

UW-River Falls Music and Stage and Screen Arts Department presents

HOMECOMING CONCERT

**Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025
2 p.m.**

**UWRF Symphony Band, Choral
Community and Alumni**

**William Abbott Concert Hall
Kleinpell Fine Arts**

Tickets available at the door.

Adults \$15 | Seniors \$10 | Students \$5

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
RIVER FALLS
MUSIC AND STAGE AND
SCREEN ARTS

UWRF Symphony Band Program

Infinity (2020).....Katahj Copley (b. 1998)

The Klaxon (1930/1984).....Henry Fillmore (1881-1956)/ed. Frederick Fennell

Third Suite (1966).....Robert Jager (b. 1939)

- I. March
- II. Waltz
- III. Rondo

UWRF Concert Choir

Deep River.....Moses Hogan

UWRF Choirs & Alumni Program

Dr. Ji Young Lee, piano

Deep Peace.....Elaine Hagenberg

There's Gonna Be a Homecoming'Kyle Pederson

Program Notes

Infinity

Shooting stars symbolize good luck, change or big event is coming towards your life, or it can also be a symbol of endings and beginnings. Shooting stars are one of the most diverse omens we have throughout our history. Shooting star symbolizes a brief fleeting moment in one's life just like the brief wonder of seeing a shooting star race across the night sky. They can also be a symbol of reaching one's ultimate destiny.

Shooting stars, asteroids, and the movement of the heavenly bodies in the night sky have always fascinated humans. Some cultures have always and strong beliefs and superstitions in the meaning of shooting stars. Traditional shooting stars also meant a new birth and changes in one's life and a wish for a better life.

With *Infinity*, Copley aims to create the sense of shooting stars flying through the infinite playground known as space. As the piece begins, the world of space is filled with stars running through the skies. Throughout the piece, the shooting stars go through many different scenarios both dark and light until finally at the end of the piece the stars – with their bright colors and lights – flash across the sky with spectacular grandeur. (Ann Wilson)

The Klaxon

Henry Fillmore was widely known by his friends and colleagues as someone who projected joy in all that he did. His music, likewise, projected this jovial personality. Fillmore's zest for life and the great American love affair with the automobile came together when his band performed at the Cincinnati Automobile Show in January 1930. Named for the French word for horn, *The Klaxon* was a play on both the tell-tale sounds of early automobile horns and his usage of the Horn section to carry the melody throughout the trio of this march. Additionally, Fillmore used this opportunity to debut a "new instrument" which he called the "klaxophone," a specially designed stand which held a series of car horns tuned to assist on the trio during the premier performance. While the klaxophone may not have caught on, *The Klaxon* remains a staple of American band literature. A favorite of Horn sections everywhere, *The Klaxon* is energetic, unique, and quintessentially Henry Fillmore.

Third Suite

In constructing *Third Suite*, composer Robert Jager used familiar, traditional forms and structures, but each in an unfamiliar and unfamiliar way. The opening movement, a march, features many stylistic march considerations recognizable to musicians. This movement, however, is set in contrasting meters, giving it an out of balance aesthetic throughout. The second movement, a waltz, again has many characteristics of a standard waltz, but with an alternating of the standard 3/4 time signature with 2/4 measures. Coupled with a thin instrumentation and some unconventional harmonies, this waltz elicits fun but unsettled feelings more suited for the fun house at a fair than the ballrooms of Vienna. A traditional Rondo rounds out the work, with each of the themes separated by the five distinctive chords that open the movement.

Deep River

*Deep river, my home is over Jordan.
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
O don't you want to go to that Gospel feast?
That promise land where all is peace?
Oh, deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.*

Deep River is a traditional spiritual arranged by prolific composer and arranger Moses Hogan. This is a song of hope, and uses lush harmonies and tritone jumps to represent the beauty and complexity of using the “Jordan River” and “campground” as metaphors for an important destination.

Deep Peace

*Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
The light of the world to you.*

This traditional Gaelic blessing is arranged for choir and piano. The undulating piano line represents the flowing of the natural elements like running waves and flowing air which undulate underneath the text of the blessing. UWRF Choirs wishes all its members, past, present, and future, peace and happiness in their lives.

There's Gonna Be A Homecomin'

*There's gonna be a homecomin'
Oh, I'm headin' home
To the people and the places that I know.
Gonna have me a homecomin'
It's where I wanna be
Where the places and the people all know me.
Somewhere that I can be fully free
No front and no façade, where I can just be me
Ain't no jealousy, ain't no judgin' found
Just whole-hearted love, and hope to go around.*

This composition by Minneapolis-based composer Kyle Pederson is about returning home to find acceptance and peace. The following excerpt is from the publisher notes in his octavo: “This piece affirms the power of any community (church, school, town) to surround its members with love and be a voice and force for wholeness, reconciliation, and hope.” We hope this upbeat tune and its exciting chords provide a wonderful ending to your homecoming celebrations!

Bios



Dr. Cera Babb is the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where she conducts the Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, Tenor/Bass Ensemble, and Treble Choir, and teaches courses in conducting and music education. An active clinician with honor choirs, all state choirs, and choral festivals around the country, Babb's work focuses on fostering enriching, meaningful, and musically excellent experiences with musicians and their communities.

Babb's ensembles at UW-River Falls participate in international tours and festivals, world premiere performances, conference performances, choral exchanges, and much more. Before teaching at UW-River Falls, Babb taught choir and courses in music education at Alma College. She has also worked with nonprofit, intergenerational, and children's choirs around the country, and values the impact communal music-making can have on communities of all kinds.

Babb's research focuses on the impact of choral music on communities, developing active listening skills in conductors, the work of underrepresented musicians, developing choirs with the use of tuning forks, and student success at the post-secondary level. Her degrees include a Doctor of Musical Arts from Michigan State University, a Master of Music from the University of Oregon, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Delaware.



Deborah Fristad is a Lecturer in the Music and Stage and Screen Arts Department at UW-River Falls where she is in her twelfth year. She currently conducts the University Community Chorus and leads Class Piano courses for music education majors.

Her teaching career includes vocal, instrumental, and classroom experience at the elementary and secondary levels in five states and two European countries. She also has extensive experience as a musical collaborator at the piano for choirs, vocalists, and instrumentalists. She was twice named Teacher of the Year by her school districts.

Drawing on her extensive experience as a liturgical musician, she is the Artistic Director for the St. Croix Sacred Ensemble. In support of the lifelong singing movement, she volunteers at Woodland Hill Presbyterian Home in Hudson leading residents in singing activities and facilitating collaboration with local choirs.

Deborah earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, Minnesota and a Master of Arts in Music from The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Throughout her career, she has been actively involved with several professional organizations including Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), American Choral Directors Association (ADCA), National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and has served Wisconsin Music Education Association (WMEA).



In this twenty-ninth year of teaching **Shawn W. Gudmunsen** strives for excellence in his music programs. A 1992 graduate of St. Croix Falls High School, Shawn went on to receive his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1997. While there, Mr. Elliot R. World was his mentor and teacher. Shawn received his Master of Music-Fine Arts degree at UW-River Falls in the fall of 2011. His published project is entitled; “Musical Traditions of Uganda”.

Shawn has taught at all age levels and is currently directing Chamber Singers of St. Croix, St. Croix Falls Singing Saints concert choir, Freshman Choir and also directs the seventh and eighth grade choirs.

In 2022 Shawn joined the faculty at UW-River Falls as a Music Education instructor. His teaching includes Contemporary Topics in Music Education, Applied Voice, and is the Tenor/Bass Ensemble Conductor.

Outside of the classroom, Shawn is active in the choral community. He can be seen judging for the Wisconsin School Music Association and is in demand as a clinician and workshop presenter. Shawn is also active in the American (Wisconsin) Choral Directors Association; ACDA and in the National Association of Music Educators (NAfME). In April of 2023, Shawn presented at the NE National NAfME Convention in Rochester, NY surrounding his six year action research on music and mental health initiative. Shawn is also a 2020 recipient of the Kohl Fellowship, the 2024 recipient of the Wisconsin Music Educators Associations “Music Teacher of Excellence” award for his continued dedication to music education and the “2024 Morton Schapiro Outstanding Secondary Educator” award from the University of Northwestern.

Last summer, Shawn expanded his cultural music study by working with his dear friend and Cultural Ambassador from Uganda, Africa; Okello Kelo Sam. A team of music educators headed to Uganda, Africa to learn and teach music to rescued child soldiers and prostitutes at Sam’s school called “Hope North”. While there the team collected styles of cultural music to create new

arrangements to bring back to America. The entire project, entitled “The Pamoja Project” aims to open a new line of cultural experiences for St. Croix Falls, UW-River Falls and surrounding communities and schools.

Shawn is extremely excited to be the new director of the Woodland Chorale, and looks forward to growing this community choir in the St. Croix Valley. Shawn has been married for 24 years to his lovely wife and teacher Paula, a Woodland Chorale member, and is a proud father of two boys. He enjoys family time, golf, gardening and all things hunting.



Dr. Ji Young Lee began piano studies at the age of four. Born in Korea, she graduated from Seoul Arts High School and received the Bachelor's degree from Ewha Womans University. She went on to study in the U.S., earning her Master's degree at Eastman School of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Lee won first Prizes at the Yokohama International Music Competition, United States Open Music Competition (Showcase Piano Solo Advanced), American Protégé Competition, and CCM Piano Concerto Competition. She also won prizes at the Australian Concerto and Vocal Competition and the Chopin International Piano

Competition In ASIA.

Lee's performance with Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Vladimir Fedosev, was broadcast nationally. She has given many solo recitals and chamber music concerts around the United States, Australia, Asia and Europe, including performances at the Seoul Arts Center, Sejong Chamber Hall, Kumho Art Hall, Carnegie Weill Hall, Kilborun Hall, Ceramic Palace Hall, Youngsan Art Hall, Sundin Hall, William Abbott Concert Hall, Harris Theater, Elim Hall, Kawai Hall, Weihai Center, Daejeon Arts Center, Oakland Inter-State Auditorium, Watson Hall, Werner Hall, Harris Concert Hall, Corbett Auditorium, Berkman Recital Hall, Riverway Arts Centre, Schmitt music Hall, Minnesota Orchestra Hall, Christ united Methodist Church (Rochester Chamber Music Series) and Steinway Hall.

As a pedagogue, Lee has taught at the University of Cincinnati Starling Chamber Music Department, Hyupsung University, and Seoul Arts College. She is a member of CM Piano Trio, Liszt Piano Association, and the Piano Society of Korea, MTNA, and a faculty member of France Musicalta and Asia International Piano Academy and Festival with Competitions. She is also an active judge for many competitions, including MTNA National Competitions, MMTA Piano Contest, WMTA Piano Competitions, MMTF Piano Competitions, Lakes Music Club

(Federation Contest), MacPhail Concerto Audition, and AIPAF competitions. She teaches at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls and is also a faculty member of Bethel University Summer Piano Academy. She is also an artistic director of Minnesota Concert Series, a board member of the Piano Society of Korea, and has served as a music director for Asia International Piano Academy and Festival with Competitions since 2023.



Dr. Joshua W. Neuenschwander is Director of Bands and Orchestra and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He conducts the Symphony Band and the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra and teaches courses in the music education curriculum.

Neuenschwander holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the University of Iowa where he was the recipient of the Myron D. Welch Conducting Fellowship, Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from Oakland University, and Bachelor of Music Education from VanderCook College of Music where he graduated as salutatorian of his class. His principal conducting teachers include Dr. Richard Mark Heidel, Dr. Eric Bush, and Dr. Gregory Cunningham. Prior to his appointment to the UW-River Falls faculty, Neuenschwander served as Director of Instrumental Music at Cornell College, Director of Bands (Adjunct) at Grinnell College, and as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the University Bands at the University of Iowa. In addition to his experience in higher education, Neuenschwander taught in the Michigan public schools for eight years, serving as the Director of Bands in Avondale Schools and Associate Director of Bands in Haslett Schools. He has also played an active role in community music organizations, including working with church music programs in Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, and Illinois, previously serving as Artistic Director of the Iowa City New Horizons Band, and guest conducting the Iowa City Flute Choir and Iowa City Community Band.

Neuenschwander is active in the music education community as a clinician and guest conductor and has been invited to speak at state band and music education conferences in Iowa, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Outside of work, he is an avid private pilot, a huge sports fan, an active band and hockey dad, and he enjoys camping and hiking with his wife and sons.

Ensemble Rosters

Symphony Band

Piccolo

Dorothy Grundin

Flute

*Cassidy Boeckermann

Nancy Wucherpennig

Dorothy Grundin

Savannah Santos

Avery Vaughan

Oboe

Hayden Durovy-Meeker

Bassoon

Alan Knudtson

Clarinet

*Jacob Murphy

Emma Dvorak

Andrew Lindloff

Ella Schultz

Elissa Donahue

Merlyn Aude

Bass Clarinet

Allison Erdmann

Carol Haulpaus

Alto Saxophone

Chance Bucnis

Tenor Saxophone

Ben Oberholtzer

*Denotes Section Leader

Trumpet

*Nathan Tefft

Linda Ness

Ethan Smith

Riley Weiss

Gunnar Nordin

John Potter

Julie Bird

Horn

*Patrick Livingston

Haylie Meyer

Brynn Hutmacher

Trombone

*Cohen Bolopue

Emily Lock

Eric Allen

Eliza Tool

Carl Meickne

Euphonium

*Jamison Gallmeier

Kat McNally

Owen Lundquist

Sarah Klein

Dennis Opland

Tuba

Gary Bird

Tim Erickson

Maleighney Deschamp

Percussion

Sophia Heran

Patrick Livinston

Maria Olson

Ethan Smith

Chamber Singers

Soprano

Jess Benjamin
Josephine Brannon
Lacey Fieldseth †
Aubrey Halpern-Smith †
Sophia Heran

Alto

Cassidy Boeckermann
Emma Dvorak
Evelyn Flasch
Michaela Hasapopoulos
Haylie Meyer

Community Choir

Soprano

Sophia Heran
Jonelle Jones
Clare Leitschuh
Ellen Rominski
Ann Siegel
Isabel Vance
Jen Vance

Alto

Robin Arneson
Bug Davis
Amy Gierl
Karen McConville
Jamie Mills
Olive Olson
Aimee Pelletier
Jody Sather
Susan Travis
Kristin Turk
Wendy Wall

Tenor/Bass Ensemble

Tenor

Grant Shipley

Tenor

Colin Clabo
Kevin Fraley
Brady O'Brien
Damyre Perry †

Bass

Andrew Castillo
Patrick Livingston
Brayson Miller

Tenor

Camden Gallo
Kevin Fraley
Gina Skule

Bass

Bill Fristad
David Reilly
Justin Swanson
Kristofer Voiles
Brad Wilkinson

Bass

Patrick Livingston
Oliver Kovacs
Andrew Castillo

Concert Choir

Soprano

Gracie Anderson
Jessica Benjamin
Neleh Bruha †
Elizabeth Cassady
Julia Conwell
Lacey Fieldseth †
Emily Flanagan
Aubrey Halpern-Smith †
Sophia Heran*
Scarlett Hoff
Jordan Jankowski
Zoe Larson
Kaylie Mularie
Kate Reese
Molly Sullivan

Alto

Isabella Blett*
Emma Dvorak
Chloe Kennedy-Abdella
Abby Kerber
Kat McNally
Haylie Meyer
Hannah Mroz
Kylie Roth
Savannah Samaraka
Enavi Sannes

Tenor

Austen Bond
Kevin Fraley*
Camden Gallo
Brady O'Brien
Damyre Perry †
Jamison Strate
William Thomson

Bass

Cohen Bolopue
Ryan Clatt
Austin Clennon
Jamison Gallmeier*
Evan Gudmunsen
Patrick Livingston
Luke Marsh
Brayson Miller
Riley Weltzin

Treble Choir

Soprano

Sophia Anderson
Julisa Bearhart*
Grace Donovan
Sophia Heran*
Cecilia Parra
Selene Rice

Alto

Ari Gustafson
Claire Maruska
Kat McNally*
Abigail Mielkie
Hannah Mroz
Enavi Sannes
Kana Thao

** Denotes section leaders*

† Denotes choir officers