

W.A. and Dorothy Hanna  
Department of Performing Arts



McNeese State University  
College of Liberal Arts

# AMERICAN ICONS

**McNeese State University Symphonic Band**  
Martin Gaines, Conductor

**McNeese State University Wind Symphony**  
Jay Sconyers, Conductor





**McNeese Symphonic Band**

*Prof. Martin Gaines, Conductor*

***American Overture for Band*** (1955) ..... Joseph Willcox Jenkins (1928-2014)

***Escape from Plato's Cave*** (1993) ..... Stephen Melillo (b.1957)

I. The Cave, The Struggle, and The Man from the Light

II. Message of the Man (*The Fragile Heart*)

III. Escape...Into the LIGHT!

***Song of Hope*** (2015) ..... Peter Meechan (b.1980)

*Dr. Jacquelyn Lankeford, Trumpet*

***Cyrus the Great*** (1921) ..... Karl King (1891-1971)

*\*\*\*100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Performance\*\*\**

***Olympic Fanfare and Theme*** (1984) ..... John Williams (b.1932)

arr. James Curnow

**---Intermission---**

**McNeese Wind Symphony**

*Dr. Jay Sconyers, Conductor*

***Liberty Fanfare*** (1986)..... John Williams (b. 1932)

arr. James Curnow

***Liberty Bell*** (1893)..... John Phillip Sousa (1854-1932)

***The Promise of Living*** (1954) ..... Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

arr. James Curnow

***Slava!*** (1977) ..... Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

arr. Clare Grundman

***The Thunderer*** (1889)..... John Phillip Sousa (1854-1932)

---presented without pause---

***Symphony on Themes of John Philip Sousa*** (1991)..... Ira Hearshen (b. 1948)

II. After the Thunderer

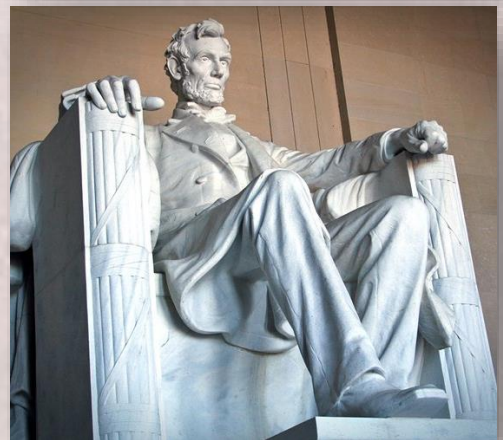
## A note to the audience

Thank you for joining us this evening for a special performance of the McNeese Symphonic Band and the McNeese Wind Symphony. We are so excited to join you for our first public performance in nearly 14 months. These students and the entire McNeese community has prevailed through covid, two hurricanes, an ice storm, and many other hurdles, and we thought it is especially appropriate to present an outdoor concert on campus in the beautiful alumni grove for the community, our friends, family, and supporters.

We would like to especially thank the McNeese Alumni Center, Ms. Joyce Patterson, and Ms. Stephanie Clark for the use of these wonderful facilities. Thank you to Mr. Bob Prejean, Mr. Richard Rhoden, Mr. Kevin Martin, and Mr. Wilbert Kelly for your tireless work with campus facilities and grounds. Thank you to Dr. Brian Nozny for serving as our audio engineer. Thank you to our special guest narrator Mr. John Bridges for lending your talents this evening. Finally, thank you to the faculty, staff, and administration of McNeese State University for your support, and especially to Dr. Lonny Benoit, Dr. Michael Buckles, Dr. Wade Rousse, Dr. Mitchell Adrian, and Dr. Darrel Burckel.

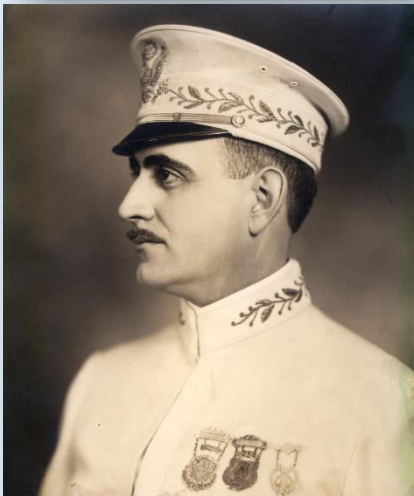
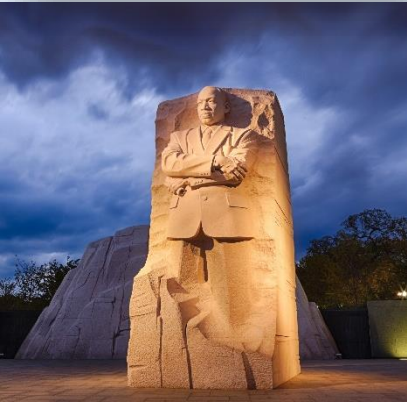
## About the program

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, outdoor band concerts in a town's pavilion or under a gazebo were part of the rich American musical culture, and iconic bandleaders such as John Philip Sousa, Karl King, Patrick Gilmore, and Henry Fillmore were household names. Their iconic musical ensembles would travel the country performing dazzling marches, original works for band, transcriptions of orchestral masterworks from the previous century, and of course, patriotic music. Tonight, we honor this tradition with a modern take on this quintessentially American concert style. Like our predecessors we will feature the marches of Sousa and King with *Cyrus the Great*, *Liberty Bell*, and *The Thunderer*. You will hear Americana with *American Overture*, *Olympic Fanfare*, and *Liberty Fanfare*. The Wind Symphony will present a pair of transcriptions from American orchestral masters Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland with *Slava!* and *The Promise of Living*, while the Symphonic Band will present a couple of original works for band by living composers with *Escape from Plato's Cave* and *Song of Hope*. Each selection tonight represents a piece of this American band tradition, and we are honored to pay homage to the legacy of the golden age of the American wind band. Most of all, we hope to do as Sousa, King, and others have done before, and spread an overwhelmingly positive message of hope, inspiration, and celebration of community through music.



# McNeese State University Symphonic Band

Martin Gaines, Conductor



## Flute

Jaylan Jones\*  
Larissa Edwards  
Ashlyn Lejeune  
Riley Maggio

## Oboe

Cheyenne Pearce

## Clarinet

Sarah Medwick\*  
Chanel Holt  
Amanda Gilchrist  
Dalton Guillory  
Kimberly Ordeneaux  
Maggie Lafargue

## Bass Clarinet

Jackie Hebert  
Peyton Blanchard  
Thomas Logan†

## Alto Saxophone

Austin Johnson\*  
Selena Addison  
Nicholas Trahan

## Tenor Saxophone

Jazlyn Maldonado

## Baritone Saxophone

Stephen Ayers

## Trumpet

Colton Dement\*  
Gabriel Gonzales  
Devin Porras  
Lucas Rodriguez  
Matthew Skellham  
Rayne Gore  
Abbyanne Dressel  
Ashton Honea  
Cole Labruyere  
Kaden Rogers

## Horn

Dawson Wallace\*  
Alejandro Chapa  
Darby Cook  
Jimmy Bartley  
Katelyn Morrell

## Trombone

Spencer Butts\*  
Katherine Marker  
Matthew Fast  
Cassandra Everage  
Aaron Tanner

## Bass Trombone

Jacob Voisin

## Euphonium

Cody Keller\*  
Trent Floyd  
Leon Young

## Tuba

Ryan Broussard\*  
Zachary Daigle  
Zion Sims  
Garrett Strahan

## String Bass

Collin Thomas\*

## Keyboard

Isaac Bellemin  
Gabrielle Nervesa

## Timpani

Bradley Martinez

## Percussion

Marie Azor\*  
Mark Chandler\*  
Reese Manuel  
Bryan Martin  
Graham Rougeou

\* Denotes Principal

† Denotes Guest Performer

# McNeese State University Wind Symphony

Jay Sconyers, Conductor

## Flute

Merritt Jones\*  
Jaylen Jones  
Alexandra Parsons  
Madison Pousson

## Oboe

Sydney Clark\*

## Bassoon

Claire McMillen\*

## Clarinet

Riley Maggio\*  
Raylee Burgett  
Sarah Medwick  
Morgan Clark  
Bethany Worthington  
Megan Brugman

## Bass Clarinet

Kassandra Strout  
Thomas Logan†

## Alto Saxophone

Mark Portier\*  
Caden Burgett

## Tenor Saxophone

David Smothers

## Baritone Saxophone

Braden Hebert

## Horn

Alejandro Chapa\*  
Tayleigh Compton  
Sara Pietrowski  
Bryant Simmons

## Trumpet

Tommy Holland\*  
Jonathan Leveque\*  
Colton Dement  
Isaiah Winsor  
Brock Bult  
Devin Porras  
Lucas Whitney

## Trombone

Alex Cormier\*  
Damien Gillard  
Cameron Fultz

## Bass Trombone

Spencer Butts\*

## Euphonium

Blake Kidner\*

## Tuba

Collin Thomas

## Timpani

Bradley Martinez

## Percussion

Solasse Kennison  
Joshua Herbert  
Joseph LeBoeuf  
Marie Azor  
Mark Kyle Chandler



\* Denotes Principal

† Denotes Guest Performer



**Martin I. Gaines** currently serves as the Associate Director of Bands in the W.A. Hanna Department of Performing Arts at McNeese State University where he conducts the Symphonic Band, Pep Band, and teaches music education and theory courses. He is currently pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree (ABD 2021) specializing in conducting at the University of Arizona and holds degrees in conducting and music education from Middle Tennessee State University (MM) and the historic VanderCook College of Music (BMEd). His primary conducting mentors include Dr. Chad Nicholson, Dr. Reed Thomas, Dr. Gordon Brock, Dr. Charles T. Menghini, Dr. Peter Jermihov, and Dr. John M. Long.

As an active conductor, clinician, and music producer, Gaines' most recent recording project David Maslanka: Music for Wind Ensemble was released in January 2021 on the Toccata Classics Label. He has also served as producer for an BASCA nominated album featuring the wind orchestra music of Nigel Clarke. Prior to his appointment at McNeese State, he also served as the principal conductor for the Arts Express Orchestra in Tucson, Arizona and as the founding conductor of the UArizona chamber ensemble Solar Winds.

Prior to pursuing graduate studies, Gaines taught middle and high school bands and orchestras for fifteen years in Illinois, Alabama, Georgia, and most recently in Florida. His bands have consistently received top marks from adjudicators and were often featured in clinic performance, e.g. the Southeastern Band Clinic at Troy University (2010) and the University of North Florida Invitational Festival (2010, 2014). He was also named Teacher of the Year in 2015 for Oakleaf High School (FL). Gaines holds professional memberships in CBDNA, College Music Society, College Orchestra Directors Association, International Conductor's Guild, NAFME, National Band Association, Tau Beta Sigma, WASBE, and is a Life Member of Kappa Kappa Psi. He and his wife, Alyssa, live in Lake Charles with their new puppy, Daisy.



**Jay Sconyers** is the Director of Bands at McNeese State University where he conducts the Wind Symphony, the Pride of McNeese Marching Band, and teaches courses in the Department of Performing Arts. Previously, Jay served as the assistant director of bands at McNeese. Prior to his appointment at McNeese, Jay received his doctorate in musical arts in conducting from the University of South Carolina, where he studied with Dr. Scott Weiss, and his masters of music education and bachelors of music education from the University of Georgia, where he studied trumpet with Professor Fred Mills. Prior to his time in higher education, Jay served as the Director of Bands at Elbert County Comprehensive High School in Elberton, GA.

Jay has performed in a wide variety of instrumental and choral ensembles, performing throughout the United States, Germany, Austria, Italy, the Vatican, China, and at professional conferences. Additionally, he has served as an associate producer with the USC Wind Ensemble's album "Dynasty" on the Summit Label and as a producer and conductor on the McNeese State University Marching Band's recent CD on the Mark Label. Jay has been published with GIA Press in the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* as well as an upcoming publication of Arvo Pärt's *Sieben Magnificat-Antiphonen* for wind ensemble. Jay has presented at a variety of conferences and clinics around the country including: The College Band Directors Association Southeast Regional Conference (2018, 2020), Georgia Music Educators Conference (2015), The Future Music Educators Colloquium (2017, 2019), The Marching Arts Roundtable (2018, 2019), and at many high schools, colleges, and universities.

Jay has been heavily involved in the marching band and drum and bugle corps activities. Jay has served on the instructional staff of the University of Georgia Redcoat Band, University of South Carolina Marching Band, as a brass instructor with several open and world class drum and bugle corps, and is an alumnus of Carolina Crown Drum and Bugle Corps. Currently, he serves as a brass instructor with the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps. In addition to his instructional responsibilities in marching band and drum and bugle corps, Jay is an active music arranger, drill designer, adjudicator, and clinician throughout the United States, and his work has been featured by various collegiate and high school marching bands, in features on [collegemarching.com](http://collegemarching.com), at the 2017 College Band Directors National Association National Conference, at the 2017 Bands of America Grand National Finals, several regional Bands of America events, and as the opening act of the 2018 London New Year's Day Parade.

His past and present professional affiliations include the College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association, Georgia Music Educators Association, Professional Association of Georgia Educators, College Music Educators National Conference, Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society, Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.



**Jacquelyn Lankford** is the creator and founder of the Women Composing for Trumpet Competition, which was made possible by her award of the Juliet Hardtner Women in Arts and Humanities Professorship in 2019. She is the Assistant Professor of Trumpet at McNeese State University, acting principal and second trumpet with the Monroe Symphony Orchestra, and third trumpet in the Lake Charles Symphony Orchestra. She earned her Doctorate in Trumpet Performance with a related field in Music Education from the University of North Texas in 2019, Master's in Trumpet Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music in 2016, and Bachelor's in Music Education from New Mexico State University in 2014.

As a soloist, Jacquelyn was invited to Rouen, France to compete in the Eric Aubier International Trumpet Competition where she was one of only two United States competitors in 2017. She has also competed at the National Trumpet Competition many times in both the trumpet solo and ensemble divisions, and was awarded third place in the large ensemble division of the National Trumpet Competition in 2018 with Robert Garrison's arrangement of Kevin McKee's *Vuelta del Fuego*.

Ensembles she has performed with include the Monroe Symphony Orchestra, Lake Charles Symphony Orchestra, The Rory Partin Big Band, Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, Richardson Symphony Orchestra, Eastman Wind Ensemble, UNT Symphony Orchestra, and UNT Wind Symphony.

World Premieres in which Jacquelyn has participated include Fred Sturm's *Taos* from *Migrations* with the NMSU Jazz Band, Andre Previn's *Music for Wind Orchestra (No Strings Attached)* with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Joseph Turrin's *Regiment of Heroes March* with the UNT Wind Symphony, and many more.





**John Bridges** has been with KPLC since 1992 and the co-host of 7News Sunrise since 1996. He also produces Hometown Hero segments each week.

John became interested in broadcasting while watching the announcers through a big window outside the old KPLC radio studio, across from Muller's Department Store. He got his first job at the age of 15 at KIKS-AM in Sulphur and moved on to become news director at Q101-FM and KYKZ-FM.

In 1992, he started at KPLC as the News Assignments Editor. He anchored weekend newscasts before joining 7News Sunrise in 1996.

John has won several radio and television Associated Press News awards and has been voted the Most Popular Media Personality by Lagniappe magazine. John's assignments have included trips to Cuba, Norway, France, Canada and Alaska. John is active in his church and directs its video productions.

An Eagle Scout, he also served as an assistant Scoutmaster for his son Jacob's Boy Scout troop. He's also been the announcer for the Sulphur High School Marching Contest since 1980.

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## W.A and Dorothy Hannah Department of the Performing Arts Faculty

The McNeese State University Band Program would like to thank the outstanding faculty and staff for the W.A. and Dorothy Hannah Department of the Performing Arts for their tireless work in developing the excellent musicians on stage this evening and for exemplifying the university's motto "excellence with a personal touch."

Dr. Judy Hand, Flute  
Dr. Benjamin Cold, Woodwinds  
Dr. Jacquelyn Lankford, Trumpet  
Prof. Rod Lauderdale, Horn  
Prof. Bill Rose, Low Brass  
Dr. Brian Nozny, Percussion  
Dr. Lina Morita,  
Dr. HeaJu Choi, Piano  
Dr. Jay Kecherski, Guitar  
Prof. Barbara Belew, Harp  
Dr. Carol Lines, Voice  
Dr. Jawan Jenkins, Voice

Dr. Michael Buckles, Dean of Liberal Arts, Strings  
Dr. Lonny Benoit, Department Head  
Dr. Julian "Jay" Sconyers, Director of Bands  
Prof. Martin Gaines., Associate Director of Bands  
Mr. Tim McMillen, Director of Jazz Ensembles  
Dr. Darryl Jones, Director of Choirs  
Piano Prof. Charles McNeely III, Theatre Director  
Prof. Paul Pharris, Technical Director  
Dr. Jeff Lemke, Music Education  
Ms. Sue Miller, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Libby Looney, Administrative Assistant

# Join Us in 2021

## We Want You!

### Audition Dates:

All Instruments: By appointment

Email: [jscopyers@mcneese.edu](mailto:jscopyers@mcneese.edu)

Voice: By appointment

Email: [djones@mcneese.edu](mailto:djones@mcneese.edu)

Drumline: May 8, 2021, 1:00pm

McNeese Alumni Yard

Color Guard: May 8, 2021, 1:00pm

McNeese Band Hall

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Text EVENTS to 337-350-3022 to receive  
monthly updates on music and theatre  
performances at McNeese

To ensure an enjoyable concert experience for  
all, please refrain from talking, entering, or  
exiting while musicians are performing.

Please turn off cell phones and other  
electronic devices.

Masks are Required. Please Socially Distance.

Thank you for your cooperation.

