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WEST HILLS SYMPHONIC BAND
presents

REFLECTIONS

THROUGH TIME

Sunday, February 22, 2026
Montour High School





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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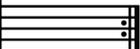
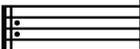
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CONDUCTORS

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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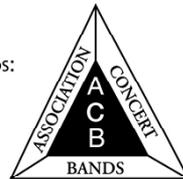

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FEATURED CONDUCTOR

CLEM ROLIN, *Guest Conductor*, served as Music Director and Principal Conductor of the West Hills Symphonic Band for 16 years until his retirement. In 2025, he was named an Honorary Member of the band and bestowed with the title Conductor Emeritus. Clem 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). A long time performer at Pittsburgh area jazz and dance music venues, and prolific arranger for a wide variety of ensembles, he continues to serve as a PMEA adjudicator, guest conductor and clinician for the public schools. In 2025, Clem was honored to be elected to the South Fayette School District Hall of Fame.

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CONCERT PROGRAM

Tom Snyder, Music Director & Principal Conductor

Stephen Baldanzi, Associate Conductor

Broad Stripes and Bright Stars.....arr. Robert Longfield

Yankee Doodle • Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier

America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee) • The Star-Spangled Banner

CanzonaPeter Mennin

Joy Revisited.....Frank Ticheli

The Merry Wives of Windsor OvertureOtto Nicolai

Clem Rolin, Conductor Emeritus

– INTERMISSION –

Fanfare for a New Era.....Pinkzebra

A.B.A Symphonic MarchJohn Cheetham

Cool / Gee, Officer KrupkeLeonard Bernstein

from West Side Story

arr. Paul Murtha

Danny Boy / Fields of AthenryIrish Folk Song / Pete St John

arr. Clem Rolin

Clem Rolin, Conductor Emeritus

Into the Light.....Jay Bocook

PROGRAM NOTES

Broad Stripes and Bright Stars

Robert Longfield

Subtitled, 'Fantasy on Early American Airs', this dazzling spectacular presents fresh treatments of four patriotic classics. "Yankee Doodle" is, surprisingly, a British traditional song, the early versions of which predate the Revolutionary War. The tune itself is thought to be much older than the lyrics, possibly originating from an Irish melody or a Dutch harvest song dating back as far as 15th-century Holland. The lyrics developed by the British to that tune were first intended to ridicule the comparatively unsophisticated colonial soldiers but later became adopted by those same American soldiers who turned the musical tables on the British by boisterously singing it with fierce pride. Mostly associated with the Civil War, "Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier" is a poignant Irish folk song with little known about its history. The lyrics lament the sacrifices made by women and how they rose to the challenges of assuming all the responsibilities left behind when the men went off to war. The memorable lyrics to "America", also known as "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", were written by Samuel Francis Smith in 1831 to the melody from the de facto national anthem of the United Kingdom, "God Save the King". On September 14, 1814, U.S. soldiers at Baltimore's Fort McHenry raised the garrison flag to celebrate a crucial victory over British forces during the War of 1812. The sight of those "broad stripes and bright stars" inspired Francis Scott Key to write a song that eventually became the national anthem of the United States in 1931. Key's words gave new significance to the enduring national symbol. The long-time composer and educator, Robert Longfield (b. 1947), provided us with this symphonic arrangement in 2005. He is currently the conductor of the Greater Miami Symphonic Band, one of Miami's premier community bands.

Joy Revisited

Frank Ticheli

The composer relays that "Joy Revisited" and its companion piece, "Joy", are the results of an experiment I have been wanting to try for many years: the creation of two works using the same general melodic, harmonic, and expressive content. In other words, I endeavored to compose un-identical twins, two sides of the same coin -- but with one major distinction: "Joy", was created with young players in mind, while "Joy Revisited" was aimed at more advanced players. Thus, "Joy", is more straightforward than its companion piece. Where "Joy", sounds a dominant chord, Joy Revisited elaborates upon that chord with a flourish of 16th notes. While "Joy Revisited" moves faster, develops ideas further, and makes use of a wider register, "Joy", is more concise. Despite these and many more differences between the two works, both come from the

same essential cut of cloth. Both were composed more or less simultaneously, and both were born out of the same source of inspiration. In short, "Joy" and "Joy Revisited" serve as two expressions of the feelings experienced by one expectant father (who happens also to be a composer) on one wonderfully anxious and exciting day." "Joy Revisited" was commissioned by the Longmont HS Band (CO) and premiered in 2005.

Canzona

Peter Mennin

Born in Erie, PA, Peter Mennin (1923-83) composed "Canzona" in 1958. It remains one of the most significant American works written for wind band. Inspired by the Renaissance canzona, the piece 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.

Merry Wives of Windsor Overture

Otto Nicolai / arr. L.P. Laurendeau

Shakespeare's character, Falstaff, first appeared in "Henry IV" as a comedic contrast to the serious business King Henry faced as his country plunged into civil war. Strangely, Falstaff's drinking, stealing, swaggering, and egregious abuse of knightly power allowed him to encapsulate the portrayal of the archetypical, monstrous comedic foil SO WELL, that Queen Elizabeth I, as well as many of her citizens, requested to see MORE of him! So, on her behest, Shakespeare RELUCTANTLY brought him back in his raucous, comedic play, "The Merry Wives of Windsor." This time, he not only removed his knightly status, but also piled on the vices of greed and womanizing to the much-maligned fool! Despite the "double take" branding, the play had NOTHING to do with the infamous, ORIGINAL history of the six wives of Henry VIII. Rather, just two ladies from the little town of Windsor turning the tables on old Falstaff again! Otto Nicolai's opera of the same name premiered in 1849. Despite its original lack of success, it became much loved and is regularly performed to this day. Giuseppe Verdi's rare COMIC opera, "Falstaff" is another adaption of this Shakespearean play. The "Overture to The Merry Wives of Windsor" has long been a favorite in concert halls as a standalone piece. The opening depicts a moonlit, quiet mystical forest setting, but suddenly jumps from FIERY, jocular, romantic and disgruntled back (not to disappoint) to FIERY once again in closing. It never fails to engage audiences from start to finish! A live film recording of the overture by music director Johnny Green and the MGM Symphony won the Academy Award for Best Short Film in 1953.

Fanfare for a New Era

Pinkzebra

This exciting and dramatic fanfare features triumphant brass and soaring melodies. Pinkzebra is the pseudonym of a successful music producer and composer who has built an international brand as an industry leader in the world of music licensing for all forms of media. He is also known for his uplifting and inspiring songs, upbeat background tracks, and sentimental music tracks. Millions of his fans have discovered his music through its usage in viral YouTube videos, TV commercials, films, and TV shows. Pinkzebra is also a choral music composer whose upbeat, positive songs are performed by choirs worldwide.

A.B.A. Symphonic March (Kitty Hawk)

John Cheetham

The "A.B.A. Symphonic March: Kitty Hawk" by John Cheetham (1939-2024) pays musical tribute to one of the most significant moments in American history—the first successful powered flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1903 at Kitty Hawk, NC. Formerly published as Kitty Hawk, this energetic contemporary concert march was commissioned by the American Bandmasters Association and published in 1986. The bold, confident opening material reflects the determination of early aviation pioneers, while contrasting lyrical sections suggest open skies and the wonder of flight. Energetic rhythms and soaring melodies capture both mechanical motion and human ambition, culminating in a triumphant return of the opening theme that celebrates innovation, perseverance, and the landmark moment in American history.

Cool & Gee, Officer Krupke (West Side Story)

Leonard Bernstein / arr. Paul Murtha

West Side Story is one of the most iconic American musicals. It was conceived, directed, and choreographed by Jerome Robbins with music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim in his Broadway debut, and a book by Arthur Laurents. The original 1957 Broadway production was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning two. A 1961 musical film adaptation was nominated for eleven Academy Awards and won ten, including for Best Picture. A 2021 film adaptation, directed by Steven Spielberg, received seven nominations, including for Best Picture. "Cool" was originally performed by Riff as he advises the Jets to stay cool before entering the rumble. "Gee, Officer Krupke" is a comedy number sung by members of the street gang, the Jets, who poke fun at the gruff Police Sergeant Krupke by singing about the societal forces that led them to join a gang. The WHSB has commissioned the arranger of both of these pieces from West Side story, western PA native Paul Murtha, to arrange the beautiful melody by Henry Mancini, "Too Little Time" to honor Clem Rolin. It will be premiered at the upcoming Spring Concert on April 26!

Danny Boy / Fields of Athenry

arr. Clem Rolin

"Danny Boy" is a moving Irish ballad that serves as a universal lament for a loved one who must leave his home and family. It's most often interpreted as a parent saying goodbye to a son going to war. The lyrics express deep sorrow, nostalgia, and hope for a reunion, either in life or after death. "The Fields of Athenry" is a poignant Irish folk ballad written in 1979. It tells a fictional story of love and loss during the Great Famine of the 1840s. A young man named Michael in County Galway is deported to Australia for stealing corn from a British landowner to feed his starving family. It reflects times of injustice, rebellion against the British Crown, desperation, and forced exile. An unofficial Irish anthem, it is frequently sung at sporting events and by Irish supporters worldwide.

LYRICS:

*By a lonely prison wall, I heard a young girl calling
"Michael, they have taken you away
For you stole Trevelyan's corn
So the young might see the morn
Now a prison ship lies waiting in the bay"*

*Low lie the Fields of Athenry
Where once we watched the small free birds fly
Our love was on the wing
We had dreams and songs to sing
It's so lonely 'round the Fields of Athenry*

Into the Light

Jay Bocook

This is a compelling original work by composer, conductor, arranger, and educator, Jay Bocook. This epic one-movement composition was commissioned by the Verona HS (NJ) Wind Ensemble. It is structured in two main sections, one reflective and one soaring and hopeful, depicting the shortened life of a young clarinetist and how she inspired those who knew her. Premiered in 1995, the piece closes in celebration and a feeling of transcendence'Into the Light'. Jay Bocook (b. 1953) is the retired director of athletic bands at Furman University in Greenville, SC. with a long career composing and arranging for Hal Leonard Publishing, four different Olympic Games, the U.S. Marine Band, and several leading drum corps among many other settings. He has been inducted into the DCI (Drum Corps International) Hall of Fame, and the South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA) Hall of Fame. He is also the co-founder and co-director of the Poinsett Wind Symphony, one of the leading community bands in the southeast.

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*at our Spring Concert on Sunday, April 26th
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new commissioned arrangement from Paul Murtha
of Henry Mancini's "Too Little Time"*



CLEM ROLIN

PAUL MURTHA



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the commissioned song arrangement
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