

ALABAMA SYMPHONIC BAND

Monday, November 6, 2023
Concert Hall
7:30 p.m

KEVIN WELBORN, CONDUCTOR

PROGRAM

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| Gavorkna Fanfare | Jack Stamp (b. 1954) <i>conducted by Steve Simpson, Assistant Band Director/Director of Color Guard</i> |
| Manhattan Pictures | Jan Van der Roost (b. 1956) |
| The Eyes that Hold the Stars | William Pitts (b. 1986) |
| The Cowboys (from the motion picture, "The Cowboys") | John Williams (b. 1932) arr. James Curnow |

PROGRAM NOTES

Jack Stamp is a distinguished American composer and conductor known for his contributions to contemporary wind band literature. Born on January 21, 1954, in Washington, D.C., Stamp's musical journey has been characterized by a deep commitment to the wind ensemble genre and a keen exploration of its expressive potential.

One of Stamp's most renowned compositions is the "Gavorkna Fanfare," a dynamic and exhilarating work that showcases his mastery of the wind band idiom. Composed in 1999, the piece is a celebration of rhythmic vitality and harmonic ingenuity. The title, "Gavorkna," is a playful amalgamation of the names of two of Stamp's colleagues, Frank Ticheli and David Gillingham, a nod to the collaborative spirit of the contemporary wind band community.

"Gavorkna Fanfare" stands as a testament to Stamp's ability to craft music that is both technically demanding and emotionally resonant. Its bold brass fanfares and driving rhythms create a sense of anticipation and exhilaration, evoking a spirit of triumphant celebration. The piece has become a staple in the repertoire of wind ensembles worldwide, captivating audiences with its infectious energy and vibrant musicality.

Jack Stamp's enduring contributions to the world of wind band music, as exemplified by the "Gavorkna Fanfare," continue to inspire musicians and audiences alike, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of contemporary concert music. His dedication to the craft and his innovative approach to composition have solidified his legacy as a leading figure in the world of wind band music.

Jan Van der Roost is a distinguished Belgian composer and conductor, recognized for his exceptional contributions to contemporary concert band repertoire. Born on October 1, 1956, in Duffel, Belgium, Van der Roost's musical career has been marked by a deep affinity for wind ensembles and a keen exploration of their expressive potential.

Among Van der Roost's notable compositions is "Manhattan Pictures," a captivating musical journey that showcases his mastery of the symphonic band medium. Composed in 1997, the piece pays homage to the iconic cityscape of New York. Through evocative melodies and intricate orchestrations, Van der Roost transports listeners to the bustling streets and towering skyscrapers of Manhattan.

"Manhattan Pictures" stands as a testament to Van der Roost's ability to blend lush harmonies, rhythmic complexity, and vivid instrumental colors. The composition skillfully captures the vibrant energy and diverse cultural tapestry of the city, creating a sonic tapestry that resonates with audiences worldwide.

Jan Van der Roost's enduring contributions to the world of wind band music, epitomized by "Manhattan Pictures," continue to captivate musicians and audiences alike, leaving an indelible mark on the contemporary concert repertoire. His dedication to the craft and his innovative approach to composition have established him as a leading figure in the realm of wind ensemble music.

William Pitts is a composer, conductor, and arranger from Atlanta. Growing up in Carrollton, Georgia, Pitts graduated summa cum laude from Emory University, where he studied saxophone, conducting, and composition. He has completed graduate study in Music at North Georgia University and the University of Michigan.

Pitts is active as a music designer, adjudicator, and instructor for high school band programs throughout the country. Marching ensembles performing his arrangements have been recognized as State Marching Band Finalists and Champions, along with Bands of America Regional Finalists, Regional Champions, and Grand National Finalists. His concert compositions and arrangements have been commissioned and performed across the world. He has written works for and been commissioned by the Boston Pops, the University of North Texas, the Canadian Staff Band of the Salvation Army, Wake Forest University, the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, the Atlanta Trumpet Ensemble, the Vega String Quartet, the Atlanta Saxophone Quartet, the Northwinds Symphonic Band, french hornist J.D. Shaw, tubist Christian Carichner, and numerous other high school and collegiate wind and chamber ensembles. He has also served as a production consultant and talent for Tom Blair, Inc., Drum Corps International, and MTV. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony Foundation.

As a music educator, Pitts has served on the faculties of Duncanville High School in Duncanville, Texas, and Pace Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, and currently serves on the faculty of the Westminster Schools in Atlanta, specializing in instrumental music, conducting, and music theory.

There is no greater joy in my life than being a dad. I think teachers find the most personal and professional satisfaction in watching students discover something new or grasp a concept for the first time. That feeling is exponentially greater when it is my own children. Little kids have a limitless imagination, and they are able to craft entire worlds out of the simplest of ideas. When I read the above quote from Katherine Applegate's novel, *The One and Only Ivan*, it immediately made me think of how much I love watching my kids explore the world for the first time.

When Lafe Cook asked me to write a new piece for their state convention performance, I knew I wanted to take the opportunity to experiment and craft something with the staff and students, as I have already spent so much time working with the Dobyns-Bennett band program. Electronics and synthesized sounds are certainly not new in the world of music composition and performance, but they are pretty new to me as the one tasked with creating and programming the effects. My love for the music of film, television, and video games is heavily influenced by the use of unique textures, both acoustic and electronic, that allow the listener to depart from their current reality. For this particular piece, I wanted to do my best to capture the child-like curiosity and wonderment that I witness in my children.

Lafe and I share a lot of qualities; we love great food, nice clothes, teaching high school kids, and being dads. One of the best parts of our professional collaboration is that we have been able to build a personal connection and trust that informs and influences our professional interactions. We have watched each other's kids grow up, and I have both personally and professionally grown up quite a bit since we started working together. I consider *The Eyes that Hold the Stars* to be a celebration of this collaboration, as well as a celebration of our wonderful families.

John Williams is an iconic American composer known for his prolific and influential contributions to film and concert music. Born on February 8, 1932, in New York City, Williams has garnered acclaim for his memorable scores for movies like “Star Wars,” “Indiana Jones,” and “Jurassic Park,” among many others.

One of his notable compositions adapted for concert band is “The Cowboys.” Originally written as a film score for the 1972 movie of the same name, the music captures the spirit of the American West with its sweeping melodies and evocative orchestrations. James Curnow, a respected composer and arranger in his own right, later arranged this piece for concert band, allowing it to be enjoyed in a live concert setting.

The arrangement by James Curnow skillfully captures the essence of John Williams’ original composition, enabling concert bands to bring the grandeur and cinematic quality of “The Cowboys” to audiences around the world. The piece showcases Williams’ ability to craft music that is both emotionally resonant and technically engaging, solidifying his legacy as one of the preeminent composers of our time.

John Williams’ contributions to the world of music, whether in film or concert settings, have left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape. His ability to create music that resonates with audiences of all ages and backgrounds is a testament to his exceptional talent and enduring artistic vision.

Piccolo

Jacob Ruzensky
Instrumental Music Education,
Palm Bay, Florida

Flute

Hayden Purser
Music Education
Madison, AL

Emma Coley
Criminology
Trussville, AL

Emily Diaz
Music Performance
Prairieville, LA

Emily Barnes
Microbiology
Brentwood, TN

Ashton Silvers
Music Education
Erwin, TN

Elayna Griffaw
Psychology (Pre-Medicine)
Peachtree City, GA

Oboe

Lawrence Sturgeon
Oboe Performance
Chesapeake, VA

Amber White
Music Education
Ashland, AL

Abigail Meadows
Public Relations
Ozark, MO

Bassoon

David Botero
Music Education - Instrumental
Monroe, NC

Kellen Drinkard
Music Performance
Eva, AL

Clarinet

Jenna Brown
Music Education
Lynn, AL

Jessica Tidwell
Music Education
Winfield, AL

PERSONNEL

Lauren Bruce
Music Education
Huntsville, AL

Shawn Mullen
Music Composition
Mathematics, Mobile, AL

Caroline McCarty
Music Education
Birmingham, AL

Anabelle Webber
Music Therapy, Pre-Med
Tuscaloosa, AL

Julia Wofford
Accounting
Robertsdale, AL

Lindsey Conner
Music Therapy
Muscle Shoals, AL

Kailey Patterson
Music Education
Princeton, IL

Bass Clarinet

Marcos Cruz
Music Education
Summerville, SC

Cordelia Hulsey
Anthropology
Huntsville, AL

Matthew Rocchio
Music Performance
Birmingham, AL

Alto Saxophone

Rebeca Sigal
Music Education
Fairhope, AL

Alton Hudson
Music Education
Huntsville, AL

Brice Fennig
Music Performance
Tampa, FL

Tenor Saxophone

Connor Eastman
Aerospace/ Mechanical
Mary Esther, FL

Tenor Saxophone

Imani Collier
Music Education
Douglasville, GA

Kat Nguyen
Music Education
Marietta, GA

Baritone Saxophone

A.J. Kell
Music Education
Jasper, AL

Trumpet

Jayden Taylor
Music Education - Instrumental
Tuscaloosa, AL

Jordan Wright-Lambert
Music Education
Birmingham, AL

Isaac Toles
Microbiology and Spanish
Gluckstadt, MS

Grace Bradt
Mechanical Engineering,
Huntsville, AL

Joshua Ogle
Music Composition
Birmingham, AL

Robert Watts
Music Education
Fayette, AL

Emily Adkins
Music Education
Madison, AL

John Price
Music Education - Instrumental
Daphne, AL

Horn

Luke Cross
Music Performance
Chattanooga, TN

Samantha Sigal
Music Education
Cooper City, FL

Laura Jean Kurtz
Mathematics, Performance
Baton Rouge, LA

Ben Crawford
Biology
Trussville, AL

Joseph Du
Chemical Engineering
Baton Rouge, LA

Griffin Lure
Music Education
Cumming, GA

Lindsey Coppel
Music Performance
Chattanooga, TN

Milton Johnson
Music Performance
Lexington, SC

Trombone

Ian Franzer
Music Education
Trussville, AL

Ian Zalamea
Electrical Engineering
Madison, AL

Andrew Braun
Music Performance
Houston, TX

Kylon Morman
Music Education
Jasper, AL

Gibson Purser
Music Education
Madison, AL (Bass)

Andrew Bolton
Music Education
Tuscaloosa, AL (Bass)

Euphonium

Tyler Schafer
Music Education
Hoover, AL

JP Aufdemorte
Music Education - Instrumental
Hoover, AL

Drew Bennett
Music Education
Winfield, AL

Euphonium

Ira Colvin
Euphonium Performance
Tuscaloosa, AL

Jordan Waddell
Percussion Performance
Anniston, AL

Tuba

Charlie Grimes
Music Education
Madison, AL

Piano

Megan Healey
Piano Performance
Virginia Beach, VA

Reid Sayle
Music Education
Hoover, AL

Caleb Acton
Music Education and Music Theory
Birmingham, AL

Zack Clark
Music Education
Moulton, AL

Caleb Moyers
Music Education - Instrumental
Madison, AL

Percussion

Evan Berry
Music Education
Helena, AL

Sean Thomas Campbell
Music Composition
Decatur, AL

Jonathan Cooley
Percussion Performance
Hoover, AL

James Geiger
Music Education
Orlando, FL

Aislen Hernandez
Music Composition
Cartersville, GA

Ella Miller
Chemical Engineering
Kingsport, TN

Jasmine Page
Music Education
Houston, TX

Austin Stanley
Music Education
Coaling, AL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Harrison Bruner, horn

Friday, November 10
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Jake Pietroniro, viola

Saturday, November 11
3:30 p.m., Recital Hall

Hailey Beard, Soprano

Saturday, November 11
3:30 p.m., Byrant Jordan Hall

No One Else: An Afternoon of Solo Scenes

Sunday, November 12
3:00 p.m., Byrant Jordan Hall

Tuba/Euphonium Studio Recital

Sunday, November 12
3:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Cameron Duncan, Trombone

Sunday, November 12
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Fall Student Chamber Ensembles

Tuesday, November 14
7:30 p.m., Recital Hall

Fall Choral Showcase

Tuesday, November 14
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Faculty Recital: Eric Yates

Wednesday, November 15
7:30 p.m., Recital Hall

Huxford Symphony Orchestra

Thursday, November 16
7:30 p.m., Concert Hall

Check out the SOM on Social Media!



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