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Tuesday, December 2 – 7:00p.m. – Concert Hall

Symphony Orchestra

(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Wednesday, December 3 – 7:00p.m. – Concert Hall

Symphonic Wind Ensemble

(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Sunday, December 7 – 7:00p.m. – 2700 L Street

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Concert Band

Dr. Matthew Morse, director

MONDAY, 7:00 P.M.
NOVEMBER 24, 2025
CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

PROGRAM

Fanfare and Flourishes (For A Festive Occasion) (1995)	James Curnow (b. 1943)
Beguine for Band (1954)	Glenn Osser (1914-2014)
Rocketship! (2017)	Kevin Day (b. 1996)
Daniel Prince, graduate conducting associate	
At Morning's First Light (2004)	David R. Gillingham (b. 1947)
Amanda Lopes, graduate conducting associate	
Kinetic Dances (2015)	Randall D. Standridge (b. 1948)
Bamboo Warrior (2022)	Christina Huss (b. 1962)
Chorale and Shaker Dance (1972)	John Zdechlik (1937-2020)

PERSONNEL

Sac State Concert Band

Flute/Piccolo

Leslie Williams
Kaden Echols
Genevieve Vasquez

Oboe

Emery Bates

Clarinet

Sidney Orr
Joshua Elmore*
Soraya Roman*
Eren Felix
Maiyan Huang

Bass Clarinet

Rachel Tracy

Alto Sax

Gabriel Zaragoza
Daniel Hernandez
Kevin Morales
Jennifer Velazquez-Garcia
Rudy Rodriguez

Tenor Sax

Lucas Gonzalez Luna
James "Kimo" Taum II

Bari Sax

Taylor Cunanan

Horn

Jennessa Magalong
Olivia Charnow
Elijah Muller

Trumpet

Noah Wheeler
Julian Ramos
Sean Wakefield
Mason Head
Billy Elliott
Samuel Thuesen
Bailey Denton

Trombone

Zachary Michlig
Jay-Anthony Sagun
Kevin Sayas
Alejandra Hernandez

Euphonium

Amadu Turay

Tuba

Jean Rodriguez

String Bass

Valerie Robles

Percussion

Zachary Milburn
Ryan Fong
Leah Graalfs
Aidan Smith
Anthony Gordon
Major Horak
Max Rogers
Jesse Barba*

**guest performer*

Dr. Morse's military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters. Other awards and recognitions include being a finalist for The American Prize in the university conductor category, the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands for his work with the 282nd Army Band in 2007, and the South Suburban Conference (Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota area) Achievement Award in Fine Arts in 2013. Additionally, Dr. Morse received the Thomas Jefferson High School (Bloomington, Minnesota) Fine Arts Hall of Fame award in 2009. Dr. Morse also holds a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do through Young Brothers Tae Kwon Do Associates in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Amanda Lopes is a music teacher in the Sacramento region. She taught at Anna McKenney Intermediate School in Marysville, CA from 2022-2024 and is currently a Co-Director of Bands at Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks, CA. Amanda was selected as the 2024 New Teacher of the Year for the Marysville Joint Unified School District and received the 2024 Outstanding New Educator Award from the California Teachers Association and the Feather River Service Center Council. Amanda earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree and her Single Subject Teaching Credential from Sacramento State. She is currently earning her Master of Music in Conducting studying with Dr. Matthew Morse. Amanda also serves as one of the Social Media Representatives for the CMEA Capitol Section Board.

Daniel Prince is a conductor, educator, and performer whose musical journey began with The Salvation Army. He holds Bachelor of Music degrees in Trumpet Performance and Music Education from Sacramento State. Daniel has led instrumental and vocal ensembles within The Salvation Army and served on the faculty of the Western Music Institute. He currently serves as Music Director and Conductor for Joyous Brass, a British-style brass band, and as the Divisional Music & Worship Director for The Salvation Army, supporting music ministry programs across northern California and Nevada. Daniel is currently a student of Dr. Matthew Morse, pursuing a Master of Music degree in conducting.

James Curnow was born in Michigan, where he began learning music in the Salvation Army Instrumental Programs. He received his BM in Wayne State University in Michigan and his MM at Michigan State University. He is a member of the American Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). Curnow's recent commissions are from the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the United States Army, and the Olympic Fanfare and Theme for the Olympic Flag. Today, he is president of his publishing company, composer-in-residence of Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky, and editor for Salvation Army music publications in Atlanta, Georgia.

Fanfare and Flourishes for a Festive Occasion (1995) features an opening fanfare in the brass juxtaposed by a renaissance-like melody in the woodwinds. The program notes include the following information on the piece's commission and premiere:

Based on Marc-Antoine Charpentier's (1634-1704) "Te Deum," *Fanfare and Flourishes for a Festive Occasion* was commissioned for the 1991 European Brass Band Championships held in Rotterdam, Holland. The premiere performance was given by the Black Dyke Mills Brass Band during the Gala Concert. The symphonic band version was commissioned by the Alfred M. Barbe High School Symphonic Band, Lake Charles, Louisiana, Steve Hand, Conductor.

Abe Arthur "Glenn" Osser was an American composer, arranger and conductor, who grew up in Munising, MI where he studied piano, violin, saxophone and clarinet, and received a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan. Upon moving to New York City, where he met music publisher Charles Warren, who became Osser's mentor. He soon came to the attention of the radio conductors and started devoting his time to this field for such conductors as Al Goodman and Al Roth. He was staff conductor and arranger for the American Broadcasting Co. from 1947 to 1968, and the music director of the Miss America pageant starting in 1955.

Beguine for Band is one of Osser's earliest and most popular works. In it, Osser has successfully realized the characteristic beguine rhythm in a concert band setting. The beguine originated as a popular dance of the West Indies.

Kevin Day is a composer, conductor, producer and multi-instrumentalist from Arlington, Texas. Dr. Day's father was a prominent hip-hop producer in the late 1980s, and his mother was a sought-after gospel singer, singing alongside the likes of Mel Tormé and Kirk Franklin. Kevin Day plays euphonium and tuba and is a self-taught pianist and composer. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in euphonium/tuba performance from Texas Christian University (TCU). He holds a Master of Music in composition from the University of Georgia, studying with composers Peter Van Zandt Lane and Emily Koh, and conductor Cynthia Johnston Turner. He received his DMA in 2025 from the University of Miami Frost School of Music.

Day, whose music often intersects between the worlds of jazz, minimalism, Latin music, fusion, and contemporary classical idioms, has more than 150 compositions. A winner of the BMI Student Composer Award and other honors, his works have had numerous performances throughout the United States, Russia, Austria, Australia, Taiwan, South Africa, and Japan. His works have been programmed by the Boston Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, and more.

Day is one of eight founding members of the Nu Black Vanguard, a composers collective dedicated to the promotion and advancement of Black composers in the medium of music. In 2024 he joined the faculty at the University of California at San Diego as a lecturer in theory and musicianship.

Rocketship! is an energetic concert piece formed by two sections which express energy in different ways. The first is composed of short rhythmic patterns that start quietly before building to the end of each phrase. The second section introduces a marching snare drum solo accompanied by open fifth power chords in the winds. Brief motives accompany the sustained power chords, but quickly dissipate as a new motive begins. The different sections shrink as the composition develops until they are played one after the other at the very end.

Rocketship! was commissioned by and dedicated to Paul Rosales, Director of Bands at William James Middle School, and the students of the William James Middle School Band Program, Fort Worth ISD.

2017 with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting from the University of North Texas, where he was a conducting student of Eugene Migliaro Corporon. He also earned a Master of Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting in 2013 from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he was a student of Dr. Jack Stamp, and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Thomas Edison State University in Trenton, New Jersey.

Concurrent with finishing his undergraduate degree in 2011, Dr. Morse retired as a chief warrant officer four following a 25-year military music career with the United States Army. Early in his career, Dr. Morse served for nearly 12 years as a multi-instrumentalist performing primarily on euphonium and trombone and serving two alternating tours each with the 4th Infantry Division Band at Fort Carson, Colorado, and the United States Army Japan Band, Camp Zama, Japan. In 1997, Dr. Morse was selected to become a warrant officer bandmaster and served as the commander and conductor of the 3rd Infantry Division Band at Fort Stewart, Georgia, the 1st Armored Division Band, then based in Wiesbaden, Germany, and the 282nd Army Band at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He deployed as a band commander to combat zones in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 2000 and twice to Iraq during a 15-month period in 2003-04. In 2007, Dr. Morse was selected by competitive audition for his capstone assignment as the associate bandmaster and director of the Jazz Knights of the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, New York, where he shared the stage with numerous name artists and soloists.

Dr. Morse has appeared as a guest conductor with many groups, including the United States Army Field Band, the United States Army Europe Band and Chorus, and the West Point Band. He has conducted both the California Music Educators Association Capital Section High School Honor Band as well as the Northern California Band Association All Northern Honor Band, the Northern California Band and Chorus Directors Association NorCal Honor Band, and the Music Association of California Community Colleges Intercollegiate Honor Band. As an instrumentalist, he has performed on bass trombone in recent years with the North Texas Wind Symphony, the Keystone Wind Ensemble (most recently at the Texas Bandmasters Association convention in San Antonio, Texas in summer 2025), and continues to perform in various settings and ensembles here at Sac State and around the Sacramento region.

nearly three decades as conductor, professor, music department chair, and resident composer until his retirement in 1997. Soon thereafter, a commission from Bloomington Jefferson High School in Bloomington, Minnesota resulted in Zdechlik's most famous work, *Chorale and Shaker Dance*, which premiered at the Music Educators National Conference in 1972. Zdechlik claims to have guest conducted the piece over 500 times in his career. Zdechlik has conducted extensively throughout the United States, Japan, and Europe, and was elected to the American Bandmasters Association in 1989.

The title, *Chorale and Shaker Dance* refers to the principal sections of the composition, the opening chorale, and the set of variations on the Shaker hymn, *'Tis a Gift to be Simple*. Written in 1972, it was commissioned by the Jefferson High School Band of Bloomington, Minnesota, and their conductor Dr. Earl Benson (incidentally, Dr. Morse attended Jefferson High School and performed in the premier Concert Band under Dr. Benson's baton).

Composed in theme and variation form, the sectional structure is straightforward, making it a good introduction to variation form for any ensemble. Zdechlik's love of jazz is shown in the contrapuntal intricacies and use of syncopated rhythms typical of big bands. It is nine minutes in duration, and the complexity makes it moderately challenging for high school and some college bands. The composition could probably be viewed as a companion to *Dance Variations*, another work for band set entirely in variation form.

Dr. Matthew Morse is currently in his ninth year as Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Conducting in the School of Music at California State University, Sacramento, where he conducts the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Concert Band, oversees the Marching Band, and teaches courses in undergraduate and graduate conducting. He is in demand as a clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor throughout California and nationwide. Under his direction, the Sacramento State Symphonic Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at the California All-State Music Education Conference in Fresno in February 2019.

Prior to his appointment at Sacramento State, Dr. Morse graduated in May

David R. Gillingham is an American composer, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in instrumental music education from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and a Ph.D. in Music Theory/Composition from Michigan State University. Many of his works for winds are now considered standards in the repertoire.

His numerous awards include the 1981 DeMoulin Award for *Concerto for Bass Trombone and Wind Ensemble* and the 1990 International Barlow Competition (Brigham Young University) for *Heroes, Lost and Fallen*. His works are regularly performed by nationally recognized ensembles including the Prague Radio Orchestra, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Wind Ensemble, The University of Georgia Bands, North Texas University Wind Ensemble, Michigan State University Wind Ensemble, Oklahoma State Wind Ensemble, University of Oklahoma Wind Ensemble, Florida State Wind Orchestra, University of Florida Wind Symphony, University of Illinois Symphonic Band, and many others.

Currently, Dr. Gillingham is a professor of music at Central Michigan University and the recipient of an Excellence in Teaching Award (1990), a Summer Fellowship (1991), a Research Professorship (1995), and most recently, the President's Research Investment Fund grant for his co-authorship of a proposal to establish an International Center for New Music at Central Michigan University. He is a member of ASCAP and has been receiving the ASCAP Standard Award for Composers of Concert Music since 1996.

At Morning's First Light draws inspiration from hymns and poetry; Gillingham's compositions offer an alternative approach to performance through his synthesis of artistic mediums. For instance, within *At Morning's First Light*, his emotive sense of poetry and nature imbue the music with a sensorial experience. The light quickness of woodwinds expresses the ineffability of the morning, raw and full of promise.

Randall D. Standridge is an American composer and arranger who received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Tom O'Connor, before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his master's in music composition, studying with Tom O'Connor and Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in

Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer.

Mr. Standridge's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected to the J.W. Pepper's editor's choice. His compositions *Snake Charmer*, *Gently Blows the Summer Wind*, and *Angelic Celebrations* have been included in the Teaching Music Through Performance in Band series. He has had numerous works performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago. His work *Stonewall: 1969* was premiered at the National LGBA conference in 2019. Mr. Standridge is also a contributing composer for Alfred Music's Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development series.

On ***Kinetic Dances***, Randall D. Standridge writes:

Kinetic Dances is a dance for symphonic band in mixed meter. The rhythmic interchange between 7/8 and 4/4 time is utilized to create a unique rhythmic flow for the work. The challenge, when writing this, was to make the meter feel as natural as possible. The piece is in a slightly modified rondo form, with the main theme alternating with contrasting sections. Careful consideration was made in orchestrating this work to make it achievable by schools with smaller instrumentation, in accordance with the request of the commissioning party.

Christina M. Huss is an American music educator and composer, who received her Bachelor of Music in Education degree from the Valdosta State College in 1984 and graduated with her master's degree in music education from Valdosta State University in 1991. With a career spanning 35+ years in American music education, Ms. Huss has taught and conducted bands at both the middle school and high school level, most recently as director at Valdosta Middle School, where she retired in 2016.

Ms. Huss has served in a variety of roles in state music affiliations, and has enjoyed several honors and awards, including Teacher of the Year and STAR Teacher, during her 28-year tenure at Brooks County High School in Quitman, Ga. Since retiring, Huss enjoys composing music for band, and continues to teach band part-time at Berrien Middle School in Nashville, Ga. Ms. Huss is a founding co-director and conductor of the Azalea Winds Community Band based in Valdosta, Ga., where she continues to perform and serve as an adjudicator, guest conductor, and clinician.

On ***Bamboo Warrior***, Christina Huss writes:

Bamboo Warrior is an original work for band written shortly after I began researching my Southeast Asian roots. It is a bit autobiographical in the sense that after retiring 30+ years of high school band directing, I came out of retirement to teach middle school band and continued to do so through the Coronavirus pandemic. In *Bamboo Warrior* our hero is called from the safety of his/her beautiful bamboo garden home to the battle of battles. The opening of the tone poem beings among the sounds of trickling waterfalls of a bamboo garden, introduced with a solo flute and Asian drone oriental garden backdrop, culminating in a climactic moment where we hear the first presentation of the main melodic theme. The safety of the bamboo garden then moves to a more threatening, ominous sentiment in a short transition presented subtly by the percussion and low winds. Suddenly, the music leads us straightaway to our hero's fate. After an excitement chase presented by combining both old and new melodic motifs, our warrior's destiny is found to be victorious.

John P. Zdechlik was an American composer, conductor, performer, and clinician. He was born to a father who emigrated from Poland in 1910. Zdechlik had musical influences growing up - his grandfather was a church organist, his father regularly played recordings of Beethoven and Victor Herbert, and his parents enrolled him in piano lessons at age six. During his high school years he also began to take an interest in jazz, and began to compose jazz band arrangements under the tutelage of his trumpet instructor Harry Strobel and local arranger and jazz pianist Herb Pilhofer.

Dr. Zdechlik earned his Ph.D. in theory and composition from the University of Minnesota, where he studied with Paul Fetler and Frank Bencrisutto. Thanks to Bencrisutto, Zdechlik's first major success as a composer came in 1969. Bencrisutto had been commissioned to write an original work for the Concordia College Band in Saint Paul, Minnesota, but was too busy to fulfill the commitment. The commissioner, Leon Titus, agreed to have Zdechlik fill in as the composer, resulting in Zdechlik's first major compositional success, *Psalms 46*.

In 1970, Zdechlik began his tenure at Lakewood Community College (now Century College) in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, where he served for