

ATLANTA FREEDOM BANDS PRESENTS

To Kids
from One to 92
Music for Kids and Kids at Heart



Hosted by:



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2024 • 7PM

Church at Ponce and Highland

1085 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta 30306

www.atlantafreebands.com





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Warm Holiday Greetings!

We are glad you have joined us for AFB's holiday concert. It is our joy to share our music as part of your celebration of this festive time of the year. Our program looks at the holidays through the eyes of kids. The selections recall the joy, wonder, magic, and fun of holidays during childhood. Our members have had such a great time preparing for the show. Our hope is that the music brings out the same spirit for you this season.

Tonight's concert marks a significant milestone for Atlanta Freedom Bands. Twenty years ago, on December 11, 2004, AFB inaugurated a new performing ensemble, the Concert Band. Since then, the concerts have featured such a wide range of music from a diverse array of composers presented in different settings across the city. The musicianship has grown with the ensemble, allowing the band to bring you some of the best wind band music by today's composers.

All the work AFB's members have done in the community over the last three decades resulted in an amazing recognition this summer. AFB was named one of the Grand Marshals for the Atlanta Pride Parade. We are so proud and honored to be a part of this select group of people who have done so much to advance the causes of equality and acceptance. All our volunteers in all our ensembles look forward to many more decades of this labor of love.

Of course, there are many expressions of love and joy during the holiday season. Perhaps this one from the "Christmas Song" captures our best wishes to you and your loved ones:

And so, we're offering this simple phrase,

To kids from one to ninety-two,

Although it's been said, many times, many ways,

Merry Christmas to you!

Special Thanks for Tonight's Concert

- 🎵 **Church at Ponce and Highland** for tonight's concert venue. We are grateful for the assistance of Jim Wright, Facilities Management Director, and Rev. Mimi Walker, Senior Pastor.
- 🎵 **Central Congregational United Church of Christ** in North Druid Hills for providing our rehearsal home, Rev. Scott Cox, Senior Pastor.
- 🎵 This program is supported in part by the **Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs**. Thank you to the Mayor's Office, the Atlanta City Council, and City of Atlanta residents in the audience.
- 🎵 Funding for this program is also provided by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners under the guidance of the **Fulton County Arts Council**. Thank you to the Fulton County Commissioners and Fulton County residents in the audience.
- 🎵 This program is supported in part by the **Georgia Council for the Arts** through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency - the **National Endowment for the Arts**.
- 🎵 **Dan Lax Media** for concert photography.



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
Cultural Affairs



FULTON COUNTY
arts & culture



Proud member of the

ASSOCIATION OF CONCERT BANDS:

The International Voice of Community Bands





About Atlanta Freedom Bands

Atlanta musician Buz Carr attended the 1993 Pride Parade and noticed there was no marching band. “We can’t have a parade with floats and not have a marching band,” he remarked as he set about recruiting musicians to form the Atlanta Freedom Marching Band. The marching band appeared not only in the Atlanta Pride Parade, but also in neighborhood festivals and events across the city and in Pride events across the Southeast.

Over the years, the organization grew to become Atlanta Freedom Bands. Now thirty-one years later, AFB still represents our city’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community through music. AFB includes the original Marching Band as well as the MetroGnomes Stage Band (2001), the Color Guard (2010) and, of course, the Atlanta Freedom Concert Band (2004) appearing in tonight’s concert. We have also offered a variety of smaller ensembles to meet the musical interests of our members over time, including a brass quintet, a wind quintet, a saxophone ensemble and more.

AFB is a member of Pride Bands Alliance, a network of bands in cities across the United States, Canada, and Australia. Our members joined others for annual conferences as well as historic events such as Inaugurations of Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, Gay Games events in Amsterdam, Sydney, Paris and Chicago, and the Millennium March for Equality. Atlanta Freedom Bands hosted the Alliance’s annual convention in October 2013 with over 250 musicians from 33 different bands in attendance.

We welcome musicians at all levels and all orientations and identities to join in our activities and become part of our band family. All of our ensembles welcome the opportunity to partner with groups in the community to help raise awareness, raise funds or just raise the roof with good music. Atlanta Freedom Bands is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable corporation.



Kurt Wackerly **Interim Artistic Director**

Currently serving in the role of Interim Artistic Director, Kurt Wackerly has been the Associate Director of the Atlanta Freedom Concert Band since 2011. He graduated from Bowling Green State University in Ohio in 1994 with a Bachelors in Music Education, and became a member of the Ohio Music Education Association, the Hancock County Music Teachers Association, and the Findlay Community Band. During his

time in Ohio, he was the band director and choral instructor for grades 5 through 12 in the McComb Local School District near Lima, Ohio.

Mr. Wackerly moved to Atlanta in 2001 to pursue professional opportunities, and that was where he discovered the Atlanta Concert Band. He joined that band as a French horn player and was later appointed as an assistant conductor for his merits from 2007 to 2011. He later discovered the AFB through networking and joined it in 2011, where he played French horn and soon took up the position of Associate Director for the Concert Band that he has held to this day.

During his time in Atlanta, he joined the Atlanta Wind Symphony and the Callanwolde Concert Band. He served as associate conductor of both ensembles when he was a member. As for his business career, he is a licensed manager at FirstService Residential, a professional property management company.



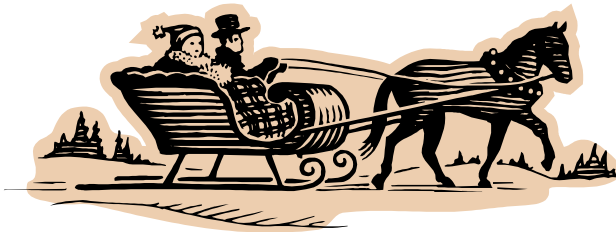
Jason Jackson

Interim Associate Director

Jason Jackson grew up in Aiken, SC. At age 6, he started piano, and later, chose trombone when joining middle school band. He is an honor graduate from Winthrop University; both in trombone performance in 2000, and a master's in music education in 2002. After graduation, he taught middle and high school band in SC before being cast in the Broadway show "Blast!". He has performed with "Blast!" in 4 international tours including London and Japan and was the trombone soloist on the 2005-06 US tour before settling down in Columbus, OH. There, he was head band director at Westerville Central High School. In addition to teaching, Jason was an active member of the Columbus Pride Bands; and eventually became co-artistic director in 2011. He really enjoyed his time in Ohio, getting opportunities to work with various touring shows, including Cirque du Soliel's "Corteo".



In 2019, Jason moved back to SC to be closer to family and taught band in his home school district as well as a private lessons studio at Music and Arts in Augusta, GA. Most recently, he accepted a post as band director at The American School of Bombay in Mumbai, India. There, he taught students from over 30 nationalities and got to travel to several locations in the middle east and south Asia. After completing his contract, Jason returned to the USA and relocated to Atlanta in March of 2024. Though teaching has been his main career, Jason remains an active performing brass musician and plays in several groups in the Atlanta area, including the Atlanta Trombone Ensemble, AFB Metrognomes and Concert Band.





Dr. Kathleen Nicole Fallin Special Guest Conductor

Dr. Kathleen Nicole Fallin graduated in December 2012 from the University of Georgia with a Ph.D. in Music Education and a Trumpet Performance minor. Before that, she accumulated 20 years of experience performing with, directing, and instructing military bands, along with her many years of public school and university teaching.

Dr. Fallin completed her Bachelor of Music Education from Appalachian State University, Boone, North

Carolina, in 1979. Afterward, she joined the United States Army and was stationed at the Third Infantry Division Band in Würzburg, Germany. In 1983 she was assigned to the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, Virginia, where she served as trumpet instructor until 1991. While in Norfolk, she also received her Master of Music from Norfolk State University. Following a 3-year assignment in Fairbanks Alaska, she returned to the Armed Forces School of Music as Brass Branch Supervisor, where she supervised 9 brass instructors; developed curriculum and audition standards for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps; and administered all brass auditions for the School. In 1996 she was assigned to the Fort Gordon Band in Augusta, Georgia, as the enlisted band leader.

After retirement from the Army in 1999, Dr. Fallin was a band director in the Augusta public schools for 7 years and the Director of Bands and Trumpet Professor at Georgia Regents University for 5 years. In 2011, she relocated to Atlanta to be with her partner while completing the Music Education Doctorate at University of Georgia. Dr. Fallin served as the Artistic Director of the Atlanta Freedom Concert Band for twelve years starting in 2012 before retiring from the post in June 2024.



Olive d’Nightlife & Agatha Boogie Concert Hosts

Olive d’Nightlife is the embodiment of her name. For those younger than thirty-five, Olive’s name is an homage to the 1978 Alicia Bridges disco hit “I Love the Nightlife.” With legs that measure forty-three inches from heel to hip, Olive strikes a statuesque pose wherever she performs.



Agatha Boogie is everyone's favorite eccentric Aunt. Born without a filter, you never know what Agatha will say next. A little rough around the edges, Agatha is pure of heart and holds boundless love for all.

Olive and Agatha relocated from New York City to Atlanta in 2018. Their ultimate goal is to open their own cabaret space to create one-of-a-kind, inclusive, and comedic drag experiences. In the meantime, the gals appear at venues around the city hosting shows and events for their loyal (and growing!) fan base. Two of their most popular monthly events, “Mystery Monday” and “Queer Quiz” at Red’s Beer Garden in Benteen Park, sell-out each month. Additionally, Olive & Agatha have raised thousands of dollars for local charities that focus on animal rescue, music and education, domestic violence support, and LGBTQIA+ issues with their monthly “BIngo After Dark” event at Arches Brewing in Hapeville.

Join Olive and Agatha and all the fun by signing up for their newsletter at www.DouglasDeweyCreative.com, and follow them on Instagram and Facebook @DouglasDeweyCreative.



Atlanta Freedom Concert Band Celebrating Twenty Years!

The Atlanta Freedom Marching Band started in 1993 with its first goal of having a marching band and color guard for the Atlanta Pride Parade. The band performed a few concerts during its first decade, but members expressed an interest in forming a more permanent ensemble focused on wind band music. The Atlanta Freedom Concert Band began in 2004, presenting its first performance with that name on December 11 at Phipps Plaza under the direction of founding director Bob Derickson (above).

The Concert Band was a small wind ensemble during its beginning years as Bob taught ensemble music technique and musicianship. AFB and the Concert Band grew large enough to eventually host the Lesbian and Gay Band Association (now Pride Bands Alliance) annual conference in 2013.

Since then, the Concert Band has commissioned three new works for wind band, presented several world and Atlanta premieres, inaugurated a Student Composer Residency Program (now starting its 9th year), and performed a long list of works by a diverse array of living composers. The Concert Band has been the featured artist on many broadcasts of WABE's "Atlanta Music Scene" program.

The Concert Band will undergo a transition during this anniversary year following the retirement of long-time director Dr. Nicole Fallin. The new Artistic Director will inherit a long legacy of excellence and enthusiasm that will support the musical growth and community commitment of the Concert Band for many years to come.

Atlanta Queer Arts Alliance

AQuAA Winter Events

NEW YEAR WHO DIS? A Queer NYE Party

Southern Fried Queer Pride
Tuesday, December 31, 9:30 PM
Best End Brewing
1036 White St SW, Atlanta 30310

At the Wedding

Outfront Theatre
January 30—February 15
999 Brady Ave NW, Atlanta 30318

If It Ain't Queer, It Ain't Here

OurSong Chorus
Saturday, February 8, 4 and 7:30 PM
First Baptist Church of Decatur
308 Clairemont Ave, Decatur 30030

Wind

Atlanta Philharmonic Orchestra
Saturday, March 1, 7:30 PM
First United Methodist Church of Tucker
5095 Lavista Rd, Tucker 30084

This is Me!

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus
Atlanta Women's Chorus
Saturday, March 15, 2 PM and 7 PM
Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church
1660 N Decatur Rd, Atlanta 30307



Kurt Wackerly, Interim Artistic Director
 Jason Jackson, Interim Associate Director
 Dr. Kathleen Nicole Fallin, Special Guest Conductor
 Saturday, December 21, 2024

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Atlanta Freedom Concert Band

Overture to a Winter Celebration (2010)^{KW} James Stephenson (b. 1969)
 Il est né, le divin enfant • Pat-A-Pan • Good King Wenceslas
 Sponsored by Eddie Young: "Enjoy!"

Snow Angels (2017)^{KW} Randall Standridge (b. 1976)

Greensleeves (1993)^{KW} arr. Alfred Reed (1921-2005)

Traditional English folk song
 Sponsored by Edward Ehlers: "In memory of my supportive and loving father,
 Edward Ehlers Sr."

"With love to our band family at the holidays and all year long - Annette and
 Lillian Piepenhagen"

Sinterklaas's Rooftop Ride (2023)^{KW} Laura Estes (b. 1959)

This song is sponsored by the French Horn Section because Sleigh Ride was
 not available. :-)

Christmas from the 50s (2009)^{KW} arr. Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

Olive d'Nightlive and Agatha Boogie, vocalists
 Jingle Bell Rock (1957) • Frosty the Snowman (1950)
 The Christmas Waltz (1954)

(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays (1954)

Sponsored by Hannah Dunn: "For my grandpa, who loved the oldies"

Sponsored by Jason Morley: "In memory of Loretta Morley and Evlyn Brady"

Sponsored by Anne Cooley: "Dedicated to those who remember the 50s"

The Christmas Song (1945)^{KW} arr. Michael Sweeney (b. 1952)
words and music by Robert Wells (1922-1988) and Mel Tormé (1925-1999)
Sponsored by Jason Morley: "In memory of Audrey Martin"

Secret Agent Santa (2010)^{KW} Jeff Simmons
*Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to wish a very happy holiday to our missing horns: Mark, Nicole, Amy, Brandon, Cassie, and John.
Love da Bears. This sponsorship will self destruct in 3—2—1 ...*

— Intermission —

Twas the Night Before (2012)^{JJ} David Shaffer (b. 1953)
A Celebration of Holiday Bells and Brass
Sponsored by Mads Andrews: "To my beloved Bubbles, you are the only sleigh Bell(e) in my life. Every note I play is for you—the steady rhythm my heart follows."

A Chanukah Celebration (1995)^{JJ} David Bobrowitz (b. 1945)
arr. Kenneth P. Soper
O Chanukah • The Dreidel Song • Mi Y'malel (Who Can Retell)
Maoz Tsur (Rock Of Ages) • Chanukah, Chanukah
Sponsored by Michael McFarlin: "To my loving husband, the Hebrew Chef, Stefan Buell"

Starbound (2024)^{KW} Bert Agripino (b. 2003)
Bert Agripino, vibraphone

You Better Sleigh (2023)^{NF} JaRod Hall (b. 1991)
Sponsored by Kurt Haas: "Thanks for bringing music back into my life, Nicole! Best holiday gift ever!"

Twas the Night Before Christmas (1949)^{KW} Newell H. Long (1905-1999)
Poem (1832) by Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863)
Cliff Norris, narrator

Holiday Mashup (2014)^{KW} as featured on *Glee* Patrick Rozsell (b. 1976)
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas from *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1943)
Jingle Bell Rock (1957)
Sponsored by Bryan Gross: "Have yourself a merry little Christmas - much love to AFB and the trombone section! "

^{KW} Conducted by Kurt Wackerly

^{JJ} Conducted by Jason Jackson

^{NF} Conducted by Dr. Kathleen Nicole Fallin

**We kindly ask you to silence your mobile devices for the recording.
You can relive the concert at Atlanta Freedom Bands'
YouTube channel. Please tag your concert photos with #AFB32.**

Tonight's Concert Performers

Flute

‡ Brandon Gray (13)
Everest Eden (24)
Daniel Funston (24)
Darius Mackie (23)
Dany Garcia Moreno (24)
Anthony Neal (24)
Freddie Powell (24)
Peter Prefontaine (13)
Luke Robinson (23)
Beth Savoy (19)

Piccolo

Freddie Powell (24)

Oboe

‡ Robert Simon (17)
Brennan Booker (23)

Bassoon

Justin Hosten (23)

Clarinet

‡ Annette Piepenhagen (13)
‡ Aaron Smith (23)
Daniel Barker (11)
Bruce Bythwood (21)
Ann Cooley (21)
Wendy Hembree (24)
Suzanne Kamm McHann (23)
Toni Raines (24)
Emma Smith (24)
Molly Steele (24)

Bass Clarinet
Cecil Land (17)
Diane Quilter (23)

Alto Saxophone

‡ Beth Fordyce (09)
Bradley Beadles (24)
Audrey Brasuell (23)
Jason Morley (19)
Demarius Newsome (24)
Cristian Perez (23)
Toni Ralston (23)

Tenor Saxophone

Matt Akins (15)
Drew Johnson (24)

Baritone Saxophone

Katie Mitchell (23)

Trumpet

‡ João M. Cleaver (15)
‡ Fitz Dement (23)
Torsten Behrens (24)
Nicole Fallin (11)
Tyler Hodge (24)
Bob Hults (23)
Greg Keith (15)
Chris Kelly (17)
Ethan Messere (22)
Lillian Piepenhagen (22))

French Horn

‡ Candace Miller (11)
Landon Bubbs (24)
Michael McFarlin (12)
Rachel Scarboro (23)
Erin Watters (16)
Austin Whitlock (20)

‡ Section Leader

Year of joining the band in parentheses

Trombone

‡ Kurt Haas (15)
‡ Jason Jackson (24)
Hannah Dunn (19)
Henry Gallagher (24)
Brian Gross (24)
Larry Henderlight-Gómez (14)
Beth Herndon (15)
Nannette King (17)

Euphonium

‡ Charlene Stein (15)
Edward Ehlers (23)
Kazuki Koide (24)
Bobby McDonald (23)
Zakariya Thiam (24)

Tuba

‡ Will Segó (16)
Cliff Norris (96)
Jason Peragallo (12)
Kelly Stein (21)
Darren Williams (22)

Percussion

‡ Abby Gaskins (06)
‡ Mitch Cave (13)
Mads Andrews (22)
Jazz DeFreitas (23)
Jenna Galligan (24)
Allison Miller (19)
George Oh (22)
Mel Raines (24)
Christopher Segó (16)
Erin Seligsohn (24)

Piano

George Oh (22)

Celestial Section

Remembering those with us in spirit

Walter L. Buz Carr, Jr. (bassoon, founder) Mitchell Bryant (French horn)
Spence Whigham (baritone) Mario Gonzalez (alto saxophone)
Lee Marshall (flute) Jean Kavanagh (oboe)
Daniel Berger (trombone) Michael Lappin (volunteer)
Janette Friel (flute, secretary)
William Robert Derickson (founding Concert Band director)

Atlanta Freedom Bands Leadership

Board of Directors

Officers

<i>President</i>	Jason Morley
<i>Vice President</i>	Jonathan Law
<i>Secretary</i>	Charlene Stein
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Prefontaine

Representatives

<i>Concert Band</i>	Suzanne Kamm McHann
<i>Marching Band</i>	Candace Miller
<i>Color Guard</i>	Edward Ehlers
<i>MetroGnomes</i>	Oliver Spirito

Artistic Leaders

<i>Interim Artistic Director</i>	Kurt Wackerly
<i>Interim Associate Director</i>	Jason Jackson
<i>MetroGnomes Director</i>	Nic Chambers
<i>Marching Band Director</i>	Fitz Dement
<i>Color Guard Director</i>	Michel Brandon Boddie

Ensemble Coordinators

<i>Concert Band</i>	Suzanne Kamm McHann
<i>Marching Band</i>	Abby Gaskins
<i>Color Guard</i>	Michel Brandon Boddie
<i>MetroGnomes</i>	Beth Herndon

Organizational Leaders

<i>Development & Marketing</i>	Cliff Norris
<i>Marching Band Drum Major</i>	João Cleaver
<i>Librarian</i>	Brandon Gray
<i>Founder and Guiding Spirit</i>	Walter L. "Buz" Carr, Jr.



“To Kids from One to 92” Program Notes

A large-print version is available from your ushers.



A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, composer **James Stephenson** (b. 1969) has created a wide variety of works for orchestras and bands across the country. Critics have described his works as having “straightforward, unabashedly beautiful sounds.” The composer describes his works as incorporating “a fresh and energizing sound scape that engages the audience while maintaining integrity and worthwhile challenges for the performing musicians.” He has had recent premieres of his work by the Minnesota Orchestra and the Rhode Island Philharmonic. His works for concert band have had premieres at the American Band

Masters Association and the Texas Music Educators conventions. His works are featured on over 20 CDs. He also serves as board member of the American Composers Forum. After graduating with his degree in trumpet performance, Mr. Stephenson spent 17 seasons with the Naples Philharmonic. He now lives in Lake Forest, Illinois, and works full time as a composer. When not composing he enjoys spending time with his wife and four children and participating in almost any sporting activity.

“**Overture to a Winter Celebration**”, originally composed for the United States Air Force Band of Liberty, combines three carols from different parts of Europe into a bright, festive opening for tonight’s holiday celebration. The French carol “*Il est né, le divin Enfant*” (He is born, the divine Child) was first published in 1862 by R. Grosjean in a collection of songs called “*Airs de Noël lorrain*” (Christmas tunes of the Lorrain) as “*Ancien air de chasse*” (Old hunting song), implying a much older oral history. The words invite us to play our oboes and bagpipes and sing together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

“Pat-a-pan” originated in the Burgundy region of eastern France. Bernard de la Monnoye, the “carol poet laureate” of the region wrote many Christmas poems that are still printed today, including “Pat-a-pan”, written around 1700 and set to a folk tune. The song invites Robin to bring his flute Willie to bring his drum to add more joy to the celebration.

John Mason Neale first published the words to “Good King Wenceslas” in his 1853 collection *Carols for Christmas-Tide*.” He based his story on his own retelling of the legend of Saint Wenceslas of Bohemia in an earlier book. The words of the carol put the Saint and his trusty page outside in the middle of a cold winter night, but the music is from a 13th century spring carol “*Tempus adest floridum*” (“Spring has unwrapped her flowers”). The carol was collected and first printed in 1582 in *Piae Cantiones* (Devout Songs) by Finnish student Theodoricus Petri.

Randall Standridge (b. 1976) received his Bachelor's of Music Education and Master's in Music Composition from Arkansas State University. After serving as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Arkansas, he left in 2013 to pursue a full-time career as a composer and marching band editor for Grand Mesa Music Publishers. His music is performed internationally and has been featured as "Editor's Choice" from the sheet music company J. W. Pepper. He is a prolific composer, even creating "one-week works" where he molds student's ideas into complete pieces over just a seven-day span. Last month, he announced the formation of his own music publishing company, Randall Standridge Music. In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is active as a clinician, drill designer, music arranger, and color guard designer. His hobbies include photography and writing. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with his husband.



The composer writes about "**Snow Angels**": "This work was commissioned for the Century Middle School Band in Lakeville, Minnesota and their conductor, Mr. Christopher Bolson. It was written in memory of Alyssa Ettl. In this piece, I have attempted to create a musical snowscape, a joyful place where children play, laugh, and leave their mark, as they do on all of our lives."

Alfred Reed (1921-2005) is one of the towering figures of 20th century wind band music. He started his formal musical training on trumpet at the age of 10. Shortly after high school, his interests turned towards arranging and composition. In 1938, he started working in the Radio Workshop in New York City as a staff composer, arranger, and conductor. In 1941, he enlisted as a member of the 529th Army Air Force Band. Upon release from the military, he studied composition with Vittorio Giannini at the Juilliard School of Music, which then led him to a staff position in 1948 with NBC, and subsequently ABC, composing and arranging for radio, television, record albums, and films.



In 1953 he attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees of Music while conducting the Symphony Orchestra. Upon graduation, he became the executive editor of Hansen Publishing, furthering his passion for the development of music education. In 1980 through 1993 he was music educator, professor of theory and composition, and conductor at the University of Miami. He made numerous appearances as a guest conductor in many nations, most notably Japan, and produced 250 original compositions and arrangements. He was a guest

conductor at the Pride Band Alliance's annual conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 2004.

The melody we know as "**Greensleeves**" is one of the oldest piece of secular music still extant in Western culture, its origins having been traced back to about 1360. Some uncertainty surrounds the original title. In the latter 14th century, English ladies wore gowns with great billowing sleeves, and the lyrics that have come down to us speak of a lover's lament over his lady's cruel treatment of him by a lady clad in a dress of green sleeves.

By the time of William Shakespeare, this song had already become a classic and he made use of it in two of his plays, most notably in the "Merry Wives of Windsor." Over 300 years later, the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams used this melody as an intermezzo between two acts of his opera *Sir John in Love*, which was based on the same play. Since then the tune has been adapted as the basis for at least one Christmas carol ("What Child Is This?"), several popular songs, and even by the Swingle Singers on one of their albums. It has been performed instrumentally by groups of all sizes and styles from full symphony orchestra to small jazz and rock groups.

This arrangement is a symphonic development of this 600-year-old melody adapted for the full resources of the modern wind orchestra or concert band.



After 36 years as a middle and high school band director, **Laura Estes** (b. 1959) retired in 2018 from the Cobb County School System (GA) and began composing. Her first piece, "Kvetchers (Surprises in Controversial Time)", was published in Excelcia Music Publishing's 2020 catalog, and with her composition "Walking on Air", Estes was named the winner of the 2021 Women Band Director's International (WBDI) Composition Competition. Along with original music performed at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Estes' concert works are frequently featured at state music conventions, All-State events, and regional

honor bands throughout the United States. In addition to appearing on state festival and contest lists, several of Estes' band and orchestra compositions have also been designated as J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice.

A recipient of the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence, Estes' bands consistently earned Superior ratings at performance evaluations throughout her career, and middle and high school bands under her direction were selected as guest performers at clinics and conventions in the Southeast. Estes has also presented at state conventions, on college campuses, and at the Midwest Clinic.

A South Florida native, Estes earned her bachelor's degree in music education from The Florida State University, and her master's degree in music

education from Georgia State University. In addition to composing, she continues to serve as an adjudicator, guest conductor, clinician, and mentor. Estes and her husband Gil reside in Marietta, GA, and have 5 amazing children, along with a host of equally amazing grandchildren.

“Sinterklaas’s Rooftop Ride” is a silly, quirky, and infectiously fun collection of classic holiday favorites presented in a not-so-classic style. Among the trombone glissandos, car horn dissonances, and circus-style figures is an excellent and accessible study in chromatic notes and simple sixteenth-note rhythms. The piece may become a new holiday favorite for bands.

Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952) is a native of Chicago, Illinois and an internationally recognized composer and arranger. With 30 years as a high school music educator and administrator behind him, Doug now devotes all of his time and energy to writing, editing and their allied activities. Doug has published more than 2,500 music titles since 1973, including works for choir (sacred and secular), concert band, orchestra, handbell ensemble, organ, piano, instrumental solos and voice. Fifteen million copies of his music have been sold to date. Doug resides in Indianapolis with his wife, Sandy, a professional lettering artist and music engraver.



Four Christmas pop standards from the 1950s are featured the fun-filled medley, **“Christmas from the 50s”**, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner.

“Jingle Bell Rock” — First introduced by Bobby Helms in 1957, the song has appeared on top-10 most performed lists for decades. Quite a few artists have covered the song since then.

“Frosty the Snowman” — After the unbelievable popularity of his recording of **“Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,”** Gene Autry found himself another smash hit with **“Frosty”** in 1950. A thirty-minute television feature based on the song’s storyline, dating from the late 1960’s introduced Jimmy Durante’s unforgettable version.

“The Christmas Waltz” — The winning songwriting team of Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne, known for **“Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!”**, enjoyed one of their greatest successes when **The Christmas Waltz”** was released in 1954. Frank Sinatra’s definitive recording chimes in the holiday season around the world.

“(There’s No Place Like) Home for the Holidays” — Another 1954 release, this Al Stillman and Robert Allen tune was first performed by Perry Como that same year. The 1984 styling by The Carpenters, however, seems to dominate the airwaves each December.



Melvin Howard Tormé, known as the “Velvet Fog” for his smooth, mellow tenor voice, was a singer, composer, arranger, drummer, actor, and author. He was born in Chicago to a musical family, receiving musical training from his uncle. He grew up in a largely black neighborhood, absorbing the jazz influences that formed the direction of his career. As a child, he sang in restaurants (starting at the age of 3) and acted in radio programs.

In the 1943, he made his film debut in *Higher and Higher* with Frank Sinatra. The 1947 film *Good News* turned him into a teen idol, starting a solo singing career. He had a number one hit in 1949 with “Careless Hands”. In the 1950s, he had a radio program, *Mel Tormé Time*, and recorded several albums. His career continued to grow in the 1960s and 70s, leading to international fame and his first television acting appearances. His performance career continued through the 1980s to his death in the 1990s.

Over his career, Tormé wrote more than 250 songs, several of which became standards. He appeared in 24 films and on 30 television shows. He was nominated for 14 Grammy awards, winning two for Best Jazz Vocal Performance Male. He also wrote biographies of Judy Garland and Buddy Rich.

Tormé wrote “**The Christmas Song**” with Robert Wells in July 1945. During an exceptional heat wave, he and Wells were trying to “stay cool by thinking cool” in Tormé’s words. Wells had written several lines in his notebook about the joys of Christmas time: “Chestnuts roasting..., Jack Frost nipping..., Yuletide carols..., Folks dressed up like Eskimos”. Tormé said it only took forty minutes to write the rest of the words and music. Nat King Cole first recorded the song in 1946. Since then, it has been covered by numerous artists. The song also has the distinction of having the record for the longest time to reach the Billboard Top 10, hitting that mark on January 7, 2023, after 62 years and 26 days since its first release.



Jeff Simmons is a composer, arranger, educator and saxophonist. An Atlanta native, Jeff earned his bachelor’s in music at the University of Georgia and his master’s in music at the University of South Carolina. Jeff has performed with Ray Charles, Mary Wilson, The Temptations, Burt Bacharach, Tony Bennett, The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, The Carolina Philharmonic and The North Carolina Symphony.

Jeff writes special music arrangements for music groups throughout the United States and has been staff arranger for UNC Marching Tar Heels and the NC State Marching Wolfpack. He is also director of music at Pawleys Mission Abbey in Pawleys Island, S.C.

You will love the hilarious romp through the many secret agent cliches lurking in Simmons' fun-filled holiday piece, **“Secret Agent Santa”**.

David Shaffer was born in Columbus, Ohio and attended Grove City High School, Grove City, Ohio. He holds a Bachelor Degree from the Ohio State University and a Master of Music Degree from Miami University (Ohio). Mr. Shaffer has taught in the Hamilton, Ohio; Northridge, Ohio; and Wyoming, Ohio schools. Mr. Shaffer has been associated with the Miami University Marching Band for 30 years as Graduate Assistant Director (1978-80), Assistant Director (1980-97) and as Director (1997 – 2009). The Miami Band has performed for seven regional Bands of America Contests. In 2003 the Miami Band was selected as the “Santa Band” in the 77th annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.



In addition to his involvement with Miami University, Mr. Shaffer has over 400 compositions and arrangements in print. His compositions have been used at clinics and music festivals around the world and have been placed on contest required-performance lists in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and Asia. Mr. Shaffer has been the recipient of the ASCAP Standard Award in Music Composition for 24 years.

**CELEBRATE
TRANS
JOY**

The poster features a diverse group of people of various ethnicities and ages, some making peace signs, standing in front of a large, colorful rainbow triangle. Above the triangle is a shield logo with a mountain and water. The background is dark purple with white snowflakes and colorful Christmas ornaments. At the bottom, there is a white banner with the text 'Support us through THE BEACON FUND' and a graphic of raised fists in rainbow colors.

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Scan to Donate

This holiday season, amidst a challenging political climate, your donation to the Beacon Fund can spark joy, inclusion, and solidarity for trans and nonbinary individuals. Together, we can build a brighter and more supportive future for our community.

A horizontal bar with segments of red, pink, cyan, light blue, and purple.

Currently residing in Boston, Massachusetts, Mr. Shaffer is in demand as a conductor for honor bands, new music reading clinics, music festivals, and music education seminars.

In **“Twas the Night Before”**, A Holiday Celebration of Bells and Brass, Scahffer has cleverly woven together themes from four Christmas carols. “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”, “Angels We Have Heard on High”, “Coventry Carol”, and “Ding Dong, Merrily on High” appear with an extra helping of percussion bells and brass for an festive holiday scene.



David Bobrowitz is an American composer, arranger, conductor and trombonist who was born in Brooklyn, New York. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the Mannes College of Music, majoring in Trombone Performance under Simon Karasick. He went on to Teachers College, Columbia University, where he earned a Masters Degree in Music Education. He studied composition independently under the tutelage of Robert Russell Bennett.

Mr. Bobrowitz has been a freelance bass trombonist, pianist, composer, and arranger in the New York area for more than 30 years. After a thirty-year career as a band and orchestra director and music department

head, he retired from the Great Neck Public Schools in June 2000, and currently resides in Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. Bobrowitz continues to be in demand as a performer, composer, and arranger. He has written or arranged over 250 works for ensembles ranging from elementary through professional. His music often incorporates a wide range of styles and sometimes incorporates folk music from different countries. He has done commissions for schools, community bands and music fraternities. His music has been performed and recorded world wide.

In “Chanukah Celebration”, we experience Bobrowitz’s skillful weaving of five traditional Chanukah songs into a thrilling setting to make every celebration bright. The songs include in the medley are “The Dreidel Song”, “O Chanukah”, “Mi Y’malel” (Who Can Retell), “Maoz Tsur” (Rock of Ages), and “Chanukah, Chanukah”.

Gilberto "Bert" Agripino, 21, was born in Dahlonega, GA, later raised in Gainesville, GA. He grew up with video games being one of his biggest influences and even today, being an important factor in why he pursues music as a career. He started band in 2014 in the 6th grade as a percussionist and started to use this new understanding of music to begin arranging video game soundtracks as a hobby. He is currently a fourth-year music composition major at UWG, having composed a total of seven works, with "Starbound" being the most recent and largest to date.



"Starbound", as the title implies, shows how beautiful I think the stars can be and how much fun it would be to chase them. This piece was the first wind ensemble piece I have written since receiving classes at UWG. I have been arranging and writing music since 2014 and one of my ultimate dreams was to write for a large ensemble; therefore, this piece is also a love letter to my past self to where any dream can be achieved as long as you're facing Starbound.

JaRod Hall is a Texas-native educator, performer, and composer. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas where he studied conducting with Nicholas Williams and Dennis Fisher. He is currently the director of bands at Hobby Middle School in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Hall's bands have received consistent sweepstakes awards at the Texas University Interscholastic League Concert and Sightreading Evaluations, as well as being recognized at the state level. In 2018 and 2019, his bands at Griffin Middle School earned the Citation of Excellence Award, honoring the top two non-varsity bands in the state.



A passionate performer, Mr. Hall has been a part of many ensembles such as the North Texas Wind Symphony and Symphonic band, 3 O'clock Lab Band, Carrollton Wind Symphony, and Metropolitan Winds. He served as drum major for the 2013 Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps and was a member of the 2014 Disneyland All-American College band. He is currently a freelance tubist and trombonist in San Antonio where he resides with his wife, Rachel. His compositions appear on the Texas Prescribed Music, the J.W. Pepper "Editor's Choice", and the Bandworld Top 100 lists.

The composer writes: "This work was inspired by Stetson Begin and the Krimmel Intermediate Band. Stetson called me up one day and said, 'JaRod! I just had this vision of a sassy, jazzy, holiday piece. Can you write something like that for us?' I couldn't possibly have said 'yes' any faster."

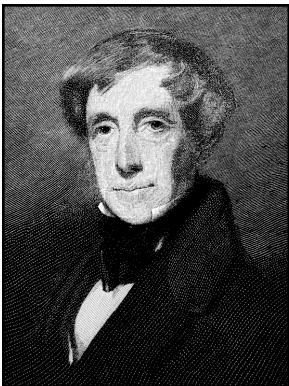
“You Better Sleigh!” plays on two terms: a “sleigh”—which is inarguably very winter-themed here in the States—and “slay”—which has evolved to encompass many definitions, mostly centered on the theme of doing something extremely well. The latter definition pays homage to both the LGBTQIA+ and Black communities—popularized by drag culture.

The style of the piece is funk, an entire genre of music pioneered and popularized in 1960s America by Black musicians, most notably James Brown. Funk evolved from jazz and is heavily influenced by R&B, soul, and dance music. What makes funk really dance is the bass line and percussion grooves, typically complex in nature. This genre gave rise to timeless groups such as Earth, Wind & Fire, Kool & The Gang, Sly and the Family Stone, and Jimi Hendrix—eventually shaping the course of pop and dance music across the world. You will hear snippets of various holiday tunes hidden throughout the piece. Try to find them all!



Newell H. Long (1905-1999) had a long and distinguished career as conductor of bands at Indiana University, a judge for band festivals and competitions, a composer, and a director of community bands. He attended Indiana University and first played in the IU Band in 1923, conducting it well past his retirement from IU in 1975. Long graduated from IU with degrees in math, physics and music composition and a doctorate in education. His teaching career included teaching math and heading band and orchestral programs at the secondary level, as well as teaching 36 courses at IU, including trombone, composition and high school methods courses. As an administrator at IU, Long served as the first assistant dean of the School of Music and as chairman of the undergraduate division of the music education department.

Long retired from administrative duties in 1970. The founding director of the Bloomington Community Band in 1978, he conducted the band as recently as 1997. Long created 86 compositions and arrangements in a variety of media, 26 of which have been published. He was a former president of the Indiana School Music Association, a founding editor of the *Indiana Musicator* and a former president of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors. In 1977, he was named to the Phi Beta Mu National Bandmasters Hall of Fame and in 1985 was named Hoosier Musician of the Year by the Indiana Music Educators Association.



Clement Clarke Moore (1779-1863) wrote a poem as a special gift to his children on Christmas Eve 1822. Taking inspiration from descriptions of Saint Nicholas in contemporary sources, he created a vivid description of what would happen later that night. In **“A Visit from St. Nicholas”**, Moore tells a fan-

tastic tale of the magical happenings on the night before Christmas. His imagery of a eight flying reindeer and a white-bearded, red-cloaked, pipe-smoking old elf created a depiction of Santa Claus that persists even today.

Originally, Moore hadn't intended to publish the poem, but a houseguest present on the night of its first reading secretly copied the words and sent them to the editor of the Troy, New York, Sentinel newspaper. It was an instant hit, growing increasingly popular in newspapers around the U.S. and appearing in poetic anthologies of the time, attributed to an anonymous author. It wasn't until Moore published his first book of poetry in 1844 that he acknowledged his authorship. Today, reading "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" is a cherished holiday tradition of families all over the world.

Patrick Roszell (b. 1976, Oxford, Ala.) received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Jacksonville State University and a master's degree from Troy State University, both in Alabama. His arranging and composition teachers include Dr. Jerryl Davis, Robert W Smith and Ralph Ford.

Patrick's arrangements have been performed throughout the country by numerous marching bands as well as DCI finalists the Glassmen Drum and Bugle Corps of Toledo, Ohio. His background includes instrumental editorial work at Warner Bros. Publications in Miami, Fla. (now Alfred Publishing, Co.), and the FJH Music Company.



Roszell's "**Holiday Mash-Up**" was featured on the hit Fox television show *Glee*. The arrangement features two holiday classics mashed together into one delightful setting. The arrangement begins with "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane. The song was first introduced by Judy Garland in the MGM musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*. The song appears in a scene in which a family plans to move to New York, leaving behind their beloved home in St. Louis just as the 1904 World's Fair begins. Set on Christmas Eve, Judy Garland's character sings the song to her five-year old sister. The song became hugely popular among US troops serving in World War II, capturing their longing to be home with loved ones. The second song is the 1957 holiday hit, "Jingle Bell Rock". Notes about this piece appear earlier in the "Christmas in the 50s" notes.



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