



COLLEGE of *the* ARTS

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

# *Wind Ensemble*

Benjamin Harper, *conductor*

Clell Wright, *guest conductor*

Brandon Smith, *tuba*

Whitehead Auditorium

*Valdosta State University*

*November 17, 2022*

*7:30 p.m.*

# PROGRAM

## **Commando March (1943)**

Samuel Barber  
(1910-1981)

## **Lux Aurumque (2000/2005)**

Eric Whitacre  
(b. 1970)

Clell Wright, *guest conductor*

## **Concerto for Tuba and Wind Ensemble (2012)**

Gary D. Ziek  
(b. 1960)

- I. Soaring
- II. Romance
- III. Riot!

Brandon Smith, *tuba*

## **Candide Suite (1956/1993)**

Leonard Bernstein  
(1918-1990)

adapted by Clare Grundman

1. The Best of All Possible Worlds
2. Westphalia Chorale and Battle Scene
3. Auto-da-fé
4. Glitter and Be Gay

## ***La forza del destino* Overture (1862/1926)**

Giuseppe Verdi  
(1813-1901)

arr. Mayhew Lake and H.R. Kent

# WIND ENSEMBLE

## FLUTE

Blair Cavannaugh  
Kaitlyn Calcagino, *piccolo*  
Chloe Norman

## OBOE

Lindsay Miller

## BASSOON

Emily Young

## CLARINET

Elizabeth Bagley  
Manuel Barreto, *bass*  
Kasey Cote, *E-flat*  
Lauren McGuire, *contra alto*  
Reagan Mosley  
Kai Skau  
Colton Smith, *bass*  
Ella Stephenson  
Jaylah Thomas  
Aiyana Turner  
Christian Windish, *E-flat*

## SAXOPHONE

Elijah Alford, *tenor*  
Jaylon Farley, *alto*  
Duncan Ratliff, *alto*  
Jasmine Thomas, *bari*

## TRUMPET

Brandon Allen  
Jacob Bady  
Braeden Floyd  
Dustin Kirby  
Zach Rogers  
Ricky Wiemer

## HORN

Allyson Herron  
Riley Prichard  
Michelle Shacklee  
Kailey Stephenson  
Seth Watson

## TROMBONE

Franklin Carmona  
Paul Henry, *bass*  
Evan Jimmerson  
Oscar De La Rosa

## EUPHONIUM

Joely Myrick  
Jason Norman  
Jay Rogers

## TUBA

Jorge Gauvin Caraballo  
William Griffin  
Charles Williams

## PIANO

Rebeca Sierra

## BASS

Supushpa Mahadeo

## PERCUSSION

Jakalin Bryant  
Theodore Drakopoulos  
Dylan Hagin  
Tucker Prestridge  
Colton Roberts  
Jacob Walden

# PROGRAM NOTES

**Commando March** was not only Samuel Barber's first work for wind band, but his first work after entering the United States Army. There is no extant documentation regarding a formal commission or a direct military order; rather it appears Barber was inspired to compose for the military bands he must have encountered during his basic training. Despite its large instrumentation, Barber often referred to the work in letters as his "little march." Barber at one time described the music as representing "a new kind of soldier, one who did not march in straight lines" but "struck in stealth with speed, disappearing as quickly as he came."

The premiere performance was given by the Army Air Forces Technical Command Training Band, Warrant Officer Robert L. Landers conductor, on May 23, 1943, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. As was the case with many of Barber's earlier works, *Commando March* was immediately well-received by audiences. Following its premiere, Barber himself led the Goldman Band in several performances in July 1943. He even adapted the work for orchestra at the request of Serge Koussevitzky, who led this score's first performance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra on October 29, 1943.

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Composer Eric Whitacre writes of **Lux Aurumque**:

After deciding upon the poem by Edward Esch (I was immediately struck by its genuine, elegant simplicity), I had it translated into the Latin by the celebrated American poet Charles Anthony Silvestri. A simple approach was essential to the success of the work, and I waited patiently for the tight harmonies to shimmer and glow.

*Lux Aurumque* was commissioned by the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay and is dedicated with love to my great friend Dr. Jo Michael Scheibe. The Wind Symphony transcription was commissioned by the Texas All State band. It is dedicated to Maestro Gary Green.

Lux,  
Calida gravisque pura velut aurum  
Et canunt engeli molliter  
modo natum.

Light,  
warm and heavy as pure gold  
and angels sing softly  
to the new-born babe.

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**Concerto for Tuba and Wind Ensemble** was written for Alan Baer in January of 2011 for Mr. Baer's appearance with the Emporia State University Wind Ensemble.

Composer Gary D. Ziek received his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Wind Conducting from Michigan State University in May of 1994, graduating as a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. While attending Michigan State, he served as Principal Trumpet in the Wind Symphony. He received his Master of Arts in Trumpet Performance in 1986 and his Bachelor of

Science in Music Education from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1981. He has served as the Director of Bands and Professor of Trumpet at Emporia State University since 1995. Dr. Ziek served from 1982 to 1985 in the United States Army and was a member of the Continental Army Band at Fort Monroe, Virginia. He taught in the Greater Latrobe School District in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, from 1987 to 1992. He was the Associate Director of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Marching Band in 1994.

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**Candide** was Leonard Bernstein's third Broadway musical, following *On the Town* and *Wonderful Town*. Adapted by Lillian Hellman from Voltaire's 18th-century satire on blind optimism, Bernstein's *Candide* is an operetta set in the castle of the Baron Thunder-ten-Tronckh in the mythical European land of Westphalia. Within these walls live the Baron and Baroness; Cunégonde, their beautiful and innocent virgin daughter; Maximilian, their handsome son; Candide, their handsome bastard nephew; and Paquette, the Baroness' buxom serving maid. They are taught by Dr. Pangloss, who preaches the philosophy that all is for the best in "The Best of All Possible Worlds."

Candide and Cunégonde kiss, and Candide is banned from Westphalia. As he leaves, Bulgarians invade, kidnap him and slaughter everyone except for Cunégonde, who they prostitute out to a rich Jew and the Grand Inquisitor. Candide escapes and begins an optimistic, satirical journey, taking with him his sweetheart Cunégonde and Pangloss. Candide journeys to Lisbon, Paris, Buenos Aires, and even the legendary El Dorado, only to discover reality in the forms of crime, atrocity, and suffering. He returns to Venice with Cunégonde, stripped of his idealism. His ultimate emotional maturation concludes in the finale with "You've been a fool, and so have I, But come and be my wife, And let us try before we die, To make good sense of life. We're neither pure nor wise nor good; We'll do the best we know; We'll build our house, and chop our wood, And make our garden grow."

Opening on Broadway on December 1, 1956, *Candide* was perhaps a bit too intellectually weighty for its first audiences and closed after just 73 performances. Bernstein was less concerned over the money lost than the failure of a work he cared about deeply. The critics had rightly noted a marvelous score, and Bernstein and others kept tinkering with the show over the years. With each revival, *Candide* won bigger audiences. In 1989, the already seriously ill Bernstein spent his last ounces of vital energy recording a new concert version of the work. "There's more of me in that piece than anything else I've done," he said.

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Giuseppe Verdi was a visionary and innovative composer of Italian opera. Works such as *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Aida*, *Otello* and *Falstaff* are all commonly performed and hailed as the finest examples of the genre. In his later life, Verdi was also a politician and served in the local parliament. He worked to establish a hospital in Villanova sull'Arda, as well as a home for retired musicians in Milan.

**La forza del destino**, Verdi's 22nd opera, was completed in 1862 and premiered in St. Petersburg on November 10 of that year. The overture was not heard until Feb. 27, 1869, when the opera was revised and presented at La Scala in Milan.



**BENJAMIN HARPER** is Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at Valdosta State University, where he conducts the Wind Ensemble, directs the graduate program in wind conducting, and guides all aspects of the university band program.

A champion of accessible music for students and audiences, Harper's performances regularly include standard band music side-by-side with music by contemporary composers Kevin Walczyk, Joni Greene, and Aaron Perrine. Valdosta State University has been consortium member commissioning composers of diverse backgrounds, including Australian composer Holly Harrison, Chinese composer Shuying Li, Pulitzer Prize winner Julia Wolfe, and Mexican composer Juan Pablo Contreras. Harper is currently the lead commissioner of two consortiums for new works by Texas composer Joni Greene and Atlanta composer William May.

Prior to serving as Director of Bands, Harper was Director of Athletic Bands at VSU and spent seven years as a high school band director in Iowa. He holds degrees from Iowa State University, The University of Kansas, and Texas Tech University.



**CLELL WRIGHT** is Director of Choral Activities at Valdosta State University. Prior to joining VSU, Wright served on the faculty of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. In his time at HSU, Dr. Wright's choirs received recognition for their innovative repertoire and have toured regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Wright has conducted numerous large-scale choral orchestral works, several with combined choirs and orchestra, including the Mozart Requiem, the Fauré Requiem, the Poulenc Gloria, Haydn's Creation and Handel's Messiah, among many others. Wright is active as a choral clinician and has been a guest conductor for several All-Region choirs and has given presentations at conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, Texas Music Educators Association, and Texas Choral Directors Association.

Wright holds degrees from Samford University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the University of Missouri, Kansas City Conservatory, where he studied with Dr. Eph Ehly and Dr. Charles Robinson.



**BRANDON SMITH** is currently the Artist in Residence for tuba and euphonium at Valdosta State University, and principal tubist of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. Smith, a Virginia native, is a versatile musician who has performed extensively as an orchestral, chamber, and solo musician. As an orchestral musician, he was awarded first prize in the 2019 International Tuba and Euphonium Conference's Arnold Jacobs Mock Orchestra Competition and has been a finalist for tuba positions with the Florida Orchestra, Austin Symphony Orchestra, and the United States Navy Band. As a soloist, he was awarded the Bronze Medal in the 2020 Leonard Falcone International Tuba and Euphonium Artist Tuba Competition and has also been a finalist for the Army Band "Pershing's Own" 2020 Tuba and Euphonium Conference solo competition.

Smith has performed with orchestras spanning several regions, including the Arlington Philharmonic, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia Gulf Coast, the Loudoun Symphony Orchestra, the Tysons McLean Orchestra, and the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

Smith holds a Doctorate in Music from Florida State University where he studied with Dr. Justin Benavidez, a Master of Music in Tuba Performance from the University of Tennessee where he studied with Dr. Alexander Lapins, and a Bachelor's Degree in Tuba Performance from Shenandoah Conservatory where he studied with Michael Bunn.

# THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

The Department of Music at Valdosta State University is a fully accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music, with a faculty of 32 artist teachers and over 170 music majors and minors. The Department of Music presents over 150 musical performances for the public each year. In addition, several of the major performing ensembles of the department travel throughout Georgia, the Southeast, and abroad, performing for schools, civic groups, and as part of community concert series.

The faculty of the Department of Music are active performers, scholars, conductors, clinicians, and adjudicators throughout the region. The department offers a full range of instrumental and vocal performing ensembles, including the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra. Membership in ensembles is open to all VSU students.

**The Department of Music provides a comprehensive and rigorous academic program consistent with the mission of Valdosta State University and that of the University System of Georgia. The mission of the Department of Music is to:**

- Uphold high levels of excellence in instruction, performance, service, and scholarship;
- Provide thorough training in professional programs and the liberal arts that prepares individuals to excel in their chosen fields;
- Offer a diverse selection of music courses and experiences to all University students that will engage them in music and emphasize the vital place of music in our global society;
- Enhance individual achievement by fostering life-long learning, critical thinking skills, ethical practices, and support for and involvement in the arts and arts institutions;
- Serve as a cultural center for South Georgia and provide the community with artistic experiences of lasting value.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Sam Gowen, horn

Doug Farwell, trombone

Brandon Smith, euphonium/tuba

Ryan Smith, percussion

Joshua Pifer, piano

Tod Leavitt, contrabass

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