

University of North Dakota

WIND ENSEMBLE

Dr. James Popejoy, conductor

Featured Artist

Isaac Anderson, *alto saxophone*

December 2, 2025 | 7:30 pm

Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center



Program

Commando March (1943)

Samuel Barber

Samuel Barber (1910-1981) was an American composer, pianist, conductor, baritone, and music educator, and one of the most celebrated composers of the mid-20th century. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Music twice and is especially remembered for his opera *Vanessa* and the *Adagio* for Strings. He was inducted into the Army in 1942 and was inspired to compose for the military bands he encountered during his basic training. Completed in February 1943, the premiere performance was given by the Army Air Forces Technical Command Training Band in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Immediately well received by audiences, Barber himself led the Goldman Band in several performances in July 1943. He even adapted the work for orchestra at the request of Serge Koussevitzky, who premiered it with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in October 1943.

Fantasia for Alto Saxophone (1981)

Claude T. Smith

Isaac Anderson, alto saxophone

Composer, music educator, and conductor Claude T. Smith (1932-1987) was born in Missouri and educated at Central Methodist College and the University of Kansas. He was a prolific composer of instrumental and choral works, and his music continues to be widely performed by ensembles throughout the world. In his twenty-year teaching career, Smith taught all levels from public school through university, provided leadership to the profession, and offered advice to music publishers. Smith wrote *Fantasia* for saxophone virtuoso Dale Underwood and the U.S. Navy Band. The piece makes full use of the expressive and technical capabilities of the saxophone, with exhilarating virtuosity, emotional lyricism, and notes almost an octave above the standard range.

Isaac Anderson is a senior music performance major studying saxophone under Dr. Scott Sandberg at the University of North Dakota. He has played in the Wind Ensemble, 1 o'clock Jazz Band, UND Saxophone Quartet, Clarinet Choir, and the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, among many others. He has had the privilege of being a section leader on both saxophone and clarinet in the Wind Ensemble. Also involved in UND Theater, he has been in numerous shows including most recently in the role of Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady." Teaching saxophone and clarinet lessons as well, Isaac has a great passion for learning and growing, both in his teaching and his studies. He plans to continue his education with a master's degree in conducting.

Music for Prague 1968 (1968)

Karel Husa

Introduction and Fanfare • Aria • Interlude • Toccata and Chorale

Born in Prague, Karel Husa (1921-2016) narrowly escaped forced labor in a German factory in 1941. He studied at the Prague Conservatory until the final year of the war when all classes were suspended until Allied liberation in 1945. In 1946 he traveled to Paris, honing his skills with the French masters of the day and earning accolades as a composer and conductor from the international press. In 1949, the communist government of Czechoslovakia rescinded his passport, making him a man without a country. In 1954, famed American musicologist Donald Grout invited Husa to America where he joined the music faculty at Cornell University. Husa has been awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Music, the Grawemeyer Award, the Friedheim Award, and the Sudler Award, among many numerous other honors. Husa was galvanized by the invasion of his native Czechoslovakia by Soviet troops in August of 1968, particularly the entry of the invading army into Prague, the city of his birth, where several members of his immediate family still lived. After a sleepless night monitoring radio broadcasts for news of the situation, Husa began sketches for a composition. A recent commission from the Ithaca College Concert Band gave the impetus for these initial ideas. In the short space of seven weeks, working at a high pitch of excitement and inspiration, Husa composed *Music for Prague 1968*. From the composer:

Three main ideas bind the composition together. The first and most important is an Old Hussite war song from the 15th century, "Ye Warriors of God and His Law," a symbol of resistance and hope for hundreds of years, whenever fate lay heavy on the Czech nation. It has been utilized also by many Czech composers, including Smetana in My Country. The beginning of this religious song is announced very softly in the first movement by the timpani and concludes in a strong unison (Chorale). The song is never used in its entirety.

The second idea is the sound of bells throughout; Prague, named also the City of “Hundreds of Towers,” has used its magnificently sounding church bells as calls of distress as well as of victory.

The last idea is a motif of three chords first appearing very softly under the piccolo solo at the beginning of the piece, in flutes, clarinets and horns. Later it reappears at extremely strong dynamic levels, for example, in the middle of the Aria.

Different techniques of composing as well as orchestrating have been used in Music for Prague 1968 and some new sounds explored, such as the percussion section in the Interlude, the ending of the work, etc. Much symbolism also appears: in addition to the distress calls in the first movement (Fanfares), the unbroken hope of the Hussite song, sound of bells, or the tragedy (Aria), there is also the bird call at the beginning (piccolo solo), symbol of the liberty which the City of Prague has seen only for moments during its thousand years of existence.

Fantasy on a Japanese Folk Song (2005)

Samuel R. Hazo

Samuel R. Hazo (b. 1966) has written works for bands at all levels, as well as for television, screen and theater. He holds degrees from Duquesne University and has taught music kindergarten through college. He presently serves as a clinician for the Hal Leonard Corporation. The composer writes: “Commissioned by and dedicated to the Hofstra University Symphonic Band, *Fantasy on a Japanese Folk Song* tells the story of a Japanese girl who is given a music box by her mother and father when she is just a child. This music box played the Japanese doyo (child’s song) *Sunayama*. As a young girl, this music box always provided a sense of comfort and solace during her trying times. When she becomes an adult, she falls in love with an American and faces the choice of staying in her Japanese village or marrying and going back to America with him. She is so very much in love with him that she chooses to leave. However, she later realizes the need to feel close to her culture, and part of her always wonders if there was a life for her in her native Japan. As time goes by, this sense of conflict, which was more easily suppressed in the beginning, surfaces with more intensity; proving that only in a women’s heart can there exist an inner-love and an inner-war simultaneously. Balancing her love for her husband with her love for the culture she left behind, gives way to painful episodes. During these moments, her only method of coping with her circumstance is to lock herself away, open the music box given to her as a child, and at the sound of the very first note, to cry.”

Rio’s Convergence (2010)

Justin Freer

Justin Freer (b. 1980) has established himself as one of the West Coast’s most exciting musical voices. Freer began his formal studies on trumpet, playing in wind ensembles, marching bands and community orchestras. He quickly turned to piano and composition and composed his first work for wind ensemble at age eleven. Freer earned both his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Music Composition from UCLA. Continually composing for various mediums, he has written music for world-renowned trumpeters Doc Severinson and Jens Lindemann and continues to be in demand as a composer and conductor for everything from orchestral sessions in Hollywood to chamber music at some of the largest music clinics and conventions in the world. Freer has served as composer for several independent films and has written motion picture advertising music for some of 20th Century Fox Studios’ biggest advertising campaigns. He is the founder and president of CineConcerts production company that pairs movies with live orchestration. From the composer: “When Abel Ramirez approached me about commissioning a concert opener for his Texas Music Educators Association conducting debut, I was both humbled and exhilarated that I would have the opportunity to compose music intended to open a very special concert for a very special friend. With the world premiere taking place in Texas and given my passion for and fascination with America’s history, its trials and tribulations, its monuments and its landscape, I knew immediately that I should seek something spectacularly American from the Great State of Texas for musical inspiration. *Rio’s Convergence* refers directly to that majestic and often glorious body of water, the Rio Grande. Throughout its life from north to south, from the smashing forges of Colorado to the sublime panoramas of Texas, this life-giving water offers tranquility, brute force and a sense of high-spirited adventure for those who seek it. For me, music always tells a story (even if unintended by the composer) – with *Rio’s Convergence* I aim to capture what it might feel like to experience that mighty river.”

A Note of Thanks to:

*Josh Gillen, Director of Athletic Bands
Cory Driscoll, Assistant Director of Bands
Jason Kihle, Assistant Director of Bands
Brady Olson, Assistant Director of Bands*

*Oriana Cheney, Band Graduate Teaching Assistant
Lex Enderle, Concert Bands Student Assistant
University of North Dakota Music Faculty & Staff
Chester Fritz Performing Arts Center Staff*

UND Wind Ensemble *

Dr. James Popejoy, *conductor*

Flute/Piccolo +

Kathryn Barnes • *Beaufort, NC*
Mitchell Berger • *Roseau, MN* +
Elisha Boelk • *International Falls, MN*
Oriana Cheney • *Green Bay, WI*
*Ashlynn Hoornaert • *Bismarck* +
Marie Hylton • *Reynolds*
Zoey Junker • *Mandan*
*Emma Kratcha • *Hankinson*
Angelina Masotti • *Newfield, NY* +
Mia Peterson • *Bismarck* +
Addison Seil • *Bismarck*
Alyssa Tarasen • *Minot*

Oboe/English Horn +

Emily Huber • *Fargo* +
*Sydney Johnson • *Waukesha, WI*

Bassoon

*Abigail Meier • *Bismarck*
Maya Wyganowska • *West Fargo*

Contrabassoon

Dr. Michael Wittgraf • *UND Music Faculty*

Clarinet/Eb Clarinet +

*Isaac Anderson • *Bismarck* +
Emma Briggs • *Fargo*
Emily Burg • *Williston*
Aidan Fiala • *Grand Forks*
*Kaytlen Fitterer • *Fargo* +
Devon Ghent • *Plymouth, MN*
Jaleigh Schneider • *West Fargo*
Elena Sorge • *New Salem*
Eli Stevenson • *Grand Forks*
Ariana Thebeau • *Cavalier*

Bass Clarinet

Isabella Anderson • *Minot*

Contrabass Clarinet

*Gabrielle Chapulis • *Baxter, MN*

Alto Saxophone

*Earl Burnett • *Tilston, Manitoba*
Sydney Hall • *Bismarck*
Ashlee Ketterling • *Mercer*
Kaylie Westberg • *Park Rapids, MN*

Tenor Saxophone

*Lex Enderle • *Bismarck*
Daniel Johnson • *Watford City*

Baritone Saxophone/Bass Saxophone +

Holly German • *Wahpeton* +
*Anna Massmann • *East Grand Forks, MN*

* *section leader*

Trumpet

Jack Austin • *Minot*
McKenna Emineth • *Grand Forks*
Ryan Guagenti • *Minot*
Kaden Knabe • *Grand Forks*
Anders Mattson • *Roseau, MN*
*Daniel Musselman • *Grand Forks*
Kat Olson • *Grand Forks*
*Jaden Yeager • *Mandan*

Horn

*Percy Araujo • *Bismarck*
Caitlyn DeMouth • *Blairstown, NJ*
Tyler Garland • *Round Rock, TX*
Benjamin Kruta • *Valley City*
Ella Richards • *Williston*
Conrad Slad • *Albuquerque, NM*
*Samantha Stordalen • *Bismarck*
Lucy Welsh • *Grand Forks*
Genevieve Wodrich • *Reiles Acres*

Trombone

Shane Bosch • *Hazen*
Hunter Byberg • *Bismarck*
*Elias David-Schill • *Grand Forks*
Jared Hild • *Washington, D.C.*
*Zachary Lunde • *Jamestown*
Samuel Mauriello • *West Fargo*

Bass Trombone

Haley Jorgenson • *Grand Forks*
*Bo Salander • *Larimore*

Euphonium

*Natalie Helfrich • *Berthold*
Meris Lindsay • *Cavalier*
Nick Thompson • *Roseau, MN*
Theresa Wick • *Sidney, MT*

Tuba

Cole Gabos • *Maple Grove, MN*
*Elizabeth Keele • *Dickinson*
Levi Steinhauer • *Roseau, MN*

Percussion

*Blake Anderson • *Grand Forks*
Cami Antonenko • *Grand Forks*
Elena Boehm • *West Fargo*
Jordan Enoch • *Vadnais Heights, MN*
Karter Hatzenbuhler • *Mandan*
Zach Jeffers • *Bismarck*
Jackson Lee • *Grand Forks*
Ben Peske • *Bismarck*
Kaz Slabodnik • *Williston*
*Ryan Soleim • *Grand Forks*

Piano/Keyboard Harp

Cami Antonenko • *Grand Forks*

Members of the Wind Ensemble are listed alphabetically to acknowledge each player's contribution. They all serve as principal musicians.