

UPCOMING AT THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Friday, May 4 – Vocal Jazz Ensembles

7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall  
(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Wednesday, May 8 – Symphonic Wind Ensemble

7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall  
*Music by Alfred Reed, Dwayne Milburn, Samuel Hazo,  
Eric Whitacre, and David Maslanka.*  
(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Thursday, May 9 – Symphony Orchestra

7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall  
*Dvorak's Cello Concerto (Movement 3)  
and Amy Beach's "Gaelic" Symphony*  
(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

Friday, May 10 – Faculty Recital:

Kirsten Smith, piano, with Brinton Smith, cello  
7:00 pm - Capistrano Concert Hall  
*Music by Beethoven, Strauss, Chausson, and Barber.*  
(\$15 general, \$10 senior, \$5 student)

## Concert Band

Dr. Matthew Morse, director

WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.  
MAY 1, 2024  
CAPISTRANO CONCERT HALL

PROGRAM

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| Imaginarium (2016)<br>Natassjah Diaz, conductor       | Randall Standridge<br>(b. 1976)                          |
| The Silent Hills of My Childhood (2004)               | George Farmer<br>(1944-2010)                             |
| Choose Joy (2022)<br>Marcus Holifield-Helm, conductor | Randall Standridge                                       |
| Summer Dances (2000)                                  | Brian Balmages<br>(b. 1975)                              |
| The Wrong Note Rag (1953/2005)                        | Leonard Bernstein<br>(1918-1990)<br>arr. by Ted Ricketts |
| Urban Dances (2005)                                   | Eric Morales<br>(b. 1966)                                |
| Beyond the Higher Skies (1999)                        | Robert Sheldon<br>(b. 1954)                              |

PERSONNEL

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**Flute**

Emilio Alvarado  
Samantha Smith  
Victor Sun  
Austin Quaintance  
Rachel Pal  
Kiara Souza  
Natassjah Diaz  
Kevin Le (guest perf.)

**Oboe**

Jose Madrid

**Clarinet**

Lina Crouson  
Sidney Orr  
Fern Romero  
Dara Vazquez  
Rachel Tracy  
Mya Estrada  
Giovanni Zepeda  
Chad Kurges

**Bass Clarinet**

Nathan Sharma

**Bassoon**

Kaitlyn Donovan  
Jack Zill

**Alto Sax**

Jesse Gonzales  
Samuel Cardoso  
Lucas Gonzalez-Luna  
Chase Anderson  
Elizabeth Anderson  
Jennifer Velazquez-Garcia  
Rudy Rodriguez

**Tenor Sax**

Reuben Rampen  
Kimo Taum  
Yihun (Max) Sun

**Bari Sax**

Darren Maracle  
Cesar Mendoza  
Nick Zentner

**Horn**

Andrew Henry  
Jenna Knight  
Anthony Alvarez-Chavez  
Roselyn Phan  
David Baños

**Trumpet**

Armando Muse  
Morgan Ellis  
Elijah Archie  
Gabriel Zaragoza

**Trombone**

Vu Buendia  
Spencer Nold  
Madison Moulton  
Joshua Elmore  
Leah Diaz  
Zachary Michlig  
Kenneth Ruiz  
Diego De La Torre

**Euphonium**

Brandon Duenas  
Natalia Dayton

**Tuba**

Gian Pitcher  
Bruno Bugarin  
Alex Daw

**String Bass**

Theodore Barrish

**Percussion**

Heaven La  
Leslie Vazquez  
Eden Tabios  
Steven Phan  
Emily Mendoza  
Lucas Hall  
Edward Oleynik

**Piano**

Edward Oleynik

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.

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.

**Natassjah Melissa Diaz** is a current graduate student at Sacramento State, studying conducting with Dr. Matthew Morse. She also received her Bachelor of Music in Education degree and teaching credential at Sacramento State, and is pursuing a master's degree to further her studies as a conductor with the goal of continuing her education as a doctoral candidate in the future. Natassjah has been working with both the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Concert Band and is looking forward to building her skills as a conductor with the help of Dr. Morse and the music students in both ensembles. Having studied music for over 15 years and always having a passion for music education, Natassjah hopes to teach music as a band director at the secondary level after completing the graduate program at Sacramento State.

**Marcus Holifield-Helm** is currently in his second year as a graduate student studying with Dr. Morse. He is currently in his second year as the band director at Foothill Ranch Middle School. Marcus received his undergraduate degree in music education and music performance from California State University, Sacramento. Marcus also received his teaching credential from Sacramento State while doing his student teaching in Davis. He also is the drum major coordinator for the Sacramento Mandarins drum and bugle corps.

**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 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, Illinois. His work *Art(isms)* was premiered by the Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and 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 *Imaginarium*, Randall Standridge writes:

Inside every person, there is a place where creativity dwells. Gears turn, dreams flow, and ideas spark into life. *Imaginarium* is the place that every creative person goes to, again and again, to find their muse, flesh out ideas, and to exert change on the world around them. This piece is dedicated to all of the dreamers who see more in the world than is actually there, who see possibilities where others see only dead ends, and who believe in creation rather than destruction.

This work, commissioned for the 2015 Association of Texas Small School All-State Band, was a blast to write. It is comprised of four sections: "Sparks" where ideas begin to germinate; "The Cloud Factory" which represents the day-dreamy zone where one imagines endless possibilities (with my best nod to Eric Satie as well): "Here, There be Monsters..." is that moment of panic or nightmare that all creative people feel when self-doubt sets in and the task seems too monumental to overcome; a brief recapitulation to "Sparks" before "Eureka!", the idea is fully realized!

**George Edwin Farmer** was an American composer and educator, who, after graduating from high school, served in the U.S. Army. Upon completion of his obligation, he attended the Oklahoma College of Liberal Arts (Bachelor of Arts degree in piano performance). He later attended the University of Oklahoma (master's degree in music education, 1974). He began his career as chorus director at Dowdell Junior High School, and then was band director at Frostproof High School. In 1977, he was named band director at Cypress Lake High School (Fort Myers, Florida). He then served as band director in high schools in Georgia, Oklahoma, and Texas, before returning to Florida in 1985 to assume the post of band director at Spruce Creek High School (Port Orange). From 1986 to 2001, Farmer led bands in several Hillsborough County High Schools.

The program note from the score of *The Silent Hills of My Childhood* reads: *The Silent Hills of My Childhood* is the composer's childhood recollections of his mother's stories of her youth in Ireland. The title is a line from *Prayer*, a poem by Max Ehrmann:

*...May I still remember the bright hours that found me  
Walking over the silent hills of my childhood,  
Or dreaming on the margins of the quiet river,  
When a light glowed within me,  
And I promised my early God to have courage  
Amid the tempests of the changing years...*

On *Choose Joy*, Randall Standridge writes:

Commissions can take many forms. I have written pieces that celebrate special occasions, I have written works that tackle serious issues, I have created commissioned pieces that commemorate historical events, and I have written commissions that encouraged me to just play around in my imagination.

I have also written too many that are memorial works. Each piece of this type is a reminder to me (and, I hope, to the audience and performers) that time is our greatest gift and most valuable asset, and we are always spending it, whether we intend to or not. When we ask someone for their hand in marriage, we are asking for and offering our most treasured possession. Our time. Our lives. When we choose a profession,

*Beyond the Higher Skies* begins with brass fanfares and woodwind flourishes to open the piece before it settles into an ebullient melody introduced by the trumpets. The slower and more lyrical middle section is introduced by woodwind choir with tender and poignant harmonies that give way to the return of the original tempo for an exciting conclusion.

**Dr. Matthew Morse** is the Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Conducting in the School of Music at Sacramento State, 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 Sac State Symphonic Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at the California All-State Music Education Conference in Fresno in 2019.

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.

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 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 stationed 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.

Currently, Mr. Morales teaches and plays trumpet professionally in the New Orleans area, in addition to maintaining an active composing and conducting schedule.

On *Urban Dances*, Eric Morales writes:

*Urban Dances* is a piece based on a concept developed in one of my earlier works, entitled *Rhythmata*. The most important part of this work is rhythm. The rhythms used are inspired by and found in much of today's popular music. My biggest challenge was to find ways to employ these rhythms in a manner appropriate to serious concert band literature. The melodic and thematic elements are important but play a secondary (and largely supportive) role. In many instances, the thematic material will float over the rhythmic pulse, creating a double-time feel. The pulse of this work is persistent and lively throughout.

**Robert Sheldon** is an American composer, arranger, conductor, and educator. Sheldon has taught instrumental music in the Florida and Illinois public schools and has served on the faculty at Florida State University where he taught conducting and instrumental music education classes, and directed the university bands. As Concert Band Editor for the Alfred Publishing Company, he maintains an active composition and conducting schedule, and regularly accepts commissions for new works. Sheldon received the Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Miami and the Master of Fine Arts in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Florida.

Sheldon is the conductor of the Prairie Wind Ensemble at Illinois Central College and teaches composition at Bradley University. The American School Band Directors Association has honored him with the Volkwein Award for composition and the Stanbury Award for teaching. He has also been a twenty-one-time recipient of ASCAP's Standard Award for his compositions in the concert band repertoire. His compositions have been recorded and released on compact discs including, "Images: The Music of Robert Sheldon", and "Infinite Horizons: The Music of Robert Sheldon". Mr. Sheldon is one of eleven American wind band composers featured in Volume I of *Composers on Composing Music for Band*. He was honored by the International Assembly of Phi Beta Mu in 1990 as being the International Outstanding Bandmaster of the year.

we are agreeing to dedicate our time to this. When we lose someone, we are simultaneously grateful for the time we have had with them and grieving for that time being depleted.

We never get time back. Ever.

In May 2021, I was approached by Joe Glass of Salyards Middle School about a commission. Joe and I have collaborated on a work before (*Siege*), in which I spent a week with him, his staff, and his students to create a work. We created a fun piece of music, but more importantly we created a friendship that has continued ever since. Joe asked if I would be interested in a new commission, but that the circumstances were somewhat unusual. It is with his permission and the permission of the family involved that I'm sharing these details. He told me about Nicole Crandall, a recent graduate from the high school that Joe's program feeds and his former student. Nicole had been battling Level 4 Glioblastoma, a very aggressive form of brain cancer. She was then 20 years old and had been moved into hospice care. To celebrate her, they have asked that I create a work in her honor. Illness is the thief of time.

In spite of this, Nicole and her family had created a motto that they used to navigate this difficult time. "Choose Joy." I was very moved by his, as I feel too many people waste their time (and their lives) choosing hate, choosing anger, choosing misery. Do these emotions legitimately exist? Absolutely, but I can safely say for myself that there have been moments where I gave energy to them and fed them, instead of shutting them down.

Choose Joy. I like that.

For those of you that may have been touched by cancer (either yourself or a loved one), I am sure you can agree that we never know how much time we are given on this Earth, but life events such as these can put a lot of things in perspective. To Joe, thank you for trusting me with this project. To Nicole and her Family, thank you for reminding us that happiness can be a choice, even in the face of incredible adversity.

The piece itself uses elements of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* along with a five-note motive representing the five members of Nicole's immediate

family. A trio is heard near the beginning, representing Nicole 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. I hope this work serves as a fitting tribute to all of those who choose joy in times of darkness.

The work has also been included in the unBroken Project as currently the second of five works that deal with mental health struggles. Choose Joy connects to this project by encouraging us all to find happiness and positivity where we can.

**Brian Balmages** is a wind, brass, and orchestral composer as well as an active conductor, producer, and performer. He received his bachelor's degree in music from James Madison University and his master's degree from the University of Miami in Florida. Balmages' compositions have been performed worldwide in conferences such as the College Band Directors National Association national and regional conferences, the Midwest Clinic, and the International Tuba/Euphonium Conference, among others. He has been commissioned for groups such as the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Miami Symphony Orchestra, the University of Miami Wind Ensemble, James Madison University's School of Music, Boston Brass, members of the United States Marine Band, and the Dominion Brass Ensemble. Balmages is currently the Director of Instrumental Publications for the FJH Music Company Inc.

**Summer Dances** was written for the Columbia Concert Band in Columbia, Maryland, for an outdoor summer concert. The piece was written to capture the beauty and spirit of the many festivals and events associated with the season. In writing the piece, elements were included to make it very appropriate to perform in or out of the concert hall. The piece thrives on rhythmic pulse throughout. The fast rhythmic figures of the opening are contrasted with the statelier motives presented later in the piece in the slower, more lyrical section.

**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. 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.

**The Wrong Note Rag** comes from Broadway show *A Wonderful Town*, a story about two sisters in New York City aspiring to be a writer and an actress respectively. *The Wrong Note Rag* is heard during the second act, where patrons of a nightclub, the Village Vortex, are all dancing before the sisters perform together. Arranged for band by Ted Ricketts in 2005, this piece—as the title suggests—emphasizes wrong notes in a surprising manner throughout, making the whimsical rag a delight to experience.

**Erik Morales** is an American composer, conductor, arranger and trumpeter. Mr. Morales' composing career began shortly after graduation from high school in 1985 in South Florida when his former band director offered to pay him to arrange music for the marching band. He studied composition at Florida International University and completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette (1989) where he was mentored by renowned music educator Dr. Quincy Hilliard and studied trumpet with Dr. Gary Mortenson and Rich Stoelzel.

Mr. Morales has composed best-selling music for many genres (classical, jazz, pop). His many published works encompass a large variety of styles and settings, including works for wind, orchestral, jazz and chamber ensembles and have been part of featured performances across the globe. In addition to his published works, he also is commissioned regularly by schools and organizations nationwide. In 2002 Mr. Morales signed an exclusive contract with the FJH Music Company for his educational wind and string works. His chamber ensembles have won numerous awards including first place performances at the 2006 and 2008 National Trumpet Competitions. His *Concerto for Trumpet in C and Piano* has gained widespread popularity and has become part of the standard repertoire.