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Dear Students:

As I write you this morning at my desk in Glidden Hall, I am filled with excitement for the upcoming year and all that it has in store for the School of Music, the Bands, and especially, the Wind Symphony. I haven't written a "beginning-of-the-year" letter for many years - in fact, not since my first year nearly a decade ago - but I feel that this upcoming season merits an introduction.

First and foremost: 2017 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Ohio University School of Music, and we'll be celebrating in so many ways! Several of the events below are featured concerts of the SoM100 - here are more specific details:

Many of you know that the Wind Symphony will make its **CARNEGIE HALL** debut on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 8:00 pm. It's even on Carnegie's on-line calendar - so it's [real!](#) This is a concert featuring the Wind Symphony - not a band festival or concert event organized by a tour company - this concert has been booked by the university and the Wind Symphony IS the event! I can tell you that in my research, I have found only a handful of other university bands that have played at Carnegie Hall on their own concert, so this is a unique event on a national level. On a university level - this will be an amazing way to celebrate the SoM100 on one of the most important and famous stages in the world. In addition to giving world premiere performances of new pieces by Dr. Mark Phillips, Distinguished Professor of Composition, and internationally-acclaimed composer Robert Moran, we'll also feature Professor Roger Braun on the Joseph Schwantner Percussion Concerto! There are sure to be other surprises - in the works - but more details will emerge soon.

Just two weeks before we depart for the tour to Carnegie Hall, we'll have the opportunity to collaborate with the world-famous **CANADIAN BRASS** on their subscription concert for the Ohio University [Performing Arts Series](#) on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 7:30 pm in Memorial Auditorium. Many details are yet to be finalized, but this promises to be a fantastic experience!

On Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:30 pm, we'll experience a unique event when the **THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND** performs in Memorial Auditorium. While the Wind Symphony will not perform on this concert, it will be a performance you won't want to miss. The [Navy Band](#) like the other U.S. military bands located in the Washington, D.C. area, is a world-class ensemble who is able to fill an auditorium while playing a mixture of serious and patriotic repertoire. It has been decades - if ever - since one of the premiere D.C. bands has performed in Athens, and this is their final tour stop!

As if these three events weren't enough, we'll close out the year with a special concert: the **SCHOOL OF MUSIC 100th ANNIVERSARY GALA** on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 4:00 pm. The Wind Symphony, along with several other ensembles and performers, will be featured on this celebration. It will be a fantastic way to close the year (and only the first half of the SoM100), with current students and faculty mixing with alumni and retired faculty!

Before all of this begins, we'll release the second commercial album by the Wind Symphony sometime in the Fall. Recorded in January, this CD/digital album will contain works by David Biedenbender, Viet Cuong, Michael Daugherty, Daniel French, Michael Markowski, and our own Dr. Lucas Rego Borges on Dana Wilson's Trombone Concerto! I just returned from Buffalo, where I edited the album, and now I need to get busy writing the liner notes and coordinating the art so it can go to press and be released before December, when it will debut in Chicago at [The Midwest Clinic: An International Band and Orchestra Conference](#). (Where, by the way, the Canadian Brass will also

be performing...) The last album - our first commercial album - was [MOTHERSHIP](#) in 2012/13, like that one, the new album will be released by Mark Records on all major outlets, including iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, and distributed by NAXOS. And might I add that it makes a wonderful stocking stuffer for family members... ;)

With all of this in mind, I encourage you to place special emphasis on your preparations for [Fall Auditions](#) over the course of the next few weeks. These auditions, while always important, hold greater significance because these will determine the members of the Wind Symphony that represents the School of Music at Carnegie Hall and at all the events mentioned above. The entire year will revolve around the Carnegie performance. We'll use the concerts in the Fall to perform most of the Carnegie music at least once before combining them in February. Because of this, we'll want to keep the ensemble intact as much as possible through February. I do my best to try to make each year stand apart from the others; this year will, without a doubt, be unforgettable (and challenging)!

I can tell you that as my colleagues and I sit behind the "screen" listening to auditions, we are listening for a few things:

- 1) For each auditionee to play their very best! Trust me - while it makes our job harder to distinguish one audition from another - we'd rather consider you at your very best.
- 2) Evidence that there has been research in preparation. There are dozens - maybe hundreds - of different recordings of these excerpts. Choose recordings that you love and respect as your models. Don't stop at the first recording YouTube offers up; while it might be a "pretty good" performance by that middle school band in Antarctica, it may not be the most authentic or musical performance you can find.
- 3) More than accuracy. The correct pitches and rhythms are the baseline expectation (see #4).
- 4) Make us sit forward on our chairs. You can do this by taking the baseline expectation (see #3) and then making music with them. Use the excerpt to make a musical statement. When this happens, it's exciting for everyone involved! Those are the auditions that are unforgettable!

Whether you are a returning student or brand new to Ohio University, I wish you the very best of luck as you begin preparations for Fall Auditions!

All excerpts are posted. The music is waiting for you. This incredible year is waiting for you. Good luck.

Best,  
Dr. Trachsel

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Trachsel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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