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FALL CONCERT

***There's a First Time For
Everything!***

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026 | 3:00 PM
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DR. ROBERT "GABE" SOUTHARD
MUSIC DIRECTOR



MetWinds Change of Address Notice

We have moved. To be sure your correspondence and contributions reach us, please use our new address:

MetWinds
P.O. Box 560144
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We truly appreciate your support and look forward to staying connected via our new address.

MetWinds Program



Pre-Concert Lecture at 2:30 pm by Gabe Southard

Concert Program

Awayday Adam Gorb

First Suite in E-flat for Military Band Gustav Holst/ed. Colin Matthews

Chaconne

Intermezzo

March

Strange Humors John Mackey

INTERMISSION

Piece of Mind Dana Wilson

Thinking

Remembering

Feeling

Being

Benediction John Stevens

Postcard Frank Ticheli

This and other concerts by MetWinds are funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Contact us

Email: info@metwinds.org

Address: P. O. Box 560144, West Medford, MA 02156

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About the **Music Director**



Gabe Southard was selected from six finalists who conducted MetWinds concerts from the summer 2025 season through the Spring concert, May 3, 2026. Of his appointment, Gabe said he is "looking forward to starting work with the MetWinds, continuing the group's reputation for excellence, and bringing some new and exciting program ideas!"

A little bit about Gabe:

Dr. Robert "Gabe" Southard joined Gordon College in the Fall 2022 as Associate Teaching Professor of Music and conductor of the Gordon Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Band.

Immediately prior to joining Gordon's music faculty, Dr. Southard was serving as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Hope College, MI. At Hope College, he was also the Head of the Winds and Brass area and Head of the Instrumental Music Education Area. Dr. Southard completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Conducting at Michigan State University where he studied with Professor John Whitwell. Prior to this, Dr. Southard served as Wind Symphony conductor and Flute instructor at the University of Michigan-Flint. He also holds master and bachelor of music degrees from University of Wisconsin Madison and Ithaca College.

Dr. Southard is an active orchestrator. His largest project to date is an arrangement for wind ensemble of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Symphony No. 2 "Antar,"* which is currently published through OHM Music. He has also started a line of flexible chamber arrangements aimed to help smaller schools perform great works even if they do not have the proper instrumentation. The first piece of this line, Mozart's *Serenade in C Minor*, is now available through J.W. Pepper.

As a flute player, Dr. Southard maintains an active performing schedule as a soloist and orchestral musician. He served as principal flute of the Holland Symphony Orchestra, MI for several years and has performed with the Madison Symphony Orchestra, the Lucca Opera Orchestra, Italy, as well as a number of community orchestras. Dr. Southard was a semi-finalist in the National Flute Association's Piccolo Artist Competition and winner of the 2016 Convention Performers Competition where he performed two new works at the convention in San Diego. In 2020, Dr. Southard was named a Pearl Flute Artist, one of less than 70 flutists worldwide. In 2022, he released his first flute CD – *Gold Mosaic: Music for Flute* by Dana Wilson. It is currently available on all streaming sites.



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About the **Assistant Conductor**



Mark Olson, Director of Harvard Band and Wind Ensemble, conducts the Harvard Wind Ensemble, serves as an advisor to the Harvard University Band and administrates all aspects of the band program at Harvard. Under his direction, the Harvard Wind Ensemble has commissioned and premiered works by Libby Larsen, Tania León, and David Amram.

Mark also is the Director of the Middlesex Concert Band and the New England Brass Band. Olson received degrees from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and the University of Minnesota.

An active trumpet performer and soloist, he plays trumpet in the MetWinds, The Tarnished Brass and has been a member of the New Sousa Band as well as the symphony orchestras in Austin and Rochester Minnesota.

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its 56th season
and new director
Gabe Southard!*

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~ Jonathan Swift

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Audience Survey Form

Your participation in our audience survey is a crucial tool that helps us plan for future concerts. We now have two methods for filling out the survey. You can take a moment now and fill out the written survey provided in your program. Please place the completed form into the survey box or give it to an usher.



An alternative is to fill out our new online survey at www.metwinds.org/survey. Thank You!



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Advisory Board

Our advisory board helps to guide the group's direction/outlook and provides feedback during key decisions. We are very excited to announce our new Advisory Board members

- Frank Battisti -- Faculty Emeritus at New England Conservatory (ret)
- Rubén Darío Gómez -- Composer and Conductor; Director of Bands at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
- Tom Duffy -- Composer and Conductor; Director of Bands at Yale University
- Tom Everett -- Director Emeritus of Bands at Harvard University and Jazz Advisor to the Office for the Arts (ret)
- Michael Gandolfi -- Composer, Head of Composition at NEC & Tanglewood
- Fred Harris, Jr. -- Director of Wind and Jazz Ensembles at MIT
- Deb Huber -- Director, Instrumental Music Outreach & Associate Director University Bands at UMASS Lowell
- Jeff Leonard -- Associate Professor at Berklee College of Music
- James O'Dell -- Concord Band Music Director; Former MetWinds Assistant Conductor and Acting Artistic Director
- Matthew Westgate -- Music Department Chair and Director of Wind Studies at UMASS, Amherst

For more information on our advisors, please see MetWinds.org and click through About, People, Advisory Board.

Children, Cell Phones and other **Electronic Devices**

To parents of small children: We love children too, and we appreciate your efforts to expose them to classical music at an early age. We also understand that it is difficult for a small child to sit quietly for a long concert. Please feel comfortable in escorting your children outside the concert hall whenever they need a recess. Your children and the rest of our audience will greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Please be sure to silence all mobile phones and other electronic devices.



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Murray Burnstine Music **Student Scholarship**



Murray Burnstine was a member of MetWinds for 43 years (1980–2023). He loved making connections with fellow musicians and was always interested in their work and passions. When he learned that one MetWinds member was a music therapist, for example, he brought her research his team had submitted in connection with a patent for a folding cane he had invented.

Murray devoted his professional life to using his talents to improve the lives of others. Among his many inventions were a beeping basketball for blind players and a typewriter capable of producing both Braille and English letters. He worked with the Perkins School for the Blind to help students navigate crowded environments and recommended the shoulder portion of the automobile seatbelt, which soon became standard.

While Murray's workdays were devoted to innovation and helping others, his evenings and weekends were filled with music. At various times, he belonged to MetWinds and at least eight other community music groups. He also led a saxophone quartet called The Eight Thumbs! Music resonated deeply with Murray, and he could often be found volunteering at instrument petting zoos, helping young children discover the joy of making music.

Murray's last public performance was on Veterans Day 2022 with the Riverside Band in Peabody. Even after he was no longer able to play, he continued to ask about his musical friends and their activities.

Murray's final wishes included substantial bequests to two local music organizations, including MetWinds. We are deeply grateful for his thoughtfulness and generosity. In his honor, MetWinds has revamped and renamed its scholarship program as the **Murray Burnstine Music Student Scholarship**.

The scholarship recognizes talented students and encourages them to pursue a career in music—continuing Murray's lifelong commitment to the power of music to enrich lives.

Who Is eligible?

The **Murray Burnstine Music Student Scholarship** is open to graduating high school seniors who:

- Plan to pursue music as a major in college
- Have been accepted to and will enroll in college as a music major
- Are beginning their college studies in September 2027
- Any area of music concentration is eligible, with special consideration given to students pursuing music education.

For application information, please visit our website: metwinds.org

Conduct **MetWinds**



Would you like to conduct MetWinds this summer?

Sponsor an outdoor concert* at Lexington's Hastings Park and you'll take the podium! Sponsorship is \$250 and comes with a free conducting lesson. For more information please speak to an usher, email MetWinds or give us a call.

* Concerts available are July 15, July 22, and July 29 in Lexington

MetWinds **Acknowledgements**



MetWinds extends its special thanks to:

Tom Sousa, Recording Engineer
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Gail Kurker and Rick Ahto
Music Revitalization Project (MRP), Inc.
Gordon College
Gina Cuccovia-Simoneau,
Graphic Designer

Volunteer **Opportunities**



Have you ever considered volunteering?

Do you have a skill that could assist MetWinds?

We are looking for people to help with various tasks.

- Usher at our Scottish Rite Museum concerts
- Usher at this year's Boston Festival of Bands - June 12, 2027, Faneuil Hall, Boston
- Call potential program advertisers
- Write articles about upcoming MetWinds concerts to submit to local newspapers
- Post MetWinds concert fliers in your neighborhood or at work
- Brainstorm marketing ideas
- Research grant opportunities
- Join the MetWinds Board of Directors and help us plan for the future

For more information, please speak to an usher, send an email to info@metwinds.org or call the MetWinds Concertline at 978-419-1697.

More ways to enjoy MetWinds

Holiday Pops: Ring in the Holidays

Mark Olson, guest conductor

Saturday, December 5, 2026, 7:00 pm (cocktails at 6:00 pm)
Church of St. John of Damascus, 300 West St., Dedham, MA

Celebrate the season with MetWinds! Our popular Holiday Pops concert returns for an evening filled with festive music, holiday spirit, and plenty of opportunities to celebrate with friends and family. Guest conductor Mark Olson leads the MetWinds in a joyful program of holiday favorites and seasonal surprises sure to put you in the holiday mood.

Make the evening a special holiday outing, beginning with a festive cocktail hour at St. John's before the concert. Afterward, linger for delicious desserts and coffee while enjoying the warmth and beauty of this lovely venue. It's the perfect way to kick off the holiday season!

Whether this is a cherished annual tradition or your first Holiday Pops with MetWinds, join us for an evening of music, celebration, and good cheer.

Tickets: \$20 for adults; free for children under 15
Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.stjohn.org/pops.
If available, tickets will also be sold at the door on the evening of the concert.

Proceeds from the concert benefit our rehearsal home, the Church of St. John of Damascus.

Winter Concert: Vive la France!

Sunday, March 7, 2027, 3:00 pm
2:30 pre-concert talk

Travel with the MetWinds as we celebrate the rich musical inspirations of France! The concert begins with Florent Schmitt's *Dionysiaques*, the only known example of French Impressionism written specifically for band, and ends with a whirlwind tour of Paris in Martin Ellerby's *Paris Sketches*. Along the way, we'll visit Debussy's haunting *The Engulfed Cathedral* and hear a moving tribute to the Normandy American Cemetery from World War II. No need to break out the French dictionary for this one!

- Dionysiaques* Florent Schmitt/ed. Hauswirth
- Symphonic Prelude* Mark Camphouse
(*The Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer*)
- Suite Française*..... Guy Woolfenden
- Suite Provençale* Jan van der Roost
- The Engulfed Cathedral*..... Claude Debussy/arr. Longfield
- Paris Sketches* Martin Ellerby

Spring Concert: *Instant Band Classics!*

Sunday, May 2, 2027, 3:00 pm
2:30 pre-concert talk

We started the concert season with “firsts” and end with another first—a world premiere by John Mackey! Join us for an exciting afternoon as we perform this new work, which is sure to become an instant classic. We'll also explore some pieces that have already earned a place in the band canon, including Arnold Schoenberg's *Theme and Variations, Op. 43a*, his first and only original work for band. MetWinds will be joined by talented middle- and high-school students for the second half of the program.

- Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral* Richard Wagner/arr. Caillet
- Theme and Variations, Op. 43a.....* Arnold Schoenberg
- NEW COMMISSION** John Mackey
- Old Churches.....* Michael Colgrass
- Dance Episodes* James Curnow
- Dusk.....* Steven Bryant
- Galop.....* Dmitri Shostakovich/arr. Hunsberger

Boston Festival of Bands—35th Anniversary!

Saturday, June 12, 2027, 11:00 am- 6:00 pm
(MetWinds performs at 1:00 pm)
Historic Faneuil Hall, Boston - Free Admission

Spend June's second Saturday in Boston shopping, eating, enjoying the city, and listening to some of New England's finest wind ensembles! MetWinds hosts its 35th annual Boston Festival of Bands. Enjoy the many talented bands performing throughout the day in the heart of Faneuil Hall near Boston Harbor.

Visit www.metwinds.org after May 1, 2027 for more details on the participating bands.

Concerts in the Park *

Thursday, July 15, 22, 29, 2027 at 7:30pm
Hastings Park, Lexington, MA
(corner of Mass Ave. and Worthen Rd.)

*outdoor concerts are weather-dependent
Please double-check our website or the MetWinds Concertline: 978-419-1697

MetWinds Videos

Videos of works from recent MetWinds concerts, produced by MetWinds and on the MetWinds YouTube channel.



About MetWinds



The Metropolitan Wind Symphony was founded by Jerry Gardner in 1971 and was awarded the prestigious 2015 Sudler Silver Scroll Award for Community Concert Bands by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. Currently celebrating its 56th season, MetWinds comprise over 60 talented woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists who audition for membership and seating. The organization makes a significant contribution to the cultural life of the Greater Boston community by providing its audiences with high quality concerts and its members with opportunities for musical growth.

MetWinds presents formal performances of traditional and contemporary wind band literature, as well as more informal pops concerts throughout the metropolitan Boston area. Members rehearse Wednesdays from September through July, traveling from more than 30 communities in Massachusetts and neighboring states. Consisting of volunteers, members pursue a wide variety of careers including education, engineering, computer science, medicine, law, music, and public health.

The Metropolitan Wind Symphony Commissioning Fund, begun through an anonymous endowment, allows MetWinds to actively contribute to the wind band literature by annually commissioning new works. Our commissioning program has included four categories of composers. These include internationally-known composers James Curnow, Johan de Meij, Elliot Del Borgo, Peter Schickele, Guy Woolfenden, Chen Yi, Lewis Buckley, Frank Ticheli, and Julie Giroux. Massachusetts composers include Allen Feinstein, Peter Hazzard, Marjorie Merryman, and Greg Tucker. Emerging composers include David Dzubay, John Heins, and Greg Sanders. The first student composers commissioned by MetWinds were Hayato Hirose, Noah Taylor, and Jesse Brault, whose pieces premiered in 2005 and 2007, followed by Matthew LaRocca and Joseph Kaz in 2013, and Rubén Darío Gómez in 2022.

In 2010 and 2011, MetWinds premiered fanfares by John Heins, Kevin Wilt, Joseph Eidson, and Alexandra Conza, winners of our 40th Season Fanfare Competition. Many of these works have been published and have been performed in the United States and abroad by other wind ensembles.

The Boston Festival of Bands, founded by MetWinds in 1989, includes bands from New England, the Mid-Atlantic states, and Canada. The Festival is celebrated annually at the historic Faneuil Hall in Boston on the second Saturday in June. The Continuum series, also founded by MetWinds, involves middle school, high school, and New England college bands in educational interaction and outreach. The latest Continuum was hosted by MIT at Kresge Auditorium in Cambridge in March, 2016. Besides the Metropolitan Wind Symphony, the concert featured the MIT Wind Ensemble and the Foxboro High School Wind Ensemble.

In April 2005 at the invitation of the New England College Band Association, MetWinds performed at their Gordon College conference. MetWinds is a member of the Association of Concert Bands (ACB), the national organization for concert bands, and has been selected three times to perform at the ACB National Convention: April 1994 in Burlington, VT, April 2012 in Poughkeepsie, NY and April 2019 in Woodcliff Lake, NJ.

Contributors to the 2026-2027 Season



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MetWinds **Music Funds**



MetWinds is blessed to have two funds which support the acquisition of new music for the ensemble. Contributions may be directed to either fund and are greatly appreciated.

The **Metropolitan Wind Symphony Commissioning Fund** is an endowment that provides the financial means for MetWinds to commission new works to be composed for concert band. More than 25 new works have been contributed to the concert band repertoire by MetWinds due in large part to this endowment. This includes compositions by internationally renowned composers including James Curnow, Johan de Meij, Elliot Del Borgo, Peter Schickele, Guy Woolfenden, Chen Yi, Lewis Buckley, Frank Ticheli, and Julie Giroux.

The **Roy L. and Lauren J. Komack Music Memorial Fund** was established due to the generosity of 58 individuals and families who donated to MetWinds in Roy and Lauren's memory. Both Roy and Lauren loved performing and listening to original band music. Contributions to this fund insure we have the resources to acquire original band works. With the passing of Lauren in 2017, she bequeathed a generous additional gift to the MetWinds to provide ongoing financial support for the organization.

In **Memoriam**



For over 50 years, MetWinds has been fortunate to have former members, now deceased, whose unique contributions have been integral to our success. Please help keep their memory alive.

You may find the list of these former members on our website. Browse to: <https://www.metwinds.org/about.html> and scroll down to "In Memoriam" and click on "Former Members".

MetWinds **Friends Group**



The MetWinds Friends Group seeks members to assist at concerts by selling tickets and distributing programs. Admission is free to Friends Group members. If you would like to join, note your interest on the enclosed survey form, or call 978-419-1697.

MetWinds **Mission and Values**



MetWinds Mission

The mission of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony (MetWinds) is to contribute positively to the musical education and enrichment of the community through public performance of traditional and contemporary wind music, serve as a channel for the commission and presentation of new musical works, and provide an enjoyable, challenging, inclusive, and educational musical experience for the members.

MetWinds Values

- To provide an inclusive, supportive, educational, and enjoyable environment for members of varying skill levels.
- To care for each other and for the well-being of our community and respect the rights, dignity, and expression of all.
- To provide high-quality performances of diverse programs of traditional and contemporary wind music to diverse audiences for entertainment and educational purposes.
- To strive for continued musical growth and sustained musical excellence.
- To maintain transparent, democratic leadership.
- To utilize available funds prudently and in the best interest of the organization.

MetWinds Diversity and Inclusion Statement

We believe that participation in the arts deepens cultural awareness and empathy, develops openness, and enhances personal growth. We are committed to creating and contributing to a community in which every member's voice is valued and respected. We recognize that diversity and inclusion are connected to our mission and are critical in our creating and sustaining welcoming and open artistic spaces for our leadership, musicians, patrons, volunteers, and community members. We work with the understanding that the definition of diversity is constantly evolving. Our current definition of diversity includes race, color, nationality, ethnicity, class, religion, disability, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

Adam Gorb (b. 1958)

Awayday (1996) [6 min]

Commissioned and premiered by the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK, *Awayday* is a vivid, high-energy work that captures the excitement, movement, and unpredictability of a day away from home. Written with a strong sense of rhythm and color, the music moves rapidly between driving passages, contrasting episodes, and moments of lyrical expression. Gorb's writing creates a sense of constant momentum, with sharply defined rhythms and changing textures, keeping the listener engaged throughout.

The title suggests a journey or excursion, and the piece embraces that idea through its restless energy and adventurous character. At times playful and exuberant, at others more intense and dramatic, *Awayday* showcases the expressive and technical possibilities of the ensemble while maintaining a strong sense of forward motion. The result is an entertaining and dynamic work that invites both performers and listeners to enjoy the ride.

Adam Gorb is a British composer and winner of the Walter Beeler Prize in composition for his wind band work *Metropolis*. He is the Head of School of Composition at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England.

Gustav Holst (1874–1934) ed. Colin Matthews

First Suite in E-flat for Military Band (1909, 1984) [11 min]

Gustav Holst's *First Suite in E-flat for Military Band*, Op. 28, No. 1 is one of the foundational works of the modern concert band repertoire. In three contrasting movements, Holst demonstrates that a wind ensemble can sustain the musical depth, color, and structural sophistication traditionally associated with a symphony orchestra. The suite draws on the character of English military-band music while using inventive orchestration, strong thematic development, and distinctive harmonic writing.

The opening movement, *Chaconne*, is built over a recurring eight-measure theme that is passed among different sections of the ensemble. Beginning with a stately, noble character, the movement gradually increases in intensity as the theme is transformed through changes in instrumentation, rhythm, and dynamics. The second movement, *Intermezzo*, provides a lively contrast. Its quick tempo, playful character, and memorable melodies create a sense of spontaneity, with energetic exchanges between sections and moments of expressive lyricism. The final movement, *March*, returns to a more ceremonial character, combining a bold principal theme with contrasting lyrical material. Holst skillfully develops and interweaves these ideas before bringing the suite to a confident and exhilarating conclusion. Together, the three movements showcase the remarkable range, color, and expressive potential of the wind band.

Holst was born in Gloucestershire, UK to a musical family and eventually settled on the trombone as his main instrument. He attended the Royal College of Music in London where he met his lifelong friend Vaughan Williams. Though their composition styles were very different, they both shared a passion for English folk songs, and they were avid proponents of each other's music.

John Mackey (b. 1973)

Strange Humors (2006) [5 min]

Strange Humors represents another of Mackey's works (after *Redline Tango*) that has been transcribed for wind ensemble. The first version of *Strange Humors* was a student piece for string quartet and djembe that Mackey wrote while pursuing his graduate degree at The Juilliard School. It was later adapted for use by the Parsons Dance Company, with choreography by Robert Battle. Its transcription came at the behest of Richard Floyd on behalf of the American Bandmasters Association. The piece represents a merging of musical cultures; the modal melodies and syncopated rhythms of middle Eastern music with the percussive accompaniment of African drumming.

At the heart of the work lies the pulse of the djembe, which remains from the original version. The djembe, an hourglass-shaped drum played with bare hands, is a major part of the customs of west African countries such as Mali and Guinea, where djembe ensembles accompany many functional celebrations of society. The djembe provides a persistent rhythmic groove that is continually transformed and passed among the players. The result is music that feels spontaneous and unpredictable while remaining tightly organized, with contrasting textures and shifting instrumental colors adding to its sense of motion. [Adapted from a note by Jacob Wallace]

John Mackey is an American composer whose music encompasses orchestra, theater, dance, and, most prominently, wind ensemble. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Donald Erb, and a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School, studying composition with John Corigliano.

His music has been performed by ensembles and organizations including the Brooklyn Philharmonic, New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Parsons Dance Company, BBC Singers, and leading military, university, and school wind ensembles throughout the United States and abroad. Mackey's wind-band works, including *Redline Tango*, *Aurora Awakes*, *Turbine*, *The Frozen Cathedral*, and *Wine-Dark Sea*, are widely performed and are known for their rhythmic vitality, dramatic energy, vivid orchestration, and distinctive use of percussion.

On May 2, 2027, we will premiere a MetWinds commission by John Mackey. We invite you to join us to hear this new work that will augment a long line of band works from the *First Suite in E-flat* of Holst until the present.

Dana Wilson (b. 1949)
Piece of Mind (1987) [23 min]

Piece of Mind is a musical exploration of the workings of the human mind, expressed through four contrasting movements. The title is a playful reference to the familiar phrase “peace of mind,” while the music explores the ways ideas, memories, emotions, and states of awareness interact. A recurring four-note motif serves as the foundation for the work, undergoing continual transformation as Wilson draws upon a wide range of rhythmic and stylistic influences, including jazz and musical traditions from outside the Western canon.

The first movement, *Thinking*, presents the four-note motif in a logical and highly organized process, with the initial idea growing and accumulating layers as though one thought naturally leads to another. *Remembering*, the second movement, reflects the less orderly nature of memory, moving through sudden flashes of musical ideas and contrasting passages influenced by different historical jazz styles. *Feeling*, the third movement, leaves behind the relative logic of the first two movements and explores a broad spectrum of emotional states through contrasting colors, textures, and gestures. The final movement, *Being*, turns inward, focusing on stasis, meditation, and the experience of simply existing. Wilson transforms the recurring motif through musical influences from non-Western, particularly East Indian, traditions, bringing the work to a contemplative conclusion.

Dr. Dana Wilson holds a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music and was associate professor of composition at the Ithaca College School of Music in Ithaca, New York. He has been a Society for the Humanities Fellow at Cornell University, a Yaddo Fellow (at Yaddo, the artists’ retreat in Saratoga Springs, NY), and is the Charles A. Dana Professor Emeritus at the Ithaca College School of Music.

Dr. Wilson has many commissions, grants, and prizes to his credit. *Piece of Mind* won the Sousa Foundation’s 1988 Sudler International Wind Band Composition Competition and the 1988 American Bandmasters Association/Ostwald Prize. He is co-author of *Contemporary Choral Arranging*, published by Prentice-Hall, and has written articles on diverse musical subjects.

[Note derived from the composer and United States Marine Band]

John D. Stevens (b. 1951)
Benediction (2002, 2010) [4 min]

Benediction is a lyrical and expressive work originally written for tuba/euphonium quartet, then transcribed for wind ensemble. It explores the beauty of sustained melody, rich harmony, and carefully shaped musical phrases. The title, which refers to a blessing or expression of good wishes, is reflected in the work’s warm and contemplative character. Rather than relying on dramatic contrasts, Stevens allows the music to unfold gradually, giving individual lines and instrumental colors space to emerge and interact.

Throughout *Benediction*, moments of quiet reflection are balanced by passages of greater intensity and emotional breadth. The ensemble moves between delicate, transparent textures and fuller sonorities, creating a sense of growth and release. Stevens’ writing highlights the expressive capabilities of the wind ensemble, inviting performers to focus on blend, balance, tone color, and the natural shaping of each phrase. The result is a thoughtful and uplifting work that offers a moment of musical reflection.

John D. Stevens is an internationally recognized American composer, tubist, educator, and arranger whose career has had a significant impact on brass music and repertoire. He earned degrees in tuba performance from the Eastman School of Music and Yale University and subsequently enjoyed a distinguished career as a freelance performer in New York, including serving as the original sousaphone soloist in the Broadway production of *Barnum*.

In 1985, Stevens joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he served as Professor of Tuba and Euphonium, performed with the Wisconsin Brass Quintet, and served as Director of the School of Music before becoming Professor Emeritus in 2014. As a composer, he has written more than 65 published original works and numerous arrangements, with a particular emphasis on tuba, euphonium, brass chamber ensembles, orchestra, and wind ensemble.

In 2008, Stevens received the International Tuba and Euphonium Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor awarded by the organization.

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Postcard (1992) [6 min]

Postcard is a spirited and colorful work for wind ensemble inspired by the idea of a musical postcard, a brief impression that captures the atmosphere, energy, and character of a particular place. Rather than telling a literal story, Ticheli creates a series of vivid musical images through contrasting rhythms, melodies, and instrumental colors. The piece moves with a sense of travel and discovery, continually introducing new ideas and textures.

Throughout *Postcard*, lively rhythmic passages are balanced by more lyrical and expressive moments, allowing the ensemble to showcase both its technical precision and its capacity for warmth and lyricism. The composer's imaginative orchestration gives individual sections opportunities to emerge as featured voices while maintaining a strong sense of ensemble. The result is an engaging musical journey that invites listeners to imagine the sights, sounds, and excitement captured in a postcard from somewhere special.

Frank Ticheli is Professor of Composition at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. He has written for orchestra, chamber ensemble, and choir, but he is perhaps best known for his concert band compositions. The MetWinds has performed several of Dr. Ticheli's works in recent years, including the world premiere in 2016 of *Acadiana*. This three-movement work was commissioned by MetWinds along with two other ensembles.

Program notes compiled by Gregory C. Depp

Additional material derived from: Wind Repertory Project, Wikipedia, ChatGPT, United States Marine Band

MetWinds Personnel **Fall Concert 2026**



Piccolo

Joel Nolan Somerville Attorney

Flute

Sara Campion-Egan Barrington, RI Nurse Practitioner
Jennifer A. Hunt Shirley Associate Dean, Library
Joel Nolan Somerville Attorney
Nicole O'Toole Littleton Music Educator
Kristin Parker * North Chelmsford Design Manager
Laura Ross Arlington Systems Engineer
Cheryl Webster Chelmsford Music Educator

Oboe

Erin Hussey * Quincy Band Director
Meagan Priest Walpole Senior Care

Bassoon

Jason P. Caron * Stow Music Educator
Crystal King Norton Assistive Technology & Music Therapy

E-flat Clarinet

Mel Maisel Boston Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance

B-flat Clarinet

Joe DiSalvatore North Brookfield Medical Inventory Specialist
Kristen Herlihy Woburn Health Coach
Mel Maisel Boston Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance
Christina A. Leber North Reading Software Engineer
David Minot * Clinton Nonprofit Executive Director
Rachel Pinsky Medford Software Project Manager
Kaitlyn Sicinski Wilmington Music Educator
Julie Souza North Chelmsford Music Educator
Doreen Velmer Attleboro Retired Graphic Designer
Adelaide M. O'Connell Belmont Museum Educator
Matthew Zajac Hingham Grant Writer

Bass Clarinet

Linda Menkis * Arlington Math Educator
Shiva Pabbathi Westborough Music Educator

Alto Saxophone

Ben Leavitt Hopkinton Music Educator
Tim Moyer * Medford Music Educator
Ryan Rose Framingham Software Engineer
Leigh Spignese Burlington Music Educator

Tenor Saxophone

Laura Bailey Beverly Music Educator

Baritone Saxophone

Stephen Ferrandino Hyde Park Software Architect

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Trumpet

Michael Butler	Charlton	Retired State Trooper
Matt Collins	Framingham	Graduate Admissions Advisor
Sarah Freeman	Jamaica Plain	Retired Public Health Research
Emily P Hofmann	Chelmsford	Payroll Manager
Sarah Maas	Weston	Scientist
Mike O'Connor	Lexington	Retired Operations Manager
Mark Olson *	Arlington	Music Educator
Gareth Ramsey	Boston	Freelance Musician

Horn

Heather Pineault	Wayland	Educator
Elizabeth Rowland	Wakefield	Educator
Deana Saada-Smith *	Norfolk	Music Educator
Paola Tobon	West Revere	Music Educator
Barbara Van Pelt	Westborough	Coach

Trombone

Matthew Dawson *	Somerville	Software Engineer
Gavin Doyle	Dracut	Student
Christopher Rene	Medford	Mechanical Engineer

Bass Trombone

Esther J. Horwich	Newton	Attorney
Bruce Houston	Wellesley	Retired Music Educator

Euphonium

Christian J Dow *	Pembroke	Music Educator
Tom O'Toole	Littleton	Retired Music Educator
John L. Procter	Hingham	Yacht Broker

Tuba

Tasnin Chowdhury	Milford	Attorney
Timothy J Sliski *	Wakefield	Chief Scientist

String Bass

Andrew Hazerjian	Walpole	Market Insights/Data Analyst
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Percussion

Chris Boyd	Bellingham	Music Educator
Daniel Byer *	Mendon	Parks & Recreation Director
Gregory C. Depp	Hingham	Retired Software Engineer
Alison Hannah	Woburn	Music Educator
Daniel Smith	Burlington	Mechanical Engineer

Piano

John van Twuyver	Georgetown	Musician
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* = Section Leader

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