

WELS
WEST REGION
BAND
FEST

Featuring student musicians from ten
WELS Area Lutheran High Schools

★ *From Sea to Shining Sea* ★

FESTIVAL CONCERT
MARCH 17, 2024



Welcome!

“He will proclaim peace to the nations. His kingdom will extend from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.” Zechariah 9:10 (EHV)

From Sea to Shining Sea

On behalf of the Great Plains Lutheran High School family, we welcome you to Watertown, South Dakota and the campus of Great Plains Lutheran. Our prayer is that over the course of this weekend, old friendships are refreshed, new friendships are formed, rehearsals are appreciated, and performances are enjoyed. Above all, we pray that together we will glorify our God, whose kingdom extends to the ends of the earth!

What a privilege and blessing it is for brothers and sisters in Christ from across the country and around the world to gather together and use their musical gifts to God's glory. We are certain that much hard work has already occurred in preparation for this event, and much more will go into this weekend's activities. We are also confident that you will come away from this weekend with renewed confidence in the young people our Lutheran high schools serve. The students will be putting forth much time and effort over these three days. May God bless their efforts in the way he knows best.

Great Plains Lutheran High School was established in the fall of 1996. We are in our 28th year of operation and have the privilege of serving 137 students from across the United States and around the world. Watertown is South Dakota's fifth largest city with a population of over 20,000. The size of our community and the support GPLHS receives from its families and association members make for a close-knit family atmosphere – a blessing we get to enjoy every day.

We thank all those who made this festival possible by planning, coordinating, executing, hosting, and participating in any way. Your efforts and participation are greatly appreciated. We offer a special note of thanks to our music director, Eric Martens, for his faithful service at all times and especially in connection with this festival. We thank all of you for attending the 2024 WELS West Region Band Festival, and we pray that God will bless your time here.

May his peace be proclaimed from sea to shining sea!

David Maertz, President



David Maertz, President

2024 WELS West Region Band Festival Concert

From Sea to Shining Sea • March 17, 2024 • 2:00 PM

PROGRAM

Festival Band, Dr. Terry Beckler, Conductor

American Barndance	<i>Richard L. Saucedo</i>
Cajun Folk Songs	<i>Frank Ticheli</i>
I. La Belle et le Capitaine	
II. Belle	
Concord	<i>Clare Grundman</i>
Each Time You Tell Their Story	<i>Samuel R. Hazo, music; Dr. S. J. Hazo, poem</i>
Lassus Trombone	<i>Henry Fillmore, Arr. Loras J. Schissel</i>
Mitchell Corn Palace March	<i>O. H. Andersen, Arr. Joseph F. Pekas</i>
Rushmore	<i>Alfred Reed</i>
They Led My Lord Away	<i>Adoniram J. Gordan, Arr. Fred J. Allen</i>

Percussion Ensemble, Mr. Quinten Petersen, Conductor

Tetsujin	<i>Catherine Betts and Joshua Webster</i>
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PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & DIRECTORS

Great Plains Lutheran High School (GPLHS)	Watertown, SD	Eric Martens
Lakeside Lutheran High School (LLHS)	Lake Mills, WI	Glen Pufahl
Luther High School (LHS)	Onalaska, WI	Gregory Baures
Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School (MVL)	New Ulm, MN	Dr. Timothy Plath
Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School (NELHS)	Waco, NE	Paul Kanzenbach
Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School (RMLHS)	Commerce City, CO	Dawn Punke
St. Croix Lutheran Academy (SCLA)	West St. Paul, MN	John Fenske
West Lutheran High School (WEST)	Plymouth, MN	Kari Hahm
Winnebago Lutheran Academy (WLA)	Fond du Lac, WI	Abby Kurth
Wisconsin Lutheran High School (WLHS)	Milwaukee, WI	Quinten Petersen

PROGRAM NOTES

AMERICAN BARNDANCE

American Barndance was commissioned and premiered for the twentieth annual Festival of Bands in Loogootee, Indiana. As the title suggests, this is a throwback to the days of neighbors coming together to socialize and celebrate life on the farm. It reflects the sense of lightheartedness and playfulness for all who attend a barndance.

CAJUN FOLK SONGS

Cajuns are descendants of the Acadians, a group of early French colonists who began settling in Acadia (now Nova Scotia) around 1604. In 1755, they were driven out by the British, eventually resettling in South Louisiana. Today there are nearly a million French-speaking descendants of the Acadians living in Louisiana and parts of Texas who preserve many of the customs, traditions, stories, and songs of their ancestors.

“La Belle et le Capitaine” tells the story of a young girl who feigns death to avoid being seduced by a captain. “Belle” is about a man who goes away to Texas only to receive word of his sweetheart’s illness, which forces him to return to Louisiana. Finding her unconscious upon his return, he pawns his horse to try to save her, to no avail.

CONCORD

“The President’s Own” commissioned Grundman’s Concord in 1987 for the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) conference. The work draws from three traditional American folk tunes identified with the Revolutionary War period.

“The White Cockade” was a popular fife and drum tune. A cockade is a knotted ribbon attached to a hat to signify rank or allegiance, and the Continental Army pinned white cockades on top of their formerly black cockades in honor of the Ancien Régime when France became an ally in the war.

“America” was composed by William Billings (1746–1800) of Boston, one of America’s first choral composers who supported the Revolution with his music alongside his friends Paul Revere and Samuel Adams. Despite the popularity of his music, Billings experienced extreme financial difficulty due to primitive copyright laws in the United States at the time which allowed his music to be reprinted freely.

Now adopted as a patriotic American song, “Yankee Doodle” is thought to have been first sung by British military officers to mock the colonists they served alongside in the French and Indian War. Both the words and music enjoy a confused history: the term “doodle” may derive from a German term meaning “fool” or “simpleton,” while macaroni referred to a set of well-traveled Englishmen who appreciated the culinary delights of Italian macaroni pasta and “exceeded the ordinary bounds of fashion” with tight clothes, oversized swords, and extremely tall wigs. The lyrics may imply that the simple “Yankee Doodle” thought he could imitate British fashion with only a feather. By the mid-eighteenth century “Yankee Doodle” had spread throughout the colonies and was very popular as a tune for jigs and country dances.

-- Notes from “The President’s Own” concert program

EACH TIME YOU TELL THEIR STORY

This work was written to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the New Mexico Military Institute’s band program, and to honor the former cadets who sacrificed their lives for their country and people. It is a musical and poetic journey that carries the listener from the horrible human sacrifices of war, to the love a soldier must feel toward his fellow man to give such a sacrifice.

In the opening of the work, the listener hears somber chords interwoven with a military funeral drum cadence and a quote from *Taps*. The chimes symbolize a religious service memorializing someone's life. This theme builds until powerfully dissonant chords express the culmination of grief that is felt after loss.

The poem entitled "At the Site of the Memorial" transitions the view of heroic loss – from that of duty for one's country, to the act of love for one's fellow man – which justifies life's sacrifice more than valor. Following the poem, earlier themes are repeated with a gentler, more beautiful tone. The deceptive ending in m. 41 finalizes the soft themes that follow the poem. It serves to contrast the full and powerful themes which truly symbolize the ultimate sacrifice, inspired by love. The winds fade out, symbolizing the end of life; timpani fades out, symbolizing the remembrance of heroism; then only wind chimes continue, symbolizing the acts of love that remain alive after all else is gone.

LASSUS TROMBONE

Henry Fillmore wrote more than a dozen marches that featured the trombone section. He became interested in the trombone in spite of his father's conviction that the trombone was "too evil for any righteous person to play!" His most famous trombone feature, *Lassus Trombone*, was John Philip Sousa's favorite march. According to arranger Loras Schissel, the "Lassus" in *Lassus Trombone* stands for molasses.

-- Notes by David P. Miller, Mississippi Community Symphonic Bands

MITCHELL CORN PALACE MARCH

This march was written to commemorate the "World's Only Corn Palace." The piano score was discovered and arranged for band by Joe Pekas, a longtime band director in Mitchell and former commander of the 147th Army Band. The 147th Army Band has been stationed in Mitchell since 1921 and regularly performs this march to honor that history.

RUSHMORE

Rushmore, A Symphonic Prologue for Winds, was commissioned by Paul and Lois Hedge, co-directors of the Rushmore Summer Music Camp in South Dakota, on the occasion of the camp's 10th anniversary year, in 1980. It was first performed by the Rushmore Music Camp Symphonic Band under the direction of Kenneth Bloomquist, on August 16th, 1980, at the camp's concluding concert in the amphitheater at Mount Rushmore.

A brooding, mystic opening (representing, perhaps, the four great faces carved in stone gazing over the plains of America) introduces a broad melodic line that is meant to symbolize the inner strength and calm majesty represented by these four great Americans as guardians of our tradition and faith in the freedom of man. As this theme is developed, rising ever higher in the band's registers, echoes of the opening fanfares enter, leading to a combination of this theme together with "America, the Beautiful," and bring the work to a close in all the majesty and colors of which the modern concert band or wind ensemble is capable.

TETSUJIN

Tetsujin was written by Catherine Betts and Joshua Webster. These freelance percussionists, based in Perth, Western Australia, write this about *Tetsujin*: "*Tetsujin* is inspired by the amazing style and power of Japanese taiko drumming. We wrote this piece as an introduction to this highly stylized way of playing, and it features some typical taiko rhythms, challenging syncopation, and plenty of chances for the ensemble to practice their choreography and movement."

THEY LED MY LORD AWAY

Adoniram Judson Gordon was a Baptist minister who wrote several books of hymns before his death in 1895. *They Led My Lord Away* is an example of the call-response variety of hymn with its recurring refrain "can you tell me where to find Him?" This setting for band, by Fred J. Allen, maintains the dignity and plaintive searching quality of the original hymn through the use of the beautiful sonorities available in the concert band.

CLINICIANS



Dr. Terry Beckler is professor of percussion, bands, and music education at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. Previously, he was director of bands at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, MN and at Huron University. He has 10 years of public school experience as band director for the Red Rock Central (Lamberton, MN) and Sioux Valley (Volga, SD) school districts. Dr. Beckler holds degrees from South Dakota State University, The University of Northern Colorado and The University of Minnesota.

Dr. Beckler was a member of the 147th Army Band based in Mitchell, SD for 36 years. He enlisted in 1986 as a percussionist and assumed the role of Commander in 1998. In January of 2006, the 147th Army Band was awarded the Howard Citation of Musical Excellence from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. Dr. Beckler retired in 2022 after achieving the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 and serving as the Chief of Army National Guard Bands.

In 2018, Dr. Beckler was named Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster for South Dakota. That same year, he was inducted into the Aberdeen Central High School Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2021, Dr. Beckler received the South Dakota High School Activities Association Distinguished Service Award. He is an active clinician and adjudicator in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota and a former member of the Troopers Drum & Bugle Corps.

Mr. Quinten Petersen is the Director of Bands and Fine Arts Department Coordinator at Wisconsin Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, WI. At WLHS, Mr. Petersen conducts the concert band, marching band, jazz ensemble, woodwind ensemble, two percussion ensembles, and three steelbands. In addition to serving as the Band Fest percussion clinician in 2018, he directed the 2018 Wisconsin All-State Percussion Ensemble.

Mr. Petersen has performed with distinguished individuals and ensembles from around the country including Liam Teague, Mike Schwebke, Cream City Percussion, Pan Masters Steel Orchestra, Milwaukee Festival Brass, Kettle Moraine Symphony Orchestra, and Third Coast Percussion. Quinten continues to be active as a consultant, clinician, arranger, chamber musician, and soloist throughout the Midwest.



Mr. Petersen lives in Wauwatosa, with his wife, Megan, and two children, Madeline and William.

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

Piccolo/Flute

Caitlyn Otto MVL
Mariska Gilbertson LHS

Flute

Lydia Wolfe GPLHS
Helena Jonas SCLA
Esta Cameron GPLHS
Tegan Evraets WLA
Molly Kalma LLHS

Oboe

Julia Neuman WLHS
Ella Wurster MVLHS
Eviana Uttech WLHS

Bassoon

Nathaniel Crowder WLHS

Clarinet

Emily Wendorf WLHS
Eva Kuehn WLHS
Ambria McCrary LLHS
Abigail Tolkinen LLHS
Chloe Wolfe GPLHS
Grace Berg LHS
Caden Stripling WEST
Adam Brucker RMLHS
Kaylee Schoen NELHS
Ema Burkholder WLA
Greta Bublitz WLA
Miriam Jarcik GPLHS

Bass Clarinet

Cheyenne McGillis WLHS
Caleb Kleinsasser GPLHS

Alto Saxophone

Atticus Delwiche WLHS
Macord Lindstrom MVLHS
Blake Zeitler WEST
Ben Wieser LHS
Hallie Spreeman NELHS
Jeremiah Martens GPLHS

Tenor Saxophone

Joseph Schroeder MVLHS
Clara Baudek LHS
Rachel Sternhagen RMLHS
Kenyon Tess SCLA

Baritone Saxophone

Aaron Hirsch LLHS
Thaddeus Kratz GPLHS

Trumpet

Elsa Johansson LLHS
Shaw McCoy LHS
James Faust WLHS
Elijah Vik LLHS
Samuel Lipps LHS
Bennett Midthun WLA
Levi LaPlant MVLHS
Martin Krenz GPLHS
Isaac Lile RMLHS
Addison Hallberg LLHS
Annalise Kuehn WLHS
Gabe Ehnert WLA

French Horn

Natalie Schumann MVLHS
Malikhai Mundt WLHS
Isabelle Hatzung WLHS
Emily Moritz GPLHS
Taylor Bendix GPLHS
Lydia Schleusener GPLHS

Trombone

Thomas Doerr WLHS
Maria Vik LLHS
Nick Paul WEST
Liam Clark WLA
Bryce Malchow NELHS
Michael Penning WEST
Isaiah Harris WLHS
Jack Rupnow LLHS
Matthew Moritz GPLHS

Euphonium

Kaitlyn Rawerts GPLHS
Nathan Nikoley SCLA
Kaia Gilbertson LHS
Milo Schumacher GPLHS

Tuba

Madison Grass WLHS
Joseph Metzger LLHS
Paul Hahm WEST
Elana Litherland LLHS
Samuel Schams LHS

Percussion

Kaden Archer WLHS
William Hemling LLHS
Noah Hollander WEST
Lydia Jarcik GPLHS
Thomas Moldenhauer WLHS
Annabelle Nault WLHS
Jonah Stelljes SCLA
Christopher Williams LHS

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Great Plains Lutheran High School Faculty and Staff	Bethany Lutheran College, Estelle Vlieger

Dr. Beckler and Mr. Petersen for their musical expertise and inspiration

Thank you students for your diligent preparation, excellent participation, and superb performance of your God-given gift of making music.

The many others who contributed time, talents, and financial assistance to ensure the success of this festival.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

