

Sac State Concert Band

Flute/Piccolo

Leslie Williams
Kaden Echols
Genevieve Vasquez
Edson Lee Saechao

Oboe

Annalisa Johannesson
Emery Bates

English Horn

Emery Bates

Clarinet

Soraya Roman *
Matt Vasquez
Christopher Castles
Eren Felix
Maiyan Huang

Bass Clarinet

Rachel Tracy

Alto Sax

Daniel Hernandez
Kevin Morales
Jennifer Velazquez-Garcia
Rudy Rodriguez
David Hernandez Zavala

Tenor Sax

Lucas Gonzalez Luna

Bari Sax

Taylor Cunanan

Horn

Jennessa Magalong
Sebastian Martinez

Trumpet

Julian Ramos
Sean Wakefield
Billy Elliott
Samuel Thuesen
Bailey Denton

Trombone

Jay-Anthony Sagun
James Budean
Alejandra Hernandez
Zachary Zaragoza

Euphonium

Daniel Prince

Tuba

Jean Rodriguez
Eghosa Ugbo

String Bass

Valerie Robles

Percussion

Zachary Milburn
Ryan Fong
Leah Graalfs
Preston Hefner
Darren Ngo
Aidan Smith
Devin Smith
Anthony Gordon
Major Horak
Max Rogers
Chazz Pressler
Mia Fearon

**guest performer*

Concert Band

Dr. Matthew Morse, director

WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.
MARCH 11, 2026
CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

PROGRAM

Flight of the Piasa (2008) Robert Sheldon
(b. 1954)

Selections from West Side Story Leonard Bernstein
(1957/1959) (1918-1990)
arr. by W.J. Duthoit

Through the Storm (2022) JaRod Hall
(b. 1991)

I Am (1990) Andrew Boysen, Jr.
(b.1968)

Evergreen Escapades (2022) Adrian B. Sims
(b. 2000)

The Wishing Well (2019) Rossano Galante
(b. 1962)

Daniel Prince, graduate conducting associate

Prelude and Rondo (1966/1976) David Holsinger
(b.1945)

PROGRAM NOTES

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.

NEXT WIND STUDIES CONCERT

Wednesday, May 6

Sac State Concert Band

7:00 p.m., Capistrano Concert Hall

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

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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), various ensembles at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the Pueblo Symphony Orchestra in Pueblo, Colorado, along with various freelance settings, including an orchestra backing Bernadette Peters in 2012 and a big band backing Doc Severinsen in 2014. Dr. Morse continues to perform in various settings and ensembles here at Sac State and around the Sacramento region.

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.

Dr. Morse's professional affiliations include the College Band Directors' National Association, National Band Association, National Association for Music Education and the California Music Educators Association, California Band Director's Association, Northern California Band Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Robert Sheldon is an active American composer. He received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Miami and a Master's in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Florida. After teaching music in Florida and Illinois public schools, he became part of the faculty at Florida State University, teaching conducting and instrumental music education classes as well as directing the university bands. Sheldon is currently the Director of Concert Band Publications for Alfred Music and he maintains an active composition and conducting schedule. He is lead author for the *Sound Innovations for Band* method books and is a co-author for the *Measures of Success* method book and the *Sound Innovations for Strings* method books. The American School Band Directors Association has honored him with the Volkwein Award for composition and the Stanbury Award for teaching, the International Assembly of Phi Beta Mu honored him with the International Outstanding Bandmaster Award, and he has been awarded membership in the American Bandmasters Association.

Flight of the Piasa was written to depict the majesty of the legendary Piasa, an enormous, winged creature, and the bravery of the Illini tribe who triumphed over its reign of terror. The discovery of the Piasa dates to 1673, when the cliff drawing painted high on the bluffs was first seen by Marquette during his famous journey down the Mississippi River.

Leonard Bernstein was a renowned American composer, conductor, author, music lecturer, and pianist. He was among the first conductors born and educated in the US to receive worldwide acclaim. His fame derived from his long tenure as the music director of the New York Philharmonic, from his conducting of concerts with many of the world's leading orchestras, and from his numerous orchestral works. He is also known for his works for the stage including *West Side Story*, *Candide*, *On the Town*, *The Age of Anxiety*, *Mass*, and a range of other compositions, including three symphonies and many shorter chamber and solo works. Bernstein was the first conductor to give a series of television lectures on classical music, starting in 1954 and continuing until his death. He was a skilled pianist, often conducting piano concertos from the keyboard. Many of his works are regularly performed around the world, although none has matched the tremendous popular and critical success of *West Side Story*.

Selections from West Side Story includes melodies from Bernstein's greatest popular success. Characterized as an American Romeo and Juliet, the work is noted for its "extraordinary dance sequences, melodic characterization, musical continuity, cohesive plot construction, and excellent orchestration." Originally an orchestral medley, the piece was later arranged for wind band by William James Duthoit. With a romantic setting against a background of social and racial and ethnic strife, Bernstein's music reflects the countless emotions which permeate Stephen Sondheim's lyrics. From a basic mood of studied nonchalance and defiance by the juvenile set, the music at times becomes devout and tender or, in contrasting sections, dynamic in intensity. Songs included are *I Feel Pretty, Maria, Something's Coming, Tonight, One Hand, One Heart, Cool, and America*.

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. JaRod'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.

As a composer, JaRod's compositions appear on the Texas Prescribed Music List, The J.W. Pepper "Editor's Choice" list, and the Bandworld Top 100 list. His composition *Lost Woods Fantasy* was showcased at the 73rd annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago by the Berkner High School Band, which was composed of the first students JaRod taught as a band director in Richardson ISD. His composition *Silver Fanfare* was selected as a winner of the Dallas Winds Call for Fanfares, and *Through the Storm* was selected as the 2021 Barbara Buehlman Prize winner for high school band, featured at the 76th annual Midwest clinic in Chicago.

On ***Through the Storm***, JaRod Hall writes:

Through the Storm is a work for band that encapsulates the anticipation, serenity, calamity, chaos, and majesty of a harsh winter storm. Inspired by the Texas "deep freeze" in February 2021, this work begins as all winter storms do – with the foreboding first fallen flake. The opening marimba's driving melodic fragment is insistent yet ever

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 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, in 2011.

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

main theme as the child tosses the coin into the well and we follow its journey down to the water. Delicate melodies, warm harmonies and lush orchestration capture the essence of the child's wish. As the music tapers away during the final chords, we learn that the child has been granted their wish.

David Holsinger is an American composer and conductor, known primarily for his works for concert band. He holds degrees from Central Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri, Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, and the University of Kansas. Holsinger has served as Visiting Composer in Residence at eleven American colleges or universities and held the Acuff Chair of Excellence in the Creative Arts at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee. In 1999, the Christian Instrumental Directors Association awarded Holsinger its "Director of the Year" citation. His compositions have won four major competitions, including a two-time ABA Ostwald Award and have also been finalists in both the DeMoulin and Sudler competitions. Holsinger has been honored with the Gustavus Fine Arts Medallion, the division's highest honor. Holsinger, as the fourth composer honored with this medal, joins a distinguished roster which includes Gunther Schuller, Jan Bender, and Csada Deak.

Prelude and Rondo was premiered by the Central Methodist College Concert Band and conducted by Holsinger, who was 21 years old at the time. *Prelude and Rondo* was Holsinger's first major composition. He wrote:

It is interesting to note how "intuition" plays a part in the compositional arena. After years of compositional study about the "craft of composition," I am amazed that my first piece—probably from sheer naiveté—contained mixed meter, metric modulations, asymmetrical phrases over bar lines, and the beginnings of the "ostinato principal," which has become one of my signatures. I did not plan these things; they just happen because it seemed the right thing to do to put the music on the page.

In this piece, Holsinger employs the Aeolian, Phrygian, and Mixolydian modes along with frequent meter changes, asymmetrical meters, and hemiolas.

changing -- like the winds of winter. At times, the majesty of the storm can be quite breathtaking, like the horn swell into the first lush and lyrical section of the piece.

As instruments add in, we are quickly drawn to the volatile nature of the storm, both strong and violent. Percussion instruments clash and clamour, whipping the main idea to the menacing lower voices. Things calm down a bit as we reach the eye of the storm, but we still aren't quite at ease. Tensions rise and fall, the temperature begins to drop with hardened, frigid layers of sounds. The horns return to remind us of the true majesty of the storm but are soon overtaken by the urgent groove of the percussion section, charging us to the eye wall -- the most dangerous part of the storm. The storm swells to its most aggressive episodes with alternating low and high voice entrances and a final crescendo to the biggest impact of the night. Then, almost as quickly as it came, the storm begins to recede. The winds slow down. Snow falls more slowly, but still slightly slips through sparse pockets of the night air. We have finally made it through the storm.

Andrew Boysen Jr. is currently a professor at the University of New Hampshire where he conducts the wind symphony and teaches conducting and composition. Boysen received his Master of Music degree in wind conducting from Northwestern University and his Bachelor of Music degree in music education and music composition from the University of Iowa. He attended Eastman School of Music where he earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting. During his time at the school, he was conductor of the Eastman Wind Orchestra and assistant conductor of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. Boysen was the winner of the International Horn Society Composition Contest in 2000, the University of Iowa Honors Composition Prize in 1991 and has twice won the Claude T. Smith Memorial Band Composition Contest, in 1991 and 1994. He remains active as a guest conductor and clinician, appearing with high school, university and festival ensembles across the United States, Great Britain, and Australia.

I Am was commissioned by Craig Aune and the Cedar Rapids Prairie High School Band in Iowa. The piece was written and commissioned in memory of Lynn Jones, a baritone saxophone player in the band who was killed in a car accident. The contrasting piece is intended to represent the foggy

morning of the crash in which Jones died. It also features the baritone saxophone in memory of Jones. The words "I Am" are taken from a poem Jones wrote:

I Am
 Life,
 Music,
 Competition.
 I like exciting things, and doing good for others.
 Beauty,
 Successfulness and
 Smartness are important to me.
 I like to achieve recognition.
 I can succeed if I really put my mind to it.
 I am very set in my ways,
 But I can change when I realize my ignorance.
 I like a simple nonchalant lifestyle.
 I hate ignorance.
 I hate structuredness.
 This is me.
 I am!

-Lynn Jones, January, 1990

Adrian B. Sims is an emerging composer, conductor, educator, and trombonist, who is pursuing a dual degree in music education and composition at The University of Maryland, working with Dr. Robert Gibson. He credits Dr. Gibson and world-renowned composer Brian Balmages for his development as a composer. His music has been played at The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and selected for the Bandworld Top 100 List. Adrian has also been selected as a winner in multiple composition competitions including the Maryland Music Educators Association Young Composers Project and the Make Music Young Composers Contest.

As a trombonist, Adrian has performed in a wide variety of musical ensembles including pit and symphony orchestras as well as jazz and concert bands. He currently plays in the top ensembles at The University of Maryland and studies with Matthew Guilford, solo bass trombonist with the National Symphony Orchestra.

Sims 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; the other seven founding members are Kevin Day, Katahji Copley, Marie A. Douglas, Benjamin Horne, Kelijah Dunton, JaRod Hall, and Dayla D. Spencer.

On *Evergreen Escapades*, Adrian B. Sims writes:

Explore the terrain and weather conditions of the Pacific Northwest, beginning with a cold, fog-covered morning, concealing the beauty of the surrounding landscapes. As the sun continues to rise, the fog fades and a gloomy rainstorm takes its place while we traverse through the evergreens. As the music persists onwards, rays of sunshine break through the clouds and bring about a warm, joyous afternoon filled with light, breathtaking mountain views, and the scent of pine needles.

Rossano Galante is an American composer, who earned a degree in trumpet performance from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1992. He then was accepted into the film scoring program at the University of Southern California and studied with film composer Jerry Goldsmith.

Mr. Galante has composed music for the films *Bite Marks*, *The Last Straight Man*, *Monday Morning*, and *Channels*. He has served as orchestrator for over sixty studio films including *A Quiet Place*, *The Mummy*, *Logan*, *Big Fat Liar*, *Scary Movie 2*, *The Tuxedo*, and *Tuesdays with Morrie*, to name only a few. For his large-scale wind ensemble compositions, he has been commissioned by the Federation of Gay Games-Paris 2018, Atlanta Freedom Band, Lake Braddock High School Band, Hofstra University Symphonic Band, and the Nebraska Wind Symphony, among many others.

European folklore describes a wishing well as a sacred place where one could utter a wish and then drop a coin into the well as payment. As legend says, if the coin lands heads up, the guardian of the well would grant the wish, but if the coin lands tails up, the wish would be ignored.

The Wishing Well paints a musical portrait of a young child approaching a well and making their wish. The music ebbs and flows, utilizing solo instruments as well as the full ensemble, to describe the water at the bottom of the well. At the musical climax, the full ensemble states the