

Washington University Wind Ensemble

Chris Becker, conductor

Thursday, February 27, 2025 - 7:30 P.M.
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Music Center



WashU Arts & Sciences

Music

Program

Commando March (1943/2009)

Samuel Barber
(1910 - 1981)
ed. R. Anderson Collinsworth

Hold this Boy and Listen (2008)

Carter Pann
(b. 1972)

Choose Joy (2022)

Randall Standridge
(b. 1976)

Scenes from The Louvre (1966)

Norman Dello Joio
(1913 - 2008)

- I. *The Portals*
- II. *Children's Gallery*
- III. *The Kings of France*
- VI. *The Nativity Paintings*
- V. *Finale*

Program Notes

Commando March was not only Barber's first work for wind band, but his first work subsequent to entering the Army. There is no extant documentation regarding a formal commission or a direct military order; rather it appears Barber was inspired to compose for the military bands he must have come in contact with during his basic training. In spite of its large instrumentation, Barber often referred to the work in letters as his "little march." Barber at one time described the music as representing "a new kind of soldier, one who did not march in straight lines" but "struck in stealth with speed, disappearing as quickly as he came."

The premiere performance was given by the Army Air Forces Technical Command Training Band, Warrant Officer Robert L. Landers conductor, on May 23, 1943 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. As was the case with many of Barber's earlier works, *Commando March* was immediately well-received by audiences. Following its premiere, Barber himself led the Goldman Band in several performances in July 1943. He even adapted the work for orchestra at the request of Serge Koussevitzky, who led this score's first performance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra on October 29, 1943.

-note from University of North Texas University Band concert program, 2 October 2019

Hold this Boy and Listen (2008) is an unusually soft and subdued song for band, written for my third nephew, David Paulus, Jr. I sat down at the piano and wrote a lyrical work where the melodies and harmonies return, creating a structure not unlike standard song structure. The sentiment is at times innocent or wistful and at other times haunted and serene. The players should really be allowed to sing through their instruments in this piece.

-note from the score

Inspired by a high school student who found happy moments even in the face of cancer, **Choose Joy** is an uplifting work from Randall Standridge combining engaging rhythms, energetic melodies, bombastic percussion, and hints of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* to create a message of positivity for performers and audiences alike.

-note from the publisher

Scenes from "The Louvre" comes from a 1964 television documentary produced by NBC News called *A Golden Prison: The Louvre*, for which Dello Joio provided the soundtrack. The documentary tells the history of the Louvre and its world-class collection of art, which is in many ways inseparable from the history of France.

Dello Joio chose to use the music of Renaissance-era composers in his soundtrack in order to match the historical depth of the film. He collected the highlights of this Emmy-winning score into a five-movement suite for band in 1965. The first movement, *Portals*, is the title music from the documentary, and it consists entirely of Dello Joio's original material, complete with strident rhythms and bold 20th-century harmony. The second movement, *Children's Gallery*, never actually

appears in the film. It is a light-hearted theme and variations of Tielman Susato's *Ronde et Saltarelle*. The stately third movement is based on themes by Louis XIV's court composer, Jean-Baptiste Lully, and is aptly titled *The Kings of France*. Movement four, *The Nativity Paintings*, uses the medieval theme *In Dulci Jubilo*. The *Finale* uses the *Cestiliche Sonata* of Vincenzo Albrici as its source material, to which Dello Joio adds his own harmonic flavor, particularly in the final passages of the piece.

-note from Ohlone Wind Orchestra concert program, 10 November 2013

Director



Chris Becker is the Director of the Wind Ensemble and the Jazz Bands at Washington University in St. Louis, and serves as the director of winds and percussion. Mr. Becker graduated from the University of Missouri - Kansas City Conservatory of Music "With Distinction" in 1977, receiving the Bachelor of Music Education Degree, and earned a Master of Arts in Education from Lindenwood University.

Mr. Becker has taught instrumental music in Missouri for 47 years from the elementary to the university level. In June 2017, he retired as Director of Bands at Parkway South High School, after serving for 36 years in the Parkway School District (St. Louis County, Missouri). During his tenure there, he directed Marching Bands, Symphonic Bands, Jazz Bands, and all other related band activities.

In addition, he is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Manchester Community Band, a highly successful ensemble founded eleven years ago and enthusiastically received by the residents of Manchester. Mr. Becker has also been a frequent guest conductor for both concert bands and jazz bands in Missouri and Illinois.

Mr. Becker has served as the Jazz Vice President for the Missouri Music Educators Association, the first educator to hold that position after it was established as a part of the MMEA Board. Mr. Becker is a Past President of the Missouri unit of the International Association of Jazz Educators. During his term he helped clarify the mission and goals of the unit, and endeavored to reach out to music educators, those in the music industry, and professional players to create a broader base of support for jazz education. Becker has also served as Jazz Vice President for the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association. Becker plays the trumpet professionally with a variety of ensembles in the St. Louis area, and has taught trumpet privately in both the Kansas City and St. Louis areas.

Mr. Becker is a member of the National Association for Music Education, the Missouri Music Educators Association, the Missouri Association for Jazz Education, the Missouri Band Masters Association, and Phi Beta Mu Band Directors Fraternity. He was named "Charles Emmons Outstanding Band Director of the Year" by Phi Beta Mu in January 1999. He was nominated numerous times for the Pillar of Parkway Award, which recognizes commitment and dedication for work in the Parkway School District, and was awarded a Pillar of Parkway in April 2016. Mr. Becker was honored for his distinguished career by the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association in January 2018, and named to their Hall of Fame. In January 2025, Mr. Becker was inducted into the Missouri Music Educators Association Hall of Fame.

Wind Ensemble

Flute

Lillie Kang (Masters in Public Health, Louisville, KY)
Jimin Lee (Data Science, Seoul, South Korea)
Cherie Liu (Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, Overland Park, KS)
Jason Tung (Chemistry, Crown Point, IN)
Alexa Weinhoff (Chemical Engineering, Springfield, IL)
Lena Stern (Undeclared, Annapolis, MD)
Angelica Han (Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Beijing, China)
Joline Sun (Biology, Premed, Houston, TX)
Neela Myers (Biology, Neuroscience, West Chicago, IL)
Nikol Krol (Undeclared, Hickory Hills, IL)
Kelly Quick (Cognitive Neuroscience, Psychological & Brain Sciences, Wentzville, MO)
Emery Bowman (Undeclared, St. Louis, MO)
Elizabeth Papalotzi (Environmental Biology, Valley Park, MO)
Mel Mallard (Psychological & Brain Sciences, Orlando, FL)
Dariana Chavez (PhD in Biology, Biomedical Science, St. Louis, MO)

Oboe

Michelle Zhang (Computer Science and Music, Ballwin, MO)
Ethan Penn (Community Member, Glenview, IL)
Luca Marianova (Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology, Brooklyn, NY)

Bassoon

Lucas Neres (English and Economics, Winter Haven, FL)
Donita Bauer (Community Member)

Clarinet

Felix Guo (Biology, Lawrence, KS)
Theodor Martin (Linguistics and Anthropology, Makanda, IL)
Q Negrete (Psychological & Brain Sciences, Morgan Hill, CA)
Claire Gwak (Undeclared, St. Peters, MO)
Niu Niu Zhang (Mechanical Engineering, Vermillion, SD)
Marie Xue (Undeclared, Shanghai, China)
Raymond Brooks (Math and Physics, Belleville, IL)
Tyler Teague (Community Member, Eureka, MO)

Bass Clarinet

Laurin Council (WashU Faculty)

Saxophones

Brett Carnes, alto (Physics and Math, Springfield, MO)
Evan Xiao, alto (Biology and French, Broken Arrow, OK)
Sarah Baek, alto (Phychology and Biology, Atlanta, GA)
Steven Chi, alto (Biochemistry, North Huntingdon, PA)
Alan Knight, tenor (Political Science, Naperville, IL)
Connor Higano, bari (Finance and Math: Economics, St. Louis, MO)

Wind Ensemble

Trumpet

Seth Peters (Community Member, Barnhart, MO)
Nathan Pravda (Physics, Natick, MA)
Zachary Spain (Undeclared, Palo Alto, CA)
Tori Vasquez (History, Hazelwood, MO)
Victoria Wiecko (Mechanical Engineering, Wildwood, MO)
Cara Lichty (Classics, Dallas, TX)
Cameron Selby (Undeclared, Seattle, WA)
Quinn Prouty (Undeclared, St. Louis, MO)
Charlie Workinger (Community Member)

French Horn

Thomas McGrath (Art History, St. Louis, MO)
Tai Moore (Studio Art, St. Louis, MO)
Emily Wallman (Biology, O'Fallon, IL)
Riley Novak (Global Studies and Spanish, Phoenix, AZ)
Beatrice Augustine (Communication Design, Cleveland, OH)

Trombone

Sean Wang (Biochemistry, Pleasanton, CA)
Julian Mitchell (Computational Biology and Statistics, O'Fallon, IL)
Aaron Roytman (Chemistry, San Mateo, CA)
Henry Wasserman (Biochemistry, Concord, MA)

Euphonium

Grace Moore (PhD Neurosciences, Keller, TX)
Yu-Chia Chang (PhD Chemistry, Taichung City, Taiwan)

Tuba

Fabian Reyes (Mechanical Engineering, Kansas City, MO)
Sylas Sindle (Studio Art and Film, Willard, MO)
Sriharsha Gonuguntla (Biology, Ballwin, MO)

Percussion

Jake Page (Biochemistry, St. Louis, MO)
Maya Irvine (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Camdenton, MO)
Alex Nguyen (PhD Earth, Environmental, & Planetary Sciences, St. Peters, MO)
Phoenix Jarosz (Computer Science and Mathematics, O'Fallon, MO)
Josh Daly (Community Member)
Jessica Flannigan (WashU Staff)
Neil Flannigan (Community Member)
Curtis Halbrook (Community Member)

String Bass

Taraneh Atri (Biology: Neuroscience and Applied Linguistics, Scottsdale, AZ)

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