

Hickory Ridge High School Wind Ensemble

Chris White, Director of Bands

China Performance Tour

Shanghai - Shaoxin - Hangzhou - Jiaxin - Beijing

March 28-April 7, 2018

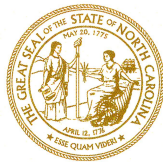


Cabarrus County Schools Superintendent

Dr. Chris Lowder

Hickory Ridge High School Principal

Dr. Shaun Poole



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

March 28, 2018

Mr. Christopher White, Director
Hickory Ridge High School
7321 Raging Ridge Road
Harrisburg, North Carolina 28075

Dear Members of the Hickory Ridge Wind Ensemble:

As Governor of North Carolina, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your invitation by the United States-China Cultural and Educational Foundation to participate in a performance tour of Beijing and Shanghai. This is certainly an outstanding achievement.

This concert series is a unique opportunity to enjoy productive cultural exchange, and North Carolina is proud to have the Hickory Ridge Wind Ensemble represent our state. I commend you for the hard work, dedication, and many hours of practice that have earned your place in this event.

You have my prayers for safe travels, and best wishes for continued success in all your future endeavors.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper

RAC/smc



February 27, 2018

Mr. White and Students of the Hickory Ridge Wind Ensemble:

Congratulations on receiving an invitation to attend a concert performance tour of China by the US-China Cultural and Educational Foundation! It is very impressive that your Wind Ensemble was one of only two bands in the US to receive such an honor. I am proud to be your Mayor and am rooting for you as you represent Harrisburg, Hickory Ridge High School and our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Sciascia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Sciascia" clearly legible.

Steve Sciascia
Mayor, Town of Harrisburg



Hickory Ridge High School

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Dr. Shaun Poole
Principal

March 2018

The faculty and staff of Hickory Ridge High School would like to thank the US-China Cultural and Educational Foundation for providing this opportunity for the Hickory Ridge Wind Ensemble to showcase the outstanding work of the Hickory Ridge Wind Ensemble. We are honored that our students will have the opportunity to travel to China as part of a cultural exchange performance tour.

At Hickory Ridge, we believe the arts play an extremely important role in the social and academic development of our students. Under the direction of Mr. White, our students continue to exceed expectations, and endeavor to become the very best versions of themselves. The Hickory Ridge students who perform for you today have spent countless hours of rehearsal in preparation for today's concert.

I am very proud of each of these Hickory Ridge band students. Their dedication, resilience, and pursuit of excellence embody all that our community wishes to display. Mr. White's distinguished leadership drives our band to be held in high esteem at the local, state, and national levels. It has been gratifying to see the many opportunities that have been afforded these students due to their hard work and dedication. Opportunities such as these provide educational experiences that are priceless.

Let me once again say how appreciative Hickory Ridge High School is to be a part of this prestigious event. This experience is a validation of quality leadership and most importantly the musical abilities of our great students.

Best regards,

Shaun Poole

Shaun Poole, Ed.D
Principal
Hickory Ridge High School



Hickory Ridge High School Wind Ensemble

Piccolo

Mandy Ward

Flute

Hannah Campany
Kaylah Jennings
Ria Mark
Kelly McNeely
Mya Patel
Lisa Zuo *

Oboe

Sophia Zhu

Bassoon

Miriell Guzman

**principal player*

Clarinet

Madelyn Anthony
Molly Feldmann *
Elizabeth Lanier
Rocky Rodriguez
Sirish Saravanamuthu
T'Kojia Stewart
Caitlyn Tucker

Bass Clarinet

Sufian Azfar

Alto Saxophone

Madelyn Andrews
Elysia Grant
Emily Pertuit *

Tenor Saxophone

Cameron Burnett

Baritone Saxophone

Hayden Alexander

Trumpet

Andrew Beiter *
Devin Bell
Daniel Cline
Jeffrey Ebert
Abby Lantos
Olivia Lilly
Holly Shuford
Brandon Sisnett

Horn

Moosa Azfar
Sydney Cummings *
Allyson Jaynes
Joseph Melton

Trombone

Zachary Billiar
Noah Hornburg *
Kyle Ifill

Euphonium

Robbie Lanier

Tuba

Anthony Blackmon
Russell Murray *
Andrew Roberts
Jacob Wingler

Percussion

Gabby Bourdo
Ryan Comley
Andrew Coyle
Moriah Heffner

Program Notes

An American Spectacular

arr. Chris Sharp

Subtitled "A Musical History of the United States", this entertaining medley features music from the American colonial period through the mid-20th century. It includes melodies from the following traditional songs: *God Save the Queen (My Country Tis of Thee)*; *The Girl I Left Behind Me*; *Chester; Hail, Columbia*; *Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean*; *Shenandoah*; *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*; *The Battle Cry of Freedom*; *The Caisson Song*; and *America, the Beautiful*.

Search for the Lost Colony

Ed Kiefer

In August of 1597, a group of about 115 English settlers arrived on Roanoke Island on North Carolina's Atlantic coast. Later that year, the Governor of the colony returned to England for supplies, but found that England was in the midst of a naval battle. When he finally returned three years later he found no trace of the settlers, and no answer to their mysterious disappearance has even been found. Only the word "Croatoan" was found carved into a tree. North Carolina composer Ed Kiefer sets this story to music. The piece begins with the sound of a conch shell and percussion instruments that invoke the sea and woods, while the middle section becomes more and more desperate as searchers begin to realize the colony has been forever lost. This is one of North Carolina's most widely known tales, and one of our biggest unsolved mysteries.

West Side Story

Leonard Bernstein, arr. Jay Bocook

Leonard Bernstein was one of America's most influential 20th century pianists, composers, and conductors. The musical *West Side Story* is based on the story of Romeo and Juliet and depicts the rivalry of the Jets and the Sharks, two street gangs in the Upper West Side of New York City in the 1950s. The situation becomes complicated when one member falls in love with a rival's sister. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance scenes, and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theatre. Selections in the medley include: *Maria*; *Tonight*; *One Hand, One Heart*; *Cool*; and *Somewhere*. South Carolina composer Jay Bocook sets this arrangement for band.

Waltz No. 2

Dmitri Shostakovich, arr. James Curnow

Waltz No. 2 is the seventh movement of Shostakovich's Suite for Variety Stage Orchestra. The Suite is a collection of eight movements which derive from other works by the composer. North Carolina's James Curnow provides this arrangement for concert band.

From the New World

Antonin Dvořák, arr. Mekel Rogers

Daniel Cline, conductor

Antonín Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor, "From the New World", popularly known as the "New World Symphony", was written in 1893. It is by far his most popular symphony, and one of the most popular of all symphonies. Astronaut Neil Armstrong took a tape recording of the New World Symphony along during the Apollo 11 mission, the first Moon landing, in 1969. Union County North Carolina educator and composer Mekel Rogers provides this arrangement for wind band.

Gabriel's Oboe

Ennio Morricone, arr. Robert Longfield

Sophia Zhu, oboe

Gabriel's Oboe is the main theme from the American motion picture "*The Mission*" (1986). The story concerns a Jesuit Priest, Father Gabriel, who is trying to found a mission in the new world. In order to befriend the natives who are stalking him from the forest, Father Gabriel plays the theme on his oboe, and the tribesmen respond to this new, lovely, and haunting sound by approaching and finally offering their friendship.

Hickory Ridge Holiday

Joseph Earp

The Hickory Ridge Band Boosters commissioned North Carolina composer and educator Joseph Earp to write a piece in honor of the Wind Ensemble's performance tour of China. The result was Hickory Ridge Holiday. The beginning of the piece represents the excitement of establishing a new band program, while the rest of the piece depicts the accomplishments and challenges the students and staff have faced during the first ten years of the school. In the program notes, the composer writes, "Simply put, this composition is a celebration!" We hope you enjoy the world premiere performance of *Hickory Ridge Holiday*.

The Olympics: A Centennial Celebration

John Williams, arr. John Moss

The 2018 Olympic Winter Games have just ended, and the eyes of the world now look to Beijing, China as hosts of the 2022 Winter Olympics. Beijing is one of the few cities to hold multiple Olympics, and as host of the 2008 Summer Olympics, will be the first city to have hosted both summer and winter games. This medley of Olympic themes includes the following melodies: *Bugler's Dream (Olympic Fanfare)*; *Olympic Fanfare and Theme*; *The Olympic Spirit*; and *Summon the Heroes*. Let the games begin!

Rain

Brian Balmages

A soft, gentle rain can conjure many different emotions. Through the use of melodic and harmonic lines, this expressive piece brings a sense of calmness, associated with the sound of a gentle rain, and a touch of sadness on a gloomy day. Striking musical moments and subtle special effects help musically recreate the life of a spring rain shower.

Prelude in E minor, Op. 28. No. 4

Frederic Chopin, arr. Chad Heiny

There are twenty-four piano preludes in opus 28 collection - one prelude for every major and minor key signature on the piano. Preludes are generally opening numbers, like an introduction. But Chopin takes the prelude and makes them self-contained, individual performance pieces. This arrangement of Chopin's famous prelude is set for percussion ensemble.

Songs of the Human Spirit

Nathan Daughtrey

Nathan Daughtrey is a composer, clinician, and performer who lives and teaches in Greensboro, North Carolina. Commissioned by a consortium of performers and educators, *Songs of the Human Spirit* is a collection of solos and ensembles and utilizes two to four mallets plus additional percussion. The intent was to create a varied musical experience from solo to solo, exploring different techniques (percussive and compositional), moods/emotions, and ensemble challenges.

At a Dixieland Jazz Funeral

Jared Spears

At a Dixieland Jazz Funeral depicts a traditional Dixieland funeral in old New Orleans. A jazz combo and the band open with a slow, mournful processional based on the hymn, "Just A Closer Walk With Thee". The piece then transitions into an up-tempo celebration of life with "When The Saints Go Marching In". In addition to the full concert band, the piece features the traditional dixieland quintet of clarinet, trumpet, trombone tuba, and percussion

Fantasia 2000

arr. Jay Bocook

Fantasia 2000 is a 1999 American animated film by Walt Disney Feature Animation and Walt Disney Pictures, and released by Buena Vista Pictures. It is the 38th Disney animated feature film and the sequel to *Fantasia* (1940). Like its predecessor, *Fantasia 2000* consists of animated segments set to pieces of classical music. Celebrities including Steve Martin, Itzhak Perlman, Quincy Jones, Bette Midler, James Earl Jones, Penn & Teller, and Angela Lansbury introduce each segment in live action scenes directed by Don Hahn.

Yang Bian Cui Ma Yun Liang Mang

Wei-Xian Zhong, arr. Darrell Brown

Lisa Zuo, dizi

Roughly translated “Moving Grain By Horse,” this wonderful composition for dizi (Chinese flute) and band uses a vivid and simple musical language, describing horse-drawn carts of grain being moved to the market after harvest. The opening melody depicts the hustle and bustle of loading the carts, followed by a slower middle section representing the happy feelings of the villagers. This is followed by a return of the opening melody, this time highlighting the excitement of moving the grain to market.

March of the Chinese PLA

Zheng Lücheng

The March of the Chinese PLA is a patriotic song of the People's Republic of China, written for the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The song's former name was March of the Eighth Route Army, and was one of the six songs in the Chorus of Eighth Route Army. The lyrics were re-edited by the General Political Department in 1951 and the song renamed to March of the Chinese PLA in 1965. On July 25, 1988, the Central Military Commission decided to use the song as the official anthem of the People's Liberation Army.

Jasmine Flower

Xiao ou Yan, arr. Jens Jourdan

Jasmine Flower, or *Mo Li Hua*, is a traditional Chinese folk song created sometime in the 18th century during the Qianlong Emperor period of the Qing Dynasty. The song became one of the first Chinese folk songs to become widely known outside China, and the melody was included by Giacomo Puccini in his opera *Turandot* (1926), as well as the 2004 Summer Olympics (Athens, Greece) and the 2008 Summer Olympics (Beijing, China).

Conductors

Daniel Cline



Mr. Cline is a graduate of Catawba College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education in 2017. He currently serves as Director of Bands and Chorus at Albemarle High School. He also teaches middle school beginning band at Oakboro Magnet Academy. In addition, he assists with the high school All-County Jazz Band, made up of students from four different Stanly County high schools. In his spare time, Mr. Cline plays with a local community band that provides several free concerts each year in the local area. Mr. Cline completed his student teaching with Chris White at Hickory Ridge High School.

Chris White, Director of Bands



Chris White is a native of Bristol, Tennessee. He attended Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, VA, where he received the Bachelor of Arts in Music degree, with honors, in 1997. He began his graduate studies as a Graduate Teaching Assistant to University Bands at Radford University, where he studied trumpet and conducting with Mark Camphouse. After moving to Charlotte, NC to begin his teaching career, he completed his graduate studies at Winthrop University as a student of Dr. Bill Malambri, where he earned the Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting degree. He became a National Board Certified teacher in 2006.

Mr. White has been the Director of Bands at Hickory Ridge High School in Harrisburg, NC since the school opened in the fall of 2007. Mr. White's duties at Hickory Ridge include overseeing a comprehensive band program which consists of Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band, Musical Pit Orchestra, winter guard, several small ensembles, and Advanced Placement Music Theory. Under his direction, ensembles at Hickory Ridge consistently receive superior ratings at marching, concert, jazz, and solo festivals. The Hickory Ridge Blue Regiment has twice performed in the prestigious London New Year's Day Parade, in 2009 and 2016. The Hickory Ridge Wind Ensemble will travel to China in March 2018 at the invitation of the US-China Cultural and Educational Foundation, and will present a series of public concerts in Shanghai, Shaoxin, Hangzhou, Jiaxin, and Beijing. In addition, over the past ten years, Mr. White's concert ensembles have performed in Washington, D.C., New York, Orlando, and New Orleans. Mr. White's students consistently participate in county, district, state, and collegiate honor band clinics. Prior to Mr. White's appointment at Hickory Ridge, he taught for six years in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system.

Mr. White was selected as Hickory Ridge High School Teacher of the Year in 2015, and was a top five finalist for Cabarrus County Schools Teacher of the Year. He has previously received recognition as Charlotte-Mecklenburg New Band Director of the Year in 1999, the 2001 E.E. Waddell High School Teacher of the Year, and received the Horace Mann Crystal Apple Award for outstanding teaching. He has served as clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor for many marching and concert events.

His professional memberships include the American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA), North Carolina Music Educators Association (NCMEA), National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and the International Trumpet Guild. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha, Pi Kappa Lambda, and Omicron Delta Kappa fraternities.

History of the Hickory Ridge Band Program

Hickory Ridge High School opened its doors to students and staff in the fall of 2007 as the sixth high school in the Cabarrus County (North Carolina) school system. The school opened without a senior class, and with an enrollment of about 1,000 students. Since then, the school has grown to over 1,800 students.

Mr. White has been the Director of Bands at Hickory Ridge since the school opened. Like the growth in enrollment of the school, the band program has grown from 56 student during the inaugural year to a program of almost 150 students. The comprehensive instrumental music program consists of wind ensemble, symphonic band, concert band, jazz ensemble, marching band, percussion ensemble, low brass ensemble, musical pit orchestra, several chamber groups, as well as courses in beginning and Advanced Placement Music Theory.

The concert ensembles have consistently earned superior ratings in Grade IV-Masterworks music at the North Carolina Concert Band Music Performance Assessment (MPA) events. They have traveled throughout the eastern part of the United States, playing for festivals in New Orleans, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Orlando.

The Blue Regiment marching band has won hundred of first place awards and numerous grand championships at local and regional events. They have received only superior ratings in North Carolina Marching Band MPA festivals. In addition, they have been frequent finalists at large regional marching events, including the Western Carolina University Tournament of Champions. The ensemble has represented our school, community, and state in the 2009 and 2016 London New Year's Day Parade.

The jazz band has earned superior ratings at the North Carolina Jazz Band MPA, and gives several performances each year at school and community functions.

The Hickory Ridge Winter Guard were consistent medalists in the Carolina Winter Ensembles Association, were finalist at the WGI Nashville Regional, and semi-finalists at the 2013 WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio.

Hickory Ridge band students consistently place into the All-County, All-District and All-State Honor Bands. They have participated in the Bands of America Honor Band in the Rose Parade, the Music for All Honor Band of America, the US Army All-American Marching Band, and the "President's Own" Marine Band Concerto Competition. They have also participated in honor band clinics at the following universities: Coastal Carolina University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, University of South Carolina, Virginia Tech University, and Winthrop University.

Many former students now study undergraduate and graduate music degrees in colleges and universities across the country, and several are now music educators in our region.

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Song Yang, Dr. David Romines, and the US-China Cultural and Educational Foundation for the invitation to perform, and for the tireless work on our behalf.
- Hickory Ridge High School Band students for your faith and confidence in me, and for always allowing me to “dream big”.
- Hickory Ridge High School Band Boosters for the countless hours spent behind the scenes to make this trip become a reality. None of this would be possible without your support.
- Hickory Ridge High School administration and faculty for your continued support of the arts.
- Mr. Steve Stevens, Director of Bands at Hickory Ridge Middle School, for your friendship, support, and for your shared vision of the Hickory Ridge Band program.
- Mr. Josh Jones and Mr. Steven Foster for your expert work with our students, and for always jumping in with a smile to help when things get busy.
- Mr. Joseph Earp for the commission of *Hickory Ridge Holiday* to celebrate this trip and our school history. His published compositions are available online at www.joeemusic.com.
- Leanne Photography, Leanne Murray, owner, for the group pictures.
- Dr. Shawn Smith, Director of Bands at UNC-Charlotte for help finding musical arrangements.
- Dr. Darrell Brown for sharing his music with my students.
- To Consolidated Press and Tim Mullaney for printing of the program, and for your continued support of our program for the past eleven years.
- Mrs. Susan Jones for helping proofread the final program.
- To Mr. Blair Smith and Mr. Ryan Bybee at Digital Performance Gear
- To Mrs. Dana Arden for her assistance in designing the trip logo and program cover.
- To my family and friends who allow me to spend so much time away from home making music and performing with my students.
- The the Hickory Ridge High School band alumni who have shaped and built this program, opening the doors to this China trip. This, and all that is to come, is your legacy.

Printing services for the Hickory Ridge Band is exclusively provided by Consolidated Press.



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