



Western Reserve Community Band

Holiday Concert



Hudson Middle School Auditorium
Sunday, December 17, 2023 - 4:30 p.m.

Ralph Meyer - Conductor, Bev O'Connor - Conductor, Wendy K. Matthews – Conductor

Sounds of the Holiday Season

Choose Joy

Randall Standridge

Nightmare Before Christmas

Overture ♪ Christmas Eve Montage ♪ Sally's Song ♪ This Is Halloween ♪ End Title.

Danny Elfman
arr. Michael Brown

Procession Of The Nobles

Cortège from the opera-ballet Mlada

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov
arr. Erik Leidzen

Rocking Carol

Traditional Czech
arr. Jay Dawson

Hanukkah Festival Overture

Hanukkah, O Hanukkah ♪ S'vivon ♪ Hanukkah ♪ Dreidle Song ♪ Mi Yimalel ♪ Candle Blessing

arr. Lucas Richman
trans. W. Mark Harrell

A Frank Sinatra Christmas

The First Noel ♪ Jingle Bells ♪ Silent Night

Various
arr. Robert W. Smith

Minor Alterations No 2: Carols from the Dark Side

Traditional
arr. David Lovrien

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Linus And Lucy ♪ Skating ♪ Christmas Time Is Here ♪ O Tannenbaum

Vince Guaraldi & Lee Mendelson
arr. Carl Strommen

A Christmas Fantasy

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming (1599) ♪ Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light (1641)

Traditional
arr. Calvin Custer

Themes from The Nutcracker Suite

Marche ♪ Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy ♪ Arabian Dance ♪ Waltz of the Flowers ♪ Russian Dance

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
arr. Clair Johnson

A Holiday Sing Along

O Come All Ye Faithful ♪ The First Noel ♪ Deck The Hall ♪ We Three Kings ♪ Angels We Have Hears on High

Various
arr. Paul Erwin

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson

Please join us for cookies and refreshments after the program here in the cafeteria!

Play an Instrument? Consider Joining the WRCB!

Membership in the WRCB is open to adult wind and percussion players of all playing abilities through Hudson Community Education and Recreation for an annual participation fee. If you can refer any, we would like to add additional Clarinet and Percussion instrumentalists to our ensemble. If you, or someone you know, is an adult wind player or percussionist who might be interested in joining our band to make music and have fun, reach out to Band President Arno Kremer, at (330) 819-6383, check us out on Facebook or on the web: wrband97.org

The Western Reserve Community Band is indebted to HCEB (Hudson Community Education & Recreation), Hudson Board of Education, Hudson Schools Administration, Maintenance and Support Staff, and the Hudson Middle School and Hudson High School Music Programs for their over two decades of continued support and the use of their rehearsal space, equipment and auditorium performance space.

Music is far too important to be left entirely in the hands of professionals...

Program Notes

Choose Joy!

Inspired by a high school student who found happy moments even in the face of cancer, this uplifting work combines engaging rhythms, energetic melodies, bombastic percussion to create a message of positivity for performers and audiences alike. The piece uses elements of Beethoven's Ode to joy along with a five note motive representing the five family members of the student's immediate family. A trio is heard near the beginning, representing the student and her siblings; the parts have been written for the instruments they played in band (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone). The work alternates between a rhythmic and joyful intensity and a more nostalgic and bittersweet lyrical moment in the middle. There are moments of happiness, humor, worry, pain, and determination. This work serves as a fitting tribute to all of those who choose joy in times of darkness. In his program notes of this piece, Standridge writes, "...time is our greatest gift and most valuable asset, and we are always spending it, whether we intend to or not.

Selections from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

The classic animated movie *The Nightmare Before Christmas* features deliciously sinister music by composer Danny Elfman directed by Tim Burton in 2000. Jack Skellington, the pumpkin king of Halloween Town, is bored with doing the same thing every year for Halloween. One day he stumbles into Christmas Town and is so taken with the idea of Christmas that he tries to get the resident bats, ghouls, and goblins of Halloween Town to help him put on Christmas instead of Halloween -- but alas, they can't get it quite right. This unique offering for the holiday season includes *Overture*, *Christmas Eve Montage*, *Sally's Song*, *This Is Halloween* and *End Title*.

Procession of The Nobles

Rimsky-Korsakov finished his opera-ballet *Mlada*, in 1892. Later he derived a suite from this opera. The *Cortège* is the last movement of this suite. This *Cortège* is also known as *Procession of the Nobles*, which, when translated literally from Russian, should mean *Procession of the Princes*. Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mlada*, almost defies the effort to describe it. In form it is half-opera and half-ballet. Set a thousand years ago in an imaginary kingdom called Retra on the shores of the Baltic, *Mlada* tries to fuse Wagnerian opera with ancient Russian legend, and the result is an absolutely fantastic story. Princess Mlada, a role that is danced rather than sung, has been murdered by her rival Voyslava, who sets out to secure the love of Yaromir, Mlada's lover. The story involves magic, evil spirits, and trips into the underworld, and at the climax an entire village is submerged by an overflowing lake and Yaromir and Mlada are seen ascending on a rainbow. The only familiar music from *Mlada* is the *Procession of the Nobles*, the orchestral introduction to Act II, which begins with a festival. The music bursts to life with a rousing brass flourish, soon followed by the processional music. This is music of color and energy, and a central section just as vigorous as the opening leads to a return of the march tune and a rousing close. *Procession of the Nobles* was heard as the theme for the PBS public affairs program Agronsky & Co. and its successor, Inside Washington, and was used between 1957 and 1969 as the opening theme for the UK TV program What the Papers Say.

Rocking Carol

The Rocking Carol, also known as *Little Jesus*, *Sweetly Sleep* and *Rocking*, is an English Christmas carol by Percy Dearmer. It was translated from Czech (Hájek, nyněj) in 1928 and is performed as a lullaby to the baby Jesus. The carol has also been known in English as the *Rocking* carol since an American edition in 1963. This setting of this traditional Czech Christmas carol is a sparkling little gem. It's cute, lively, rhythmic, a joy to play and provides a special moment of magical intrigue!

Hanukkah Festival Overture

A piece based on the traditional melodies that mark the celebration of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. It incorporates six specific tunes that either speak of the miracle of the oil that burned seven days longer than it should have or that illustrate the manner in which the holiday is celebrated today. *Hanukkah*, *O Hanukkah*, *S'vivon* (Hebrew for dreidle), *Hanukkah* and *The Dreidle Song* are treated in alternately classical or klezmer (traditional Jewish Eastern European) settings, leading us to the prosaic *Mi Yimalel* (Who can retell the things that befell us?) and the final *Candle Blessing*, before the ensemble gallops to a rousing finish to both the joy and reflection of Hanukkah.

A Frank Sinatra Christmas

Possibly no other entertainer in the world has left so large a legacy to a generation than the man named Francis Albert Sinatra. His career has been a never-ending ride straight to the top, from bobby sox idol to motion picture star to Chairman of the Board. Arranger Robert W. Smith salutes the 'Ol' Blue Eyes' style in this medley of traditional Christmas favorites.

Minor Alterations No 2: Carols from the Dark Side

The long-awaited *Minor Alterations* sequel is here -- now 31% more twisted! In this sequel, David Lovrien takes a new set of familiar holiday melodies and twists them, distorts them, transposes them from major to minor and finally sets them in the styles of famous minor-keyed orchestral pieces. You will never be the same after hearing *O Holy Night* set against *Ride of the Valkyries*. It's like a Christmas stocking full of very dark chocolate!

A Charlie Brown Christmas

In October 1950, the "Peanuts" comic strip by Charles Schulz began its syndication in seven newspapers. Building from the popularity of the comic strip, the 25-minute animated holiday TV special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," was enjoyed in half of the country's homes on December 9, 1965. The show included ice skating, a pageant, and Christmas carols. When Charlie Brown expresses concern over the overwhelming commercialization of the holiday and confusion about the true meaning of Christmas, Linus responds with a recitation of the birth of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke. Charlie Brown decides that commercialism need not ruin his Christmas. In 1966, the show was awarded an Emmy Award for Outstanding Children's Program and a Peabody Award for Excellence in Programming. This superb medley includes *Linus And Lucy*, *Skating*; *Christmas Time Is Here* and *O Tannenbaum*. Composer Vince Guaraldi was a jazz pianist/composer who went on to score several Peanuts television specials.

Program Notes

A Christmas Fantasy

This marvelous "fantasia" based on two beautiful Christmas hymns, *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* and *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* arranged by Calvin Custer. He uses his talents to create a tapestry of interwoven melodies, variations and counterpoints that ebb and flow among the broad chorale phrases. *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* (literally *A rose has sprung up*) is a Christmas carol and Marian hymn of German origin. The rose in the German text is a symbolic reference to the Virgin Mary. The hymn references the Old Testament prophecies of Isaiah. Because of its prophetic theme, the hymn is popular during the Christian season of Advent. It first appeared in print in 1599. The melody heard in *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* was composed by Johann Schop (ca. 1590—1664) and was first known as *Ermuntre dich, mein schwacher Geist* (*Rouse thyself my weak spirit*). It was first published in Leipzig in 1641 in Johann Rist's *Himmliche Lieder* (*Heavenly or Celestial Songs*). The original melody had a different character in its original form, as it was more closely related to Renaissance musical style. By the time Bach harmonized the tune in the 18th century, musical preferences had shifted: the rhythm of the melody was made more consistent, the tempo became slower, and the harmony and counterpoint was more complex. This setting is from the second cantata of Bach's Christmas Oratorio from 1737.

Themes from The Nutcracker Suite

The Nutcracker is a two-act ballet, originally choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov with a score by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (op. 71). It was given its première at the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg on Sunday, December 18, 1892. Although the original production was not a success, the 20-minute suite that Tchaikovsky extracted from the ballet was. However, the complete Nutcracker has enjoyed enormous popularity since the late 1960s, and is now performed by countless ballet companies, primarily during the Christmas season, especially in North America. Tchaikovsky's score has become one of his most famous compositions, in particular the pieces featured in the suite. The Nutcracker is one of the composer's most popular compositions. The music belongs to the Romantic period and contains some of his most memorable melodies, several of which are frequently used in television and film.

Sleigh Ride

Just like "A Christmas Song," Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride was conceived during a sweltering 1946 summer heat wave. Like "Jingle Bells," it is not technically a Christmas song. Instead, it is an orchestral tone poem, constructed using classical forms and structures. Anderson used the resources of the full orchestra to recreate the soundscape of an actual winter trek — jingling bells, clip-clop of hooves, cracking whip, and the famous horse whinny. The composer noted that the entire piece is based on the steady rhythm of sleigh bells, and over that rhythm he offers a couple of perky, happy tunes that seem perennially to catch some of the fun of the Christmas season. Sleigh Ride received its premiere on May 4, 1948 with Arthur Fiedler conducting the Boston Pops Orchestra at Symphony Hall in Boston.

Sing A Long Words

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!
Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Deck the Hall

Deck the hall with boughs of holly, fa la la...
Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la...
Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la...
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la...
Fast away the old year passes, fa la la...
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la...
Sing we joyous all together, fa la la...
Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! - Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! - Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! - Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The First Noel

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Support the WRCB
We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
This QR Code connects
to our PayPal link.



Western Reserve Community Band Roster

Flute

Donna Sulhan
Kristen Duffy
Jennifer Biber
Leslie Nutt
Sandy Rexroad
Ken Bowman
Jacki Cyr
Caitlin Helmer
Susan Mertz
Jennie Prentice
Debbie Shields

Clarinet

Jill Centrello
Bob Morton
Heather Waltz
Eve Cervenka
Jennifer Biggie
Victoria Putnam
Tonia Ferrell
Cal O'Connor
John Bozsony
Alexandra Holloway
Emma Bene
Patricia Goetz
Dale Dong
Shawn Hanlon
Ralph Meyer

Oboe

Julie Prather

Bassoon

Nicki Lantz
Corinne Strasser

Bass Clarinet

David Swindler
August Weir

Alto Saxophone

Gregg Dahlby
Christine Martin
Ken Thompson
Linda Kotheimer
Deborah Gerbetz
Jim Virost

Tenor Saxophone

Robert Davet
Tom Bartholomew
Brynn Kensinger

Baritone Saxophone

Jonah Pamula

Trumpet

Bob Smith
Jennifer Barone
Jerry Kleman
Wendy Matthews
Malcolm Bartlett
Jessica Stanik
Lauren Casale
Dan Bolovan
DJ Alessandrini
Maria Martinelli
Amanda Baumgartner
Art Prentice
Rylan Arnold
Chuck Dorazio
Tom Hughey
Dick Ptak

Horn

Jami Bolton
Lisa Bose
Jessica Collins
Don Easterling
Beverly O'Connor
Stephanie Vaughan

Trombone

Susan Swab
Dave Watt
Arno Kremer
Caleb Sparks
Joe Damato
Dan Allen
Kristin Brandyberry
Hannah Zito
Matthew Todd
David Lehman
Justin Roebuck

Euphonium

Lou Barone
Paul Good
Daniel Taylor

Tuba

Jim McIntyre
Michael Pasko
Richard Waltman

Percussion

Stephen Merriman
Layla Nosek
Ann Shuman
Matthew Smith

Western Reserve Community Band Organization

Arno Kremer
President

Victoria Putnam
Vice President

David Lehman
Treasurer

Patricia Goetz
Secretary

Bob Smith
Librarian & Logistics

Robert Davet
Webmaster

Jami Bolton
Technology

Matt Smith
Percussion Logistics

Tom & Cheryl Hughey
Holiday Concert Cookies

Wendy Matthews
Conductor

Beverly O'Connor
Conductor

Ralph Meyer
Founder / Conductor

Join us for one or more of our free concerts in these locations next year!

2024 WRCB Schedule

April: Spring Concert - Hudson MS School Auditorium
May: Hudson Meadows Concert
June: Hudson Ice Cream Social Concert
July: Liberty Park Twinsburg Concert
July: Cuyahoga Falls Festa Italiano Concert
August: Hudson Summer Music Festival Concert
September: Aurora Independence Village Concert
November: Hudson Meadows Veterans Day Patriotic Concert
December: Holiday Concert - Hudson MS School Auditorium

The Western Reserve Community Band is a non-professional, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) community musical organization.

Our mission is to provide audiences in Hudson and the surrounding communities with cultural enrichment and entertainment and allow adult musicians in the area an opportunity to participate in an active, performing band.

Businesses or individuals who are interested in supporting the WRCB should contact: Band President Arno Kremer at (330) 819-6383.
We are organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

This concert made possible in part by the generous support of our individual Donors, Sponsors, Agency & Foundation Grants

We wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season!

Music is far too important to be left entirely in the hands of professionals...