



Oklahoma City Symphonic Band
Dr. Mark Belcik, Conductor

Sounds of the Season!

Sunday, December 10, 2023
3:00pm

Oklahoma City University
Margaret E Petree Recital Hall
Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center

www.okcband.org



Dr. Mark G. Belcik is the Associate Dean of the Wanda L Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University, a position he has held since 2001. He holds degrees in Music Education from The University of Michigan, a Master's in Horn Performance from The University of Oklahoma and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Instrumental Conducting from The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Belcik's teaching experiences include appointments at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was the Associate Director of the Longhorn Band, the University of

New Mexico, Valdosta State University, Bear Creek High School (CO) and Ardmore High School (OK). His high school bands have earned national recognition and won sweepstakes awards in Oklahoma and Colorado. Dr. Belcik is an active clinician, judge and guest conductor. He has conducted All State and Honor Bands in several states and has presented clinics at State, Regional and National Conventions. He currently serves as the Principal Conductor and Music Director of the Oklahoma City Symphonic Band, and is past President of the Oklahoma Association of Music Schools. He is on the board of the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra and Oklahoma Concert Band Foundation.



Jackson Barnes is a Junior MT/VP double major at Oklahoma City University from Argyle, Texas. Barnes is a member of Dr. Christensen's Voice Studio and the Jan McDaniel and Dr. Taylor Hutchinson coaching studios. He has been recently seen in Sweeney Todd, Sunday in the Park with George, The Magic Flute, and Bright Star. He thanks his family, friends, and Dr. Belcik for this opportunity. He wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!



*Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

YouTube

Want to see and hear more of the Oklahoma City Symphonic Band?

Please drop by our YouTube channel for concert videos.
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Instrument Donations

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band has an instrument donation program. We currently assist school programs with donated instruments. Instruments will be put to good use. If you are interested in making a donation, contact us via e-mail at info@okcband.org.

Thank you to our host

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band members wish to thank our host, Oklahoma City University. Thank you for promoting and encouraging band music in our community!

Upcoming Oklahoma City Symphonic Band Concerts

Winter Concert

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:30pm
Oklahoma City University
Margaret E. Petree Recital Hall
Kirkpatrick Fine Arts Center
2501 N Blackwelder Ave
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Spring Concert

Guest Composer & Conductor, Brian Balmages

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:30pm
Deer Creek High School
Performing Arts Center
6101 NW 206th St
Edmond, OK 73012

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Oklahoma City Symphonic Band

Piccolo

DeLee Francis *
 Glenda Gatz *
Flute
 Ivy Douglas
 DeLee Francis *
 Wendy Fruendt
 Glenda Gatz *
 Jonathan Grasso
 Lauren Hampton
 Brenda Hansel
 Sonie Liebler
 Candi McDonald *
 Vicki Repetto
 Martha Stone *
 Cathy Voorhies
Oboe
 Ned Hughes
 Bonnie Jump
Clarinet
 Fran Ayres
 Nancy Baxter
 Catherine Birchall
 Warren Cadwell
 Carlos Castro
 Nancy De Graff
 Iris Gracia
 Cindy Gustafson
 Diana Jones
 Emily Keith
 Sharon Kieklak
 Chelsea Madden
 Leisa Mayberry
 David Purcer
 Kathy Rattan
 Michael Wenger
 Tasmin Williams
Bass Clarinet
 Drew McNeill
 Coleman Patterson
 Daryle Plemmons
 Bob Qualls

Bassoon

Joan Baird
 Martin King
 Kathryn McKinney *
 Robert Smith
Alto Saxophone
 Tamara Daniels
 Jennifer Fessler
 Drew Hoelscher *
 John Humphreys
Tenor Saxophone
 Faye Sullivan
 Robert Westbrook *
Baritone Saxophone
 Nathan Leonard
Trumpet
 Mike Banowetz
 Gary Childers
 Henry Dolive
 Marshall Douglas
 Mike Forcina
 Dennis Jamison
 Edward Krei
 Erin Purnell
 Larry Taylor
 Kendall Wahpepah

French Horn

Tommy Chau
 James Copland
 Louann Dillard
 Jenny Beth Jones
 Mike Luther
 Barbara Masters
 Laura Renard *
 Lacy Rice
 Shari Rose
 Rick Spence
Trombone
 Kevin Fruendt
 Jesse Hadley
 Louis Hemphill
 Myles Madden
 Kerry Maye
 Ray McAllister
 Gary Shults
 Ross Thanscheidt
 Charles Womack
 Duncan Woodliff
Euphonium
 Dennis Beringer
 Rebecca Reyes
 Phyllis Smith
Tuba
 Karl Kirch
 Richard Moore *
 Robbie Rattan
 Jared Salisbury
Percussion
 Peter Bisek
 Mat Campbell
 Natalie Ditommaso
 Chase Hampton
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 Owen Moore

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The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band is an all volunteer band. While there is no charge for concerts we welcome support. Financial support for the band goes toward promoting concert band music in the Oklahoma City metro area, audience development, guest artists, personnel costs, concert venues, equipment and hosting our annual Young Artist Competition.

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We appreciate all donations and any level of sponsorship. We accept credit card donations on our website—look for the “donate” link on the home page. We also can now accept credit card donations at our concerts at our program table in the foyer.

For information about sponsoring or making a donation, visit our website at www.okcband.org.

You may also make a tax deductible contribution at any level by mailing a check payable to the Oklahoma Concert Band Foundation to this address:

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Sounds of the Season!

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Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Santa's Journey (Bringing Joy to the World) Roy W. Kaighin

A Family Christmas arr. James Swearingen

An Irish Christmas Eve David Lovrien
The Piper in the Meadow Straying (Non Galan/Deck the Halls) Christmas Eve Reel

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane

Jackson Barnes, Baritone

Fantasy on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Patrick Glenn Harper

A Christmas Carol Randall D. Standridge
based on the story by Charles Dickens

Kevin Fruendt, Narrator

Not So Silent Night arr. Evan VanDoren

Christmas Sing-Along David Lovrien

Mr. Barnes

A Christmas Festival Leroy Anderson

About the Band...

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band's mission is to provide a challenging and enriching musical experience for its members, to offer quality concerts for the community, and to inspire future generations of musicians.

The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band is comprised of approximately one hundred professional and amateur musicians. This historic band has performed in the Oklahoma City area for decades. The members are a cross-section of the community made up of all different professions. They are musicians who find that the band gives them a chance to grow musically.

Rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening throughout the year with the exception of May and August. The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band performs several concerts at a variety of venues including high schools, universities, churches and area parks and has hosted several talented composers as guest clinicians over the years, including Dr. Gary Garner in 2022, Patrick Sheridan in 2014, Dr. Frank Ticheli in 2008, Dr. Jack Stamp in 2006 and Dr. John Zdechlik in 2003. The organization hosts an annual Young Artist Competition for high school students. The Oklahoma City Symphonic Band is sponsored by the Oklahoma Concert Band Foundation, whose purpose is to engage in the promotion, appreciation and support of concert band music throughout the State of Oklahoma.



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Robert Smith
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Friend
Mike Banowetz
James Copeland
Louann Dillard
Mike Luther
Leisa Mayberry
Kathryn McKinney
Richard Moore
Vicki Repetto
Michael Wenger

Program Notes

[As **Santa's Journey** begins], bringing "Joy to the World" by delivering presents to children and adults, he sets off on his majestic sleigh driven by his reindeer. A few elves have snuck into the sleigh to help. With a whoosh, he flies across the sky and over the snowy mountains. The music is in continuous motion, just like Santa's sleigh, as he has many presents to deliver before morning.

The quiet moments in the music depict Santa's arrival in small villages, away from the hustle and bustle of the big cities, touching the hearts of people everywhere. During his journey, Santa discovers the elves who have apparently lost some of the presents. Santa offers a gentle reprimand before the presents are eventually found by Elfie, the youngest Elf. After all the presents have been delivered, Santa heads back home as he calls out, "I'll be back next Christmas!"

—Program note from the score

Roy W. Kaighlin (1951-2016) was adopted and raised by Annie Ellen and William Kaighlin in Peel on the Isle of Man. When he was



just five years old, young Roy began playing the piano and violin. The family moved to Fleetwood in Lancashire when Roy was nine and as a pupil at Chaucer Primary School in the town he began learning to play the trombone and trumpet.

Sixteen years old Roy travelled to Deal and joined the boys of 3/67 squad Royal Marines Band Service on 5th September 1967 as a flute, piccolo and piano player.. he was an extremely talented pianist. On completion of training in 1970, Musician Kaighlin's first draft was to the extremely busy Royal Marines Band Commander in Chief Western Fleet, based at HMS Pembroke, the band was extremely well travelled and amongst many other places in 1971 under the renamed RM Band CinC Fleet, they visited Stockholm, Helsinki and Kiel. It was at Chatham where Roy was awarded the nickname Alf!

Roy was then drafted to the Royal Marines Band Flag Officer Scotland & Northern Ireland (FOSNI) at the latter end of 1972. His first step towards promotion came in 1974 when he was selected for the Junior Command Course at the Commando Training Centre. He was drafted away from FOSNI in 1976 and went on to perform at the 1977 Royal Tournament. In addition to his Band Service role he generated a bit more beer money when he was a member of the JG Seven group of the 1970's that played in the local pubs around Deal. BCpl Kaighlin was discharged from the Band Service in 1979.. but rejoined in 1981.

Roy taught music at Deal Secondary School and one special pupil of his there was Mark Petch who was tragically taken in the bombing of the barracks in 1989. Roy was successful on the 1983-84 Bandmasters course and along the way he gathered his LRAM diploma. In 1984 he was the recipient of the coveted Silver Medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians. Roy was a prolific composer of many pieces of music including the Slow March Litchfield that was used on many occasions.. including the 1984 Royal Tournament

BSgt Kaighlin joined the Royal Marines Band Flag Officer Third Flotilla (FOF3) in 1984, where he assisted Bandmaster Alick Harwood. Roy served onboard three ships during his time with the Band, firstly HMS Fearless put to sea with a trip to Scandinavia Copenhagen and Kristiansand in Norway before a return to Copenhagen and Amsterdam with the carrier HMS Illustrious. The year concluded with a return to the Fearless and warmer climes when the ship basked in the Mediterranean, enjoying the delights of Barcelona, Piraeus Greece, Cyprus, Istanbul and Gibraltar.

The new year of 1985 began with a Caribbean adventure and runs ashore in Barbados, Martinique, Tortola, Puerto Rico, Mayport FL, Ponta Delgada in the Azores. A brief trip to Lisbon on HMS Intrepid preceded a trip across the Atlantic onboard HMS Illustrious, where the bright lights awaited of Philadelphia, New York, Norfolk VA, Portsmouth VA and Virginia Beach. Roy's final encounter with FOF3 Band was at the end of 1985 and back on the Intrepid, visits to Cadiz and Lisbon followed seventeen days in Gibraltar due to ship repairs. Roy was awarded his Long Service & Good Conduct Medal in 1984.

In 1992 he became an Instructor at the Royal Marines School of Music in Deal.

Roy Kaighlin retired from the Royal Marines Band Service in May 1994, but that was far from the end of his military career with music. Roy and Diane actually moved to North Vancouver in Canada a few weeks earlier on Friday 18th March 1994.. and just four days later, he took over as Conductor of the Royal Westminster Regiment. A year later and he was in addition appointed Assistant Director of Music for the Band of the 15th Regiment Royal Canadian Artillery. He was also invited to teach at the Conductor's

Course in Borden Ontario. In October 1998, Roy who assumed the rank of Petty Officer took over as Pianist and Staff Music Arranger for the Navy Band in Victoria (the NADEN Band), a position he held until his retirement on 15th July 2011.. his sixtieth birthday.

Roy was a gifted musician, composer and musical arranger, he composed and arranged hundreds of pieces of music. In 2009 he cleverly wrote the festive concert piece 'Santa's Journey' and his description of the score. On 14th January 2010, Roy became the only musician in Canadian Military History to be awarded the esteemed Navy Bravo Zulu award for his legacy of music. The BZ awards are presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and performance. For his contribution to Canada, Roy was presented with the Diamond Jubilee Medal by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia at a ceremony at Government House in Victoria on Friday March 30th 2012.

—Biography adapted from [website for The Band of Her Royal Majesty's Marine](#)

A Family Christmas features "(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays" and "I'll Be Home For Christmas" in what is described by the publisher as a rich, lush, and beautiful piece. What more could you want in a Christmas piece?

—Program note adapted from [J.W. Pepper](#)

James Swearingen (b. 26 September 1947, Dayton, Ohio) is an American composer, arranger and conductor.

James Swearingen's talents as a performer, composer/arranger and educator include a background of extensive training and experience. He has earned degrees from Bowling Green State University and The Ohio State University. Mr. Swearingen is an emeritus professor of music, department chair of music education, and one of several resident composers at Capital University located in Columbus, Ohio. He also serves as a staff arranger for the famed Ohio State University Marching Band. Prior to his appointment at Capital in 1987, he spent eighteen years teaching instrumental music in the public schools of central Ohio. His first teaching assignment took him to the community of Sunbury, Ohio. He then spent fourteen years as Director of Instrumental Music at Grove City High School where his marching, concert and jazz bands all received acclaim for their high standards of performing excellence.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Swearingen manages to be very active as a guest conductor, adjudicator and educational clinician. Appearances have included trips throughout the United States, as well as Japan, Australia, Europe, Canada and The Republic of China.



With over 450 published works, Swearingen has written band compositions and arrangements that reflect a variety of musical forms and styles. Many of his pieces, including 81 commissioned works, have been chosen for contest and festival lists. He is a recipient of several ASCAP awards for published compositions and in 1992 was selected as an Accomplished Graduate of the Fine and Performing Arts from Bowling Green State University. In March of 2000, he was invited to join The American Bandmasters Association, considered to be the most prestigious bandmaster organization in the world. Mr. Swearingen received the 2002 Community Music Educator Award given annually by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. In that same year, he became conductor of the Grove City Community Winds. This highly talented ensemble consists of many fine musicians from the central Ohio area. He is a member of numerous professional and honorary organizations including OMEA, MENC, ASBDA, Phi Beta Mu and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Many of Mr. Swearingen's most popular band compositions have been recorded by the prestigious Washington Winds.

—Biography and image from the [Wind Repertory Project](#)

An Irish Christmas Eve includes "The Piper In The Meadow Straying (Nos Galan/Deck the Halls)" and "Christmas Eve Reel". The holiday melody we know as "Deck the Halls" originated as the Welsh air "*Nos Galan*," dating to the 1700's or earlier. For the 1795 musical play "A Piper On The Meadow Straying" the melody appears to be used [as] the title song and has since been popular as an Irish hornpipe. The English lyrics first appeared in 1862. The traditional reel "Christmas Eve" (*Oíche Nollaig* in Irish) is popular year-

round with Irish musicians worldwide.

—Program note from the score

David Lovrien (b. 1963, Lincoln, Neb.) is an American composer and saxophonist.

Mr. Lovrien was educated at the University of North Texas. He has been a member of the saxophone section of Dallas Wind



Symphony since 1990, performing on 10 of the group's 13 compact discs and appearing several times as featured soloist. He is also a founding member of the renowned Texas Saxophone Quartet, the first saxophone ensemble to win the prestigious Fischhoff Competition in 1988.

His compositions and arrangements have been performed throughout the world, and his website celebrating the life and work of John Philip Sousa is recognized as the foremost Sousa authority on the Internet.

Mr. Lovrien makes his living as a technology manager in Carrollton, Texas.

—Biography and image from the [Wind Repertory Project](#)

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas is a song introduced by Judy Garland in the 1944 MGM musical *Meet Me in St. Louis*. The song was written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane. Frank Sinatra later recorded a version with modified lyrics.

In 2007, ASCAP ranked the song as the third most performed Christmas song during the preceding five years that had been written by ASCAP members. In 2004 it finished at #76 in AFI's 100 Years...100 Songs rankings of the top tunes in American cinema.

—Program note from Wikipedia (the [Wind Repertory Project](#))

[Click here to read more about the story behind Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas from NPR.](#)

Douglas E. Wagner (b. 14 August 1952, Chicago, Ill.) is an internationally recognized composer and arranger. With 30 years as a high school music educator and administrator behind him, Doug now devotes all of his time and energy to writing, editing and their allied activities. He is an A.S.C.A.P. award-winning composer, an editor for a major publishing company, and has served several denominations as a church musician.



Doug has published more than 2,500 music titles since 1973, including works for choir (sacred and secular), concert band, orchestra, handbell ensemble, organ, piano, instrumental solo and voice. Fifteen million copies of his music have been sold to date.

Douglas's music has been performed in concert settings, on television and on radio broadcasts in the United States, as well as on concert programs in more than two dozen foreign countries.

—Biography and image from the [Wind Repertory Project](#)

Fantasy on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"[’s] new interpretation of the Christmas standard begins with a chorale statement of the original hymn and then heads into new territory as various percussion instruments are added to the mix. Changing time signatures, unique rhythmic patterns and various musical styles are explored as the piece builds to a climactic ending.

—Program note adapted from score's performance note



Patrick Glenn Harper (b. 1977) is a music educator, arranger, and composer of instrumental music for marching band, concert band, percussion ensemble, jazz band, and chamber ensembles. His compositions have been performed by high school and college ensembles, military service bands, and community groups all over the world. Patrick has also composed professionally for multimedia applications, promotional videos, apps, and video games. He is an educator in the Huntsville, Alabama area, where he has served as a high school band director for over 16 years. His education includes a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master of Arts in Music Education from the University of North Alabama. He lives in Meridianville,

Alabama with his wife Kendra, and their two children, Hadley and Deacon.

—Biography from the score; Image from the [Wind Repertory Project](#)

Charles Dickens first published his novella **A Christmas Carol** in 1843. Since then, it has become one of the most well-known Christmas tales, thanks in large part to its combination of festive cheer, ghostly chills, and philosophical elements. It has become so popular that even the name of its main character, Scrooge, has become a word unto itself in English lexicon.

This new work, **A Christmas Carol**, attempts to illustrate this timeless tale through narration and hints of familiar holiday tunes. It is presented in the form of an attacca suite with five distinct movements (or “scenes”) that mirror the five chapters of Dickens’s novella. The piece begins on Christmas Eve with Scrooge being visited by the ghost of his business partner who warns him he will be doomed to a terrible fate if he does not change, and that he will be visited by three spirits (“I. Marley’s Ghost”). The piece continues as Scrooge is shown the bittersweet scenes from days gone by (“II. The Ghost of Christmas Past”), scenes of holiday merriment (“III. The Ghost of Christmas Present”), and dark visions of a possible future (“IV. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come”). The piece ends with Scrooge awakening a changed man, his heart full of festive cheer (“V. Christmas Morning”).

—Program note by Randall D. Standridge in the score

Randall D. Standridge (b. 1976, Little Rock, Ark.) is an American composer and arranger.

Randall Standridge received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Tom O'Connor, before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his master's in music composition, studying with Tom O'Connor and Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as director of bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer.



Mr. Standridge's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected to the J.W. Pepper's editor's choice. His compositions *Snake Charmer*, *Gently Blows the Summer Wind*, and *Angelic Celebrations* have been included in the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series. He has had numerous works performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. His work *Art(isms)* was premiered by the Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and his work *Stonewall: 1969* was premiered at the National LGBA conference in 2019. Mr. Standridge is also a contributing composer for Alfred Music's *Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development* series.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor of Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as a drill designer, music arranger, and color guard designer for the marching arts, as well as a freelance artist/photographer and writer.

—Biography and image from the [Wind Repertory Project](#)

Not So Silent Night begins as Santa descends down the chimney, careful to observe his new surroundings, and not wake the home’s sleeping residents. Delicately, Santa begins his careful dance of tiptoeing around the home, humming Christmas tunes under his breath (*Silent Night*, *Jingle Bells*, *Up On the Housetop*, and others). He carefully places the presents under the tree, pausing briefly to ensure he hasn’t awakened anyone. Slowly Santa feels more and more comfortable with his surroundings, becoming less and less aware of how much noise he’s making, and eventually breaking into full-throated merry signing as he goes about his work.

Suddenly, Santa becomes very aware he’s not the only one in the room! Around the corner peers a newly awakened pet dog and not a friendly one! Panic sets in as Santa collects himself, and a full-blown chase ensues as Santa races for the exit! After a prolonged chase around the house, Santa makes his way up the chimney and out of the house! With a sense of relief, Santa and his reindeer fly off to the next house, where further antics no doubt await in what has become a **Not So Silent Night**.

—Program Note from the score

Evan VanDoren (b. 9 March 1987, Voorhees, N.J.) is an American composer, arranger and music educator.

Mr. VanDoren graduated with honors from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, studying trumpet and music education. While at Butler, he was selected as one of Butler's Top 100 graduates, amongst other achievements.



Before devoting his life to creating music, Evan was a band director at Cedar Park (Tx.) High School, during which time the band was awarded multiple marching state championships and national recognition.

As a composer, Evan VanDoren is commissioned regularly to create arrangements and compositions for concert and marching arts ensembles at all skill levels. Evan's works are regularly performed around the country, including premiere performances at the Texas Music Educator's Association Convention and the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

VanDoren spent eight years as a marching member of Drum Corps International marching ensembles. His final two years were spent as a drum major at the Carolina Crown, during which time he was honored to receive the Jim Jones Leadership Award, and two consecutive "Member of the Year" awards. His DCI teaching experience includes the Blue Stars, and the Madison Scouts. Currently [2022], he serves as the brass arranger for the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps, from Santa Clara, California.

Mr. VanDoren is an active clinician, adjudicator, and arranger, presenting for Drum Corps International, the Music Educator's National Convention, Solutions and Specialized Innovations (SASI), and the Texas Bandmasters Association. His professional affiliations include the Texas Music Educators Association, the Texas Bandmasters Association, the Association of Texas Professional Educators, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

—Biography and image from the [Wind Repertory Project](#)

Christmas Sing-Along [was] arranged by David Lovrien for the Dallas Wind Symphony's annual Christmas concerts, [and] features the carols *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Away In A Manger*, *I Saw Three Ships* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

—Program note adapted from publisher ([Wind Repertory Project](#))

To learn more about arranger **David Lovrien**, read his biography earlier in these notes under *An Irish Christmas Eve*.

A Christmas Festival combines tunes from the secular and religious celebration of the holiday. Anderson has encompassed the joy, celebration, and solemnity of Christmas in his arrangements of: *Joy To The World*, *Deck the Hall*, *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, *Good King Wenceslas*, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, *The First Noel*, *Silent Night*, *Jingle Bells* and *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

—Program note from [University of Virginia Wind Ensemble, December 3, 2006](#)

To learn more about A Christmas Festival and Leroy Anderson, [click here to read quotes from a 1960s interview of Leroy Anderson](#).

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) was born in Cambridge, MA. The son of Swedish immigrant parents, including a church organist mother, he began piano and organ studies early in life. He went to college at Harvard University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music. He also led the Harvard University Band during his graduate studies. In addition to his early musical interests, he also was a prolific language learner: his PhD studies at Harvard were in German and Scandinavian languages, and he eventually became fluent in 9 languages. This unique talent led to his service as a translator and interpreter for the US military during World War II and the Korean War. While thus engaged, he also found time to compose, mostly in the light orchestral vein. Several of his legendary classical-pops pieces remain popular, and we are fortunate that he arranged many of them for wind band. Among them are *Sleigh Ride*, *The Irish Washerwoman*, *Bugler's Holiday*, and *Belle of the Ball*.



—Biography written by [Andy Pease, windliterature.org](#)