

KANSAS STATE  
UNIVERSITY BANDS

*Kansas State University*  
*Wind Ensemble*  
&  
*Wind Symphony*

Dr. Frank Tracz, Conductor  
Dr. Alex Wimmer Conductor



March 8, 2023  
7:30 PM  
McCain Auditorium

**Wind Symphony**  
Dr. Alex Wimmer, Conductor

- Halcyon Hearts: Na Overture for Love* (2021).....Katahj Copley (b. 1998)
- Soul Divine* (2017).....Peter Meechan (b. 1980)  
*Peter Meechan – Guest Composer*
- Angels in the Architecture* (2009).....FrankTicheli (b. 1958)  
*Soprano Soloist – Abbigail Rakes*

**Wind Ensemble**  
Dr. Frank Tracz, Conductor

- Fanfare Polieta* (2021).....Kimberly Archer (b. 1973)
- New York Hippodrome* (1905).....John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)
- Loss Verses* (2020).....Peter Meechan (b. 1980)  
*Dr. John Kilgore – cornet soloist*  
*Peter Meechan – Guest Composer*
- Carnival of Venice* (1864).....Jean Baptiste Arban (1825-1889)  
*Dr. John Kilgore – trumpet soloist*
- Blue Shades* (2012).....Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)
- Asphalt Cocktail* (2009).....John Mackey (b. 1973)

## Wind Symphony Program Notes

*Halcyon Hears: Na Overture for Love* (2021).....Katahj Copley (b. 1998)

*Love does not delight in evil  
but rejoices with the truth.  
It always protects, always trusts,  
always hopes, always perseveres.  
Love never fails.*

*Halcyon Hearts* is an ode to love and how it affects us all. Halcyon denotes a time where a person is ideally happy or at peace, so in short *Halcyon Hearts* is about the moment of peace when one finds their love or passion. The piece centers around major 7ths and warm colors to represent the warmth that love brings us. The introduction- which is sudden and colorful- symbolizes the feeling of the unexpected journey it takes to find love. Using the colors and natural energy of the ensemble, we create this sound of ambition and passion throughout the work. No matter what race, gender, religion, nationality or love, we all are united with the common thread of passion from the heart. This piece was written in dedication to those who love no matter what negativity is in the world; do not allow hate and prejudice to guide the way we live our lives. Always choose love and the halcyon days will come.

Carrollton, Georgia native, Katahj Copley (he/him/his) premiered his first work, *Spectra*, in 2017 and hasn't stopped composing since. As of 2017, Katahj has written over 100 works, including pieces for chamber ensembles, large ensembles, wind ensembles, and orchestra. His compositions have been performed and commissioned by universities, organizations, and professional ensembles, including the Cavaliers Brass, Carroll Symphony Orchestra, California Band Director Association, Admiral Launch Duo, and the Atlanta Wind Symphony. Katahj has also received critical acclaim internationally with pieces being performed in Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, China, and Australia.

Katahj received two Bachelor of Music degrees from the University of West Georgia in Music Education and Composition in 2021. He is currently studying composition with Omar Thomas at the University of Texas at Austin. Aside from composing, Katahj is an excited educator who teaches young musicians the joy of discovering music and why music is a phenomenal language.

“Music for me has always been this impactful thing in my life. It can soothe, it can enrage, it can quiet, and it can evoke emotions that are beyond me and this world we live in. I believe that music is the ultimate source of freedom and imagination. The most freedom I have had as a musician was through composing. Composition is like me opening my heart and showing the world my drive, my passion, and my soul.”

Program Notes by Katahj Copley

*Soul Divine* (2017).....Peter Meechan (b. 1980)  
*Peter Meechan – Guest Artist*

From the Gelinas family:

“David Gelinas was a grade 10 student at Dr. Martin LeBoldus Catholic High School in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. On May 2, 1992, he was tragically killed in a car accident. David was an accomplished tenor saxophone player and member of the LeBoldus Concert Band, multiple Jazz Bands and the Regina Lions Junior Band. He dreamt of a future in music at McGill University.

In the 25 years since his death, David's family and friends have embraced life, the importance of family, and a love of music. This piece is dedicated to the memory our son, brother, uncle, student, and friend, David Gelin. Always in our hearts and minds, David's love of music plays on."

Chad Huel, Director of Bands at LeBoldus Catholic High School, Regina, Saskatchewan, approached me to write a new work for the school's symphonic band in memory of his friend, David Gelin. Chad spoke of his friend's love of music and life, the time they spent together, his skills as a tenor saxophonist, and how his life was cut so tragically short.

Before writing this piece, I was reading the William Blake poem *Auguries of Innocence*. Contained in that poem were the following words, which seemed so beautifully poignant and appropriate, and hopefully encapsulates something about grief, as well as celebration of life.

"Joy & Woe are woven fine  
A Clothing for the soul divine  
Under every grief & pine  
Runs a joy with silken twine"

*Soul Divine* is dedicated to Chad Huel and the Gelin family, in memory of David Gelin.

The music of Canadian-based British composer Peter Meehan (b. 1980, Nuneaton, UK) is extensively performed throughout the world. His music has been commissioned, recorded, broadcast and performed by some of the world's leading symphony orchestras, wind orchestras, brass bands, conductors and soloists, including: "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, The United States Air Force Band, The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own", Dallas Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra brass, Black Dyke Brass Band, The Band of the Coldstream Guards, RNCM Wind Orchestra, Bramwell Tovey, Jens Lindemann, Ryan Anthony, David Childs, Steven Mead, Patrick Sheridan, Les Neish, Peter Moore, Linda Merrick, and many more.

Meehan's music is featured on over 120 commercial recordings and has been featured at festivals and clinics globally, including the Midwest Clinic, The American Bandmasters Association (ABA) Conference, CBDNA, the International Trumpet Guild, the International Tuba and Euphonium Association, BASBWE conferences, and in 2014 his work "The Legend of King Arthur" was used as the set test piece at the British National Brass Band Championships, held in the Royal Albert Hall, London. His works for brass band have been used as compulsory and own choice selections at music contests across the world.

Peter was the first ever "Young Composer in Association" with the prestigious Black Dyke Brass band from 2003 – 2006, where he also went on to serve as their "Composer in Residence" for a further season. Meehan also held the position of "Composer in Residence" with The Band of the Coldstream Guards between 2012 – 2015.

In October 2020, Meehan was awarded the CBA (Canadian Band Association) 'Canadian Composers' Award' – only the 9th recipient since the award's inception in 1991.

He holds an undergraduate degree (BMus Hons) from the Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester, UK), where he studied with Dr. Anthony Gilbert, Dr. David Horne and Adam Gorb, a Master of Arts (MA) degree and a PhD (composition), both from the University of Salford (Manchester, UK), where he studied with Prof. Peter Graham.

Peter resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, with his wife Michelle (a band teacher) and their miniature dachshund dogs: Stevie and Jurgen (not band teachers), and when not writing music can usually be found watching his beloved Liverpool Football Club.

Program Notes by Peter Meechan

*Angels in the Architecture* (2009).....Frank Ticheli (1958)  
*Soprano Soloist – Abbigail Rakes*

*Angels in the Architecture* was commissioned by Kingsway International and received its premiere performance at the Sydney Opera House on July 6, 2008, by a massed band of young musicians from Australia and the United States, conducted by Mathew George. The work unfolds as a dramatic conflict between the two extremes of human existence -- one divine, the other evil. The work's title is inspired by the Sydney Opera House itself, with its halo-shaped acoustical ornaments hanging directly above the performance stage.

*Angels in the Architecture* begins with a single voice singing a 19th-century Shaker song:

I am an angel of Light  
I have soared from above  
I am cloth'd with Mother's love.  
I have come, I have come.  
To protect my chosen band  
And lead them to the promised land.

This "angel" -- represented by the singer -- frames the work, surrounding it with a protective wall of light and establishing the divine. Other representations of light, played by instruments rather than sung, include a traditional Hebrew song of peace ("Hevenu Shalom Aleichem") and the well-known 16th-century Genevan Psalter, *Old Hundredth*. These three borrowed songs, despite their varied religious origins, are meant to transcend any one religion, representing the more universal human ideals of peace, hope, and love. An original chorale, appearing twice in the work, represents my own personal expression of these aspirations.

Just as [Charles Ives](#) did more than a century ago, *Angels in the Architecture* poses the unanswered question of existence. It ends as it began: the angel reappears sings the same comforting words. But deep below, a final shadow reappears -- distantly, ominously.

Frank Ticheli holds the title of Professor of Composition in the Flora L. Thornton School of Music at USC. Frank Ticheli received his doctoral and masters degrees in composition from The University of Michigan. He has received numerous awards, and his orchestral and band works have been performed all over the world. Ticheli also appears as a guest conductor at many universities and music festivals around the country and throughout the world.

Program Notes by Frank Ticheli

## Wind Ensemble Program Notes

*Fanfare Politeia* (2021).....**Kimberly Archer (b. 1973)**

**Fanfare Politeia** is an homage to the origins of our democracy, and to the ancient sources that Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson, and Adams drew from in their conceiving and writing our Constitution. "Politeia" is a Greek word derived from "polis" (city). Aristotle used the term to represent concepts such as citizens' rights and constitutional government, while Plato's examination of justice – a book which we now call *The Republic*, in English – was entitled *Politeia* in the original Greek.

Commissioned by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band for the 59th Presidential Inauguration, *Fanfare Politeia* celebrates our traditions of a free and fair election, and of a peaceful transfer of power.

- Program Note from score

*New York Hippodrome* (1905).....**John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)**

Another classic Sousa march edited by the noted Sousa and march authority Frank Byrne, this work is presented with all of the class and integrity for which the Frank Byrne Editions are known. They are based on meticulous research by one of the leading experts in this field.

The Sousa Band enjoyed its longest single engagement from September 30, 1915, to June 4, 1916, in an extravaganza presented in the **New York Hippodrome**. Sousa wrote this march in commemoration of that engagement.

- Program Note from publisher

*Loss Verses* (2021).....**Peter Meechan (b. 1980)**

*Dr. John Kilgore – cornet soloist*

*Peter Meechan – Guest Artist*

Loss is so very, very, hard. Nothing can prepare you for it, for the devastating pain it causes; or for the moments it catches you so unaware, where seemingly from nowhere it bites. And losing a friend when you are not able to say goodbye properly, when you are not able to gather with other friends and loved ones to share stories, share grief, find comfort -- is so very, very, tough. The pain is like being in a labyrinth; unsure of how I got in, and not knowing a way out. Each way you turn it is different, and for sure some directions are better than others, but most bring you back into the labyrinth. Ultimately there are no shortcuts -- loss is so, very, very hard.

Writing music at a time of loss, and this specific time and this specific loss is the same. **Loss Verses** is an expression of that labyrinth -- there are no rousing chorus, but instead echoes, moments, reflections, the new and the old, in the shape of verses, each so very, very, painful to write. **Loss Verses** -- in memory of a friend.

- Program Note from Illinois State University Wind Symphony concert program

*Carnival of Venice* (1864).....**Jean Baptiste Arban (1825-1889)**

*Dr. John Kilgore – trumpet soloist*

When Arban wrote this set of variations in the early 1860s, he may have been inspired, as well as challenged, by Niccolò Paganini's twenty variations for violin on the same air. The folklike melody has been attributed to both Paganini and the German opera composer Reinhard Keiser (1674-1739). Arban would probably also be inspired and challenged if he could hear his "Carnival" variations played by contemporary virtuosos of the tuba, euphonium, trombone, and cornet – for example, as recorded by Wynton Marsalis with Don Hunsberger and the Eastman Wind Ensemble.

- Program Note from *Program Notes for Band*

***Blue Shades* (2012).....Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)**

In 1992 I composed a concerto for traditional jazz band and orchestra, *Playing with Fire*, for the Jim Cullum Jazz Band and the San Antonio Symphony. I experienced tremendous joy during the creation of *Playing with Fire*, and my love for early jazz is expressed in every bar of the concerto. However, after completing it, I knew that the traditional jazz influences dominated the work, leaving little room for my own musical voice to come through. I felt a strong need to compose another work, one that would combine my love of early jazz with my own musical style.

Four years, and several compositions later, I finally took the opportunity to realize that need by composing *Blue Shades*. As its title suggests, the work alludes to the blues, and a jazz feeling is prevalent -- however, it is not literally a blues piece. There is not a single 12-bar blues progression to be found, and except for a few isolated sections, the eighth note is not swung.

The work, however, is heavily influenced by the blues: "Blue notes" (flatted 3rds, 5ths, and 7ths) are used constantly; blues harmonies, rhythms, and melodic idioms pervade the work; and many "shades of blue" are depicted, from bright blue, to dark, to dirty, to hot blue.

At times, **Blue Shades** burlesques some of the clichés from the Big Band era, not as a mockery of those conventions, but as a tribute. A slow and quiet middle section recalls the atmosphere of a dark, smoky blues haunt. An extended clarinet solo played near the end recalls Benny Goodman's hot playing style, and ushers in a series of "wailing" brass chords recalling the train whistle effects commonly used during that era.

*Blue Shades* was commissioned by a consortium of thirty university, community, and high school concert bands under the auspices of the Worldwide Concurrent Premieres and Commissioning Fund.

- Program Note by composer

***Asphalt Cocktail* (2009).....John Mackey (b. 1973)**

Several years ago, when I was living in Manhattan, I was walking down Columbus Avenue with my good friend (and fellow composer) Jonathan Newman. Somehow, the topic of titles for pieces came up, and Newman said a title that stopped me in my tracks there on the sidewalk: "Asphalt Cocktail."

I begged him to let me use the title. "That title screams Napoleonic Testosterone Music. I was born to write that!" I pleaded. "No," was his initial response. I asked regularly over the next few years, and the answer was always the same: "No. It's mine." In May 2008, I asked him once again, begging more pathetically than I had before, and his answer this time surprised me: "Fine," he said, "but I'll be needing your first-born child." This was easily agreeable to me, as I don't like kids.

Around this same time, my wife and I were talking to Kevin Sedatole about his upcoming performance at the CBDNA National Convention. It was my wife who suggested to Kevin, after coaxing him with cocktails ourselves, that I write a piece to open his CBDNA concert, and that piece should be *Asphalt Cocktail*. Kevin told his friend Howard J. Gourwitz about the idea for the piece, and Howard generously agreed to personally fund the commission as a gift to Kevin Sedatole and the Michigan State University Wind Symphony. The piece is dedicated to Jonathan Newman, because without his title I'd have written a completely different piece, like "Bandtastic! : A Concert Prelude."

*Asphalt Cocktail* is a five-minute opener, designed to shout, from the opening measure, "We're here." With biting trombones, blaring trumpets, and percussion dominated by cross-rhythms and back beats, it aims to capture the grit and aggression that I associate with the time I lived in New York. Picture the scariest NYC taxi ride you can imagine, with the cab skidding around turns as trucks bear down from all sides.

Serve on the rocks.

*Asphalt Cocktail* was commissioned by Howard J. Gourwitz as a gift to Dr. Kevin L. Sedatole and the Michigan State University Wind Symphony, receiving its world premiere on March 28, 2009, at the CBDNA National Convention in the Bates Recital Hall of the University of Texas at Austin, conducted by Kevin Sedatole.

-Program Note by composer

## Wind Ensemble – Guest Composer

The music of Canadian-based British composer **PETER MEECHAN** (b. 1980, Nuneaton, UK) is extensively performed throughout the world. His music has been commissioned, recorded, broadcast and performed by some of the world's leading symphony orchestras, wind orchestras, brass bands, conductors and soloists, including: "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, The United States Air Force Band, The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own", Dallas Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra brass, Black Dyke Brass Band, The Band of the Coldstream Guards, RNCM Wind Orchestra, Bramwell Tovey, Jens Lindemann, Ryan Anthony, David Childs, Steven Mead, Patrick Sheridan, Les Neish, Peter Moore, Linda Merrick, and many more.

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## Wind Ensemble – Faculty Soloist

Trumpeter **DR. JOHN KILGORE** maintains a diverse career serving as Principal Trumpet of the Boise Philharmonic and as Teaching Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Kansas State University.

Kilgore joined the Boise Philharmonic as Principal Trumpet in 2017. He also performs the same position with the Philharmonic Chamber Players and Brass Quintet. In addition, he performs principal trumpet for Ballet Idaho productions, on CINE Concert tours, and additional commercial music productions in the treasure valley. During the summer, Kilgore is a member of the Blue Lake Festival Orchestra, Festival Band and Faculty Brass Quintet in Twin Lake, MI. Prior to joining the Boise Philharmonic, he was a member of the Ocala (FL) Symphony Orchestra and a doctoral student at Florida State University. He has performed guest principal trumpet with the Boise Baroque Chamber Orchestra, Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, and as a section trumpet with the West Virginia Symphony, and Lexington (KY) Philharmonic.

Since 2019, Kilgore has been on faculty at Kansas State University (KSU) where he teaches graduate and undergraduate trumpet majors and minors, trumpet ensemble, graduate and undergraduate methods and repertoire courses. He also performs as a member of the KSU Faculty Brass Quintet. Additionally, Kilgore is an active adjudicator, and recent examples include the Music Teacher National Association (MTNA) Young Artist Brass Competition, and the Sphinx Organization Orchestral Partners Auditions. Prior to his appointment at KSU, Kilgore taught applied trumpet and chamber music at Boise State University and at Florida State University.

As an active clinician and teacher, Kilgore regularly presents masterclasses, lectures, and performances throughout North America. Recent university engagements include The Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri Kansas City, The University of Colorado Boulder, The College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, Memorial University of Newfoundland (CA), The University of Idaho, Wichita State University, Oklahoma State University, Ithaca College among others. Committed to teaching youth musicians, Kilgore serves on the trumpet faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Twin Lake, MI where he teaches high school trumpet majors and coaches brass sectionals.

As a scholar, Kilgore is a regular contributor to the International Trumpet Guild Journal. His recent publication: Chamber Music: Creating Your Own Artistic Experiences details foundational elements to assist in creating and supporting a chamber ensemble. At the 2022 International Trumpet Guild Conference in San Antonio, TX, Kilgore is presenting the lecture: From New Jersey to Cincinnati: The Life and Career of Classical Trumpeter Philip Collins. The lecture represents original research detailing the life and career of Collins, retired Principal Trumpet of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. In addition, Kilgore is the founding member of the Kansas State University Trumpet Guild ITG Affiliate Chapter and serves as the Kansas Chairperson for the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors (NACWPI).

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Kilgore holds a Doctor of Music degree in Performance from Florida State University, a Master of Music in Performance from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and a Bachelor of Music in Performance from Ohio University. His primary teachers include John Schlabach, Alan Siebert, Philip Collins, Dr. Christopher Moore with additional studies from Marie Speziale.

**Kansas State University – Wind Symphony**  
**SPRING 2023**

*listed alphabetical order*

**FLUTE**

Tabitha Ellwood  
Melissa Fierro (Piccolo)  
Ella Greenup\*  
Tegan Stratton  
Samantha Weber

**OBOE**

Alli Gladfelder\*  
Bailey Walke

**BASSOON**

Kiri Baker\*  
Cassidy Schmidt

**CLARINET**

Sabrina Gary  
Sarah Jane Kelley\*  
Abbigail Rakes  
Anna Ridgway  
Alexis Sutton  
Alexis White  
John Woods

**BASS CLARINET**

Grace Dice  
Andrew Otto\*

**ALTO SAX**

Sarah Schieferecke  
Jordan Somers  
Abby Vetter\*

**TENOR SAX**

Chase Burman

**BARITONE SAX**

Max Contreras

**TRUMPET**

Zak Oster  
Aaron Peterson  
Nathan Proctor  
Caden Roark  
Jae Seefeldt\*  
Brett Wyckoff

**HORN**

Tim Buehler  
Andrew Dearing  
DJ Donnelly  
Kendan Powers\*

**TROMBONES**

Reece Beckman  
Jared Carlton\*  
Zach Elliot  
Corbin Wood (Bass)

**EUPHONIUM**

Alyssa Boden  
Sydney Smith\*

**TUBA**

Olivia Franco  
Jayce Hildebrand  
Charles Kelly  
Isaiah Zinkan\*

**PERCUSSION**

Devon Autry  
Noah Dial\*  
Jessi Solorzano  
Ben Thorne  
Chris Wells  
Jessie Whelan

\* Principal/Section Leader

**Kansas State University - Wind Ensemble**  
**SPRING 2023**

*listed alphabetically*

**FLUTE**

Laura Bogner  
Laura Holden  
Jessica Minnich\*  
Reese Byers  
Grace Woydziak

**CLARINET**

Angel Amaro  
Olivia Bazanos\*\*  
Audrey Farrell\*\*  
Erin Flax  
Ashby Schwanz  
Betty Withers

**BASS CLARINET**

Bre Ledbetter  
Kellen Brockelman

**OBOE**

Lily Linville  
Briele Vollmuth\*

**BASSOON**

Josh Brandt\*  
Rachel Woodbury

**CONTRABASSOON**

Ethan Karnes

**ALTO SAX**

Katie Anderson  
Nosara Vargas Gamboa\*\*  
Hannah Mancini\*\*  
Brenden Vining

**TENOR SAX**

Mason Ringer

**BARITONE SAX**

Craig Brinkman

**TRUMPET**

Kiersten Glass  
Kyle Grimes\*  
Shelton Lauderbaugh  
Evelyn Peat  
Paige Roberts  
Bryce Schreiber

**HORN**

Josie Anderson\*\*  
Cara Dister  
Braedon Jones\*\*  
Joseph Salas  
Sharyn Wocheater

**TROMBONES**

Blake Davis  
Tyler Lee\*  
Tyler Long  
Will Osorio  
Wesley Wurm

**EUPHONIUM**

Austin Perr  
Trey Switzer\*  
Drake Thompson

**TUBA**

Lloyd Dodson  
Chris Hovis\*  
Chase Keesling

**PERCUSSION**

Gaby Fluke  
Jacob Morgan  
Jack Johnson\*  
Preston Thomas  
Nathan Smith  
Jake Wall  
Brandon Wells

**STRING BASS**

Stephen Mitchell

**PIANO**

Andrew Wilson

\* Principal/section leader

\*\*Co-principal/co-section leaders

## Wind Symphony Conductor

**DR. ALEX WIMMER** is currently serving as the Assistant Director of Bands at Kansas State University. His duties include directing the Wind Symphony, Cat Band (basketball pep band), Volleyball Band, Pub Crawl Band, Assistant Marching Band Director for the Pride of Wildcat Land (KSUMB), arranger and drill designer for the KSUMB, and instructor of undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, arranging, and marching band techniques. During the summer he coordinates the K-State Summer Music Camp and K-State Leadership and Auxiliary Camp, and serves as one of the Assistant Directors of the Manhattan Municipal Band. Prior to his appointment at Kansas State University, Dr. Wimmer was a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Kansas State University Bands. He assisted with all concert and athletic ensembles, undergraduate conducting courses, and Percussion Ensembles. His research interests include undergraduates conducting with expressivity and qualitative research.

Originally from Gretna, Nebraska, Dr. Wimmer received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2007, his Master of Music degree in Education with an emphasis in Wind Conducting from Kansas State University in 2014, and his Doctorate in Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University in 2017. Dr. Wimmer was the Director of Bands at Gretna High School and the Assistant Director of Bands at Gretna Middle School from 2007-2012. Under his direction his concert, jazz, and marching bands received consistent superior ratings. He was a recipient of the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award in 2011 and served on the Nebraska Music Educators Association Leadership Academy from 2011-2012.

Dr. Wimmer is in demand as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator as well as a percussion specialist. His professional affiliations include the Kansas Music Educators Association, the Kansas Bandmasters Association, the National Association for Music Education, the College Band Directors National Association, the Percussive Arts Society, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Phi Kappa Lambda.

## Wind Ensemble Conductor

**DR. FRANK TRACZ** is Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Kansas State University. He earned his B.M.E. from The Ohio State University, M.M. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University. He has public school teaching experience in Wisconsin and Ohio and has also served as Assistant Director of bands at Syracuse University and Director of bands at Morehead State University. Dr. Tracz has served as an adjudicator, clinician, speaker in various schools and conferences and has conducted All-State and Honor bands across the United States as well as in Canada, Singapore, South Africa, Fiji, Australia, and New Zealand.

At Kansas State, he directs the Wind Ensemble and the Marching Band, teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting, acts as an advisor to the Band Ambassadors, and administers and guides all aspects of a large BIG XII comprehensive band program. Ensembles under his direction have been invited to perform at numerous State conferences, MENC, two CBDNA regional conferences, The Larry Sutherland Wind Band Festival at Fresno State, Carnegie Hall, and the Kennedy Center. The marching band was awarded the prestigious Sudler Trophy in 2015. The Wind Ensemble also performed at the International Convention of the American Bandmasters Association in 2019 in Loveland, CO.

Dr. Tracz is on the faculty of the Conn-Selmer Institute, on the adjunct faculty of the American Band College, is a past member of the Music Education Journal Editorial Board, is a contributor to the Teaching Music Through

Performance in Band series, And was appointed Chair of the Sudler Trophy Project of the John Philip Sousa Foundation in 2017. His honors include the Stamey Award for outstanding teaching, Kansas Bandmasters Outstanding Director award, Wildcat Pride Alumni Association award, the Tau Beta Sigma Paula Crider Outstanding Band Director award, being named a Lowell Mason Fellow, and membership in the Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Fraternity. He has also received the Conn- Selmer Institute Hall of Fame award, the Kansas State Professorial Performance award, and was elected to the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. Dr. Tracz was awarded an honorary doctorate from Doane University in May 2021. Dr. Tracz also led a very successful fundraising campaign raising over five million dollars for a new hall for the athletics band program. The “Tracz Family Band Hall” is scheduled to open early spring 2023.

Dr. Tracz is married to Geralyn, and has three daughters, Jessica Tracz Kelly, Kelley Tracz, and Carly Tracz Morris, and one grandson, Caden Tracz Kelly!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**\* CONCERT BAND CONCERT & UNIVERSITY BAND CONCERT\***

Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023—7:30pm  
McCain Auditorium

**\*COLORGUARD AUDITIONS\***

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

For more information, please contact Courtney Grecu at [cljensen@ksu.edu](mailto:cljensen@ksu.edu)

**\*WIND ENSEMBLE & WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT\***

Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023—3:00pm  
McCain Auditorium

**\* CONCERT BAND & UNIVERSITY BAND CONCERT\***

Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023—7:30pm  
McCain Auditorium

**\*CLASSY CAT AUDITIONS\***

Friday-Sunday, April 28-30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

For more information, please contact Sara Evans-Heptig at [sarahheptig@gmail.com](mailto:sarahheptig@gmail.com)

**\*HIGH SCHOOL DRUMLINE MINI CAMP\***

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

For more information, please contact Jack Johnson at [jackjohnson@ksu.edu](mailto:jackjohnson@ksu.edu)

**\*DRUMLINE AUDITIONS\***

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

For more information, please contact Jack Johnson at [jackjohnson@ksu.edu](mailto:jackjohnson@ksu.edu)

**\*SUMMER MUSIC CAMP\***

June 11-15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

For more information, please contact Courtney Grecu at [cljensen@ksu.edu](mailto:cljensen@ksu.edu)

**\*LEADERSHIP AND AUXILIARY CAMP\***

July 9-12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

For more information, please contact Courtney Grecu at [cljensen@ksu.edu](mailto:cljensen@ksu.edu)

**\*MARCHING PRIDE CLASSIC\***

Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023—9:00am  
Colbert Hills Golf Course

For more information, please contact Courtney Grecu at [cljensen@ksu.edu](mailto:cljensen@ksu.edu)