The Nebraska Wind Symphony
2026-2027
Omaha's Community Concert Band

A GOLDEN JUBILEE

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MUSIC



SUN. OCTOBER 18, 2026 | 7:30 PM
UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center

Free Admission, Donations Appreciated

Joshua Kearney
Director, NWS

Chris Tucker
Associate Director, NWS

Rick Richards
Guest Conductor

David Gardner
Guest Composer

Jason Johnson
Guest Soloist, Trumpet

Featuring Music by:

Bruce Broughton,
Larry MacTaggart,
John Philip Sousa,
Haley Woodrow,
David Gardner,
Charles Ives,
& John Stafford Smith

NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL
NEBRASKA CULTURAL ENDOWMENT

Welcome!

For half a century, the Nebraska Wind Symphony has been inspiring audiences, nurturing musicians, and enriching our community through the power of wind band music. As we enter our **50th Anniversary Season**, we honor our rich history while looking boldly toward the future.

The Nebraska Wind Symphony 2026-2027
Omaha's Community Concert Band

Join us throughout the 2026–2027 season as we celebrate five decades of artistry, education, and community connection. This milestone year will feature special concerts, returning guest artists, newly commissioned works, and opportunities to reflect on the people and performances that shaped who we are today.

The Nebraska Wind Symphony will be lead this evening by Music Director, Josh Kearney, Associate Music Director, Chris Tucker, and guest conductor Rick Richards.

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

2026-2027 SEASON SCHEDULE

SUN. DECEMBER 6, 2026 | 3:00 PM

SAT. FEBRUARY 27, 2027 | 7:30 PM
Featuring Inaugural Middle School Honor Band

SUN. APRIL 25, 2027 | 7:30 PM

All above main season concerts are in
UNO's Strauss Performing Arts Center

SUN. MAY 2, 2027 | 3:00 PM
NWS Small Ensembles concert at
Lord of Love Lutheran Church, 10405 Fort Street

SUN. JUNE 6, 2027 | 6:00 PM
St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church

FRI. JULY 2, 2027 | 7:00 PM
Stinson Park, Aksarben Village

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.



Chris Tucker, Associate Music Director

Chris Tucker taught Band for 38 years in the Gretna Public Schools. Starting in 1987, she was the one and only 5-12 Director, and in her final year she was one of ten band staff members working with all ages of band students in two middle schools and two high schools. For her final ten years in Gretna, she was the Director of Middle School Bands at Gretna Middle School and assisted with the three concert bands and two marching bands at Gretna High School.

She received her Bachelor of Music in Education (1987), with Highest Distinction, and her Master of Music (1992) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 1993, Chris was awarded the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award, and in March of 2004, she received a Distinguished Service Award from the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association for serving on its Executive Board for nine years in the role of Treasurer. She was awarded the first-ever "Outstanding Middle School Teacher" for the Gretna Public Schools in 2023.

Chris has presented clinics at both the Nebraska Music Educators Conference and the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association conventions. In addition, she is a frequent adjudicator for many area contests and guest conductor and clinician for regional schools and honor band festivals. Chris also served as the Associate Director of the Nebraska Wind Symphony from 2000 to 2012 including serving as Interim Director in the fall of 2003. She is currently the Executive Director for the Nebraska Middle School All-Stars which is an organization that takes middle level Band, Choir and Orchestra students on a one week playing tour in Hawaii. Her other professional organizations include National Band Association and Phi Beta Mu, an international honorary society for band directors.

Dave Gardner, Guest Composer



Dave is blessed and very thankful to have had his music, ranging from a cappella, to instrumental, to larger choral & orchestral works, performed internationally at various concerts, festivals, competitions, and recitals by a variety of community and professional organizations. These include the Omaha Symphony, Orchestra Omaha, Nebraska Wind Symphony, Boston Children's Chorus, National Youth Choir of Scotland, Omaha Symphonic Chorus, University of Nebraska at Omaha, William Baker Festival Singers, and various other schools, churches, universities, and community choruses.

Dave's goal as a composer is to write deeply introspective, beautifully melodic, moving, and personal music that appeals to a wide range of audiences and performers. He has been influenced by the music of many composers of many genres whose art has been skillfully conveyed through beautiful melodies that mirror each subtle and overt poetic nuance…from Dvorak to Lauridsen, Rutter, Whitacre and so many more. Dave often finds his own inspiration for a melody or chord while walking in nature, watching light pierce through stained glass windows on a Sunday morning, or spending time with his family. His hope is that, through my music, he can express his gratitude for life and share the joy and emotion found in these combined experiences.



Jason Johnson, Trumpet

Jason Johnson is originally from East Moline, Illinois and received his bachelor's degree in music education from Northern Illinois University in 1996. After graduation he enlisted in the US Navy and spent eight years in the fleet music program. While stationed in Naples, Italy, Jason performed extensively throughout Europe and Northern Africa. In 2004, he became a member of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra with a one year contract as acting 3rd trumpet. He then moved to the Phoenix area to attend Arizona State University where he completed a master's degree under the guidance of Professor David Hickman. While in Phoenix he was a regular substitute with the Phoenix Symphony and a member of the acclaimed Sonoran Brass Quintet. Jason is a former student of Ron Modell and Stephen Squires, and has consulted with Sam Pilafian, Patrick Sheridan, Vince DiMartino, Vincent Cichowicz, and Barbara Butler. Well versed in the classical and jazz idioms, Jason has also performed with the likes of Quincy Jones, David Sanborn, and Phil Collins.

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Rick Richards, Guest Conductor



Rick Richards, a native of Rising City, Nebraska, received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Wichita State University in 1975 and spent twenty years teaching instrumental music in Auburn, Wahoo, Rising City, and OPS. The highlight of Rick's career as a band director was when the Rising City band was invited to present a concert at the Nebraska Band Masters Association Annual Conference. Rick earned a Master of Science in School Counseling from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1996 and was a school counselor in several buildings in the Omaha Public Schools for the next 16 years.

Rick has been involved in church music beginning in high school. Since moving to Omaha in 1989 Rick has served at Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Augustana Lutheran Church. From 2020 to 2025 Rick served as the Music Director of the River City Ringers, Omaha's community handbell choir. Rick and his husband, Steve, have been together for 37 years and they have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.



Lauren Milbourn, Summer Concert Series Music Director

Lauren Milbourn is a passionate advocate for music education and resource accessibility. A versatile musician, her work spans teaching, conducting, music research, and international performance on bass clarinet and clarinet. Lauren holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Master of Music in Wind Band Conducting from the University of Colorado Boulder. Milbourn previously served as Assistant Director of Bands at Millard South High School, where she taught for four years at both the elementary and high school levels and served on the district instrumental leadership team. Lauren currently works as the Engagement Coordinator for Omaha Performing Arts and founder of zhanre.org. In the summer, she is on staff with the George N. Parks Drum Major Academy and the Nebraska Masonic All-star Marching Band, helping young musicians develop their musicianship and leadership skills.

Outside of music, Lauren enjoys spending meaningful time with her husband, Brian, and their two cats, Stella and Toshiko.

J. PAUL GOLDENSTEIN, CPA, PC
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Lindsay Tague, General Business Manager



Lindsay Tague is a communications and media professional with a passion for the arts, nonprofit storytelling, and community engagement. She holds a Master of Arts in Journalism and a Master of Fine Arts in Documentary Filmmaking from Michigan State University, along with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Media Communication from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Throughout her career, Lindsay has focused on sharing the stories of artists, musicians, and the communities they serve. As an arts reporter for KVNO, she collaborated with the Nebraska Wind Symphony to produce stories such as coverage of the Tony Snyder Memorial Concert and the Middle School All-Stars Concert. Both stories received Nebraska Broadcasters Association Pinnacle Awards, recognizing excellence in broadcasting. "Wealth Washed," a documentary she produced, was also nominated for an Emmy by the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.



Keith Davis, Music Librarian, NWS

Keith Davis is a native of Kansas City, Missouri and has made Omaha his home since 1991. He earned degrees in Composition and Horn Performance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where his principal instructors were Dr. Gerald Kemner and Dr. James Mobberley; he received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1988 and his Master of Music degree in 1990. Mr. Davis has composed pieces for a wide variety of ensembles, but his focus on wind band music has yielded several successful commissions, compositions and arrangements, including "Deus ex Machina", "A Western Plains Overture", "Entebbe Variations", "Native Hunters", and "Bastion of Freedom".

Keith has been a playing member of the Nebraska Wind Symphony since 1992, serving previously as Associate Music Director and presently as 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 pets.

The Swingtones & MCS
Music in Catholic Schools

Music in Catholic Schools Benefit Dance & Silent Auction
Friday, February 5, 2027
at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Center: 5419 N 114th Street

Dancing: 7:30 - 10:00 pm
Free Dance Lessons: 6:15 - 7:15 pm
Silent Auction, Beverages, and Desserts Available
Music by the NWS *Swingtones*
Tickets at the Door: $15
Funds raised enable more students to participate in band at their schools!

For more information, call 402-827-3724

Archdiocese of Omaha
ONE CHURCH
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Nebraska Wind Symphony Fall Program
"A Golden Jubilee"

UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center
October 18, 2026 | 7:30 pm
Joshua Kearney - NWS Music Director
Chris Tucker - NWS Associate Music Director
Jason Johnson - Guest Soloist (Trumpet)
David Gardner - Guest Composer
Rick Richards - Guest Conductor

Silverado — BRUCE BROUGHTON (1985)
TR. BASS (2008)

Once Around the Moon — LARRY MACTAGGART (2026)

Golden Jubilee — JOHN PHILIP SOUSA (1928)
Rick Richards, Guest Conductor

Where We Meet — HALEY WOODROW (2026)
Consortium Premiere
Chris Tucker, Associate Music Director

Crucifixus for Trumpet and Wind Band — DAVID GARDNER (2026)
Jason Johnson, Trumpet

Old Home Days — CHARLES IVES (1954)
ARR. ELKUS (1979)

Waltz
Opera House & Old Home Day
The Collection
Slow March
London Bridge is Falling Down

Star Spangled Banner — JOHN STAFFORD SMITH (1814)
ARR. ZANINELLI (1975)

The Nebraska Wind Symphony Playing Members
Sunday, October 18th, 2026

FLUTE
Nancy Boyer -
Retired School Secretary
Fran Coren C - *Homemaker*
Lisa Erickson -
Adult Education Instructor
Lisa Fimbres - *Clerk*
Lisa Line - *Attorney*
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
Heather Holland* -
Risk and Insurance

CLARINET
Lucas Abraham - *Administrator/ Band Instrument Repair Technician*
Jennifer Chase - *Homemaker*
Sheryl Cuba C - *Retired*
Alyssiah Green - *Phlebotomist*
Zijun Luo (bass) -
Economics Professor
Don Moran (contra) -
A/V Professional
Miriam Moran (contra) -
IT Consultant
Dan Pearson - *Business Analyst*
James Reed - *Fiction Writer*
Gary Roth - *Security Engineer*
Anna Stednitz - *Graduate Student*
Pat Stronck -
Medical Billing Sr. Associate
Barbara Teter* C - *Veterinarian*
Allison West -
High School Band Director

SAXOPHONE
Preston Casey - *Band Director*
Donald Jacobson -
Conductor, Iowa Western Community Band
Dan Kingkade - *Retired*
Deb Lund - *Retired Band Teacher/ Administrator*
Randy Mimick - *Business Consultant*
Sarah Stratton* - *Music Supervisor*

TRUMPET
Joel Edwards - *Clinical Audiologist*
Wayne Harrison - *Retired Professor*
Bethany Kracl* - *School Counselor*
James Patton -
Digital Fabricator/Business Owner
Christopher Ramsay -
Maintenance Engineer
Kevin Roark -
Structural Steel Detailer
Adam Schmidt - *Software Engineer*
Rebecca Shively - *I/O Psychologist*
Jessica Todd -
Volunteer Cooridinator
Chris Tucker - *Retired Band Director*

HORN
Christi Bierman -
Licensing Coordinator
Andrew Braun* - *Music Teacher*
Keith Davis - *Composer/Arranger*
Anna Helzer -
High School Spanish Teacher
Leslie Jacobs -
Healthcare Administrator
Helen Jordon - *Retired/Artist*
Rick Richards - *Retired Teacher*

TROMBONE
Kyle Avery - *Teacher*
John Baker -
Retired Pathologist
James Grundke -
Information Security
Dale Irvin - *Retired*
Brian Lund* - *Retired IT*
Alex Toews - *Software Developer*

EUPHONIUM
Forrest Griffith - *Training Specialist*
Joseph Phillips - *Biology Professor*
Mark Simerly - *Solutions Consultant*

TUBA
Kenny Baires - *Band Director*
Mark Dauner - *Marketing Strategist*
Ryan Everett - *Attorney*
Kevin Gilreath - *Retired*
Bill Lindau - *Retired*

PERCUSSION
Kyle Ackley -
Apprentice Electrician
Analynn Fassler -
Medical Claims Supervisor
Steve Jordon - *Writer*
Edwin Lyons -
Philanthropic Development
Stephen Michael C -
Dentist/Pilot
Rick Murch-Shafer -
UNO Director of Academic Technologies
Jack Poitras -
Stagehand & AVL

* Section Principal
C Charter Member

Did you know? The Nebraska Wind Symphony is a proud mem- ber 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 Regioal 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.



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 cel- ebrate the vision of our founding members with each new concert season.

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with all your Real Estate needs



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Music has the power to inspire, uplift and bring people together.

At Nebraska Cancer Specialists, we believe exceptional cancer care can do the same, bringing together expertise, compassion and personalized support for every patient we serve.

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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
Amber Bock
Lauren Milbourn
Lucas Abraham

Fall Concert 2026 - Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of our fans, playing members, and community. The cost of each NWS concert is over $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 October 1, 2025 thru September 30, 2026.

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Rick Richards

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Thank you for joining us for today's concert!
Please mark your calendars for our next concert:
Sun. Dec. 6, 2026 - 3 PM at UNO Strauss PAC

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Omaha's Community Concert Band

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