

Moore County Community Band

presents

***Happy 250th Birthday
America***



West Southern Pines Center of Cultural Arts

Date: 07/04/2026

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



Program

Conducted by
Mollie Wilson, Cheryl Theis and David Nelson



Star Spangled Banner

*Harmonized by Walter Damrosch
arr. John Phillips Sousa*

French National Defile

*R. Planquette
arr. David Schaffer*

**Nimrod from "Enigma
Variations"**

*Edward Elgar
arr. Alfred Reed*

Bugler's Holiday

Andrew Cook, Avery Smith,
Neal Yocom

Leroy Anderson

God Bless America

*Irving Berlin
arr. Leidzen*

With Malice Towards None

Narrated by Chris Dunn

James Swearingen

Armed Forces Salute

arr. Bob Lowden

An American Celebration

Larry Neek

The Stars and Stripes Forever

John Phillip Sousa



Program Notes

Originally composed in 1871 by French composer Robert Planquette following the Franco-Prussian War, **French National Defile** stands as one of France's most celebrated patriotic melodies and famously serves as the soundtrack to Ohio State University's legendary "Script Ohio" marching formation. This masterful arrangement by David Shaffer retains all the charm and historical grandiosity of the original while beautifully tailoring its technical demands for modern concert bands. Audiences should listen for the bold, stirring brass fanfares that open the march, which seamlessly transition into an elegant, singing woodwind melody during the trio section. The piece builds to a triumphant, high-energy finale driven by a crisp percussion cadence.

Composed between 1898 and 1899, Nimrod is the ninth and most famous movement from Edward Elgar's **Enigma Variations**, a work where each variation serves as a musical portrait of one of the composer's close friends. This specific movement pays tribute to his loyal publisher, August Jaeger, using a clever biblical pun—"Nimrod" being a mighty hunter, and Jaeger meaning hunter in German—to honor the man who famously talked Elgar out of quitting music during a deep depression. Today, this deeply moving piece has become a profound international symbol of solemnity, grief, and remembrance. Audiences should listen for the way the music begins as an incredibly soft, noble whisper before building a single, unbroken crescendo that gradually expands across the ensemble until it erupts into a sweeping, breathtaking climax of pure passion.

Composed in the summer of 1954, **Bugler's Holiday** is one of the most enduring and beloved classics by Leroy Anderson, the American master of light concert music. Written as a lighthearted showpiece, Anderson specifically designed it to highlight the dazzling technical agility of the brass section, making it a perennial favorite for festive band concerts. Audiences should listen for the rapid-fire triple-tonguing and razor-sharp precision required by the featured trumpet trio as they trade lightning-fast, interlocking fanfares. The piece maintains a breathless, joyful energy from its first note to its frantic, celebratory conclusion, keeping both the soloists and the listeners on the edge of their seats.

Originally penned by Irving Berlin in 1918 during World War I, **God Bless America** was famously shelved for twenty years until the composer revived it in 1938 as a poignant prayer for peace on the eve of World War II. Popularized by radio star Kate Smith, this iconic melody instantly resonated with a worried nation and has since transcended its origins to become America's unofficial "second national anthem." Listeners should look out for the gentle, reverent opening—often featuring a lush, chorale-like texture—that sets a deeply reflective tone. The arrangement then guides the band through a sweeping, emotional crescendo, uniting the full force of the brass and woodwinds in a powerful, triumphant finale that celebrates unity and hope.

Composed in 2009, **With Malice Toward None** is a powerful musical tribute to the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln, taking its title from the 16th president's historic Second Inaugural Address. Renowned band composer James Swearingen masterfully captures the complex emotions of the Civil War era by weaving a variety of iconic melodies from the period into a cohesive, dramatic tapestry. The piece seamlessly shifts from moments of solemn, reverent reflection to bursts of intense patriotism, building to a stirring grand finale that celebrates unity and resilience.

Originally arranged in 1980 by Bob Lowden—a prominent modern arranger who appropriately served as a military bandsman during World War II—**Armed Forces Salute** remains the definitive medley for honoring American service members and veterans. The piece masterfully weaves together the official anthems of five military branches: "The Caisson Song" (Army), "Semper Paratus" (Coast Guard), "The Marines' Hymn" (Marine Corps), "The U.S. Air Force," and "Anchors Aweigh" (Navy). Rather than a simple, choppy medley, Lowden connects these anthems with incredibly clever, organic transitional links that pass the melody seamlessly across different sections of the band. Audiences should listen closely for "Easter egg" fragments of other historic patriotic tunes hidden in the transitions, including brief nods to "America the Beautiful," "Yankee Doodle," and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" as the piece builds to its proud, climatic conclusion.

Composed in 2001 and dedicated to the R.L. Thomas Band of Webster, New York, **An American Celebration** is a spirited, masterfully woven collage of the country's most cherished historical melodies. Composer Larry Neeck seamlessly blends these iconic tunes into a cohesive musical tapestry, designing the piece to capture a sense of collective unity and shared heritage. Listeners should see if they can spot the individual fragments of "The Star-Spangled Banner," "America the Beautiful," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as they rapidly surface throughout the ensemble. The medley brilliantly moves through varied textures and tempos, culminating in a soaring, high-energy finale that leaves the audience wanting to stand up and salute.

Composed on Christmas Day in 1896 while Sousa was aboard an ocean liner traveling back from Europe, **The Stars and Stripes Forever** is widely considered the ultimate American march and was officially designated by Congress as the national march of the United States. Sousa wrote the piece from memory, inspired by an overwhelming feeling of patriotism and a persistent mental melody that stayed with him throughout his journey. Audiences should listen for the famous, soaring piccolo obbligato that steals the show during the trio section, floating effortlessly over the rest of the ensemble. This is immediately followed by the thrilling, thunderous grand finale where the heavy brass and trombones step forward to the front of the stage to blast the triumphant "breakstrain" countermelody.

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).

With Malice Towards None Narrator: Chris Dunn has served as the Executive Director of the Arts Council of Moore County since 2002. An active freelance trumpeter and founding member of the Moore Brass Quintet, he has performed with the Carolina Philharmonic, Heart of Carolina Jazz Band, Moore County Concert Band, and numerous regional theater and choral ensembles. Prior to his work in North Carolina, Chris served as the Box Office Manager and Music Librarian for the Washington Chamber Symphony at The Kennedy Center. A graduate of East Carolina University with degrees in business and music, Chris is a lifelong champion of the vital role the arts play in childhood education and community building.

Moore County Community Band Personnel

Flute/Piccolo

William Hammerschmidt

Carolyn Hatcher

Lisa Mitchell

Jennifer Smith

David Wall

Clarinet

Sarah Fisher

John Hatcher

Jane Ledford

David Newton

Brooke Robertson

Hannah Russell

Ethan Spain

Jamie Stout

Cheryl Theis

Tammy Theis

Judy Yocom

Bass Clarinet

David Nelson

Saxophone, Alto

Phyllis Jenkins

David Mudd

Alondra Quezada

Saxophone, Tenor

Tom Holleman

Mollie Wilson

Saxophone, Bari

Paul Spurgeon

Trumpet

Dave Andres

Lionel Bryson

Sam Cade

Andrew Cook

Ron Shepard

Avery Smith

Neal Yocom

Horn

Marjory Cecka

Lori Hunzaker

Trombone

Barry Buchele

Freya Burks

Sarah Keller

Angel Soto-Enriquez

Doug Yopp

Euphonium

Janet Gustafson

Mike Patterson

Shelby Syckes

Tuba

Robert Fewkes

String Bass

Robert Dyer

Percussion

Shannon Cagle

Wayne Osborne

Tricia Williamson

Board

Judith Kelley

Jan Gustafson

Brooke Robertson

Tom Garlick

Carolyn Hatcher

Jamie Stout

David Mudd

John Hatcher

Shelby Syckes

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

BENEFACTOR

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Sally Conlon
Carolyn Follansbee
Gorden Fung and Linda James
Stephanie and George Hillard
Janet Lowry
Lynn and Seth Rudnick
Charlene Sazama

PATRON

Ellen Airs
Marianne Andres
Lionel Bryson
Kathryn Cenci
Kathy & Paul Christensen
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