



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CONCERT BAND & CAMPUS BAND

Concert Band Conductor
Arris Golden

Guest Conductor
Emily Trapani

Campus Band Conductors
Michael Gabriel
Emily Trapani

Thursday, December 4, 2025 | 7:30 PM
Cobb Great Hall
Wharton Center for Performing Arts

CONCERT PROGRAM

Peter Mennin
(1923-1983)

Canzona (1951)
Arris Golden, *conductor*

Michele Fernández
(b. 1959)

Of Endless Miles and Empty Rafts (2023)
Emily Trapani, *conductor*

Fernando Bonete Piqueras
(b. 1969)

Feria de Julio (2015)
Emily Trapani, *conductor*

Christopher Nelson
(b.1987)

Wayfaring Stranger (2014)
Arris Golden, *conductor*

Henry Dorn
(b.1988)

A Hornet's Nest (2024)
Arris Golden, *conductor*

-INTERMISSION-

David Samuel
(b. 1986)

Dance of the Imp (2020)
Emily Trapani, *conductor*

Florence Price, arr. Dana Perna
(b. 1888-1953)

The Old Boatman (1930/2022)
Emily Trapani, *conductor*

Chaiwanichsiri Viskamol
(b. 1984)

Never Give In, Never Give Up (2024)
Michael Gabriel, *conductor*

Randall Standridge
(B. 1976)

Affirmation (2020)
Michael Gabriel, *conductor*



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Please silence all handheld electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

PROGRAM NOTES

Canzona | Peter Mennin

Canzona is a short, brisk work, which opens with a declamatory idea expressed in massed sonorities. Next, a broad melodic line is introduced and supported by powerful rhythmic figurations. This is followed by a cantabile section. These materials are developed and expanded, and the piece closes with the opening statements brought back in a more dramatic presentation. **Canzona** was commissioned by Edwin Franko Goldman through The League of Composers, and was premiered by the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Frederick Fennell conducting, in New York on 15 June 1951.

– Program note by Composer

Of Endless Miles and Empty Rafts | Michele Fernández

Throughout time and regardless of origin, immigrants have shown a spiritual courage and resolve to survive that has found countless families suffering perilous journeys in search of safety. Many have been lost along the way. As a child of Cuban parents who fled oppression (leaving much behind to build a new life), my respect and empathy for all immigrants runs deep. Although my parents' (still traumatic) exoduses were not by sea, several family members' and friends' journeys were. Throughout my life I have heard stories of near losses and rafts washing ashore, empty.

This piece is in no way intended as a contemporary statement, rather as an empathic look at humanity's struggles to protect innocent families throughout history, and a tribute to my own ancestors' courage. Many of us are descents of immigrants at some point in our deep histories, regardless of era, or origin. During my 30 years as a public school teacher in Miami, I had countless (precious) students who suffered trauma from the dangers of their immigrant journey, and so this original composition honors displaced souls from all eras and walks of life, irrespective of hemisphere -- who have fled homes, to anywhere, in search of safety for themselves and their children.

Of Endless Miles and Empty Rafts is written using two authentic Afro-Cuban forms: Guaguancó and Son-Montuno. In this work, many authentic patterns are woven into the fabric of the winds as well. No prior knowledge of Afro-Latin forms is needed to achieve an authentic performance, as percussion parts are carefully crafted using a personally developed, simplified method to achieve authenticity quickly. Each brief section represents elements of an immigrant's story.

– Program note by Composer

Feria de Julio | Fernando Bonete Piqueras

Feria de Julio is a march written in the Spanish Paso Doble style and translates as "July Fair." Summer fairs, particularly the July's fair, is a century's old tradition and incredibly important part of Spanish culture. The Feria de Julio hosted annually in Valencia, Spain, is a month-long cultural festival with roots in an 1871 celebration to entertain residents and boost summer commerce. Its modern iteration includes a city-wide celebration of culture, music, and community throughout all of July including concerts in the Turia Gardens, traditional firework ceremonies, & street parades.

The Paso Doble style of this work translates as "Double Step" and is a binary based dance form. The two-step march style of this form mirrors the two-step march style of both French and Spanish military style of the late 18th Century. The nationalistic identity of the Paso Doble and solidification of its form have disputed historic roots according to French and Spanish music historians; despite this, by the end of the 19th C it transformed into a staple of military wind band music and remains a lively form among popular contemporary Spanish festival culture.

– Program note by Emily Trapani

Wayfaring Stranger | Christopher Nelson

Wayfaring Stranger is a setting of the American folk spiritual known as *Poor Wayfaring Stranger*. While many versions of the lyrics to this tune exist, they all tell the story of a traveler who makes his way on a journey despite a rough road, difficult circumstances, and gathering darkness. He does this, the lyrics say, for the promise of green pastures and a reunion with his father and mother at journey's end. This setting is intended to convey not only the difficulty experienced by the traveler, but also the resolve which is displayed as he moves forward despite hardship, and disappointment. *Wayfaring Stranger* is offered as a sort of resolute battle hymn for anyone who must endure a long journey of challenge and trial before the promised green pastures can be enjoyed.

– Program note by Composer

A Hornet's Nest | Henry Dorn

The city of Charlotte, North Carolina, has a rich and diverse history, which is the subject of this work. This composition considers Charlotte's past, starting with the Catawba Nation, on whose ancestral lands the present municipality stands, and concludes with the continued "New South" spirit of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the institution that made this composition possible.

Modern-day Charlotte, known as the "Queen City," was first incorporated in 1768. Named after Queen Charlotte (Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz), settlers established the city on Catawba tribal lands. A key event in its history is the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence from 1775, which challenged British authority before the signing of the official U.S. Declaration of Independence the following year. During the American Revolution, Charlotte became a focal point of resistance, with General Cornwallis of Great Britain famously labeling it a "hornet's nest of rebellion." In the 19th century, Charlotte grew as a major railroad junction and a center for trade, particularly after the discovery of gold in 1799. The city evolved post-Civil War, shifting from agriculture to manufacturing, especially textiles, aided by the Southern Railway. Culturally, Charlotte became a music hub and home of WBT – the South's first radio station – which drew gospel and country artists from throughout the country. Today, Charlotte's "Uptown" area reflects its unique geography and has seen rapid population growth and cultural diversity. The city continues to blend its historical roots with modern challenges and opportunities, aiming to be a welcoming community for all.

The opening moments of this work, while not a direct quote of any music revered by the Catawba Nation, pay respect and homage to their culture and heritage through flute and drum music. The melody is a variation on a well-known folk and gospel song *I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger*. These humble beginnings give way to the eighteenth-century settlement and incorporation of Charlotte and the significance of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (Meck Dec) and Charlotte's role in the American Revolutionary War (A Hornet's Nest). The following quicker section highlights the region's economic boom brought on by the first significant gold rush in U.S. history and the advent of major railway lines connecting Charlotte to Columbia, S.C. The sounds of country music and Piedmont blues color this section, featuring another familiar folk song popularized in North Carolina – *Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair*. Among the most well-known recordings of this work is one made famous by Nina Simone, who was born in Tryon, N.C., and championed the song as a part of her repertoire.

The music calms to a more reverent space, Gospel (Good News), centered around *I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger*. This section considers the Old South past, the consequences of the American Civil War, and the industrialization that gave way to the "New South." The returning fast music brings the listener back to "Uptown" Charlotte and the cultural boom of the twentieth century before giving way to a more modern "New South" and the imprint of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (and the music of its alma mater) on the greater Queen City community.

– Program note by Composer

Dance of the Imp | David Samuel

One word comes to mind for Imps: mischief. This piece depicts just that with a mysterious, yet playful theme. Imagine a playful imp dancing around a fire on a lonely starry night... planning up some quirky scheme. The piece opens up with the minor triads in the Trombones, and the melody is introduced in the Clarinets. The full band depicts the Imp at work as the Flute, Clarinet, and Trumpets push the theme to new developments, while the Saxophones, Euphonium, and Xylophone play descending and ascending counter melodic figures. Afterwards, the piece depicts the Imp with playful like figures as the woodwinds carry the primary theme while the Trumpet and Euphonium enhance the melody. The piece then moves to major, but quickly moves back to minor. Once again the Imp's work is always uncertain. I hope you enjoy Dance of the Imp, and hopefully you will leave pondering what will happen next.

– Program note by Composer

The Old Boatman | Florence Price

Florence Price is noted as the first African-American woman composer to be recognized as a symphonic composer. Her Symphony No. 1 in E minor was premiered by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933. In 2009, a substantial collection of her unpublished works were discovered in an abandoned house in St. Anne, Illinois, many of which are only now coming to light. The Old Boatman is one such work. Price originally composed this short melodic work, **The Old Boatman**, as a two-page piano work for the benefit of her developing piano students. Upon hearing it, Dana Paul Perna found it very reminiscent of Edvard Grieg, specifically his Lyric Pieces, and 19 Norwegian Folk Tunes, Op. 66. With that in mind, he proceeded to score her work in a literal transcription for string orchestra in 2002 and for Band in 2022.

- Program note from score

Never Give In, Never Give Up | Viskamol Chaiwanichsiri

Never Give In, Never Give Up is a composition that captures the emotional journey of individuals chasing their dreams. It portrays the resilience and determination required to overcome life's challenges. The piece unfolds in four sections: Hesitation, Joyous Days, Obstacles, and The Voice.

The Hesitation introduces a moment of hesitation, as individuals grapple with the doubt of whether to let go of their aspirations. A solemn melody suspended in harmony evokes this uncertainty, setting the stage for the journey ahead. As the music transitions into Joyous Days, it bursts with optimism and hope, reflecting someone full of dreams.

But life is never without its struggles. In Obstacles, fierce music depicts the battles we face, and the pain of shattered hopes. Just when despair seems overwhelming, The Voice enters -- soothing, gentle melody that whispers encouragement: "When bad days come, you may feel like giving in, like giving up. But hang in there! Take a deep breath and keep going." This piece is a heartfelt reminder to all: no matter how difficult the journey, never give in, and never give up.

– Program note by Composer

Affirmation | Randall Standridge

This one is for all the outcasts, the geeks, the marginalized, the wallflowers, and the people who are “different.” Every once in a while, I believe you get to “say something” with a piece of music. When I was in high school, I was definitely NOT one of the popular crowd. My tastes in music, art, and movies were too weird. I was awkward. I was not a very attractive guy. Generally, I was that “gay, artsy kid.” If I could go back in time, I would give that younger me a hug and say “you are FINE the way you are. You are AMAZING.”

This new work, *Affirmation*, commissioned by the Barrington Middle School Band and their director, Mr. David Triplett-Rosa, is an anthem for all the kids who ever felt like they didn’t belong. It was originally scheduled to be premiered last year [2020], but was pushed to this spring. A huge thank you again to David and the band for letting me write this work and trusting me with its message.

It would have been easy to write something soft, lyrical, and saccharine, but I wanted to take a different approach ... I wanted it to be a celebration. This is the single happiest thing I have ever written in my career. So this one goes out to the band geeks, the nerdy kids, the art kids, the drama kids, the punk rockers, the LGBTQA+ kids, the kids of color, and the all the people (kids and adults) who have ever been made to feel “less than” because of who they are.

You are beautiful.

You are JUST FINE the way you are.

And you are WORTH celebrating.

We all have more in common than we have different...our common humanity.

Peace, Love, and Music.

- Program Note by composer

CONCERT BAND

ARRIS GOLDEN | CONDUCTOR

FLUTE

Emma Mason Novi, MI
Kim An Nguyen Troy, MI
Brianna Chartier Midland, MI
Keira Irving Schoolcraft, MI
Kaitlyn Jaeger Jackson, MI
Allison Hepp Oxford, MI

OBOE

Sage Dole Castle Rock, CO
Josie Ethier Troy, MI

BASSOON

Tristan Jones Lexington, KY
Megan Frederick Ashburn, VA
Rosalie Truback Lemont, IL

CLARINET

Allexa Brody Lapeer, MI
Katie Sue Chapin Shawnee, KS
Matilynn Daughtry New Baltimore, MI
Haonan Liu Shandong Province, China
Ciel Riskus Hoffman Estates, IL
Arthur Temellis Savella Rochester Hills, MI
Ana Lucia Spathopoulos Fairfax, VA
Ana Wikins Ann Arbor, MI
Molly Wolfe Sault Ste. Marie, MI
Xavier Smith Grand Ledge MI

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Joslyn Blanks Macomb, MI
Weston Borodin Vienna, VA
Ethan Delbeke Shelby Township, MI
Deegan Hutting DeWitt, MI

HORN

Cassie Auck Lakewood, OH
Ryan Betts Holt, MI
Andrew Murphy Clarkston, MI
Ricky Saucedo Jr. Bolingbrook, IL
Jack Sheehan Portland, MI
Maya VanNoord Holland, MI

TRUMPET

Matthew Gardanier Wixom, MI
Elijah Green Mount Pleasant, MI
Eliana McDonald Lansing, MI
Clark Neuwirth Northville, MI
Alison Nichols Port Huron, MI
Anna Young Royal Oak, MI

TROMBONE

Sydney Carson Crystal Lake, IL
Gavin Fedewa Owosso, MI
Justin Hill Wixom, MI
Cael Sutherland Ann Arbor, MI
Nolan Zatkan Holt, MI

EUPHONIUM

Bryce Reinke Sandusky, MI
Will Loos Perry, MI

TUBA

Brayden Benner DeWitt, MI
Keri McClain Flushing, MI
Keira Naegele Adrian, MI

PERCUSSION

Tlalith Blancas-Romero Lansing, MI
Henry Boros Traverse City, MI
Andrew Brantsch Stow, OH
Miles DuPree Canton, MI
Joshua Harlan Berkley, MI
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Jackson Spiess Austin, TX

PIANO

Qi Zhou Shandong, China

HARP

Serenity Flores Springfield, VA

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Deniz Akinci Northville, MI
Molly Bartoszek Allen Park, MI
Cara Falkowski Bath, MI
Vivian Harka Royal Oak, MI
Madalyn Howes Rochester, MI
Alexa Jordan Howell, MI
Danny Kim Rochester Hills, MI
Audrey Lehman Fenton, MI
Winston Li Novi, MI
Reagan McNerney Clare, MI
Lyra Moore Okemos, MI
Cammy Nguyen Livonia, MI
Christina Pack Troy, MI
Robin Petelin Summerfield, OH
Zoe Przystas Waverly, MI
Maddie Russell Holland, MI
Sophia Shelton Goodrich, MI
Ava Sheridan Sandusky MI
Ann Marie Smalley Kent City, MI
Hannah Strimpel Maybee, MI
Ryan Taki Northville, MI
Abby Tassin Dexter, MI
Megan Verdezoto Clinton Township, MI
Olivia Welch Romeo MI
Katie Youmans Novi, MI

OBOE

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Rebecca Salmonson Rochester MI
Wren Thomas Ann Arbor, MI
Viola Weber Grand Rapids, MI

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Ava Boley Grosse Pointe Park, MI
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Alton Fox St. Clair, MI
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Emma Caldwell Woodhaven, MI
Carter Coykendall Dearborn, MI
Jack Fazio Dearborn, MI
Cassidy Fishman Acworth, GA
Gabby Gallo Goodrich, MI
Bradley Gerwig New London, PA
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Emily Kroth Kalamazoo, MI
Ryan Lewis South Rockwood, MI
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Holland Thompson Jonesville, MI
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Mackenzie Voss Warren, MI
Conner Woodcock Eaton Rapids, MI
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Alan Pachla East Lansing, MI
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Grace Pantelides Macomb, MI
Anggie Sanchez-Avila Kent City, MI
Paige Smith Dublin, OH
Audrey Tithof Hartland, MI
Ray Van Kent City, MI
Tatum Wakeman Hartland, MI
Nadom Agyepong East Lansing, MI
Vineeth Shashidhar Novi, MI
Eden Van Proeyen Commerce Township, MI

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Ian Aguilar Canton, MI
Shelby Avey Livonia, MI
Patrick Baerwalde Hartland, MI
Grace Beem Farmington Hills, MI
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Sam Schulte Brighton, MI
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Natalie Stangis Troy, MI
Teddy Stroup Novi, MI
Samantha Thayer Owosso, MI
El Tischler Hartland, MI
Brandyn Zahs Beaver Dam, WI

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Arris Golden	Assistant Director of Bands Associate Director, Spartan Marching Band

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Derrick Fox	Professor of Choral Music Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

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Katherine Kilburn	Assistant Director of Orchestras

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Kenneth Prouty	Associate Professor of Musicology and Jazz Studies

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Craig Adams , Doctoral	Michael Parker , Doctoral
Michael Gabriel , Doctoral	Emily Trapani , Doctoral
E. Yuji Jones , Doctoral	

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Lupe Dominguez	Administrative Assistant
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Michael Kroth, Bassoon
Mingzhe Wang, Clarinet
Guy Yehuda, Clarinet
Joseph Lulloff, Saxophone
Corbin Wagner, Horn

Justin Emerich, Trumpet
Heather Zweifel, Trumpet
Kenneth Thompkins, Trombone
Chance Huiet, Tuba/Euphonium
Kevin Brown, Double Bass
Juan Riveros, Harp
Gwendolyn Dease, Percussion
Jon Weber, Percussion

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONCERT BAND & CAMPUS BAND | December 4, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Cobb Great Hall | Wharton Center for Performing Arts

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHOIRS, ALEGRÍA NAVIDEÑA | December 6, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Cobb Great Hall | Wharton Center for Performing Arts

JAZZ ORCHESTRAS WITH RENÉ MARIE, JAZZ VOICE | December 7, 2025 | 3:00 PM

Fairchild Theatre

A JAZZY LITTLE CHRISTMAS | December 13, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Fairchild Theatre

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- **Sam and Mary Austin Fund for New Music** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 26; Fall Opera)
- **Jenny Chung and Family for Human Rights Fund** (Rucker, Feb. 15)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (USA at 250 Years)
- **Trustee Emerita Dee Cook in memory of her husband Byron Cook** (Four Seasons)
- **Susan Davis** (Spring Opera)
- **Dean Transportation** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Alena Fabian, M.D.** (Votapek, Mar. 23; Khristenko, Mar. 30)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Wagner, Sept. 19)
- **Barbara and Bill Given** (Four Seasons; Alegría Navideña)
- **Anonymous** (Rucker, Feb. 15)
- **Howard and Pam Gourwitz** (Lulloff, Oct. 30)
- **Kevin and Amy Guskiewicz** (Alegría Navideña)
- **Hamilton-Dodson African Diaspora Endowment for the College of Music** (Musekiwa Chingodza, Oct. 2)
- **Lauren Harris** (Symphonic Dialogues; Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Anne Hiller** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (Gems for Cello)
- **Eileen G. Houston** (Wagner/Johnson/Wang, Sept. 19; Thompkins/Dease/Tang, Oct. 14; Trombone Ensemble, Nov. 8; Kanda, Nov. 18; Tuba/Euphonium, Jan. 28; Huiet, Feb. 24)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Votapek, Mar. 23)
- **Michael and Paula Koppisch** (Votapek Piano Festival, Aug. 15-17; Sherman/Zuber, Mar. 24)
- **Lansing Chapter of the American Guild of Organists** (Organist Nicole Keller, Sept. 14; Organist Peter Sykes, Mar. 22)

- **Jill Canny and Robert Last** (MSU Federal Credit Union Jazz Artist in Residence, A. Cohen, April 18; Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall and Spring Opera)
- **Ann, John and Abby Lindley** (Alegría Navideña)
- **Merritt Lutz** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- **Marshall Music Co.** (Symphonic Dialogues)
- **Pat and Mary McPharlin** (Jazz Infusion; Jazz: Spirituals Prayer and Protest)
- **Friends of Jay D. Meetz** (Fall Opera)
- **Dr. Roy and Christine Meland** (Four Seasons)
- **Gordon E. Miracle** (Four Seasons; Votapek, Mar. 23)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series; Spartan Spectacular; Celebrating the Spectrum; MSU Music on The Road in Detroit)
- **George Orban and Rae Ramsdell** (Jang/Moriarty, Feb. 8)
- **Liz and Tony Raduazo** (Pass a Good Time, Oct 5.; Sensory Friendly Spartan Concerts)
- **Charles and Nancy Seebeck** (Bagratuni, Mar. 16)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **TechSmith** (Celebrating the Spectrum)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Symphonic Dialogues; Four Seasons; Beethoven; Happy Birthday Mozart!; Yehuda/Warren, Jan. 29; Bagratuni, Mar. 16; and Bagratuni, Mar. 31)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (Happy Birthday Mozart!)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Wagner Chamber Music Competition)
- **Anonymous** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **Richard Witter** (A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Piano Monster)

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MSU WIND SYMPHONY

CARNEGIE HALL PERFORMANCE

SPRING 2027



The MSU Wind Symphony has an exciting opportunity to travel and perform at the renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2027. Generous contributions help to ensure that MSU's talented student musicians can showcase their artistry on one of the world's most prestigious stages. Every gift brings the Wind Symphony one step closer to making this unforgettable experience a reality, reinforcing MSU's legacy of excellence in music education and performance.

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