and NMEA conventions and received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence. Pete is a member of the National Association for Music Education, Nebraska Music Educators Association, Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, Phi Beta Mu Band Director Fraternity, as well as a Lifetime Member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Since his retirement in 2018, Mr. Wilger retains an active adjudication schedule, substitutes in metro music classrooms and is a visiting artist for the Omaha Conservatory of Music. He enjoys time with his family, his wife Stephanie (who is also a retired music educator), daughters Alyssa (Fourth grade teacher in the Omaha Public Schools) and Andrea (General Music Teacher for the Kansas City, KS Public Schools) and her husband Michael Prucha of Kansas City, MO.



KEITH MICHAEL DAVIS
NWS Associate Music Director

Associate Director Keith Davis is a native of Kansas City, Missouri and has made Omaha his home since 1991. He received his Bachelor of Music in Composition (1988) and Master of Music in Horn Performance (1990) from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. He has composed music for many instrumental ensembles, but has written mainly for symphonic and concert bands. His commissioned

works include *A Western Plains Overture*, *Native Hunters*, *delicate survivors of life's mighty storms*, and *Bastion of Freedom*. He has also made special arrangements for the Wind Symphony, including a transcription of Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite*, an arrangement of *Amazing Grace* for band and bagpipes, and several holiday selections. Keith has been a playing member of the Nebraska Wind Symphony since 1992 and also serves as Music Librarian. Keith frequently directs the Nebraska Wind Symphony, including the Making Spirits Bright concert on Thanksgiving Day at the Holland Performing Arts Center. He also plays principal horn with Orchestra Omaha and performed the Richard Strauss *1st Horn Concerto* with them in 2019. Keith lives in Gretna with his wife, oboist Deanna Davis, and their pets.



DR. JOSHUA KEARNEY

NWS Music Director & UNO Director of Bands

Joshua Kearney is Assistant Professor and Director of Bands at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he teaches courses in music education and conducting, conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and oversees all aspects of the UNO band program. In addition to his duties at UNO, Dr. Kearney serves as Music Director of the

Nebraska Wind Symphony. Kearney began his career as a teacher in the public schools south of Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Kearney has worked as an adjudicator and clinician for ensembles of all levels—maintaining an active guest conducting schedule locally and across the United States. Kearney regularly shares his research and experiences through conference presentations, lectures, and workshops around the country including: multiple state music conferences, the State University of New York at New Paltz, the Millard and Omaha Public Schools, College Music Society (CMS) regional and national conferences, conferences of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, and the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) conference in Prague. Under Kearney's direction, both the Nebraska Wind Symphony and the UNO Symphonic Wind Ensemble have been selected as featured ensembles at the annual Nebraska Music Educators Association in-service conference, and UNO's SWE was named a national finalist for the American Prize in College/University Wind Band performance in 2024.

An advocate of new music, Kearney often works with composers in the creation and performance of new works for winds. His direct efforts have contributed to pieces by Stacey Barelos, Scott Boerma, Steven Bryant, Donald Grantham, Will Healy, Jessie Montgomery, Joseph Schwantner, and others. Dr. Kearney is an active editor and arranger, having provided music for the UNO Symphonic Wind Ensemble, the Columbus State University Wind Ensemble and Trombone Choir, the Southeast Trombone Symposium Professors Choir, the Heartland Flute Choir, the Springer Opera House (GA), and many selections for athletic bands. He has published works in the catalogs of Boosey & Hawkes, Presser Music, and Robert Elkjer. An experienced editor, Kearney's critical edition of Emil Hartmann's *Serenade for Winds* (Op. 43) is regularly featured in prominent conducting symposia throughout the United States and additional plans have been made for publication of Kearney's educational editions of Druschetzky's wind partitas—works accessible by ensembles of wide ability levels and instrumentation.

Kearney earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from Michigan State University where he studied with Kevin Sedatole and master's and bachelor's degrees from Columbus State University (GA) where he was a student of Jamie L. Nix. Kearney holds affiliations with the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, the Nebraska Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, the College Music Society, the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and the College Band Directors National Association. Kearney has served on the Executive Board for the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association and in multiple leadership roles on committees within the College Band Directors National Association. Kearney is a member of Phi Beta Mu, an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, and is the recipient of multiple Citations of Excellence from the National Band Association.

Holiday Concert 2024 – Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of our fans, playing member, and community. *The cost of each NWS is around \$4,500.* Financial gifts are critical to enable us to continue providing great concert band music to the Omaha area. Visit the NWS Donor Information page using the QR code for more information about the ways you can provide financial support including purchasing program advertisements, sponsoring a concert or portion of a concert, and giving a direct donation. This donor listing reflects financial support received since April 2024.



The concerts this season are partially funded by a generous donation from Fran and Mickey Coren.

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