2022

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FIRST STATE

EST 1978

SYMPHONIC BAND

THE FIRST STATE SYMPHONIC BAND PRESENTS

Christmas Concert 2022

CONDUCTED BY JONATHAN WITTMAN

And The Mountains Echoed: Gloria! ..... Robert Longfield

A Winter's Carol ..... Arr. Mark Williams

Christmas Pipes ..... Brendan Graham/Arr. Michael Brown

Go Tell It on the Mountain ..... Arr. Jay Dawson

Mary Did You Know? ..... Arr. Joe Eigenbrot

Fantasy on Coventry Carol ..... Arr. Jerry Brubaker

A Christmas Intrada ..... Alfred Reed

I N T E R M I S S I O N

A Most Wonderful Christmas ..... Arr. Robert Sheldon

Good Swing Wenceslas ..... Arr. Sammy Nestico

The Polar Express ..... Silvestri & Ballard/Jerry Brubaker

Minor Alterations ..... David Lovrien

Christmas Through the Looking Glass .....

Sleigh Ride ..... Leroy Anderson

A Christmas Festival ..... Leroy Anderson

THE FIRST STATE SYMPHONIC BAND

Jonathan Wittman, Conductor

Piccolo
Jackie Keoughan

Flute
Eileen Brinkley
Jessica Evans
Donna Fleetwood
Katharine Kerrane*
Sabra Williams Meadows

Oboe
Lloyd Maier
Carol Perrotto

Clarinet
Beverly Burman
Melinda Gregory
Michael Kletter
Doug Leach
Rhonda Lehman
Wendy Oren*
Bob Opila

Bass Clarinet
Gillian Quiggle

Contrabass Clarinet
John Gauger

Alto Saxophone
Stephen Bolton
Sherri Brown
Alexander Chisholm
Michael Keen
Dave Mulrooney
Rick Wallace

Tenor Saxophone
Julia Kane
Tim Rohs

Baritone Saxophone
Chris Bryan*

Trumpet
Katie Haan
Beth McCallister
Don Oren
Rik Raphael
Roger Todd
Kendall Welschenbach
Kaitlyn Wittman*

Horn
Randy White

Trombone
Kevin Burkhardt
Jeff Geshay*
Derrick Farrell

Euphonium
Steve Davis
Richard Hensley

Tuba
Wayne Hale*
Daryl Phipps
Sue Stein

Percussion
Joe Eigenbrot
Curt Fisher*
Bill Hardam*
Mackenzie Smith

* Section Leader

2022 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM NOTES

by Katharine Kerrane

And the Mountains Echoed: Gloria! by American composer Robert Longfield is a concert fantasia on the traditional French carol *Angels We Have Heard on High*, which was composed by an unknown author in Languedoc, France. The carol commemorates Christ's birth, as told in the Gospel of Luke, when a multitude of angels sing and praise the newborn child.

A Winter's Carol, arranged by composer and band director Mark Williams (1956-2008) is a lush treatment of the Latin carol *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, which dates back to 1710. The somber introduction by the trombone section is reminiscent of a Gregorian Chant. Using the rich concert band colors, Williams creates a majestic miniature tone poem.

Christmas Pipes by Brendan Graham (b. 1945), Irish novelist and songwriter, features a lilting Celtic style, distinctive melody, and striking use of *O Holy Night,* a French carol composed in 1847 by Adolphe Adam. This version of Christmas Pipes for symphonic band was arranged by New Orleans native Michael Brown.

Go Tell it on the Mountain is an African-American spiritual dating back at least to 1865, celebrating the birth of Christ. This 2006 version is by American composer Jay Dawson. It features a straightforward chorale introduction, followed by a swinging arrangement with soulful gospel music and a happy hallelujah.

Mary Did You Know? the 1991 modern Christmas classic, features Mary's relationship with her son Jesus. Mark Lowry wrote the lyrics and fellow gospel artist Buddy Greene the melody. This arrangement is by First State Symphonic Band saxophonist and keyboard player Joe Eigenbrot (b. 1976). After the haunting opening melody, Eigenbrot weaves in *What Child Is This?* and *Angels We Have Heard on High* in a minor key. He then builds excitement with tango and disco sections. This is Eigenbrot's first arrangement for the band, which has previously premiered eight of his compositions.

Fantasy on Coventry Carol, arranged by American Jerry Brubaker (b.1946), features a Renaissance-style chorale followed by a fugue, and concludes with a lively dance section. *Coventry Carol* dates from the 15th century, and was traditionally performed in Coventry, England as part of a nativity play.

A Christmas Intrada, by American composer Alfred Reed (1921-2005), portrays the festivities and moods of the season with Fanfare: *Christus Natus Est*, based on a Gregorian Chant; *Lullaby for the Christ Child*, from an Austrian carol; the martial *Processional for the Kings and Shepherds*; and the *lyrical Carol for the Holy Night*. *Wassail and Alleluia* brings the work to a joyous conclusion.

----------Intermission----------

2022 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM NOTES

A Most Wonderful Christmas highlights some of the most popular American Christmas songs in this delightful arrangement of swing and jazz-inspired ballads: *Winter Wonderland*; *I'll be Home for Christmas*; *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town; Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*; and *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. The piece is arranged by teacher and composer Robert Sheldon (b. 1954).

Good Swing Wenceslas was originally arranged for the Boston Pops Orchestra by American composer Sammy Nestico (1924-2021). Using a variety of jazz styles, Nestico showcases the Christmas carol *Good King Wenceslas*. The carol tells the story of a Bohemian king who braves harsh winter weather to give a poor peasant alms on December 26th–the Feast of St. Stephen. English hymn writer John Mason Neale wrote the lyrics in 1853, and the melody comes from a 13th-century Easter hymn.

The Polar Express showcases music from the popular 2004 film where, on Christmas Eve, a boy rides a magical train to the North Pole. The movie was adapted from the 1985 children's book written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. Alan Silvestri (b. 1950) composed the music, and the song *Believe*, co-written by Glen Ballard, earned an Academy Award nomination. This arrangement is by Jerry Brubaker.

Minor Alterations (Christmas Through the Looking Glass), a medley of favorite Christmas songs, was written by American composer and saxophonist David Lovrien (b. 1963). Beginning with *Deck the Halls*, Lovrien transposes the tunes from major to minor keys, then disguises and layers them in inventive and fun ways. This whimsical piece concludes with a frenzied *Nutcracker Suite* finale.

The First State Symphonic Band traditionally concludes its Christmas concert with two favorite pieces by American composer and trombonist Leroy Anderson (1908-1975)--**Sleigh Ride** and **A Christmas Festival**. Anderson was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Swedish immigrants, served as the director of the Harvard Band, and achieved fame as an arranger for the Boston Pops Orchestra. A gifted linguist, he worked as a translator and interpreter in the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps during WWII. **Sleigh Ride** was written in July 1948 during a heat wave at Anderson's summer home in Woodbury, Connecticut. **A Christmas Festival** was written in 1950 for the Boston Pops Orchestra and includes *Joy to the World; Deck the Halls; God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen; Good King Wenceslas; Hark! the Herald Angels Sing; Silent Night; Jingle Bells; and Adeste Fidelis*.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2023!

Jonathan Wittman
Conductor & Musical Director

Mr. Wittman, a native of Delaware, received his bachelor of music education and master of music and trumpet performance degrees from the University of Delaware. He taught at several schools in New Castle County and became Director of Bands at Newark High School in 2005. He was Principal Trumpet of the First State Symphonic Band for 20 years before assuming the post of Musical Director in 1999.

O U R M I S S I O N

The First State Symphonic Band's mission is to provide musical educational experiences to our members and to the public through the performance of high-quality concerts, both public and charitable, at venues such as public parks, retirement homes, and churches.

Board of Directors

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Rik Raphael

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Sue Stein

HISTORY OF THE BAND

The First State Symphonic Band traces its origins back to 1951, when employees of the DuPont Co. started a company concert band. In 1978, when corporate sponsorship was withdrawn, the band incorporated under its current name, The First State Symphonic Band, Inc., as a non-profit organization. The new band inherited not only percussion and wind instruments, but also the extensive music library from the DuPont band, with members of the old band forming the core of the new organization.

The first director of the DuPont Employees Concert Band was Frank Cianflone, conducting for only one season. E. Russell Williams, Jr., was musical director for the next 26 years. During those years, the DuPont Band regularly performed at Longwood Gardens and the Wilmington Playhouse. One highlight during its first year was the band's performance at the DuPont Company's 150th anniversary celebration at Hagley Yard.

In 1978, concurrent with the reorganization and name change, Lloyd Ross, director of band music at Newark High School, became music director, remaining for 10 seasons. The next conductor for three seasons was Peter Hill of the Music Department of the University of Delaware, followed by Ed Hockersmith (1991-1993), Harvey Price (1993 through the end of 1995), Ed Hockersmith (1996-1999), and Paul Hess guest conducting. Jonathan Wittman became the music director in 1999, a position he holds to the present day.

The band rehearsal location was stable at the DuPont Country Club for more than 20 years, moving to the Greenville School for the final years under the DuPont name and for the first three seasons of the current FSSB organization. The band then went through a nomadic period, rehearsing at several locations, including Newark High School, the Tatnall School, Wilmington High School, the University of Delaware, and the Delaware National Guard Armory near Price's Corner. The First State Symphonic Band then moved its rehearsals to the band room at Newark High School. In 2017, First State Symphonic Band moved its rehearsal location to Ogletown Baptist Church in Newark.

2022 is our 44th year performing and we look forward to sharing our music with you

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to
Everyone!

FSSB – Thank You for the
Great Music!

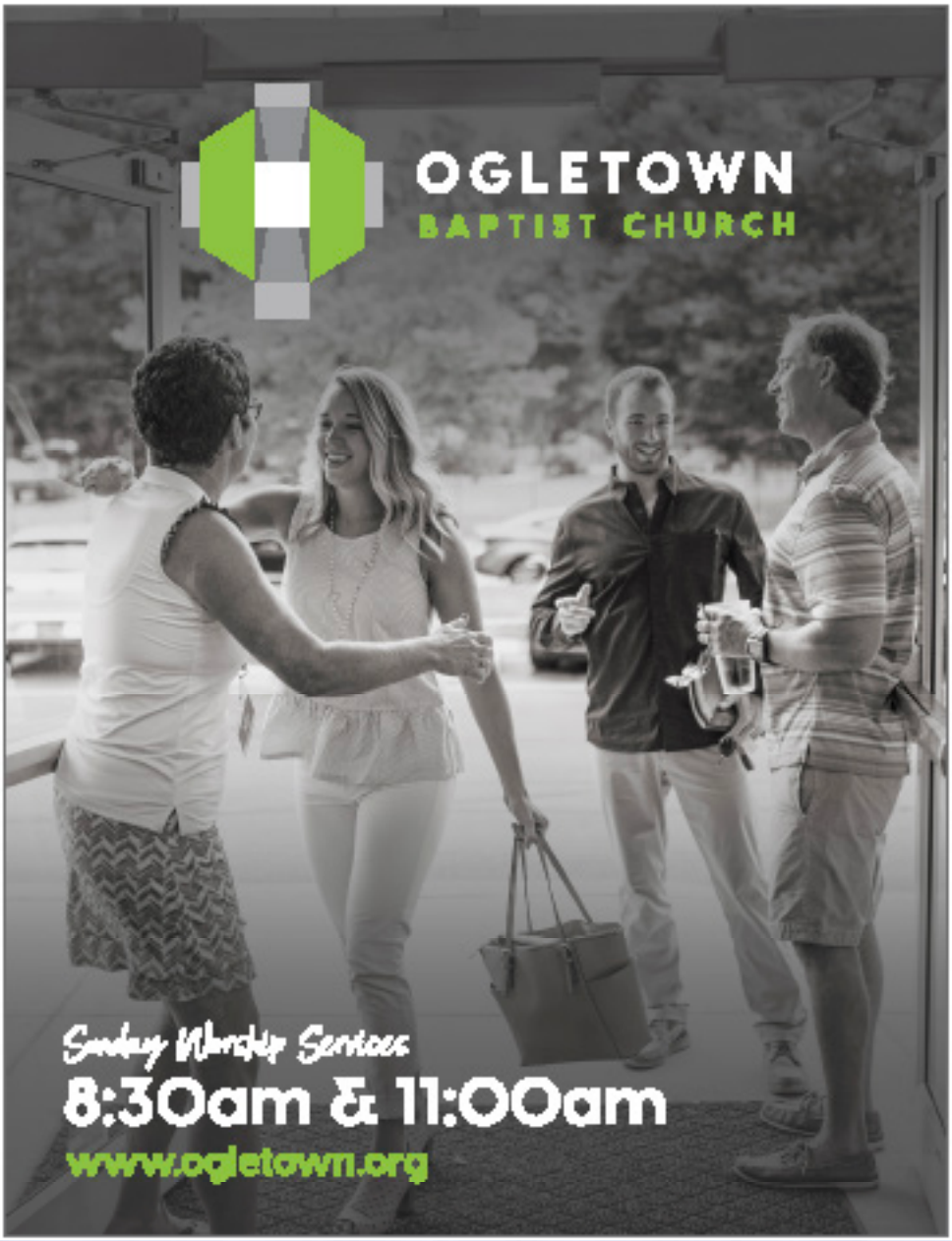
Eddie & Lori Gregory and Family

Wishing Everyone a Holiday Season Filled With Friends, Family, Love, Laughter, and Music!

Melinda Gregory
FSSB President

Pleased to provide rehearsal space for the

FIRST STATE SYMPHONIC BAND



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SUNDAY CELEBRATION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUPS — every other Sunday, 5–7pm
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Thursday mornings from 8:00–9:00am (in person and online)
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP — Wednesdays at 9:15am or 6:30pm.
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For more information on other events and activities, please visit epcnewark.org.
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May the holiday season fill your home with joy,
your heart with love,
and your life with laughter.

Warmest wishes for a wonderful New Year!

SUPPORTERS OF THE BAND

- Ken & Geri Melville — Happy Holidays to everyone! Thank you for the great music performances!

THE BAND WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Ogletown Baptist Church: ogletown.org - Our primary rehearsal location

Evangelical Presbyterian Church: www.epcnewark.org

The Smyrna Opera House: www.smyrnaoperahouse.org

Ushers and Welcome Table Volunteers: Lois Davis and Michelle Moran

Program Designer: Isabella Soriano and Kaitlyn Wittman

And You, Our Audience Members: Thank you for attending tonight's performance. Support from individuals like you helps us to fulfill our commitment to maintaining a vibrant community concert band. If you feel so inclined, a donation box is available at the band's welcome table in the lobby. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

The following memorial funds were created by family members in memory or in honor of loved ones, the proceeds of which are used to purchase new music for the band:

The Wayne Robbins Memorial Fund
The John and Catherine Hughes Memorial Fund
The Timothy J. Best, Jr., Memorial Fund
The Peg & Bob Rohs Memorial Fund
The Dean and Rosina Carter Tribute Fund
The Peyton and Posey Gardner Memorial Fund

Like what you hear? Please consider donating to the FSSB.

Your support will help us to continue to entertain, educate, and encourage an interest in music. We are a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, donations are tax deductible, and letters of acknowledgment are provided. Thank you!

First State Symphonic Band
1914 Thomas Rd.
Wilmington, DE 19803

Do you play an instrument? Please consider joining us!

The First State Symphonic Band is dedicated to the community band concept, providing an opportunity for musicians of all ages and all levels of experience to play music and improve their skills in a supportive environment.

We welcome those who can read music, can play a band instrument, and are at least 16 years old. With 12-14 concerts throughout the year, playing in the FSSB is a great way to share your talents with family, friends, and the community.

For more information visit: www.FirstStateSymphonicBand.com

Delaware Division of the Arts

This program is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on DelawareScene.com.

Upcoming Performances

Decemeber 2, 2022 - 7:30pm
Smyrna Opera House
7 West South Street
Smyrna, DE, 19977

Decemeber 10, 2022 - 7:30pm
St. David's Episcopal Church
2320 Grubb Rd
Wilmington, DE, 19810

Decemeber 16, 2022 - 7:30pm
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
308 Possum Park Rd
Newark, DE, 19711

December 17, 2022 - 7:00pm
Goshen United Methodist Church
103 Mulberry Street
Milton, DE, 19968

FSSB would like to recognize and thank Sir Speedy for helping to offset printing expenses for this concert.

Photograph of band by Jeffrey Nichol