



WEST HILLS SYMPHONIC BAND
presents

Celebrate!

Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 3:00 PM
Montour High School



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WEST HILLS SYMPHONIC BAND

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.

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Tom Snyder	<i>Music Director & Principal Conductor</i>
Stephen Baldanzi	<i>Associate Conductor</i>

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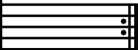
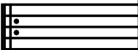
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Michael Holl	<i>Photographer</i>
Al Teare, Chris Boyd & Ken Sacks	<i>Audio/Visual Engineers</i>

CONDUCTORS

TOM SNYDER, *Music Director & Principal Conductor*, retired in June 2021 to conclude 40 years of public school music teaching, almost all in the West Allegheny SD. Roles throughout his tenure included serving as 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 assistant producer with the fall and spring musicals. Tom 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.

STEPHEN BALDANZI, *Associate Conductor*, is a well-known musician and conductor throughout the Pittsburgh area. He is the music director of the Allegheny Brass Band. He has also conducted various musical theater orchestras for Stage 62 Theater Company, Carlynton High School and Shaler High School. He taught music for 33 years and retired in June 2024 from North Allegheny School District. During his tenure at North Allegheny, he was the director of bands at the North Allegheny Intermediate School as well as the marching band director. Prior to working at North Allegheny, Mr. Baldanzi taught music in the Shaler Area School District and at Carlow Campus School. Mr. Baldanzi earned a Bachelor of Music in composition with a minor in music education from William Patterson University. He completed a Master of Music in composition at Carnegie Mellon University, studying with Robert Page and Leonardo Balada.

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FEATURED CONDUCTOR

BRIAN T. HARRIS, *Featured Composer & Conductor*, is currently serving as the Director of Bands at Robert Morris University in Moon Township, Pennsylvania. At Robert Morris, Mr. Harris directs and oversees the Marching Show Band, Basketball and Hockey Pep Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Fife and Drum Corps, chamber ensembles, teaches private lessons and humanities courses, oversees all operations of the University Bands program, and develops student leaders within the bands program and the Nu Gamma Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi.

Mr. Harris' past experiences have included work as the Instrumental and Choral Director, Instructor of Music, and Music Department Chair at Eastern Oklahoma State College, as director of bands at Thiel College, assistant director of bands at Saint Francis University, director of the Canfield Community Concert Band, and as band director at Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, Lockerman Middle School, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, and North Penn Jr. Sr. High School/Blossburg Elementary School.

Mr. Harris has also served as a judge at various Oklahoma High School Marching Band Competitions, guest conductor for the 2014 District 6 PMEA Band Festival, pit conductor for the Wheatherfield Jr. High musical, low brass instructor for the Stambaugh Youth Concert Band, and has provided full band and instrumental clinics throughout the Pennsylvania Counties of Mercer, Venango, Cambria, and Somerset; and Oklahoma Counties of Latimer, Pittsburgh, McIntosh, and Haskell.

Mr. Harris holds a Master of Music in Performance: Instrumental Conducting from Youngstown State University and a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He has also completed two semesters of work toward a DMA in Wind Band Conducting at the Shenandoah University Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Harris is an active conductor, trombonist, and teacher in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, and Oklahoma. He has performed professionally with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra, Butler Symphony Orchestra, Nittany Symphony Orchestra, Joe McConnell Jazz/Dixieland Band, Rick K and the Allnighters, and the Keystone Wind Ensemble. Mr. Harris has also performed as a featured soloist with the Canfield Community Concert Band and the Mercer Community Band. He currently lives in Aliquippa with his wife Melanie.

Bravo!

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| Pam Brady .....       | American Airlines (Retired)                                        |
| Kelly Englert .....   | Grant Writer, Innovation Works                                     |
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| Kaitlin McClain ..... | Store Manager, Starbucks                                           |
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| Ellen Spondike .....  | Instrumental Music Teacher, Shaler Area MS                         |

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|                       |                                                                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Haley Casperson ..... | Senior Contracts Specialist, Dexian                                         |

## E♭ CLARINET

|                   |                                                                     |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Laura Smith ..... | Music Teacher; Director of Music, Presbyterian Church of Coraopolis |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|

## B♭ CLARINET

|                         |                                                                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Frederick Appel .....   | Customer Service Instructor, US Airways (Retired)                          |
| David Bomstein .....    | Accounts Receivable Billing Specialist, ACHIEVA (Retired)                  |
| Vince Coppola .....     | Attorney                                                                   |
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| Katie Russell .....     | Special Education Music Teacher, ACLD Tillotson School                     |
| Sara Snyder .....       | Music Teacher, Seneca Valley MS & HS                                       |
| Christine Stevens ..... | Freelance Musician; Music Teacher, Shaler Area SD (Retired)                |
| Joe Sullivan .....      | Music Teacher, Hopewell SD (Retired)                                       |

## BASS CLARINET

|                       |                                                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
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| Janice Coppola .....  | Professional Musician                               |
| Bryan Davidson .....  | English Teacher, PA Cyber                           |
| Drew McKenzie .....   | Pharmacist, In-Patient Pharmacy, West Penn Hospital |
| Rich Pawlish .....    | Science Teacher, Mt. Pleasant HS (Retired)          |

**CONTRA-ALTO CLARINET/PIANO**

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Brett Freithaler ..... *Transit Operator, Port Authority*

Amy Readshaw ..... *Medical Physicist, Varian Medical Systems*

Dane Strickland..... *Dentist*

**CONTRABASSOON**

Brett Freithaler ..... *Transit Operator, Port Authority*

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Taiylor Baumgardner..... *Elementary General Music & Chorus, West Allegheny SD*

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Kress Oliver ..... *Senior, Robert Morris University*

**BARITONE SAXOPHONE**

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Doug Arndt..... *PA State Police Officer*

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Mike Holl..... *Elem. Instr. Music Teacher, Chartiers Valley SD (Retired); Freelance Photographer*

Noah Kilgus ..... *Band Director, Avella Area SD*

Becky Krivanek..... *Instrumental Music Teacher, Falk Laboratory School*

Gene Laus ..... *Professional Musician*

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Tyler Smith ..... *Prehospital RN, Robinson EMS*

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|                      |                                                                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Erica Guidroz.....   | <i>High Brass Instructor</i>                                                      |
| Raquel Karns .....   | <i>Stay-at-Home Mom; Church &amp; Band Pianist</i>                                |
| Peggy Lee .....      | <i>Horn Instructor &amp; Musician, Northern VA &amp; Washington, DC (Retired)</i> |
| Matt Litterini ..... | <i>Music Teacher, Pittsburgh Public Schools (Retired)</i>                         |
| Kevin McElheny ..... | <i>Band Director &amp; Music Teacher, Jefferson Morgan SD (Retired)</i>           |
| Ron Steffanina ..... | <i>Band Director, Western Beaver SD (Retired); Pit Orchestra Musician</i>         |
| Chad Toporski .....  | <i>Choral Director &amp; Music Teacher, Quaker Valley MS</i>                      |

**TROMBONE**

|                      |                                                                     |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Art Craft.....       | <i>Psychologist (Retired)</i>                                       |
| Kevin Dick .....     | <i>Audit Supervisor, Maher Duessel CPAs</i>                         |
| Dante Dilanni .....  | <i>Cabinet Maker (Retired)</i>                                      |
| Brian Harris .....   | <i>Director of Bands, Robert Morris University</i>                  |
| Shawn Holl.....      | <i>Director of Bands, Grades 4-12, Moniteau SD</i>                  |
| Justin Miller .....  | <i>Owner, Late to the Game Music</i>                                |
| John Neurohr .....   | <i>Wayne Door Sales &amp; Service (Retired); Freelance Musician</i> |
| Beth Priore .....    | <i>Music Teacher, Woodland Hills SD (Retired)</i>                   |
| Courtney Russo ..... | <i>Controller at Stio</i>                                           |

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|                       |                                                                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scott Eisenreich..... | <i>Software Automation Architect, UPMC; Professional Musician</i>             |
| Kate Franc .....      | <i>Child Care</i>                                                             |
| Mindy Harrist.....    | <i>Stay-at-Home Mom; M.A. in Public History, Duquesne University</i>          |
| George Lepsch.....    | <i>Band Director/Counselor, McKeesport Area HS; Conductor, PYPO (Retired)</i> |

**TUBA**

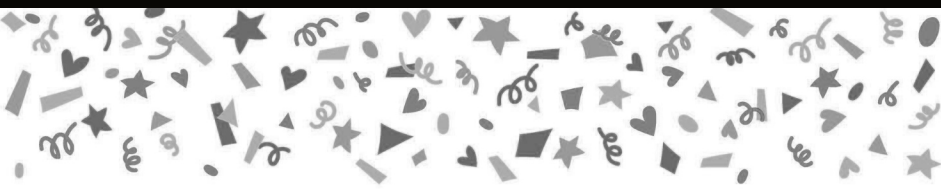
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| Eryn Carranza ..... | <i>Band Director, South Fayette HS</i>              |
| Alex Kladny .....   | <i>Actuarial Assistant, Constellation Insurance</i> |
| David Wire .....    | <i>HVAC Contractor (Retired)</i>                    |

**ELECTRIC BASS**

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Mark Perna..... | <i>Medical Physicist</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------|

**PERCUSSION**

|                         |                                                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Alexis Healey.....      | <i>Delivery Director, Hike2</i>                   |
| Philip Kronenberg ..... | <i>Education Representative, Volkwein's Music</i> |
| Rick Laus .....         | <i>Professional Musician</i>                      |
| Joey Watt.....          | <i>Associate Manager: Service and Delivery</i>    |
| Cory Webster .....      | <i>Percussionist; Competitive Swim Coach</i>      |
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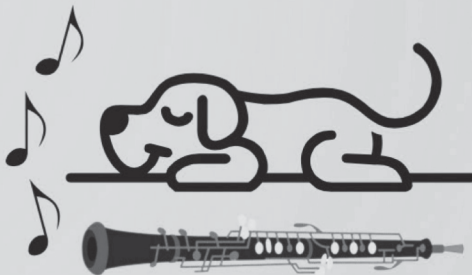
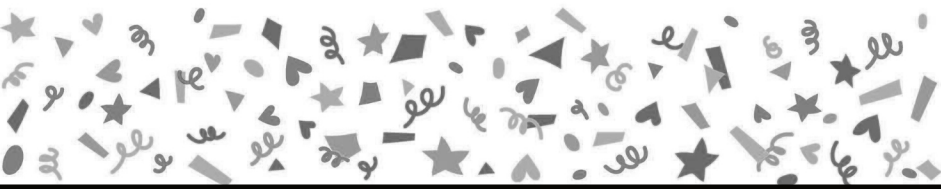


# ***You're Invited!***

Join us for a reception in the cafeteria following the concert to continue the celebration!

Get a chance to congratulate Clem Rolin, recall fond memories, and share in joyful fellowship.

Cookies, coffee, and other beverages will be served.



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# CONCERT PROGRAM

*Tom Snyder, Music Director & Principal Conductor*

*Stephen Baldanzi, Associate Conductor*

**Celebration Fanfare** ..... Steven Reineke

**Chorale and Alleluia** ..... Howard Hanson

**Anxiety for Wind Ensemble** ..... Brian T. Harris

*Brian T. Harris, Conductor*

**Star Trek Through the Years** ..... arr. John Moss

*The Original Series • Deep Space Nine • Generations*

*Voyager • The Motion Picture*

**Toward the Sunrising** ..... James Curnow

## – INTERMISSION –

**Rise, Mvt. I. Beginnings** ..... Adam Schoenberg

**Blessed Are They** ..... Johannes Brahms  
arr. Barbara Buehlman

**Galop Festivo** ..... Randall D. Standridge

**Too Little Time** ..... Don Raye & Henry Mancini  
arr. Paul Murtha

*Commissioned to celebrate the retirement and legacy  
of conductor Clem Rolin*

**Blood, Sweat & Tears Medley** ..... David Clayton Thomas  
arr. Todd Newman

*Variations on a Theme by Satie • And When I Die*

*Spinning Wheel • You Make Me So Very Happy*

*Go Down Gamblin' • God Bless the Child • Lucretia*

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **Celebration Fanfare**

*Steven Reineke*

Steven Reineke (b.1970) composed the orchestral version of this stunning fanfare in 1995 to commemorate Erich Kunzel's 30th anniversary as the conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. The band transcription was commissioned in 1998 by the U.S. Coast Guard Band. An active conductor, composer, and arranger from Cincinnati, Ohio, Reineke is currently the music director of The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and is a leading conductor of orchestra 'pops' throughout the country. His numerous compositions for bands of all levels are published by the C.L. Barnhouse Company.

## **Chorale and Alleluia**

*Howard Hanson*

"Chorale and Alleluia" was completed in January 1954 as Dr. Howard Hanson's (1896-1941) first work for symphonic band. It was premiered on February 26th that year at the American Bandmasters Association convention. The composition opens with a flowing chorale. Soon the joyous Alleluia theme appears and is much in evidence throughout. A bold statement of a new melody makes its appearance in lower brasses in combination with the above themes. The effect is one of cathedral bells, religious exaltation, solemnity, and dignity. The music is impressive, straightforward, and pleasingly non-dissonant with resonance and sonority ideally suited to the modern symphonic band.

## **Anxiety**

*Brian T. Harris*

"Anxiety" began with a melody conceived during a walk with my wife, Melanie, in the summer of 2017. Although I initially imagined the piece as a work for brass ensemble, she consistently felt the material was better suited to the expressive range and color of the wind band. After several starts and stops over the years, I returned to the piece in the fall of 2025 and realized that my difficulty completing it stemmed from writing for the wrong ensemble. With that shift in perspective—and the discovery of a contrasting slow melody—the work finally took shape and was completed in January 2026. The piece opens in a restless surge of energy, driven by the original melody and an added countermelody as it moves through the tonal centers of F and C minor. A slower middle section follows, introducing a more lyrical theme tinged with unease; while the surface may appear calmer, the underlying anxiety never fully disappears. This melody passes from woodwinds to a brass choir, subtly recalling material from the opening. The work concludes with a return of the initial intensity and a forceful coda. Writing Anxiety was both challenging and deeply rewarding, and I hope listeners find the experience as meaningful as I did in bringing the piece to completion." (Program note by the composer.)

## **Star Trek Through the Years**

*arr. John Moss*

'Star Trek' is a science fiction media franchise created by Gene Roddenberry that became a worldwide pop culture phenomenon starting in 1966 with *Star*

*Trek (The Original Series)* in 1966 on NBC. The series followed the voyages of the crew of the starship *USS Enterprise*, representing the United Federation of Planets in the 23rd century on a mission "to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before". In creating *Star Trek*, Roddenberry was inspired by C. S. Forester's Horatio Hornblower series of novels, Jonathan Swift's 1726 novel *Gulliver's Travels*, the 1956 film *Forbidden Planet*, and television westerns such as *Wagon Train*. Although the original series was cancelled in 1969 after only three seasons, it exponentially grew in popularity in syndication. The franchise was revived with the original TOS crew in the movie, "The Motion Picture" (1979), and with a new crew in TV's "The Next Generation" (1987-94). Many television series and movies followed that continue today with "Starfleet Academy" just premiering on TV in January. Included in this medley are themes from the TV series "Deep Space Nine" (1993-99) and "Voyager" (1995-2001) along with those from the movies "Generations" (1994) and "The Motion Picture" (1979).

## **Toward the Sunrising**

*James Curnow*

"Towards the Sunrising" was commissioned by the Davison Fine Arts Bands of Augusta, Georgia, for the dedication ceremony of the school's new campus. The premiere in May 1998 was performed by the combined Symphony Band, Wind Ensemble, and alumni band members with the composer, James Curnow (b. 1943), conducting. In the Old Testament, Numbers 21:10-11, when the Children of Israel were released from captivity, they set forth and journeyed from the wilderness toward the sunrising. This was a momentous occasion that required them to display a strong sense of optimism and to be ready to accept all the opportunities and challenges that lay ahead. Curnow seeks to capture that optimistic, confident spirit also evident in today's youth as they accept the challenges and opportunities of beginning life's journey. It is dedicated to the teachers and parents who have helped shape, guide and mold their students' lives and to those young people who have prepared themselves for life's adventures. Opening with a majestic fanfare that presents the mood and general style of the composition, the overture immediately changes direction through the unfolding of a lively and energetic scherzo. The scherzo is based on two diametrically opposed themes. The first is energetic while the second is more lyrical and flowing. These themes constantly change through various musical techniques. The opening fanfare returns near the end of the scherzo with motifs and melodies from the scherzo juxtaposed over it.

## **Rise, Mvt. I. Beginnings**

*Adam Schoenberg*

Published in 2018, this two-movement work was commissioned by the California Wind Band Consortium. Today, the band is performing the first movement, "Beginnings". Some pieces tell stories; others invite us into a state of mind. Rather than offering a specific narrative, this movement offers something more open-ended – an emotional journey shaped by contrasts, momentum, and reflection. Literal scenes or characters are replaced by sensations we recognize instinctively. The piece feels less like a story being told and more like a life moment being shared. Composed as a long gradual

crescendo, it begins with a rhythmic pulse that becomes the driving force for the entire movement. The music increases in both confidence and intensity, growing into an expansive surge of sound as layers accumulate and momentum builds, 'rising' in every sense of the word. Its radiant conclusion carries the unmistakable sense of something coming into focus and of energy coalescing with a feeling of optimism. Adam Schoenberg (b. 1980) earned both his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees at The Juilliard School. He has composed numerous works for orchestra along with those for band. He is also an accomplished and versatile film composer. A committed educator, Schoenberg is on the composition faculty at UCLA.

## **Blessed Are They**

*Johannes Brahms / arr. Barbara Buehlman*

"Blessed Are They" is from the first movement of the *German Requiem* by Johannes Brahms (1833-97). Brahms was not a religious man in the usual sense of the term. Thus, it should be of no surprise that when he wrote the *German Requiem*, it did not follow the prescribed five movement form of the traditional requiem mass based on biblical texts but instead contained seven movements. The work was premiered in the Bremen Cathedral on Good Friday, 1868. The *German Requiem* marked the first time that Brahms combined orchestra with chorus and soloists to create a heavy, somber mood.

## **Galop Festivo**

*Randall D. Standridge*

Recently published in 2023, this high-energy composition was commissioned by the Central Florida Sounds of Freedom Band & Color Guard to commemorate its 10 years of promoting LGBTQ+ acceptance and equality through quality entertainment and fellowship. The composer was inspired by two of the master composers of classical music, Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-75) and Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921), as channeled through his own personal lens. It is loud at times, light at others, with both boisterous and graceful moments throughout. The work is intended to evoke a spirit of celebration and frivolity. A native and resident of Arkansas, Randall Standridge (b. 1976) is one of today's most popular composers of band music. After 12 years as a HS band director, he left in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer. He is also the owner of Randall Standridge Music and Grand Mesa Marching, in demand as a drill designer, music arranger, and color guard designer for the marching arts as well as a freelance artist/photographer and writer.

## **Too Little Time**

*Henry Mancini / arr. Paul Murtha*

*Commissioned to celebrate the retirement and legacy of conductor Clem Rolin*

Henry Mancini (1924-94) worked on the movie *The Glenn Miller Story* (1954) as a consultant and arranger. The movie traced Miller's rise from pit orchestra trombonist to the leader of one of the most successful big bands of his era. Realizing that there were scenes in the film where Miller's own songs wouldn't fit, Mancini chose to compose and add a "Love Theme", his first film song. Soon after, Don Raye added lyrics and the song was re-named "Too Little Time",

which became the literal 'love theme' for the movie. Unfortunately, the film version of the song wasn't initially credited or included in the soundtrack album. Added since then to the soundtrack, be sure to also check out videos of performances featuring the legendary trombonist, Bill Watrous, and jazz vocalist, Sarah Vaughan. Our commissioned arranger, Paul Murtha (b. 1960) is a western PA native, hailing from Johnstown, who earned a B.S. degree in Music Education (with a minor in Jazz Studies) from Duquesne University, also Clem's alma mater. A versatile composer and arranger, Paul served as the Chief Arranger at the United States Military Academy Band at West Point from 1990-96, on the arranging staff of The United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own") in Washington, D.C. from 1996 to 2001, and as that band's Chief Arranger from 2001-16. At ease in both professional and educational circles, Paul is published exclusively by Hal Leonard Corporation, where he contributes to many areas of the instrumental catalogue, including for bands, orchestras and jazz ensembles. Now retired to Myrtle Beach, SC, he maintains an active schedule in addition to his ongoing efforts for Hal Leonard with composing and arranging for commissions such as this, producing recordings, and performing actively on trumpet as a member of two community bands and as both arranger and on trumpet for the band, Texas Chainsaw Horns, based in Washington D.C.

## **Blood, Sweat & Tears Medley**

*David Clayton Thomas / arr. Todd Newman*

Blood, Sweat & Tears is an American jazz rock music group founded in New York City in 1967, noted for combining a brass section with rock band instrumentation. While going through numerous iterations with varying personnel, their music encompassed a wide range of musical styles, merging rock, pop and R&B/soul music with big band jazz. In addition to original music, the group is also known for arrangements of popular songs and for adapting music from classical and jazz composers into their arrangements. The group's second album, *Blood, Sweat & Tears*, spent seven weeks atop the U.S. charts in 1969, also winning the Grammy Award for Album of the Year in 1970. The follow-up album, *Blood, Sweat & Tears 3*, also reached number 1 in the U.S.. Seven of their hits incorporated in this medley include "Variations on a Theme by Satie", "And When I Die" (1968), "Spinning Wheel" (1968), "You Make Me So Very Happy" (1968), "Go Down Gamblin'" (1971), "God Bless the Child" (1968), and "Lucretia McEvil" (1970).

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## GOFUNDME DONORS

*Many thanks to the nearly 60 donors who raised over \$5,000 to make the commissioned arrangement of "Too Little Time" for Clem Rolin a possibility!  
We are eternally grateful!*

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Jim & Wendy Seidel  
Alan Skwarla  
Cecilia Jean Sullivan  
Joseph Sullivsn  
Neil Toporski  
Markus & Rochelle Truzzi  
Julie Walsh  
Ryan Wolf  
Tammy Wyatt  
Mark Yeager

# PERSONAL PATRONS

*We extend our sincerest gratitude to all of the personal patrons and donors who annually support the West Hills Symphonic Band!*

## **BENEFACTOR (\$1,000+)**

Barry & Susan Macek  
John H. Neurohr, Freelance Musician  
Anonymous

## **CONNOISSEUR (\$500 - \$999)**

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Mike & Noreen Oswalt

## **CONDUCTOR (\$250 - \$499)**

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Bill & Chris Englert  
Chad Toporski & Shane Gastecki  
Dee White

## **CONCERTMASTER (\$100 - \$249)**

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Patricia Corbett  
Art & Sue Craft, in memory of Imogene Snyder  
Bryan Davidson  
Kevin Dick  
Bob Greek  
Alexis & Ethan Healey  
Harry & Brian LaPlante  
Alan & Peggy Lee  
The Leopold Family, in memory of Dorothy  
Leopold, Montour HS Choral Director  
Bill Lewis  
Kevin & Kathleen McElheny  
Michael Pesta

## **CONCERTMASTER (cont.)**

Clem & Karen Rolin  
Marjorie Schaefer  
John & Debbie Scott  
Jim & Wendy Seidel  
Richard Shyan  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous

## **PRINCIPAL (\$50 - \$99)**

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Gene Laus  
Peggy Lee  
Louise Marino, in honor of Clem Rolin  
Kaitlin & Jim McClain  
Douglas & Karen Meley  
Diana & Justin Miller  
Julia Miller, in memory of my husband George  
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# **SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

**Sunday, June 14 @ 2:00 PM**

*Donaldson Park, North Fayette Township*

**Tuesday, June 23 @ 7:00 PM**

*Hopewell Community Park*

**Thursday, July 16 @ 7:00 PM**

*Clever Park, Robinson Township*

**Tuesday, July 28 @ 7:00 PM**

*Findlay Township Parks & Rec Complex*

