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# ST. OLAF BAND

HENRY L. DORN, *CONDUCTOR*

## SPRING CONCERT

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SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 | 3:30 P.M.

*SKOGLUND AUDITORIUM*

# PROGRAM

**Celebration** (2021/2024)

Gao Hong (b. 1964)

**Never Forgetting** (2025)

Henry L. Dorn (b. 1988)

**Dangerous Creatures** (2025)

Justin Merritt (b. 1975)

(Premiere Performance)

- I. Deathstalker Scorpion
- II. Electric Eel
- III. Flight of the Tarantula Hawk
- IV. Woolly Mammoth
- V. Chupacabra
- VI. *E. coli* O157:H7
- VII. Creeper
- VIII. Portuguese Man O' War
- IX. Peruvian Torch
- X. Audience
- XI. The Pterodactyl Descending
- XII. Choristers
- XIII. *Terribilis* Frog
- XIV. Black Mamba

## INTERMISSION

**Second Nature** (2024)

Viet Cuong (b. 1990)

~Nois Quartet, *saxophone quartet*

- I. Part One
- II. Part Two
- III. Part Three

**Symphony in B-flat** (1951)

Paul Hindemith (1895–1963)

- I. Moderately fast, with vigor
- II. Andante grazioso
- III. Fugue (rather broad)

# PROGRAM NOTES

## **Celebration** (2021/2024)

Gao Hong (b. 1964)

Notes from the composer:

In China, we have many festivals that we celebrate each year. In this piece I use drum solos interspersed with instrumental passages to create joyful rhythms and melodies that depict the festive atmosphere of families gathering together in a festival. The slow middle section expresses the peoples' yearning for peace, prosperity, and happiness.

*Celebration* was commissioned and premiered by the Minnesota Sinfonia, conducted by Jay Fishman on October 19, 2021, at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis, Minn. In 2022, the full orchestra version was performed by the Maryland Symphony Orchestra. It has been my great honor to write this full band version of this piece for "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and the world premiere performance at the 2024 American Bandmasters Association conference.

## **Never Forgetting** (2025)

Henry L. Dorn (b. 1988)

Notes from the composer:

A message of hope. That is the intent behind this work. When Dr. Mallory Thompson approached me about writing for the Northshore Concert Band on the occasion of the ensemble's 70th season, we spoke at length about giving voice to hope through music. A favorite quote of hers by Dr. Maya Angelou became the inspiration behind this piece:

"I've learned that people will forget what you said,  
people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Wrapped up in this simple quote are references to Dr. Angelou, the life she led, and the things she carried with her. Hope is an ever-constant underlying current in her writings, where she uses her voice to highlight elements of struggle juxtaposed with overcoming those hardships and being steadfastly resilient in the face of adversity. This work considers hope through that lens, considering the journey from the darkness of night towards a better and brighter day tomorrow.

— *Excerpt from Rainbow in the Cloud: The Wisdom and Spirit of Maya Angelou by Maya Angelou,*  
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## **Dangerous Creatures** (2025)

Justin Merritt (b. 1975)

(Premiere Performance)

Notes from the composer:

- I. **Deathstalker Scorpion:** The deathstalker scorpion, known for its deadly sting, prowls the arid deserts of North Africa and the Middle East. Its venom is highly toxic, causing intense pain, fever, convulsions, paralysis, and death. Its pale yellow body blends seamlessly into the sandy terrain, and its victims rarely get even a second of warning.
- II. **Electric Eel:** The electric eel wields a shocking weapon. This slender, elongated fish can generate powerful electric charges, stunning prey and deterring threats. It is capable of delivering shocks up to 600 volts, 50% more than the Tesla Model X.
- III. **Flight of the Tarantula Hawk:** In his famous Schmidt Sting Pain Index, Justin Schmidt, an entomologist from the University of Arizona, personally sampled the sting of different insects and rated the pain from one to four. The red fire ant rated a mere one on the scale. Of the sting of the tarantula hawk, which maxed out the scale at four, he wrote, "Blinding, fierce, shockingly electric. A running hair dryer has been dropped into your bubble bath. A bolt out of the heavens. Lie down and scream." The tarantula hawk is a parasitic wasp that preys on tarantulas. Its sting paralyzes tarantulas, rendering them immobile. It then lays its eggs in the body of the paralyzed spider. The larvae consume the spider alive from the inside.

- IV. **Woolly Mammoth:** Weighing in at eight tons (about the size of a cement truck or a full-sized school bus), the woolly mammoths that lumbered across the landscape during the last ice age were more than four times the size of a bison. The last woolly mammoths survived on Wrangel Island in the far north until about 3,700 years ago — meaning they were still alive when Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid of Giza were built.
- V. **Chupacabra:** The first reported sighting was in 1995 when eight sheep were found dead in Puerto Rico, each with three puncture wounds in the chest area and reportedly drained of blood. This incident sparked widespread media coverage and numerous reports of similar attacks across Latin America and the United States. The term “chupacabra” translates to “goat-sucker” in Spanish, named for its habit of attacking and drinking the blood of livestock, particularly goats. It is described as a monstrous, reptilian beast with spines along its back, piercing red eyes, and sharp fangs.
- VI. ***E. coli* O157:H7:** *E. coli* O157:H7 is a highly contagious strain of bacteria known for causing severe foodborne illness. Found in contaminated food and water, it produces powerful toxins leading to symptoms like abdominal cramps, bloody diarrhea, and kidney failure. There is no cure for an *E. coli* infection. Antibiotics actually make it more deadly. The most famous outbreak was when 700 people fell ill from undercooked Jack in the Box hamburgers.
- VII. **Creepers:** The creeper is a nocturnal menace known for its silent, stealthy approach and devastating explosions. With its green, mossy appearance, it blends seamlessly into its surroundings, catching its victims off guard. When threatened or provoked, it detonates with lethal force, leaving destruction in its wake.
- VIII. **Portuguese Man O’ War:** The Portuguese man o’ war, a deceptive beauty of the ocean, is not a single creature but a colony of specialized organisms. Its translucent, balloon-like float drifts on the surface while venomous, 165-foot-long tentacles trail below, delivering painful, deadly stings. In warm ocean waters, they can float in groups of thousands.
- IX. **Peruvian Torch:** Named for its tall, torch-like appearance, the Peruvian torch cactus, native to the Andes mountains, is armed with clusters of razor-sharp spines. Each spine contains the potent psychoactive compound mescaline. Mescaline can induce intense feelings of anxiety, panic, and hallucinations. In short, a potentially very confusing hike.
- X. **Audience:** The most formidable creature in the animal kingdom, the audience is the apex predator of the concert biome. Watch closely as the dominant members of the group attempt to assert their authority by saving an entire row of seats for family members that don’t arrive until the second piece on the program. Though this territorial display is often met with disapproving glares from neighboring species, the most intimidating examples of the species can sometimes hold an entire run straight through to intermission.
- XI. **The Pterodactyl Descending:** The pterodactyl ruled the skies 150 million years ago. Like birds, they had hollow bones, laid eggs, and made nests, but they had wingspans up to 30 feet, nearly three times larger than the largest modern bird. Their fossils were first found in Bavaria in 1784 but have subsequently been found on every continent, including Antarctica.
- XII. **Choristers:** These nocturnal creatures possess keen senses that detect every musical nuance — except rhythm. As noted by Marlin Perkins on Mutual of Omaha’s *Wild Kingdom*, “their skittish behavior drives them to travel in groups, seeking protection in numbers. Naturally wary of accidentals, they emit high-pitched squawks at any sudden change of key.”
- XIII. ***Terribilis* Frog:** Despite being only about the size of a postage stamp, the *Terribilis* Frog, also known as the Golden Poison Dart Frog, is one of the most toxic animals on Earth. A single tiny amphibian exudes enough batrachotoxin, a poison capable of causing cardiac arrest, to kill 20 adult humans. Found in Colombia’s rainforests, the indigenous Choco people would carefully collect the frogs and apply their poison to the tips of blow darts. These treated darts could remain effective for over one year.
- XIV. **Black Mamba:** The black mamba, Africa’s most feared snake, is renowned for its speed, aggression, and potent venom. Reaching lengths of up to 14 feet, this sleek, agile serpent can strike multiple times, delivering neurotoxic venom that causes agonizing death over the course of several hours.



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- I. Part One
- II. Part Two
- III. Part Three

Notes from the composer:

The term “second nature” typically describes a skill that, while baffling at first, becomes effortless once mastered. Naturally, *Second Nature* calls for a quartet of saxophonists to tackle the virtuosic demands of the piece and make their efforts look easy. But the virtuosity in their music runs deeper than speedy flurries of notes or sky-high belts. The solo quartet must also play with exacting ensemble coordination as they emulate complex electronic decay effects, which, when combined with thumping four-on-the-floor drumbeats, capture the infectious exuberance of house music. If you see the soloists sweat, I hope that it’s at least in some measure because the music inspires them to move. I personally have never danced so much while writing a piece (and fortunately, you’ll just have to take my word for it). Written in three unbroken movements, this concerto exudes pure, unbridled joy.

Indeed, when I think about my own nature as a composer, and the affective inclination of my earlier work, it was at first joy. Improvisation at the keyboard, my first childhood foray into composition, was a happy escape from the labors of piano practice. For many years, composition felt like play, and my music was infused with much more whimsy than gravitas. That changed to a great degree in 2020. My compositions, both by intention and the unconscious intrusions of the wider world, became darker and introspective. I had even come to terms with the possibility that my music would remain in this darker place for a very long time. However, with the brightness of its opening and closing C-major chords, *Second Nature* is me finding my way back. In that way, “second nature” is less of a description of something that has become effortless, but rather something which is relearned, an inclination rediscovered — nature, for the second time around.

It is with tremendous gratitude that I thank Dr. Sarah McKoin and Texas Tech University for leading the consortium of 15 university wind ensembles and saxophone quartets that commissioned *Second Nature*. This concerto is dedicated to the sensational Aruna Quartet, which premiered the piece in early 2024 alongside Dr. McKoin and the Texas Tech University Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

#### ~Nois Quartet

Take your preconceptions of “noise” and toss them out the window. Equal parts “fiendishly good and fiendishly goofy” (*Chicago Tribune*), ~Nois Quartet is a “prolific, charismatic young ensemble that is swiftly becoming the American saxophone quartet du jour” (*Musical America*). Founded in 2016, the Chicago based ensemble is dedicated to championing new music for saxophone and building community through innovative, inclusive, and exceptional musical experiences.

~Nois has presented over 200 performances and has “continued to legitimize the saxophone quartet as a premier ensemble formation for classical music” (*Brutal New Music*). Their performances have spanned 28 states, including invitations to perform at some of the top festivals, concert series, and academic institutions in the nation. The ensemble has also been awarded top prizes at numerous prestigious chamber music competitions including the M-Prize International Arts Competition, the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, and was once deemed, “Too loud for the Farmers’ Market” (*Evanston Local*, Illinois 1st Ward Constituent).

At the core of ~Nois’s ethos is a fierce dedication to the commissioning of living composers, leading to over 120 world-premieres to date. The members of ~Nois have had the privilege of working closely with some of the world’s leading voices in composition to create new works for saxophone quartet, including Jessie Montgomery, Nico Muhly, Shawn Okpebholo, and Augusta Read Thomas. ~Nois has had the honor of sharing the stage with some of today’s most prolific ensembles including Third Coast Percussion, Sō Percussion, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, the United States Navy Band, and the Northwestern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

~Nois is comprised of Julian Velasco (he/him), Natalia Warthen (she/her), Jordan Lulloff (he/him), and János Csontos (he/him). For more information, please visit [noisquartet.org](http://noisquartet.org).

## Symphony in B-flat (1951)

Paul Hindemith (1895–1963)

- I. Moderately fast, with vigor
- II. Andante grazioso
- III. Fugue (rather broad)

Paul Hindemith was a German composer, violinist/violist, conductor, theorist, and teacher. After intensive studies in Frankfurt from 1908 to 1917, he rose to become principal violinist of the Frankfurt Opera Orchestra. During World War I, Hindemith traded his violin for a clarinet and performed in a German Army band. After the war, he energized the Donaueschingen Music Festival and inspired students in Berlin. Known early for expressionist works, Hindemith's bold music drew sharp criticism from the Nazi regime, which labeled it *Entartete Musik* ("degenerate music"). Barriers to his career in Germany, combined with his wife's Jewish ancestry, led him to emigrate to the United States in 1940. There, he influenced generations at Yale University before moving to Switzerland in 1953.

Hindemith became the first internationally renowned composer to write a symphony for concert band after accepting an invitation from U.S. Army Band Commander Captain Hugh Curry. Spurred on by former student Keith Wright, Hindemith accepted the invitation to guest conduct and compose for the Army Band's vibrant "Freedom Sings" series. The result was his *Symphony in B-flat (1951)*, a landmark in band literature. Its first movement features a driving five-note motive and bold, energetic scoring; the second charms with a lyrical, cabaret-style duet and a lively scherzo; the finale's formal fugue builds towards a conclusion that brings the symphony full circle. *Symphony in B-flat*, conducted by Hindemith himself, was premiered by the U.S. Army Band on April 5, 1951.

— *Program notes by Henry L. Dorn*



# ST. OLAF BAND

## HENRY L. DORN, CONDUCTOR

### PICCOLO

Ava Durfey, *East Greenwich, R.I.*  
^ Elizabeth Doty, *Centennial, Colo.*  
Tori Love-Jensen, *Chanhassen, Minn.*  
Caroline Juhl, *Prior Lake, Minn.*

### FLUTE

Zea Althoff, *Portland, Ore.*  
^ Elizabeth Doty, *Centennial, Colo.*  
Ava Durfey, *East Greenwich, R.I.*  
† Claire Engler, *Charlottesville, Va.*  
Owen Erickson, *Holmen, Wis.*  
Emilia Gusdal, *Shoreview, Minn.*  
†\* Cole Kehrberg, *Golden Valley, Minn.*  
Caroline Juhl, *Prior Lake, Minn.*  
Jasmine Patterson-LaBaw, *Rochester, Minn.*  
Tori Love-Jensen, *Chanhassen, Minn.*  
Aubrey Sanders, *Ottawa, Ill.*  
Jessica Thanghe, *Minneapolis, Minn.*  
Caleb Waltz, *Waukesha, Wis.*

### OBOE

†~ Connor Coleman, *Geneseo, Ill.*  
†\* Angeline Domeyer, *River Falls, Wis.*  
Sophia Farnum, *Indianapolis, Ind.*  
Fin Smajda, *Shawnee, Kan.*

### CLARINET

†\*• Selma Artang, *Duluth, Minn.*  
- Sofia Espinosa de los Monteros, *Austin, Texas*  
Samuel Freimuth, *Rochester, Minn.*  
> Vincent Giza, *Culver City, Calif.*  
Clara Hall, *St. Paul, Minn.*  
Sarie Hoffner, *Tullahoma, Tenn.*  
† Gaby Hoover, *Rosemount, Minn.*  
Isabel Kirkeby, *Duluth, Minn.*  
Naomi Janquart, *Middleton, Wis.*  
Sydney LaVoi, *Bemidji, Minn.*  
\* Lauren Mitchell, *Farmington, Minn.*  
Adam Pott, *Arvada, Colo.*  
Erin Pratt, *Omaha, Neb.*  
† Oslo Martin Risch, *St. Paul, Minn.*  
Kiera Stanford, *Seattle, Wash.*

### BASS CLARINET

Elle Davis, *Tualatin, Ore.*  
Christian Kremer, *Mitchell, S.D.*  
†\*# Rebekah Talley, *New Berlin, Wis.*  
Elia Tremblay, *Boulder, Colo.*

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Lisa McDermott, *academic administrative assistant*  
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### BASSOON

^ Elizabeth Doty, *Centennial, Colo.*  
†\*Δ Sarah Hall, *Houston, Texas*  
Δ Beck Kranz, *Lakeville, Minn.*  
Ana Villa, *Suquamish, Wash.*

### SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

†\* Noah Stremmel, *Brookings, S.D.*  
Sebastian Whitcomb, *Andover, Minn.*

### ALTO SAXOPHONE

Ryan Cheng, *Lakeville, Minn.*  
\* Mikayla Doerfler, *Fort Collins, Colo.*  
Kaiping Zhang, *Edina, Minn.*

### TENOR SAXOPHONE

Isaac Kitange, *Rochester, Minn.*  
Amanda Klug, *Webster, Wis.*

### BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Hayden Joseph, *Minneapolis, Minn.*  
Gavin Stauffer, *Cottage Grove, Minn.*

### TRUMPET

Grace Aerisolphal, *West Des Moines, Iowa*  
Evelyn Armstrong, *Lake Elmo, Minn.*  
Tait Butterfield, *Portland, Ore.*  
Hero Czarnik, *St. Paul, Minn.*  
† Sam Hall, *Charlottesville, Va.*  
Sophia Kepros, *Cedar Rapids, Iowa*  
Nathan Moon, *Maple Grove, Minn.*  
\* Logan Rasmussen, *Apple Valley, Minn.*  
★ Jayden Sanchez, *Apple Valley, Minn.*  
Ada Schmalz, *Minnetonka, Minn.*  
Riley Steinhaus, *Jordan, Minn.*

### HORN

Maureen Bowen, *Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.*  
† Kyan Carlson, *Sioux Falls, S.D.*  
Joel Dressler, *Grinnell, Iowa*  
\* Aidan Fitzpatrick, *Duluth, Minn.*  
Katie Landwer, *Mankato, Minn.*  
Adam Rickman, *Minnetonka, Minn.*  
William Ulrich, *Medford, N.Y.*  
\* Róisín Walsh, *Tinley Park, Ill.*

### TROMBONE

Ava Clift, *St. Paul, Minn.*  
Anna Gargamelli, *Durham, Conn.*  
\* Lauren Hanna, *Montevideo, Minn.*  
†\* William Kroner, *Oro Valley, Ariz.*  
Jacques LeMay, *Minneapolis, Minn.*  
Wyatt Menke, *Minneapolis, Minn.*  
• Brenden Ravndal, *St. Anthony Village, Minn.*

### BASS TROMBONE

Chi-Shuo (James) Chang, *Taipei, Taiwan*  
Aria Giefer, *Osceola, Wis.*

### EUPHONIUM

† Grayson Chan, *Hong Kong*  
Josiah Domeyer, *River Falls, Wis.*  
\*^ Julia Kauth, *River Falls, Wis.*  
Brian Winter, *Rochester, Minn.*

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Sage Kiritschenko, *St. Paul, Minn.*  
†\* Austin Larson, *Plymouth, Minn.*

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† Declan Coleman, *St. Paul, Minn.*  
Ian Hansen, *Woodstock, Ill.*

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†\* MaKenzie Kuckkan, *Rhineland, Wis.*

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† Elizabeth Chen, *Tamuning, Guam*

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Sophia Carlson, *Winona, Minn.*  
†\*^ Morgan Ely, *North Pole, Alaska*  
Matteo Machado, *Rutledge, Pa.*  
^ Alex McGohan, *Decorah, Iowa*  
Chloe Rousseau, *Apple Valley, Minn.*  
Abby Schroeder, *Rochester, Minn.*

† Principal/Co-principal

\* Section leader

• Officer

^ Manager

- Librarian

~ English horn

> Alto clarinet

& E-flat clarinet

# Contrabass clarinet

Δ Contrabassoon

★ Piccolo trumpet

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