



# Western Reserve Community Band



## Annual Spring Concert

# Unfinished Business

7:00 p.m. Saturday April 5, 2025  
Hudson Middle School Auditorium

Ralph Meyer, Founder & Conductor  
Beverly O'Connor, Conductor  
Wendy K. Matthews, Conductor

As a courtesy to the performers and fellow audience members please take a moment to turn off or silence all mobile devices.  
Flash photography is not permitted during the performance.

### PROGRAM

***Overture to Candide*** 1956

Wendy K. Matthews, Conductor

**Leonard Bernstein**  
arr. Walter Beeler

***Vesuvius*** 1999

**Frank Ticheli**

***Transcendent Journey*** 2010

Beverly O'Connor, Conductor

**Rossano Galante**

***Third Suite*** 1966

I. *March* II. *Waltz* III. *Rondo*

**Robert Jager**

***Toccata Marziale*** 1924

**Ralph Vaughan Williams**

***Joyance*** 1975

Ralph Meyer, Conductor

**Claude Smith**

***Backstage Pass*** 2015

**Brian Balmages**

***Duetto buffo di due gatti*** 1825

Vocalists: Maria DiDonato & Rachel Osherow

attributed to **Gioacchino Rossini**  
arr. Christiaan Janssen

***Soul Bossa Nova*** 1962

**Quincy Jones**  
arr. Per Olof Ukkonen

*Music is far too important to be left entirely in the hands of professionals...*

## Guest Vocalists



Maria DiDonato is a multi-talented Cleveland based artist. She specializes in classical, musical theatre, jazz, rock, and pop music. She is a songwriter, music director, actress, pianist, vocalist, band leader, teacher, and church music ministry leader. She has obtained a Bachelor of Music Education with a Minor in Theatre and a Master of Music (Vocal Performance) from Cleveland State University. Maria is an adjunct professor at Cleveland State, Music Director at St. Columbkille Parish, and has her own private voice/piano studio. Maria is the manager and lead vocalist of *Hip To That* a band she performs with throughout northeast Ohio.



Rachel Osherow is a versatile vocalist and licensed professional music therapist working in medical, behavioral health, and community-based settings. Rachel received her music therapy degree from Cleveland State University, where she dabbled in a broad range of performance styles including early music, vocal jazz, and South Indian singing. Rachel has sung with the *Summit Choral Society*, the *Akron Symphony Chorus*, *Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra Chorus*, and Italian folk ensemble *Alla Boara*. Rachel performs with Akron-based artists Angie Haze (pop/rock) and JT's Elektrik Blackout (jazz fusion). She enjoys exploring new musical adventures.

## Conductors

**Ralph Meyer:** Conductor and WRCB co-founder Ralph Meyer received his B.F.A. in Music from Ithaca College in 1974. He studied as a saxophone major with a woodwind minor. Upon graduation he taught high school instrumental music, conducting wind ensemble, marching, concert and jazz bands. As an active musician, Mr. Meyer has performed with professional touring and backup bands, community bands, orchestra and theater groups. He has conducted in a wide variety of musical settings, including community bands, pit orchestras and youth orchestras. He co-founded the Western Reserve Community Band in 1997. He retired from his day job as Director of Human Resources in 2018. He and his wife Carol are 30+ year residents of Hudson. This is my final Spring Concert conducting the WRCB, I will drop my proverbial baton after the 2025 WRCB Holiday Concert in December.

**Beverly O'Connor:** taught Music in the Hudson City School district for 37 years before retiring in 2022. In addition to directing the Hudson High School Wind Symphony she directed the 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands at Hudson Middle School, the Hudson Middle School Jazz Ensemble, and the Hudson High School "Swing" Marching Band. In addition to conducting and playing Horn with the Western Reserve Community Band, Bev is a conductor and instructor with the New Horizons Band of Summit and Stark Counties. Mrs. O'Connor attended Theodore Roosevelt High School in Kent and is a proud alumna of Kent State University. She earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree, specializing in trombone and euphonium in 1985. While attending Kent State she played in all of the major ensembles including Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra and Sinfonia, and the KSU Jazz Ensemble. She resides in Kent with husband, and fellow musician, Cal O'Connor and her Golden Retriever, Piper. She will take over the WRCB in 2026.

**Dr. Wendy K. Matthews:** serves as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Assessment in the College of Arts, is Associate Professor of Music Education and Director of Bands at Kent State University. She holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory of Music, University of Maryland-College Park, and George Mason University. Dr. Matthews is the co-author of *Basic Conducting Techniques* (Seventh Edition). Before Kent State University, Dr. Matthews taught at Georgetown University, University of Maryland, George Mason University, Wayne State University, and Northern Virginia Community College. Ensembles under her direction have performed at Severance Hall, the Kennedy Center, Millennium Stage, DAR Constitution Hall, Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, and the Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall. Dr. Matthews is in demand as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. Her research interests include music teacher pedagogies, oral histories of pioneering women brass players, and motivation and group dynamics in large ensembles. Her research has been published in journals and book chapters including the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Psychology of Music*, and the *International Handbook of Music Psychology in Education and the Community*. Dr. Matthews has presented research, professional development, and historical sessions at national and international conferences.

## Program Notes

### **Overture to *Candide* 1956**

**Leonard Bernstein**

*Candide* was Leonard Bernstein's third Broadway musical, following *On the Town* and *Wonderful Town*. It opened in New York in 1956, but, unlike its predecessors, was not a commercial success. Adapted by Lillian Hellman from Voltaire's 18th-century satire on blind optimism, the story concerns a young man, Candide, who has been led by his tutor, Dr. Pangloss, to believe that everything is for the best "in this best of all possible worlds." 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. The sparkling overture captures the frenetic activity of the operetta, with its twists and turns, along with Candide's simple honesty. This arrangement is by the esteemed Walter Beeler.

### **Vesuvius 1999**

**Frank Ticheli**

This piece is about Mt. Vesuvius, the volcano that destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum in A.D. 79. The tension and suspense of the impending cataclysm characterizes the introduction of the main themes. Driving rhythms and complex mode changes convey a bacchanalian mood that is interrupted by quotations from the *Dies Irae* of the medieval *Requiem Mass*, invoked as a symbol of death and destruction. An image of everyday village life in the towns oblivious to the danger, portrayed in a quiet interlude, is disturbed by the first fiery events on the mountain. A final battle of themes builds to a state of extreme agitation, conveying the chaos of the pyroclastic explosions and suffocating ash. Frank Ticheli has composed works for bands, wind ensemble, orchestra, chamber ensembles, and the theatre. His music has garnered many prestigious awards including the 1989 Walter Beeler Memorial Composition Prize.

### **Transcendent Journey 2010**

**Rossano Galante**

The compelling chord with which Rossano Galante opens *Transcendent Journey* suggests his appropriation of the maxim that the first sentence of a paragraph should capture attention. The heroic theme that follows establishes the composition's air of confidence and achievement. The role of showcasing the theme's beauty at the outset, says the composer in program notes, is "perfect for trumpets." He continues with: "The listener should feel as though they can accomplish anything, no matter how challenging. I feel this is a melody that transcends all my others." A native of Buffalo, NY, Galante has orchestrated major film and television series. He has also completed more than two dozen commissions from wind ensembles and orchestras throughout the United States.

### **Third Suite** 1966

Robert Jaeger

Third Suite is a true classic in the repertoire of the modern concert band, this delightful suite opens with a march which alternates between 4/4 and 3/4, is followed by a waltz which alternates between 3/4 and 2/4, and finishes with a rondo in 6/8 - almost! Robert Jaeger served as the Staff Arranger at the US Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk, VA. In that position, he undoubtedly became familiar with music of all different genres and styles. This composition is a charming and often humorous impression of three differing musical styles. Jaeger has over 65 published compositions for band, orchestra and various chamber groupings, with more than thirty-five commissions. He is an active conductor, and lecturer throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan.

### **Toccata Marziale** 1924

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Vaughan Williams' second work for band, **Toccata Marziale**, was premiered in 1924 as part of the British Empire exposition. *Toccata* is derived from Italian and means "to touch." The martial strength and tempo of this work touches a quick succession of changing scenes. The opening fanfare introduces the motive theme that appears throughout the composition. The work is filled with great rhythmic energy and strong contrapuntal lines as the woodwinds dance around the solid background of the brass. Vaughan Williams received a doctorate in music at Cambridge. With his friend, Gustav Holst, Vaughan Williams cut the ties that had bound English music to Germany and Italy. Instead of looking for good models on the Continent, these two young Englishmen decided to seek them at home in England's own past.

### **Joyance** 1975

Claude Smith

**Joyance** was written in 1975 for the Central Methodist Band in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Central's Sweeney Conservatory of Music. A most appropriate title since it well describes the composition. The opening is a fast movement stating the theme throughout several sections segueing to the slower middle movement involving bassoon solo before returning to the allegro. Muted trumpet with moving clarinet background precedes the brass mixed meter and into the full band lyric statement ahead of the exciting finale. Claude Smith taught instrumental music in Nebraska and Missouri at secondary and university level. During his career, he composed over 120 works for band, chorus, orchestra, and small ensembles. Active as a clinician and guest conductor, he has received numerous awards and honors.

### **Backstage Pass** 2015

Brian Balmages

Inspired by the sounds, styles and moods of Broadway, this overture-style work was commissioned by the family of drummer Kyle Woodring, who played with *Survivor*, *John Mellencamp*, and in the Chicago run of *Jersey Boys* among many other gigs. The music serves as a backstage pass to his career and takes the listener through a series of styles and melodies, much like one would hear in an overture on Broadway. Kyle left a legacy of music behind for people to remember him. Brian Balmages is an award-winning composer, conductor, producer, and performer. His compositions have been performed worldwide at the state, national and international level and he has received awards from the American School Band Directors Association and William D. Revelli Composition Contest.

### **Duetto buffo di due gatti** 1825

attributed to **Gioacchino Rossini**

The **Duetto buffo di due gatti** is a popular performance piece for two sopranos. The 'lyrics' consist entirely of a repeated word. Sometimes the duet is also performed by a soprano and a tenor, or a soprano and a bass. While the piece is typically attributed to *Gioacchino Rossini*, it was not actually written by him. It is instead a compilation written in 1825 that draws principally on his 1816 opera, **Otello**. In order of appearance, the music consists of: the **Katte-Cavatine** by the Danish composer *C.E.F. Weyse*, part of the duet for *Otello* and *Lago* in Act 2 of **Otello**, part of the cabaletta to the aria **Ah, come mai non senti**, sung by *Rodrigo* in the same act. A cabaletta is a two-part musical form particularly favored for arias in 19th century Italian opera in the bel canto era until about the 1860s.

### **Soul Bossa Nova** 1962

Quincy Jones

You may know it as the theme song from the 1997 spy satire *Austin Powers*, but **Soul Bossa Nova** was actually an early hit by composer, producer, arranger and jazz musician Quincy Jones, who was 91 when he passed away in November 2024. The song appeared on his 1962 album *Big Band Bossa Nova*, which included jazz heavyweights like Phil Woods, Clark Terry, Lalo Schifrin, Jim Hall and Roland Kirk as the flute soloist. **Soul Bossa Nova** endeared itself to producers, musicians and the public appearing in prominent films including *The Pawnbroker*, *Sweet Charity* and *Take the Money and Run*. The theme was used in a long-running Canadian TV game show, *Definition*. Mike Myers grew up watching *Definition*, and as a homage to his childhood used the music as the theme for the *Austin Powers* film series.

## **Conductor and Founder Notes**

Saying goodbye is never easy, first I need to reflect. It has been quite a journey from the humble beginnings of the Western Reserve Community Band in 1997 until now. I could never have imagined that this ensemble would grow from eleven members at our first rehearsal to an eighty-five-member organization it is now. I am so grateful that the band has continued to progress musically each year. As with any volunteer organization, the goal is always that the result is somehow greater than the sum of the parts. In the past decade and a half this band has succeeded in achieving that goal. There are many individuals, both current and past, whom I am indebted to for their advice, counsel, assistance, help and understanding. We still have several members in the band who were there at the first rehearsal: Erika Federman on flute, Shawn Hanlon on clarinet, Linda Kotheimer on alto sax, Stephanie Vaughn on horn, and Sue Swab on trombone. Together, we have experienced this wonderful musical journey. No organization can survive without members who go above and beyond just showing up to play their instruments. The non-music work necessary for an organization this size is accomplished by volunteers in the band. I thank those individuals who willingly give their time to move equipment, sort/distribute and file music, set up/break down chairs and stands, load in and load out, hauling things in their own vehicles which enable us to be a successful performing community band. Having additional conductors has been key with my transition to retire from leading the band. Beverly O'Connor has been gracious enough to accept the leadership role in 2026 for the WRCB. I am thrilled the band will be in her capable hands. I am honored to have conducted.

## 2025 Western Reserve Community Band Performances

Hudson Ice Cream Social Concert 🎵 Liberty Park Twinsburg Concert,  
Summer Winds at Wolf Creek 🎵 Hudson Bandstand Summer Music Festival Concert  
Aurora Independence Village Concert 🎵 Holiday Concert

Check the WRCB website(<https://wrcband97.org/>) or our WRCB Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/WRCB97/>) for the dates, times & locations:

### Western Reserve Community Band Organization

Arno Kremer President	Victoria Putnam Vice President	David Lehman Treasurer	Patricia Goetz Secretary
Robert Davet Webmaster	Open Position Cloud/Audio/Video Technology	Matt Smith Percussion Logistics	Open Position Music Librarian
Ralph Meyer Founder/Conductor	Eve Cervenka Grants	Wendy Matthews Conductor	Beverly O'Connor Conductor

### Western Reserve Community Band Roster

Flute	Clarinet	Trumpet	Trombone
Donna Sulhan Kristen Duffy Jennifer Biber Leslie Nutt Erika Federmann Sandy Rexroad Debbie Shields Julie Tausch Victoria Young Jennie Prentice Jacki Cyr Caitlin Helmer Susan Mertz	Heather Waltz Linda Shanks Bob Morton Eve Cervenka Gregg Treadwell Cal O'Connor Victoria Putnam Tonia Ferrell John Bozsony Jessica Byas Angie Takacs Victoria Valetta Emma Bene Dale Dong Patricia Goetz Ryan Henderson Shawn Hanlon Ralph Meyer	Bob Smith Jennifer Barone Jerry Kleman Wendy Matthews Malcolm Bartlett Jessica Stanik Dan Bolovan Maria Martinelli Amanda Baumgartner Gian Valli Art Prentice Rylan Arnold Tom Hughey Dick Ptak	Susan Swab Dave Watt Arno Kremer Joe Damato Dan Allen Hannah Zito Matthew Todd David Lehman Justin Roebuck
<b>Oboe</b> Julie Prather	<b>Alto Saxophone</b> Gregg Dahlby Christine Martin Linda Kotheimer Deborah Gerbetz	<b>Horn</b> Stephanie Vaughan Lisa Bose Beverly O'Connor Jessica Collins Nick Sohutskey	<b>Euphonium</b> Louis Barone Paul Good
<b>Bassoon</b> Nicki Lantz Corinne Strasser	<b>Baritone Saxophone</b> Alex Dyer	<b>String Bass</b> Caleb Sparks	<b>Tuba</b> Jim McIntyre Megan McMaster Michael Pasko Richard Waltman Phil Trendell
<b>Bass Clarinet</b> David Swindler		<b>Percussion</b> Matthew Smith Layla Nosek Ann Shuman Stephen Merriman	
<b>Tenor Saxophone</b> Robert Davet Tom Bartholomew Steve Friske Kari Dyer			

### THANK YOU!

Hudson Board of Education  
Hudson League for Service

Hudson Community Education & Recreation  
Hudson Middle School & High School Music Department

Hudson Bandstand Committee  
City of Hudson

The Western Reserve Community Band is a non-professional, not-for-profit community musical organization. Our mission is to provide audiences in Hudson and the surrounding communities with cultural enrichment and entertainment and to provide adult musicians in the area with the opportunity to participate in an active, performing band. We are organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. Our membership is open to all adult musicians in Hudson and the surrounding communities. Businesses or individuals who are interested in supporting the WRCB should contact: Band Vice President Victoria Putnam at (216) 577-7791 or Band President Arno Kremer at (330) 819-6383.

### Play an Instrument? Consider Joining the WRCB!

Membership in the WRCB is open to adult wind and percussion players of all playing abilities through Hudson Community Education and Recreation for an annual participation fee. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the band contact: WRCB President Arno Kremer, at (440) 336-1549, email us at [wrcband97@gmail.com](mailto:wrcband97@gmail.com), find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WRCB97/>, or our web site at <https://www.wrcband97.org>.

The Western Reserve Community Band is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; all donations are 100% tax-deductible.

This concert made possible in part by the generous support of our Individual Donors, Corporate Sponsors, Agency and Foundation Grants

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