

# **The Wyoming Valley West High School Concert Band**

**Presents**

## **Music in the Air**

**An Outdoor Concert**



**May 23, 2021 1:00 p.m.**

# The Program

Flourish for Wind Band.....	Ralph Vaughan Williams
Proclamation and Symphonic Decree....	Ed Huckeby
Commando March.....	Samuel Barber
Rock Springs Saga.....	William Owens
With Quiet Courage.....	Larry Daehn
American Faces .....	David Holsinger

March 13, 2020 was a sunny day. We had an In-Service day that day (it was a Friday). We had meetings on integrating Google Classroom into our teaching lexicon that day in lieu of an expected short disruption of classes caused by this new COVID-19 thing. We expected to be in school the following Monday and probably shutting down for a “few days” after that.

Later that day we were told that all of the schools in the state were shutting down for two weeks. The vast majority of the staff expected that we would be back by April 1 or at least shortly after Easter. But then we didn’t...

The school sat dormant like a museum exhibit frozen in time, reminiscent of Pompeii after Vesuvius froze it in place. Coats and books remained in lockers, and on the table in front of the auditorium. The writings on the chalk board in 105 spoke of rehearsals and concerts that were passing by without us, as we stayed in stasis.

We didn’t return, the music was left unperformed and the world remained silent as blowing into wind instruments was deemed a super spreading device spreading dangerous aerosols to our neighbors. The world stood motionless and silent, gripped by the fear of the spreading pandemic.

The question had to be asked. Would it *ever* be safe to make ensemble music again?

We battled through with buzzwords like face coverings and social distancing and “outside is better than inside”. But it was a living breathing experiment based on what we learned in high school biology coupled with updates from the CDC. Somehow schools opened (more or less) in fall. We learned to learn and teach in new ways, ways in which we never expected or wanted to do these things. But we battled on.

We made modifications to school and modifications to sport, and we spread the band throughout the entire center section of Spartans Stadium and we continued to wage war against our oppressor. All standing at least 6 feet apart while being unable to share a hug, a high five or even a smile.

We fast forward to today. We have survived. We have made it this far. We have all been damaged by these events in some way, but we remain here... still standing.

We dedicate this concert to all of us. Heroes in our own way for surviving this attack on humanity and more aware than ever about how much we need each other.

# The Notes

**Flourish for Wind Band-** The English composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams composed this work for a performance at the Royal Albert Hall in 1939. The score was misplaced shortly after the original performance and remained lost until 1971 when it was published and finally made available for American bands. It has since become a standard in band literature.

**Proclamation and Symphonic Decree-** Ed Huckeby composed this piece in 1996. It starts with a fanfare and then a celebration. We would like to think this our way of welcoming back something that seems close to normal.

**Commando March-** This is the only work for wind band by composer, Samuel Barber who is better known for his orchestral compositions. Barber wrote this piece in 1943 after joining the army. It is in tribute of the elite special forces of our military.

**Rock Springs Saga-** was composed by William Owens in 2007 after he visited Rock Springs, Wyoming. Inspired by the visit, the composer creates a score that could easily serve as the soundtrack to any classic cowboy movie or story about the old west.

**With Quiet Courage-** Larry Daehn composed this piece to honor his mother after her passing. He said that she “lived a life of quiet courage.” During these difficult times we have all had to muster up the courage to face each day and do the little things for each other to keep ourselves and each other safe. These small acts of courage may not seem like much in the moment but add up to much more in the long run. This piece celebrates the heroism in all of us.

**American Faces** —was commissioned for the Bands of America National Honor Band in 1995. This was supposed to open or close our concert in the spring of 2020. However, as stated earlier, those plans were put on hold. Finally, we get to perform it for you today with a slightly different cast than the students who originally performed it. Through the presentation of a variety of thematic ideas, David Holsinger presents us with the various “faces” that make up our great country. Sometimes these ideologies do battle and fight for space but the composer shows that when we come together and work for a common goal there is no greater or stronger country in the world. In the light of the last 15 months we dedicate this piece to you and all of us, because we are always stronger when we work together

# The Thanks

Thank you to the administration of Wyoming Valley West who made sure today's concert became a reality. Our high school principal, Mr. Jake Sholtis and assistant principals, Mrs. Cory Crossin and Mr. William Wright for their support throughout the year and helping us secure funding for the tent as well as Superintendent, Mr. Dave Tosh and Safety Coordinator, Mr. Anthony Dicton who were with us lock and step to make sure that our students *safely* had every artistic opportunity we could provide for them this year.

A special thank you to our custodial staff under the leadership of Mr. Barry McGee for helping us stage this concert and making sure that we had all that we needed to put the show on while making sure that our grounds looked great.

Thank you to the Mrs. Megan Schneider, our middle school director for the passion that you put into your work every day, making sure that we have dedicated and skilled musicians at the high school level regardless of the challenges.

Thank you to all of our Elementary Music Teachers who inspire these young minds to pick up an instrument in the first place and thank you to Mr. Scott Coates, our department chair for the leadership in navigating the department through these difficult times.

Thank you Mrs. Christine Eyer (orchestra director) and Mr. Justin Davis (chorus director) for your constant friendship and all that you did to make sure this concert happened and that people came.

Thank you to the Wyoming Valley West Band Parents for your constant support of the band program and music department. Thank you for pitching in to pay for the tent and buying so many of the instruments that we use. Without your monetary and emotional support, this band would not be possible.

And finally, thank you guest musicians. They say you are judged by the company that you keep and we are blessed to have such incredible friends like Ms. Diane Amari-Kolojeichick, Miss Emily Bly, Mr. Jamie Orfanella, Mr. Miles Orfanella, Mr. Justin Ambrozia, Mr. Ryan Berry and Mr. Justin Davis. Thank you all so much for sharing your skills and knowledge with our band to make this a truly special concert despite the obstacles we faced along the way.

# THE BAND

Under the direction of Mr. Andrew Kolojechick

<p><b>FLUTE</b>  Ella Kurbanov-D  Jessica Poluske  Rio Frank Bantell  Michael Schwarz  Maura Dunn  Kady Krasavage  Rebecca Bealla  Ariana Gardner  Taylor Schwarz  Lorelei Gaugler  Madalyn Turowski  Kyla Hand  Diane Amari*</p> <p><b>CLARINET</b>  Adam Hudock-D,R  Jon Lantz  Jared Haines  Christa Berrini  Justina Bottoms  Peyton Sprague  Haley Borland  Bailey Grove  Makayla Yeisley  Jose Hernandez  Annabella Piczon  Emily Bly*</p>	<p><b>ALTO SAX</b>  Cade Johnson  John McLaughlin-D  McKenna Melton  RJ Bell  Will Wojciechowski  Kenny Hassanoff  Gavin Phillips  Nathan Swetz  Noah Heidcavage  David Storm  Reily Fisher  David Furcal</p> <p><b>TENOR SAX</b>  Anthony Favata  Antonio Torres</p> <p><b>BARITONE SAX</b>  Ameilia Favata-D,R,A  George Hebda</p> <p><b>BASS CLARINET</b>  Michael Bogdon</p> <p><b>TUBA</b>  Hailey Budziak</p>	<p><b>TRUMPET</b>  Kalia Saunders  Anthony Severns  Stephen Rood  Isabella Lachinova  Sebastian Stiles  Jewell Thomas  Ben Harned  Joey Libus  Jatym Keller  Colleen Ryan  Gabriel Ganz  Vicky Pivarnik  Paul Rossmell  Quinn Crispell  Makayla Roberto  Jamie Orfanella*  Miles Orfanella*</p> <p><b>FRENCH HORN</b>  Justin Ambrozia*</p> <p><b>STRING BASS</b>  Logan Bowling</p> <p>D-District Band 2021  R-Region Band 2021  A-All State Band 2021  *-Guest Performer</p>	<p><b>TROMBONE</b>  Adam Cavalari-D  Max Saporito-D  Gabby Razvillas  Isaac Bolan  Ryan Frisbie</p> <p><b>EUPHONIUM</b>  Murphy Pick  Ryan Berry*</p> <p><b>PERCUSSION</b>  Ian Heidcavage  Jack Lane  Nik Slivinski  Emily Rowe  Kenai Diaz  Michael Miller  Jacob Wolfe  Jake Youells  Quinn Deutschmann  Dorian Hoffman  Drew Simmers  Tyloer Berrini  Reilyn Melton  William Potera  Liv Ravert  Justin Davis*</p>
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