

THE WALNUT CREEK CONCERT BAND

28 YEARS OF SERVING THE WALNUT CREEK COMMUNITY as the Official Band of the City of Walnut Creek performing throughout the year at Civic and patriotic functions, Summer Park Concerts, and at the Leshar Center for the Arts.

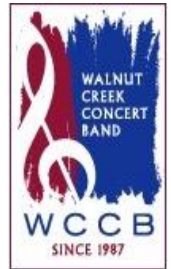


HOLIDAY CONCERT

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST ~ COMPOSER ~ TROMBONIST

JAMES A. BECKEL JR.

Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 7:30 PM Hofmann Theater ~ Leshar Center for the Arts



Harvey Benstein, Music Director and Conductor
O. L. (Johnny) Johnson IV, Assistant Conductor

PROGRAM

A Christmas Fanfare James A. Beckel Jr. (1948-)

Adagio Sostenuto from the Symphony for Band Op. 69 (1955) Vincent Persichetti (1915-1987)
Round Me Falls the Night

Concerto for Trombone James A. Beckel Jr. (1948-)
More questions than answers
The search for truth – The celebration of life
Unavoidable consequences
James A. Beckel Jr. Trombone

Intermission

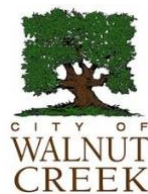
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)
Chorale from Cantata No. 147 ("Jesus bleibt meine Freude")

The Eighth Candle Steve Reisteter
O.L. (Johnny) Johnson IV, Conductor

Minor Alterations, Christmas Through the Looking Glass David Lovrien (b. 1963)

All I want for Christmas is You Mariah Carey

A Christmas Festival Leroy Anderson (1908 – 1975)



Leshar Center
for the Arts

1601 Civic Drive Walnut Creek
www.lesherARTScenter.org

Guest Artist, James A. Beckel Jr. graduated from the Indiana University School of Music and has been the Principal Trombonist with the Indianapolis Symphony since 1969. He is also on the music faculties at DePauw University. In addition to these responsibilities he has been a very active composer and arranger. Hal Leonard Music publishes several of his works. He was born in Marion, Ohio, July 16, 1948. Many original works have been performed by several professional orchestras such as Minneapolis, Boston, St. Louis, Atlanta, Houston, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Detroit, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Rochester, Charlotte, Fort Wayne, Rhode Island, Springfield, Evansville, Tampa, Arkansas, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, New Mexico, Chautauqua, Terre Haute, South Bend, Omaha, Knoxville, Delaware, West Virginia, Jacksonville, etc. His works have been broadcast nationwide via television and radio broadcast by groups including the Cincinnati Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, the Nashville Symphony, and the U.S. Coast Guard Band. Beckel's works have been recorded by the Indianapolis Brass Ensemble, the Houston Symphony, and the Indianapolis Symphony. In addition, some of his works for band have been recorded by the Coast Guard Band and the DePauw University Band. Mr. Beckel has received many composition grants. He has been an Individual Arts Fellow through the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, and recently was one of 50 composers chosen nationwide to be part of the Continental Harmony Project.



Program Notes.....

A Christmas Fanfare was commissioned by the Indianapolis Symphony for their 1992 Yuletide Concert and has been performed by over 50 ensembles.

Round Me Falls the Night

Philadelphia-born Vincent Persichetti was a virtuoso keyboard performer, scholar, author, and energetic teacher. As a contemporary of Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Hindemith and Stravinsky, Persichetti composed for nearly every musical medium, and particularly for wind band, with over 120 works published. The influence of his musical mind is widely felt, thanks to his expert teaching and his book on harmonic practices in contemporary music. As the composition professor at the Julliard School, Persichetti was a major influence on twentieth century composers.

"Round Me Falls the Night" is part of the the composer's Hymns and Responses for the Church Year, and is used in the second movement of his Symphony for Band.

Round me falls the night; Savior, be my Light:

Through the hours in darkness shrouded

Let me see Thy face unclouded;

Let Thy glory shine in this heart of mine. Amen

Concerto for Trombone, James Beckel, The Trombone Concerto was written in the summer of 2013 for a joint commission of ten bands, which included The Walnut Creek Concert Band. This work is less programmatic than most of the composer's body of work. Although the concerto is based on personal reflections and introspections throughout this work, the composer, at a more mature age, is looking for answers to life's questions that most people have regarding their existence and the meaning of life. With age comes only the realization that he has more questions than answers to these great religious and philosophical mysteries. The composer decides in his own mind that mankind does have free will, but firmly believes that the consequences of man's free will can also lead to destinies that are unavoidable. Tonight's performance, with the composer serving as soloist is the West Coast Premiere of this exciting new work for Trombone.

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. With a family boasting approximately 200 musical relatives, it is not surprising that German composer J.S. Bach developed an interest in music at an early age. He mastered the violin and clavier and devoted himself to the mastery of the organ. At the age of 18, Bach was the court organist in the town of Arnstadt and became interested in composition. He was a devout Lutheran and, like his fellow baroque composers, believed that everything a person did was religious in nature. They believed that their music and art helped protect people against the advance of doubt bred by Renaissance ideas of scientific, rational inquiry. During his lifetime, Bach was more famous as an organist and court musician than as a composer, because his baroque compositions were considered to be too elaborate. His works remained largely unknown until they were rediscovered some eighty years after his death.

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" is one of Bach's best-known works. The cantata was initially composed by Bach in 1716 for a service in the Weimarchapel on the Sunday before Christmas.. It was revised between 1727 and 1731 for performance during the festival of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, during the month of July. The melody is not original with Bach, it was borrowed from the German Lutheran hymnal and was probably written by Johann Rist. The moving triplet pattern throughout the piece creates a mood of devotion, continuity, and strength.

The Eighth Candle remembers the story of Hanukkah the Festival of Lights. It begins with an extended hymn-like section followed by an exciting dance of celebration. The feast commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greek tyrant Antiochus over 2,180 years ago. Legend has it that after the battles were won there was only enough oil for the ceremonial lights to last for one day, yet by some miracle the oil lasted for eight days. Hanukkah is celebrated by the family in the home rather than in the synagogue. In modern times candles are lit, one for each day of the holiday, prayers are recited, then the feast and merrymaking begin. Steve Reisteter is a contemporary American musician and composer from the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania.

Minor Alterations, Christmas Through the Looking Glass is a clever adaptation of favorite Christmas tunes, transposed from major keys to minor. The styles of these familiar tunes are then changed and overlapped, giving each tune a new character. From the ominous opening of "Joy to the World" to the frenzied *Nutcracker* finale, each tune is twisted into something new and surprising. Listen for these other favorites: "Up on the Housetop," "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas," "Santa Claus Lane," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Silver Bells," "Jingle Bells," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Sleigh Ride," "The Wassail Song," and "Deck the Halls." David Lovrien is a software professional, saxophonist, Irish whistler, composer, web designer, music publisher, and creator of the John Philip Sousa Home Page, www.dws.org/sousa/.

All I Want for Christmas Is You is a hit song written and produced by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey and composer Walter Afanasieff. It was released by Columbia Records on November 1, 1994 as the lead single from her first holiday album and fourth studio album, *Merry Christmas*. The song's lyrics declare that the narrator does not care about Christmas presents or lights; all she wants for Christmas is to be with her lover.

A Christmas Festival was composed in 1950, *A Christmas Festival* is a concert overture built upon traditional Christmas songs. Originally recorded by the Boston Pops, it is the Christmas medley that sets the standard for all others. Anderson has encompassed the joy, celebration, and solemnity of Christmas in his arrangements of: *Joy To The World* • *Deck the Halls* • *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* • *Good King Wenceslas* • *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* • *The First Noel* • *Silent Night* • *Jingle Bells* • *O Come, All Ye Faithful*.

Conductors...

Harvey Benstein brings to the podium a wealth of experience and artistry. His musical interpretations and artistic conducting style have won the praises of composers, conductors, musicians and audiences. Ensembles under his direction demonstrate a wide range of musical styles,



sensitive musicianship, and ensemble clarity, creating innovative and eclectic programs. Benstein has conducted in all media from Symphony Orchestra to jazz ensemble and is well versed in the orchestral and wind band repertoire. Active in the San Francisco Bay area as a professional conductor, Benstein has served as the music director and conductor of the Walnut Creek Concert Band since 1998, and was the conductor of the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra (1999-2007). He was the Director of Instrumental Music at Campolindo High School, where he established an instrumental music program that has received a National and International reputation for excellence.

Benstein served as Professor of Conducting and Ensemble director at Butler University, Indiana; McNeese State University, Louisiana; and The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, mentoring

numerous conductors and musicians and establishing a comprehensive conductor-training program.

He is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States, working with professional and amateur ensembles.

O. L. (Johnny) Johnson, IV is a graduate of McNeese State University, where he earned a Bachelor of



Music Education degree and Sacramento State University where he earned a Master of Music. His teaching career began in a small Louisiana town, which he built into a thriving musical organization.

Johnny went on to serve as the Instrumental Music Director at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill, CA where he led six ensembles including wind bands, orchestra and jazz bands. During his tenure, the ensembles performed in festivals in major U.S. cities and earned the opportunity to perform in Carnegie Hall. More recently, he lived in Texas for two years developing an instrumental music program for a newly constructed high school and in doing so, initiated the school district's string program. Johnny is currently the Director of Instrumental Music at Campolindo High School.

THANK YOU for sharing in our music making. Our reward and acknowledgement comes from the enthusiasm and loyalty of our great Walnut Creek audience. We hope to see you at our future performances:



Tales of Fantasy and Adventure - Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 7:30PM

Featuring Guest artist flutist Tara Helen O'Connor

Lord of the Rings Symphony Johan DeMeij

The Wizard of Oz – Arlen-Harburg

Carmen Fantasie Brilliante Francois Borne

New York based flutist, Tara Helen O'Connor is a charismatic performer sought after for her unusual artistic depth, brilliant technique and colorful tone in music of every era.

Memorial Day Civic Remembrance – Civic Park -10AM FREE

Fourth of July Patriotic Celebration – 6PM – Civic Park FREE

Summer “Pops” Concert - Tuesday, July 19, 2016 – 7:30 PM

The “Pops” Concert features the depth and talent of the members of the Walnut Creek Band as they present a program of “player favorites” from light classics, traditional marches, patriotic selections and a few surprises



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Membership in the Walnut Creek Concert Band is open to adult musicians from the greater Walnut Creek area. If you are interested in becoming part of our band contact us at **walnutcreekband@gmail.com** or visit our website at **www.walnutcreekband.org** or P.O. Box 5541, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-1541.
The band rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 pm at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette.
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Loren Kayfetz, Investment Advisor
*Wendy Lowe, Administrative Assistant
Nobuyoshi Takahashi
Michele Thompson, Loan Officer, Ret.

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Ron Kerst, Physicist, English Horn
*Joan Mc David, Educator

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Mat Fukano

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Rachel Ovadia, Implementation Manager
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Stephanie Petreas, Nurse
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*Jan Schmedinghoff, Domestic Engineer
*David Sandusky, Chemist
+Gail Strack, GJS Enterprises
Janet Zingale, Pharmacist

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Founder, Instrument Care Apparel
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ALTO SAXOPHONE

*David Berg, Project Manager
Derrick Clark
Jonathan Feng

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Bill Dorman, Telephone Company Technician, Ret.

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Johnny Johnson, Music Educator
Valerie Abad, Executive Director

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*Jay Johnson, CEO
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Ken McCall, Technical Writer
Cynthia Pierce, Artist
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Patricia Usedom (Bass), Domestic Engineer
Tim Walker, Lawyer
*Dean Leonard

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Leah Cole
*Leonard Rossi, Music Educator, Ret.

TUBA

Bill Beatty, Chaplain, OPD
*Mark Horne, Environmental Geologist

PERCUSSION

Juliana Di Miceli, Graduate student, tutor
Joan Greland-Goldstein,
Program Coordinator, Ret.
Robert Hamaker, Musician
*Theresa Srch-Nelson, Music Therapist

**denotes Section Leader*

+Tonight marks the final WCCB performance for Gail Strack. Thank you Gail for your years of service to the band and for sharing your time and talent with all of us.



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