

Spirit of Saginaw
Band

Spring Concert

→ Program

17 May, 2023

Saginaw High School
7pm

Music Selections

Jazz Band Matt Pearson

Pink Yesterday - Lucky Chops
Cute - N. Hefti
Buyo - Lucky Chops

Concert Band Jesse Rajabi Andrea Andrade - Student Teacher

Furioso - Robert W Smith
March of the Trolls - E. Grieg arr. Beck
Our Kingsland Spring - S. Hazo
Andrea Andrade - Conductor
On Cloud Nine! - R. Saucedo

Symphonic Band Alyson Holley Andrea Andrade - Student Teacher

Ride - S. Hazo
Crowns of Glory - J. Wilds
Andrea Andrade - Conductor
Choreography - R. Sheldon

Wind Ensemble Matt Pearson Andrea Andrade - Student Teacher

Inferno - Robert W Smith
Abracadabra - F. Ticheli
Andrea Andrade - Conductor
Glaciers - S. Director

Percussion Directors

Jenn Giba
Josh Gregory

Program Notes

Furioso - Furioso is a musical term to indicate that music is to be played with vigor and passion. This piece captures the never-ending energy of our players

March of the Trolls - Trolls are a constant theme in Norwegian folklore, and the equivalent of our "boogie man." In northern Norway, where winter storms whip the weather-beaten coasts, you will find dark forests with moonlit lakes, deep fjords surrounded by mighty snowcapped mountains and log rivers, and cold streams cascading down the mountain sides. This is where you might find an irritable, short-tempered troll emerging from their hiding places after sunset, marching to wreck havoc on unsuspecting Norwegian households!

Our Kingsland Spring - From the 1st movement of "Georgian Suite." The piece was commissioned and performed in Kingsland, Georgia for the GMEA festival in the Spring of 2004. This piece was written as a tribute to the band Mr. Hazo was invited to conduct.

On Cloud Nine! - A fast paced work with flourishes, powerful brass, and energetic writing. This piece showcases the hardwork of our Saginaw students this year, their hardwork and tenacity. We are on cloud nine with the tremendous progress they have made this year!

Ride - The piece was written as a gesture of appreciation to Jack Stamp (Director of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania). The piece is meant to represent riding in a fast car and top speed on a country road in rural Pennsylvania with the beautiful Pennsylvania countryside blurring past the car window; the composer was really following a lead-footed Dr. Stamp to his house for dinner!

Crowns of Glory - The piece is built on a shape note melody called Jubilee. The piece is meant to capture the joy and reverence evident in early American Sacred Harp singing. It is built on the pentatonic scale, but reframed to fit with modern harmonies.

Program Notes

Choreography - Commissioned for the 2008 ATSSB All State Band, *Choreography* is written in overture form. The piece draws inspiration from dance movements found in contemporary stage, ballet, and theatrical productions. Fast-paced angular gestures along with rapid rhythmical punctuations and a contrasting lyrical section provide numerous opportunities for expressive playing. This piece features every section of the band in a varied way. The band students have grown an incredible amount this year, playing more difficult literature, and earning a Division 1 in both Concert & Sight-Reading at UIL this April.

Inferno- *The Divine Comedy* is a four-movement work based on Dante Alighieri's literary classic of the same name. The story of Dante's trilogy is basic: One day Dante finds himself lost in a dark wood. Virgil, a character based on the revered Roman poet, appears and rescues him. Virgil guides Dante to a contemplation of Hell and Purgatory. Dante, having confessed his faults, and with Beatrice as his guide, is led into Paradise and attains a glimpse of the face of God. The *Inferno* is the first of four movements in *The Divine Comedy*. Dante's vision of hell consists of nine concentric circles divided into four categories of sin. The principal theme behind the literary work is the concept of symbolic retribution. In other words, man's eternal damnation in Hell is directly correlated to the character and weight of his sin on earth.

Like Dante's *Inferno*, the movement is divided into four sections. The opening melodic statement in the oboe represents the sins of "incontinence." As Dante finishes his relatively short journey through the sections of *The Inferno*, he is confronted with the Wall of Dis (the gate into Hell). The next section is structured around the sins of "violence" with its incredibly intense storms and fiery sands. The crimes of "ordinary fraud" follow the violent sinners. The composer used the sin of hypocrisy as visual imagery in the formation of this section of the musical work. Dante describes the hypocrites as they file endlessly in a circle, clothed in coats of lead, which represent the weight of the hypocrisy on earth. The final section of *The Inferno* features the sins of "treacherous fraud." As Dante enters this circle of Hell, he hears the dreadful blast of a bugle: "Not even Roland's horn, which followed on the sad defeat when Charlemagne had lost his holy army, was as dread as this." Dante and Virgil are lowered into the last section of Hell by giants who are constantly pelted with bolts of thunder [lightning]. As their journey nears the end, they are confronted with the sight of Dis (Lucifer), whose three mouths are eternally rending Judas, Brutus, Cassius. Dante and Virgil climb down the flanks of Lucifer, exiting to the other hemisphere and leaving the fiery world of *The Inferno* behind. —Robert W. Smith

Program Notes

Abracadabra- was composed in the summer of 2004, and was orchestrated the following November during a residency at the MacDowell Colony.

Abracadabra was commissioned by the Driscoll Middle School Band in San Antonio Texas under the direction of Richard Gonzales.

The piece is dedicated to my son, and is at once playful and serious, innocent, and mischievous. A sense of mystery pervades as the dark key of G minor is balanced by sudden shifts to bright and sunny major keys. Throughout the composition I was thinking about magic, not in an evil or frightening sense, but as a source of fun and fantasy. My wonderfully playful, sometimes mischievous young son was always in the back of mind, as were images of Halloween with its costumes and jack-o'-lanterns. As the piece nears its conclusion, the music rushes toward what seems to be an explosive finish. But the woodwinds interrupt, fanning out to a questioning whole-tone cluster. They are answered by a puff of sound, a final disappearing act.

In strictly musical terms, the piece is as clear an example of musical economy as anything I've composed. Almost everything is derived from the opening bars of the main theme. Indeed, virtually every note can be traced to the main melody or its accompaniment. Because of this heightened sense of unity, I had to choose other ways to achieve musical variety. The most important solution was through the sudden and frequent shifts of mood, mode, and tonality

Glaciers is an original programmatic work that musically depicts the developmental stages of this wonder of nature. The five musical 'scenes' are diverse. "The Beginning" is characterized with music that portrays small particles of moisture and snow using metallic and glass sounds. These sounds develop in "The Growing Years" to the third movement, "Maturing Proud and Strong," which is grandiose with bold musical images. The fourth movement, "Retreat," is an aggressive segment that musically demonstrates the magnificent vibrations and waves generated as the glacier's existence is ended and the structure crashes into the sea. *Glaciers* closes with "New Hope," signaling the battle for survival and the beginning of the cycle once again.

Thank Yous

Thank you for joining us for tonight's program! There are so many people to thank!

Our District Leaders: Dr. Chadwell, Dr. Parker, Mr. Berringer, Mr. Bell

Our Campus Leaders: Dr. Webber, Carrie D'Amico, Dawn Self-Turpin, Dennis Lindsey, Willie Server, Brantley Galman, Holly Adair

The incomparable SHS staff

THE SAGINAW BAND BOOSTERS

Middle School Directors: Missy Danforth, Spencer Southall, April Robnett, Marguerite Bartek

Student Teacher Andrea Andrade

The SOS Seniors. Congratulations!

THE SOS STUDENTS!

Each year we start with a new band, comprised of incredible human beings. We've watched them grow as individuals as well as musicians. This group has accomplished a great deal, but our journey doesn't end here. As our seniors play their final concert tonight, thank you for giving four years to this program, building on traditions, continuing a culture of excellence. May you continue to keep music as an integral part of your lives, and we wish you luck on your next chapter.

To our incoming freshman, welcome! You are joining a great band family. To our current freshman, sophomore, and junior students: it is up to you to step into the shoes worn by our senior members, hold the torch high, and set the tone for next years band.

Congratulations to all on a great year!