



MINNEAPOLIS
SOUTH HIGH
COMMUNITY BAND
& JAZZ BAND

SPRING CONCERT

TUESDAY • MAY 7, 2024 • 7 PM

SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

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JAZZ BAND

Moondance.....Van Morrison, arr. Phillippe

"Moondance" was listed as #226 in Rolling Stone magazine's December 2004 feature "The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time". It is also one of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll. Van Morrison remarked, "With 'Moondance' I wrote the melody first. I played the melody on a soprano sax and I knew I had a song so I wrote lyrics to go with the melody. That's the way I wrote that one. I don't really have any words to particularly describe the song, sophisticated is probably the word I'm looking for. For me, 'Moondance' is a sophisticated song. Frank Sinatra wouldn't be out of place singing that."

Ring of Fire.....Fred Sturm

This chart employs a buoyant 5-note pentatonic scale and a driving pulse incorporating both 3/4 and 4/4 meters. The rapid orchestra shifting of the melody and constant 8th note patterns attempt to portray the antiphonal effect of joyful singing and dancing.

- Program note from composer

'Round Midnight.....Cootie Williams and Thelonius Monk, arr. Lopez

Thelonious Monk probably wrote "Round Midnight" in 1938, though nobody knows for sure. It was early in his career when Monk was composing in obscurity. But within a few years, Monk would emerge as a great jazz innovator, among those responsible for the birth of bebop in the 1940s. And "Round Midnight" has since become an enduring classic. By the end of the hard bop '50s, "Round Midnight" was firmly entrenched as a jazz standard, played by Miles Davis and Dexter Gordon, sung by Sarah Vaughan and recorded regularly by Monk in a variety of settings.

Seven Steps to Heaven.....Miles Davis and Victor Feldman, arr. Tomaro

"Seven Steps to Heaven" was written in 1963 and introduced by the Miles Davis Quintet, although different lyrics were written much later by Cassandra Wilson and Jon Hendricks. This iconic jazz standard was introduced in 1963 by the Miles Davis Quintet. Recorded during the pinnacle of Miles Davis's career, Seven Steps to Heaven has become an iconic jazz standard and one of Davis's best known tunes.

St. Thomas.....Sonny Rollins, arr. Lewis

"St. Thomas" is among the most recognizable instrumentals in the repertoire of American jazz tenor saxophonist Sonny Rollins. Although Rollins is commonly credited as its composer, the tune is based on the traditional Bahamian folksong "Sponger Money" and the traditional English song "The Lincolnshire Poacher". By way of the folk process, "The Lincolnshire Poacher" evolved into a nursery song in the Virgin Islands, which Rollins' mother sang to him when he was a child.

CONCERT BAND

Dancing in Rain.....Yo Goto

This piece was commissioned for the Belle Vernon Area High School Symphonic Band, Pennsylvania and serves as a follow-up to Dancing in Air, which was written for the University of North Texas Concert Band. Minimalist compositional techniques are cast across the full wind band palette, presenting layers of sparse rhythm and sound. Over this, simple melodic ideas are extended over spans of time. The listener may choose to observe the work's title to give meaning to the sound. Alternatively, they may simply allow the sound to wash over the ear and let the experience wash over the imagination.

Destined to Fly.....William Owens

Music very often expresses feelings and arouses emotions that words simply cannot. And while not even music can fill the void for the loss of a loved one, I am hopeful that this gesture will nevertheless offer some small measure of comfort.

In speaking with Freeport Intermediate School band director Randy Laran, I was deeply moved by the emotion and genuine fondness with which he spoke of his student Juan Borja who tragically passed away. As we discussed plans for a tribute piece, Mr. Laran shared with me Juan's accomplishments in school and his many aspirations for the future. I immediately began formulating a title and eventually arrived at Destined to Fly, inspired by this young man's courage to explore the unknown and always dream big.

Subsequently, in a most heartbreaking turn of events, the piece took on a deeper meaning when Mr. Laran himself met his untimely end in July 2017. Lovingly dedicated to the families of Juan Borja, Randy Laran and the Freeport (TX) Intermediate School Band, this composition comes with profound condolences and a heavy heart.

- Program note from composer

Clear Track Polka.....Eduard Strauss, arr. Alfred Reed

This piece is another of those delightful "Schnellpolkas" that seemed to be a Strauss invention. It depicts a railroad train being given the "clear track ahead" signal, and after starting up and reaching cruising speed, takes its riders merrily on their happy, jingling way.

Give Us This Day.....David Maslanka

1. Moderately Slow

2. Very Fast

The words "give us this day" are, of course, from the Lord's Prayer, but the inspiration for this music is Buddhist. I have recently read a book by the Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh entitled *For a Future to be Possible*. His premise is that a future for the planet is only possible if individuals become deeply mindful of themselves, deeply connected to who they really are. While this is not a new idea, and something that is an ongoing struggle for everyone, in my estimation it is the issue for world peace. For me, writing music, and working with people to perform music, are two of those points of deep mindfulness.

- Program note from composer

UPCOMING EVENTS



 **MINNEAPOLIS**
SOUTH HIGH
COMMUNITY BAND
& JAZZ BAND

LAKE
HARRIET
BANDSHELL
MINNEAPOLIS

MONDAY
JUNE 17
7:30 PM

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ABOUT THE SOUTH HIGH COMMUNITY BAND

The Minneapolis South High Community Concert Band and South High Community Jazz Band are made up of South High alumni, parents, current students, friends, and neighbors.

The South High Community Concert Band meets on Tuesday nights during the school year, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., in the South High Band Room. The South High Community Jazz Band rehearses immediately afterward, from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Both groups welcome players of all skill levels and from all walks of life. Our band co-presidents are Kevin Bruns and Anne Lippin. Our conductor is Elizabeth Winslow, the Director of School Partnerships at MacPhail Center for Music.

Concerts are free, but we are part of the non-profit South High Foundation, and welcome your tax-deductible donations. You can donate at concerts or at the South High Foundation website. Be sure to list "Community Band" on the memo line of your check, and on the Foundation's donation form.



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