

WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Wind Symphony

GMEA In-Service Conference Performance



January 28 • 8:45 AM

Classic Center

Program

Chasing Sunlight

Cait Nishimura

Associate Director, Holly Maldonado

Scenes from Home

Elena Specht

Movement I - Mountain Lake

...the Lament of Familiar Ruins

Kyle Green

Hunting Scenes

Satoshi Yagisawa

Abide With Me

arr. Jay Dawson

Guest Conductor, Eric Willoughby

Under Western Skies

Kevin McKee

Soloists, Philip Smith and Brandon Craswell

Come Sunday

Omar Thomas

Trumpet Soloist - Phil Smith

Trumpet Soloist - Brandon Craswell

Composer In-Residence - Kyle Green

Director of Bands - Michael Kobito

Associate Director of Bands - Holly Maldonado

Guest Conductor - Eric Willoughby

Program Notes

Chasing Sunlight

Chasing Sunlight was inspired by the experience of driving west into the setting sun, as if trying to keep up with the earth's rotation to catch the last few rays of light before dusk. The steady eighth note motif throughout the piece represents this sense of urgency, while the soaring, lyrical themes depict the warmth and radiance of the sun low in the sky.

Just as the sun will always set, humans must accept the impermanence of all things in life, and make the most of every opportunity before it has passed. Chasing Sunlight also represents the ongoing pursuit of these opportunities.

-Program notes from the composer

Scenes from Home - Movement 1

When conceiving of Scenes from Home, I had a strong desire to write music in response to specific images. I chose to use the artwork hanging in my own home as inspiration. I encounter these four paintings every day, and as a composer, I thought it only logical to give a soundtrack and a story to each.

The paintings I have are all second-hand art, collected from thrift stores and previous owners who no longer wanted them. Consequently, I know little or nothing about their creators, but each work brings character to my home. Scenes from Home is, then, drawn literally from scenes in my own home, but the subject matter of each painting is very much something not in my home. Each of these images carries me out of my house to another place. Some remind me of specific places I have been, while others are truly only scenes I can imagine from these paintings. Scenes from Home explores not just what is literally depicted in the paintings, but what else I imagine is occurring -- what would happen if we pressed "play" on each of these snapshots. I imagine wildlife struggling for survival, seagulls cawing as they soar, children playing on a summer vacation, waves roaring as they crash against the shore, and more. Scenes from Home brings each painting to life, allowing us to imagine each scene in action.

-Program notes from the composer

Program Notes

...the Lament of Familiar Ruins

On the day of October 26th, 2019, I woke up to what would end up being the worst day of my life. An event so horrific that I still, two years later, cannot fathom the event had occurred. Living with my partner in a small, simplistic apartment in a barn, we housed 20 horses only 20 feet away from our little box we called home. The air was crisp that morning- it was 56 degrees outside, and it had rained the night before. I was alone. Being awoken at 6:22am by the sound of a horse kicking the side of the stable, I slowly made my way out the door to investigate the sounds. Before me was a thick cloud of smoke, a distant roaring sound, and the visual of a horse jumping in its stall. I opened one of the large barn doors and before me was a large orange blaze. The rest is a blur. Being a psychotherapist as well, I knew days later that I needed to document the experience from start to finish for emotional processing purposes (to this day, I still have not and will not read what I wrote). Within minutes, I witnessed the largest fire I had ever seen; I witnessed losing everything I own; I witnessed death; and I witnessed losing a part of my identity that I will never be able to retrieve.

The purpose of this piece is to convey what words cannot - the absolute lament that I experience daily. The notes, sounds, and textures of this piece have been carefully crafted to emulate the post-traumatic stress that lives within me. I have high hopes that the completion of this piece will give me peace and closure, as the sounds of one thousand cannons (horses helplessly kicking the walls) haunts me in my dreams. I cannot run from this situation; it is now a part of who I am. It is insidious. It is merciless. It is my reality. It is the piece of myself that I will never get back.

-Program notes from the composer

Hunting Scenes

Commissioned by the 7th Taiwan Clinic (Taipei, Taiwan) in an effort to promote Taiwanese culture around the globe, this expertly-scored tone poem is based on traditional hunting songs of the Taroko people. A grave, somewhat mysterious opening section, with initial melodic material stated by baritone saxophone and euphonium, builds to the engaging main body of the work that features several contrasting sections filled with memorable lines, rhythmic diversity, and a variety of appealing textures and timbres. A dramatic, full-ensemble final section brings the piece to a powerful conclusion.

-Program notes from The Instrumentalist

Program Notes

Abide with Me

Abide with Me is a Christian hymn by Scottish Anglican Henry Francis Lyte most often sung to English composer William Henry Monk's tune entitled Eventide.

The hymn is a prayer for God to remain present with the speaker throughout life, through trials, and through death. The opening line alludes to Luke 24:29, "Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent", and the penultimate verse draws on text from 1 Corinthians 15:55, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

Arranger Jay Dawson brings a new element to Abide With Me. Interspersed with the lovely melody are the subtle and compelling bugle calls of Last Post, the British equivalent of Taps. This hauntingly beautiful addition brings a unique and emotional mood to the overall effect.

-Program notes from the publisher

Under Western Skies

When New Mexico trumpeter John Marchinado contacted me about writing a duo trumpet/piano piece, my immediate thought was to do something with a Western flavor. Before, and often during, my writing of this piece I poured over photographs of New Mexico's high desert areas, many that really embody the classic notion we have of "the West". The first movement, *Sundown*, attempts to accompany a classic Western sunset. The second movement, *Sunup-High Noon*, opens with muted trumpets heralding the morning light. Before long we're off on the day's adventure. The urgency of the mornings ride eventually slows as we ride into a ghost town and hear 12 ominous bell tolls signaling High Noon. The trumpets begin a duel in what is a tip of the hat to Western master Ennio Morricone. After reaching its climax we're off again to the rousing conclusion.

-Program notes from the composer

Program Notes

Come Sunday

I played trombone in wind ensembles from the 4th grade through college. This experience has contributed significantly to the life I lead now. I had the pleasure of being exposed to sounds, colors, moods, rhythms, and melodies from all over the world. Curiously absent, however, was music told authentically from the African-American experience. In particular, I couldn't understand how it was that no composer ever thought to tell the story of a black worship experience through the lens of a wind ensemble. I realize now that a big part of this was an issue of representation. One of the joys and honors of writing music for wind ensemble is that I get to write music that I wish had existed when I was playing in these groups -- music that told the story of the black experience via black composers. I am so grateful to Dr. Tony Marinello and the Illinois State University Wind Symphony for leading an incredible consortium that brought this piece to life. I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to hanging with Tony and the group for a week in about a month's time!

Come Sunday is a two-movement tribute to the Hammond organ's central role in black worship services. The first movement, *Testimony*, follows the Hammond organ as it readies the congregation's hearts, minds, and spirits to receive The Word via a magical union of Bach, blues, jazz, and R&B. The second movement, *Shout!*, is a virtuosic celebration -- the frenzied and joyous climactic moment(s) when The Spirit has taken over the service. The title is a direct nod to Duke Ellington, who held an inspired love for classical music and allowed it to influence his own work in a multitude of ways. To all the black musicians in wind ensemble who were given opportunity after opportunity to celebrate everyone else's music but our own -- I see you and I am you. This one's for the culture!

-Program notes from the composer

Michael Kobito
Director of Bands



Holly Maldonado
Associate Director of Bands



Kyle Green
Composer



Eric Willoughby
Guest Conductor



Philip Smith
Trumpet Soloist



Brandon Craswell
Trumpet Soloist



Biographies

Michael Kobito
Director of Bands



Michael Kobito is going into his sixth year with the Woodland High School Band, and his third year as Director of Bands. The band program consists of the marching band, four concert bands, a jazz band, as well as multiple chamber ensembles. Over the last several years, the band has received multiple Grand Championships, marched in the National Cherry Blossom Festival and Parade in Washington D.C. (2017), performed at the Southeastern United States Honor Band Invitational at Troy University (2018), and most recently traveled to New York City to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (2018).

Mr. Kobito is a native of Cartersville, GA and graduated Cum Laude from the University of Georgia in 2015 with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education. While in college, he served as drum major of the Redcoat Marching Band for two years and was president of the Collegiate National Association for Music Education. Currently, Mr. Kobito serves as a clinician, adjudicator, and performer with Tara Winds and the Georgia Brass Band. His professional affiliations include Georgia Music Educators' Association, National Association for Music Education, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Holly Maldonado
Associate Director of Bands



Ms. Maldonado will be joining the Woodland team as Associate Director of Bands. She joins us most recently from Dayton, Ohio where she taught as assistant director for three years with the high school and middle school bands, as well as working with the Marching Firebirds. Holly is from Kennesaw, Georgia where she graduated from Kell High School under the direction of Dave McGrath. Prior to teaching in Ohio, she taught elementary music for two years at Mableton Elementary and worked with Walton High School's Marching Raider Band for four seasons.

A horn player, Ms. Maldonado graduated in 2012 from Columbus State University in Columbus, GA earning a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. While attending Columbus State she performed with the top ensembles including the Wind Ensemble and the Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Jamie Nix and Paul Hostetter. Ms. Maldonado's accomplishments include touring Japan while performing with the Odyssey Brass Angels, performing for multiple years with the Carolina Crown Drum & Bugle Corps, and currently teaching with the Crossmen Drum & Bugle Corps from San Antonio, Texas.

Biographies

Eric Willoughby
Guest Conductor



Eric Willoughby has been a music educator in the state of Georgia for the past 27 years. Most recently as the Director of the Wind Ensemble at Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia in 2020-2021. Mr. Willoughby also served as the Director of Bands at Woodland High School in Cartersville, Georgia, as well as Peachtree Ridge High School in Suwanee, Georgia and Wheeler High School in Marietta, Georgia.

During his tenure as a secondary school director, Mr. Willoughby's ensembles consistently received superior ratings and numerous invitations to perform for honor band clinics and conventions, including two performances at the GMEA In Service Conference, two performances at UGA's "Janfest," the University of Alabama Honor Band Clinic, and the Troy University Southeastern United States Honor Band Clinic. Marching bands under his direction were awarded numerous class and grand championships. Mr. Willoughby has traveled with his bands all over the country, including multiple performance opportunities in Orlando, Florida, three performances in the National Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, D.C., the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City, the Hollywood Christmas Parade in Hollywood, California, the Waikiki Holiday Parade in Honolulu, Hawaii, in memory of the 65th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and most recently to perform in the 2018 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

Mr. Willoughby holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from The University of Georgia and a master's degree in Music Education from The University of Southern Mississippi. His professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu, Georgia Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Educators, National Band Association, and Phi Mu Alpha. He is active as a clinician and judge through the region. Mr. Willoughby is a multiple recipient of the Citation of Excellence, awarded by the National Band Association, and his bands at Woodland High School were recipients of the Exemplary Performance Award given by the Georgia Music Educators Association. Additionally, the Woodland Band Program was also recognized as 2013 Regional Winners of the National Band Association Program of Excellence "Blue Ribbon" Award. In 2015, Mr. Willoughby was named "Teacher of the Year" for both Woodland High School and the entire Bartow County School System.

Biographies

Philip Smith
Trumpet Soloist



Philip Smith joined the Hugh Hodgson School of Music at the University of Georgia as the William F. and Pamela P. Prokasy Professor in the Arts in August 2014. In addition to teaching his trumpet studio, he is the Bandmaster of the UGA British Brass Band, member of the faculty Georgia Brass Quintet, and coach of the Bulldog Brass Society. This new position follows his retirement from the New York Philharmonic after 36 years of service as Principal Trumpet, having joined the [New York Philharmonic](#) in October 1978.

Mr. Smith has appeared regularly as soloist, recitalist, chamber orchestra performer, and clinician. He has been featured as a soloist with the Philharmonic performing with conductors Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, Erich Leinsdorf, Leonard Bernstein, Neeme Järvi, Lorin Maazel, Alan Gilbert and Bramwell Tovey. Repertoire highlights have included the world premiere of Joseph Turrin's Trumpet Concerto with the New York Philharmonic (1989) and its subsequent European premiere with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra (1994). Additional New York Philharmonic performances have included the U.S. premiere of Jacques Hétu's Trumpet Concerto (1992), the world premiere of Lowell Liebermann's Concerto (2000), and the world premiere of Siegfried Matthus's Double Concerto for Trumpet, Trombone, and Orchestra (2003). He has also been a guest soloist with the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, and the symphonies of Edmonton, Newfoundland, South Dakota, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids (Iowa), Columbus (Indiana), Pensacola (Florida), Hartford (Connecticut), and Beaumont (Texas).

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Biographies

Brandon Craswell
Trumpet Soloist



Brandon Craswell holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in trumpet performance from Indiana University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Kentucky. Currently he is Associate Professor of Trumpet at University of Georgia, in Athens, Georgia where he teaches and maintains an active performance schedule.

In demand as an orchestral musician, he has played with the Atlanta, Charleston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, and Honolulu Symphonies, including a performance at Carnegie Hall with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. In the summer of 2010, he played principal trumpet with the Santiago, Chile Philharmonic. He was also a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago for two seasons, working with “Bud” Herseth, former principal trumpet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for over fifty years.

Adept at both classical and jazz, Craswell spent a year playing trumpet on the North American tour of the Broadway musical 42nd St. An International Trumpet Guild prize winner, Craswell has been a featured soloist at numerous international festivals, including the Aspen Music Festival, the International Trumpet Guild Conference, and the International Romantic Trumpet Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia. Craswell has also shared the stage with pianist (and Van Cliburn winner) Olga Kern and the National Gallery of Art Chamber Orchestra. Aside from performing throughout the United States, Craswell has performed in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Italy, and Russia.

Biographies

Kyle Green
Guest Composer



Christopher “Kyle” Green (b. 1996) has been an avid musician since beginning band in junior high school. Kyle began playing the trumpet in his middle school band and instantly found a desire to continue to learn anything and everything related to music. He spent countless hours studying scores while in middle school and eventually wrote his first note during his seventh-grade year. Through high school, Kyle picked up the clarinet and began to perform in community ensembles in his area. As he progressed through high school, his compositional work began to mature and was premiered by various university level and community level ensembles. During Kyle’s senior year of high school, he attended Woodland High School, Cartersville, GA, under the direction of Eric Willoughby. Kyle attended Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA, where he obtained a B.A. in Music Theory. While in college, Kyle’s works have been premiered by the Kennesaw State University Wind Ensemble, other instrumental ensembles at Kennesaw State University, as well as The Dallas Wind Symphony. Mr. Green has been awarded the winner of the 2015 Dallas Wind Symphony Call for Fanfares, and the 2016 Kennesaw State University Composition Contest. In 2017, Kyle became part of the RWS Music Publishing Company family, where many of his works are now published. Since, Kyle has graduated from Kennesaw State University in 2018 and has also graduated from Kennesaw State University with a Master of Social Work Degree and has obtained licensure as a psychotherapist. Kyle has commissioned numerous works, including a premiere by the Woodland High School Wind Symphony at the 2016 GMEA In-Service Conference; and The Central-Carroll High School Symphonic Band at the 2021 GMEA In-Service Conference. He has expanded his composition skills to the marching band setting, as well. Kyle’s marching band programs have been performed by the Woodland High School Marching Band, as well as the Carrollton High School Marching Band.



Scenes from Home

The theme of this concert has multiple lenses. As you listen, consider these perspectives:

- We aim to program music written by composers of different backgrounds, aligning with the diversity we find in our band program. We wanted to represent all of our students at Woodalnd through the composers they played.
- We aim to play music that represents different genres and difficulty. From calm hymns to complex compositions, this program gives every student a chance to play something that challenges and inspires them in a unique way.
- We aim to present music that evokes imagery and scenery from the different places you can call home. Whether it is the city, the country, the future or the past, home is presented in different ways. We explore the pursuit of this beauty and anguish in the unexpected loss of home. Home has many different connotations and we hope you enjoy expereincig a few Scenes from ours.

Thank you!

Woodland Administration

Principal - David Stephenson

Associate Principal - Melinda Wilder

Assistant Principals - John Howard and Eric Willoughby

Bartow County Administration

Superintendent - Dr. Phillip Page

Deputy Superintendent - Dr. David Chiprany

Fine Arts Coordinator - Dr. Brent Shropshire

Director of Percussion - Armando Granados

Woodland Conservatory Teachers

Flute - Aleksandra Tevdoska

Clarinet - Kyle Green

Saxophone - Marc Johnson

Trumpet - Michael Meo

French Horn - Eric Hawkins

Low Brass - Joel Clevenger

Percussion - Chris Collins

Clinicians

Dr. Josh Byrd - University of West Georgia

Dr. Alyssa Grey - Berry College