UW-Eau Claire Bands

Centennial Celebration

April 25 - 30, 2023 | Haas Fine Arts Center
From Music and Theatre Department Chair, Dr. Gretchen Peters

The centennial year of UW-Eau Claire’s Band Program provides an appropriate occasion on which to recognize its long and important history, as well as its contributions. Reflecting on the history of the Band Program, what struck me most was the dedication of so many individuals, some of whom I have known and admired for over forty years. These individuals have shaped the nature of the University and community, and today my colleagues continue to build upon the programs and traditions that often date back nearly one hundred years. As I read over the names of all these individuals in the Band Program, back to Clara Mae Ward in 1922, I recognize a fundamental commitment to students’ well-being and growth. These talented and dedicated faculty have created impressive challenging opportunities for their students and take great pride in what their students have achieved. The impact and breadth of the visions of faculty have gone well beyond the immediate benefit to their students and have contributed to the well-being of the Department, University, and community, sometimes decades later.

Dr. Gretchen Peters
Chair, Music and Theatre Department

From Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Faculty and Students I want to thank you for coming to our concert. Today’s performance represents the long history of collaboration and innovation that have been the bedrock of our wind programs at UWEC. Our campus prides itself on its liberal arts education which is the foundation for creating great artists and educators. Here at UWEC we strive to help each student develop the tools to be critical and creative thinkers. The faculty and staff enable them to move beyond simply replicating a performance and empowers them to make knowledgeable and creative decisions.

Our Department of Music and Theatre Arts is made up of faculty recognized globally for their work as performers, composers, educators, scholars, actors, directors, and technical artists who are committed to excellence in teaching. This performance reflects the collaboration our students and faculty engage in daily. I hope you find it as inspiring as I do.

Dr. Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Greetings from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Bands! We are excited that you are joining us for our 100th Anniversary Celebration of the UWEC Bands. What began as a student organization of 22 student musicians in 1922, is presently comprised of three concert bands, four jazz bands, the Blugold Marching Band, and the Blugold Athletic Band, now serves the artistic, musical, and educational needs of nearly 700 UW-Eau Claire students each academic year. The performances this week showcase musicians from the UW-Eau Claire and UW-Eau Claire Barron County Campuses and over 200 Blugold Alumni from the past 53 years. For some alumni, this is their first performance on the Gantner Concert Hall stage. The music you will hear honors our past and looks toward the future.

On behalf of all the band faculty at UW-Eau Claire, thank you for your continued support of all parts of the University Band program. We hope to see you at one of the many Wind Symphony, Symphony Band, University Band, Jazz Ensemble, or Athletic Band performances in the future.

Dr. John R. Stewart
Director of Concert Bands
Wind and Percussion Division Coordinator
January 20, 1922, the Eau Claire Normal Band comprised of 22 musicians made its first public performance in assembly. During the formative years, the band was a student-run organization with guidance by faculty members, most notable Clara Mae Ward, who served as adviser until the hiring of Mr. Charles Harris in 1936. From 1922-1936 membership varied from 17-33 members and performed at a variety of sporting events and student meetings. During the 1933-1934 academic year, the band was broadcast monthly on the regional radio station WTAQ and received many positive reviews.

When Charles Harris was appointed as the first Band Master, the band was reorganized, new instruments were purchased, and the band began performing in local towns off campus. During the Harris years, the band continued to grow, perform more frequently, and continued local radio broadcasts, now on WEAU Radio (present-day WEASK). During the 1940-1941 academic year, the band program consisted of two bands, the Concert Band, and the Marching Band. The Marching Band of 50 members with two drum majors performed at football games and at homecoming. The first documented works performed by the Concert Band were at commencement in 1941: Democracy Grand March – Lake, and a transcription of the Coronation March from “The Prophet” by Giacomo Meyerbeer.

From 1945 to 1956, Robert A. Gantner served as Director of Bands and the band program continued the grow and thrive. During the Gantner years, the band frequently toured regionally as representatives of the University, a proud tradition that continues today. Following the rebranding of the Eau Claire Normal School as the Eau Claire State Teachers College, the band received new blue and gold uniforms with grey trousers. In 1954-1955 the band grew to 70 members, recorded a concert that was played nationally on NBC, and toured to Cleveland, Ohio to perform at the Music Educators National Convention on March 7, 1955. This first conference performance included Overture and Allegro by François Couperin, First Suite in Eb for Military Band by Gustav Holst, Legend by Paul Creston, The Sandpaper Ballet by Leroy Anderson, and March of the Steel Men by Charles Belden.

From 1957-1963, Dr. Leo Christy served as Director of Bands. During his tenure, new initiatives were implemented that continue to this day. The Festival of Contemporary Music featured guest composer-conductor William P. Latham, and the band performed several of his works. In 1960, a third band was added to the program, the Dance Band. The Dance Band (present-day Jazz Band) was under the direction of Larry McCaghy and consisted of 13 musicians. Tours continued under Dr. Christy and the band traveled to Minneapolis, St. Louis, and Winnipeg, Canada. Sunday afternoons. WEAU – TV broadcast Music Department programs at 5:45pm to feature faculty and student performances.

Dean Kool served as interim director during 1963-1964, prior to the hiring of Dr. Joseph Casey. As Director of Bands, Dr. Casey conducted the Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, and the Marching Band. New initiatives and growth occurred during the Casey years including, the addition of a second Concert Band 1965 (David Keuhn, conductor), the First Annual Wind Clinic in 1966 (High School Honor Band), and the beginning of the Eau Claire Jazz Festival in 1968. The Blugold Marching Band traveled to Minneapolis to perform a halftime show in Minneapolis at the Packers-Vikings Game in 1966, and the stage band attended a clinic in Madison.

Dr. Donald S. George was appointed as Director of Bands and clarinet teacher in 1968, a position he held until his retirement in 1995. Early in his tenure, the University opened the new Fine Arts Building and the band program continued to flourish. We saw the addition of a third concert band and the jazz area grew to include four jazz ensembles under the direction of Dominic Spiera and Ronald Keezer. Prof. Rodney Hudson joined the faculty in 1971 to teach low brass and conduct Concert Bands I and II. In the late 1970's oboe professor, Ivar Lunde, Jr. began conducting Concert Band II. Frequent guest artists on campus included William D. Revelli, Carlos Surnach, Frederick Fennell, Merle Evans, Karell Husa, Harry Begian, Vincent Persichetti, Norman Dello Joio, Henry Charles Smith, and Eugene Rousseau. And, in 1985 the Symphony Band performed at the...
American Bandmasters Association Conference in Milwaukee, WI and continued recording works for Manhattan Beach Music Publications, a partnership that began in 1980 and consists of over 40 recordings that are available on the publisher’s website.

During the 1980s and 1990s the Jazz Area gained national attention while traveling to Europe to perform at the Graz American Music Festival, the Montreux Jazz Festival, performing at the International Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and winning their first two Down Beat awards for “Best College Big Band” under the direction of Robert Baca. Over the years Jazz I has performed in China, added 7 more Down Beat Awards, received a Grammy Nomination, frequently performed at music conferences across the upper Midwest, and founded Eau Claire Jazz, Inc., to support the jazz area and run the annual Eau Claire Jazz Festival. The current jazz area consists of four jazz ensembles and numerous combos. Jazz faculty also include Dr. Jeffery Crowell and Dr. Aaron Hedenstrom.

From 1995-2000, the concert bands and Blugold Marching Band experienced a time of transition and restructuring. The concert bands were renamed (Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, and University Band), and the marching band consisted primarily of music education majors. In fall 2000, Richard Mark Heidel was hired as Director of Bands, and Dr. Randal Dickerson joined the Music Education faculty as Director of the Blugold Marching Band. Under the leadership of Dr. Heidel, the Wind Symphony was selected to perform at the College Band Directors National Association North Central Regional Conference in Omaha, NE, and the Music Educators National Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

In 2003, Professor Rodney Hudson retired as professor of trombone and conductor of the Symphony Band, and Dr. Phillip Ostrander was appointed as trombone professor and conductor of the Symphony Band in Fall 2003. Under the leadership of Dr. Ostrander, the Symphony Band continues to thrive and frequently interacts with guest composers.

Under the direction of Dr. Dickerson, the BMB began to flourish once again. During his 23 years as director of the BMB, the ensemble has grown to over 450 musicians representing almost every major on campus. In addition to this growth, the band frequently performs within the community, region, and internationally. Recent performances include Bands of America Regionals in St. Louis and Indianapolis, Youth In Music in Minneapolis, and international trips to Europe, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and South America.

From 2008-2013 the concert bands went through another time of change with interim director James Colonna, Director of Concert Bands Dr. Peter Haberman, and interim Brian Diller. Under Haberman’s leadership the Wind Symphony performed at the Wisconsin Music Educators Association Conference, and the tradition of guest conductors continued with Craig Kirchhoff, Robert Ponto, and Eric Rombach-Kendall.

In fall 2013, Dr. John R. Stewart joined the Department of Music and Theatre Arts as Director of Concert Bands and conductor of the Wind Symphony. During his tenure the Wind Symphony has performed at the International Tuba Euphonium Convention and performed twice at the Minnesota Music Educators Association Midwinter Clinic and the College Band Directors National Association North Central Regional Conferences. The Wind Symphony and Symphony Band have collaborated with guest artists and composers such as Rodney Dorsey, Cynthia Johnston Turner, Frank Battisti, Allan McMurray, Michael Colburn, Brian Bowman, Andreas Hofmeier, Timothy Northcut, Nick Weiser, Dana Wilson, Kevin Day, and Jodie Blackshaw.

In 2021, David Lofty joined the band staff as assistant director of athletic bands and serves as conductor of the 100+ member University Band. As the bands move into our second century on campus, we are committed to meeting the artistic and educational needs of all our students. The bands presently serve approximately 700 students across campus each year. We are committed to high quality performances of traditional repertoire while promoting and performing high quality repertoire by historically underrepresented composers.

Support for research into the history of the UWEC Bands was funded by the UW – Eau Claire Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates.
University Band

**Flute**
- Gwen Albers
- Hannah Heider
- Grace Kummerfeldt
- Emily LaForte
- Nicole Lange
- Bryanna Malone
- Mary Martin
- Grace McLean
- Leo Pierce
- Nicole Ravaneli
- Sydney Reinhard
- Jolene Schultz

**Oboe**
- Gabrielle Tousignant
- Katherine Troke

**Bassoon**
- Mitchell Ewan
- Kate Studt

**Clarinet**
- Gabby Betzler
- Nevaeh Brewer
- Megan Eilers
- Kendra Fehrmann
- Emma Jernberg
- James King
- Caitlin Lauria
- Morgan Messer
- Jena Obarski
- Chloe Palter
- Tanaya Pillai
- Annabelle Plotkowski
- Sarah Poisson
- Ella Renner
- Bailey Sellent
- Mary Thao

**Bass Clarinet**
- Isabelle Feltes
- Allyson Lahna

**Alto Saxophone**
- Taylor Combites
- Alaina Hartjes
- Kelli Kjornes

**Tenor Saxophone**
- Sara Kokal
- Cash Kujak
- Jude Mitchell
- Tyler Morari
- Matthew Olsen
- Daniel Rozga
- Kyler Simonet
- Jason Spencer-Lima
- Emily Sullivan
- Luke Tackett

**Trombone**
- Ann Manzi
- Alex Rubenacker
- Isabelle Valencia

**Tuba**
- Ethan Babcock

**Trumpet**
- Tyler Cesena
- Isabelle Clark
- James Fuhrman
- Annika Gorg
- Allie Harman
- Lilig Hazlett
- Haley Harem
- Aidan Joaquin
- Rachel Johnson
- Hayden Kinstler
- Evan Klamar
- Bridget Kowalczyk
- Holly Mastrandangelo
- Morgan Murphy
- Lucas Peterson
- Jack Pietrizzo
- Phoebe Pilson
- Izzy Pogorzelski
- McKaya Reuter
- McKenna Roessler
- Kazper Rude
- Connor Schmidt
- Tucker Seagraves
- Madeline Simpson
- Devon Valentine
- Riley Weidenfeller

**Euphonium**
- Jakolo Matson
- Ethan Olden
- Jermaine Running Bear
- Sofia Sibila
- Aleah Vetsch

**Tenor Saxophone**
- Anthony Bagley
- Theresa Bell
- Sam Benson
- Wyatt Cameron
- Colten Dols
- Gretchen Georgeson
- Ella Quinney
- Cameron Waldal

**Percussion**
- Dylan Lehman
- Andrew Mattson
- Lance Westenbroek
- Zechariah Wojtczak

**French Horn**
- Madelyn Larson
- Alexis Lundeen
- Krisy Marx
- Samantha Miller
- Mary Pautsch
- Mailie Oyarbide-Sanchez
- Sierra Solum

**Clarinet**
- Monika Audette
- Elise Bouchard
- Sara Grace
- Therese Konop
- Christina Lee
- Connie Mohawk
- Patty Smith

**Bass Clarinet**
- Ashley Barthen
- Maggie Konop

**Alto Saxophone**
- Abigail Solum

**Tenor Saxophone**
- Don Matyska

**Baritone Saxophone**
- Zach Bartsch

**Flute**
- Rebecca Barrett
- Barb Boehm
- Patti Burns
- Jade Green

**Marching Band half-time show, 1975**

Jazz Band on unfinished footbridge, 1972
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Don George and William Revelli, 1978

Symphony Band with Frederick Fennell, 1982
Alumni Band

Flute
Kathryn Andersen ’74
Sydney Antony ’18
Rebecca Barrett ’23
Susan Berg-Williams ’94
Diane Pryor Blackmon ’79
Danielle Boor ’96
Denise Brodbeck ’85
Kasey Brylinski ’18
Lori Cruciani ’89
Sarah Doroff ’17
Erin Gleason ’97
Sara Steig Gradwohl ’94
Katie Hartman ’14
Kira Kryzenske ’09
Chandra Lamb ’03
Lena Lambrightsen ’17
Lisa Mattern-Harper ’84
Diane J. Meyer ’81
Lori Olsen ’90
Roxie Owens ’74
Aimee Pashby ’96
Renee Radomaker ’88
Jennifer Rickinger ’00
Brandon Roehl ’18
Crystal Schmidt ’10
Sarah Shaw ’06
Julie Majkowski Thomas ’82
Tammy Van Blarcom ’95
Liz Wilson ’07
Nancy Wucherpfennig ’76

Oboe
Susan Arias ’90
Kimberly Budde ’95
Rebecca Burmesch ’04
Jonathan Conjeske ’15
Megan Finslad ’17
Lauren Ische ’23
Jill Jaecckel ’04
Jenni Nueske ’16
Tammy Riste Wahlin ’96

Bassoon
Julie (Kosik) Cooper ’94
Stacy (Kern) Dziuk ’04
Gay Gilbertson ’81
Collin Jeidy ’17
Noah Larson ’22
Kelli Lester ’05
Kris Follstad Pichelman ’85

Clarinet
John Andersen ’73 (BME)
’78 (MM)
John Asmus ’15
Bill Boltech ’77
Emily Chiesa ’21
Holly (June) Guenther ’93
Karen Eiland Hale ’92
Jessica Hangartner ’04
Katie Hanson ’21
Bethany Heutmaker ’98
Barb Hovey ’79
Trevor Kent ’18
Tracey (Geimer) Klickman ’81
Charles Kuban ’23
Fred Larson ’89
Patty Billingsley Lehman ’72
Alexander Mason ’19
Cassi Ott ’17
Cathy Seipel ’81
Sharon Seymour ’77
Kaia Simon ’02
Madym Stickler ’22
Erika Svaneoe ’99

Bass Clarinet
Zach Bartsch ’18
Jack Ford ’22
Ken Kiesow ’97
Claire Parda ’08

Alto Saxophone
Adam Bassak ’03
Max Ellison ’23
Scott Hensik ’13

Robert Hooper ’87
Carly Hustedt ’12
Larry Jess ’70
Stacy Julson ’95
Jeff Lawrence ’74
Sarah Minette ’03
Nick Miskimen ’23
Jena Moertel ’13
Mary Jo Running ’96
Ally Thieme ’15
Tyler Schuster ’18

Tenor Saxophone
Margaret Brilch ’74
Kyle Manley ’12
Don Pashby ’94

Bari Saxophone
Jake Arnold ’20
Merlyn Aude ’73
Mary Larson ’88

Trumpet
Larry Chamberlain ’74
RG Conlee ’78
Andrew Dziuk ’04
Laurie Francis ’83
Kenneth Hagen ’80
Paula Hanson ’02
Sean Hanson ’03
Kelli Heckman ’97
Megan Hutera ’21
Deone Johnson ’74
Heather Jordan ’21
Dan Julson ’94
Mike Knutson ’98
Michael Larson ’88
Devon Lawrence ’18
Howard Lehman ’71 (BME)
’74 (MM)
Dennis Lugibill ’92
Matt Mealey ’99
Russel Mikkelson ’83
Nathan Pinter ’19
Connie (Harding) Root ’76

Homecoming block party, 1988

Jazz Festival, 1989
Bill Simon '76
Christopher Tank '88
Richard Tiller '70
Ana Traicoff-Stratioti '95
Diane Vig '86

French Horn
Sean Conway '14
Lois Finstad '77
Ginny Gunderson '71
Chris Hahn '00
Elizabeth Hairlen '21
Emily Heidelberger '19
Leslie Hoffman '20
Bryan Jaeckel '04
Bryan Kujawa '13
Susan Gilbranson Lappin '75
Ben Mackie '19
Kurt Majkowski '80
Lois Mease '75
Kristina Mienke '21
Rev. Peter Schiefelbein '73
Sue (Page) Walker '92 BM '95 BME
Matthew Winarski '12
Sana (Grajkowski) Wressell '03

Trombone
Pat Bents '05
Doug Berg-Williams '94
Adam Bevier '97
Bryant Callaghan '20
Laura (Lerch) Casper '93
Travis Christopherson '88
Chris Fulton '94
Don Glass '80 and '86
Peter Guenther '92
Alex Karye '19
Nick King '09
Josh Metcalf '78
James Miles '74
Clay Overtien '72
Alex Plum '18
Eric Songer '97
Mike Thordarson '97
Maggie Zeidel '17

Bass Trombone
Jef Dahlseng '02
Carl Meincke '75
Eric Olson '93
Jeff Rosendahl '91
Jeremiah Tank '21

Euphonium
Jonathan Brosch '20
Tim Caturela '16
Joan Drexler-Ruff '88
David Hunt '80
Paul Kile '93
Robert Panta '79
Jim Root '78
Tobin Shucha '95
Rick Slembarzki '11

Tuba
Morten Boe '93
Paul Budde '93
Hugh Gaston '97
Chris Gleason '97
Nick Hansberry '15
Matt Lamb '93
Nicholas Liebl '16
Mark Perry '70
Josh Probst '22
Tim Skutley '99
Becky Slembarzki '09
Claire (Henningsgaard) Stordahl '15

Percussion
Michael Allen '81
Eric Becker '03
Aaron Bray '00
Tammy Carley '95
Jack Donovan '15
Jake Esteberg '18
Eric Garfield '05
Sarah (Leppert) Gerski '19
John Hale '89
Mark Hanson '96
David Kocik '17
Katie Miller '22

John Rickinger '02
Elliott Rittenberry '15
Julie Roper-Rosendahl '91
Elias Webb '15
Ali Wilmers '16
Mary Wirks '90 (BA) '91 (MS)
Brittany Zold '06

Harp
Daniel Funk '82

Piano
Nick Drayton '13
Patrice Pakiz '76

Symphony Band, 1992
Faculty Dixieland Band, 1990s
Tuesday, April 25

University Band

A Prelude to the Shining Day - Yo Goto  
David Lofy, conductor

Symphonic Dance No. 3 - Clifton Williams

Sleep - Eric Whitacre  
David Lofy, conductor

Chorale and Shaker Dance - John Zdechlik

The Hounds of Spring - Alfred Reed

Friday, April 28

Barron County Communiument Band

Procession of the Nobles - Rimsky-Korsakov  
arr. Eric Leidzen

Australian Up-Country Tune - Percy Grainger  
arr. Glenn Bainum

Overture to “Candide” - Leonard Bernstein  
arr. Clare Grundman

Excerpts from Appalachian Spring  
Aaron Copland, arr. Robert Longfield

Peanut Vendor - Moisés Simons  
arr. John Moss

Symphony Band

First Suite Fanfare – Erika Svanoe

Luminescence – David Biedenbender

Play! – Carl Holmquist  
Jason Spencer-Lima, student conductor  
Conducting Competition Winner

Up and Down – Molly Joyce

Concerto for Trombone Quartet and  
Wind Ensemble – Eric Richards

I. Molto Ritmico
II. Molto expressivo
III. Molto fuoco e l’anima

Cade Passe, Kathryn Mohrhauser, Jacob Miller,  
and Matt Sandler, trombones  
Concerto Competition Winners

Hands Across the Sea – John Philip Sousa  
with UWEC-BC Communiument Band

Jazz Band, 1997

Wind Ensemble, 1998
Saturday, April 29

Wind Symphony
John R. Stewart, conductor

Springtime – Chris Renaud
   World Premiere

Pageant – Vincent Persichetti
   Wyatt Cameron, student conductor
   Conducting Competition Winner

Premiere Rhapsodie – Claude Debussy
   arr. Marcel Baars
   Rafael Puga, clarinet soloist
   Concerto Competition Winner

Second Suite in F for Military Band, Op. 28, No. 2
Gustav Holst
   I. March
   II. Song Without Words
   III. Song of the Blacksmith
   IV. Fantasia on the ‘Dargason’

Intermission

Fanfare for Spring – Gwynyth Lark
   World Premiere

Spin Cycle – Scott Lindroth

Echoes of a Northern Lake – Cait Nishimura
   Consortium Premiere

Symphony in Blue and Gold – Erika Svane
   World Premiere

Symphony Band with Rodney Hudson, 2000
Steven Mead rehearsal, 2001
**Alumni Band**

*2000-2023*

Shimmering Sunshine – Kevin Day

Color – Bob Margolis  
Phillip Ostrander, conductor

Irish Tune from County Derry  
Percy Aldridge Grainger

Molly on the Shore - Percy Aldridge Grainger  
Richard Mark Heidel, conductor

Tutued Toucan Can-can – Erika Svanoe  
Erika Svanoe, conductor

Peace Dancer – Jodie Blackshaw  
John R. Stewart, conductor

Transcontinental March – Harry R. Hughes  
John R. Stewart, conductor

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**Alumni Band**

*1970-1999*

Nobles of the Mystic Shrine – John Philip Sousa  
John R. Stewart, conductor

First Suite in Eb for Military Band – Gustav Holst  
I. Chaconne  
II. Intermezzo  
III. March  
Rodney B. Hudson, conductor

Elegy – John Barnes Chance  
Robert Ponto, conductor

Armenian Dances, part 1 – Alfred Reed  
Russel Mikkelson, conductor

Riften Wed – Julie Giroux  
John R. Stewart, conductor

Them Basses - Getty Huffine  
John R. Stewart, conductor

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**Combined Alumni Band**

Dedication Fanfare on the University Hymn  
James Curnow (b. 1943)

Valdres: Norwegian March  
Johannes Hanssen (1874-1967)  
John R. Stewart, conductor
Dr. Randal Dickerson, conductor

Dr. Randal C. Dickerson is Professor of Music at UW-Eau Claire, where he taught courses in instrumental music education, marching band procedures, supervised student teachers, and directs the University Band, Blugold Marching Band, and Blugold Varsity Band. In his 23 years at UW-Eau Claire, the Blugold Marching Band has transformed from a 60-member ensemble into a highly active marching band that travels and performs around the world and includes over 450 student musicians.

Dr. Dickerson will be taking a partial retirement at the end of the current semester, living abroad for part of the year, then returning each fall semester to devote his time entirely to Blugold Marching Band.

Prof. Mike Joosten, conductor

Mike Joosten has been the director of the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire/Barron County Communiversity Band since 2001. Mike is retired as the instrumental music director at the Cameron School District, a position he held for 32 years. He has a degree in music education from the University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse, and a Masters degree from the American Band College.

Prof. David Lofy, conductor

David Lofy is Lecturer of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he assists in teaching and administration of the Blugold Marching Band, Varsity Band, and Blugold Athletic Band (Basketball Band), conducts University Band, and oversees departmental instruments and equipment.

David performed with the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, and now serves as Corps Director. He holds the Master of Music Education degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he served as a teaching assistant to the Marching Illini and Illinois Athletic Bands. He obtained his Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he studied euphonium with Dr. Jerry Young.

Dr. Phillip Ostrander, conductor

Phil Ostrander is Professor of Trombone and Bands at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he conducts the Symphony Band, teaches private trombone, and trombone ensemble. Dr. Ostrander completed his doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Ostrander received master’s degrees in both trombone and wind conducting from the New England Conservatory, as well as a bachelor’s and Performer’s Certificate from Eastman.

Dr. Ostrander champions diversity in repertoire with the UWEC Symphony Band. The band performs music composed by under-represented composers in every concert, and since 2017, the ensemble’s first concert of the year celebrates music written by female composers. The ensemble tours to a middle or high school with a diverse student population every year to perform and collaborate.
Dr. John R. Stewart, conductor

Dr. John R. Stewart is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Concert Bands at the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire where he conducts the Wind Symphony, teaches courses in conducting and repertoire, coordinates the concert band program, and serves as the Wind and Percussion Division Coordinator. Under his leadership, the Wind Symphony performed at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference, the CBDNA/NBA North Central Division Regional Conference, the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic, and his ensembles have performed across Europe and Southeast Asia. Dr. Stewart maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician across the United States. An advocate for new music, Dr. Stewart has received praise from contemporary composers Jodie Blackshaw, Kevin Day, Stacy Garrop, and Dana Wilson for the musical realization of their works.

Dr. Erika Svanoë, guest composer and conductor

Dr. Erika Svanoë (b.1976) is a conductor, composer, and educator, currently serving as the Conductor of the Augsburg Concert Band at Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she also teaches undergraduate conducting, music theory, and instructs the clarinet studio. Prior to joining the Augsburg faculty, she was Director of Bands at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, MN, and Director of Athletic Bands at the University of New Hampshire. She is active as a guest conductor and clinician, appearing with high school, university, and festival ensembles across the United States. She earned a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from The Ohio State University under Russel C. Mikkelson. She also holds a Master of Music in Wind Conducting from Oklahoma State University and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire. ensemble’s first concert of the year celebrates music written by female composers. The ensemble tours to a middle or high school with a diverse student population every year to perform and collaborate.
Jason Spencer-Lima, student conductor conducting competition winner

Jason Spencer-Lima is a fourth-year Music Education Major from Mounds View, Minnesota. While at UW-Eau Claire, he has studied in the Tuba/Euphonium studio, studying Euphonium with Dr. Jacob Grewe. He has performed with the Wind Symphony, Symphony Band, Jazz Ensembles, Blugold Marching Band, and the Chippewa Valley Symphony Orchestra. He also is active with chamber groups on campus, such as the Trombone Choir, BASSically Brass, and a Euphonium Trio.

Outside of school, Jason also enjoys writing and recording music, and exploring the many sights and experiences around the Eau Claire area with friends. Upon graduating, Jason plans to teach concert and marching band at the high school level and hopes to complete a master's degree in conducting or composition.

Humerus Bones Trombone Quartet
Cade Passe, Jacob Miller, Kathryn Mohrhauser, Matt Sandler, trombone soloists
concerto competition winners

The Humerus Bones Trombone Quartet is Cade Passe, Kathryn Mohrhauser, Jacob Miller, and Matt Sandler. They have been playing together since February 2023, but have known each other for several years through their collective time spent at the Shell Lake Trombone Camp and through their wonderful trombone colleagues and teachers.

Cade is a 4th year Liberal Arts Major with a Math Minor from Lonsdale, MN; Kathryn is a 4th year (Instrumental) Music Education Major with an Adaptive Music Certificate from Hammond, WI; Jacob is a 1st year (Instrumental) Music Education Major from Savage, MN; and Matt is 4th year Music Performance Major with a Recording Arts Certificate from Prior Lake, MN.

Wyatt Cameron, student conductor conducting competition winner

Wyatt Cameron is a fourth-year student from Roseau, Minnesota completing a degree in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. While studying percussion under Dr. Jeff Crowell, he has been involved with many ensembles at UWEC including Wind Symphony, Symphony Band, Jazz Ensemble, and the Blugold Marching Band. Wyatt has served as president of the UWEC National Band Association Collegiate Chapter and is a member of the National Association for Music Education. He currently works with high school marching bands and their front ensembles throughout the state of Wisconsin. After his graduation, Wyatt hopes to continue teaching music in the Midwest.
**Rafael Puga, clarinet soloist**

Rafael Puga is a senior Clarinet Performance major at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire studying with Dr. Alyssa Powell. Other notable instructors include Sangyoon Kim, Dr. Jennifer Fraley, and Dr. Melissa Koprowski. During his time at UW-Eau Claire Rafael has performed with the university wind symphony, orchestra, and many chamber groups including the Eileen Philips String Quartet. Rafael won the 2021 UW-Eau Claire orchestra concerto competition where he performed Malcolm Arnold’s Second Clarinet Concerto. As an orchestral musician Rafael is a frequently performs with the Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra and the Chippewa Valley Symphony. He has participated in the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival as part of the Stony Creek Woodwind Quintet (2019), and in the pilot summer of their Lead Cooperative program where he played alongside the festival orchestra. Rafael has participated in masterclasses led by Anthony McGill, Alexander Fiterstein, Dominic Desautels, and Elizabeth Adkins. Outside of performing, Rafael serves as the International Clarinet Association-Wisconsin Student Ambassador.

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**Gwenyth Lark, student composer**

Gwenyth Lark is a fourth-year composition student at UW - Eau Claire studying under Dr. Chia-Yu Hsu. They usually write in the neo-classical style with use of extended harmony in their compositions. They also try to stay involved in the community, playing violin for Chippewa Valley Symphony Orchestra, Eau Claire Chamber Orchestra, and the University Symphony Orchestra at UWEC. This piece, ‘Fantare for Spring,’ is in celebration of 100 years of University Bands. Enjoy!

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**Chris Renaud, student composer**

Chris Renaud is a fourth-year music composition student pursuing a recording arts certificate. He hails from the small town of Tomah, Wisconsin, and first found passion for music through church. Singing and drumming have been natural constants in his life, coming from a wide range of interest in music within his family. He is the first in his family to pursue a professional music career, and is a minimalist at heart, which is evident in his works - whether it be instrumental or choral. Renaud is an AMCoF (Associated Male Choruses of America) and Ross Hastings Memorial scholar and is active in leadership of Consortium; a composition club he co-founded with Yaki Hallett and J.M. Lee in 2020. He became a research fellow for the music department alongside Gwenyth Lark in 2022 and is now pursuing other interests within the realm of music, like producing/mixing/mastering, in addition to learning other instruments. Chris hopes to work in a studio while composing and arranging. He is a proud member of The Singing Statesmen, Blugold Marching Band, Blugold Indoor Drumline, and is an orchestral arranger for Cabaret.

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**Jazz I with Doc Severinsen, 2017**

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**Wind Symphony at Pablo, 2019**
Dr. Russel Mikkelsen, conductor

Dr. Russel C. Mikkelsen serves as the sixth Director of University Bands at The Ohio State University, a position he has held since 1998, where he is Professor of Music (Conducting), Area Head of Conducting and Ensembles, conducts the Wind Symphony, and oversees all aspects of the university’s band program. Under his direction, the OSU Wind Symphony has performed twice at College Band Directors National Association Convention, the CBDNA North Central Conference, at the Ohio Music Educators Association Convention seven times, and has recorded six CD’s. In a review of the Southern Harmony recording, Fanfare magazine proclaims “The Ohio State musicians play their collective hearts out and conductor Mikkelsen shapes the music with a loving hand, wringing every last drop of emotion out of the music. If this does not give you goose-bumps, nothing will.”

He is recipient of the Ohio State University School of Music Distinguished Teaching Award and the Distinguished Scholar Award. Mikkelsen was recently recognized by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with the President’s Award, given in recognition of his professional and personal achievements as a graduate of that institution.

Dr. Robert Ponto, conductor

Bob retired in 2021 from the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance where he served as Director of Bands and Assistant Dean for 29 years. Before coming to Oregon, he held similar teaching positions at the Oberlin Conservatory, East Carolina University, Pacific Lutheran University and the public schools of West St. Paul, Minnesota. He is also a resident conductor and teacher with the American Band College and Western International Band Clinic.

He has been blessed with many wonderful (and incredibly patient) mentors. His conducting teachers were Donald S. George, Henry Charles Smith, and H. Robert Reynolds; his euphonium teachers were Rodney Hudson, Henry Charles Smith, and Abe Torchinsky.

Most importantly, Bob gets to spend his time with his amazing spouse of 42 years, Lee Anne, three wonderful adult children, and one grandson. In an effort to stay out of trouble in retirement, he also plays euphonium in the Eugene Symphonic Band and Oregon Brass Society.
Dr. Richard Mark Heidel, conductor

Richard Mark Heidel is in his 15th year as Director of Bands and Professor of Music in the School of Music at the University of Iowa where he conducts the Iowa Symphony Band, teaches graduate courses in conducting and band literature, guides the graduate band conducting program, and oversees all aspects of the University of Iowa band program. Ensembles under Dr. Heidel’s direction have performed at national, regional, and state conferences including those of the American Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, Music Educators National Conference, Iowa Bandmasters Association, Wisconsin Music Educators Association, Illinois Music Educators Association, and National Band Association-Wisconsin Chapter. He has led four concert tours to the Republic of Ireland and United Kingdom as well as tours throughout the Midwest and east coast.

Prior to his appointment to the University of Iowa faculty in 2008, Dr. Heidel served as Director of Bands at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (2000-2008), Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (1997-2000), and as a teaching assistant in the School of Music at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1995-1997). In addition to his university teaching experiences, Heidel taught in Texas for nine years serving as Director of Bands at Muleshoe High School, Levelland High School, and Monterey High School in Lubbock.

Mark and Kelly, his wife of more than 30 years, live in Iowa City.

Prof. Rodney B. Hudson, conductor

Rodney Hudson, Professor of Music – emeritus at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, retired in 2003 after 32 years of service. He conducted the Symphony Band, Concert Band, Brass Choir, Trombone Choir, Tuba Ensemble and assisted with the Blugold Marching Band and taught Brass Techniques, Conducting, and Applied Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba.

Mr. Hudson founded the Trombone Choir (1972) and the Tuba Ensemble (1975).

Mr. Hudson has performed with numerous local, regional, national, and international ensembles. He taught for 35 years at the International Music Camp and performed there with the International Brass Quintet.

Mr. Hudson received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Minot State University in North Dakota and taught vocal and instrumental music in public schools in North Dakota. He developed a band program in the Brandon Manitoba public school system and was the Instructor of Brass at Branson University.

Mr. Hudson holds a Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in Performance from the University of Iowa where he studied with John D. Hill. He is an avid bicyclist and is married to Beverly Hovland Hudson and they have three children.
Rodney Hudson Band Scholarship

Conductor
$1000 +
Douglas Berg-Williams
Larry Chamberlain
RG Conlee
Aaron Doty
Cindy Ford
Elizabeth (Bestie) Graham
Elizabeth Hicks
Barb Hovey
Rodney and Beverly Hudson
Howard and Patty Lehman
Larry Lelli
Russel Mikkelson
Andrew Neesley
Bill Simon

Soloist
$500-$999
Thomas Bruckner
Delphine and Joe Casey
Charita Fidelity
Chris and Erin Gleason
Clay Overlien
William and Renee Rademaker
James Reitz

Ensemble Member
$250-$499
Michael Allen
Kathlynn Andersen
Kathryn Bressler-Mansell
Tim and Lori Cruciani
BAE Systems
Hugh Gaston
Laura Kelley
Rich Morgan
Phil and Allison Ostrander
David Pietenpol
Jeff and Julie Ropers-Rosendahl
Bill and Barbara Stewart
John and Crisinda Stewart

Music Enthusiast
$100-$249
Eric Becker
Matt Evans
Nancy Haefler
Darrin Kinstler
Jeannie and Michael Kolis
Kurt Majkowski
Dennis McGraw
Matt and Jodi Mealey
David Milhalyi
Mary Peterson
Eric Ristau
James and Constance Root
Carol Smith
Erika Svaneke
Barbara and Jerry Young
Joseph Zesbaugh

Music Fan
$1-$99
Monica Allen
Joshua Becker
Dawn Dinegan
Julia Diggins
Andrew Dzik
Lisa Evenson
Christi Forsythe
Paul Gilbertson
Thom Kieffer
Joann Klink
Gregory Lang
Nicole Lindberg
Benjamin Mackie
Gary Smith
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*Contributions and pledges as of April 5, 2023

THANK YOU to donors for your support of the Rodney Hudson Band Scholarship Endowment! Your generous gift has enabled us to endow our first scholarship dedicated to the recruitment and retention of student musicians to UW-Eau Claire.