

ST. OLAF COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS

# **NORSEMAN BAND**

William Webb, *interim conductor*

## **SPRING CONCERT**

Skoglund Auditorium, St. Olaf College — Sunday, May 5

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# Program

## Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Claude T. Smith (1932-1987)

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save* is the official hymn of the United States Navy. Claude Smith's arrangement was written in 1975 and was dedicated to all those Americans who have "gone down at sea." The brilliant opening fanfare is followed by brass and woodwind fugues based on the hymn itself. The first occurrence of the hymn in its entirety is late in the piece and appears as a solemn, beautiful four-part French horn chorale. The full band repeats the chorale and it ends as it began, with a brilliant fanfare.

*The Navy Hymn* lyrics:

*Eternal Father strong to save,  
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep,  
O hear us when we cry to thee,  
For those in peril on the sea.*

## Concerto for two Oboes and Band

Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751)

- I. *Adagio*
- II. *Allegro*

*Margret Bradley '13, oboe  
Will Hardy '15, oboe*

Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni was born in Venice, Italy in 1671, making him slightly younger, by 14 years than his contemporary, J.S. Bach. Bach is reported to have admired the works of Albinoni and have used two of Albinoni's themes as fugue subjects. Albinoni was a prolific instrumental composer having composed 99 sonatas, 59 concertos, and nine sinfonias with equal numbers of vocal compositions. In his lifetime these works were favorably compared with those of Corelli and Vivaldi.

Albinoni was particularly fond of the oboe, a relatively new introduction in Italy, and is credited with being the first Italian to compose oboe concertos (Op. 7, 1715). The concerto, in particular, had been regarded as the province of stringed instruments. His four concertos with one oboe and the four with two oboes were the first of their kind to be published. The *Concerto for Two Oboes and String Orchestra* was written in 1722 and is a typical baroque concerto in three movements: fast, slow, fast.

## Angels in the Architecture

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

*Olivia Haines '16, mezzo-soprano*

*Angels in the Architecture* unfolds as a dramatic conflict between the two extremes of human existence — one divine, the other evil. There are three borrowed songs that are the center for this work and despite their varied religious origins, they are meant to transcend any one religion, but rather represent the universal human ideals of peace, hope, and love.

*Angels in the Architecture* begins with a single voice singing a 19th-century Shaker song:

I am an angel of Light  
I have soared from above  
I am cloth'd with Mother's love.

I have come, I have come.  
To protect my chosen band  
And lead them to the promised land.

This “angel” — represented by the singer — frames the work, surrounding it with a protective wall of light and establishing the divine. Other representations of light, played by instruments rather than sung, include a traditional Hebrew song of peace (“*Hevenu Shalom Aleichem*”) and the well-known 16th-century Genevan Psalter, “Old Hundredth.” *Angels in the Architecture* poses the unanswered question of existence. In opposition to these songs of love, turbulent, fast-paced music appears as a symbol of darkness, death, and spiritual doubt. Twice during the musical drama, these shadows sneak in almost unnoticeably, slowly obscuring, and eventually obliterating the light altogether. The darkness prevails for long stretches of time, but the light eventually returns, inextinguishable, more powerful than before. The alternation of these opposing forces creates, in effect, a kind of five-part rondo form (light-darkness-light-darkness-light). It ends as it began: the angel reappears and sings the same comforting words. But deep below, a final shadow reappears — distantly, ominously.

This piece received its premiere performance at the Sydney Opera House in 2008 by a massed band of young musicians from Australia and the United States, conducted by Dr. Mathew George, who is the Director of Bands at St. Thomas University here in the Twin Cities. The work’s title is inspired by the Sydney Opera House itself, with its halo-shaped acoustical ornaments hanging directly above the performance stage.

## The Floral Dance

Kate Moss (1881-1947)  
Arr. Simon Felder

*The Floral Dance* is a popular English song describing the annual “Furry Dance” in Helston, Cornwall. It tells the story of an incident that actually happened to Moss herself on a visit to Helston in 1911 during the springtime “Furry Dance” celebration. The song was reportedly written directly afterwards as she was going home on the train, describing the sound of the band, with its “fiddle, cello, big bass drum, bassoon, flute and euphonium.”

*The Floral Dance*, founded on an old Cornish air, was first recorded in 1912 but it gained a “cult-like” following in the United Kingdom in the 1970’s and an arrangement for the popular Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band sold half a million copies, and reached No. 2 in the UK Singles Chart in 1977. A version of the song was prominently featured near the beginning of the 1996 film, *Brassed Off*. It certainly is a tune that can give the listener an “earworm” — one of those tunes that sticks in one’s mind so that one seems to hear it, even when it is not being played.

As I walked home on a Summer night  
When stars in Heav’n were shining bright  
Far away from the footlight’s glare  
Into the sweet and scented air  
Of a quaint old Cornish town

Borne from afar on the gentle breeze  
Joining the murmur of the summer seas  
Distant tones of an old world dance  
Played by the village band perchance  
On the calm air came floating down

And soon I heard such a bustling and prancing  
And then I saw the whole village was dancing  
In and out of the houses they came  
Old folk, young folk, all the same  
In that quaint old Cornish town

We danced to the band with the curious tone  
Of the cornet, clarinet and big trombone  
Fiddle, ’cello, big bass drum  
Bassoon, flute and euphonium  
Each one making the most of his chance  
Altogether in the Floral Dance.

## Brief Pause

## **The Alps**

Nathaniel LaFond '16 (b. 1993)

*French Horn Ensemble Feature*

*The Alps* was written by Norseman Band freshman French horn player Nate LaFond. Nate writes, “*The Alps* was inspired by the power and freedom I experienced being in the Swiss Alps. I was writing in my journal about my trip and had no words eloquent enough for what I was witnessing, but the theme of this song was running through my head. Upon returning home, I looked at the melody I wrote and developed it into what has become this five-part French horn ensemble.” This is Nate’s first composition, and we hope he writes many more.

## **The Star Spangled Banner**

Francis Scott Key (1779-1843)

Arr. Jack Stamp

Do you know the history of the lyrics to *The Star Spangled Banner*? We hear it performed so often that unfortunately the words lose their meaning. Tonight we would like to take a few moments and remind you of the powerful history behind *The Star Spangled Banner*, our National Anthem.

## **Give Us This Day**

David Maslanka (b. 1943)

### ***Short Symphony for Wind Ensemble***

I. *Moderately Slow*

II. *Very Fast*

The words “Give Us This Day” are, of course, from the Lord’s Prayer, but the inspiration for this music is Buddhist. David Maslanka had recently read a book by the Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh (pronounced “Tick Not Hahn”) entitled “For a future to be Possible.” His premise is that a future for the planet is only possible if individuals become deeply mindful of themselves and deeply connected to who they really are. While this is not a new idea, and something that is an ongoing struggle for everyone, in Maslanka’s estimation it is *the* issue for world peace. For Maslanka, writing music, and working with people to perform music, are two of those points of deep mindfulness. Maslanka states, “Music allows us to be immediately present, awake, and aware. *Give Us This Day* ... Give us this very moment of aware aliveness so that we can build a future in the face of a most dangerous and difficult time.”

Maslanka chose the subtitle “Short Symphony for Wind Ensemble” because the music really isn’t programmatic in nature. It has a full-blown symphonic character, even though there are only two movements. The music of the slower first movement is deeply searching, while that of the highly energized second movement is at times both joyful and sternly sober. The piece ends with a modal setting of the Chorale melody “*Vater Unser in Himmelreich*” (“Our Father in Heaven”), No. 110 from the *371 Four-Part Chorales* by J.S. Bach.

## **The Roosters Lay Eggs in Kansas**

Mayhew Lake (1879-1955)

Ed. Robert E. Foster

This piece is recognized as John Philip Sousa’s favorite encore. Composer Mayhew Lake and John Philip Sousa were good friends and Sousa performed many of Lake’s compositions as arrangements for the Victor Talking Machine Company. Mayhew Lake served as an arranger for an impressive list of composers, including Victor Herber, George M. Cohan, Percy Grainger, Edwin Franko Goldman, John Philip Sousa, and Paul Whiteman. Sousa enjoyed taking this piece around the country and changing the lyrics to match the state or community where he was performing. A century later, this piece is still a fun, toe-tapping way to end a concert!

**The Norseman Band** is one of two symphonic bands at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and has developed a reputation in recent years as a dynamic and exciting concert ensemble. The 85-piece ensemble performs regularly on the Northfield campus, and has toured each spring to regional locations in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan, as well as to Canada. The membership of the Norseman Band reflects the broad spectrum of academic interests and geographical diversity of the St. Olaf student body. In a normal academic year the Norseman Band will present about five concert programs, often featuring student soloists, conductors, and composers.

**William Webb**, 2012-13 interim conductor of the Norseman Band, has directed bands in Minnesota for 34 years, 24 of those years at Edina High School. For the past two years, Bill has thoroughly enjoyed teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade beginning band students in Edina. Webb has been awarded the Minnesota Music Educators Association's *2011 Educator of the Year*, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies' *2004 School Music Teacher of the Year* and Edina High School's *1991 Excellence in Education Award*. Webb is a founding officer and past president of the Minnesota Band Directors Association, has served as president of the Minnesota chapter of Phi Beta Mu, president of the Evergreen Club, and has served for six years on the MMEA Board of Directors and four years on the Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors.

For the past 25 years, Webb has served as the associate conductor of the Minnesota Symphonic Winds, an adult community band based in Edina, founded by Miles Johnson and currently conducted by Timothy Mahr. For over 30 years, Mr. Webb has led thousands of students on music tours throughout the United States, Europe, the Caribbean, Hong Kong, Singapore, and China. Webb is a 1977 graduate of The College of St. Thomas and obtained his masters of music education degree at the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, Illinois.

## Senior Biographies

**Margret Bradley** has played oboe with Norseman Band for four years and will be graduating with a major in biology. During her time at St. Olaf, she has participated in a wide variety of activities including membership in the St. Olaf Molecular Science club, participating in Church Council, playing renaissance recorder in Collegium Musicum, and creating school advertisements as part of the Student Animation Studio. Beyond graduation, she is planning to take a gap year before applying to graduate programs in biomolecular science.

**TaKeyah Dominique** is a flute player who has participated in Norseman Band for the past three years. She will be graduating with a B.A. in sociology/anthropology with a concentration in family studies. TaKeyah has also been part of the Residence Life staff for the past two years and has enjoyed every minute of it. After graduation, she hopes to start a career in public relations, human resources, or marketing and communications somewhere in the Twin Cities area.

**Amy Meyer** has played the French horn in the Norseman Band for four years. She will be graduating shortly with a B.A. in sociology/anthropology and concentrations in educational studies and ARMS (American racial & multicultural studies). Throughout her time at St. Olaf, Amy has participated in the school's service organization, Alpha Phi Omega, and the Student Activities Committee. Next year, Amy will be interning with a nonprofit organization in Asikuma, Ghana. After a semester of doing that, she will hopefully be moving back to Des Moines, Iowa for a job related to education.

# The Norseman Band

WILLIAM WEBB, *INTERIM CONDUCTOR*

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## FLUTE

- Elizabeth Brown, Ipswich, Mass.  
*biology*  
Anna Caspar, Edina, Minn.  
*biology*  
TaKeyah Dominique, Minneapolis, Minn.  
*sociology/anthropology*  
#+ Ashley Earls, Roscoe, Ill.  
*physics/mathematics*  
Sophia Kor, St. Paul, Minn.  
*music*  
Andrea Kratzke, Edina, Minn.  
*biology*  
Emily Nadolny, Willmar, Minn.  
*chemistry/biology*  
Leah Plasek, Lakeville, Minn.  
*biology*  
Alexa Roemmich, Grand Forks, N.D.  
*biology*  
#+\* Gabrielle Sanderson, Maple Grove, Minn.  
*mathematics/physics*

## OBOE

- #+ Margret Bradley, Edgerton, Wis.  
*biology*  
# Will Hardy, Northfield, Minn.  
*music theory/composition*  
Elinor Holm, Natick, Mass.  
*mathematics/computer science*  
Preston West, Carbondale, Kan.  
*English/ancient studies*

## ENGLISH HORN

- Margret Bradley, Edgerton, Wis.  
*biology*

## BASSOON

- Alexander Miranker, Guilford, Conn.  
*mathematics/physics*  
Emily Russell, Eau Claire, Wis.  
*studio art/social work*  
Elizabeth Warren, Arlington, Va.  
*psychology/biology/French*

## CLARINET

- Amanda Bauer, Apple Valley, Minn.  
*economics/mathematics*  
Natalie Bentley, Edina, Minn.  
*economics/mathematics*  
Anna Chotlos, Madison, Wis.  
*history/English*  
Benjamin Froehling, Rochester, Minn.  
*biology*  
Rolf Goodwin, Nashua, N.H.  
*biology*  
Logan Jensen, Franklin, Minn.  
*chemistry*  
Spenser Johnson, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
*mathematics/computer science*  
#+ Ben Lipson, Centennial, Colo.  
*computer science*  
Yiming Liu, Duluth, Minn.  
*biology/Asian studies*  
\* Katie Nygren, Bloomington, Minn.  
*physics/mathematics*  
Kayla Skibbe, Edina, Minn.  
*studio art/art history*

## BASS CLARINET

- Matthew Kilens, Clarendon Hills, Ill.  
*computer science*  
Andrew Volz, Boulder, Colo.  
*music theory/composition/computer science*

## CONTRALTO CLARINET

- Jack Werner, Golden Valley, Minn.  
*mathematics*

## CONTRABASS CLARINET

- Katherine Jardon, Red Oak, Iowa  
*music education*

## ALTO SAXOPHONE

- Hao Du, Zhoushan, China  
*mathematics/physics*  
Baron Necas, Coon Rapids, Minn.  
*mathematics/physics*  
Eric Topel, Peoria, Ill.  
*mathematics/physics*  
#+ Lora Weiss, Palatine, Ill.  
*mathematics/physics*

## TENOR SAXOPHONE

- ^ Erica Hall, Waseca, Minn.  
*social work*  
Matthew Ingalls, Nottingham, Md.  
*mathematics/physics*

## BARITONE SAXOPHONE

- Margaret Gerty, Lindstrom, Minn.  
*psychology/social work*  
Laura Nelson, Zumbrota, Minn.  
*biology/mathematics*

## TRUMPET

- Phil Biedenbender, New Ulm, Minn.  
*music*  
+ Maia Erickson, Rochester, Minn.  
*biology/psychology*  
David Gillingham, Hudson, Wis.  
*mathematics/physics*  
Nathaniel Hendrix, Edmonds, Wash.  
*music education*  
# Ryana Holt, Colorado Springs, Colo.  
*mathematics/English*  
Ian Kirby, Kansas City, Mo.  
*undecided*  
Suzanne Kirch, Pleasanton, Calif.  
*mathematics/physics*  
Brian Mellstrom, La Cañada, Calif.  
*undecided*  
Jacob Musack, Burnsville, Minn.  
*music education*  
Kellan Passow, Maple Plain, Minn.  
*chemistry/mathematics*  
Δ Margaret Schweiger, Fayetteville, Ark.  
*history/Norwegian*  
\* Evan Twichell, Oak Park, Ill.  
*music*  
Samuel Weaver, Anoka, Minn.  
*biology/environmental studies*  
\* David Williams, Orono, Minn.  
*economics*

## HORN

- Eleanor Anderson, Libertyville, Ill.  
*English/classics*  
Matthew Axdal, Cottage Grove, Minn.  
*music performance*  
Emily Een, Minneapolis, Minn.  
*classics*  
#+ Audrey Kidwell, St. Louis, Mo.  
*economics/Asian studies*  
Nathaniel LaFond, Duluth, Minn.  
*environmental science*  
Amy Meyer, West Des Moines, Iowa  
*sociology/anthropology*  
Maria Swanson, Wilmington, Del.  
*psychology*

## TROMBONE

- Kevin Berge, Apple Valley, Minn.  
*mathematics/English*  
Megan Davis, Buffalo, Minn.  
*nursing*  
Rachel Gaul, Slater, Iowa  
*mathematics/physics*  
Matt Johnson, Sudbury, Mass.  
*history*  
#+ Whitney Lussier, Charlotte, Vt.  
*music education*  
Tommy Markley, Big Lake, Minn.  
*computer science/mathematics*  
Abigail Senuty, Bellingham, Wash.  
*undecided*  
Nathan Wolfe, Elmhurst, Ill.  
*mathematics/physics*

## EUPHONIUM

- #+ Nicole Baldwin, Hibbing, Minn.  
*biology*  
Elias Beretta, Melrose, Minn.  
*chemistry*  
Olivia Haines, Dousman, Wis.  
*biology/French*  
Mary O'Sullivan, Shoreview, Minn.  
*biology*  
Emily Voldal, Rochester, Minn.  
*undecided*

## TUBA

- Douglas Carmody, St. Louis Park, Minn.  
*computer science/mathematics*  
Ryan Mathison, Cumberland, Wis.  
*history*  
Eric Nygren, Bloomington, Minn.  
*physics*  
Michael Petzold, Naperville, Ill.  
*mathematics*

## PERCUSSION

- Ian Al-Schamma, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
*biology*  
# Geoffrey Bentsen, North St. Paul, Minn.  
*mathematics/physics*  
Philip Capra, Centerville, Minn.  
*mathematics/English*  
+ Ben Harvey, Duluth, Minn.  
*electronic artistic design*  
Andrew Hess, Ann Arbor, Mich.  
*mathematics*  
Nicholas Rekuski, St. Anthony Village, Minn.  
*mathematics/physics*  
Aaron Shinn, Madison, N.J.  
*physics*

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+ Section Leader  
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^ Librarian

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