Moore County Community Band

presents



Pinecrest Robert E. Lee Auditorium

Date: 11/15/2026

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

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Star Spangled Banner/God Save The King	*Harmonized by Walter Damrosch arr. John Phillips Sousa/Henry Cary*
Army of the Nile	*Kenneth Alford ed. Frederick Fennel*
Children's March	*Percy Aldridge Grainer arr. Douglqas Wagner*
Days of Wine and Roses Euphonium Solo - Doug Yopp	*Henry Mancini arr. Oyvind Strand*
Phantom of the Opera	*Andrew Lloyd Webber arr. Warren Barker*
English Folk Song Suite	*R. Vaughan Williams*
Soundtrack Highlights from "Yesterday" Music of the Beatles	*John Lennon and Paul McCartney arr. Michael Brown*
British 8th March	*Zo Elliot ed. Quincy Hilliard*

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ProgramNotes

"God Save the King" by Henry Carey



The national anthem of the United Kingdom is one of the most recognizable melodies in the world. While its exact origins have been historically debated, it is traditionally attributed to English poet and composer Henry Carey in the 1740's. A symbol of national unity and tradition, its majestic, chordal harmonies provide a moment of musical reverence and patriotic grandeur.

"Army of the Nile" by Kenneth Alford



Kenneth J. Alford, widely known as the "British March King," composed this stately march in 1941. It was written to commemorate the British Eighth Army's success in halting the Axis advance in Egypt under General Sir Archibald Wavell. Unlike the blistering pace of American circus marches, this piece features the unhurried, dignified tempo characteristic of British military marches, driven by a sweeping melodic line that evokes the vast landscapes of the North African campaign.

"Children's March (Over the Hills and Far Away)" by Percy Aldridge Grainger



Composed between 1916 and 1919, Percy Grainger's Children's March is a playful, sunny masterclass in wind band writing. Unlike many of his other famous works, the melody is entirely original rather than a collected folk tune, though it perfectly mimics the bouncy, skipping rhythm of a childhood song. The work is particularly notable for its innovative inclusion of quirky passages for the low woodwinds.

"Days of Wine and Roses" by Henry Mancini



This classic ballad won the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1962, originally written for the film of the same name. Known for its lush harmonies and melancholic nostalgia, the music reflects on the fleeting nature of youth and joy. Arranged for concert band, Mancini's smooth, jazz-inflected phrasing translates beautifully into a rich, sweeping showcase for the ensemble's expressive capabilities.

"The Phantom of the Opera" by Andrew Lloyd Webber



Since its debut in 1986, Andrew Lloyd Webber's theatrical masterpiece has captivated global audiences, becoming one of the most successful stage productions in history. This arrangement brings the Phantom's subterranean world to life, translating the show's soaring vocal ballads and driving, rock-infused dramatic anthems into a powerful display of the modern wind band's dynamic range and theatrical flair.

"English Folk Song Suite" by Ralph Vaughan Williams



A true cornerstone of the concert band repertoire, this masterwork was composed in 1923. Rather than merely imitating a folk style, Vaughan Williams wove authentic melodies gathered from the English countryside—including "Seventeen Come Sunday" and "My Bonny Boy"—into a brilliant three-movement suite. The piece captures the charm, vitality, and poignant beauty of traditional village life, elevated by sophisticated and colorful wind orchestration.

"Yesterday" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney



This dynamic medley celebrates the enduring legacy of the most influential rock band in history. The arrangement weaves together a vibrant cross-section of The Beatles' legendary catalog—spanning from the infectious energy of their early British Invasion hits to the lush, experimental studio craft of their later albums. It offers a nostalgic, high-energy showcase that highlights both individual soloists and the full ensemble's pop-rock punch.

"British Eighth March" by Zo Elliott



Written by American composer Alonzo "Zo" Elliott in 1943, this stirring march was dedicated to General Bernard Montgomery and the British Eighth Army following their victorious North African campaign. Though Elliott was American, the march masterfully captures a distinctly British pomp and swagger. It remains one of the most popular military marches in the world, beloved for its driving rhythm and triumphant, unforgettable brass melodies.

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).

Soloist Doug Yopp

From his beginnings in Jonesboro, Arkansas, Doug Yopp demonstrated exceptional musical talent, earning a spot as 4th chair in the McDonald's All American High School Band. This achievement paved the way for a full scholarship to Arkansas State University, followed by a transfer to the University of Florida. At UF, he excelled as principal Euphonium and led the Gator Bands as their President. His passion for music education led to a 38-year career in Florida, primarily in Lake County, where he was recognized as Teacher of the Year five times. The Florida Bandmasters Association honored him with the Oliver Hobbs Award, and he dedicated six years to their executive board. His jazz bands achieved national recognition, performing at the All-Night Soul and Jazz Festival in New York City and the New Orleans Heritage and Jazz Festival. A highlight of his career was leading his middle school band in Governor Jeb Bush's 1999 inaugural parade. Today, as a respected Florida Bandmasters Association Adjudicator and guest conductor, Doug enjoys life in Vass, NC, with Jill, his wife of 48 years.

Moore County Community Band Personnel

Flute/Piccolo
Carolyn Hatcher
Theodore Hartwig
Judith Kelley
Caroline McClure
Lisa Mitchell
Jennifer Smith
David Wall

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

Bass Clarinet
David Nelson

Alto Saxophone
Brandon Cowell
Phyllis Jenkins
Larry McCune
David Mudd
Alondra Quezada

Tenor Saxophone
Mason Children
Tom Holleman
Bryce Hunter

Trumpet
Lionel Bryson
Sam Cade
Andrew Cook
Ken Dodson
James Miller
Ron Shepard
Neal Yocom

Horn
Marjory Cecka
Kenan Dail
Daniel Prescott
Nora Walters

Trombone
Barry Buchele
Thomas Garlick
Sarah Keller
David Moss
Angel Soto-Enriquez
Doug Yopp

Euphonium
Janet Gustafson
Mike Patterson
Shelby Sykes

Tuba
Robert Fewkes
Franklin Cole

String Bass
Robert Dyer

Percussion
Shannon Cagle
Joseph Newman
Tricia Williamson
Mollie Wilson

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Moore County Community Band

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