
NORSEMAN BAND

MICHAEL BUCK '89, *CONDUCTOR*

WITH

NORTHFIELD H.S. CONCERT BAND

NAHAL JAVAN '20, *CONDUCTOR*



SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2025 | 2:00 P.M.

SKOGLUND AUDITORIUM

LEGENDS AND HEROES

This concert program explores themes around **Legends and Heroes**. The works presented explore real and imaginary people, places, aspirations, and ideas. Courage, faith, perseverance, nostalgia, adventure, and steadfast commitment are among the significant attributes found here. As you listen to the music, we invite you to consider the remarkable accomplishments, and notable traits in common between all of the people, stories, and events presented in this program. It seems most appropriate, as St. Olaf College celebrates its sesquicentennial anniversary, that many of these commonalities can be found in this institution's journey. Equally important, collaboration with others amplifies our message and strengthens our resolve. The pairing of partners in our community seems most appropriate in pursuit of this goal. We hope you enjoy today's performance.

— *Prologue by Michael Buck*

NORTHFIELD H.S. CONCERT BAND

Of Endless Miles and Empty Rafts

Michael Buck '89, *conductor*

Michelle Fernandez (b. 1967)

I Know Moonrise

Nahal Javan '20, *conductor*

Jess Turner (b. 1983)

NORSEMAN BAND

Red Rock Mountain

Nahal Javan '20, *conductor*

Rossano Galante (b. 1967)

Adventure Tale of Neverland

Michael Buck '89, *conductor*

Daisuke Shimizu (b. 1980)

COMBINED ENSEMBLES

Courage and Faith

Nahal Javan '20, *conductor*

Katie O'Hara LaBrie (b. 1982)

Star-Crossed

Michael Buck '89, *conductor*

Andrew Boysen Jr. (b. 1968)

PROGRAM NOTES

NORTHFIELD H.S. CONCERT BAND

Of Endless Miles and Empty Rafts

Michelle Fernandez (b. 1967)

Note from the composer:

Throughout time and regardless of origin, immigrants have shown a spiritual courage and resolve to survive that has found countless families suffering perilous journeys in search of safety. Many have been lost along the way. As a child of Cuban parents who fled oppression (leaving much behind to build a new life), my respect and empathy for all immigrants runs deep. Although my parents' (still traumatic) exoduses were not by sea, several family members' and friends' journeys were. Throughout my life, I have heard stories of near losses and rafts washing ashore, empty. I still recall the feelings since childhood — wondering who they were and what happened to them.

This piece is in no way intended as a contemporary statement, rather as an empathic look at humanity's struggles to protect innocent families throughout history, and a tribute to my own ancestors' courage. Many of us are descents of immigrants at some point in our deep histories, regardless of era or origin. During my 30 years as a public school teacher in Miami, I had countless (precious) students who suffered trauma from the dangers of their immigrant journey, and so this original composition honors displaced souls from all eras and walks of life, irrespective of hemisphere — who have fled homes, to anywhere, in search of safety for themselves and their children.

The piece is written using two authentic Afro-Cuban forms: Guaguancó and Son-Montuno. In this work, many authentic patterns are woven into the fabric of the winds as well. No prior knowledge of Afro-Latin forms is needed to achieve an authentic performance, as percussion parts are carefully crafted using a personally developed, simplified method to achieve authenticity quickly. Each brief section represents elements of an immigrant's story.

1. *Opening Chorale*: Depicts a treacherous journey, for example, as seas toss about a small raft and its occupants. At the end of the chorale, the listener can almost visualize someone falling overboard and descending into the depths with others still in the raft, crying out with reaching hands as rain and darkness beat down.
2. *Guaguancó* (3/2 Rumba Clave): A seamless flashback to a memory; this dignified soul at home, living peacefully.
3. *Son Montuno* (2/3 Son Clave): Still a flashback — urgency sets in at home as turmoil intensifies into a pursuit, and the courageous decision to flee from danger comes to the forefront. The piece returns to the present (remaining souls), and the intense finale depicts the will of the human spirit to survive and carry on to thrive and contribute, now in their new home — in honor of their lost loved ones' memories and courage.

I Know Moonrise

Jess Turner (b. 1983)

Note from the composer:

This arrangement began its life as a work for choir with alto soloist adapted from this anonymous spiritual text from the mid-1800s:

*I know moonrise, I know starrise,
Lay dis body down.
I walk in de moonlight, I walk in de starlight,
To lay dis body down.*

The poem's brevity and simplicity are effective in conveying a sense of resignation and acceptance. The repetition of "lay dis body down" suggests a sense of surrender to the inevitable. The lack of emotional language creates a sense of detachment, as if the speaker is observing their own death with a sense of calm and acceptance.

The piece starts slowly and falteringly with a solo French horn taking the place of the alto voice in a poignantly blues-inflected melody. The music darkens as it passes out of moonlight into the graveyard and down into the grave. But on the other side of the grave waits joy, reconciliation, light, and rest.

I Know Moonrise was commissioned for the retirement of my father, Dr. Daniel Turner, after more than 40 years of service as director of bands, and head of the Department of Music Education at Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C.

NORSEMAN BAND

Red Rock Mountain

Rossano Galante (b. 1967)

This composition is an episodic work that paints a musical portrait of a beautiful mountain landscape. Brass fanfares and soaring wind lines begin the piece, transitioning into an emotional section depicting the mountains at dusk. As the sun rises and sheds light on its peaks, the music becomes lyrical and rhythmically incisive, culminating in a heroic brass finale that depicts the full grandeur of the mountains.

— *Program notes from J. W. Pepper*

Adventure Tale of Neverland

Daisuke Shimizu (b. 1980)

Adventure Tale of Neverland was commissioned by the Rave Group Int'l and Hong Kong Band Directors Association for the Seventh Winter Band Festival in 2015. This programmatic work is meant to portray the exploits of the imaginary character, Peter Pan, through music. The piece begins quietly with the sound of the Great Bell of Big Ben, after which the main theme is introduced. The composer invites the listeners to follow their own imagination of Peter Pan's adventures through this spectacular musical voyage.

— *Program notes by the composer; adapt. Michael Buck*

COMBINED ENSEMBLES

Courage and Faith

Katie O'Hara LaBrie (b. 1982)

Note from the composer:

"Every person faces storms in life, but it is how we react to those storms and adjust course that makes us who we are." Inspired by a quote from Saint Francis de Sales, *Courage and Faith* reflects on our abilities to be courageous, keep faith at the forefront of what one does (no matter what that faith might be), and when needed, take a pause, reflect, and move forward once again.

The opening horn call in the piece represents our ever-growing courage, even amidst our own uncertainties which are characterized by the swirling woodwinds. Quickly we reach the main courage theme — holding steadfast and true, with fervent intention and heart.

The middle of the piece reflects on the source of faith. A set of three trios portray the doctrine of the Trinity, three in one, from De Sales's Christian faith. We then take stock with some literal breaths as we gear back into the opening courage theme leading triumphant conclusion.

Star-Crossed

Andrew Boysen Jr. (b. 1968)

This work is the second collaboration with graphic artist Erik Evensen. It tells the story of a superheroine and a supervillain who fall in love and have to make things work.

Star-Crossed was commissioned by a consortium of universities and high schools led by the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) and College Band Director's National Association (CBDNA) and premiered on February 16, 2013 at the MMEA Midwinter Clinics in Minneapolis, MN. It has since been performed by some of the nation's leading concert bands, including the University of Minnesota, St. Olaf College, The Ohio State University, and Concordia College.

Much like its predecessor, *Twilight of the Gods*, the creative process was truly collaborative, with both artists working together to interpret the narrative into their respective medium. Visual and musical sketches were storyboarded concurrently from the narrative, similar to an animated movie.

— *Program notes by Erik Evensen*

BIOGRAPHIES

Nahal Javan is in her fourth year as the band director at Northfield High School where she leads the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Jazz I. She is a south Minneapolis native who uses her upbringing as an Iranian-American to inform her teaching. Access, equity, and visibility are crucial components of Nahal's teaching foundation, all of which were recently highlighted in the Northfield High School Concert Band's performance of *Illumination* at the 2024 MMEA Midwinter Clinic. Nahal received her bachelor's degree in instrumental music education from St. Olaf College in 2020. Her primary teachers were Dr. Timothy Mahr and Timothy Bradley. Nahal performed in the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Orchestra, St. Olaf Philharmonia, and a brass quintet during her time on the Hill. In 2020, when the St. Olaf Band toured to California, she was one of six featured students, having the pleasure of conducting the band throughout the tour. She has played horn in the Minnesota Symphonic Winds for the past four years and has enjoyed being a part of such an incredible musical community. She makes her home in St. Paul where she enjoys cycling, playing softball, and spending time with her friends and family.



Dr. Michael Buck currently serves as director of the Norseman Band at St. Olaf College and is the Minnesota Music Education Specialist for Professional Development and Resources at the Perpich Center for Arts Education. Previously, Dr. Buck held higher education posts at The College of St. Scholastica and Augsburg University. Prior to entering higher education, Dr. Buck served over 20 years as a K-12 instrumental music educator in Minnesota and in two overseas American international schools in the Middle East and South Asia. His specialized areas of interest include assessment/evaluation, teaching/learning pedagogy, and music technology. Dr. Buck has presented peer-reviewed research projects and workshops in local, regional, national, and international settings. His work includes appearances at the International Symposium of Assessment in Music Education (ISAME), the International Society for Music Education/European Association for Music in Schools (ISME/EAS), Near East South Asia Council of Overseas Schools (NESA), the South Asia International Schools Association (SAISA), the College Music Society/Association for Technology in Music Instruction (CMS/ATMI), the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA), the Minnesota Band Directors Association (MBDA), and numerous school districts throughout Minnesota. Dr. Buck holds degrees from The University of Southern Mississippi, VanderCook College of Music, and St. Olaf College in music education and conducting.

NORSEMAN BAND

MICHAEL BUCK '89, CONDUCTOR

FLUTE

- † Zea Althoff, *Portland, Ore.*
Dan Bergan, *Prior Lake, Minn.*
Kaitlyn Kinsch, *Cary, Ill.*
Elsa Kirkegaard, *Kewaskum, Wis.*
Kayla McMayer, *Bloomington, Minn.*
• Grace Moeller, *Lake Crystal, Minn.*
Kaisa Nilsson, *Boise, Idaho*
• Jasmine Patterson-LaBaw, *Rochester, Minn.*
Chloe Pavett, *Victoria, Minn.*
† Aubrey Sanders, *Ottawa, Ill.*
Ani Spoor, *Eagan, Minn.*
Jessica Thanghe, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
* Hnukusha Vue, *St. Paul, Minn.*
Caitlin Wallace, *St. Louis, Mo.*
Will Weaver, *Marietta, Ga.*

OBOE

- † Ori Eikenberry, *St. Paul, Minn.*
Avery Norris, *Elk Point, S.D.*
Elsa Plocica, *Asheville, N.C.*

CLARINET

- † Mathea Benson, *St. Paul, Minn.*
Liz Bunnell, *Savage, Minn.*
Amelia Burns, *Fullerton, Calif.*
- Cora Harpel, *Ellendale, Minn.*
Theodore Lee, *Geneva, Ill.*
Nicholas Magnusson, *Roseau, Minn.*
Johnna Maxwell, *Le Sueur, Minn.*
Emily Nachreiner, *Mound, Minn.*
Delaney O'Donnell, *Scandia, Minn.*
Jenna Pollard, *Lawrence, Kan.*
* Alyssa Schumacher, *Lino Lakes, Minn.*
Dionna Uzueta Lucio, *South St. Paul, Minn.*
Alayna Vogel, *Le Sueur, Minn.*

BASSOON

- † Ryan Carlisle, *Vermillion, S.D.*
^ Riley Holets, *New Prague, Minn.*
Owen Joy, *Illinois City, Ill.*

ALTO SAXOPHONE

- Fiora Boyer, *St. Cloud, Minn.*
Lizzie Elsenpeter, *Circle Pines, Minn.*
• Amanda Klug, *Webster, Wis.*
† Brooke LaVoi, *Bemidji, Minn.*
* Abigail Shanahan, *Superior, Colo.*
† Brady Teegarden, *Hastings, Minn.*
Mason Vatter, *Northfield, Minn.*
Kaiping Zhang, *Edina, Minn.*

TENOR SAXOPHONE

- Joseph Cooper, *St. Louis, Mo.*
Leo Goodwin, *St. Paul, Minn.*

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

- Larry Williams, *Hastings, Minn.*

HORN

- Sophia DeVos, *McFarland, Wis.*
Margo Musolf, *Edina, Minn.*
† Cooper Oleyar, *Rosemount, Minn.*
Max Pringle, *Apple Valley, Minn.*
* Emily Schneider, *Minnetrista, Minn.*
Annika Shallberg, *Clear Lake, Iowa*
Nat Simms, *St. Paul, Minn.*

CORNET/TRUMPET

- Margot Charette, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
** Hero Czarnik, *St. Paul, Minn.*
Gavin Ihrke, *Edina, Minn.*
Aaliyah Lund, *Eagan, Minn.*
Claire Koenig, *Centennial, Colo.*
Andrew Osborne, *Carlton, Minn.*
• Jay Rief, *Lakeville, Minn.*
Ava Stockinger, *Lakeville, Minn.*
Isaac Traynor, *Eagan, Minn.*

TROMBONE

- Chi-Shuo Chang, *Taipei, Taiwan*
Lu Chaput, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
Maclain Everson-Rose, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
Collin Green, *Golden, Colo.*
Cooper Gundersen, *Stevens Point, Wis.*
Elias Hanson, *Chaska, Minn.*
Adrian Kakehashi, *Berkeley, Calif.*
Charlie LaMonaca, *Folsom, Pa.*
†* Evan Moran, *Waconia, Minn.*
Aaron Pence, *Edina, Minn.*
Aidan Rice, *Eden Prairie, Minn.*
Pj Seguin, *Laingsburg, Mich.*
†* Roxi Wessel, *Fort Collins, Colo.*

EUPHONIUM

- ^ Katie Bergquist, *Prior Lake, Minn.*
Carson Bridigum, *Bloomington, Minn.*
†* Olivia Ceminsky, *North Mankato, Minn.*
Ian Westerberg, *Stoughton, Wis.*
• Cole Willardson, *Minneapolis, Minn.*

TUBA

- Henry Floyd, *Bloomington, Ind.*
Josh Freelove, *Pillager, Minn.*
†* Lorelei Larson, *Ham Lake, Minn.*
Daniel Meunier, *Rochester, Minn.*

HARP

- Fiona Boskovic, *Seattle, Wash.*

PERCUSSION

- Ruby Catlin, *Apple Valley, Minn.*
Ben Coffey, *Farmington, Minn.*
Jean-Luc Collette, *Edina, Minn.*
Evan Cooley, *Farmington, Minn.*
Ryan Curran, *Bettendorf, Iowa*
Charlie Gambach, *Wayzata, Minn.*
Logan Gooden, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
* Anders Peterson, *Eden Prairie, Minn.*
Nate Stevenson, *Red Wing, Minn.*
Sofia Villagomez, *Phoenix, Ariz.*

† Principal/Co-principal

* Section leader

• Officer

^ Manager

- Librarian

MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Michael Kyle '85, *vice president for external relations and strategic partnerships*
Jean Parish '88, *director of music organizations*
Terra Widdifield '95, *associate director of music organizations*
Connor Smith, *assistant director of music organizations for audience development*
Sarah Gingerich '11, *assistant director of music organizations for project management*
Jonathan Kopplin, *associate librarian for ensembles and performing rights*
Veronica White '24, *coordinator of music organizations*
Amelia McNeil-Maddox, *ticketing coordinator*

FINE ARTS ADMISSIONS

Molly Boes Ganza '08, *associate dean of fine arts recruitment*

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Louis Epstein, *department chair*
Tracey Engleman, *department vice-chair*
Barb Barth, *academic administrative assistant*
Lisa McDermott, *academic administrative assistant*
Faith Kimbrell, *instrument coordinator*

BROADCAST/MEDIA SERVICES

Jeffrey O'Donnell '02, *director of broadcast/media services*
Sean Tonko, *associate director of event operations*
Grant Furguiele, *associate director of broadcast engineering*
Mia Pardo, *assistant director of production*

NORTHFIELD H.S. CONCERT BAND

NAHAL JAVAN '20, CONDUCTOR

FLUTE

Megan Cina
Mia Ibanez Mijares

†*☆ Kennedy Larsen
+ Alli Mathews
Sara Metcalf
†• ☆ Kelin McDowell
CJ Riehle Merrill

CLARINET

†* Maggie Dumonceaux
Vanessa Schmidt

ALTO SAXOPHONE

†* Anna Forbord
Lucy Graham
Allie Karl
• Braylon Larish
† Kyra Reverman

TENOR SAXOPHONE

†* Liam Ailabouni
Lily Dahlin

TRUMPET

Natalie Barsness
† Jake Larsen
Charles Murphy
* Alec Vatter

FRENCH HORN

†*• Audrey Larish
Ollie Waterland

TROMBONE

Adam Chakladar
†* Jim Graham

TUBA

† Sully Kane
Cole Mathews

PERCUSSION

†*• Piper Artley
Finn Ernst
† Jack Pribyl
Easton Truman

† Principal/Co-principal

* Section leader

• Officer

+ Piccolo

☆ All State 2024/2025

