



Western
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

WESTERN UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE
CINEMATIC UNDERCURRENTS

Friday, December 5, 2025
7:30 p.m., Paul Davenport Theatre
Dr. Colleen Richardson, *Music Director*

Undercurrents (2016)

Robert Buckley
(b. 1946)

One Life Beautiful (2010)

Julie Giroux
(b. 1961)

March! (2021)

Jennifer Jolley
(b. 1981)

Star Wars Trilogy (1977 / 1997)

I. The Imperial March

II. Princess Leia's Theme

III. Battle in the Forest

IV. Yoda's Theme

V. Star Wars (Main Theme)

John Williams
(b. 1932)
arr. Donald Hunsberger
(b.1932-2023)

Baking the Wondertart (2022 / 2025)

Kris Maddigan
(b. 1981)
arr. Jerill Morales
(b. 2004)

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PROGRAM NOTES

Robert Buckley (b. 1946, Brighton, England) is a Canadian-based composer and arranger whose prolific output spans concert bands, film/TV, rock/pop, and large events. After relocating to Canada, he established studios in Vancouver, Montreal and the Netherlands, and became widely regarded as one of Canada's foremost composers for wind band. His works are notable for vivid orchestration, inventive rhythmic drive and an ability to evoke landscapes and imagery—from the sweeping vistas of the north to lively swing-era jazz.

In a cinematic style, *Undercurrents* was inspired by watching schools of fish and flocks of birds perpetually moving with the ocean currents and air currents. Every once in a while a single solo shape will appear – or two or three – they dance apart for a moment and then are drawn back into the ensemble. The middle section features a rich chorale interspersed with quick-moving solo passages darting in and out of the lush texture. With one segment flowing into another, this composition develops organically, converging with a final climactic rush. Commissioned by the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy, Victoria, BC, this is a powerful tour-de-force from beginning to end.

American composer **Julie Giroux** is renowned for her dynamic yet emotionally rich music for wind ensembles, orchestras, and media. Her career spans film, television and videogame scoring, and she has over 100 credits in those fields. Drawing upon vivid orchestration and compelling narrative drive, Giroux crafts works that resonate across genres and levels. Born in Massachusetts and educated at Louisiana State University, she now composes and orchestrates from Mississippi. Her music is widely performed worldwide and has made an indelible mark on the contemporary wind-band repertoire.

“One Life Beautiful”-- The title itself is a double-entendre which in one sense is referring to the person this work is dedicated to as in “one life” that was beautifully lived. The other sense is a direct observation concluding that having only one life is what makes life so sacred, tragic and so very precious. This is an impressionistic work musically describing that condition. Shakespeare's “sweet sorrow,” the frailty and strength of life, the meaning of what it is to truly live One Life Beautiful...

One Life Beautiful was written in memory of Heather Cramer Reu for her “one life beautiful” that brought so much love and joy to our lives. The piece was commissioned by Ray and Molly Cramer, husband Phillip Reu and children, and brother Jeremy, his wife, Michelle, and children.”

Jennifer Jolley (b. 1981) is an American composer, conductor, and professor whose work boldly tackles political and social issues while remaining deeply musical and expressive. Her compositions have been commissioned and performed worldwide by ensembles such as the Dallas Winds, Dayton Philharmonic and Vermont Symphony. Holding degrees from the University of Cincinnati and the University of Southern California, she currently serves on the faculty of Lehman College in New York. Jolley's music is known for its vivid orchestration, emotional immediacy and its ability to engage themes from climate-change to #MeToo with clarity and impact.

“MARCH!” is a wind-ensemble work commissioned by the American Bandmasters Association and the University of Florida Bands, and was premiered by the World Youth Wind Symphony on August 7, 2021. At first glance it presents itself as a confident traditional march--brisk rhythms, bold brass, strong percussion. But Jolley disrupts expectations: she intersperses quotations of North Korean patriotic melodies, samples from the DMZ, abrupt tempo changes and broken forms. As the composer writes, “*I wanted my crisp, uncomplicated anthems ... to be interrupted and broken apart by irreverent percussion ... My intention was to blunt the march's aural seductions.*” “MARCH!” thus becomes both homage and critique: an energetic tribute to the iconic march form and simultaneously a reflection on its historical entanglement with militarism and imperialism. Listeners are invited to revel in the visceral “sonic sugar highs” of the genre – but also to feel the disquiet stirred by its darker legacies.

John Williams (b. 1932) is one of the most influential composers of film and concert music. His acclaimed scores for *Star Wars*, *Jaws*, *E.T.*, and *Harry Potter* demonstrate his gift for memorable themes, rich orchestration, and emotional clarity. In addition to cinema, Williams has written significant works for orchestra and wind ensemble, bridging Hollywood and the concert hall.

Donald Hunsberger (1932–2023) was a leading conductor, arranger, and educator whose work helped define the modern wind ensemble. As music director of the Eastman Wind Ensemble for over three decades, he championed innovative repertoire, produced landmark recordings, and expanded the artistic standards of wind-band performance. His contributions continue to shape the field today.

Star Wars Trilogy—an arrangement for wind ensemble of selected music from the original three films by John Williams (arranged for concert band by Donald Hunsberger) — takes the listener “to a galaxy far, far away.” Spanning approximately 17 minutes and drawn from the iconic 1977-83 films, the suite features such themes as the heroic “Main Title,” the ominous “Imperial March,” and more reflective moments such as “Princess Leia’s Theme.” Williams’ approach blends classical symphonic language, leitmotifs for characters and ideas, and cinematic grandeur. Hunsberger’s superb band arrangement preserves the epic sweep of Williams’ score while enabling wind ensemble forces to deliver the drama, lyricism and fanfare-rich textures in a concert setting. Whether drawing the listener into thrilling space battles, moments of romantic longing, or heroic triumph, this arrangement offers both a nostalgic tribute and a vibrant concert experience.

Kristofer Maddigan is a percussionist, drummer, BAFTA award winning and Juno nominated composer based in Toronto, Canada. Principal percussionist of the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra (of which he has been a member since 2010), Kris also performs regularly with a wide range of groups including The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, The National Arts Center Orchestra, The Hannaford Street Silver Band, The Esprit Orchestra, The Toronto Concert Orchestra, and the Devah Quartet. Kris also works with numerous jazz, theatre and new music groups around the city.

As a composer, Kris contributed music for the ‘My Virtual Dream’ project which premiered at Toronto’s Nuit Blanche in 2013, and composed the soundtrack for the award winning video game *Cuphead*, released to widespread acclaim in 2017, as well as the follow up, *The Delicious Last Course* released in June, 2022. As an arranger Kris has worked with the National Ballet of Canada, and on Crow’s Theatre’s 2021 presentation of *The Master and Margarita*. Most recently, Toronto’s ‘Hannaford Street Silver Band’ premiered his composition *Cityscape Reflections* in May, 2023.

Jerill Morales (b. 2004) is a Filipino-Canadian composer, currently in her final year of her BMus (Honours Composition) at Western University. She began playing piano at a young age and later learned the clarinet through local and provincial band programs. Now, she studies composition under Dr. Paul Frehner and clarinet under Dr. Jana Starling. Jerill has always been drawn to wind repertoire, writing short pieces for concert band prior to university. Last year, she completed *Siege!*, her first work for wind ensemble, and with it won the 2025 Don Wright Faculty of Music Composition Competition. In the future, she hopes to continue writing original works for wind ensemble, among other projects. Jerill is very grateful and honoured to arrange for the Western University Wind Ensemble and would like to thank Dr. Colleen Richardson, Dr. Troy Ducharme, and Kris Maddigan for their trust and guidance with this opportunity.

Baking the Wondertart, from Kristofer Maddigan’s score for *Cuphead: The Delicious Last Course* (2022), captures the frantic, high-energy spirit of 1930s cartoon chase music. With its rapid tempos, big-band swing influences, and virtuosic instrumental writing, the piece drives forward through explosive brass hits, whirlwind woodwind lines, and relentless rhythmic motion. Drawing on the legacy of animation composers like Raymond Scott and Carl Stalling, Maddigan blends vintage jazz idioms with modern harmonic color and theatrical exaggeration. In concert performance—especially wind-ensemble arrangements—the piece becomes a vibrant showcase of precision, humor, and technical brilliance, immersing the audience in a vivid, hyper-animated sound world.

WESTERN UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE

Dr. Colleen Richardson, Music Director

Piccolo

Mackenzie Anderson*
Sophia Brawn*
Darren Wo

Flute

Mackenzie Anderson*
Sophia Brawn*
Nicole Lun
Chisa Shoji
Darren Wo
Yesol (Melody) Won
JinYi (Jennie) Zhang

Oboes

Pauline Dizon
Rachel Jin
Leona Wen*

English Horn

Leona Wen*

Bassoon

Siodhachan Morehead*
Annabelle Quan

Clarinets

Kaitlyn Chambers
Maria Con
Justine Dennis*+
Ryan Miller
Jerill Morales
Richard Yang

Bass Clarinet

Justin Woong
Jerill Morales

Soprano Saxophone

Evan Cheng

Alto Saxophone

Maddison Caswell
Evan Cheng
Alex Rozenberg
Abby Barkowski

Tenor Saxophone

Maddison Caswell
Erin Barlett
Alex Rozenberg

Baritone Saxophone

Cole Rowen

Bass Saxophone

Alex Rozenberg

Trumpets

Martin De Freese
Nayli Deleon Kantule
Hilary Ho
Rex Mulder*
Meghan Reesor
Colin Spencer*

Horns

Hayden Baetsoen
Kai Church
Rebekkah Higgs*
Nate Longstreet

Trombones

Will Cavanagh
Caitlin Dalziel
Ryan Minten
Selena Tenass
Isabel Thor

Bass Trombones

Alex Allsopp*

Euphoniums

Samuel Boudreau*
Elina Lai
Chiron Leather

Tuba

Michael Bagnall
Billan Liao
Daniel Montaseri*

Electric Bass

Daniel Montaseri

Percussion

Derek Colling
Emily Finnigan
Dylan Lillie
Owen Marche Bastarache
Ziyun Peng
Rebecca Selman*
Alana Yabis Sibal
Kiran Steele

Piano/Keyboard

Anna Tjamolova
Jiajun Chen

**Section Leaders
+Concert Master*