



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC,
THEATRE, AND DANCE**

Wind Symphony

Nicole Piunno, conductor and composer in residence

Kevin Tutt, conductor

4:15 P.M.

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Louis Armstrong Theatre

Haas Center for Performing Arts

GVSU Allendale Campus

Program

Bright Shadow Fanfare (2021)

Nicole Piunno
(b. 1985)

Catharsis (2020)

Nicole Piunno

Beauty Broken (2015)

Nicole Piunno

Divertimento for Band (1950)

Vincent Persichetti
(1915-1987)

I. Prologue

II. Song

III. Dance

IV. Burlesque

V. Soliloquy

VI. March

Wind Symphony Personnel

Piccolo

Brittlyn Keller

Flute

Grace Morrison*

Heavyn Musgrave

Maddie Pratt

Vivian Lundsckow

Hailey Briggs

Oboe

Natalie Kline*

Elisa Skinner

Clarinet

Julia Smolinski*

Mia Palma

Lilly Childers

Sophia Janiga

Lindsey Bos†

Bass Clarinet

Maddison Sanborn

Saxophone

Jeremy Cleary* (soprano/alto)

Ben Barker (alto)

David Grimard (alto)

Zane Stoner (alto)

Caleb Peckham (tenor)

Seth Kane (tenor)

Hailey Petersen (baritone)

Trumpet

Alec Bossa*

Mia Kolhoff

Donny Ford

Taylor Seelye

Alina Maes

Quentin Campbell

Horn

Tim Lester*

Andrew Hardy

Makenzie Bowman

Cassandra DeHaan

Trombone

Matt Keith*

Dylan Schoolcraft

Owen Wade

Bass Trombone

Micah Babinski

Euphonium

Victoria Herson*

Timothy McDonald

Tuba

Jorge Gonzalez*

Julia Droscha

Jack Stoneman

Percussion

Liam Martin*

Zachary Haverkamp*

Ramses Arispe

Thomas Cordes

Dyami Campos

Nathan Gruner

Braydon VanderWall

* denotes principal or co-principal

† denotes guest performer

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Dr. Nicole Piunno

Nicole Piunno (b. 1985) is a composer who views music as a vehicle for seeing and experiencing the realities of life. Her music often reflects the paradoxes in life and how these seeming opposites are connected as they often weave together. Her harmonic language and use of counterpoint mirrors the complexity of our world by acknowledging light and dark, past and present, beauty and brokenness, confinement and freedom, chaos and order, spiritual and physical, life and death.

Nicole holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition and a Master of Music degree in theory pedagogy from Michigan State University. Her composition teacher was Ricardo Lorenz. She earned a Master of Music degree in composition at Central Michigan University, studying with David Gillingham. Nicole earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and her emphasis was on instrumental music. Her music has been performed by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band, the United States Coast Guard Band, and at many universities and conservatories around the country. Her large ensemble music has also been featured at multiple regional CBDNA conferences, the Midwest Clinic, and numerous all-state concerts.

Program Notes

Bright Shadow Fanfare (program note by composer)

The intense contrast in *Bright Shadow Fanfare* refers to two possible meanings. It could mean bringing our darkness into the light in order to integrate it with our true self. It could also mean revealing our positive traits and gifts that we may not allow ourselves to show or give to others.

Catharsis (program note by composer)

“Catharsis” is a psalm for band that consists of three connected movements, totaling approximately 10 minutes. The piece begins with a fanfare that acts as an acknowledgment and cleansing of emotion. This gives way to a calmer lyrical movement which eventually turns into a spirited dance-like movement. Finally, the Cathartic Fanfare returns as it combines with this dance-like theme.

Music needs no justification. It is a good thing that can be cherished for its own sake. However, music also has many purposes as it has countless ties with reality. It can show reality as it currently is and reality as it can be in the future. Music has great power to help express and release emotions inside of us and it has the power to connect us with realities we do not as easily sense or experience. With this piece I used music as a vehicle to both acknowledge emotions from within and to tap into a brighter reality that exists regardless of circumstances.

Beauty Broken (program note by composer)

I visited the Columbus Museum of Art and met a work titled “Blow Up #1” by Ori Gersht. This work captured my attention and insisted I give it a great amount of thought. Gersht used high-speed photography to capture a moment in time of an arrangement of flowers exploding. In that one short moment Gersht captured a profound truth about this world and the human condition.

At first sight the photo looked amazing. It was beautiful and exciting. Yet when I looked closely, I realized it was beauty that was broken. The photo was a visual display of the tension that exists between beauty and violence, or life and death. When I first saw the work, I was attracted to the beauty. Then I saw the violence and wanted to turn away. However, once I accepted both and was able to hold the paradox of these two realities, I was able to see the photograph for what it truly was. A sense of hope emerged as I felt a longing for beauty to be restored.

“Beauty Broken” begins with a chorale in the brass. This chorale leads into a celebratory section that ends in a state of brokenness. Alternating slow and fast sections follow this moment of breaking. These sections incorporate what I call the “Broken Theme”. This theme is intense at times, while it is somber with a sense of longing at other moments. The chorale melody also appears at various times throughout the piece, often in subtle ways. This chorale becomes most apparent at the end as the woodwinds play celebratory flourishes over the brass chorale. Finally, the broken theme returns for one final statement.

Divertimento for Band

Vincent Persichetti studied composition with Paul Nurdoff and Roy Harris and conducting with Fritz Reiner. He was head of the department of composition at the Philadelphia Conservatory from 1941 to 1947 when he left to join the faculty at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. His works are very popular and are performed throughout the world. His music is characterized by tuneful melodic lines, combinations of functional and nonfunctional harmony, disjunct orchestration and complex percussion parts. He was highly influential on subsequent generations of composers due to both his outstanding teaching and writing on 20th century harmonic practices.

The six short movements of Divertimento demonstrate Persichetti's distinct contrapuntal and rhythmic skills while presenting charming melodies which are both humorous and lyrically nostalgic. This was Persichetti's first work for full concert band.

GVSU Music Faculty

Corie Auger	Samuel Gould	Danny Phipps
Christopher Belland	Dan Graser	Bill Ryan
Rachael Bergan	Letitia Jap	Justin Sarns
Richard Britsch	Gary June	Joel Schut
Mark Buchner	Olivia Kieffer	Greg Secor
Arthur Campbell	Andrew Lenhart	Kathryn Stieler
Paul Carlson	Pablo Mahave-Veglia	Paul Swantek
Sookkyung Cho	Helen Marlais	James Thompson
Greg Crowell	Barry Martin	Kevin Tutt
Michael Drost	John Martin	Marlen Vavříková
Lisa Feurzeig	Chuck Norris	Mark Williams
Beth Gibbs	Victoria Olsen	Alex Wilson
Patricia Gordon	Christopher Petersmark	Molly York

Upcoming MTD Events

February 22 at 7:00PM – Jr High Honors Band Concert. LAT
February 22 at 7:30 PM – PS Series: *Tigers Be Still*. KBB
February 23 at 5:00PM – Guest Masterclass: Dr. Mafer Guglielmina, flute.
February 23 at 7:30PM – Guest Artist Recital: Mafer Guglielmina. SVS
February 26 at 7:30PM – Guest Artist Recital: Cercis String Quartet. SVS
February 28 at 3:00PM – Guest Artist Masterclass: Bill Baxtresser, trumpet.
March 19 at 7:30PM – Marlais Studio Event. SVS
March 21 at 9:30AM – Spring Oboe Workshop.
March 28 All Day – Spring Dance Day. 1600
March 28 at 7:30PM – *Hear Me Roar*. KBB
March 29 at 7:30PM – *Hear Me Roar*. KBB
March 30 at 2:00PM – *Hear Me Roar*. KBB
March 31 at 7:30PM – Trombone Ensemble Concert. LAT
April 3 at 7:30PM – *Hear Me Roar*. KBB
April 4 at 7:30PM – *Hear Me Roar*. KBB

For updated information on Music, Theatre, and Dance events, please visit
www.gvsu.edu/mtd.

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