



Stow-Munroe Falls  
High School

Instrumental Music  
Department

*presents the*

*Stow-Munroe Falls*

*High School*

*Wind Ensemble*

**Brian L. Monroe: Director**

**Ohio Music Education Association  
Professional Development Conference**

Columbus Convention Center

Thursday, February 16, 2012 1:30 PM

# About Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools

**Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools** has been rated an Excellent School District from the Ohio Department of Education for the past six years. Currently over 6,000 students are enrolled in nine buildings. **Stow-Munroe Falls High School** is home to nearly 1,900 students and offers a comprehensive curriculum with over a hundred course offerings. The fine arts program includes classes in music, art and drama. The music department offers several performing ensembles including Marching Band, four Concert Bands, String Orchestra, two Choirs, Madrigals, and two Jazz Ensembles. In addition to performing ensembles, Music Theory, Music Theory 2, and Music Appreciation are also offered. Stow-Munroe Falls has twice been named an outstanding community for music education by the NAMM corporation.

**The Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools Band Department** consists of three staff members who team teach the 615 students currently enrolled in the instrumental music program. Band instruction begins in fifth grade at Lakeview Intermediate School where students receive lessons from a specialist in their field: woodwinds/double reeds, brass, and percussion. Students receive a thirty minute homogeneous group lesson and a forty minute full band experience each week preparing them for three concerts during the year. At Kimpton Middle School, a seventh grade band and an eighth grade band meet daily for forty-five minutes. A team teaching approach allows for students to be pulled out the band for sectionals or mini lessons. Kimpton bands participate in OMEA Adjudicated Events. In addition to concert band, selected students are invited to join the Jazz Ensemble which meets one evening per week.

The 240 member high school band program consists of a marching band, in which all students must participate, a Freshman Band, a Wind Ensemble and two equally balanced Symphonic Bands. The "Bulldog" Marching Band performs regularly at football games, parades, and OMEA Adjudicated Events. They have also performed for the Toronto Argonauts Football League, at the Gator Bowl half-time shows, in the Chicago Christmas Parade, at the Baltimore Inner Harbor and for former President Clinton. During March, the band will travel to Florida to perform at Walt Disney World. Each fall, at the end of the marching band season, students audition for placement in one of the concert bands. The Wind Ensemble is directed by Brian Monroe, Gold Symphonic Band directed by Greg Newman, and Maroon Symphonic Band directed by Sandra Sandman. All 9<sup>th</sup> graders must perform in the Freshmen Band which is team taught by Brian Monroe and Sandra Sandman. Each band meets for forty-five minutes daily. The three upperclassmen bands meet simultaneously while the Freshman band meets a period later. All of the ensembles perform three concerts each year and participate in OMEA Adjudicated Events. The program also supports two extracurricular Jazz Ensembles, a Saxophone Quartet, and a Percussion Ensemble that meet after school hours.

The Wind Ensemble has had the honor of performing at the Ohio Band Directors Conference, the University of Akron, Kent State University as part of their Partnership Concert, the ASBDA State Convention, and the OMEA Professional Development Conference. The band has performed under the baton of John Paynter, James Keene, Stephen Peterson, Frank B. Wickes, Robert Fleming, Robert Jorgenson, Wayne Gorder, and Galen Karriker. Each May the Wind Ensemble presents the American Celebration Concert for the Community. This ninety-minute concert features current and former members of the band and community members they pay tribute to our country and our armed forces. This year's program focuses on Broadway.

We are very please to be working with Mr. Robert Sheldon today as his demonstration ensemble. His clinic: Fix it Now: Techniques for Creating Immediate and Significant Improvement in Your Rehearsal will follow our concert at 2:45. We would also like to thank OMEA for the invitation to perform.

# Program

## **Transcendent Journey.....Rossano Galante**

(Grade 5: G. Schirmer/ Hal Leonard Publishing Company)

With the first sounds of *Transcendent Journey*, I wanted to create a big, powerful, exhilarating chair that would grab the listener right away. This introduction is the beginning of our "journey" and gives a melodic hint, stated by horns, to the heroic main theme. The main theme should evoke not only the heroic quality of the melody, but also its beauty. This was suited perfectly for the trumpets. The listener should feel as though they can accomplish anything, no matter how challenging. I feel this is a melody that transcends all my other. The same theme is then stated in the horns and woodwind accompanied with rhythmic hits by the rest of the ensemble creating a stalwart sound.

Then a short B section is introduced, performed by Piccolo and Oboe with delicate accompaniment. Note the light relaxed feeling of joy in this section in contrast to the heroic material in the opening.

Following the B section, the main theme returns, this time played by the flutes, capturing the sensitive aspects of the heroic theme. We now move into the slower section of the composition. This warm melody is almost wistful with a sad, yearning quality. It is repeated three times, each getting stronger, more emotional and very climatic.

The final section is a fast paced version of the introduction that includes extensive percussion and woodwind ostinati. Exhilaration and achievement is what I am trying to convey here. We finally complete our "journey" with a slower, grand statement of the main theme performed by trumpets and trombones. The piece ends with the full ensemble bringing the "transcendent journey" to an end.

## **As Twilight Falls.....Robert Sheldon**

(Grade 1: Alfred Publishing Company)

The sense of peace & tranquility of twilight on a summer's evening inspires this lovely lyrical offering. An excellent teaching opportunity for phrasing and expression, *As Twilight Falls* provides a moment of contrast on any young band's concert performance.

## **Carnival.....Philip Sparke**

(Grade 4: Studio Music Company)

### ***Ryan Gopp: Alto Saxophone Soloist***

Carnival was commissioned for the Swiss saxophonist, Frank Brogli, by his father. A slow, ballad-style, introduction is followed by a lively Vivace, a feature of which is a central passage where the entire saxophone section joins the soloist in an accompanied cadenza.

**Ryan Gopp** (senior) has been a member of the Stow-Munroe Falls Band Program for eight years. He has studied alto saxophone privately with Sandra Sandman since sixth grade. Ryan plans to attend the University of Akron with a major in Mathematics. He is a three year member of the Wind Ensemble and has also performed in the top Jazz Ensemble, multiple Saxophone Ensembles and the All School Musical Pit Orchestra.

## **Nevermore.....Brian Balmages**

(OMEA Class "C" Required, Grade 3: FJH Music Company)

Nevermore was commissioned in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edgar Allan Poe Middle School in Annandale, Virginia. To tie the school into the commission, I decided to base the piece on "The Raven," one of Poe's most famous poems. In the poem, Poe describes a man who is confronted by a raven and slowly descends into utter madness.

The opening sounds of the piano create an eerie backdrop to begin the work. The mysterious harmonies and a lonely saxophone solo paint a picture of a desolate man in a quiet apartment. As tension builds, other instruments begin to answer the saxophone, almost completing for attention and refusing to go away. This moves into ominous chords presented in the brass, depicting the first sighting of the raven.

As the tempo quickens, the man begins to confront the raven, each time becoming angrier and more forceful as the raven only responds, "Nevermore." This anger continues to mount until the music becomes violent, representing the man's journey to insanity. This chaos continues until the music suddenly releases into the dark and melancholy piano line from the opening. A soft duet brings the listener back to the opening melodies and leaves the audience wondering what has become of the band after his encounter with the raven.

## Today is the Gift.....**Samuel Hazo**

(Grade 4: Music Works / Hal Leonard Corporation)

*"Tomorrow is a mystery. Yesterday is history. Today is the gift." - African proverb*

On December 1, 1955, Mrs. Rosa Parks displayed a level of courage that only the intrinsic certainty of truth can inspire. Solely because of Mrs. Parks' action, the contemptible "Montgomery Segregation Law" was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court on November 13, 1956. On December 20, 1956, the city of Montgomery, Alabama was ordered to desegregate buses.

What few people know is that E.D. Nixon, then President of Montgomery's NAACP, was waiting for just the right person (in particular, a woman) to violate the Montgomery Segregation Law. Rosa Parks was that person. Two women had violated the law earlier that same year, but their character was so publicly attacked that Nixon couldn't build a case against that law with either of the women. Rosa Parks, however, was of impeccable character and was, therefore, beyond reproach. Mr. Nixon, who knew both Rosa Parks and her husband Raymond, told them that she was the one around whom the NAACP could build a case to end segregation. While the events of December 1, 1955 made it a dark day for those who believed in equality, to E.D. Nixon and the Civil Rights Movement in America, that day was "the gift."

Now, as we celebrate the golden anniversary of the day that was "the gift," we must always remember the power of one person who is armed with the truth, and we have the duty to carry on Mrs. Parks' example. We must never let ourselves believe that even the smallest social wrong is acceptable or can be ignored. Rosa Parks chose to fight for one seat, on one bus, in Montgomery, Alabama. Perhaps this is best summarized in the eloquent words of Dr. Martin Luther King's letter from a Birmingham jail: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

# *The Stow-Munroe Falls High School*

## *Wind Ensemble*

*Brian L. Monroe: director*

### **FLUTE**

Sarah Falbo  
Cassidy Pittman  
Suzanna Moyer  
Sarah Powell  
Samantha Pribula  
Jasmine Hinton  
Amanda Cook  
Kristen Koyle

### **OBOE**

Kirstin Holm  
Elizabeth Garner

### **BASSOON**

Emerson Cloud  
Connor Dunn

### **CLARINET**

Caitlin Bockbrader  
Erica Quay  
Emma Stout  
Kayla Thomas  
Matt Barnett  
Andie Hauck  
Izzy Jones  
Leslie Ditrick

### **BASS CLARINET**

Jen Marten  
Maggie Marten

### **CONTRA BASS CL.**

Nate Elmore

### **ALTO SAX**

Ryan Gopp  
Brandon Cook  
Amanda Gopp  
Julie Nolte

### **TENOR SAX**

Victoria Lero  
Jason Wolf

### **BARITONE SAX**

Nick Jira

### **TRUMPET**

Mark Kelley  
Kayla Andersen  
Ilyanna Keller  
Elise Wehry  
Mark Landis  
Kristen Cannon  
Scott Kevern  
Alison Caldwell

### **FRENCH HORN**

Brett Bejcek  
Matt Stuneck  
Ryan Green  
Michael Walsh

### **TROMBONE**

Brian Thiese  
Ryan Cook  
Collin Oborn

### **BASS TROMBONE**

Michael Welden

### **EUPHONIUM**

Charlie MacKay  
Bryan Detweiler  
Victoria Pace

### **TUBA**

Michael Pribula  
Shawn O'Malley  
Ryan Evans

### **PERCUSSION**

Neil Lantry  
Caleb Kirkwood  
Mike Petrecca  
Josh Sandman  
Shannon Hoffman  
Ryan Esterle  
Matt Roseman  
Halle Miller

### **PIANO**

Josh Sandman

# About the Director

**Brian L. Monroe** has been a band director at Stow-Munroe Falls City School District for twenty-one years, serving first as an assistant director for six years and then director of bands for fifteen. His duties include teaching beginning and intermediate lessons and the intermediate band at Lakeview Intermediate School. At Stow-Munroe Falls High School he is the the director of the 242 piece “Bulldog Marching Band.” After marching band he directs the Wind Ensemble and co-directs the Freshman Band. In addition he also teaches Music Theory 1 & 2, Music Appreciation and Jazz 2. Two days a week he also assists at Kimpton Middle School.

Brian Monroe is a graduate of Crestwood High School in Mantua, where his high school band director was Dr. William Guegold. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education and a Master of Arts in Music Composition, both from Kent State University. He has studied percussion with Tom Fries and Michael Burritt and composition with Thomas Janson, Walter Watson, and J. Rex Mitchell.

He holds memberships in the National Association of Music Education, the Percussive Arts Society, the American School Band Directors Association, and the Ohio Music Education Association where he has served as President of District 6 and chairman of the Solo and Ensemble Percussion Music Selection Committee. He is an active adjudicator for marching band, concert band, solo & ensemble, and creative events adjudicated programs. Mr. Monroe is also a published composer of band and percussion ensemble works through Ludwig-Masters Music and enjoys working as a guest clinician and adjudicator with local schools.

## Special Thanks

- \* **Stow Munroe Falls City Schools Board of Education & Administration**
- \* **Stow-Munroe Falls Band Parents Association**
- \* **The Past and Present Students of the SMFHS Wind Ensemble**
- \* **My Friends & Colleagues: Greg & Sam for your teaching & support**
- \* **Mr. James Murphy:** *Retired Band Director, Kent City Schools*
- \* **Mr. Ray Harcar:** *Retired Band Director, Waterloo Local Schools*
- \* **Dr. William Guegold:** *The University of Akron*
- \* **Ms. Carolyn Monroe:** *Retired Band Director, Crestwood Local Schools*
- \* **Ms. Elaine Sayre:** *SMFHS teacher for Proofreading the program.*

# Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools Administration

**Dr. Russell Jones**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Mrs. Catherine Bulgrin**  
Treasurer

**Mrs. Karen Moore**  
Director of Academic Achievement

**Mr. Richard Jackson**  
Human Resource Director

**Mrs. Susan Schur**  
Stow-Munroe Falls High School Principal

**Mrs. Kathleen Thomas    Mr. Anthony Horton    Mr. Chris DiMauro**  
Stow-Munroe Falls High School Assistant Principals

## Stow-Munroe Falls City Schools Board of Education

Mr. Rodney Armstrong    Mr. Dick Spangler  
Mr. Fred Bonacci    Mrs. Karen Powers  
Mrs. Karen Wright

## Stow-Munroe Falls Band Personnel

**Mr. Brian L. Monroe**  
Director of Bands  
High School Wind Ensemble Director  
Lakeview Intermediate School Intermediate Band Director  
Percussion Specialist

**Mr. Greg A. Newman**  
Kimpton Middle School Bands & Jazz Ensemble Director  
Director of the SMFHS Gold Symphonic Band  
Brass Specialist

**Mrs. Sandra Sandman**  
Director of the SMFHS Maroon Symphonic Band  
Director of the Freshman Band  
Lakeview Intermediate School Beginning Band Director  
Woodwind Specialist