



Western  
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC BAND**  
***DAY AND NIGHT DANCES***

Saturday, December 6, 2025  
3 p.m., Paul Davenport Theatre  
Shawn Chabot, *Music Director*

*The Gallant Seventh*

John Philip Sousa  
(1854 - 1932)

ed. Frederick Fennell  
(1914 - 2004)

*Before the Sun*

Julie Giroux  
(b. 1961)

*Sun Dance*

Frank Ticheli  
(b. 1958)

*Night Dances*

Bruce Yurko  
(b. 1951)

*Armenian Dances: Part I*

Alfred Reed  
(1921-2005)

## PROGRAM NOTES

*The Gallant Seventh* was written in 1922 to honor the Seventh Regiment of the New York National Guard, a unit celebrated for its precision and ceremonial distinction. The march features bright fanfares and a trio section that contains regimental trumpets sounding a bugle call accompanied by field drums. In this edition by famed conductor **Frederick Fennell**, articulations and dynamics are refined making it more reflective of a concert march while maintaining elements of Sousa's infamous street march style.

**John Philip Sousa** studied violin and composition in his youth and eventually became one of America's most recognized bandmasters. Although he did not pursue formal academic degrees, his conducting experience with the U.S. Marine Corps. Band from 1880 - 1892 led to him being the first Honorary Life President of the American Bandmasters Association. Sousa composed over 130 marches and received numerous awards.

**Frederick Fennell**, earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music and founded the Eastman Wind Ensemble. His influence in the development of and exposure to wind band literature was worldwide eventually leading him to take the helm of the world-renown Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra from 1984 - 1994 where he remained its music director until 2000.

*Before the Sun* (2013) evokes the quiet transformation of the world as night gives way to dawn and then settles back to dusk on a family farm. Through expansive melodic lines, warm cluster harmonies, and gradual textural shifts, the piece portrays the gentle rising of farm animals and their caretakers. The addition of the double stopped violin solo and piano creates a meditative atmosphere, inviting the listener to experience the stillness and anticipation of early morning. As the work unfolds, the harmony brightens and the orchestration widens, leading to the sunrise which quickly dissolves into a beautiful lullaby theme to close the work.

**Julie Giroux** studied music at Louisiana State and Boston Universities, focusing on composition and orchestration before beginning her professional career in the film and television industry. She soon became one of the youngest composers ever to win an Emmy Award, ultimately earning three for her contributions to televised productions. Giroux's concert works for wind band have garnered widespread recognition, earning commissions from universities, military ensembles, and national organizations. Her background in commercial scoring informs her emotionally direct writing. She has well over 100 film and television credits, is a member of the American Bandmasters Association and remains a leading figure in contemporary band music.

*Sun Dance* (1997) is a jubilant, rhythmically vibrant work that conveys the joy and brilliance of sunlight on a "warm and sunwashed day." Its arch form uses syncopated motives, soloistic textures, and driving percussion to give the piece its lively and uplifting character. Its many energetic themes are introduced and then developed into variations mainly through the use of fragmentation, metric shifts, and changes in harmonic character. The result is a work that captures the essence of spirited dances from start to finish.

**Frank Ticheli** is an American composer and conductor known for his concert band music, orchestral compositions, and choral works. He earned his graduate degrees in music from the University of Michigan, where he earned his masters in composition. His pieces often blend elements of American folk music, minimalism, and contemporary classical styles, with notable works including *Blue Shades*, *Angels in the Architecture*, and *Postcards*.

American composer **Bruce Yurko** has composed several works for wind band including his prize-winning work *Chant and Toccata* (1987) and served as the conductor of the Princeton University Wind Ensemble. His compositional influences include prominent contemporary composers Vincent Persichetti and Karel Husa. Yurko earned a master's degree in horn performance and a minor in composition from Ithaca College in New York.

*Night Dances* (1995) explores a series of contrasting nocturnal moods, from intense rhythmic surges to quiet, suspended atmospheric passages. The piece is marked by dramatic pacing, colorful harmonic writing, and orchestration that brings out unexpected timbral contrasts in the percussion section. Yurko crafted the work with using bold gestures and expressive brass punctuations. The resulting soundscape evokes moments of mystery, restlessness, contemplation, as well as a mixture both dark and bright textures.

*Armenian Dances (Part I)* was composed in the summer of 1972 and draws upon four traditional melodies collected by the Armenian ethnomusicologist Gomidas Vartabed. Composer **Alfred Reed** structures the piece around these distinct folk songs: “Tzirani Tzar” (The Apricot Tree), “Gakavi Yerk” (The Partridge’s Song), “Hoy, Nazan Eem” (Hoy, My Nazan), and “Alagyaz,” and “Gna, Gna” (Go, Go). Each tune is treated with great respect for its original character while being expanded through rich orchestration and rhythmic and metric development. The work captures a wide expressive palette, from lyricism to exuberant dance rhythms, celebrating Armenia’s vibrant musical heritage.

**Alfred Reed** began his music studies as a trumpeter at a young age and by high school was performing professionally. He completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Baylor University and was a student of Vittorio Giannini while at Juilliard. Reed also served as a military musician during WWII and was the staff composer/arranger for the National and American Broadcasting Corporations. Throughout his storied career, he amassed a catalogue of over 250 works for a wide array of ensembles including concert bands, wind ensembles, choruses, and orchestras and his works still continue to grace concert stages around the world today.

### Guest Soloist – Helen Faucher

Helen Faucher is a violinist from Moncton, New Brunswick, whose musical roots began in the vibrant community of the Moncton Youth Orchestra and the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra (NBYO). Early mentorship from violinists Tony Delgado and Pedro Moya helped spark her love for expressive playing and collaborative music-making.

Now in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Music with Honours in Performance at Western University, Helen studies under the guidance of Annette-Barbara Vogel. She performs widely across the faculty, playing in Western’s Symphony Orchestra, Opera Chamber Orchestra, Early Music Studio, and as a member of a string quartet in the Chamber Music Program.

Helen is especially drawn to ensemble work and the energy of shared musical storytelling—qualities that continue to shape her evolving voice as a performer.

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# WESTERN UNIVERSITY SYMPHONIC BAND

Shawn Chabot, Music Director

## Piccolo

Gill, Nimrit  
Kooistra, Nolan  
Ferguson, Chloe

## Flute

Aarts, Jordan  
Carrasco Gil, Celia  
Chan, Chloe  
De Boer, Alexandria  
Ferguson, Chloe  
Gill, Nimrit\*  
Grayson, Selia  
Johnson, Toby  
Kariman, Parnian  
Kooistra, Nolan  
Lau, Christy  
Lee, Lucy  
Li, Jiaye  
Macdonald, Andrew  
Rutherford, Ruby  
Williams, Shaira\*

## Oboe

Bui, Karen  
Lalonde, Charlotte\*

## English Horn

Lalonde, Charlotte

## Bassoon

Golder, Erika  
Quan, Annabelle

## Clarinet

Busch, Teddy  
Dammeier, Nina  
Franklin, Jade\*  
Papastamos, Emmanuel  
Roberts, Olivia  
Wang, Jessica  
Zu, Carina\*

## Bass Clarinet

Busch, Teddy

## Alto Saxophone

Acres, Hailey  
Baltazar, Yanna-Angela  
Barkowski, Abby  
Cheng, Joycey  
Friesen, Kiona  
Lahat, Raz  
Nam, Andy  
Papastamos, Emmanuel\*+  
Quinsaat, Russell

## Tenor Saxophone

Hasselmann, Samantha\*  
Moayed, Arsham

## Baritone Saxophone

Hertz, Nick  
Vernon, Nate

## Trumpet

Bond, Ethan\*  
Charlesbois, Hunter  
Cosstick, Abigail  
Di Maria, Angelo  
Fordyce, Sean  
Hodges, Brooke  
Horack, Matthew  
Roberts, Tyler  
Szecsodi, Joseph  
Watts, Seth  
White, Kenny

## Horn

George, Ron<sup>o</sup>  
Grewal, Paramjot\*  
Jiang, Zeph  
Yang, Sarah

## Trombone

Amoah, Charles\*  
DeLathouwer, Ada  
Hodgson, Dee  
Kagan, Audrey  
Meadowcroft, Graham  
Radossevich, Caleb

## Euphonium

Noels, Emmaleeah  
Peers, Ben  
tenHag, Spencer\*

## Tuba

Lau, Joni  
Mand, Jasmin\*

## Percussion

Amato, Andrew  
Chalmers, Logan  
Colling, Derek  
Grover, Samantha\*  
Leung, Jeffery

## Piano

Cheng, Joycey

*\*Section Leaders*

*+Concert Master*

*<sup>o</sup>Guest Performers*