

Mt. Lebanon High School Wind Ensemble



Mr. Jason L. Cheskawich

Director

**PENNSYLVANIA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL IN-SERVICE CONFERENCE**

**Erie Bayfront Convention Center
Friday, April 19, 2024
10:00 AM**

About the Mt. Lebanon Band Program

The Mt. Lebanon School District offers instruction on band instruments beginning in fourth grade. Students are given small group instruction and ensemble experience at the elementary level, then move on to the middle and high school programs where their ensemble education continues. The eighth-grade bands participate in an annual adjudication festival and are rated according to national and state standards in music education, where they have consistently received Superior ratings. Senior High students participate in Pennsylvania Music Educators Association festivals, such as District, Region, State, and Honors Ensembles. Mt. Lebanon Students have also performed in the NAFME All-Eastern Festival, Bands of America Honor Band, and the Music for All Honor Band of America.

The Mt. Lebanon High School Wind Ensemble's last PMEA performance was during the 2019 PMEA/NAfME Eastern Division Conference in Pittsburgh. In 2018, the Wind Ensemble performed at the PMEA Annual In-Service Conference in Lancaster. Additional performances include the 2017 and 2012 Music For All National Festival in Indianapolis, Carnegie Hall in New York City in 2015, and the 2013 PMEA Annual In-Service Conference in Erie.

Proud of their long-standing tradition of marching and musical excellence, the Mt. Lebanon "Blue Devil" Marching Band is the largest co-curricular activity in the Mt. Lebanon School District. The Marching Band is a seasoned traveler and has appeared in many televised events, such as the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, San Diego Big Bay Balloon Parade, Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, and multiple BCS Bowl Games. They are also a repeat performer at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Locally, the Blue Devils have performed for the Pittsburgh Penguins, Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Light-Up Night, Mt. Lebanon Light-Up Night, Mt. Lebanon Pumpkin Patch Parade, Bloomfield Citizen's Council Halloween Parade, Kennywood Fall Fantasy Parade, and the South Hills Memorial Day Parade. In addition, the band participated in both the 2016 and 2017 Pittsburgh Penguins Stanley Cup Parades. The Blue Devil Marching Band performed at Walt Disney World in the spring of 2022 and at the Bands of America Mid-Atlantic Regional and Lincoln Memorial in the fall of 2022. In the fall of 2023, they performed at the Bands of America Toledo Regional and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The Blue Devils also placed first in Class AAA at the 2023 PIMBA Championships.

Our sincere hope and goal is that upon graduation all Mt. Lebanon students take with them a lifelong appreciation of music. Many of our band alumni continue using their musical talents by participating in college ensembles and then as members of community bands and orchestras. Still, others go on to be outstanding music educators, technicians, and performers in the field, thus passing our mission on to future generations of musicians.

Program

Mt. Lebanon High School Wind Ensemble
Jason L. Cheskawich ~ Director

Fanfare for a New Era	Pinkzebra
Themes from "Green Bushes"	Percy Aldridge Grainger Arranged by Larry D. Daehn
Lux Aurumque	Eric Whitacre
Puszta	Jan Van der Roost
I. Andante Moderato	
II. Tranquillo	
III. Allegro molto	
IV. Marcato	
The Dauntless Battalion	John Philip Sousa

Program Notes

Fanfare for a New Era, 2022

Pinkzebra is the pseudonym of a successful music producer and composer.

He has built an international brand as an industry leader in the world of music licensing, selling over 100,000 licenses for all forms of media.

Pinkzebra is known for his uplifting and inspiring songs, upbeat background tracks, and sentimental music tracks. Millions of his fans discovered his music through its usage in viral YouTube videos, TV commercials, films, and TV shows.

~ Notes by Pinkzebra

Themes from "Green Bushes," 1921

In setting such dance-folk songs (indeed, in setting all dance music) I feel that the unbroken and somewhat monotonous keeping-on-ness of the original should be preserved above all else.

The greater part of my passacaglia is many-voiced and free-voiced. Against the folk tune I have spun free counter-melodies of my own - top tunes, middle tunes, bass tunes... The key-free harmonic neutrality of the folk song's Mixolydian mode opens the door to a wondrously free fellowship between the folk tune and these grafted-on tunes of mine.

My Green Bushes setting is thus seen to be a strict passacaglia throughout well-nigh its full length. Yet it became a passacaglia unintentionally. In taking the view that the Green Bushes tune is a dance-folk song... I was naturally led to keep it running like an unbroken thread through my setting, and in feeling prompted to graft upon it modern musical elements expressive of the swish and swirl of dance movements the many-voiced treatment came of itself.

The work is in no sense program music - in no way does it musically reflect the story told in the verses of the Green Bushes song text. It is conceived, and should be listened to, as dance music (It could serve as ballet music.)... as an expression of those athletic and ecstatic intoxications that inspire, are inspired by, the dance - my newtime harmonies, voice-weavings and form-shapes being lovingly woven around the sterling old-time tune to in some part replace the long-gone but still fondly mind-pictured festive-mooded country-side dancers, their robust looks, body actions and heart-stirs.

~ Notes by the Composer

Lux Aurumque, 2005

Lux Aurumque began its life as an acapella choral work that I wrote in the fall of 2000. When the Texas Music Educators Association and a consortium of bands commissioned me to adapt it for symphonic winds, I rewrote the climax and included the grand 'Bliss' theme from my opera Paradise Lost. Lux Aurumque received its premiere at the 2005 conference of the Texas Music Educators Association, and is dedicated with deep admiration for my dear friend Gary Green.

~ Notes from the Wind Score

Puszta, 1988

A versatile composer and arranger, Van der Roost is represented by works for wind band, brass quintet, orchestra, choir, chamber ensemble, piano, and guitar. His compositions have been performed on radio and television and recorded in over 35 countries. This suite of four gypsy dances was written in 1987. While having the definitive sound of authentic folk dances, the themes and melodies are all original. The dances alternate from bright and colorful to tranquil and melancholic, moods typical of gypsy music. Lying to the south and east of the Danube, the Puszta is the great Hungarian plain or prairie country that was home to nomadic shepherds and fierce horsemen. The region is noted as the original home of the celebrated Lipizzaner stallions.

~ Notes by Marcie Phelan for the Ridgewood (NJ) Concert Band

The Dauntless Battalion, 1922

Future President Warren G. Harding and bandmaster John Philip Sousa - two Americans who were serving their country in totally different capacities were awarded honorary doctorates by the Pennsylvania Military College in Chester on February 7, 1920. Sousa saluted the cadets in his own inimitable way, by composing a march in their honor. The band score was dedicated "To Col. Hyatt, the Faculty and Cadets of the Pennsylvania Military College" and was entitled "The Pennsylvania Military College March." An orchestra score, presumably made later, was entitled "The Pennsylvania Military March." But by the time the march was published, Sousa had provided the more colorful title.

~ Notes by Paul E. Bierley

2023-2024 Wind Ensemble Personnel

FLUTE

Serena Cheng
Elizabeth Divine
Lucy Gulish
Aika Kitani²
Henry Nowatzki

BASS CLARINET

Dominic Deniziuk

ALTO SAX
Lukas Campbell
Alexander Thompson

Isaac Ober
JP Quebral
Alejandro Voisin
Puglielli

EUPHONIUM

Robert Kennedy
AJ Strom^{1, 2, 3, 4}

TUBA

Carson Cheskawich^{1, 2}

OBOE

Hudson Hackley^{1, 2, 3, 5}

TENOR SAX

Jack Werzyn

HORN

Adam Burich
Eric Drozda
Aanche Libai
Natalie Nevius^{1, 2}

DOUBLE BASS

Owen Yeager

BASSOON

Anderson Lee^{1, 2, 3, 4}

BARITONE SAX

Thomas Ranney

TROMBONE

Lena Feng
Kianna Patrick
Kate Warren

PERCUSSION

Brennan Cleary
Lucy Hernandez
Tiernan Jenkins²
Jenna Moini
Elora Tighe
Gavin Weber

CLARINET

Sofia Canovic
Melia Rick
Eduardo Toledo
Kaden Unice

TRUMPET

Parker Boyce
Sawyer Delehanty^{1, 2, 3}
Wesley Duncan^{1, 2, 3, 5}

¹ PMEA District 1 Honors Band

² PMEA District 1 Band West

³ PMEA Region 1 Band

⁴ PMEA All-State Band

⁵ PMEA All-State Orchestra



From the Director

Welcome and thank you for attending our performance! I would like to thank the Mt. Lebanon community, faculty, staff, and administration for their continued support of music and the arts. Thank you also to the many individuals and families who helped us with our journey. I especially would like to thank the students who got us here and those who are performing today. You are a tremendous group of people and represent the best of our school and community.

Music is the language of the soul. Not only does music transcend words, music transcends culture, affiliation, and boundaries. At its very best, music has the power to change hearts and minds. In the words of Beethoven, “Music can change the world.”

I strongly believe, now more than ever, the making of music through school programs and organizations such as PMEA, are essential and will positively impact students throughout their lives. This influence is sure to serve them well as they go forth and change the world. Enjoy!



Mt. Lebanon School District Music Faculty

- Ms. Sarah Bitsko ~ *Middle School Orchestra*
- Mrs. Amanda Cheskawich ~ *Elementary Vocal*
- Mr. Jason Cheskawich ~ *High School Band & Music Technology*
- Mr. Pierce Cook ~ *Middle School Orchestra*
- Mr. Dominic DeLaurentis ~ *Elementary Strings*
- Mr. Jeremy DeLuca ~ *Director of Percussion*
- Mrs. Mariann Fox ~ *Elementary Vocal*
- Mrs. Carol Froehlich ~ *Elementary Vocal*
- Ms. Jill Gummo ~ *Elementary Vocal*
- Mrs. Allison Harris ~ *Elementary Strings*
- Mr. Ethan LaPlaca ~ *High School Choir & AP Music Theory*
- Mr. James Lash ~ *Middle School Choir*
- Mrs. Tara Lewis ~ *Elementary Strings*
- Mr. Doug Lischner ~ *Elementary Orchestra*
- Ms. Louise Marino ~ *Middle School Band*
- Mrs. Marlo Rankin ~ *Middle School Choir*
- Mr. Doug Reichenfeld ~ *High School Orchestra*
- Mrs. Rebecca Showalter ~ *Elementary Vocal*
- Mr. Ryan Smith ~ *Elementary Band*
- Dr. Roger Tabler ~ *Elementary Band*
- Ms. Krista Wagner ~ *Middle School Band*
- Mrs. Kara Wockley ~ *Elementary Band*

Acknowledgments with Gratitude

Mrs. Wendy Kumer, Mrs. Elisabeth Charles, Mr. George Furlow, Mr. Robert Lauver, Mr. Ron LoVerde, Mr. Ron Spang & Mr. Subha Das ~ *Wind Ensemble Sectional Coaches*

The Mt. Lebanon School District Administration, especially:
Dr. Melissa R. Friez, *Superintendent*

The Mt. Lebanon Band Builders, especially:
Mrs. GG Strom & Cathy Neergaard ~ *Co-Presidents*
Mrs. Erin Drozda ~ *Treasurer*

The Mt. Lebanon High School Administration, especially:
Dr. Joel G. Thompson, *Principal*

Mrs. Jennifer Rodriguez ~ *Chair of Secondary Fine Arts Department*

Mr. Ron LoVerde, Mr. Nick Drozda, Mrs. Amanda Cheskawich, Ms. Desiree Canovic, Mrs. Stephanie Eney, Mrs. Wendy Scott, Dr. Chris Marra, Mr. Len Lavelle & Mr. Chad Thompson
~ *For your help along the way!*

Board of School Directors

Ms. Valerie M. Fleisher ~ *President*
Mrs. Melinda S. Berdyck
Mrs. Brenna Crable
Mrs. Eva Gelman
Mrs. Erin C. Gentzel
Ms. Claire B. Guth

Mr. Todd A. Hoffman
Ms. Annamaria A. Johnson
Mr. Jacob W. Wyland
Mr. Thomas P. Peterson ~ *Solicitor*
Mrs. Kimberly Walters ~ *Board Secretary*

Central Administration

Dr. Melissa R. Friez ~ *Superintendent*
Dr. Ronald P. Davis ~ *Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education*
Dr. Joseph R. Sciallo ~ *Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education*

Building Administration

Dr. Joel G. Thompson ~ *Principal*
Dr. Theresa T. Mitchell ~ *Unit I Principal*
Dr. Lorien Moyer ~ *Unit II Principal*
Ms. Hanna Mincemoyer ~ *Unit III Principal*

Mt. Lebanon School District Mission Statement

To Provide the Best Education Possible for Each and Every Student.