



**RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK**

**Mason Gross School of the Arts**

*Echoes of the Earth:  
Journey around the World*

**Rutgers University  
Concert Band**

**Kevin Patrick Cotter, Conductor  
Christopher Tkacik, Conductor**

**Monday, April 21, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.**

Nicholas Music Center  
Mason Gross Performing Arts Center  
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

# PROGRAM

The Black Horse Troop

John Philip Sousa  
(1854-1932)

Evensong

William Harbinson  
(b.1953)

*Chris Tkacik, Conductor*

Suite Provençale

Jan Van Der Roost  
(b.1956)

1. Un ange a fa la credo
2. Adam e sa coumpagno
3. Lou Fustié
4. Lis Escoubo

*Kevin Cotter, Conductor*

## INTERMISSION

Mesa Dances

Gavin Lendt  
(b.1975)

Ammerland

Jacob de Haan  
(b.1959)

*Kevin Cotter, Conductor*

Lightning Field

John Mackey  
(b.1973)

Theme from "Howl's Moving Castle" arr. Kataoka

Joe Hisaishi  
(b.1950)

*Chris Tkacik, Conductor*

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **John Philip Sousa: *The Black Horse Troop* (1924)**

*The Black Horse Troop* was completed on December 30, 1924, at Sousa's Sands Point, Long Island, estate. It was played for the first time about ten months later, on October 17, 1925, at a concert of the Sousa Band in the Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio – and I was there. I had not been to such an event as this one; I remember that as Sousa's march was being played, Troop A rode the stage and stood behind the band to the tumultuous cheering. The March King enjoyed a long relationship with the men and horses of Cleveland's Ohio National Guard, known as Troop A.

Once again, his special comprehension of the thrilling spectacle of regimental movement produced a compelling musical experience for both the player and the listener, commanding our particular awareness of his use of the trumpets and drums at various dynamic levels. During the half-century of his career as the most successful bandmaster who ever lived, there was both reason and necessity for his creating these wonderful marches – and among them all, *The Black Horse Troop* is a positive standout.

- Program Note by Frederick Fennell

## **William Harbinson: *Evensong* (2008)**

*Evensong* is a beautiful ballad in standard song (ABA) form with a brief coda. The lyric nature of the composition offers opportunities to develop the ensemble's expressive playing with concentration on tone, intonation, balance, and phrasing. The contrasting B section features the woodwind voices and moves through several non-traditional key areas (B, D, C major) before returning to the tonic key (E-flat major) for a varied restatement of the A section. The coda provides a quiet and peaceful conclusion.

- Program Note from publisher

## **Jan Van Der Roost: *Suite Provençale* (1989)**

*Suite Provençale* is a four-movement suite based on authentic folk tunes from the beautiful southern province of France, the "Provence." The composer used a harmonic language respecting the popular characteristics, but that, on the other hand, also contains some "spicy" notes (just like the well-known "Provençal sauce"! ...). The instrumentation is very colorful, paying a lot of attention to the different timbres of both brass and woodwinds as well as to the percussion section.

Every movement has its own character: *Un Ange a fa la crido* (An angel brought the creed/credo) is like a bourrée; *Adam e sa Coumpagnou* (Adam and his companion) is an old love song, *Lou Fustié* (the carpenter) a fast dance; and finally *Lis Escoubo* (a whistle tune / popular ballad) is a farandole. In the latter, the old tradition of folk musicians who play a whistle with one hand and a drum with the other hand is clearly represented during the first presentations of the one and only theme.

- Program Note from publisher

### **Gavin Lendt: *Mesa Dances* (2023)**

***Mesa Dances*** - The people of the Southwest and its beautiful and majestic landscapes serve as the inspiration for this energetic work. Motivic repetition, relentless percussion, and dramatic dynamic effects paint a picture of the desert mountains underneath a cerulean sky. With a keen sense of orchestration, this is an exciting piece.

- Program Note from publisher

### **Jacob de Haan: *Ammerland* (2001)**

***Ammerland*** - Gorgeous and enchanting, this warm and rich work will have the band reaching new heights of expression. The mid-voices introduce the exquisite melody, followed in turn by bolder scoring that invites the entire ensemble to create moments of broad intensity. Ammerland is a district in Lower Saxony, Germany.

- Program Note from publisher

### **John Mackey: *Lightning Field* (2015)**

***Lightning Field*** takes its title from a work of art by Walter De Maria. That work is a massive expanse, 385 acres, of New Mexico desert, claimed and transformed by the artist via an installation of 400 steel rods: planted in the earth and reaching toward the sky, they call down its power -- literally creating man-made lightning storms. Like them, Mackey's piece speaks to the ancient impulse to summon nature's power, and the magic such acts unleash. A sense of energy runs throughout the work, with the driving onstage percussion enhanced by the sound of thunder (provided by inexpensive hand-held percussion instruments called "thunder tubes") surrounding the audience.

- Program Note from publisher

**Joe Hisaishi: Theme from *Howl's Moving Castle* (2011)**

*Howl's Moving Castle* is a 2004 Japanese animated fantasy film written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki. The film is loosely based on the 1986 novel of the same name by British author Diana Wynne Jones. The film was produced by Toshio Suzuki and animated by Studio Ghibli with a voice cast featuring Chieko Baisho and Takuya Kimura, while the English dub version starred Jean Simmons, Emily Mortimer, Lauren Bacall, Christian Bale, and Billy Crystal.

The story is set in a fictional kingdom where both magic and early 20th-century technology are prevalent against the backdrop of a war with another kingdom. The film tells the story of a young, content milliner named Sophie, who is turned into an old woman by a witch who enters her shop and curses her. She encounters a wizard named Howl and gets caught up in his resistance to fighting for the king.

- Program Note from Wikipedia

**RUTGERS CONCERT BAND PERSONNEL**

<b>Flute</b>	<b>Clarinet</b>	Joseph Chavarria	Daniel Craig
Griffin Au	Kathryn Bager	Aiden Chen	Nhat Ho
Lindsey Buchanan	Sam Burney	Orla McBride	Martina Lavender
Caroline Cinque	Victoria Conti	Matthew Schaming	Jacen Ordonez
Elena Conti	Brittany Duarte		Samuel Sherman
Diana Cortes	Ava Grace Fernandez	<b>Baritone Saxophone</b>	Leo Wagner
Rovic Escobar	Malyk Gordon	Jayden White	Steven Zavacky
Amanda Garrido	Jessica Matty		
Kaela Halligan	Gianna Mauriello	<b>Trumpet</b>	<b>Euphonium</b>
Amira Lee	Manasvini Nori	Aurko Hasan	Naph Dow
Angelina Livak		Nate Kimmick	Brian Tinio
Ariana Moreno	<b>Bass Clarinet</b>	David Rapelye	
Lauren Nagy	Angela Kitanski	Anna Shelley	<b>Tuba</b>
Tania Punnacherry		Sami Simon	John Patrick
Benjamin Reyes	<b>Alto Saxophone</b>	Tenley Tejral	Kramer
Nandhini Venkateshan	Kaylee Belot	Lily Tews	Jon Krishnasamy
Rebecca Whalen	Kieran Calderaro		Shaelyn Lawless
(Piccolo)	Matthew Chung	<b>Horn</b>	
Mirette William	Nicole Funez	Brian Gripp	<b>Percussion</b>
	Gabriel Gonzalez	Simon Kowerski	Bhaarat Joshi
<b>Oboe</b>	Sophia Lange	Saksham Kulkarni	Kevin Kung
Kevin Gergely	Antonio Pichardo	Sean Maizel	Zachary Liu
Harlow Matara	Vishal Thannir	Giulianna Mendez	Grace Mitchell
	Marley Vachon	Kevin Tong	Eunice Park
<b>Bassoon</b>		<b>Trombone</b>	Dylan Zhu
Veronica Levesque	<b>Tenor Saxophone</b>	Noah Alvarez	
Christopher Walker	Javaahgn Beaton	Matthew Anglin	<b>Piano</b>
			Kevin Kung

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Kevin Patrick Cotter** is a third-year candidate for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. During his degree program at MGSA, Mr. Cotter has directed the Rutgers Concert Band, Symphony Band, Symphonic Winds, and Wind Ensemble, taught classes in undergraduate conducting, and served as a graduate teaching assistant for the Marching Scarlet Knights and Pep Bands. Mr. Cotter holds a master's degree in wind conducting from Messiah University and a bachelor's degree in music education with Honors from William Paterson University. In wind band conducting, he has studied with Dr. J. Craig Davis, Dr. James Colonna, Dr. Julia Baumanis, Dr. Todd Nichols, and Dr. Craig Alan Williams.

**Christopher Tkacik** is a first-year graduate student pursuing a DMA in Wind Band Conducting at Rutgers. Previously, he was the director of bands at Ardrey Kell High School in Charlotte, NC, where he was responsible for teaching 4 concert bands, 2 jazz bands, marching band, winter guard, and AP Music Theory courses. He holds a master's degree in instrumental conducting. He is a 2021 summa cum laude graduate of Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, where he studied conducting with John Ross, Jason Gardner, and Melisse Brunet. He additionally served as the director of the Appalachian Concert Band and guest conducted the Appalachian Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, and Tuba Euphonium Collective. Mr. Tkacik also holds a bachelor's degree in music education and is a summa cum laude graduate of East Carolina University in Greenville, NC. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education, the College Band Director's Association, and the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

# RUTGERS UNIVERSITY BAND STAFF

**Dr. Todd Nichols** – Director of University Bands

**Dr. Julia Baumanis** – Assistant Director of University Bands

**Dr. Craig A. Williams** – Conductor, Rutgers Wind Ensemble, Associate Professor of Conducting

**The Rutgers University Band Program would like to acknowledge the woodwind, brass and percussion faculties, for their outstanding dedication to the students.**

Bart Feller – Flute

Kaoru Hinata – Flute

Andrew Adelson – Oboe

Jo-Ann Sternberg – Clarinet

Mark Dover - Clarinet

**Maureen Hurd – Clarinet – Associate Director of Music – Area Head of Woodwinds**

Roger Nye - Bassoon

Mark Timmerman – Bassoon

Paul Cohen – Saxophone

**Kenneth DeCarlo – Trumpet – Area Head of Brass**

John Sheppard – Trumpet

Sara Cyrus - Horn

David Peel – Horn

Noreen Baer – Trombone

Burt Mason – Trombone

Sasha Romero – Trombone

Jen Wharton – Bass Trombone

Aaron VanderWeele – Euphonium

Alan Baer – Tuba

Wilson Torres – Percussion

Ian Sullivan – Percussion

**Joseph Tompkins – Area Head of Percussion**

Michael Truesdell - Percussion

**Administrative Coordinator**

Christopher Delgado

**Special thanks to Adam Klein – Stage Manager**



## MASON GROSS

### Support the MGSA Emergency Fund

Increasingly, our students are facing unanticipated challenges that negatively impact their academic career. These sudden disruptions can have an emotional and mental impact, and often demand financial resources. This inevitably leads to additional pressure and anxiety as students struggle to support themselves while simultaneously striving to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Please consider making a gift to the **Mason Gross Student Emergency Fund** to support our students.

The fund provides access to financial relief for all Mason Gross students for food, housing, transportation, travel, and other basic needs crucial to their success.

MGSA Student  
Emergency Fund



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