The St. Olaf Band
Homecoming/Family Weekend Concert

Timothy Mahr, Conductor

with guest artists:
The Ancia Saxophone Quartet

Saturday, September 26, 2015 • 7:30 p.m.
Skoglund Center Auditorium • St. Olaf College
THE PROGRAM

**Ecstatic Fanfare** (2012)  
**Steven Bryant** (b. 1972)

Steven Bryant is a young American composer making a big mark on the wind band repertoire of the 21st century. His graduate studies were at the University of North Texas and The Juilliard School. Bryant’s works have received performances around the globe and he’s been awarded the Revelli Prize in composition from the National Band Association three times. He shares the following in his score note:

_Ecstatic Fanfare_ is based on music from movement I of my _Ecstatic Waters_. One day in May 2012, I mentioned to my wife (conductor Verena Mösenbichler-Bryant) that it might be fun to take the soaring, heroic _tutti_ music from that earlier work and turn it into a short fanfare “someday.” She goaded me into doing it immediately, and so in a panicked three-day composing frenzy, I created this new work, which was premiered by Johann Mösenbichler with the Polizeiorchester Bayern just three short weeks later, followed immediately by my wife conducting it with the World Youth Wind Orchestra Project at the Mid Europe festival in July 2012.

**Pageant** (1953)  
**Vincent Persichetti** (1915–87)

“Band music is virtually the only kind of music in America today (outside of the pop field) which can be introduced, accepted, put to immediate wide use, and become a staple of the literature in a short time.” Vincent Persichetti made this statement in an article he authored about his _Symphony for Band_ in the Autumn 1964 issue of _The Journal of Band Research_. One of the deans of American music during the mid-20th century, he composed for a wide variety of ensembles while teaching at The Juilliard School and the Philadelphia Conservatory.

Persichetti was a strong believer in the band’s artistic possibilities and a supportive friend to bands everywhere by way of his wonderful compositions. We celebrate the centennial of his birth this evening with a performance of _Pageant_, a work commissioned by the American Bandmasters Association. It opens in slow tempo with a motive in the horn that is used throughout both sections of the piece. A lively “parade” section, introduced by the snare drum, succeeds this serene introduction. In the final portion of the work, the two principal subjects are developed simultaneously for a lively climax.

**Capriccio for Saxophone Quartet and Band** (1988)  
**Warren Barker** (1923–2006)

The Ancia Saxophone Quartet

The Northshore Band, an outstanding community ensemble of the Chicago metro area, and its highly acclaimed conductor, John P. Paynter, commissioned Barker to compose the _Capriccio_. The form loosely follows that of a rondo, with a principal thematic area returning after excursions into differing material. One hears the seasoned writing of a composer who was highly successful composing soundtracks for network television shows in the 1960s and 1970s. Virtually everyone of a certain age knows Barker’s work, as his engaging music for _Bewitched, The Flying Nun, The Ghost and Mrs. Muir, Room 222_, and _That Girl_ underscored the times for years.
Suite for Band (2014–15)  
1. Leaning Forward  
2. Looking Back  
3. Lifting Spirits  

The composer states:  

I was honored when Mr. Russ Kramer, Director of Bands at Mason City High School (Iowa) approached me with the idea of creating a work for band to celebrate the construction of a new space in which artistic and civic programs would be presented in their community. After discussions, faithful supporters O. Jay and Pat Tomson commissioned a composition for the Mason City High School Symphonic Band to commemorate the opening of the new performance hall at Mason City High School.

The first movement of the suite, “Leaning Forward,” opens with intensity and does not let up as it presents its themes. Harmonic choices and rhythmic elements were all designed to propel the music in a manner reflective of the energies of the visionary leaders behind the construction of the new facility, as well as the spirit of those students, faculty, and community members that would enliven the auditorium in the years ahead.

“Looking Back,” the second movement, offers music conducive to contemplating the proud heritage of Mason City, as well as its high school and storied music program.

The final movement, “Lifting Spirits,” captures the exuberance within the school and community, bringing the suite to a joyous conclusion.

Tango Suite (1983)  
2. Rubato, melancolico  
3. Allegro

Tango Suite  
Astor Piazzolla (1921–92)  
arr. Jack Sharretts

The Ancia Saxophone Quartet

The Cowboys (1972)  

The Cowboys  
John Williams (b. 1932)  
arr. Jim Curnow

Composer John Williams is a national treasure. His uncanny ability to create music that enhances the expression of a film has endeared him to audiences worldwide. His score for The Cowboys is one of his earlier efforts, although he already had an Academy Award on his shelf at home by this time. Aurally, the music brings to life the story of Wil Andersen (John Wayne), shaping the lives of young boys as they help him drive cattle to market in time to avoid financial ruin.

—program notes compiled by Timothy Mahr
Celebrated for its artistry, virtuosity, and exquisitely blended sound, the Ancia Saxophone Quartet has delighted audiences throughout North America, Europe, and Asia for more than a quarter century. Ancia (pronounced AHN-chee-uh) was founded in 1990, and has been joyfully transporting audiences across time and genre, performing repertoire that spans centuries and musical styles, including Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century, contemporary, jazz, popular, and music from a broad range of world cultures. Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Ancia Saxophone Quartet is an Artist-Clinician Ensemble for Selmer Saxophones and Vandoren Woodwind Products.

Dedicated to the creation and performance of new works for saxophone quartet, Ancia works in collaboration with composers to premiere, perform, and record the music of our time. The group’s passion for contemporary music pervades its critically heralded CD “Short Stories,” which features the title work by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Jennifer Higdon along with music by Charles Ives, Fred Sturm, and Michael Torke. In 2015, Ancia commissioned and performed the world premiere of Libby Larsen’s saxophone quartet, *Confluence*, at the World Saxophone Congress XVII in Strasbourg, France.

Ancia is frequently featured on National Public Radio’s Performance Today, Minnesota Public Radio’s Regional Spotlight, and Wisconsin Public Radio’s Live at the Chazen. Ancia has been featured in concerto performances performing Philip Glass’ *Concerto for Saxophone Quartet* with the Wayzata Symphony Orchestra, and William Bolcom’s *Concerto Grosso* with the Bloomington Symphony. Ancia was recently featured in Chamber Music America’s national journal, *Chamber Music Magazine*.

Ancia has been the recipient of numerous national, regional, and local grants and awards, including recent awards from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Community Arts grants in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Ancia has

**THE ANCIA SAXOPHONE QUARTET**
(from left to right)
Matthew Sintchak, *soprano saxophone*
Angela Wyatt ’79, *baritone saxophone*
David Milne, *tenor saxophone*
Joan Hutton, *alto saxophone*
collaborated with composers through Society of Composers, Meet the Composer, American Composers Forum, and THE Commission Project.

Individually, Ancia members are active soloists, chamber musicians, and professional saxophonists in a broad range of musical genres, including work in classical chamber, orchestral, jazz, national touring Broadway productions, and contemporary popular idioms. Ancia members hold degrees from Eastman School of Music, Ithaca College, New England Conservatory of Music, Northwestern University, Indiana University, and St. Olaf College. As dedicated teachers, Ancia members serve as saxophone artist-teachers at Augsburg College, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and have presented masterclasses, workshops, and educational performances in the USA, Europe, and Asia.