

# STOW MUNROE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Instrumental Music Department presents:

## A WINTER CONCERT

MR. BRIAN MONROE, MRS. SANDRA SANOMAN &  
MR. GREG NEWMAN: DIRECTORS

Stow-Munroe Falls H.S. Auditorium

December 16, 2009

7:00 pm.





# FRESHMAN BAND



Mr. Brian Monroe & Mrs. Sandra Sandman: Directors

**Not Afraid to Dream.....Brian Balmadges**

*No Afraid to Dream* is written in memory of Kevin Langlie, a high school senior who tragically passed away. At the request of his school, it designed to serve two purposes: to help bring closure to everyone at school, and to celebrate his life. both the serious and “not-so-serious” moments. The title comes from the eulogy delivered by his band director: “His focus on the positive and the possible left no room in his life for negative attitudes and excuses....He wasn’t afraid to dream and share those dreams.....”

The work opens with the sounds of various chimes, almost mimicking the sound of church bells. This somber beginning is reflective in nature and is a musical “moment of silence.” As the melodies and harmonies grow out of this silence, it is almost as through a ray of sunshine beams through the sound of band to counter the earlier passages. A solo trumpet hints at the opening of Lift High the Cross, on of the hymn that was sung at Kevin’s Wake.

Eventually, the tone of the pieces turns to a much lighter note, picking up in both mood and tempo. A lighthearted melody intertwines with changing meters as it begins to reflect Kevin's sense of humor and enthusiasm. The piece then falls into a groove beginning with low brass (Kevin’s instrument was tuba) and eventually spreading throughout the entire ensemble, much like his personality tended to do.

As the pieces drives forward, a full refrain of Lift High the Cross appears, undergoing several changes in harmony as it completes with the main rhythmic motif for the spotlight. Eventually, the undeniable spirit of the opening theme of this section comes back in triumph as the piece builds to one final climax. A brief tuba duet reminds everyone that Kevin is still in the band; then the ensemble joins for a whirlwind of harmonies that eventually finds its way home.

**The First Noel.....arranged by Jeff Simons**

This arrangement combines two different songs into one composition. The first, Pachelbel’s Cannon, creates a calming repetitious bass line and harmonic progression. The second piece interweaves the familiar Christmas carol “The First Noel” with it’s serene melody floating over the top. Both melodies combine later in the piece to create an entirely new sound with two familiar tunes.

**We Need A Little Christmas.....Jerry Herman**

arranged by Ted Ricketts

"We Need a Little Christmas" is a popular Christmas song that originated in Jerry Herman's 1966 Broadway musical, Mame. The lyrics express the emotions of the coming holiday:

*Haul out the holly; Put up the tree before my spirit falls again. Fill up the stocking,  
I may be rushing things, but deck the halls again now. For we need a little Christmas  
Right this very minute, Candles in the window, Carols at the spinet.  
Yes, we need a little Christmas Right this very minute. Need a little Christmas now.*



MAROON  
SYMPHONIC BAND



**Mrs. Sandra Sandman: Director**

**Infinite Horizon.....Ayatey Shabazz**

Written for the Gulfport, Mississippi High School Band, this selection has all of the elements needed to make it an outstanding band work. Following an opening fanfare of powerful grandeur and ear-catching harmony, a fast and edgy theme featuring solo trumpet offers the listener a thrilling ride to a more lyrical second theme area. Building developmental sections add further excitement to a work that is a fitting tribute to the proud tradition of the Gulfport Band.

**At Morning's First Light.....David Gillingham**

At Morning's First Light is a lush programmatic work depicting the rising of the sun by David Gillingham. At times it is playful, yet contains powerful and dramatic moments as well. Gillingham's mastery of orchestration and color are readily evident through the piece.

**Holiday Piece.....David Foster**

arranged by Jay Dawson

David Foster, pianist, arranger, as well as producer has brought an incredible amount of music to our generations including the 1988 Winter Olympic Theme and music from the movie St. Elmo's Fire. This David Foster composition was originally scored for full orchestra with piano, and frequently is heard during the Christmas season. Holiday Piece adds a contemporary feel to the familiar Ukrainian Bell Carol.



GOLD  
SYMPHONIC BAND



**Mr. Greg A. Newman: Director**

**Imperial March..... Karl L. King**

arranged by Gene Millford

Imperial March is one of a number of marches published in the early years of King's career. It is dedicated to his friend, R. Frank Wilson, sheriff of Stark County (Ohio) from 1906-1910.

**In Heaven's Air.....Samuel R. Hazo**

Dr. Robert Cameron, Director of Bands at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Commissioned In Heaven's Air after experiencing the passing of his mother. Because the death was accidental and completely unexpected, there was never a true feeling of acceptance or closure. This piece was composed to help him during his time of healing. The title is taken from William Shakespeare's Sonnet 21: "And then believe me, my love is as fair / "As any mother's child, though not so bright / As those gold candles fixed in heaven's air." This work is about the letting go of a loved one from your hands into the hands of God, as well as the glorious transformation of soul to Heaven.

**A Christmas Festival.....Leroy Anderson**

Leroy Anderson (June 29, 1908 – May 18, 1975) was an American composer of short, light concert pieces, many of which were introduced by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler. John Williams described him as "one of the great American masters of light orchestral music."



**WIND ENSEMBLE**

**Mr. Brian L. Monroe: Director**



**In Flight.....Samuel Hazo**

The publication of In Flight was commissioned by Lincoln High School in Vincennes, Indiana; William J Marsch and Jason R. King Directors.

In late 2007 I received a phone call from my friend Dr. Judith Grimes, Director of Bands at Elmhurst College, asking me if I could compose a commission for Lincoln High School in honor of their centennial celebration of their music department. Her friend, William Marsh had invited her to guest conduct at the event and they wanted to unveil a new piece, hopefully a commission, to mark the anniversary. My commission schedule was full for the time slot they needed, however, they later asked if I had already written a celebratory sound piece for which they could order a dedicatory commission in its published form. In Flight was a piece I had written back in 2000 that I had deliberately kept from publication. It had been receiving an increase in word-of-mouth interest in the years since I composed it, and I thought now would be a good time to prepare it for publication.

The flavor is certainly that of a celebration since it was originally inspired by my cousin Nicholas Romah's retirement. As a full Colonel fighter pilot from the United States Marine Corps in the score, one can even find many musical suggestions that mimic qualities of piloting a fighter jet such as combat motifs, the serenity of the sky, the weightless feeling after a climb, breaking through the clouds and even the shape of actual fighter aircraft maneuvers duplicated in the piccolo, flute, clarinet and xylophone runs. Each theme is meant to sound exciting and uplifting, transforming the piece to fit a 100 year anniversary celebration worked seamlessly.

**Third Symphony.....James Barnes**  
**Movement III: "For Natalie"**

The *Third Symphony* was commissioned by the United States Air Force Band in Washington D.C. The conductor of the band at the time, told me he wanted a major work for wind band. He said that he didn't care about style, length, difficulty, or anything else. I was given complete freedom to write whatever I wanted. I began to work on it in earnest at a very difficult time in my life, right after our baby daughter, Natalie, died. The symphony is the most emotionally draining work that I have ever composed. The third movement, "for Natalie" is a fantasia, a dream about my life would have been like if Natalie had lived. (*notes by the composer.*) Barnes injects his own personal experience in dealing with this loss throughout this whole movement. From feelings of despair to perhaps what could be seen as renewed hope in life we are taken on a emotional journey.

**The Polar Express.....Nicholas Zaricki**  
edited by: Brian Monroe

**Featuring Special Guest Narrator: Mr. Tom Stephan**

Since its publication in 1985, Chris Van Allsburg's children's book, The Polar Express has become a favorite Christmas tradition for more than 2 million readers. Nick Zaricki, an arranger with the United States Air Force Band composed music to accompany the fantastic Van Allsburg's story.

Late on Christmas Eve, after the town has gone to sleep, the boy boards the mysterious train that waits for him: the Polar Express, bound for the North Pole. When the boy arrives, Santa offers him any gift he desires. The boy modestly asks for one bell from the harness of the reindeer. The gift is granted. On the way home, the bell is lost. On Christmas morning the boy finds the bell under the tree. When he shakes it, it makes the most beautiful sound he's ever heard. The mother of the boy admires the bell, but laments that it is broken — for you see, only true believers can hear the sound of the bell.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

