

OMAHA NORTH HIGH SCHOOL AND THE NEBRASKA WIND SYMPHONY PRESENT:

# VARIATIONS ON AMERICA

APRIL 27TH | 3PM  
OMAHA NORTH HIGH  
SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

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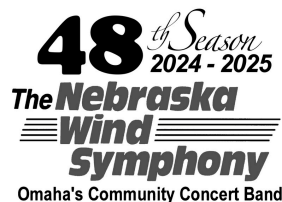


AMBER BOCK, DIRECTOR,  
OMAHA NORTH HIGH SCHOOL  
JOSHUA HEARNEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR NWS  
KEITH MICHAEL DAVIS, ASSOCIATE  
MUSIC DIRECTOR, NWS  
PRESTON CASEY, GUEST CONDUCTOR  
BRIAN HRACL, GUEST CONDUCTOR



# ***Welcome!***

to our Spring concert of the 48th Season of the Nebraska Wind Symphony, Omaha's Community Concert Band. We are excited to perform for you today. We proudly share the stage with the Omaha North Band under the direction of Amber Bock.



In 1977, Darwin “Tony” Snyder, an instrumental music teacher in the Westside School District, saw the need for an organization to provide adults with an instrumental music outlet. His vision proved correct as we continue to present concert band music in our 48th concert season now under the direction of Dr. Joshua Kearney. Today we invite you to experience a diverse selection of works anchored by Charles Ives’ “Variations on ‘America,’ ” a bold and inventive reimagining of the familiar patriotic tune.

The Nebraska Wind Symphony will be lead by Music Director, Josh Kearney, Associate Music Director, Keith Michael Davis, and guest conductors Amber Bock, Brian Krael, and Preston Casey

## ***Thank you!***

All of this season’s concerts are free to the public because of generous donors like you. Thank you for helping us continue to bring great concert band music to the Omaha area! We joyfully recognize these donors for sponsoring this Spring Concert.

**Mickey and Fran Coren**, Season Sponsor  
**Lawrence Friend**, Concert Sponsor

**2024-2025 Concert Season - Upcoming**  
April 27, 2025 – Omaha North High School – 3:00 PM  
- Joint performance with the Omaha North HS Band -

**Summer Concerts featuring the NWS Swingtones**  
June 8, 2025 – St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church – 6:00 PM  
July 3, 2025 – Ralston Granary – 6:00PM



### **Amber Bock, Band Director, Omaha North High School**

Amber Bock is from Sioux City, Iowa. Amber earned their bachelor's degree in music education, focusing on instrumental music and trombone performance from the the University of South Dakota. Amber holds a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Amber has been active in researching teaching methods for student musicians who have learning disabilities

Amber has been teaching in the Omaha Public Schools District since 2017. They are the band director at Omaha North High School where they lead courses in concert band, percussion, color guard, jazz, AP Music Theory, and Music Business. Amber will be starting their ninth year at Buffett Middle School in OPS where they will be teaching nearly 250 Band and Orchestra students.

Amber received the Jack D. Snider Outstanding Young Director Award from the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association in 2020. They are an active studio teacher, conductor, and performer in the area. Amber presented their research at the 2023 NMEA State Conference. Amber has served as the NSBA Secretary since 2024.

Amber enjoys spending time with their partner Shelby, cat Chappell, and reading books.

### **Joshua Kearney, Music Director, NWS**

Joshua Kearney is Assistant Professor and Director of Bands at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He teaches courses in music education and conducting, directs the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and oversees all aspects of the UNO band program. In addition to his duties at UNO, 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. He has worked as an adjudicator and clinician for ensembles of all levels across the U.S. Additionally, Kearney regularly shares his research and experiences through conference presentations and workshops around the country and abroad.



Kearney earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from Michigan State University where he studied with Kevin Sedatole and his Master of Music in Conducting from Columbus State University (GA) where he was a student of Jamie L. Nix. He also earned his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Columbus State University. Kearney holds affiliations with the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, Nebraska Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, College Music Society, and the College Band Directors National Association. Kearney has served on the Executive Board for the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association and in multiple committee leadership positions in the College Band Directors National Association.

### **Keith Davis, Associate Music Director, NWS**



Keith 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.

Keith 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 done special arrangements for the Wind Symphony, including several holiday selections for our guest vocalists.

Keith has been a playing member of the Nebraska Wind Symphony since 1992 and also serves as the NWS Music Librarian. He is also a playing member with Orchestra Omaha and the Omaha Symphonic Winds. Keith lives in Gretna with his wife, oboist Deanna Davis, and their cat and two dogs.

### **Preston Casey, Guest Conductor, NWS**

Preston Casey hails from the South as a music educator who brings a high standard for musicianship to the Midwest. His hometown is Snellville, Georgia where Gwinnett County holds an exquisite reputation of excellence and exceptional standards in music.. Preston received a Bachelor of Music Education at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. Preston has played an active role in Georgia for several years as band staff for various high schools such as South Gwinnett, Mountain View, and Dacula high schools.



With a multitude of ensemble experience, Preston has performed with Georgia State University Perimeter College Wind Ensemble for over a decade. Preston was provided the opportunity to conduct this group as a guest conductor. Other ensembles he has performed with as a saxophonist include Gwinnett Wind Symphony and North Georgia Winds. Preston currently plays Clarinet in NWS.

Preston moved to Omaha to be with his partner Pammy and to pursue his passion of music. His goal is to spread his knowledge and expertise to the Omaha area as a music educator. He is currently the Instrumental Music teacher for Band and Guitar at McMillan Middle School located in North Omaha. Additionally, he is assisting with North High School.



### **Brian Kracl, Guest Conductor, NWS**

Brian was born in Schuyler, NE and grew up on a farm just north of Rogers, NE. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, his family moved into Schuyler where he soon became involved in the band, playing the tuba. He continued to be involved in the arts through high school, participating in band, choir, and drama. Following graduation in 1993, Brian attended Nebraska Wesleyan University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education in 1998.

From 1998 to 2000, he was the director of bands at West Point Public Schools, teaching instrumental music for grades 5-12. In 2000, he took a position with Ameritrade, first with Transfers, and then transitioned to Margins in 2002. Brian obtained several brokerage licenses over the next several years and is now a Senior Manager in the Margin Services department for Charles Schwab.

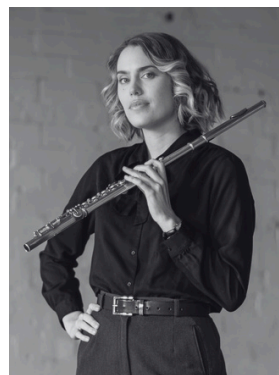
In his free time, Brian enjoys spending time with his family; wife Bethany, who also plays with the NWS, and his three children; Myla (10), Eli (8) and Bohdan (5). He is active in his church, likes to play golf and spend time working outside on the yard and garden. This is his 26th season playing with the NWS.

### **Claire James, Business Manager, NWS**

Claire James is a flutist and teacher who is passionate about music's ability to positively impact individual and collective stories. She uses her skills as a creative to find unique ways to foster meaningful connections with music by teaching and performing in her local community. This includes collaboration with musicians and other artists to create innovative and accessible projects, usually hosted in non-traditional and local spaces, and music education.

You can see what she is up to on her social media:

@ClaireJamesFlute or website: [ClaireJamesFlute.com](http://ClaireJamesFlute.com).



Claire holds a Master's of Music from the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she studied under the instruction of Dr. Christine Beard. Claire holds an undergraduate diploma from Longy School of Music where she studied with Sergio Pallottelli.

Claire may be reached via email at: [businessmanager@nebraskawindsymphony.com](mailto:businessmanager@nebraskawindsymphony.com)

# Nebraska Wind Symphony Spring Concert

## “Variations on America”

Omaha North High School

April 27, 2025, 3PM

### Omaha North High School Band

Amber Bock, Director

**Illumination**

DAVID MASLANKA

**Ruckus**

RANDALL STANDRIDGE

*Brief Intermission*

### The Nebraska Wind Symphony

Joshua Kearney, Music Director

Keith Michael Davis, Associate Music Director

**Juba Dance**

Keith Michael Davis, Associate Music Director

FLORENCE PRICE

Arr. Bocook

**Gathering No Moss**

World Premiere

MATTHEW BARDIN

**English Folk Song Suite**

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

I. March – “Seventeen Come Sunday”

II. Intermezzo – “My Bonny Boy”

III. March – “Folk Songs from Somerset”

**Father Everlasting**

World Premiere

LARRY MACTAGGART

Brian Kracl, Guest conductor

**Right-Left**

Preston Casey, Guest conductor

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

**Tribute**

Amber Bock, Guest Conductor

TRAVIS CROSS

**Variations on ‘America’**

CHARLES IVES

**Black Granite**

JAMES HOSAY

# Omaha North High School Band

## FLUTE

Jose Escobar-Henriquez  
Angela Fonkeng  
Micaiah-Anna  
McTizic Henderson

## CLARINET

Leylani Garcia-Ramiez  
Samantha Mendoza  
Jay Pospisil  
Thea Smith

## BASS CLARINET

Anna Coffman  
Luis Ochoa Escobar

## ALTO SAXOPHONE

Kenneth Holliman  
Elyse Johnson  
Robert Fields

## BARI SAXOPHONE

Mason Carne

## TENOR SAXOPHONE

Malcolm Barnes  
Raymond Fields

## TRUMPET

Kaitlynn Cantrell  
Yonatan Clarke  
Henry Hernandez Serrano  
Trey Johnson  
Martin Lopez  
Christopher Mendoza  
Oscar Valdez

## TROMBONE

Savannah Brown-Harris  
Kennedy Erving  
Jaxon Kaaa  
Eh Klu Moo  
Ty'Aire Smith-Flowers

## HORN

Maxwell Long

## TUBA

Joshua Bartsch  
Damien Dahlkoetter

## EUPHONIUM

Juana Lucas Garcia  
Christiaun Washington  
LaVelle Henderson  
Micah West

## PERCUSSION

Joshua Bartsch  
Kaitlynn Cantrell  
Kourtney Devers  
Jordan Linstrom  
Leeland Montgomery  
Leo Preheim  
Orion Quist  
Daniel Ramos  
Pigeon Rice  
Mercury Stricklin



***Thank you  
Omaha North  
High School!***

*We want to express our  
gratitude to the Omaha  
North faculty, staff,  
administration, and  
students for hosting us!*

# The Nebraska Wind Symphony Playing Members

Sunday, April 27, 2025

## FLUTE

Nancy Boyer -  
*Retired School Secretary*  
Fran Coren C -*Retired*  
Lisa Erikson-  
*Adult Basic Education Instructor*  
Lisa Heaton\* - *USPS*  
Lisa Line - *Attorney*  
Paula Markuson -  
*Social Service Worker*  
Candace Nelson - *Retired*  
Anne Ratashak -  
*Retired Medical Technologist*  
Mary Sanderson - *Retired*

## OBOE

Jan Hayhurst - *Semi-Retired*  
Allison Malcolm\* -  
*COO & CFP*

## BASSOON

Heather Holland\* -  
*ERM and Insurance Specialist*  
Hunter Holoubek -  
*Band Director*

## CLARINET

Lucas Abraham -  
*Admin Assistant*  
Dwight Barbour -  
*Brass & Woodwind Repair Tech*  
Preston Casey -  
*Band Director*  
Tami Cervantes -  
*Medical Social Worker*  
Sue Corwin - *Retired*  
Myra Coveney (bass) -  
*Clarinet Shop Manager*  
Sheryl Cuba C - *Retired*  
Carol Curry\* (bass) C - *Retired*  
Roger Kruger - *Retired*  
Don Moran (contrabass) -  
*Audio/Visual*  
Dan Pearson - *Scrum Master*  
James Reed - *Fiction Writer*  
Gary Roth -  
*Sr IT Security Engineer*  
Pat Stronck -  
*Medical Billing Specialist*  
Barb Teter\* C - *Veterinarian*

## ALTO SAXOPHONE

Don Jacobson C -  
*Band Director*  
Dan Kingkade - *Retired*  
Elliott Lockwood -  
*Collaborative Pianist*  
Randy Mimick -  
*Business Consultant*  
Sarah Stratton\* -  
*Music Administrator*  
**TENOR SAXOPHONE**  
Debra Lund -  
*Retired Band Teacher/Admin*

## BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Greg Williamson -  
*Music Teacher*

## HORN

Christi Bierman -  
*Licensing Coordinator*  
Andrew Braun\* -  
*Music Teacher*  
Keith Davis -  
*Composer/ Arranger*  
Anna Helzer -  
*HS Spanish Teacher*  
Helen Jordon -  
*Retired Artist*

## EUPHONIUM

Forrest Griffith -  
*Client Product Analyst*  
Joseph Phillips -  
*Biology Professor*  
Mark Simerly -  
*Solutions Consultant*

## TROMBONE

Kyle Avery - *Music Teacher*  
John Baker -  
*Retired Pathologist*  
Amber Bock -  
*HS Band Director*  
Dale Irvin - *Retired*  
Alan Lightbody - *Retired*  
Brian Lund\* - *Retired*  
Alex Toews -  
*Software Developer*

## TRUMPET

Joel Edwards -  
*Clinical Audiologist*  
Wayne Harrison -  
*Retired Professor*  
Bethany Krackl\* -  
*School Counselor*  
James Patton -  
*Founder/Designer*  
*JP Woods and Prints*  
Christopher Ramsay -  
*Machine Maintenance*  
Jessica Todd -  
*Bar Manager*  
Steve Wagle -  
*Call Center Supervisor*

## TUBA

Kenny Baires -  
*Band Director*  
Mark Dauner -  
*Marketing, Self*  
*employed*  
Kevin Gilreath - *Retired IT*  
Brian Krackl\* -  
*Manager Margins*  
Bill Lindau -  
*Retired Human Services*

## PERCUSSION

Kyle Ackley - *Electrician*  
Amber Bock -  
*HS Band Director*  
Keith Davis -  
*Composer/Arranger*  
Analynn Fassler -  
*Claims Supervisor*  
Steve Jordon - *Writer*  
Edwin Lyons -  
*Major Gifts Officer*  
Stephen Michael - C  
*Dentist / Pilot*

## PIANO

Elliot Lockwood -  
*Collaborative Pianist*

\* Section Principal  
C Charter Member



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## **What is the Nebraska Wind Symphony?**

In September 1977, Darwyn “Tony” Snyder organized a group of 70 adult musicians and the Nebraska Wind Symphony, Omaha’s Community Concert Band, was born. Tony and others had long recognized the need for a performance outlet for those who had spent years in high school and college band programs and would enjoy and support an organized group with which to play. We celebrate the vision of our founding members with each new concert season.

**Did you know?** The Nebraska Wind Symphony is a proud member of the Association of Concert Bands (ACB). ACB Regional Connection events bring bands and musicians from a region together for education, performance, and discussion.

The Nebraska Wind Symphony hosted the first ever ACB Regional Connection event in April 2024 right here in Omaha Nebraska.



The mission of the Association of Concert Bands is to foster excellence in Concert Band music through performance, education, and advocacy. For more information about the ACB, go to [www.acbands.org](http://www.acbands.org).

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## **NWS Board of Directors**

The Nebraska Wind Symphony is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the playing membership. Staff members are non-voting members of the board.

Dale Irvin, President  
Kevin Gilreath,  
Vice President  
Tami Cervantes  
Forrest Griffith

Jessica Todd, Secretary  
William Lindau, Treasurer  
Heather Holland  
Sarah Stratton  
Jan Hayhurst

## Spring Concert 2025 - Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of our fans, playing members, and community. The cost of each NWS concert 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. You can also support us including purchasing program advertisements, sponsoring a concert or portion of a concert, and giving a direct donation.

*This donor listing reflects financial support received from May 1, 2024 thru April 7, 2025.*

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Lisa Line  
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Rachel Yamomoto

#### NWS Memorial Scholarship Fund Donors

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Visit [neartscouncil.nebraska.gov](http://neartscouncil.nebraska.gov) for information on how the Nebraska Arts Council can assist your organization, or how you can support the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.



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Joel Miller 402-932-6950 [Joel.miller@1pl.com](mailto:Joel.miller@1pl.com)

**Thank you for joining us for today's concert!**

Please mark your calendars for our next concert:

June 8, 2025 - 6PM at St Robert Bellarmine

We will be joined by the Swingtones!

Follow us on

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**48<sup>th</sup> Season**  
**2024 - 2025**  
**The Nebraska**  
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