

Spring POPS Concert 2025

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WEST HILLS SYMPHONIC BAND

Concert Schedule Summer 2025

Sunday, June 15 • 6:30 PM • Collier Community Park Thursday, June 26 • 7:00 PM • Clever Park/Robinson Twp. Thursday, July 10 • 7:30 PM • Crafton Park Tuesday, July 29 • 7:00 PM • Leopold Lake Park/Findlay Twp.

Acknowledgments

Montour High School Custodians Cyndi Mancini, Montour High School Band Director Mike Holl, WHSB Photographer Al Teare, Chris Boyd, & Ken Sacks, Audio/Video Engineers

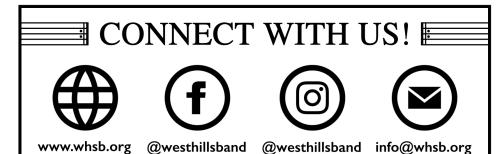
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Vince Gorman, Alexis Healey

The mission of the West Hills Symphonic Band is to offer musicians of varying ages and skill levels a challenging means of developing and expressing their musical skills, to inspire a love for music in band and audience members alike, and to provide quality concerts for local communities that enlighten, uplift, and educate audiences through the medium of the rich heritage and ongoing, vital role of the American community band.



The WHSB is a 501(c)3 registered nonprofit organization and a member of the Association of Concert Bands.



MUSICIANS

Musician Occupation

FLUTE/PICCOLO

LeRoy Abbott Instrument Repair (over 59 years), Volkwein's Music

Pamela Brady American Airlines-retired
Kelly Englert Grant Writer, Innovation Works

lamie Kasper Director, Arts Education Partnership in Washington,

DC

Kaitlin McClain Store Manager, Starbucks

Karen Koszak Duquesne Light Co.,/Bath & Body Works-retired

Leigh Snyder IT Systems Analyst, US Steel-retired

Ellen Spondike Instrumental Music Teacher, Shaler Area Middle

School

Ron Steffanina Band Director-retired; Pit Orchestra Musician

OBOE

Haley Casperson Contract Specialist, Dexian
Alicia Whitney Principal Consultant, fme-US, LLC

Eb CLARINET

Laura Smith Music Teacher; Musician; Director of Music at

Presbyterian Church of Coraopolis

CLARINET

Frederick Appel Customer Service Instructor, US Airways-retired

Carol Gilmour Physician, UPMC Newborn Medicine

Vince Coppola Attorney

Meagan Dickson Professional Musician; Private Studio Instructor

Marena Grondziowski Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher, Chartiers

Valley School District

Jodi Kutzner Postdoctoral researcher, Washington University
Laura Macek Change Manager at Alcoa; Instructor, CCBC

Maria Mangano Visual Artist

Diana Miller Behavior Specialist; Achieving True Self

Ted Nevin Music Teacher, Northgate School District-retired;

Conductor, Beaver County Symphonic Wind

Ensemble-retired

James Rumbaugh Instrument Repair Technician

Sara Snyder Music Teacher, Seneca Valley Middle School and

High School

Christine Stevens Music Teacher, Shaler Area School District—retired;

Freelance Musician

BASS CLARINET

Janice Coppola Professional Musician
Bryan Davidson English Teacher, PA Cyber

Richard Pawlish Science Teacher, Mt. Pleasant High School-retired

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Drew McKenzie Pharmacist, in-patient pharmacy at West Penn

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Amy Readshaw Medical Physicist, Varian Medical Systems

Dane Strickland Dentist

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Brett Freithaler Transit Operator, Port Authority

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Nick Andes Process Manager, US Steel

Fran Balog Pharmacist-retired

Alan Cugini Band Director, Burgettstown Area High School Trudy Jarvis Elementary Music Teacher/Hospice Caregiver—

retired

Joshua Platto Representative, Reconciliation at BNY Mellon

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Kress Oliver Senior, Robert Morris University

John Pastin Conductor/Commanding Officer, US Navy Band,

Washington, DC-retired; Dean/Director of Bands,

Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ-retired

BARI SAXOPHONE

Mark McCollum Band Director, Central Greene School District and

West Greene School District—retired; Professional

Musician

TRUMPET

Doug Arndt PA State Police Officer
Matt Campbell HVAC Service Technician

Len Cersosimo Band Director, Beaver Falls High School–retired
Jon DeGrosky PET/CT technologist, Excela Health Mountain View

Ken Gargaro Professor Emeritus, Robert Morris University;

Founder, Pittsburgh Musical Theater

Noah Kilgus Band Director, Avella Area School District

Becky Krivanek Elementary General Music, Shady Side Academy

Junior School

Gene Laus Professional Musician

Dennis Lodin Band Director, Iowa and Minnesota-retired

Matt Nelson Director of Bands/Instrumental Music Teacher, Fort

Cherry School District

Bill Parker Pastor; High School and College Band Director—retired
Bob Poholek Pharmacist—retired; Professional Musician—retired
Tyler Smith Registered Nurse at St. Clair Hospital; Paramedic at

Robinson EMS

Pat Walsh Laboratory Technologist, Interpace Diagnostics

HORN IN F

Emily Dingfelder Elementary Music Teacher, Central Valley School District

Erica Guidroz High Brass Instructor

Peggy Lee Former Horn Instructor and Musician in the

Northern VA and Washington, DC area

Matthew Litterini Music Teacher, Pittsburgh Public Schools—retired
Kevin McElheny Band Director and Music Teacher, Jefferson Morgan

School District-retired

Jeremy Miller Application Consultant, Verint Systems
Chad Toporski Music Teacher, Hopewell School District

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Director of Bands, Robert Morris University

Senior Systems Engineer, Iron Gate Technology

Owner, Wayne Door Sales & Service in Wintersville,

OH; Freelance Musician

Steve Stepson Network Operations Control Supervisor, Frontier

Airlines

EUPHONIUM

Scott Eisenreich Software Automation Architect, UPMC; Professional

Musician

Kate Franc Child care

Mindy Harrist Stay-at-home mom; M.A. in Public History from

Duquesne University

George Lepsch Band Director and Guidance Counselor, McKeesport

Area High School–retired; Assistant Conductor, Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra–retired

Joe Sheeler Technologist-retired

TUBA

Alex Kladny Actuarial Analyst, Constellation Insurance

Terry Remaly Media Arts Teacher, North Allegheny High School-

retired

Christian Reed Turf Specialist, Franciscan University of Steubenville

STRING BASS

Mark Perna Medical Physicist

PERCUSSION

Tom Harmon Public Safety Consultant—retired
Alexis Healey Engagement Manager, Hike2

Philip Kronenberg Education Representative, Volkwein's Music

Rick Laus Professional Musician Joey Watt Associate, WTW

Deb Weible Geologist; Drilling Contractor—retired

PROFILES

CLEM ROLIN, MUSICAL DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR. earned his B. S. in Music Education and Masters of Education from Duquesne University, and served as Director of Bands in both the South Fayette Township and Montour School Districts as well as at Robert Morris University. He began his association with the West Hills Symphonic Band as an instrumentalist during the 1969 season. From that point, he served in periodic roles as arranger, guest/substitute/ associate conductor and bassist over a 40-year span. Some of his guest conducting appearances include PMEA District Honors Jazz Bands (2006, 2011, 2012), Washington County Honors Band (2004, 2019), Elementary District Band (2006) and for the World Civic Orchestra at New York's Lincoln Center (2013, 2015). He continues to be a familiar performer on Pittsburgh's jazz scene, and to pen custom arrangements for concert and marching bands. Clem also continues to serve as PMEA adjudicator, clinician and guest jazz soloist for the public schools. He is proud to have many former students number among the ranks of the WHSB.

TOM SNYDER, ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR, retired in June 2021 to conclude 40 years of public school music teaching, almost all at West Allegheny. He served in many roles throughout his tenure, including as the K–12 Arts Coordinator, high school musical producer, stage manager, and band director, middle school music teacher, and elementary instrumental lessons teacher. He is continuing at WA in retirement as an assistant producer with the fall and and spring musicals. Snyder graduated from Clarion State College with a B. S. in Music Education and received a Master's in Music Education from Duquesne University. He is currently the State Music Performance Assessment Coordinator for the PA Music Educators Association (PMEA), and a concert band adjudicator.

MATT LITTERINI, CONDUCTOR, was a music teacher in the Pittsburgh Public Schools for 26 years. He played French horn with the Pittsburgh Opera for 33 years and was Principal Horn with the Pittsburgh CLO Orchestra for 20 years. Matt continues to play in the Pittsburgh Ballet Orchestra, with the WHSB "Four Seasons Brass," and as an active freelance artist throughout the region. He taught French horn at Slippery Rock University for 11 years and at IUP for 3 years. Matt currently works part-time as an instrument repair technician at Hollis & Germann Music, teaches private horn lessons, and composes original music. He has a BFA in Horn Performance and a Master's in Music Education from Carnegie Mellon University, where he was a student of the late Forrest Stanley.



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PROGRAM

Clem Rolin, Musical Director/Principal Conductor Tom Snyder, Associate Conductor

RéjouissanceAndrew Yozviak
Hounds of SpringAlfred Reed
Grace Before SleepSusan LaBarr/Eric Wilson
High School CadetsJohn Philip Sousa/Marine Band arr. Matt Litterini, Conductor
Symphonic Dances from Fiddler on the Roof Jerry Bock/Ira Hearshen Tradition • Wedding Dance #1 • Perchik & Hodel Dance • Chava Sequence • To Life - Dance
Intermission
Barnum & Bailey's FavoriteKarl King/arr. Glenn Cliffe Bainum
ZoomScott Boerma
But Beautiful
Comedians' Gallop
Suberman Suite for Band

PROGRAM NOTES

Réjouissance

Andrew Yozviak

This short, intense fanfare was commissioned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the West Chester High School Summer Music Institute. Dr. Andrew Yozviak is the Director of Bands at West Chester University (PA), where he conducts the Wind Ensemble and Chamber Winds along with teaching graduate and undergraduate conducting. Prior to WCU, Yozviak taught 13 years in PA public schools. He is the current Eastern Division Chair of the National Band Association.

Hounds of Spring Alfred Reed

Composed and premiered in 1980, this standard of the wind band repertoire was inspired by the poem Atalanta in Calydon (1865) by Victorian-era English poet Algernon Charles Swinburn. A recreation in modern English verse of an ancient Greek tragedy, the poem's magical picture of young love in springtime forms the basis for the musical setting in the traditional fast-slow-fast format of early 18th-century Italian opera overtures. It was Reed's desire to capture the dual elements of the poem — high-spirited youthful jauntiness and the innocence of tender love — as launched by its first line: "When the hounds of spring are on winter's traces." Renowned composer and arranger Alfred Reed (1921–2005) taught Theory/Composition, developed the first college level, four-year Music Industry degree program, and later conducted the Wind Ensemble at the University of Miami. He has over 250 published works for band, orchestra, chorus, and various smaller chamber music groups.

Grace Before Sleep Susan LaBarr/arr. Eric Wilson

A beautiful choral work composed by Susan LaBarr (b.1981) in 2011, "Grace Before Sleep" was inspired by a poem of thanks written by Sara Teasdale (1884–1933), winner of the 1918 Pulitzer Prize for poetry. Rich choral textures unfold as a wonderful expression of gratitude. A quiet opening builds into a gorgeous, resounding climax before coming to a more reflective, thankful close. LaBarr is currently the composer-in-residence for the Tennessee Chamber Chorus, a professional choir based in Cleveland, Tennessee, and is also an editor at Walton Music. This wind setting, arranged in 2013 by Eric Wilson, draws upon the warm sonorities of the concert band to reflect LaBarr's musical intent and Teasdale's poetic sentiments. Director of Bands at Baylor University since 2006, Dr. J. Eric Wilson administers the band program, conducts the Wind Ensemble, and teaches and oversees undergraduate and

graduate conducting curricula. Wilson and his wind ensemble at Baylor are considered among the finest in the country.

High School Cadets John Philip Sousa/Marine Band arrangement The mutual admiration that existed between Sousa and the school bands of America has caused many musicians and historians to conclude that this march was composed as a salute to the school band movement. However, it was written twenty years before that movement began. It was composed in 1890 at the solicitation of the marching cadet corps of the only Washington, D.C, high school and dedicated to its teachers and pupils. The High School Cadets was one of the drill teams that were an exciting part of the capital city scene for many years after the Civil War. The members asked Sousa that he make an effort to make this march superior to his "National Fencibles," which he had written for a rival cadet corps. In Sousa's estimation, it was indeed a better march. The music world concurred with "The High School Cadets" quickly becoming one of his most popular marches. The Cadets were invited to a U.S. Marine Band rehearsal to hear their new march played, liked what they heard, and produced \$24 to cover the cost of having the march published and copyrighted.

Symphonic Dances from Fiddler on the Roof Jerry Bock/Ira Hearshen The blockbuster, Fiddler on the Roof, opened on Broadway in 1964 with music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and book by Joseph Stein. Based on short stories by Sholem Aleichem, this musical portrait reflects the struggles of Eastern European Orthodox Jews in the village of Anatevka around 1905 who are experiencing pograms and the threat of expulsion by the Russian czar. It centers around the struggles of a poor lewish milkman, Tevye and his five daughters, where life is as precarious as the perch of a fiddler on the roof. It won nine Tony Awards and was followed in 1971 by a highly successful film adaptation. This setting for wind band of some of the marvelous dance sequences with unique ethnic stylings is by Ira Hearshen (b. 1948). "Tradition" is what gives them strength against adversity. The "Wedding Dance #I (Bottle Dance)" marks the celebration of Motel and Tzeitel's wedding. Defiance to the prohibition against opposite sexes dancing together occurs in the "Perchik and Hodel Dance," when the student dances with Teyye's second daughter, Hodel. Middle daughter, Chava, asks for permission to marry Fyedka, a Russian boy. Marriage outside of the lewish faith is a tradition Teyve cannot break. He eventually loses her as the young couple elope. The loss of his daughters to the men they love is conveyed

in a dance of the Chava Sequence. "To Life" recalls a happier time.

Barnum & Bailey's Favorite Karl King/arr. Glenn Cliffe Bainum Karl King (1891–1971) composed "The Granddaddy of the Circus March" in 1913 at just age 22 while performing as a euphonium player in the Barnum and Bailey Circus Band. Ned Brill, the music director, requested that King create the "national anthem" of the circus. Brill's love of "brassy" music must have inspired King to produce this tour de force that has become his most famous march. As is common in his marches, King made the baritone part a major voice. Barnum and Bailey and the Ringling Brothers were two independent organizations in 1913. Karl L. King became the music director of "The Barnum" from 1917–1918 prior to its merger in 1919 to become the greatest show in history, The Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus.

Zoom Scott Boerma

The word "zoom" took on a new meaning during the pandemic from the ubiquitous online video conferences. Dr. Scott Boerma (b. 1964), director of bands at Western Michigan University, relayed that "he loved a weekly 'zoom hang' with four close friends, all university band conductors. Those friends included Dr. Jamie Nix, for whom I was commissioned by his former graduate students to write this piece in celebration of his tenth year as director of wind ensembles at Columbus State University. A common theme in our weekly zoom chats was our unbridled enthusiasm (and impatience) to get back to what we love: making live music with our students. Well, start your engines... because it's 2021 and here we go... ZOOM!" Boerma was inducted into the DCI Hall of Fame in 2024. He has been a music arranger for the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps from 1989–2006, 2015–2018, and 2023–present. From 2008–2014, he was the arranger for the Spirit of Atlanta Drum & Bugle Corps.

But Beautiful Jimmy Van Heusen/Sammy Nestico
Published in 1947, "But Beautiful" was composed by Jimmy Van Heusen
(1913–1990) with lyrics by Johnny Burke (1908–1964). One of five songs written by Burke and Van Heusen featured in the 1947 movie Road to Rio, it was introduced by Bing Crosby and is also associated with his leading lady Dorothy Lamour. The ballad was also a hit in 1948 for Frank Sinatra. Van Heusen wrote songs for films, television, and theater, winning an Emmy and four Academy Awards for Best Original Song. Van Heusen composed over 1000 songs, Many became jazz and popular standards

and are featured in over 580 films. He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1971.

Comedians' Gallop Dmitri Kabalevsky/Sam Daniels

Dmitri Kabalevsky (1904–1987) was a Soviet composer, conductor,
pianist and pedagogue of Russian gentry descent. He was a prolific
composer of piano music and chamber music. He is best known in
Western Europe for his 'Second Symphony,' the 'Third Piano Concerto,'
and the "Comedians' Gallop" from The Comedians Suite, Op. 26. In 1938
or 1939, Kabalevsky wrote incidental music for a children's play by
Mark Daniels called The Inventor and the Comedians, about the German
inventor Johannes Gutenberg and a group of travelling buffoons. In
1940, Kabalevsky chose ten short pieces from the incidental music and
arranged them into a concert suite. This piece, No. 2 from the suite
titled "Comedians' Gallop" became his single most famous work.

Superman Suite for Band John Williams/Bob Lowden Superman: The Movie is a 1978 film that was the first of four installments featuring the eponymous DC Comics character as played by Christopher Reeve (1952-2004). With a budget of \$55 million, Superman was the most expensive film made up to that point. It was a critical and financial success, groundbreaking in its use of special effects and science fiction/fantasy storytelling. The film's legacy presaged the mainstream popularity of Hollywood's superhero film franchises. In 2017, Superman was selected for preservation by the Library of Congress's National Film Registry. Five excerpts from John Williams (b. 1932) musical score have been arranged for wind band by Bob Lowden (1920–1998). Lowden was one of the best-known modern-day composers and arrangers for professional symphony orchestras and big bands equally renowned as a major contributor of arrangements for high school ensembles.

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