



Central Washington University
Department of Music
presents:

Wind Ensemble

Dr. T. André Feagin, *conductor*

Jerilyn S. McIntyre Music Building Wayne S. Hertz Concert Hall
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
7:00 PM

Program

Twist (2012)

- I. Survival
- II. Reflection
- III. Discovery
- IV. Obsession
- V. Carnevale
- VI. Ascension

Jodie Blackshaw
(b. 1971)

Kyle Edwards, *graduate conductor*

Caribana (2021)

Omar Thomas
(b. 1984)

Giovanni T. Clarke, *graduate conductor*

Goodnight Moon (2011)

Eric Whitacre
(b. 1970)
arr. Verena Mösenbichler-Bryant

Dr. Gayla Blaisdell, *soprano*

Symphony No. 6 "The Blue Marble" (2022)

- I. The Big Blue Marble
- II. Voices in Green
- III. Let There Be Life

Julie Giroux
(b. 1961)

Wind Ensemble Personnel

Piccolo

Liv Bills

Flute

Brianna Wilcher*

Levi Jeffries

Giovanni T. Clarke

Oboe

Pedro Lopez Aguilar*

Alice Hiemstra

Bassoon

Kyle Edwards*

CJ Morrison Hash

Andrew Owen

E-flat Clarinet

Jaiden Thompson

B-flat Clarinet

Noah Wilkerson*

James Correa Jr.

Nate Crites

Joshua Merrill

Emily Wall

Jacob Merrill

Stephen Williford

Bass Clarinet

Sascha Beamer

Alto Saxophone

Ashlynn Smith*

Jacob Bass

Bridger Call

Tenor Saxophone

Gabriel Bradley

Baritone Saxophone

Joshua DeQuiroz

Horn

Julia McConnachie*

Connor Schwarz

Alec Chinnery

John Roeder

Trumpet

Dylan Thompson*

Greg DeArmond

Jason Menor

Nate Kaplowitz

Kayla Arciniega

Samuel Hanson

Trombone

Skie Dalsbo*

Paige Baber

Isaac Hurtado

Bass Trombone

Ian Middelburg

Euphonium

Alex Morris*

Hunter De Leon

Tuba

Thomas Elley*

Jonathan Anderson

Percussion

Kevin White*

George Angelos

Jeff Ludlow

Blaise Clapper

Jon Connors

Rieken Rimmasch

Molly Montgomery

Piano

Daniel Hanks

String Bass

Drew Colello

***Denotes principal**

Program Notes

Twist | Jodie Blackshaw

Duration: 12 minutes 25 seconds



Jodie Blackshaw, from New South Wales, Australia, is a prolific composer and music educator of international renown. Her philosophies of music education extend beyond the classroom and is steadfast in her efforts to inspire authentic and meaningful experiences in her music. She has won numerous compositional awards for works of all levels of difficulty.

Premiered at the Australian National Band and Orchestra Clinic in 2012, *Twist* takes the listener on a journey along the Murray, Australia's longest river. Blackshaw draws from the historical, cultural, and spiritual aspects of the Wiradjuri people to encapsulate the river's magic in six movements, each calling on a different aspect of the river and its inhabitants. From fables of all-consuming amphibians to the sounds of Kookaburras and steamboats, *Twist* explores unique stories and soundscapes that fully immerse the listener in life on the river. There are moments of calm reflection and moments spent in the most turbulent of rapids. However, the complete journey of the composition asks how each of us can connect and sustain the majesty of the Murray River.

Note by Kyle Edwards

Caribana | Omar Thomas

Duration: 7 minutes 40 seconds

Caribana, which is now known as the



“Toronto Caribbean Carnival,” is the largest Caribbean carnival in North America that takes place outside of the Caribbean. Originating from the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, this music displayed during the carnival has become an integral part of the cultural identity of all Caribbean nations. Singers and songwriters from various countries have contributed to its diverse and vibrant legacy.

The carnival includes people dancing closely together, waving the flags of their respective Caribbean nations in perfect synchronization with the captivating music. The display of extravagant costumes adorned with beads, feathers, and shimmering materials, as well as the large speaker systems on flatbed 18-wheeler trucks that play Soca and Calypso music are a few of the many highlights for participants and spectators.

Caribana aims to recreate the experience of immersion in the carnival experience. Driven by layers of rhythmic percussion (known as “the engine room”), *Caribana* seeks to bring the Calypso and Soca music of Trinidad and Tobago to the wind band. The work presents an overheard view of the festivities that immerse the listener in the exciting experience.

Note by Giovanni T. Clarke

Goodnight Moon | Eric Whitacre

Duration: 7 minutes 40 seconds



Over the past few years, I must have read *Goodnight Moon* to my son a thousand times, maybe more. Somewhere around reading number 500 I began hearing little musical fragments as I read, and over time those fragments began to blossom into a simple, sweet lullaby. I knew it was a long shot, but I asked my manager, Claire Long, to contact HarperCollins and see if they would allow the text to be set to music. To my surprise and delight they agreed– the first time they had ever allowed *Goodnight Moon* to be used in such a way. I composed the piece

relatively quickly, originally setting the text for harp, string orchestra, and my son's mother, soprano Hila Plitmann.

I later arranged *Goodnight Moon* for SATB choir and piano. More recently my dear friend Verena Mosenbichler Bryant arranged the piece for wind ensemble and soloist. The melody of *Goodnight Moon* will forever make me think of those quiet nights with my son Esh, reading him to sleep.

Note by Eric Whitacre

Symphony No. 6 “The Blue Marble” | Julie Giroux

Duration: 23 minutes 25 seconds



Movement I. The Big Blue Marble. It is often said that the first full image of Earth, “Blue Marble”, taken by Apollo 17 in 1972, was the first full picture of the planet Earth. The picture is actually upside down. It happened sometime between 4:59:05 and 5:08:14 hours after Apollo’s launch as they traveled up to 25,000 miles an hour. It is the most reproduced picture in history. It became painstakingly clear to humanity just how small and vulnerable our one and only home actually is. This movement celebrates

that home in a variety of ways; think of it as an abbreviated introduction to planet Earth through music.

Movement II. Voices in Green. I spent hours simply listening to the recordings of the Amazon jungle by the world-renowned sound engineer George Vlad. The recordings were made during the rainy season when humidity is at its highest and birds are the most vocal. The sounds transport you into the heart of the jungle which feels incredibly, alive. The exotic calls of the birds and the echoes from other birds of the same species, the insects, the frogs and the rain; you can practically feel and smell the rain. The rain forest has its own music. The density of growth with every shade of green, is the backdrop for this beautiful, strange opera.

I knew I wanted to write music to those sounds. I composed *Voices in Green* with the Amazon jungle sounds playing as my audio backdrop. It influenced every note and phrase. In my mind and heart, I was there, adding my voice to theirs. *Voices in Green* can be performed strictly on its own...Think of this movement as a concert taking place in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest.

Movement III. Let There Be Life. Violence, death, murder, birth, and life: I wanted to capture that commonality with music in the third and final movement. There is a recurring theme throughout the finale. It evolves, much like life on Earth. It moves through the music, transporting us from one musical setting to the next, ending in a majestic, grandiose way.

The miracle of Earth is life. It is the fragile, silken thread that holds existence together. As with the famous Blue Marble photograph, I hope this symphony reminds people just how frail and beautiful Earth is. I hope The Blue Marble fills hearts and minds with a renewed love for our planet, our one and only home. Earth is the one thing we all have in common. It does not belong to us. We belong to it. It is our only home, and we should always treat it as such with every generation leaving it healthier and happier than the way they found it.

Note by Julie Giroux

CONDUCTOR BIOGRAPHY



Dr. T. André Feagin serves as Director of Bands in the Department of Music at Central Washington University where he guides the educational and artist vision of a comprehensive band program. He heads the graduate wind conducting program and serves as the conductor of the Wind Ensemble, the preeminent wind band at CWU, and the Symphonic Band. Under his leadership, the Wind Ensemble was a featured performer at the 2022 College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Western/Northwestern Division Conference and at the 2024 World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensemble (WASBE) International convention in Gwangju, South Korea.

Dr. Feagin has appeared as a guest conductor with numerous All-state, honor bands, and professional bands and orchestras throughout the United States, Canada, Central and Southwest Europe, and Southeast Asia. As a clinician/presenter, he has been invited to speak on conducting, diversity and inclusivity in music education, and leadership at numerous music educators' conferences across the United States and around the globe. In 2022 he presented at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) international convention in Prague, Czech Republic.

Dr. Feagin holds professional memberships in the National Association for Music Education, College Band Directors National Association, World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, Washington Music Educators Association, Patron of Mu Phi Epsilon, and honorary memberships in both Tau Beta Sigma and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He currently serves on the diversity, and research committees of the College Band Directors National Association and serves on the advisory board of *Emergence: Research & Performance Topics in Black Music*, the scholarly publication of the National Associations of Negro Musicians, Inc. Dr. Feagin holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting from the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music where he was a student of the late Gregg I. Hanson.

GUEST FACULTY ARTIST BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Gayla Bauer Blaisdell, Professor of Voice and Opera, joined the faculty of Central Washington University in 2008, served as the Vocal Area Coordinator from 2010 – 2021, and became the Graduate Coordinator for the Music Department in the Fall of 2021. She has a vibrant studio of aspiring singers and directs the nationally award-winning CWU Opera Ensemble.

Dr. Blaisdell's professional activities include her work as a soprano soloist and recitalist as well as an opera director. Coming up in the summer of 2022, she is looking forward to directing a production of Dvorak's *Rusalka* at the Utah Vocal Artists Summer Program. As a soloist and recitalist, Dr. Blaisdell has sung in many major New York City venues including Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall, and Symphony Space. Since moving to Washington, Dr. Blaisdell has appeared multiple times at Benaroya Hall in Seattle as a soloist and performs regularly with regional orchestras in the Pacific Northwest as the soprano soloist in the Verdi Requiem, Beethoven's 9th Symphony and concerts featuring excerpts from Wagner among others. Dr. Blaisdell often appears with the CWU ensembles to premiere contemporary works and collaborates with colleagues from CWU and around the country in recitals. Her CD, *Gayla Blaisdell Performs the Songs of Ross and Paulus*, is available for purchase on all major digital music sites including Amazon and iTunes. Dr. Blaisdell is also a highly sought after as a clinician and adjudicator in the state and region, and in 2017, she was an Invited Guest Scholar Lecturer at Nanjing University in China.

Dr. Blaisdell holds a Ph.D in Vocal Performance from New York University. She has established herself as a scholar in feminist theory and opera presenting her work at national and regional venues since the completion of her dissertation in the field. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Opera and a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance from New England Conservatory and a Bachelors Degree in Vocal Performance and a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Blaisdell also trained at the Steans Institute at Ravinia, Tanglewood, Opera North, the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Italy and Dorian Opera Theater.

GRADUATE CONDUCTOR BIOGRAPHIES



A native of Gilbert, Arizona, **Kyle Edwards** currently serves as a teaching assistant for university bands at Central Washington University. In this position, he serves as guest conductor for the wind ensemble and symphonic band, conductor of the concert band, and teaching assistant for the Wildcat Marching Band and Pep Band. He is a second-year master's student studying wind band conducting under the tutelage of Dr. T. André Feagin.

Mr. Edwards has spent over a decade as an instructor, previously holding positions at the University of Arizona "Pride of Arizona" Marching Band and as a color guard instructor for the Sun Devil Marching Band at Arizona State University. In addition, he has served on the instructional staff of FeniX Independent and Entity Winterguard as a technician, choreographer, and designer.

Mr. Edwards has taught at numerous high school programs in Arizona, including Rincon/University High School, Catalina Foothills High School, Mesa Mountain View High School, and is the former director of the color guard at Combs High School. As a performer, his experience includes membership in the Academy Drum and Bugle Corps (2009-2013) where he also served as drum major, Entity Winterguard, and FeniX Independent World Winterguard.

Mr. Edwards holds a Master of Music degree and a Bachelor of Music degree in performance (bassoon and saxophone, respectively) from The University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music.



A native of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, **Giovanni T. Clarke** currently serves as a graduate teaching assistant in the department of music at Central Washington University. In this position, he serves as guest conductor for the wind ensemble and symphonic band, conductor of the concert band, and teaching assistant for the Wildcat Marching Band and Pep Band. He is a second-year master's student studying wind band conducting under the tutelage of Dr. T. André Feagin.

Prior to his arrival at CWU, Mr. Clarke served as director of bands and subject coordinator at C.V. Bethel High School (The Bahamas).

An award-winning educator and conductor, Mr. Clarke has been honored for his musicianship and civic contributions. He is the 2017 recipient of the National Youth Award for Arts and Culture, the 2018 Meta Davis Cumberbach Award for most outstanding instrumental performance in the E. Clement Bethel National Arts Festival (The Bahamas), the 2019 recipient of the Lou Adams Award for instrumental conducting, and the 2019-2022 Teacher of the Year award at C.V. Bethel High School.

Mr. Clarke holds a Master of Music degree in music education from the Vandercook College of Music and a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of the Bahamas.

CWU Wind Ensemble | WASBE Project
World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles
International Conference
Gwangju, South Korea

The Central Washington University Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. T. André Feagin has been selected and invited to perform a feature concert at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles International Convention held in Gwangju, South Korea in July of 2024. The CWU Wind Ensemble is the preeminent wind band at Central and is comprised of the finest wind and percussion students from the department of music and university.

About WASBE: The World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) is the only international organization of wind band conductors, composers, performers, publishers, teachers, instrument makers and friends of wind music. It is the only organization completely dedicated to enhancing the quality of the wind band throughout the world and exposing its members to new worlds of repertoire, musical culture, people, and places.

We have an overall goal of raising \$225,000 to *completely cover* the student cost associated with the travel to and participation at WASBE. We have worked so hard to achieve this incredible honor and hope you will help us take part in the experience of a lifetime.



Thank you for your support!

Music Department Calendar of Events

Feb. 28, 6:00pm	Saxophone Chamber Recital 1*
Feb. 29, 6:00pm	Clarinet Studio Recital*
March 3, 2:00pm	Beaumont Fry and Jaime Ramos, Joint Horn Recital*
March 3, 4:00pm	Reid Whitecotton, Bass Recital*
March 3, 7:00pm	Choir Concert+\$
March 5, 7:00pm	Symphonic Band and Concert Band Concert+
March 6, 4:30pm	Kyle Edwards, Graduate Lecture Recital+
March 6, 8:00pm	Daniel Holter, Clarinet Recital*
March 7, 6:00pm	Kolby Arnold, Trumpet Recital*
March 10, 12:00pm	Andrea Audelo, Flute Recital*
March 10, 2:00pm	Stephen Williford, Clarinet Recital*
March 10, 4:00pm	Orchestra Concert+\$
March 3, 12:00pm	Luke Echeverria, Voice Recital*
March 27, 6:00pm	Meredith Montgomery & Lorenzo Anguiano, Joint Piano & Cello Recital*
March 28, 8:00pm	Faye Lu, Percussion Recital*
April 2, 7:00pm	Dr. Salvosa, Faculty Piano Recital*
April 2, 8:30pm	Dylan White, Trombone Recital+
April 4, 6:00pm	Bardin Niskala Piano Cello Duo, Guest Artist*

**All dates and times subject to change. For the most recent
calendar of events, visit www.cwu.edu/music**

* Recital Hall + Wayne S. Hertz Concert Hall \$ Ticketed
 Parking is free every weekday after 4:30 p.m. and all day on weekends,
 unless otherwise stated.

The Calendar of Events changes frequently.
 For the most up-to-date calendar, visit our website at
www.cwu.edu/music or call (509) 963-1216

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 our facility. Thank you.

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 excellence and connecting our world through music.



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