3-17-2023

University Wind Symphony and Clifton High School Wind Ensemble

John J. Cali School of Music

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MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY
SYMPHONIC BAND
Dr. Thomas McCauley, conductor
CAMPUS-COMMUNITY BAND
Theodora Sotiropoulos, conductor
Kasser Theater
Friday, December 3rd, 2021
7:30 pm

Daniel Gurskis
Dean, College of the Arts
Anthony Mazzocchi
Director
John J. Cali School of Music

MONTCLAIR STATE WIND SYMPHONY
Dr. Thomas McCauley, conductor
Scott Byers, assistant conductor
Julian Dippolito, soloist

with the
CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE
Bryan Stepneski, conductor

FRIDAY | MARCH 17 | 7:30PM
ALEXANDER KASSER THEATER

Daniel Gurskis
Dean, College of the Arts
Anthony Mazzocchi
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PROGRAM

The Billboard March  
John Klohr, 
arr. Lewis J. Buckley

Exhale  
Sean O’Loughlin

Rollo Takes a Walk  
David Maslanka

Remembering the Remarkables  
Grace Baugher

A Longford Legend  
Robert Sheldon
  I.  A Longford Legend
  II.  Young Molly Bawn
  III.  Killyburn Brae

The Clifton High School Wind Ensemble  
Bryan Stepneski, conductor

INTERMISSION

(anti) Fanfare  
Andrew Blair
  Scott Byers, graduate student conductor

Questions to Heaven  
Jennifer Jolly

Prism Rhapsody (excerpts)  
Keiko Abe
  Julian Dippolito, soloist
  2022-2023 Montclair State Wind Symphony
  Concerto Competition Winner

Caribana  
Omar Thomas

The Montclair State Wind Symphony  
Dr. Thomas McCauley, conductor
  Scott Byers, graduate assistant conductor
About the ensembles…

The Montclair State University Wind Symphony
Comprised of the best wind players and percussionists in the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University in New Jersey, the Montclair State University Wind Symphony, since 2006, has appeared at the New Jersey Music Educators Association Conference, the 2012 CBDNA Eastern Division Conference, the National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference, and the 2015 and 2012 Northeast Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference. Their appearance at the 2019 CBDNA National Conference in Tempe, Arizona marked the first time that a large ensemble from Montclair State University appeared at a national conference. Most recently, the MSU Wind Symphony appeared at the international conference of the prestigious World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) in Prague, Czech Republic, in July of 2022.

The Montclair State University Wind Symphony is one of three concert bands in the John J. Cali School of Music, and, though the graduate student population is always growing, the majority of its members are undergraduate students majoring in Music Education, Music Therapy, Music Performance, or Composition. The MSU Wind Symphony has premiered pieces by composers Michael Daugherty, Bruce Yurko, David Gillingham, Elizabeth Brown, O’Neal Douglas, Patrick Burns, and Ting Ho, and has participated in commissioning works from composers Lawton Hall, Armando Bayolo, James Beckel, Stephen Anderson, and Rollo Dilworth. The MSU Wind Symphony has appeared in concert with, among others, Dame Evelyn Glennie, The Imani Winds, the Monarch Brass, The Manhattan Brass Quintet, Warren Vache’, and Demondrae Thurman. Since 2006, recruiting and concert tours have taken the ensemble to Philadelphia, Boston, Indianapolis, Chicago, Atlantic City, and New York where, in 2014, they appeared at Carnegie Hall. Former members of the band program are now teaching in public and private schools throughout the northeast, performing as professional musicians throughout the country, and have gone on to attend some of the most prestigious graduate institutions in the world.

Clifton High School Mustang Band
The Clifton High School Wind Ensemble is composed of the best student musicians in the CHS Mustang Band. Members are selected by competitive audition and the group rehearses after school beginning in January. All members of the Wind Ensemble are also members of the Mustang Marching Band.

The Mustang Marching Band, “The Showband of the Northeast,” has been amazing audiences for over 80 years. In addition to all CHS football games, local festivals, and community events, the Pride of Clifton also regularly performs both across the country and internationally. Recent performances include the New York City Columbus Day Parade, the Carnaval de Quebec, the grand opening of Nickelodeon Universe at American Dream, and the Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco, California.

Other Mustang Band ensembles include the Jazz Band and one of the only British style Brass Bands at a high school in the state.

About the conductors…

Thomas McCauley is currently the Director of University Bands in the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University in New Jersey where he conducts the Montclair State University Wind Symphony, the Symphonic Band, and teaches both graduate and undergraduate conducting. He has held similar positions in the states of
Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois, in addition to teaching high school instrumental music in Nevada for nine years. Composers including Karel Husa, David Gillingham, Michael Daugherty, Joseph Turpin, Bruce Yuri, Robert Aldridge, Morten Lauridsen, Armando Bayolo, and O’Neal Douglas have praised his work. Dr. McCauley has appeared as a clinician at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago on three different occasions. Each November, he hosts and co-teaches a symposium at Montclair State University called the Weekend Wind Conducting Symposium with special guest clinicians and participants from around the world.

Dr. Thomas McCauley is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout North America. Ensembles under McCauley’s direction have appeared at national and regional conventions and conferences, and he has collaborated with artists including Dame Evelyn Glennie, The Imani Winds, The Manhattan Brass Quintet, Warren Vache’, Demondrae Thurman, Monarch Brass, and Phil Smith among others. In February of 2019, Dr. McCauley led the Montclair State Wind Symphony in concert at the 2019 College Band Directors Association national conference in Tempe, Arizona. The appearance of the Montclair State Wind Symphony at the WASBE International Conference in Prague, Czech Republic in July of 2022 was the first in the school's history.

McCauley is the Founder and Artistic Director of Windhaven; an intensive, week-long performance opportunity for wind players and percussionists, which takes place each Spring at the Kinhaven Music School in the beautiful mountains of Weston, Vermont.

Dr. McCauley’s book titled, Adventures in Band Building (or How to Turn a Less-Than-It-Could-Be into a More-Than-It-Should-Be) is published by G.I.A. Publications. He has been published in The Instrumentalist magazine, several state music magazines, and in the second edition of Teaching Music Through Performance in Band, Vol I published by G.I.A. publications. In 1995, the Nevada Music Educator’s Association named Dr. McCauley Music Educator of the Year and in 2006, the Indiana Music Educators Association honored Dr. McCauley with an Outstanding University Music Educator Award. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the New Jersey Band Association, is the New Jersey State Representative of the College Band Directors National Association, and is the former New Jersey State Representative of the National Band Association. He is also an active member of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and the National Association for Music Education, in addition to serving as a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician.

Bryan Stepneski
Bryan Stepneski has been the band director at Clifton High School since 2016. His current responsibilities include directing the Mustang Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, Brass Band, and Wood Band. During his first year in the position, Stepneski established the Wind Ensemble in order to challenge the program’s most advanced and dedicated members. In addition to activities at CHS, he also regularly guest conducts the Clifton Community Band and performs on Trumpet and Euphonium. Before teaching in Clifton, he served as band director at Hackettstown High School for two years.

Stepneski graduated from Clifton High School and holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from Montclair State University.

Graduate conducting student Scott Byers is in the second year of his Master of Music – Concentration in Conducting degree in the John J. Cali School of Music, where he is a conducting student of Dr. Thomas McCauley. This is his first appearance as a
conductor with the Montclair State University Wind Symphony. In addition to his graduate studies at Montclair State, Scott is a full time professional music educator and the Associate Director of Bands at Wayne Valley High School in Wayne, New Jersey, where he co-directs the Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band, and serves as an instructor in the Instrumental Instruction program. Prior to his appointment at Wayne Valley High School, Scott Byers served as the director of bands at Merrick Avenue Middle School on Long Island, where he taught 7th-grade band, 8th-grade band, and Jazz Band. Scott holds an undergraduate degree in Music Education and Saxophone Performance (magna cum laude) from Ithaca College.

About the soloist…

Julian Dippolito is a professional percussionist based in Little Falls, New Jersey, and is currently a graduate student in the John J. Cali School of Music. His orchestral experience includes the New York Youth Symphony as both the principal timpanist and principal percussionist, the APEX ensemble, Orchestra 201, Litha Symphony Orchestra, Livingston Symphony Orchestra and the Adelphi Orchestra. In addition, he was the principal percussionist for the WASBE European Tour with the Montclair State Wind Symphony, and appeared on CNN’s 4th of July Special in 2021 with Billy Ray Cyrus as principal percussionist. Julian recorded percussion on the Grammy Winning album “Works by Florence Price, Jessie Montgomery, Valerie Coleman” and received the Outstanding Undergraduate Performance Award at Montclair State University, where he earned his degree in Percussion Performance. During his time there, he founded BOOM Percussion Ensemble, which has performed at several school-wide events. Julian studied with Barry Centanni, Matt Smallcomb, Eric Borghi, and Min Hye Ju, who he gives great thanks to for his journey as a percussionist.
MONTCLAIR STATE WIND SYMPHONY
2023 PERSONNEL

FLUTE
Nava Payandeh, Clifton, NJ, M.M. in Flute Performance
Jacob Medina, Allentown, PA, M.M Woodwind Doubling
Sarah Santana, Lodi, NJ, Music Education
Michelle Zarco, Nesconset, NY, Artist Diploma

OBOE/EH
Olivia Dorschell, Rochester, NY, Artist Diploma
David Reinstein, New Milford, NJ, Music Education
Dylan Slattery, Hazlet, NJ, Music Education

BASSOON
Maria Palacios-Sandoval, Neptune, NJ, M.M. Performance
Emily Sullivan, Staten Island, NY, Music Education

CLARINET
Basil Blasa, Bayonne, NJ, Music Education
Katherine Breeden, Johnston, IA, Music Performance
Sabrina Cruz, Penns Grove, NJ, Music Education
Anthony Kalanick, Denville, NJ, Performance
Colin Merkovsky, Dumont, NJ, Music Performance
Maria Vincelette, Peru, NY, Woodwind Doubling

BASS CL/CONTRA BASS
Ben Adelberg, Carlisle, PA, M.M Performance, WW Doubling

SAXOPHONE
John Demkowicz, tenor, Hardwick, NJ, Music Education
Lucas, Harvey, alto, Mount Olive, NJ, Music Education
Giovanna Limaldi, baritone, Howell, NJ, Music Therapy
Stephen Schwarz, alto, State Island, NY, Music Education

HORN
Jeison Campoverde, Hackensack, NJ, Music Education
Annika Ross, Cedar Falls, IA, Artist Diploma
Sheldon Senek, West Orange, NJ, Music Education
Ryan Ward, Narthvale, NJ, Music Education

TRUMPET
Bryce Grier, Vernon, NJ, Performance
Patrick Horvat, Dymont, NJ, Music Education
Stephanie Parmalee, Colonia, NJ, Music Education
John Rivas, Clifton, NJ, Jazz Studies
Rick Robert, Andover, NJ, Performance

TROMBONE
Ryan Haupt, Kinnelon, NJ, M.M. Performance
Natalie Shields, Charlotte, NC, M.M. Performance
Matt Veal, West Orange, NJ, Music Education

EUPHONIUM
Kathryn Giordano, Albany, NY, Music Education
Alyssa Scano, State Island, NY, Music Education

TUBA
JT Adinolfi, Chester, NJ, Music Education
John Bergner, Jackson, NJ, Music Education

PERCUSSION
Alejandro Arbelaez, Dumont, NJ, Performance
Hannah D’elia, Bridgewater, NJ, Music Therapy (Counseling Ed)
Julian Dippolito, Toms River, NJ, Music Performance
Timothy Nuzzetti, Vernon, NJ, Music Education
Jack Powers, Hazlet, NJ, Music Education
Max Tripodi, Township of Washington, NJ, Music Education

PIANO/KEYBOARD
Ilya Verashina, Minsk, Belarus, M.M. Performance
Chris Vehmas, Hawthorne, NJ, Music Education

DOUBLE BASS
JP Bernabe, Haledon, NJ, Performance
THE CLIFTON HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE
2023 PERSONNEL

FLUTE
Anna Boscia
Lorna Harvey
Chelsea Hoang
Michelle Marin
Luz Perez

OBOE
Valerie Jimenez
Lily Kearney

CLARINET
Merve Candar
Hailey DeSaro
Cesar Estrada
Theresa Joseph
Jordan Kulesa
Tristan Rivera

BASS CLARINET
Irais Marin

BASSOON
Diego Gervacio

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Jonathan Avancena
Daureen Neptune

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Mark Leszcynski

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Gabriel Membreno

TRUMPET
Samantha Bernal
Michelle Moreno
Jorge Rivas
Grace Romano
Christopher Sanchez
Alyssia Vazquez

HORN
Isabel Cohn
Eleny Gervacio

TROMBONE
Nicholas Nores
Isaac Rosario

EUPHONIUM
Kiara Unis-Hinojosa

TUBA
Harold Monge
Kaylee Unis-Hinojosa

PERCUSSION
Romeo Gonzalez
Aidan Reilly
Alexis Schleicher
Ryan Wellins
Emmanuel West