



Western Kentucky University
Potter College of Arts & Letters
Department of Music

Symphonic Band

✦✦ Diamonds In The Sky ✦✦

Dr. Matthew McCurry, *conductor*
Megan Withers, *graduate conductor*

Wind Ensemble

Dr. Gary Schallert, *conductor*
David Holt, *graduate conductor*
Noah Woody, *graduate conductor*

Friday, April 24, 2026 • 7:30 pm
Van Meter Hall
Bowling Green, KY

Symphonic Band

Dr. Matthew McCurry, *director*

MASAMICZ AMANO **Twinkle, Twinkle Variations**

STEVEN BRYANT **all stars are love**
Kiris Ray, soprano

JAMES BARNES **Variants on a Moravian Hymn**

SAMUEL BARBER **Sure on This Shining Night**
arr. Richard Saucedo
Megan Withers, graduate conductor

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA **The Golden Star**

JOHN WILLIAMS **Star Wars – The Marches**
arr. Brubaker

Brief Intermission

Wind Ensemble

Dr. Gary Schallert, *director*

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA **Sesquicentennial Exposition March**
David Holt, graduate conductor

CARL MARIA VON WEBER **Rondo from Clarinet Concerto No. 1**
arr. Yeago
Andrew Blosser, 2026 Concerto Competition Winner

VIET CUONG **Deciduous**
Noah Woody, graduate conductor

DAVID MASLANKA **Symphony No. 7**
I. Moderate | II. Slow | III. Very Fast | IV. Moderately Slow
Dr. Zachary Lopes, piano

ZEQUINHA DE ABREU **Tico Tico**
arr. Naohiro Iwai

SYMPHONIC BAND PERSONNEL

PICCOLO

Olivia Booher

FLUTE

Olivia Booher*

Kiris Ray*

Marina Chiames 🎓

Megan Withers ^Δ

AJ Lowery

Kara Jones Pruitt

Tessa Martin

Geni Segovia

Grace Satriano

OBOE

Logan Graham* 🎓

Renee Garrett

CLARINET

Zoey Hobdey*

Makayla Nichols

Arabella Ross

Emily Horn

Mary Pendergrass

Paige Copen

Sylva Ford

Nathan Dore

Elise Richmond

Briana Gomes

BASS CLARINET

Ethan Tate*

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Matt Law*

Evan Kenney

Josh Richards

Anna Ward

Cole Hammers

Randall Joe Brown

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Noah Cherry

Aidan Grindle

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Shaylee Baxter 🎓

HORN

Ty Stanton*

Cameron Willoughby

Sam Porter

Tanner Wilkin 🎵

TRUMPET

Aiden Pike*

Brayden Givens

Simon Bozone

Isabella Enlow

AJ Honeycutt

Hannah Wooten

Jeremiah Adams

Jack Richardson

Sophia Mitchell

Connor McDonald

TROMBONE

Layne Eaton*

Charlie Smith

Kian Raleigh

Lucas White

Aidan Stone

BASS TROMBONE

Noah Woody ^Δ 🎓

EUPHONIUM

Ashleigh Sparks*

James LeDuc

Sorrell Brown 🎓

TUBA

Geoffrey Hash*

Cooper White

Paul Calloway

Nate Delehanty

PERCUSSION

Lane Bibb*

Dianna Hendricks

Addy McKenney

Wilbert Osorio-Hernandez

Karson Pitts

Conner York

Jacob Bandy

PIANO

Anna Donovan

Featured Soloist



Kiris Ray, *soprano soloist*, is a Vocal Music Education and Performance Major with a Minor in Flute at Western Kentucky University. A current sophomore, Kiris is very active in both choral ensembles and bands, and is a member of the Music Teachers National Association. Recently, Kiris has had the privilege of traveling to Spain with the Western Kentucky Chorale under the direction of Dr. Paul Hondorp and plans to study music abroad in Austria this summer. She is thrilled to collaborate with her wonderful peers and director, Dr. McCurry.

* = Principal / Co-Principal

^Δ = Graduate Assistant

🎵 = Assisting Musician

🎓 = Graduating Member

WIND ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

FLUTE

Emily Castner^
Brianna Nolan^
Leah Chen
Emily Curtsinger
Gayle Rushing

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Patrick Johnson*
Asher Lee
Isaiah McFadden

EUPHONIUM

Geoffrey Hash*
Reagan Schmidt
Cooper White

CLARINET

Andrew Blosser*
Melody Weihrauch
Denny Oum
Rizal Duncan
Zada Henderson
Thalia Roddy
Jacobry Brison
Mason Kloss

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Cailee Tucker

TUBA

David Holt*^Δ
James LeDuc
John Gossar

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Hunter Baker

STRING BASS

Jayne Shannon

HORN

Ashton Keen*
Tanner Wilken
Hera Patrick
Addie Smith

PERCUSSION

Marisa Franklin*
Andrew McGuffey
Joe Thomas
Michael Cecil
Jack Calhoun
Connor Kizziar
Noah Woody^Δ
Wilbert Osorio-Hernandez
Conner York

BASS CLARINET

Zoey Hobdey
Emily Horn

TRUMPET

Micah Buckham^
Brent Layne^
Chloe Packard
Olivia Harris
Will Burris

PIANO

Adeline Carpenter

OBOE

Sydney Friedman*
Evelyn Hansen

TROMBONE

James Baxter^
Colby Monarch^
Willow Strader

BASSOON

Carter Edwards*
Isaac Kicklighter

BASS TROMBONE

Donovan Jaggars

* = Principal / ^ = Co-Principal
Δ = Graduate Assistant
♪ = Assisting Musician

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 27	Campus Community Band Concert	Van Meter Hall 7:30p
May 1	WKU Symphony, Chorale, and SOKY Choral Society Concert Bowling Green Youth Orchestra	Van Meter Hall 7:30p

PROGRAM NOTES

Twinkle, Twinkle Variations (2002)

Masamicz Amano (b.1957)

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star – Variations for Wind Ensemble opens and sets the tone for tonight's concert entitled *Diamonds In The Sky*. This familiar tune, set to the 1761 French melody "Ah! vous dirai-je, maman" and famously arranged into a set of variations by Mozart, has become one of the most recognizable tunes for children and adults alike. These newer variations, arranged by Amano into this great opener, passes the tune throughout the ensemble with modern and exciting twists. Amano is a Japanese composer, arranger, and conductor who has composed music for wind bands, orchestras, commercials, and TV programs. His works have been performed by the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra and his works, including this one, are featured in the prestigious All-Japan Band Association competitions.

- Program Note by the conductor

all stars are love (2014)

Steven Bryant (b. 1972)

all stars are love began as a simple song written as a surprise gift for my wife, Verena, for our wedding in 2010. I set the E.E. Cummings poem *all stars are (and not one star only) love*, and our dear friend and extraordinary soprano Hila Plitmann performed it at the ceremony in Austria. Fellow composer (and Hila's husband!) Eric Whitacre suggested at the time that it would work well as an instrumental work, and that thought stuck with me, until the right opportunity to adapt the work arose. This commission from the Colorado Wind Ensemble and CWE Commissioning Project Consortium gave me that opportunity. I can never simply arrange a work from one medium to another, however, and I ended up recomposing large portions of the work, so this is as much new music as it is material from the original song, though the dramatic shape and harmonic progression at the heart of the work remain.

- Program Note by the composer

Variants on a Moravian Hymn (1992)

James Barnes (b. 1949)

This work was commissioned by the Freedom High School Band to celebrate the 250th anniversary of that school's hometown: Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Realizing that Bethlehem was in the very center of the many settlements of Moravian Baptists who founded this city, the composer searched for some sort of musical identity that would be appropriate, and found an obscure, but very beautiful, Moravian Christmas hymn entitled *Morning Star, O Cheering Sight*. Instead of composing a normal "theme and variations" based on this hymn, Barnes opted to save the tune in its entirety until the very end when introduced by a trombone choir, so it is essentially a "variations and theme". The instrumentation was chosen because the Moravians are most famous for their wonderful trombone choirs accompanying the singing in their church services.

- Program Note by publisher

Sure on This Shining Night (1938/2004) Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Barber's *Sure on This Shining Night* was originally written for low voice and piano and utilized a poem by James Agee. It has been adapted for a number of various vocal and string ensembles. This wind adaptation was released in 2004. The Knoxville-born writer James Agee (1909-1955) was a poet, journalist, novelist, and screenwriter. He also was the author of *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, an eloquent and anguished testimony about the essential human dignity of impoverished sharecroppers during the 1930s. The book is regarded as one of the most significant literary documents associated with the Great Depression.

Sure on This Shining Night

*Sure on this shining night
Of star made shadows round
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.
The late year lies down the north.*

*All is healed, all is health
High summer holds the earth.
Hearts are whole
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.*

Richard Saucedo's arrangement transforms the intimate art song for concert band, offering a warm, lush, and lyrical setting. This arrangement highlights Barber's expressive melodies and harmonies, featuring solos for flugelhorn/trumpet, flute, and oboe before building to a dramatic climax and tapering to a quiet, sensitive conclusion.

- Program Note from the Wind Repertory Project

The Golden Star (1919)

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)

On the front cover of this World War I dirge is the following inscription:

*Dedicated to Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt
In memory of the brave
Who gave their lives
That liberty shall not perish.*

Specifically, the march was composed on memory of Theodore Roosevelt and his son Quentin Roosevelt, who was killed in France. Sousa summed up his sentiments in an interview. "It will not be a monetary success. One cannot write from his heart and write for rewards. I was thinking of these fine young boys who will never return." The composition was heartily but seriously received immediately after the war but was dropped from the Sousa Band repertoire gradually as the nation returned to normal. Taps was included in one section of the march, and this brought about several sorrowful reactions from audiences. At one concert in Reno, Nevada, for instance, women burst into tears and the band could scarcely hear itself play.

- Program Note from *John Philip Sousa: A Descriptive Catalog of His Works*

Star Wars – The Marches (1977)

John Williams (b. 1932)

John Williams is perhaps the most famous and accomplished composer alive today. His fame rests on the dozens of movie scores he has composed, including the entire *Star Wars* saga, the *Indiana Jones* series, and the initial *Harry Potter* films. Like so many of the characters he scores, he has quite a rich back story, including a jazz career as Johnny Williams and a *Sinfonietta for Winds and Percussion* from the 60s. There is no denying, though, that his film scores have been front and center in his career. So many stunning marches were part of the epic *Star Wars* motion pictures that they had to be combined in one powerful piece. This Jerry Brubaker arrangement features *Star Wars (Main Theme)*, *Parade of the Ewoks*, *The Imperial March*, *Augie's Great Municipal Band* and *The Throne Room*. These marches serve as underscore for some of the most thrilling, evil, and celebratory moments in the series and epic battles across the galaxy.

- Program Note from the publisher

Sesquicentennial Exposition (1926) John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)

Composed by John Philip Sousa for the 1926 Sesquicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia, this march celebrates the 150th anniversary of American independence. Requested by exposition officials and dedicated to Philadelphia Mayor W. Freeland Kendrick, the piece is a energetic, celebratory march honoring the nation's milestone.

- Program Note from *Wind Repertory Project*

Concerto for Clarinet No. 1 (1811) Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)

Carl Maria Von Weber is well known for oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn works. He was commissioned to write two clarinet pieces by King Max Joseph after Heinrich Barmann, clarinetist of the Royal Orchestra of Germany, premiered Weber's *Concertino*, op. 26. This concerto is written in the purest Romantic vein of the Arthur Schumann. The final rondo is characterized by vivacity, elegance, and spirit, and permits the soloist to display freely all the resources of his/her virtuosity.

Deciduous (2023)

Viet Cuong (b. 1990)

For a long time after my father passed away, I felt like I had "lost my leaves." In the ways that leaves harness light to create energy for trees and plants, I felt like I had so little left to harness creatively. Many days I feared those leaves would never grow back. After struggling for months to write, I finally found some healing while creating *Deciduous*. This involved revisiting chord progressions that brought me solace throughout my life and activating them in textures that I have enjoyed exploring in recent years. The piece cycles through these chord progressions, building to a moment where it's stripped of everything and must find a way to renew itself. While I continue to struggle with this loss, I have come to understand that healing is not as much of a linear process as it is a cyclical journey, where, without fail, every leafless winter is followed by a spring. *Deciduous* was commissioned by the Florida Bandmasters Association and premiered by the 11-12 Florida All-State Band under the direction of Dr. Emily Threinen.

-Program note by Viet Cuong

Symphony No. 7 (2004)

David Maslanka (1943-2017)

I am strongly affected by American folk songs and hymn tunes, and I think of this Symphony and "old songs remembered". With one exception all the tunes are original, but they all feel very familiar. The borrowed melody is from the 371 Four-Part Chorales by J.S. Bach. Each song has a bright side and a dark side, a surface and the dream underneath. Each is a signal or call which evokes an inner world of associations.

1. Sunday night church services from my youth. Mrs. Smith played the piano. The opening piano solo is marked "enthusiastically" in the score. A dream travels to a far place.
2. In the manner of an American folk song, with a setting that might have come out of the 19th or early 20th centuries.
3. A ferocious fast music, unrelenting, determined to get a grip on chaos. Toward the end a fractious quote of the Bach Chorale melody "Du Friedensfurst Herr Jesu Christ" (Prince of Peace Lord Jesus Christ).
4. A simple song of peace and healing

-Program Note by David Maslanka

Tico Tico (1917/1992)

Zequinha de Abreu (1880-1935)

Tico-Tico no Fubá is the renowned Brazilian choro music piece composed by Zequinha de Abreu (né José Gomes de Abreu) in 1917. Its original title was *Tico-Tico no Farelo*, but since Brazilian guitarist Américo Jacomino Canhoto (1889–1928) had a work with the same title, Abreu's work was given its present name in 1931. Choro (literally translated meaning lament) is also popularly known as chorinho in the affectionate diminutive form of Brazilian Portuguese. "Fubá" is a type of maize flour, and "tico-tico" is the name of a bird, the rufous-collared sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*). Hence, "tico-tico no fubá" means "sparrow in the cornmeal".

- Program Note from Wind Repertory Project



2026 WKU Concerto Competition Winner

Andrew Blosser, *clarinet*



Andrew Blosser is a sophomore clarinetist at Western Kentucky University and winner of the 2026 Concerto Competition. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music, and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Economics. Andrew graduated from duPont Manual High School where he was an active member of their music department performing in their symphonic band, wind ensemble, marching band, and symphonic orchestra. He previously performed in the 2023 Midwest Clinic with the duPont Manual Wind Ensemble, and served as the Drum Major of the 2023 duPont Manual Marching Band.

2025-2026 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Cailee Tucker	Bennie Beach Scholarship
Michael Cecil	Dr. Kent Campbell Scholarship
Carter Edwards	Melissa and Wes Madison Scholarship
Colby Monarch	Charles Smith Music Scholarship
Brianna Nolan	Patti Stanton Scholarship
James Baxter	Dr. Samuel W. and Jeane Payne Tinsley Endowed Music Scholarship
Shaylee Baxter	Dr. Samuel W. and Jeane Payne Tinsley Endowed Music Scholarship
Reagan Schmidt	Ida Weidemann Music Scholarship
Ty Stanton	Edith Wilson Music Scholarship
Denny Oum	Sylvia Kersenbaum Music Scholarship
Isaiah McFadden	Edward J. Pease Memorial Music Scholarship
Brent Layne	Jean and C. Robert Blankenship Scholarship
Chloe Packard	Jean and C. Robert Blankenship Scholarship
Shaylee Baxter	Joe Stites Music Education Scholarship

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion Faculty

Heidi Álvarez, D.M.A.	Florida State University	Flute
Mark S. Berry, D.M.A.	University of Michigan	Percussion
Emily Britton, D.M.A.	Florida State University	Horn
Courtney Calvert, M.M.	Western Kentucky University	Clarinet
John Cipolla, D.M.A.	University of North Carolina, Greensboro	Clarinet/Saxophone
Jared Cummings, D.M.A.	Florida State University	Saxophone
Diana Dunn, M.M.	Rice University	Oboe
Keegan Finkbine, M.M.	University of Georgia	Bassoon
Scott Harris, D.M.A.	University of Oklahoma	Percussion Tech/Advising
Sarah Herbert, D.M.A.	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music	Trumpet
Matthew McCurry, D.M.A.	West Virginia University	Associate Director of Bands
Marilyn Nije, M.M.	Manhattan School of Music	Clarinet
Gary Schallert, D.A.	University of Northern Colorado	Director of Bands
Christopher Schmidt, D.MED	Liberty University	Tuba/Euphonium
Jefferson Tunks, M.M.	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music	Trombone

Western Kentucky University Bands

Director of Bands	Dr. Gary Schallert
Associate Director of Bands/Athletic Bands.....	Dr. Matthew McCurry
Assistant Director of Athletic Bands.....	Dr. Scott Harris
Graduate Assistants	David Holt, Megan Withers, Noah Woody
Band Managers.....	Michael Cecil, Olivia Harris, Evan Kenney Patrick Johnson, Brianna Nolan, Cailee Tucker

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support of the following:

Dr. Timothy Caboni, President, Western Kentucky University
 Dr. Robert "Bud" Fischer, Provost, Western Kentucky University
 Dr. Terrance Brown, Dean, Potter College
 Dr. Zachary Lopes, Chair, Department of Music
 Emily Lindsey, Office Coordinator, Department of Music
 Jeffrey "Smitty" Smith, Technical Director, Van Meter Auditorium
 Sarah Thomas, Van Meter Hall
 Delta Omicron | Phi Mu Alpha | Sigma Alpha Iota

