

UNIVERSITY BANDS EVENTS 2025-26

DECEMBER 2025

University Band

Dec. 1 | 7:30pm | Gantner Hall
Sam Wyland, student conductor
Chippewa Falls High School

JAZZ ENSEMBLE I AND II Christmas with Kenni Holmen & Friends

Dec. 5 | 7:30pm | RCU Theatre

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

51st Annual Holiday Concert

Dec. 7 | 2pm, 5:30pm | RCU Theatre

JANUARY 2026

Middle School Honor Band, Op. 9

Jan. 23 | Haas Fine Arts

Cabaret Productions UWEC: The Tale of Cabaret

January 22-23, 29-30 | 7:30pm
January 24, 31 | 2pm & 7:30pm
Ojibwe Ballroom

FEBRUARY 2026

Woodwind Day

Feb. 14 | Haas Fine Arts

CONNECT WITH

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire | **BANDS**



uwec.ly/bands

MARCH 2026

Symphony Band & Wind Symphony

Mar. 7 | 7:30pm | Gantner Hall

APRIL 2026

Concert Band Festival

Apr. 7 | Pablo Center

Viennese Ball

Apr. 10-11 | 7pm | Davies Center

EAU CLAIRE JAZZ FESTIVAL Downtown Jazz Crawl

Apr. 17 | 5pm- 2am | Downtown

Headliner Concerts

Apr. 17, 18 | 7:30pm | RCU Theatre
Feat. Jazz Ensembles I and II,
and Guest Artists

Jazz Ensembles 3 & 4

Apr. 21 | 7:30pm | Gantner Hall

University Band

Apr. 28 | 7:30pm | Gantner Hall
UWEC-BC Communiuniversity Band

Symphony Band

Apr. 29 | 7:30pm | RCU Theatre
Feat. Student Concerto and
Conductor Winners
Osseo-Fairchild High School

MAY 2026

Wind Symphony

May 2 | 7:30pm | RCU Theatre
feat. River Falls High School



UNIVERSITY BAND FALL CONCERT

FEATURING
CHIPPEWA FALLS
HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Kara Metzger, conductor
Mr. Mike Renneke, conductor

Monday, December 1, 2025
7:30pm | Gantner Concert Hall
Haas Fine Arts Center

uwec.ly/music

-PROGRAM-

CHIPPEWA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Mike Renneke, conductor

Closer from "Game 7".....**Albert Von Tilzer, arr. John Fannin**

New Waters, Old Waves (2020).....**Cliff Walker (b. 1972)**

The Great Rubber Chicken Galop.....**Jandall Standridge (b. 1976)**

UW-EAU CLAIRE UNIVERSITY BAND

Dr. Kara Metzger, conductor
Sam Wyland, student conductor

Cenotaph (1992).....**Jack Stamp (b. 1954)**

Shenandoah (2019).....**Omar Thomas (b. 1984)**

A Mere Moment (2025).....**Michele Fernandez (b. 1959)**
Sam Wyland, student conductor

Vesuvius (1999).....**Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)**

Wellington March (1906).....**Wilhelm Zehle (1876-1956)**

COMBINED ENSEMBLE

Baba Yetu: *From Civilization IV* (2005).....**Christopher Tin (b. 1976)**

Audience members are reminded of the need for silence during performances. Our concerts and recitals are recorded. Coughing, cell phones, electronic devices, careless handling of programs and other extraneous noises are serious distractions to performers and the audience. As a matter of copyright law, no unauthorized recording or photography is allowed.

UW-EAU CLAIRE UNIVERSITY BAND

Dr. Kara Metzger, conductor

FLUTE

Gwen Albers
Olivia Bartel
Kaitlyn Blank
Hannah Bulera
Adriana Cancino
Grace Cole
Hanna Cook
Chloe Duignan
Izzy Hannay
Hallie Hatfield
Claire McCormick
Alex Peacock
Robin Pence
Samantha Prindle
Norah Selby
Jada Wahl

OBOE

Grace Scott

CLARINET

Cora Adkins
Ronnie Black
Lydia Breezee
Alyssa Buhl
Hannah Cook
Memphis Cooper
Reed Graf
Rylan Halverson
Nathan Kieffer
Emma Michaud-Coffman
Hannah Parrish
Joaquin Perez
Tanaya Pillai
Veronica Shafer
Kiran Shetty
Tessa Smrecek
Hannah Stewart
Jenny Szelagowski
Sierra Voss

BASS CLARINET

Ally Mollman
Alex Swor
Owen Yeager
Alana Zych

BASSOON

Clover Jenkins

SAXOPHONE

Zaine Daly
Mckenna Daye
Nora Hansen
Aubrey Jungmeyer
Sawyer Nelson
Hope Skelton
Kyla Spangberg
Jaedyn Stratton
Miriam Trotter
Mason Zerwas
Henry Futchi
Joey Kisner
Scarlette Miller
Kane Towns
Henry Burmeister

TRUMPET

Katelyn Arvidson
Connor Barnett
Sasha Buser
Shelby Christian-son Savannah
Dworshak
Lucas Folco
Jacob Itzin
Aiden Lee
Alexa Loritz
Janessa Mansky
Timothy Noren
Maddie Robinson
Ellie Strand
Bennett Tank
Troy White
Arie Wilschut

FRENCH HORN

Lyzetta Bartman
Asher Garvin
Solveig Johnson
Quinn Stephens

TROMBONE

Nigel Burton
Jonas Franklin
Andy Haralson
Jack Kerr
Edison Lin
Lilia Theisen
Annie Velishek
Mason Voth
Ester Zabel

EUPHONIUM

Sarah Buchmann
Lilly Clason
Meghan Dahm

TUBA

Bradi Bell
Benjamin Grede
Jacob Rausch

PERCUSSION

Jake Boulanger
Amber Camps
Katelyn Cuturia
Gabriel Flesner
Benjamin Grede
Will Howe
Clover Jenkins
Caleb Jewell
Kara Kimball
Joey Kisner
Emmett Strand
Kayla Telshaw
Ethan Vanden Heuvel

CHIPPEWA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Mike Renneke, conductor

FLUTE

Alayna Turk
Mackenzie Blashka
Alexxis Hays
Alivia Plante
Aria Stoner

CLARINET

Julian Andrew
Angela Math
Caiden Turner
Kennedy Kingston
Ahmee Vang
Emily Raycher

BASS CLARINET

Grace Wooley
Nora Kelm

BASSOON

Mark Adams
Noah Luther

ALTO SAX

Callie Hill
Tanner Liedl
Jemma Lubs
Matilda Van Beek
Adriannah Rognholt
Levon Strader
Alex Travaglio

TENOR SAX

Abel Dewitz
Gabriel Hartman
Jayden Knutson
Cambrie Buckley
Henry Warner
Evelyn Arnold

Isabelle Collicott

Taylor Lind
Emma Perry

BARISAX

Harley Schaefer
Dante Woodford

TRUMPET

Dakoda Deschampe
Benjamin Meachen
Ashlyn Schick
Thomas Senger
Emylea Smith
John Yearous

Genevieve Mattson

Ryland Rygiel
Josie Flood
Brennan Gubrud
Lundin Karnes

FRENCH HORN

Joelle Baker
Sadie Goldsmith
Lucy Andringa
Lucy Christensen
Zoey Eckwright

TROMBONE

Kailey Ewoldt
Kaydin Nerrison
Braedyn Wirth
Axel Duss
Benjamin Freehling
Clayton Tice
Aiden Vander Top
Henry Johnson
Rubina Reid

EUPHONIUM

Aidan Rapp
Lennon Wiseman
Jocelyn Davis

TUBA

Benjamin Brown
Nicholas Cheah-Bejin
Zephyr Gregory
Zayne Grimm
Zoie Hakes
Cecil Staidl

PERCUSSION

Jaxon Lee
Samantha Heisinger
Kadyn Voigt
Benjamin Sweeney
Emree Agner
Brecken Andersen
Hudson Rooney
Claire Samb
Griffin Zilk
Luciouz Seidlitz
Nathaniel Shilts
Veronica Wolfe
Caleb Dallas
Jerney Joles
Christopher Swearingen
Ryan Bonner
Lucas Myers
Kegan Luniak
Chloe Johnson
Logan Pecha
Marcus Rathbun
Kynnley Abbuehl
Nolan Sazama
Brett Schaefer

-PROGRAM NOTES-

CHIPPEWA FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

New Waters, Old Waves - Cliff Walker

Cliff Walker's piece for concert band *New Waters, Old Waves* was written so that the percussion section would have a constant presence throughout and also be achievable in a short amount of time. By utilizing his percussion ensemble writing skills, Walker was able to give the percussion section an equal voice while not turning the piece into a percussion feature. The inspiration for the title, as Cliff describes, comes from "new territory for me as a composer – a new experience, new risks, the unknown, and the uncharted. "Old Waves" are simply me bringing my tried-and-true techniques, used and proven in percussion ensemble compositions, to the wind ensemble."

New Waters, Old Waves was commissioned for the 2019 Northwest District Junior High Honor Band by the Missouri Music Educators Association, Northwest District # 1.

The Great Rubber Chicken Galop - Randall Standridge

In symphonic music, we are often celebrated for portraying the vast array of human emotions. Composers are lauded if they convey love, passion, fear, dread, anger, rage, pathos, and sorrow in their works. However, the same cannot be said about humor. Oftentimes, when humor is the main objective of a work, the piece is written off as "silly," "not serious," or as somehow being automatically less worthy of praise than the works that express the other aspects of the human condition. It's a stupid idea, but one that has unfortunately taken root in our music culture.

With this in mind, I was delighted beyond belief when Becca Clemens, director of the Margaret B. Pollard 8th Grade Band, contacted me to write a commission for her ensemble's performance at their state conference. When I asked if there were any content or stylistic requirements, she had one request:

"It has to have rubber chickens in it."

I paused.

"I beg your pardon?"

"We want a piece that uses rubber chickens."

With this in mind, I set out to write the piece you will hear or play shortly.

The Great Rubber Chicken Galop was written to sound as if it belonged on stage at a vaudeville performance in the 1920s. The combination of Galop form, ragtime harmonies, and rhythms, as well as the horde of rubber chickens, creates a piece that is just as serious in its crafting and construction as it is unserious in its comedic effect. I hope audiences will be simultaneously wowed by the virtuosity of the players and amused by the presence of squeaking and honking feathered friends.

Lastly, I must admit that I almost fell victim to the very mindset that I described at the beginning of these notes. After writing the piece, I strongly considered not releasing it. Several in the composition/music world already view me as a “lesser” composer due to a variety of factors, and I was hesitant to give them more ammunition in this regard.

However, it's like the old saying goes, "If they can't take a joke, forget 'em.

Peace, Love, and Music - Randy Standy

The Great Rubber Chicken Galop was commissioned by Becca Clemens and the Margaret B. Pollard 8th Grade Band. No rubber chickens were harmed in its creation.

UNIVERSITY BAND

Cenotaph (1992)- Jack Stamp (b. 1954)

A cenotaph is a "statue or monument to a person not buried there." The Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monuments are familiar examples of cenotaphs. This fanfare connotes a breathtaking structure such as one of these cenotaphs.

After the explosive percussion introduction, the work begins with a five-part fugue. An *accelerando* leads to a layering of ostinatos including a 7/8 hemiola in the woodwinds. The fugue subject returns in augmentation and is harmonized in a chorale style.

Cenotaph was commissioned by Mitchell Fennell and the California State University at Fullerton Bands for the 1992 Southern California All-State Band.

-Program Note by composer

from the University of Minnesota Duluth (MM-Music Education) and the University of Iowa (DMA-Wind Conducting). Whilst earning her graduate degrees, Kara was a teaching assistant within both schools' band departments. Throughout her time at the University of Iowa, Kara also served as Director of Symphonic Band at Grinnell College in Grinnell, IA. Prior to her graduate work, Kara was the director of bands at Whitman Middle School and associate director of bands at West High School in Wauwatosa, WI.

Since 2016, Kara has been working at the Colt Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps and has served as brass and visual caption head for them since 2017, brass manager in 2024, and drill writer in 2025. She has also served as a baritone technician at the Colts Drum and Bugle Corps since 2020. Kara became the brass arranger for the Minnesota Brass Drum and Bugle Corps in 2025. She has held additional staff positions at the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle corps for the 2018 and 2019 seasons. Kara continues to engage with high schools by being active in writing drill, choreography, arranging, and clinicing for numerous high schools and colleges throughout the country.

-PERSONNEL-



Mr. Mike Renneke is the director of the Chippewa Falls High School Band and an alum of UW-Eau Claire. At Chi-Hi, Mr. Renneke works with all bands including concert, jazz, and marching programs. The Cardinal marching band is extremely active in the WSMA circuit and hosts a competition each season in late September/early October, Music Along the Chippewa. As an alum of UWEC, Mr. Renneke was a member of the horn studio and a drum

major of the Blugold Marching Band earning the Atherton Award, the band's highest honor, in 2007.



Sam Wyland is a 5th year music education major. He is a member of the French Horn studio, where he studies under Alexander Henton. Throughout his time at Eau Claire, he has performed as a member of Symphony Band, Wind Symphony, University Orchestra, the Blugold Marching Band, Jazz II, and Jazz III. He is from Hudson, WI where his love for music originally sprouted. He is excited to have the opportunity to conduct University Band

and share his enthusiasm for music with everyone.



Dr. Kara Metzger, originally from Waukesha Wisconsin, is currently serving as the Director of Athletics Bands at UW- Eau Claire. A pinnacle role within this position is to direct the 400+ member, Blugold Marching Band. She also directs the University Band, Varsity Band, and teaches a course in marching band procedures.

Prior to her time at UWEC, she served as the Director of Bands at Central Methodist University in Fayette, MO, teaching marching, concert, and jazz band as well as applied trombone and music education courses. She has earned a bachelor's in music education and a certificate in adaptive music from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Kara earned graduate degrees

Shenandoah (2019)- Omar Thomas (b. 1984)

Shenandoah is one of the most well-known and beloved Americana folk songs. Originally a river song detailing the lives and journeys of fur traders canoeing down the Missouri River, the symbolism of this culturally significant melody has been expanded to include its geographic namesake -- an area of the eastern United States that encompasses West Virginia and a good portion of the western part of Virginia -- and various parks, rivers, counties, and academic institutions found within.

Back in May of 2018, after hearing a really lovely duo arrangement of Shenandoah while adjudicating a music competition in Minneapolis, I asked myself, after hearing so many versions of this iconic and historic song, how would I set it differently? I thought about it and thought about it and thought about it, and before I realized it, I had composed and assembled just about all of this arrangement in my head by assigning bass notes to the melody and filling in the harmony in my head afterwards. I would intermittently check myself on the piano to make sure what I was imagining worked, and ended up changing almost nothing at all from what I'd heard in my mind's ear.

This arrangement recalls the beauty of Shenandoah Valley, not bathed in golden sunlight, but blanketed by low-hanging clouds and experiencing intermittent periods of heavy rainfall (created with a combination of percussion textures, generated both on instruments and from the body). There are a few musical moments where the sun attempts to pierce through the clouds, but ultimately the rains win out. This arrangement of Shenandoah is at times mysterious, somewhat ominous, constantly introspective, and deeply soulful.

- Program Note by composer

A Mere Moment (2025) – Michele Fernandez (b. 1959)

The Iowa Bandmasters Association announces the concert premiere of their commissioned work **A Mere Moment, Bolero in Remembrance** by nationally renowned composer Michele Fernández, written to honor the resilience of the people of Perry as they grieve and recover from the Jan. 4, 2024, tragic event at Perry High School. The instrumental music composition for band pays tribute to the memories of student Ahmir Jolliff and Principal Dan Marburger and extends a spirit of support and hope from the entire Iowa instrumental music community, who have funded the

work with donations through the Iowa Bandmaster Association Perry Commission Project and a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.

- *Program Note from Des Moines Register*

Vesuvius (1999)- Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

Mt. Vesuvius, the volcano that destroyed Pompeii in A.D. 79, is an icon of power and energy in this work. Originally I had in mind a wild and passionate dance such as might have been performed at an ancient Roman bacchanalia. During the compositional process, I began to envision something more explosive and fiery. With its driving rhythms, exotic modes, and quotations from the Dies Irae from the medieval Requiem Mass, it became evident that the bacchanalia I was writing could represent a dance from the final days of the doomed city of Pompeii.

- *Program Note by composer*

Wellington March (1906)- Wilhelm Zehle (1876-1956)

Wellington refers to the Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, whose forces administered a final defeat to Napoleon's troops at Waterloo.

Dr. Timothy B. Rhea is director of bands and performing ensembles at Texas A&M University. His output of compositions and arrangements numbers over 300.

- *Program Note from the Westlake High School Wind Ensemble concert program, 21 December 2013*

COMBINED ENSEMBLE

Baba Yetu: From Civilization IV (2005) by

Christopher Tin (b.1976) arr. Conway (b. 1979)

Civilization IV (also known as *Sid Meier's Civilization IV*) is a 4x turn-based strategy computer game and the fourth installment of the Civilization series, and designed by Soren Johnson under the direction of Sid Meier and his video game development studio Firaxis Games. It was released in North America, Europe, and Australia, between October 25 and November 4, 2005.

Civilization IV follows some of the 4X model of turn-based strategy

games, a genre in which players control an empire and "explore, expand, exploit, and exterminate", by having the player attempt to lead a modest group of peoples from a base with initially scarce resources into a successful empire or civilization.

Baba Yetu (Swahili: "Our Father") is the theme song for the 2005 video game *Civilization IV*. It was composed by Christopher Tin. For its re-release in Tin's debut album *Calling All Dawns*, it was performed by the Soweto Gospel Choir. The song, when rereleased, became the first piece of video game music to be nominated for and to win a Grammy Award. This Grammy win was considered a significant milestone for the critical acceptance of music from video games as a legitimate art form, and following Tin's win the Recording Academy retitled their visual media categories to become more inclusive of video game soundtracks.

- *Program Note from Wikipedia*