

The Minnesota State Band

under the direction of

Keith Liuzzi, Conductor

Evan Varns, Associate Conductor

Presents:

Earth, Verse, and Anniversary

A Celebration of 125 Years



125 Years

MINNESOTA
STATE BAND

SINCE 1898

Minnesota State Band
125th Anniversary Concert
Saturday, April 22nd, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Minnesota History Center
345 Kellogg Boulevard
St Paul, MN 55102

City of Saint Paul

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Band enjoys a long and proud musical tradition dating back to its establishment in 1898; and

WHEREAS, this tradition has been ushered forward for over a century by the more than 692 talented professional and amateur musicians who have served as members since its founding; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Band has represented the State of Minnesota on six International Goodwill Tours since 1986 and is the only remaining State Band in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Band will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a concert at the Minnesota History Center on Saturday, April 22, 2023; and

WHEREAS, we join people across our community in honoring and celebrating the Minnesota State Band's 125 years of service to our community as they continue ushering forward this lasting tradition.

Now, Therefore, I, Melvin Carter, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby proclaim Thursday, April 22, 2023, to be:

Minnesota State Band Day *in the City of Saint Paul*



In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Saint Paul to be affixed this Twenty-Second Day of April in the Year Two Thousand Twenty-three.

Melvin Carter
Melvin Carter, Mayor

PROGRAM

- Hail! Minnesota (2001) Truman Rickard (1882 - 1948)
Arranged by J. Komro
- The Minnesota State Band Fanfare (2023) Glen Newton (b. 1944)
- An Original Suite (1928) Gordon Jacob (1895 – 1984)
Edited by C.P. Heidenreich
No. 1 March No. 2 Intermezzo No. 3 Finale
- Song of the Seer (1995) David L. Wells (b. 1952)
- Earth Song (2012) Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)
- Canticle of the Creatures (1984) Jim Curnow (b. 1943)
I. Prologue II. Brother Sun III. Sister Moon and Stars
IV. Brother Fire V. Mother Earth VI. Epilogue

INTERMISSION

- Mars & Venus March (2023) John Philip Sousa (1854 - 1932)
Adapted by Brian Black
- Salvation is Created (1912) Pavel Tschesnokoff (1877 - 1944)
Arr. By Bruce H. Houseknecht
- Porgy and Bess (1935) George Gershwin (1897 – 1937)
Arranged by James Barnes
- First Suite in Eb (1909) Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934)
I. Chaconne II. Intermezzo III. March

PROGRAM NOTES

Hail Minnesota (1904) was written by University of Minnesota students Truman E. Rickard and Arthur E. Upson. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association, owner of the copyright to the song, released its copyright to the words and music, and in 1945 the Legislature adopted “Hail Minnesota” as the state song. The arrangement played today is by Joseph Komro, longtime director of the Minnesota State Band.

The Minnesota State Band Fanfare (2023) is the winner of our fanfare composition contest. Written for the brass section of the band, it effectively emphasizes the sonorities of the brass as well as their jubilant brilliance to celebrate our 125th Anniversary.

An Original Suite (1924) was composed by Gordon Jacob while he was a student at the Royal Academy of Music. By his description, the title was given to the work by the publisher, Boosey & Hawkes, a decision he later regretted. Throughout the work, Jacob often emulates folk tunes. The March resembles a British march in structure. Listen for the same drum figure at the beginning and ending of the movement. Jacob described the Intermezzo as being more Irish than English “folky”. The reason being that *Londonderry Air* was very popular at the time. The Finale is a type of rondo, with contrasting sections of melody and accompaniment.

Song of the Seer (1995) is based on two Dakota songs. We are first introduced to the slow, lyrical Song of the Seer, Wicasa-Atawan Olowan, as sung and told by Tanka-Ptecila (Short Bull), a Holy Man, Prophet, or “Medicine Man”. This song is sung when the tribe is going to war, just before the scouts set out to find the enemy. The second theme is based on Olowan (Song), as sung and told by Tasunke-Ciqala (Little Horse). It tells of how an aged warrior sees the young men setting out to war. As he thinks of his own by-gone glory, he sadly realizes that he is now only an old man with the toothache.

Earth Song (2012) features sweeping melodic lines and intense dynamic contrast, capturing the gamut of emotion in this beautiful transcription for band. Originally composed for unaccompanied voices with Ticheli's own text as inspiration, the work unites the power of words and images with melody, harmony, and dynamics.

Canticle of the Creatures (1984) takes its inspiration from the writings of St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), founder of the Franciscan religious order. His simple life of poverty inspired many, and he is admired because of his love and respect for all creation. He expressed his religious ideas in poems as well as through ministry. These poems were not written to be read in prayer books, but to be sung by the friars as part of their preaching and devotions. *Canticle of the Creatures* sings praise to many of God's creations, with each movement depicting the stanza of the poem after which it is titled.

Mars & Venus March (2023) is the third movement of John Philip Sousa's *Looking Upward Suite*. The idea for the march came while Sousa was gazing at the heavens on a clear evening. Sousa's suites were prominently featured in his band concerts, but they do not enjoy great popularity today. One reason for this is because Sousa could interpret his own music far more effectively than any other conductor. This new arrangement by Minnesota State Band member Brian Black was written in celebration of the Band's 125th anniversary.

Salvation is Created (1912) first appeared as a six-voice choral work. It is an arrangement of a Kievan chant, a Communion hymn intended for the Russian Orthodox liturgy for Friday. The form is very simple, consisting of two nearly identical verses that differ only in their final cadences. The text is taken from Psalm 74: Salvation is made in the midst of the earth, O God. Alleluia.

Porgy and Bess (1935) premiered on Broadway in 1935 and has been controversial ever since. Although the story about an African American community was created by White collaborators, Gershwin insisted that all performances be by Black casts. And while it offered valuable opportunities for Black artists, it was criticized as an inappropriate depiction of Black culture, with dialect that reinforced stereotypes. Yet *Porgy and Bess* has endured, resonating with audiences of all backgrounds. At its core, it's a very human story, about connections and choices made in difficult times, with melodies that move us.

First Suite in E-flat for Military Band (1909) occupies a legendary position in the wind band repertory and is one of the earliest examples of modern wind band instrumentation still performed. Holst began with *Chaconne*, a traditional Baroque form that sets a series of variations over a ground bass theme. The *Intermezzo* is a quirky rhythmic frenzy that contrasts everything that has preceded it. The *March* begins shockingly, with a furious trill in the woodwinds articulated by brass and percussion. This sets up a lighthearted mood, which eventually takes up the more traditional mood of a British march. The coda makes brief mention of elements from both the *Chaconne* and *Intermezzo* before closing joyfully.

Minnesota State Band Spring Concerts Join Us!

Spring Concert – Thursday, May 25, 2023; 6:00 PM
Saint John's Catholic School of Little Canada
380 Little Canada Road East, Little Canada

Memorial Day Concert – Monday, May 29, 2023; Time TBD
Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy. St. Paul

Minnesota State Band Personnel 2023

Flute/Piccolo	Alto Saxophone	Trombone
Suzanne Benson ('21)	Melanie Day ('21)	Jack Kennedy ('18)
Gail Bullard ('09)	Linda Lundstrom ('23)	Isaac Smithee ('23)
Teresa Cerling ('19)	Eric Taylor ('22)	Michael Sweet ('16)
Nita Cunningham ('22)		
Carrie Halden ('04)	Tenor Saxophone	Bass Trombone
Laura Millberg ('09)	Peter Wickert ('22)	Jim ten Bensel ('22)
Oboe	Baritone Saxophone	Euphonium
Eric Laska ('18)	Devin Naumann ('21)	Dennis Opland ('08)
Rosemary O'Connell ('16)		Jonathan Wharton ('23)
	Trumpet	Jason Wiley ('22)
English Horn	Brian Black ('22)	
Rosemary O'Connell ('16)	Shirley Christenson ('17)	Tuba
	Carol Jensen ('18)	W Rayford Johnson ('16)
Clarinet	Andy Mobley ('02)	John Moore ('00)
Laura Doebler ('17)	Dan Newland ('97)	Thomas Wells ('18)
Al Heckwork ('23)	Donna Novey-Clark ('22)	
Donna Hogenson ('06)	Charlie Ryan ('22)	Percussion
Frederick Larson ('03)	Walt Skidmore ('11)	Craig Allen ('02)
Jackie Sczepanski ('23)		Chuck Campana ('20)
Elizabeth Zehnpfennig ('22)	French Horn	Julie Henry ('19)
	Gerald Abraham ('19)	Allison Wyatt ('23)
Bass Clarinet	Lucy Davis ('21)	
Evan Varns ('00)	Jim McCreary ('10)	
	Alison Penner Rahn ('23)	
Bassoon	Lori Pfeifer ('21)	
Barbara Brauer ('71)		
Clancy Theade ('19)		

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And on Facebook

The Band would like to extend special appreciation to our Associate Members. Thank you for your support!

Gold Associate Members

Barbara Brauer

Rupert Strobel

Silver Associate Members

Robert English

Art & Donna Hogenson

Dan & Jane Lambrides

Art Lemka

Naurine D. Lennox

Lori Mobley

Thomas Ostertag

Andrew & Carol Whitman

Delores Zbikowski

Bronze Associate Members

Teresa Cerling

Sharon Heaton

Irma Johnson

Howard Leathers

Bonnie McLellan

Agnes Reek



Thank you to the Minnesota History
Center Staff for your assistance in
making this marvelous facility
available and helping everything to run
smoothly. We appreciate you!



Become an Associate Member of the Minnesota State Band

The Minnesota State Band is proud of the many people who have taken an active interest in supporting the **“Only remaining State Band in the United States.”** We humbly seek your tax-deductible contribution to help keep our music tradition alive for another 125 years.

Associate membership runs from June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Choose the contribution level that is right for you. The Minnesota State Band will list the names of all contributors in the Bronze, Silver and Gold categories in our concert programs.

Please fill out the form below and mail your contribution to Minnesota State Band, P.O. Box 130033, St. Paul, MN 55113. You can also give online by credit or debit card at <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Minnesota-State-Band>.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I would like to become an Associate Member of the Minnesota State Band at the following level:

Associate Level (\$30) Silver Level (\$100 - \$249)

Bronze Level (\$50 - \$99) Gold Level (\$250 and up)

I would like to sponsor a concert for \$450.00.

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FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
MINNESOTA
(202) 225-6631

April 22, 2023

Minnesota State Band
C/o Gail Bullard
P.O. Box 130033
St. Paul, MN 55114

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the kind invitation to attend the Minnesota State Band Gala 125th Anniversary Concert, to be held at the Minnesota History Center on Saturday, April 22, 2023. I regret that I am unable to join you in person but wish you all a wonderful celebration.

As you gather to celebrate 125 years as the official Minnesota State Band, the only remaining state band in the United States, you can be proud that all of your effort and hard work have kept the Minnesota State Band thriving and delivering music to the citizens of Minnesota. Studies show that music is a powerful way to bring people together and promote a sense of belonging. Volunteering your time and talents to continue this tradition is an exceptional act of generosity.

Thank you again to the Minnesota State Band for bringing music to Minnesota for more than a century, and I wish you continued success.

Enjoy the celebration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress