



The Naperville Winds presents

TRADITIONS

Daniel Valkema, resident conductor
Scott Casagrande, guest conductor

Thursday, March 12, 2026 | 7:30 pm
Wheaton College Armerding Concert Hall
(This is not a function of Wheaton College)

PROGRAM

THE NAPERVILLE WINDS

Daniel Valkema, *resident conductor*

Mangulina (2001)

Paul Basler (b. 1963)

Meditation (2005/2010)

Dwayne S. Milburn (b. 1963)

Ballad for Wind Orchestra (2014)

Chang Su Koh (b. 1970)

Scott Casagrande, *guest conductor*

******INTERMISSION******

Folk Song Suite (1924/2008)

Ralph Vaughan Williams

I. Seventeen Come Sunday

(1872-1958)

II. My Bonny Boy

III. Folk Songs from Somerset

Scott Casagrande, *guest conductor*

STRIDE (2023)

Kevin Day (b. 1996)

Corcoran Cadets March (1890)

John Philip Sousa

(1854-1932)

Scott Casagrande, *guest conductor*

MUSICIANS

Flute

Michael Barrera, *piccolo*
Whitney Bowden*
Katie Goebel
Barb Holland, *piccolo*
Crystal Szewczyk
Hannah Wilger
Jennifer Wojcik

Oboe

Miranda Aldrich*
Elizabeth Okrzesik

Clarinet

Marina Adamany
Lori Foster
Micah Friesen, *E♭ clarinet*
Melissa Hickok
Morgan Jasien
Ken Kelly
Kara Kirkus
Jason Montgomery
Kristina Mucha
Chris Prohaska
Nicole Schneider
Jeremy Sison
Samantha Winkler

Bass Clarinet

Kevin Mulqueeny
Jonathan Sheetz*

Contra Clarinet

Timonthy Chernobrov,
alto/bass

Bassoon

Steven Moline
Kolleen Sarns
Charlie Wicker

Alto Saxophone

Marwin Esquerra
Matt Pilmer*, *soprano*
Jillian Schiele

Tenor Saxophone

Devin Cano
Kateri Tumminello*

Baritone Saxophone

Ryan Cabildo, *bass*
Michael Schwartz*

Trumpet

Thomas Arns
Nathan Dickman
Russell Monahan
Aaron Newman
Luis Ortiz
Keaton Shumard

Horn

Claudia Andrews
Kenadie Dawson
Miranda Dominguez
Jeff Kleinmaier
Lara Ward*

Trombone

Brandon Bokowski, *bass*
Dorian Chase
Jared Paine, *bass*
Payton Pugliese
Rudi Schwerdle
Michael Townley

Euphonium

Jeff Byrnes*
Brendon Culloton

Tuba

David Basich
Samuel Michels

Percussion

Peter Hamot
Morgan Martin*
Elias Martinez
Mariano Morales
Hunter Valkema
Anubhav Vashishta

String Bass

Phillip W. Serna

**indicates principal*

PROGRAM NOTES

Mangulina

Mangulina is based on traditional dance rhythms from the Dominican Republic. The piece conjures up images of frenzied dancing, a "primordial" jumping up and down and stomping on the earth, sending wishes and dreams towards the heavens.

Mangulina was commissioned in 2001 by Daniel J. Schmidt and the Mars Hill College Wind Symphony, John T. West and the Western Carolina University Wind Ensemble, Richard Clary and the University of Kentucky Wind Ensemble, and William A. Gora and the Appalachian State University Wind Ensemble.

- Program note by the California State University, Long Beach, Symphonic Band concert program, 4 December 2014

Meditation

In early 2004, I was contacted by Mr. Jeff Looman, director of instrumental music for the Calvin Christian Schools in Michigan. Looman entrusted me to create a special composition in memory of a former student, Nick Stegeman, who had lost his life several years earlier. Meditation combines two tunes, the Lutheran hymn "If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee" and the American folk song "Poor Wayfarin' Stranger". It is actually the second of three movements that comprise a suite entitled *Music for Bright Youth*. The title refers not only to Nick, but all the young musicians with whom it has been my pleasure to work over the years as well. In February of 2005, the combined bands of the Calvin Christian Schools, under the direction of Mr. Looman, premiered the entire suite as a part of their annual winter concert.

- Program note by the composer

Ballad for Wind Orchestra

"Ballad" refers to a kind of European folk song known since the Middle Ages, having elements of dramatic conversation and lyrical poetry. It became a general term for narrative song in the 14th century, and Ballade in the 19th century was a genre of instrumental music in the narrative style. I composed this work with an image of a fictitious hero, hence the title. The work is roughly divided into five parts. The appealing solo line, the 4th and 5th disjunct-motion motifs rising steadily, the rapid-rhythm style sounding like a mixture of Western "tarantella" and Korean traditional "Jajinmori Jangdan", and the lyrical comfort melody essentially comprise the music.

Commissioned for Nishinomiya City Wind Orchestra's 50th anniversary.

- Program note by the composer

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

Folk Song Suite

Folk Song Suite was commissioned by the band of the Royal Military School of Music. In three movements, the suite contains many different folk songs from the Norfolk and Somerset regions of England, including Seventeen Come Sunday, Pretty Caroline, Dives and Lazarus, My Bonny Boy, Green Bushes, Blow Away the Morning Dew, High Germany, and The Tree So High. Historically, the suite is considered (along with Gustav Holst's two suites for military band) to be a cornerstone work in the literature, and one of the earliest "serious" works for the wind band.

- Program note by Nikk Pilato

STRIDE

Commissioned by the American Bandmasters Association, *STRIDE* is derived from the definition meaning to walk in a decisive way to cross and overcome obstacles that may come within our paths. *STRIDE* is also a reference to the marching band tradition and highlights my experience growing up as a Texas band kid marching on the field. This is an energetic work that features brass and drum grooves that could be felt within duple and triple, while contrasting to a beautiful lyrical section that showcases the woodwind section.

- Program note by composer

The Corcoran Cadets March

The Corcoran Cadets drill team was the pet of Washington, D.C., being the most notable of the drill teams that flourished there after the Civil War. Their average age was 16, and they presented a snappy picture with their colorful uniforms, wooden rifles, and youthful enthusiasm. They competed vigorously with units from Washington and other towns, while being the first company of cadets to be mustered into the National Guard. Their esprit de corps was high, and the Corcoran Cadets Veterans' Association held annual reunions for many years.

The "Corcorans" had their own band. Although it is not recorded, they probably made a formal request for this march. Sousa's affirmative response, "to the officers and men of the Corcoran Cadets", was no doubt tendered by an early association with William W. Corcoran, for whom the Cadets were named. It was he who nearly changed American musical history by considering Sousa for a musical education in Europe. Sousa had declined this opportunity, and the march was probably a belated expression of appreciation.

- Program note from John Philip Sousa: *A Descriptive Catalog of His Works*.

BIOGRAPHIES



Daniel Valkema retired in 2018 following a 36-year career in music education in suburban Chicago. His career included teaching at Plainfield Central, Elk Grove, Lincoln-Way East, and Lockport Township High Schools. He holds degrees from Illinois State University and the University of Iowa. Bands under his direction have performed at the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival, the Midwest Clinic, the Illinois Music Education Conference, the State of Illinois Concert Band Contest (5A Champions) and the prestigious

Illinois Superstate Band Festival (Class AAA Honor Band). In addition, his bands have earned the Grand Championship Award at the Midwest Music Festival 3 times. Mr. Valkema has appeared as guest conductor with the Illinois Summer Youth Music Camp, Iowa All-State Music Camp, Wheaton Municipal Band, Freeport Concert Band, IMEA Jazz Bands, and Rushmore Music Camp. He is proud to have had opportunities to conduct bands at Symphony Center in Chicago twice. He has also been a staff member of the Illinois Ambassadors of Music for 5 European Concert Tours. Mr. Valkema was honored as an Outstanding Chicagoland Music Educator, received an Illinois Math & Science Academy Award of Excellence, Plainfield District 202 Award of Excellence, and several Citations of Excellence from the National Band Association. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at Illinois State University and North Central College.

BIOGRAPHIES



Scott J. Casagrande was Director of Bands at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights, IL and retired in June, 2021 after completing 33 years of teaching in Illinois Public Schools.

Ensembles under Mr. Casagrande's direction have performed as a featured ensemble in the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic (Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble). They were selected to perform in 24 Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festivals, two Illinois Music Educators Association Conventions and four Music for All National Concert Band Festivals. The Hersey Symphonic Band was named the Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival Honor Band four times and the band program was awarded the Sudler Flag of Honor by the Sousa Foundation, which is an international Award Recognizing High School Concert Bands of Outstanding Musical Excellence. The Symphonic Band performed at Carnegie Hall twice, Chicago's Symphony Center three times, as well as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and several other world-class venues.

Mr. Casagrande currently serves as the conductor of the Chicago-based Merit Conservatory of Music Wind Symphony, an honor group comprised of pre-collegiate high school musicians. He also serves Music for All/Bands of America as a Music Education Consultant and National Festival Coordinator, as well as Coordinator of Affiliate Regional Music Festivals and Affiliate Regional Marching Events. He serves as an administrator for the Music Education Alliance and the Dr. William P. Foster Project involving the College Band Directors National Association and Music for All serving bands in under-served communities. In addition, Mr. Casagrande also serves on the Board of Trustees for the VanderCook College of Music.

He is a Past-President of the National Band Association and served the NBA as a member of the Executive Committee for eight years. Mr. Casagrande has been nominated and inducted into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association as well as the Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternity and American School Band Directors Association. He has been published many times in *The Instrumentalist* and the *National Band Association Journal* and has presented at twelve state and national conventions, including the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. He is a recipient of the Chicagoland John Paynter Lifetime Achievement Award by Quinlan and Fabish Music, voted upon by Chicagoland-area band directors, and he was inducted as a charter member of the State of Illinois Marching Championship Hall of Fame in 2022.

Mr. Casagrande and his wife, Janice, have two adult daughters, Mary Grace and Julia and are impatiently waiting for them to make us grandparents.

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BY MATT COX

AUGUST 6TH AND 7TH AT 5:45PM
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AURORA, IL

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRANDEE GUY FOR THEATRE 319

THEATRE 319 PRESENTS

NOISES OFF

BY MICHAEL FRAYN

APRIL 9TH AND 10TH AT 5:45PM

349 S GLADSTONE AVE, AURORA, IL

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UPCOMING CONCERTS

SEASON FINALE: IMPRESSIONS

Saturday May 2, 2026 | 7:30 pm | Plainfield East High School Auditorium

COMING SOON: THE 2026-2027 SEASON OF THE NAPERVILLE WINDS!

Please visit thenapervillewinds.org to purchase tickets today!

Series V – Number III

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