

THE NEBRASKA WIND SYMPHONY presents a Winter Concert

featuring the

NWS MIDDLE SCHOOL
ALL-STAR TROMBONES &
2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER BENJAMIN PRENTICE



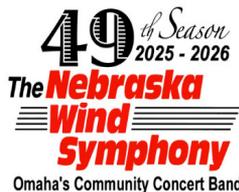
March 1, 2026 | 7:30pm
UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center

Featuring works by:

Nathan Farrell, Jay W. Gilbert, Lars-Erik Larsson, Larry MacTaggart,
John Philip Sousa, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, & Meredith Wilson

Josh Kearney, NWS Music Director
Keith Davis, NWS Associate Music Director
Larry MacTaggart, Guest Conductor & Composer

Free admission, donations appreciated



Welcome!

to our Winter concert of the 49th Season of the Nebraska Wind Symphony, Omaha's Community Concert Band. We are excited to perform for you today!



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 49th concert season now under the direction of Dr. Joshua Kearney. Today we invite you to experience a diverse selection of works featuring our Middle School All-Stars and NWS Scholarship recipient Benjamin Prentice.

The Nebraska Wind Symphony will be lead by Music Director, Josh Kearney, Associate Music Director, Keith Michael Davis, and guest conductor Larry MacTaggart.

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.

Fran Coren, Season Sponsor
Lawrence Friend, Concert Sponsor

2025-2026 Concert Season - Upcoming

April 26, 2026 – Burke High School – 3:00 PM – with Beveridge Middle School

Summer Concerts featuring the NWS Swingtones

June 7, 2026 – St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church – time TBD

July 3, 2026 – Capitol District – time TBD

Joshua Kearney, Music Director, NWS

Joshua Kearney is Associate 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.

Larry MacTaggart, Guest Conductor and Composer

Larry MacTaggart spreads the joy of music as a freelance composer and arranger. A graduate of the University of Arkansas (1981) and the University of Nebraska (1983), MacTaggart was director of instrumental music in the Fairbury (Nebraska) public school system from 1983 to 1985. Beginning in September of 1985 through October of 2012, MacTaggart served in the United States Air Force Band Program in as a performer (percussion and drum set) and as a music arranger, eventually becoming the Chief Music Arranger of the USAF Band in Washington DC. In 2007, he transitioned to administrative duties and served as Career Field Manager for all Air Force Bands at The Pentagon. Upon his retirement from active duty in 2012, MacTaggart shifted to a career in Human Resources, working for the Omaha World-Herald and later, for LEO A DALY, an Omaha-based architecture and engineering firm. He retired from Human Resources in December of 2021.



MacTaggart served as the Music Director and Conductor of The Nebraska Wind Symphony on two occasions: 1995-1997 and 2014-2019. He is also an active member of the Papillion Area Concert Band and served on the staff of the Nebraska Ambassadors of Music in 2023. Larry is married to his soul mate, the former Jill Divis, a native of Brainard, NE. They have one amazing daughter, Mallory.



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.

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.

Benjamin Prentice, Trombone Soloist

Benjamin Prentice is a senior at University of Nebraska at Kearney pursuing a degree in PreK-12 Music Education. He has studied trombone under Dr. Robert Benton, and been an active participant and leader in UNK ensembles such as the Wind Ensemble, Jazz/Rock Band, Pride of the Plains Marching Band, and Archway Brass Quintet. Benjamin graduated from Wray, CO, where he was a leader in the band program and received the John Philip Sousa award. Aside from music, Benjamin loves being involved in campus ministry and church.



Deb Lund, Middle School All-Stars Coordinator

Deb grew up on a farm near Arlington, SD and started playing saxophone in 6th grade. After earning a BA in Music Education and a minor in Spanish, she taught music in two small towns in South Dakota, before helping to found a new band program, Music in Catholic Schools for the Omaha Archdiocese. She was the MCS Administrator and band teacher for 41 years. Her husband Brian also has a music education degree, is a retired IT engineer, and plays trombone with NWS. They have 3 adult children, all married, and all play wind instruments. Rebecca, an ELCA pastor, and her husband Rich live in Long Island, NY, with their two daughters, Erin and Grace. Andrew and his wife Andreea, both software engineers, live in Lørenskog, Norway with their 3-year-old son Mark. Josh, instrument repair specialist, and wife Shelby live in Omaha. In addition to music activities, Deb volunteers at Lakeside Hospital and Nebraska Cancer Specialists, leads Tai Chi, is active at her church, gardens, walks, bakes, and keeps busy with home projects.



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2026 NWS Middle School All-Stars

Broderick Barnes

McMillan Middle School
Director Preston Casey

Stella Austin

Hudson Haney

Elkhorn Grandview Middle School
Chris Johnson

Layla Rowe

Papillion Middle School
Director Zac Konrad

Kaden Caudillo

Darsh Kumar

Elkhorn North Ridge Middle School
Director Amy Wemhoff

George Manley

Kiewit Middle School
Director Scott Morris

Mason Estep

Oliver Pane

Trinity Classical Academy
Director Stephen Manna

Cooper Westphal

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Henry Kouba

Caden Tritsch

Benton Keene

Liberty Middle School
Director Hiltje Peitz

Camden Dowling

Emma Roberts

Fort Calhoun Junior High
Director Mark Jones

Jay Wise: Middle School All-Stars Trombone Section Leader

Special thanks go to **Deb Lund** for coordinating all aspects of the all-star portion of the program. This included sending invitations, managing registration, ongoing communication, coordinating the sectional rehearsal, and guiding the students for today's concert. We thank the band directors of each of these schools for nominating their students and working with them to prepare the music for today's concert. We thank the parents for being flexible and providing this opportunity for their students.

Nebraska Wind Symphony Winter Concert

UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center

March 1, 2026 | 7:30pm

Music Director - Joshua Kearney

Associate Music Director - Keith Michael Davis

Guest Conductor - Larry MacTaggart

The Black Horse Troop (1924)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Clarior e Tenebris (2025)

LARRY MACTAGGART

Larry MacTaggart, Guest Conductor

Concertino, Op. 45, no. 7 (1955/1979)

LARS-ERIK LARSSON

arr. Walker

Benjamin Prentice, Trombone

Featuring Middle School All-Star Trombones

Seventy-Six Trombones (1957/1997)

MEREDITH WILLSON

arr. Anderson

adapt. Bocook

All Aboard (2006)

NATHAN FARRELL

Keith Michael Davis, Associate Music Director

Suite Divertimento (1996)

JAY GILBERT

I. Prologue

II. Pastorale

III. Parade

Dance of the Jesters (1873/1997)

PETER ILLYCH TCHAIKOVSKY

tr. Cramer

The Nebraska Wind Symphony Playing Members

Sunday, March 1, 2026

FLUTE

Nancy Boyer -
Retired School Secretary
Fran Coren C - *Homemaker*
Lisa Erickson -
Adult Education Instructor
Lisa Fimbres - *Clerk*
Paula Markuson - *Retired*
Candace Nelson - *Retired*
Anne Ratashak - *Retired*
Mary Sanderson - *Retired*

OBOE

Dave Gardner -
Work at USSTRATCOM
Jan Hayhurst -
Substitute Teacher
Allison Malcolm* -
Certified Financial Planner

BASSOON

Porter Hansen - *Electrician*
Heather Holland* -
Risk and Insurance
Hunter Holoubek -
Band Director

CLARINET

Lucas Abraham -
Administrative Assistant
Sheryl Cuba C - *Retired*
Alyssiah Green - *Phlebotomist*
Joel Jones -
Schmitt Music Sales Rep
Lauren Milbourn -
Patron Services Lead
Miriam Moran (contra) -
IT Consultant
Dan Pearson -
Business Analyst
James Reed - *Fiction Writer*
Rick Richards -
Retired Teacher
Gary Roth - *Security Engineer*
Anna Stednitz -
Graduate Student
Pat Stronck -
Medical Billing Sr. Associate
Jewelina Taylor -
Research Assistant
Barbara Teter* C - *Veterinarian*
Allison West (bass) -
High School Band Director

SAXOPHONE

Preston Casey -
Band Director
Donald Jacobson -
*Conductor, Iowa Western
Community Band*
Elliott Lockwood -
Collaborative Pianist
Deb Lund -
*Retired Band Teacher/
Administrator*
Sarah Stratton* -
Music Supervisor

TRUMPET

Joel Edwards -
Clinical Audiogist
Wayne Harrison -
Retired Professor
Bethany Kracl* -
School Counselor
James Patton -
Founder/Designer
Christopher Ramsay -
Maintenance Engineer
Rebecca Shively -
I/O Psychologist
Jessica Todd -
Volunteer Coordinator
Chris Tucker -
Retired Band Director

HORN

Christi Bierman -
Licensing Coordinator
Andrew Braun* -
Music Teacher
Keith Davis -
Composer/Arranger
Anna Helzer -
*High School Spanish
Teacher*
Helen Jordon -
Retired/Artist
Matthew Morgan -
Band Director

TROMBONE

Kyle Avery - *Teacher*
John Baker -
Retired Pathologist
Amber Bock -
Music Teacher
Dale Irvin - *Retired*
Tyler Long - *Band Director*
Brian Lund* - *Retired IT*
Alex Toews -
Software Developer

EUPHONIUM

Joseph Phillips -
Biology Professor
Mark Simerly -
Solutions Consultant
Jonah Zimmerman -
Band Director

TUBA

Kenny Baires -
Band Director
Mark Dauner -
Marketing Strategist
Kevin Gilreath - *Retired*
Brian Kracl* -
Senior Manager Margins
Bill Lindau - *Retired*

PERCUSSION

Kyle Ackley -
Apprentice Electrician
Steve Jordon - *Writer*
Edwin Lyons -
Philanthropic Development
Stephen Michael C -
Dentist/Pilot
Jack Poitras -
Stagehand & AVL
Robert Wege -
US Air Force Retired

* Section Principal
C Charter Member

THE ASSOCIATION OF Concert Bands

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.



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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.

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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.

Heather Holland, President
Jessica Todd, Secretary
William Lindau, Treasurer
Sarah Stratton

Jan Hayhurst
Forrest Griffith
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Winter Concert 2026 - 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 enable us to bring great concert band music to the Omaha area. Use the QR code to visit the NWS Donation page, make a donation, and find out how your financial support helps us to thrive as an independent arts organization. This listing reflects donor support from March 1, 2025 through February 10, 2026.



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Please mark your calendars for our next concert:
April 26, 2026 - 3PM at Burke High School
We will be joined by the Beveridge Middle School Band!
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49th Season
2025 - 2026

The Nebraska
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Omaha's Community Concert Band



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