Moore County Community Band

presents

Celebrate Spring Around the World

Date: 03/22/2026

Time: 2:00 P.M.

North Carolina Arts Council

This concert made possible in part by a grant from the Arts Council of Moore County and by a grant from the Ernst Ludwig Timmel Endowment, a component fund of the North Carolina Community Foundation

Arts Council of Moore County 1973 50 Years 2023

Program

Conducted by

Mollie Wilson, Cheryl Theis and David Nelson

◆

Star Spangled Banner	*Harmonized by Walter Damrosch* *arr. John Phillips Sousa*
Norwegian March "Valdres"	*Johannes Hanssen* *arr. Glen Bainum*
Perthshire Majesty	*Samuel Hazo*
An Irish Rhapsody	*Clare Grundman*
Into the Storm	*Robert Smith*
Highlights from South Pacific	*Richard Rodgers* *arr. Philip Lang*
Salvation Is Created	*Tschesnokof* *Arr. Bruce Houseknecht*
Cajun Folk Songs, II. Belle	*Frank Ticheli*
Semper Fidelis	*John Phillips Sousa*

◆

Produced by

Moore County Community Band

Program Notes

Composed in 1904, **Valdres** is widely considered the national march of Norway. Johannes Hanssen, a prominent bandmaster and composer, based the main theme on the traditional "fanfare" of the Valdres Battalion, which he reportedly purchased for a mere five kroner. The piece is celebrated for its distinctive opening — a haunting solo trumpet call— which gives way to a spirited and elegant folk-inspired melody. Unlike the heavy, rhythmic drive of American or German marches, Valdres possesses a lyrical, "Old World" charm that captures the scenic beauty and cultural pride of the Norwegian countryside.

Commissioned to celebrate the rugged beauty of the Scottish Highlands, **Perthshire Majesty** is a lyrical masterpiece that captures the essence of a traditional Scottish ballad without using an existing folk song. Samuel Hazo utilizes lush harmonies and soaring woodwind lines to evoke the mist-covered mountains and rolling green glens of the Perthshire countryside. The piece begins with a quiet, contemplative air that gradually builds into a majestic, full-ensemble climax, offering the audience a moment of pure, cinematic grandeur before fading back into a peaceful, reflective finish.

A staple of the concert band repertoire, **An Irish Rhapsody** is a masterful tapestry of Ireland's most beloved folk melodies. Clare Grundman, known for his ability to weave disparate tunes into a cohesive narrative, takes the listener on a journey through the Emerald Isle's emotional landscape.

The piece features six distinct songs, ranging from the spirited and rhythmic ("The Moreen" and "The Rakish Paddy") to the tender and nostalgic ("I Know Where I'm Goin'"). It culminates in a grand, soaring treatment of "The Minstrel Boy," bringing the rhapsody to a powerful and patriotic finish.

True to its title, **Into the Storm** is a high-octane, cinematic work that captures the raw power and unpredictability of nature. Robert W. Smith, one of the most prolific composers for modern concert bands, utilizes driving percussion, aggressive brass fanfares, and swirling woodwind passages to simulate the onset of a tempest. The piece is characterized by its relentless energy and rhythmic intensity, creating a sense of urgency that places the listener right in the center of the elements. It is a thrilling technical showcase that demonstrates the full dynamic range and "thunder" of the wind ensemble.

First appearing on Broadway in 1949, **South Pacific** remains one of the most beloved masterpieces of the American musical theater. Composed by Richard Rodgers with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, the show explores themes of love and prejudice set against the back drop ofthe Pacific Theater during World War II.

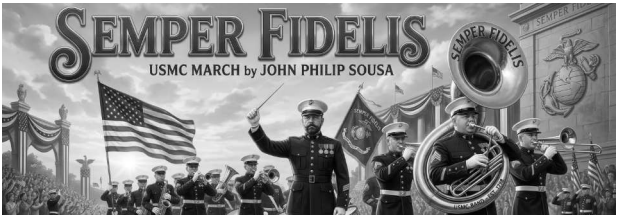
Originally composed in 1912 as a choral anthem for the Russian Orthodox liturgy, **Salvation Is Created** is one ofthe most sublime and enduring works in the wind band repertoire. Tschesnokoff wrote this piece as part of a cycle of ten communion hymns, though he tragically never heard it performed during his lifetime due to the suppression of religious music in the Soviet Union.

This arrangement by Bruce Houseknecht preserves the profound, prayerful atmosphere of the original vocal work. The piece is built on a simple, recurring melodic line that expands into rich, sonorous chords, requiring immense control and balance from the ensemble. It serves as a moment of deep reflection and spiritual beauty, showcasing the band's ability to "sing" through their instruments.

In the second movement of his celebrated **Cajun Folk Songs** suite, Frank Ticheli captures the soulful, nostalgic essence ofthe Louisiana bayou. "Belle" is based on a traditional Cajun melody that tells the story of a man lamenting the departure of his beloved.

No concert band program is complete without the "March King," and **Semper Fidelis** stands as one ofhis most significant achievements. Composed in 1888, it is the official march of the United States Marine Corps. Sousa, who served as the leader ofthe Marine Band, considered this to be his most musical march, a perfect balance of rhythmic precision and melodic flair.

The title, Latin for "Always Faithful," reflects the motto of the Corps. Listen for the famous drum-and-bugle fanfare in the middle section (the trio), which transitions into a powerful, spirited "grandioso" finish. It is a stirring tribute to military tradition and remains a quintessential symbol of American patriotism.



Directors

Mollie Wilson's lifelong musical journey began on a farm in central Pennsylvania, where she started instrumental lessons after fourth grade. Her leadership skills emerged early when she took over as director of the Mapleton Community Band during high school, prior to attending Pennsylvania State University. Mollie dedicated over thirty years to the students of the Delaware Valley School District in Milford, PA, serving as a band, drama, and musical director. Now a resident of the Sandhills—having traded snowy winters for a warmer climate—she remains a cornerstone of the local arts scene. Today, Mollie directs the New Horizons Band in the Pines, performs with several local ensembles, and serves as the proprietor of the Pine Gables of Aberdeen Bed and Breakfast.

Dr. David Nelson has dedicated 33 years to the field of higher education, serving as a distinguished professor at both the University of New Orleans and the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Following his retirement in 2020, he was honored by the University of North Carolina System with the title of Professor Emeritus of Music.

An accomplished scholar, Dr. Nelson holds a Bachelor of Music cum laude from the University of Michigan, as well as a Master of Music and Ph.D. from Northwestern University. His deep expertise in European musical history is evidenced by his three published books documenting the musical landmarks of Vienna and Salzburg.

In 2008, Dr. Nelson's lifelong contribution to musical heritage was officially recognized by the City of Vienna, which bestowed upon him the Golden Medal of Honor. This prestigious accolade is the second-highest honor the city awards to Americans—a distinction he shares with the legendary Leonard Bernstein, who received the city's highest honor.

Today, Dr. Nelson continues to share his passion for history and performance as the founder and director of In Mozart's Footsteps, where he curates and leads immersive cultural journeys to Europe's great musical capitals.

Cheryl Theis, a native of southwestern Ohio and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, has dedicated 48 years to the field of music education. Following the completion of her Bachelor of Music Education degree, she launched a prolific career that spanned multiple states, including Virginia and Michigan, with a primary focus in the Dayton and Vandalia Public Schools. Her versatile expertise has encompassed K–8 band, general music, choir, theatre, and handbells.

Beyond the classroom, Cheryl's leadership extended into the community as a church music director and co-director of the Kettering Children's Choir. Her excellence in teaching has been frequently honored; she is a multi-year recipient of "Staff Member of the Year," a "Sam's Club Teacher of the Year," and was the subject of an official "Cheryl Theis Day" proclamation in Vandalia, Ohio. This rare distinction recognized her tireless advocacy for the arts, including her successful leadership of a $500,000 auditorium renovation campaign.

Under her baton, student ensembles have been invited to perform at prestigious state and national music educator conventions. Today, Cheryl continues her lifelong commitment to the arts as a dedicated community volunteer, supporting the West Pine Middle School Band and performing with the Moore County Concert Band (MCCB) and New Horizons Band (NHB).

Don't miss our upcoming Concert

May 17, 2026, 2:00 PM
R. E. Lee Auditorium, Pinecrest High School

Moore County Commnity Band Personnel

Flute/Piccolo
William Hammerschmidt
Carolyn Hatcher
Judith Kelley
Lisa Mitchell
Jennifer Smith
David Wall

Clarinet
Sarah Fisher
John Hatcher
Margaret Katzenberger
Jane Ledford
David Newton
Brooke Robertson
Ashley Sparks
Jamie Stout
Cheryl Theis
Tammy Theis
Judy Yocom

Bass Clarinet
David Nelson

Saxophone, Alto
Tom Holleman
Phyllis Jenkins
Larry McCune

Saxophone, Tenor
David Mudd
Mollie Wilson

Saxophone, Bari
Paul Spurgeon

Trumpet
Dave Andres
Lionel Bryson
Andrew Cook
Diego Reyes
Ron Shepard
Neal Yocom

Horn
Marjory Cecka
Kenan Dial
Saul Garcia
Aidan Waters

Trombone
Barry Buchele
Freya Burks
Tom Garlick
Sarah Keller
Angel Soto-Enriquez
Doug Yopp

Euphonium
Janet Gustafson
Mike Patterson
Shelby Syckes

Tuba
Nate Evers
Robert Fewkes

String Bass
Robert Dyer

Percussion
Shannon Cagle
Josh Lewis
Joesph Newman
Wayne Osborne
Tricia Williamson

Board

Judith Kelley
Brooke Robertson
Tom Garlic
David Mudd
Shelby Syckes

Donors

ANGEL

Ed & Janis Carey
Hernani Dumlao
John and Nancy Ellis
Dale Erickson
Jocelyn Glynn
Jackie Tucker In mem. George

BENEFACTOR

Sally Conlon
Carolyn Follansbee
Stephanie and George Hillard
Donna & Patrick McDonald
Charlene Sazama

PATRON

Ellen Airs
Marianne Andres
Jack & Kathy Berquist
Joseph W. Boggs
Lionel Bryson
Kathryn Cenci
Kathy & Paul Christensen
Ed & Nelda Cockman
Jack Finnerty
Dr. Christine P. Gatti
Bill & Sarah Giles
Frank & Babette Glauner
Janet Gustafson
Paul Hawes
Tom and Marge Holleman
Susan Jacobson
Delores E. Knapp
Barbara Keating & Kurt Wright
Terry & Beth Lurtz
Tony & Rosemary Mauriello
Don & Donna McCallum
Larry & Peggy McCallum
Harlan McCaskill
Larry & Judy McCune
Ruth D. Mears
Charles & Judy Mitchell
Ray & Tammy Morris
In memory of John C. Owen
D & R Palmer
Claire Rhodes
Raymond J Ryan
Paul Hammock & Sandy Tremblay
Ruth Shannon
Darlene and Dale Skinner
Carole Southon
Ollie & Wanda Sweeney
Ann D. Thornton
Peter & Judy Vanica
John & Roxy Vann
Marcia & Gary Walker
Chuck/Becky Watkins
Pat & George Watterworth
Bev & Bob Wetherbie
Diana Williamson
Nancy & Ron Workman

SPONSOR

Joan Anderson
Gayle Badgett
Louis Foye
Fran Greer
Marge & Jeff Holmquist

Donors

◆

SPONSOR

Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Leib
Cynthia Norwood
In memory of Dr Robert Romine
Lynn & Seth Rudnick
Al & Lorraine Siano
Martha Sollicito
Tanski Family
Patricia & Peter Valenti

DONOR

Jim & Chris Beck
Al & Annette Daniels
Sandra Leiby
Bob & Carol Tilton
Helen P. Walsh
Robert & Elizabeth Wilson

Thank-you for your Support

If you would like to help support our community band and its concept, your contribution will be most appreciated.

Acknowledgments will be made by listing your name(s) in the appropriate category in our programs. Anonymous is permitted.

Please check one ofthe following levels of giving:

- ☐ Angel - $500 or more
- ☐ Benefactor - $250
- ☐ Patron - $100
- ☐ Sponsor - $50
- ☐ Donor - $25
- ☐ Friend - Less than $25

Contact Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contribution: _____

Phone: _____

Name in Program: _____

Please return this page with your tax-deductible contribution.

Please make checks payable to: Moore County Community Band. and mail to:

Moore County Community Band, PO Box 4662, Pinehurst, NC

We DO NOT share, or sell, any information provided to us. All information provided to the band is used to inform you, our valued audience, with news of the band and future performances.

Moore County Community Band Web Site

https://mcc-band.org

Subscribe to get future emails about upcoming MCCB Events

https://mcc-band.org/subscribe