

IOWA

School of Music



ENSEMBLE CONCERT

UNIVERSITY BAND

Miles Anglin, *conductor*

Kevin Niese, *guest conductor*

Courtney Ridge, *guest conductor*

Brandon Halberg, *guest conductor*

Andrew Deaver, *trombone*

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Concert Hall, Voxman Music Building

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PROGRAM

ENCANTO (1989)

Robert W. Smith (1958–2023)

SEAL LULLABY (2008)

Eric Whitacre (b. 1986)

Kevin Niese, *guest conductor*

ROCKETSHIP! (2017)

Kevin Day (b. 1996)

Courtney Ridge, *guest conductor*

CAJUN FOLK SONG (1991)

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

I. La belle et le Capitaine

II. Belle



MOSCOW, 1941 (2005)

Brian Balmages (b.1975)

Brandon Halberg, *guest conductor*

CHARM (2012)

Kevin Puts (b. 1972)

SAFELY REST (2020)

Nicole Piunno (b. 1985)

BLUE BELLS OF SCOTLAND

(1899/2016)

Arthur Pryor (1870–1942)

arr. Joe Higgins (b.1982)

Andrew Deaver, *trombone*

HALCYON HEARTS (2021)

Katahji Copley (b. 1998)

This program is being presented by Miles Anglin, Courtney Ridge, and Brandon Halberg in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the DMA in Wind Band Conducting. Miles, Courtney, and Brandon are students of Dr. Mark Heidel.



UNIVERSITY BAND

PICCOLO

Elizabeth Iverson

FLUTE

Una Carter*

Elise Gan

Elizabeth Iverson

Ella Jack

Anna Burkle

Kameron Manning

Kennedy Haynes

Jacilyn Snyder

Katherine Cravatta

Madison Bockenstedt

Meredith Ellingworth

Hailey Allen

OBOE

Millie Law*

Kaia Bartlett

CLARINET

Temperance Wassam*

Madi Tonelli

Emma Fuchtman



Matthew Lin
Lauren Reske
Hannah Hazzard
Maggie Sitowski
Ava Weatherford
Dale Cabrera
Andrew Burja

BASS CLARINET

Marguerite Stanek*
Addy Crebo
Gabby Lee

BASSOON

Scott Wenzel*

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Megan Smelser*
Logan Storto
Zac Fisher
Nate Worthington
Luke Porter
Kohl Constance
Max Young
Caleb Frericks
Lucia Grimm



Sean Ross
Addison Brooks
Tanner Draayer

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Brady Warner*
Elaina DeWulf

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Lydia Reynolds*
Wyatt Case

FRENCH HORN

Dr. Taylor Mason Halberg*
Kelli Moen
Savannah Stone
Robert Krause

TRUMPET

Ryland Baudino*
Samuel Burns
Creston Cordes
Meara Crozier
Charlotte Windmill
Elliott Stolmeier
Sam Sokol



Ari Bishop
PaladinFerin
Alicia Mcneil
Andy Pennell
Jordan Biwer

TROMBONE

Brenden Steele*
Chris Porter
Ziley Miller
Gwen Piette
Jillian Arnold

BASS TROMBONE

Tony Pelini
Logan Phannenstill

TUBA

Parker Nicks*
Rachel Hausch
Sean Maddocks
Isabelle Duvall
Noel Purifoy



EUPHONIUM

Alanna Reynolds*

Logan McClellen

Emilie Quiñones

Ryan Matthey

PIANO

Brady Warner

PERCUSSION

Helen Mao*

Mackenna Janz

Benedict Drefsinski

Iden Simpson

Owen Shepardson

Landon Graft

Dalton Johka

Blake Stewart

*Principal Player



PROGRAM NOTES

ENCANTO (1989)

Encanto (1989) is a festive overture for concert band by the late Robert W. Smith. The title, the Spanish word for “enchantment,” reflects the work’s spirited energy and bright melodic character. The piece follows a classic overture structure, opening with a bold brass fanfare that gives way to a driving, syncopated main theme. A lyrical middle section, highlighted by a beautiful flute solo, provides a moment of contrast before the work returns to its high-energy rhythmic roots for a powerful finale.

Robert W. Smith (1958–2023) was one of the most prolific and beloved composers in the wind band world, with over 700 published works. A longtime professor at Troy University, Smith was renowned for his “tonal collages” and his ability to write music that was both pedagogically sound for students and emotionally resonant for audiences. His music remains a cornerstone of the repertoire, celebrated for its rhythmic vitality, rich orchestration, and enduring sense of musical storytelling.

- Miles Anglin



SEAL LULLABY (2008)

Eric Whitacre is a dynamic, Grammy Award-winning composer known for his exceptional choral, orchestral, and wind band music. While his grandiose success may imply a lifelong path to becoming a composer, Whitacre's first exposure to classical music-making was during his undergraduate degree at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, where he sang in a concert choir for the first time. Whitacre's choral inspirations would lead him to pursue composition more seriously and ultimately graduate from the Juilliard School. In addition to his strong composition output, Whitacre is arguably most known for his Virtual Choir performances, which continue to feature thousands of singers around the world. His music continues to receive international recognition from academics, performers, and spectators alike.

The Seal Lullaby was originally composed and published for chorus. Whitacre was approached by a Hollywood film studio to write music for a new animated, epic feature, based on Kipling's *The White Seal*.

Oh! Hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,



*And black are the waters that sparkled so
green.
The moon, o'er the combers, looks downward
to find us,
At rest in the hollows that rustle between.
Where billow meets billow, then soft be thy
pillow,
Oh weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!
The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark over-
take thee,
Asleep in the arms of the slow swinging seas!*
- Rudyard Kipling, 1865-1936

Whitacre stated, "I was struck so deeply by those first beautiful words, and a simple, sweet Disney-esque song just came gushing out of me." After weeks of minimal communication from the film studio, Whitacre came to find out that the executives decided to make Kung Fu Panda instead. This left Whitacre simply singing his new composition to his son every night as he put him to sleep. The piece was later commissioned by the Towne Singers and transcribed for wind band. Whitacre dedicated the work to fellow music colleague and friend, Stephen Schwartz, composer of Wicked and Godspell. "I'm especially grateful to Stephen Schwartz, to whom the piece is



dedicated. His friendship and invaluable tutelage has meant more to me than I could ever tell him.

- Kevin Niese

ROCKETSHIP! (2017)

Commissioned in 2017 by the William James Middle School Band Program (Fort Worth, TX), Rocketship! is dedicated to the ensemble and director Paul Rosales. This energetic piece explores the boundless energy of the cosmos through rhythmic motifs presented throughout the ensemble, culminating in a driving marching snare drum solo. Following a serene middle section that offers a moment of celestial weightlessness, the piece returns to its vibrant opening material. In this journey through space, Day explores interstellar wonders, meteor showers, and distant galaxies, capturing the shimmering beauty of deep space.

Kevin Day is a talented American composer who takes inspiration from a broad range of sources and often infuses jazz, R&B, and Soul into his works. He is the recipient of ITEA Harvey Phillips Award for Excellence in Composition and won the 2016 Dallas Winds Fanfare composition contest. He currently serves as the Artist Teacher in Residence of Compo-



sition at the Keys Conservatory at Pinecrest Academy in Henderson, Nevada and is also an active jazz pianist.

- Courtney Ridge

CAJUN FOLK SONG (1991)

Frank Ticheli's Cajun Folk Songs (1991) is a two-movement tribute to the resilient culture of the Louisiana Acadians, composed for the Murchison Middle School Band. The first movement, "La Belle et le Capitaine," is a hauntingly beautiful ballad in the Dorian mode. It tells the story of a young woman who feigns death to escape a sea captain, beginning with a soulful alto saxophone solo that gives way to lush, contemporary harmonies. In stark contrast, the second movement, "Belle," evokes the energy of a traditional house dance. Though the underlying story is a tragic tale of a man's desperate, failed attempt to save his dying sweetheart, the music is characterized by an infectious, driving pulse. Set primarily in a rhythmic 5/4 meter, the movement features bright woodwind flourishes and spirited brass interjections, ultimately serving as a celebration of the Cajun spirit.

The composer, Frank Ticheli (b. 1958), is one of the most influential and widely performed



American composers for concert band. A professor of composition at the University of Southern California, Ticheli is celebrated for his ability to blend traditional folk elements with a modern, sophisticated harmonic language. Born in Louisiana, his personal connection to the region's heritage is deeply felt in this work. His music is renowned for its lyricism, rhythmic vitality, and a masterful use of instrumental color that makes his compositions both accessible to audiences and rewarding for performers of all levels.

- Miles Anglin

MOSCOW, 1941 (2005)

Brian Balmages is known worldwide as a composer and conductor who equally spans the worlds of orchestral, band, and chamber music. His music has been performed by groups ranging from professional symphony orchestras to elementary schools in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Sydney Opera House, Toronto Centre for the Arts, and many more.

Moscow, 1941 retells the story of the Red Army successfully defending Moscow from German Invasion during World War II. Balmages uses the original Russian folk song "Mead-



owlands” in his work to portray the defense of the capital in this dramatic work for band.

- Brandon Halberg

CHARM (2012)

Charm (2012) is a sparkling, high-energy work for concert band by the Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. Commissioned as part of the American Composers Forum’s Band-Quest series for the Scarsdale (NY) Middle School Band, the piece derives its title from a dual inspiration: the idea of a magical incantation and the natural charisma Puts observed in the young musicians who premiered it. The work is defined by its infectious and driving 7/8 meter, which creates a sense of constant, buoyant forward motion. This rhythmic vitality is paired with a “mystical” harmonic language, featuring bright pentatonic melodies, celebratory hand-clapping, and shimmering percussion textures.

Kevin Puts (b. 1972), a member of the composition faculty at the Peabody Institute and the 2024 Musical America Composer of the Year, is renowned for his ability to weave complex rhythms into accessible, lyrical narratives.

Perhaps best known for his opera *Silent Night*, which earned him the 2012 Pulitzer Prize, Puts brings his signature sophistication to Charm,



creating a piece that is as technically engaging for the performers as it is enchanting for the audience.

- Miles Anglin

SAFELY REST (2020)

Safely Rest (2020) is a poignant and reflective work for concert band that masterfully weaves together two of the most recognizable melodies in the American musical lexicon: the hymn “Amazing Grace” and the military bugle call “Taps.” Commissioned by Hiram College and Boyd County High School, the piece is designed as a single, unified musical thought that creates a powerful dialogue between faith and finality. Piunno utilizes warm sonorities, rich harmonic colors, and sensitive percussion shading to evoke a deep sense of peace.

Dr. Nicole Piunno (b. 1985) is an Ohio-based composer and music theorist who views her work as a vehicle for exploring human paradoxes, such as beauty and brokenness. She holds degrees from Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. Piunno’s music has earned international acclaim and is frequently performed by premier ensembles, including “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band.

- Miles Anglin



BLUE BELLS OF SCOTLAND

(1899/2016)

“Blue Bells of Scotland” is a timeless Scottish folk song that has evolved from a popular 19th-century ballad into a staple showpiece for concert bands and soloists. Though often attributed to tradition, the lyrics were written in 1801 by the English actress Dora Jordan, who famously performed it at the Drury Lane Theatre. The song tells the story of a “highland laddie” who has gone to war to serve King George III during the Napoleonic era, leaving behind a sweetheart who longingly awaits his safe return to the bluebell-covered hills of Scotland.

Composed around 1899, this theme and variations arrangement is one of the most demanding works for solo trombone or euphonium. It opens with a grand statement of the theme followed by increasingly complex variations featuring rapid-fire arpeggios, double-tonguing, and massive three-and-a-half octave leaps.

- Miles Anglin



HALCYON HEARTS (2021)

Halcyon Hearts (2021) is a radiant, celebratory overture for concert band by the prolific American composer Katahji Copley. Subtitled "An Overture for Love," the piece is an ode to the transformative power of love and its ability to unite humanity regardless of race, gender, or religion. The title derives from the word "halcyon," denoting a time of idyllic peace and happiness, which Copley uses to represent the tranquil moment of discovery when one finds their true passion or soulmate. Musically, the work is defined by a colorful, unexpected introduction that leads into a soundscape rich with warm major-seventh harmonies and energetic rhythmic drive.

Katahji Copley (b. 1998), is one of the most exciting young voices in contemporary wind literature and a founding member of the Nu Black Vanguard, a group dedicated to promoting Black composers. Recently completed his Doctorate at Michigan State University, Copley has composed over 100 works, earning acclaim for his emotional vulnerability and his unique ability to bridge traditional concert forms with the soulful, rhythmic influences of Black musical culture.

- Miles Anglin



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MILES ANGLIN

Miles Anglin is a first year D.M.A. in Wind Conducting student at the University of Iowa where he serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Hawkeye Marching Band and Iowa Bands. Miles has previously served as the Director of Bands at Greece Olympia High School, the Assistant Conductor of the 42 Infantry Division Band (NYARNG) and was the Music Director and Principal Conductor for the Penfield Pops Concert Band. Originally from Upstate New York, Miles attended school at Nazareth University (BM '20) where he studied Music Education and Trumpet Performance. After teaching and revitalizing the band program at Greece Olympia High School, Miles attended the University of Massachusetts – Amherst (M.M. '25), where he studied Wind Conducting. During his time at UMass Amherst, he was the graduate conductor for the UMass Wind Ensemble, the UMass Symphony Band, and worked and wrote music for the award-winning UMass Minuteman Marching Band. He currently studies with Dr. Mark Heidel and has previously studied conducting



with Dr.'s Matthew Westgate, Lindsay Bronnenkant, and Jared Chase.

KEVIN NIESE

Kevin Niese is a third-year Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Iowa pursuing his PhD in Music Education. His assistantship is quite active as it includes mentoring student teachers, teaching courses in instrumental music education, and assisting with the University of Iowa Bands. Kevin's efforts have been recognized by the University of Iowa as he is a recipient of the 2025-26 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. In addition to his assistantship duties, Kevin has served as the summer director of the Iowa City New Horizons Band and currently serves as the Symphonic Band Director at Grinnell College.

Prior to his current graduate appointment, Kevin completed his master's degree in music education at Ohio University. At Ohio, Kevin served as an assistant conductor for all university bands including the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Community Band, Varsity Pep Band, and the nationally recognized Marching 110. In the field, he excelled in the areas of recruitment



and retention while receiving exceptional ratings in various adjudicated events. The North Central Ohio native is a sought-after drill-writer and clinician for competitive and festival marching bands throughout the United States. Kevin has designed drills for institutions such as Ohio University, Ball State University, the University of Wyoming, the University of Dayton, and the University of Iowa. His primary research interests include disability studies within music education and experiences related to the marching arts. Kevin continues to present and publish scholarly work in these respective areas for the Iowa Music Educators Association, Iowa Bandmasters Association, Big Ten Academic Alliance, and National Band Association. Kevin and his lovely wife, Paige, reside in the Iowa City area.

COURTNEY RIDGE

Courtney Ridge is a second-year graduate teaching assistant at the University of Iowa, pursuing a DMA in wind conducting and is the recipient of the Myron D. Welch Conducting Fellowship. Additionally, she serves as director of the Iowa City New Horizons Band.



Before arriving in Iowa City, Courtney served 12 years as the Director of Bands at Clarinda High School, where she oversaw all facets of the high school band program and co-taught beginning band. Under her direction, the Clarinda Concert Band was selected as the 2A performance band for the Iowa Bandmasters Association Conference in 2017 and 2022.

Courtney holds a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Drake University (2008) and a Master of Science in Education: K-12 Educational Leadership Degree from Northwest Missouri State University (2015). Courtney was the recipient of the 2024 Charles E. Lakin Outstanding Teacher Award and the 2015 Southwest Iowa Bandmasters Association Young Band Director Award.

BRANDON HALBERG

Brandon Halberg is a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Iowa where he is pursuing his DMA in Wind Conducting. As a teaching assistant, Brandon conducts all three concert ensembles, the Hawkeye Marching and Pep Bands, and teaches undergraduate conducting lessons. Brandon



serves as an active guest conductor and clinician, having worked with bands and orchestras in Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, New York, and Connecticut.

Brandon previously served as Director of Bands at Independence Community College in Kansas. In this role, Brandon oversaw a comprehensive instrumental music education program that successfully transferred every music major into a four-year bachelor's degree in music education. He conducted the ICC Concert Band, Pep Band, and taught general coursework throughout the entire music department. Brandon also founded the ICC Concert Band Clinic: an event for local high school bands to receive instruction from renowned band directors from across the country. Prior to teaching at ICC, Brandon started his career teaching band and orchestra in his home state of Connecticut.

As a conducting educator, Brandon designed the Flex Conducting Etudes: an online conducting textbook for beginning conductors which is available on his website. He holds his Bachelors of Science in Music Education from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Music in Instrumental



Conducting from SUNY Binghamton, and has studied conducting with Dr. Mark Heidel, Dr. Eric Bush, and Dr. Paul McShee.

ANDREW DEAVER

Andrew Deaver is a trombone educator and performer originally from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Currently pursuing a DMA in Trombone Performance at the University of Iowa, Andrew also serves as a graduate teaching assistant for Hawkeye Athletic Bands. He holds degrees from South Dakota State University (B.M.E. '23), and Oklahoma State University (M.M. '25). While at Oklahoma State, he served as the Graduate Teaching Assistant for Trombone Studio, where he assisted the 33-member studio. His duties included organizing the studio's performance calendar and rehearsing the OSU Trombone Ensemble. During his time in Oklahoma, He played in the graduate brass quintet, The Orange Horizons. During his time they won the New York Philharmonic Chamber Music Residency in 2024. Andrew's diverse freelance career spans jazz, classical, and clinician work across South Dakota, Oklahoma, Iowa, New York, and the Dallas metro area.



UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most current listing of concerts, recitals, and other School of Music events, visit the events calendar.

EVENTS CALENDAR 