

**Sharon Laird, Assistant Director**

Sharon Freeman Laird was appointed Assistant Director of Athletic Bands in the fall of 2019. Laird assists with the Blugold Marching Band, the Varsity State Band, supervises the Blugold Basketball Pep Band, and assists in every phase of planning for one of the nation's largest marching programs.

Prior to her appointment at UW-Eau Claire, Laird spent 20 years as Director of Bands at Oak Grove (MS) High School where she directed one of the state's largest band programs. In 2017, the Warrior Marching Band won the MHSAA/MBA 6A State Marching Championship and in 2018 the program was awarded the ASBDA Award of Excellence and under Mrs. Laird's direction the band program earned the MHSAA Sweepstakes Award every year since the award's inception.

Laird is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi where she was a student of Thomas Fraschillo, Kelly Love, and Rod Harkins. Mrs. Laird is an active clinician and adjudicator throughout the South and has presented at the prestigious Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

Most recently, Mrs. Laird was appointed marching director of the Mississippi Lions All-State Band where she guided the ensemble to an international championship in Milan, Italy in July, 2019. She is active as a member of Phi Beta Mu, NBA, is a member and Past President of the Mississippi Bandmasters Association, a member and Past President of the SEMBDA, and is a member and Region 5 representative for the ASBDA.

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Department of Music and Theatre Arts presents

# UNIVERSITY BAND

RANDAL DICKERSON, DIRECTOR  
SHARON LAIRD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
ASSISTED BY KAI FANG & CHARLES KUBAN



Monday, May 9, 2022  
7:30 p.m.  
Gantner Concert Hall  
Haas Fine Arts Center

**Program**  
**University Band**  
*Randal Dickerson, Conductor*

Esprit de Corps	Robert Jager (b. 1939)
"Nimrod" from the Enigma Variations	Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934) (arr. Alfred Reed)
Italian Rhapsody  Conducted by Sharon Laird	Julie Giroux (b. 1961)
Rocketship!  Conducted by Sharon Laird	Kevin Day (b.1996)
On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss	David Holsinger (b. 1945)
NC-4 March	F.E. Bigelow (1873-1929)

***Randal Dickerson, Director***

Dr. Randal C. Dickerson is Professor of Music at UW-Eau Claire, where he teaches courses in instrumental music education, marching band procedures, supervises student teachers, and directs the University Band, Blugold Marching Band, and Blugold Varsity Band. In his 22 years at UW-Eau Claire, the Blugold Marching Band has been transformed from a 60-member ensemble that performed only on campus into a highly active 450+ member marching band that travels and performs around the world.

A prolific arranger of marching band music, Dickerson maintains a busy travel schedule of adjudication and clinics in the U.S. and overseas. His arrangements are played by colleges and high schools around the country. He is an active consultant for high school band and orchestra educational travel and has guided countless educational groups on international experiences. Each year Dr. Dickerson conducts numerous clinics with bands and orchestras as a part of international cruise festivals, primarily in the Caribbean and in Europe.

A firm believer in the value of an international component in education, Dickerson's own travels have taken him to 78 countries. Since 2008 Dr. Dickerson has organized, guided, and conducted the BMB in seven International Performance Tours to 14 countries on four continents, most recently to Australia and New Zealand in 2020. The eighth tour, this time to Central America and the Panama Canal will take place in January, 2023.

## University Band Personnel

### **FLUTE**

Burns, Milo  
Cowden, Sydney  
Fraser, Katherine  
Friesth, Emma  
Hatfield, Hallie Ann  
Johnson, Rose  
Kaser, Theresa  
Koller, Katie  
McLean, Grace  
McMahon, Sarah  
Rein, Anna  
Sexton, Lexi  
Sinner, Jacob

### **OBOE**

Ninmer, Paige  
Troke, Katherine  
Warwick-Mick, Tyler

### **BASSOON**

Ewan, Mitchell

### **CLARINET**

Betzler, Gabby  
Brewer, Nevaeh  
Cameron, Ellen  
Doss, Isabella  
Fedie, Lizzy  
Henke, Shelby  
Kasper, Maddie  
Kent, Michelle  
Koecher, Anja  
Konrardy, Kaitlyn  
Lundquist, Madeline  
Paltzer, Chloe  
Perreault, Miles  
Roessler, McKenna  
Rustin, Alexis  
Sellent, Bailey  
Stubbe, Olivia  
Thao, Mary

### **BASS CLARINET**

Rindfleisch, Grace

### **ALTO SAX**

Anderson, Alyssa  
Dawson, Siusan  
Hanson, Grace  
Herem, Haley  
Howard, Margaret  
Kjornes, Kelli  
Kokal, Sara  
Maternowski, Kacey  
McMichael, Erin  
Ravanelli, Nicole  
Rozga, Daniel  
Sances, Logan  
Schaefer, Megan  
Sullivan, Emily  
Tackett, Luke  
Wangen, Chris

### **TENOR SAX**

Hanke, Kyle  
King, Donovan  
Lawston, Lauren  
Rose, Margaret  
Shockman, Jake  
Studt, Kate  
Veal, Nicholas

### **BARI SAX**

Bradley, Grant

### **TRUMPET**

Cesena, Tyler  
Dixon, Sierra  
Dresen, Elana  
Flanagan, Evan  
Forslund, Aaron  
Gibbs, Tara  
Hall, Alivia  
Johnson, Rachel  
Kowalczyk, Bridget  
Lundgren, Carl  
Mastrangelo, Holly  
Miller, Renee  
Murphy, Morgan  
Nord, Kendall

Peterson, Lucas  
Prokott, Jax  
Rude, Kaz  
Schweitzer, Dillon  
Shue, Aaron  
Smith, Cole  
Tuma, Rachel  
Weiss, Andrew  
Wolf, Seth

### **FRENCH HORN**

Ellison, Max  
Mattson, Jakob  
Redland, Amik  
White, Dylan

### **TROMBONE**

Bjorklund, Luke  
Chmelik, Ryan  
Grossman, Lili  
Jacobs, Abbey  
Normington, Nathan  
Olson, Kai  
Seehafer, Penny  
Stenske, Martin  
Terry, Sam  
Vandergrinten, Tyler

### **EUPHONIUM**

Wojtczak, Zechariah

### **TUBA**

Grimm, Sydney  
Leiblsle, Brianna  
Miller, Nick  
Wood, Matt

### **PERCUSSION**

Adsit, Madelyn  
Alderden, Micah  
Braend, Derek  
Hesselink, Grant  
Hinkel, Kyra  
Karls, Julia  
Kroschel, Ashleigh  
Lester, Quinn M

## Program Notes

### **Esprit de Corps**

Based on The Marines' Hymn, this work is a kind of fantasy-march, as well as a tribute to the United States Marine Band, which group had commissioned the work. Full of energy and drama, the composition has its solemn moments and its lighter moments (for example, the quasi-waltz in the middle of the piece). The composer intends that this work should display the fervor and virtuosity of the Marine Band and the musical spirit and integrity of its conductor, Colonel John R. Bourgeois, for whom the initial tempo marking, "Tempo di Bourgeois," is named. Colonel John Bourgeois is a dramatic, spirited conductor who reflects the excitement of the music being played. When a tempo is supposed to be "bright" he makes sure it is exactly that. Because the tempo of Esprit de Corps is to be very bright, the marking just had to be "Tempo di Bourgeois!" –Windband.org

### **"Nimrod" from the Enigma Variations**

The Enigma Variations were written for orchestra in 1899 and bore the dedication "To My Friends Pictured Within." The theme and fourteen variations catapulted Elgar to international acclaim. The story is told of how Elgar, returning home after a long day of giving violin lessons, sat down to unwind at the piano and tinkered by improvising. His wife commented on one of the melodies that emerged, and out of that exchange was born the concept of fashioning the original melody ... as it might be played by some of their friends in their own style. In all, fourteen people and a dog are featured in the Variations. - Nikk Pilato

### **Italian Rhapsody**

Italian Rhapsody is a collection of Italian folk songs and a few operatic excerpts scored with Italian gusto! Solo clarinet opens this work with a certain Mafioso flair developing into a devious rendition of The Italian Wedding Song #2 (The Wedding Tarantella). Caderna, composed by A.D. Arcangelo, is presented in both an Italian street band and contemporary march style. Giacomo Puccini's La Boheme Quando m'en vo (Musetta's Waltz) makes an appearance as an accordion player serenading young lovers in the moonlight. The finale features Luigi Denza's Funiculi!

Funicula!, Giuseppe Verdi's *Il Trovatore* (Act II - Anvil Chorus) and Gioacchino Rossini's *Barber of Seville*. Italian operatic and folk song musical quotes are interlaced throughout the work. See if you can find them all! Scored with an Italian passion for family and feasting, Italian Rhapsody is definitely one very spicy meatball! – Julie Giroux

### **Rocketship!**

Rocketship! is an energetic concert piece formed by two sections which express energy in different ways. The first is composed of short rhythmic patterns that start quietly before building to the end of each phrase. The second section introduces a marching snare drum solo accompanied by open fifths, known as power chords, in the winds. Brief motives accompany the sustained power chords, but quickly dissipate as a new motive begins. The different sections shrink as the composition develops until they are played one after the other at the very end. - Cole Hairston

### **On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss**

On A Hymnsong Of Philip Bliss is a radical departure of style of this composer. The frantic tempos, the ebullient rhythms we associate with Holsinger are replaced with a restful, gentle, and reflective composition based on the 1876 Philip Bliss-Horatio Spafford hymn, *It Is Well with My Soul*. Written to honor the retiring principal of Shady Grove Christian Academy, *On A Hymnsong Of Philip Bliss* was presented as a gift from the SGCA Concert Band to Rev. Steve Edel in May of 1989. – David Holsinger

### **NC-4 March**

Mention the name F.E. Bigelow to most musicians and the *Our Director March* will probably pop into their minds. Yet another work from his pen is this march written in 1919. The NC-4 March is inspired by the first transatlantic flight earlier the same year and is dedicated to the crew's commander, Navy Lt. Commander Albert Cushing Read. The NC-4 was a Curtiss NC flying boat that was the first aircraft to fly across the Atlantic Ocean, albeit not non-stop. The NC designation was derived from the collaborative efforts of the Navy (N) and Curtiss (C). The NC series flying boats were designed to meet wartime needs, and after the end of World War I they were sent overseas to validate the design concept. In May 1919, a crew of United States Navy aviators

flew the NC-4 from New York State to Lisbon, Portugal, over the course of 19 days. - Wikipedia

The members of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire University Band were surprised to learn that the melody to this march is the source of the UW-Eau Claire fight song, first adapted by James Curnow and later arranged by Randy Dickerson.



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