

The Minnesota State Band

under the direction of

Keith Liuzzi, Conductor

Evan Varns, Associate Conductor

Presents:

2025 Winter Legacy Tour Mostly Marches and Overtures

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 2:00 PM

Moose Lake Community School
Moose Lake, MN 55767

Sunday, February 23, 2025, 2:00 PM

The Reif Performing Arts Center
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

PROGRAM

- Overture for Winds (1959)Charles Carter (1926–1999)
- Ever the Rambling Winds (2018)Joseph Benjamin Earp (b.1984)
- Irish Tune and (1918) Percy Grainger (1882–1961)
Shepherds Hey
- The Dragoons of Villars (1966) Aimé Maillart (1817–1871)
Scored by Clifford P. Barnes

INTERMISSION

- Overture to Candide (1955)Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)
Transcribed by Clare Grundman
- The Upward Looking Marches (1902) ... John P. Sousa (1854–1932)
Adapted by Brian Black
- Polar Star March (2023)
- Southern Cross March (2024)
- Mars and Venus March (2023)
- Declaration Overture (1976) Claude T. Smith (1932–1987)



Today's program is made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

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Minnesota State Band Personnel 2025

Flute/Piccolo	French Horn	Trombone
Suzanne Benson ('21)	Gerald Abraham ('19)	Nick Jensen ('23)
Gail Bullard ('09)	Lucy Davis ('21)	Jack Kennedy ('18)
Teresa Cerling ('19)	Ishpreet Singh Kohli ('22)	Isaac Smithee ('23)
Nita Cunningham ('22)	Lori Pfeifer ('21)	Michael Sweet ('16)
Carrie Halden ('04)		
Kathy Hectorne ('24)	Bassoon	Bass Trombone
Laura Millberg ('09)	Gayle McClellan ('23)	Keith Miner ('24)
	Kol Peduk ('25)	Jim ten Bensel ('22)
Oboe		
Eric Laska ('18)	Alto Saxophone	Euphonium
Rosemary O'Connell ('16)	Melanie Meerovich ('21)	Dennis Opland ('08)
	Linda Lundstrom ('23)	Jonathan Wharton ('23)
English Horn	Stacy Morrison ('23)	Jason Wiley ('22)
Rosemary O'Connell ('16)		
	Tenor Saxophone	Tuba
Clarinet	Peter Wickert ('22)	W Rayford Johnson ('16)
Kat Almquist ('24)		John Moore ('00)
Curt Burgmann ('25)	Baritone Saxophone	Thomas Wells ('18)
Donna Hogenson ('06)	Devin Naumann ('21)	
Sara Ksylyczyn ('23)		Percussion
Frederick Larson ('03)	Trumpet	Craig Allen ('02)
Carmen Nickish ('98)	Luke Baker ('24)	Alison Cameron ('24)
Kyla Pritzl ('24)	Brian Black ('22)	Chuck Campana ('20)
Louis Siegel ('24)	Gordy Flam ('24)	Julie Henry ('19)
Evan Varns ('00)	Carol Jensen ('18)	Allison Wyatt ('23)
	Stuart Lane ('23)	
Bass Clarinet	Andy Mobley ('02)	
Jim McCreary ('10)	Dan Newland ('97)	

Join Us for Our Upcoming Concerts!

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School – Shared concert with the Ogichidaa Rock Band, and FDLOS Traditional Drum Group.
Monday, February 24; 2:00 PM; Cloquet, MN 55720

Cloquet Senior High School – Joint Concert
Monday, February 24; 7:00 PM; Cloquet, MN 55720

Midwinter Concert with the River Valley Band
Sunday, March 2; 1:00 PM; Hastings Middle School

Spring Concert - Minnesota History Center; St. Paul, MN
Saturday, April 26; 1:00 PM

PROGRAM NOTES

Overture for Winds (1959) was written while Charles Carter was in residency at Florida State University. This music is challenging for both the performers and the audience. The performers must execute tempo, dynamic and articulation changes without "giving away" abrupt shifts to the audience. For the audience, the piece can seem like a roller coaster ride, shifting between fast and slow, regaining strength and driving toward a brilliant close. It is a joyful blend of academic and entertainment value.

Ever the Rambling Winds (2018) is a concert march inspired by the power, strength and excitement of the wind. You are encouraged to imagine different effects wind has while listening to this march. You might conjure up a gentle breeze lifting a child's kite; mighty gusts powering wind turbines that harness energy; or gale force winds that create fear in even the most seasoned navigator at sea. Though wind is but a single element, its diversity and power greatly impact our planet and our lives.

Irish Tune from County Derry (1918) is an old song, whose composer is unknown and first came to light in a collection of Irish folk songs published in 1855. Most people for whom it speaks directly to the heart associate it with the 1910 lyrics written by Frederick Weatherly, known as *Danny Boy*. But the tune is known by many names in both popular and church music.

Shepherds Hey (1918) is a Morris Dance, a centuries-old tradition of fluid, group dancing. Morris Dances are still danced by teams of "Morris Men" decked out with bells and ornaments to the music of the fiddle or 'the pipe and tabor' (a sort of drum and fife) in England. The word 'hey' denotes a particular figure in Morris Dancing; it involves the interweaving of two lines of dancers. Grainger symbolized this interweaving with the use of two parallel lines of music at the opening of the composition.

The Dragoons of Villars (1966) is the overture to the comedic opera which premiered in Paris in 1856. It was very popular across Europe and in the United States, where it is known as *The Hermit's Bell*. The opera takes place in a French mountain village near the border with Savoy in 1704, towards the end of the war in the Cévennes. In brief, this was a war fought by the Protestant Huguenots for their

religious freedom. The dragoons come to the village in search of fugitives hiding in the mountains. They are greatly feared and are said to be an especially wild and dissolute lot. Despite the dark aspects of the plot, this is a comedy. In the end, the fugitives escape their pursuers, the dragoons are humbled, and the hero and heroine are wed.

Overture to *Candide* (1955) While the Broadway production of *Candide* was essentially a flop, the Overture to the operetta quickly earned a place in the orchestral repertoire. Since that time, it has become one of the most frequently performed compositions by a 20th Century American composer. The overture incorporates tunes from the songs *The Best of All Possible Worlds*, *Battle Music*, *Oh, Happy We*, and *Glitter and Be Gay* and melodies composed specifically for the overture. If you are of a “certain age” you may well recognize the *Glitter and Be Gay* portion of the overture as Dick Cavett’s signature introduction during the years his show aired on PBS.

The Looking Upward Suite (1902) John Philip Sousa wrote a suite for his band in 1902 he called *Looking Upwards*, inspired by the stars and planets above. The three parts depict a northern winterscape, a sultry evening in a South American plaza, and a romance between the gods Mars and Venus. Band member Brian Black has taken sections of each of these scenes, largely keeping the original scoring, and refashioned them into more traditional marches. The music is all Sousa’s, but the finished sound is rather un-Sousa-esque.

Polar Star March – A fantastical sleigh ride

Southern Cross March – A grand march in the Spanish style

Mars And Venus March – A traditional march combining the bellicose bravado of Mars with the coquettish gaiety of Venus

Declaration Overture (1976) opens with a stately fanfare which introduces a five-note motif that is featured throughout the piece. After the strong and majestic opening, the percussion introduces a hypnotic rhythm and the overture blossoms into a joyful celebration. Written during the nation’s bicentennial, Smith dedicated the piece to his wife.

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