

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS

Boyer College of Music and Dance

# Temple University Symphonic Band

Dr. Matt Brunner, conductor

Jillian Laakso, graduate conductor

Kalia Page, graduate conductor

Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center

1837 North Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19122



# Program

*Havana Nights*

Randall Standridge (b. 1976)

*Rest*

Frank Ticheli (b. 1958)

*Celestial Bodies*

Harrison J. Collins (b. 1999)

*Café 512*

Ryan George (b. 1978)

*Barbaresque*

Hiroaki Kataoka (b. 1983)

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The use of photographic, audio and video recording is not permitted.  
Please turn off all electronic devices.

Two hundred seventh performance of the 2025-2026 season.

# Temple University Symphonic Band

Dr. Matt Brunner, conductor

## FLUTE

Chun Wing Wong  
Melanie Edris  
Minnie Li  
Sidney Beckerich  
Ethan Roedig  
Ava Cleary

## CLARINET

Andrea Zubieta  
Anuja Nanavaty  
Taylor Willoughby  
Lorenzo Baldovino  
Brooklynn Sload  
Diego Ramirez

## BASS CLARINET

Yaniss Mea

## BASSOON

Levi Carolan  
Natalia Redziniak

## SAXOPHONE

Jared Kaplan  
Jeffrey Swan  
Luca Anttell  
Emma Cole  
Jackson Rudesyle  
Max Bowles  
Lucas Purpura  
Owen Mediate  
Joanna Hyland

## HORN

Ryleigh Ehst  
Kyle Verrone

## TRUMPET

Finn Gagnon  
Joshua Grant  
Tyler Raffa  
Emily Canon  
Jeff Fountain

## TROMBONE

Phoebe Lampe-Shanaman  
Luca Scott  
Wade Dahlgren  
Liam McSherry  
Sean Peters  
Zach Polek

## EUPHONIUM

Charles Darrington

## TUBA

Xavier Cannon  
Andrew Malick  
David Poirier

## PERCUSSION

Lorenzo Williams  
Sam Wylie  
Chris Borges  
Rachel Scierka  
Cassidy Rysavy  
Brooklynn Sload

## PIANO

Bryn Davies

# About the Conductor

**MATTHEW BRUNNER** is Associate Professor of Instrumental Music and Director of Athletic Bands for the Boyer College of Music and Dance. His responsibilities at Temple include serving as Director of the Diamond Marching and Basketball Bands, conductor of the Symphonic Band and Collegiate Band and serving as instructor of courses in conducting. A native of Dover, Ohio, he received the Doctor of Music degree in wind conducting from Indiana University. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in music education, and his Master of Music degree in Instrumental Conducting from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He went on to become one of the band directors in the Carrollton School District in Carrollton, Ohio. His musical versatility was frequently showcased as he could be heard on trumpet in several area concert bands, orchestras, jazz, rock and funk bands.

Dr. Brunner is credited with over two hundred marching band arrangements for university and high school marching bands across the country. His Marching Band arrangements have received national recognition in the most recent issue of Billboard Magazine, USA Today, and Rolling Stone Magazine, as well as the websites of Ryan Seacrest, Alternative Press Magazine, and popular artists such as Panic! At the Disco, Imagine Dragons, Sia, Paramore, Fall Out Boy, Shepard and Bastille.

The Diamond Band has made several appearances on local and national television and in movies. Students from the band have appeared on The Today Show, Good Morning America, Hardball with Chris Matthews, and on the CBS series Madam Secretary. The band made big screen appearances in the 2014 remake of Annie, and in the Academy Award Nominated The Wolf of Wall Street. The band has performed in the EagleBank Bowl, New Mexico Bowl, Boca Raton Bowl, Military Bowl, and the Bad Boy Mowers Gasparilla Bowl. The Basketball Band has performed at Tournaments in Miami, Tucson, Jacksonville, Nashville, Memphis, New York, Orlando, Dayton, Norfolk, Hartford, Brooklyn, and Salt Lake City. In November, the Diamond Band appeared for the first time ever in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!

Dr. Brunner serves as an adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor across the country. He has published articles in the Teaching Music Through Performance in Band and Teaching Music Through Performance in Beginning Band series as well as the National Band Association Journal. In 2007, he was one of the winners of the National Band Association's International Conducting Symposium, which took place in Sherborne, England. Dr. Brunner received the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence in 2015. His professional affiliations include The National Band Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Kappa Kappa Psi, the College Band Director's National Association, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. Dr. Brunner resides in the Philadelphia suburbs with his wife, Janice, two sons, Kyler and Kaden, and labradoodle, Toby.

Originally from Havre de Grace, MD, **JILLIAN LAAKSO** holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Delaware and is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting at Temple University. Before beginning graduate study, Jillian taught at Bohemia Manor High School for five years in Northeast Maryland, where they developed thriving instrumental programs and a passion for community-centered music-making.

**KALIA PAGE**, a native of Stanardsville, Virginia, is currently pursuing her Master's in Instrumental Conducting at Temple University, where she serves as a graduate assistant with both the marching band and concert ensembles. Before moving to Philadelphia, she spent two years as the Band Director and Fine Arts Coordinator at Rappahannock County High School. In addition to teaching, Page was an active performer throughout the Shenandoah Valley, playing percussion with professional ensembles such as the Massanutten Brass Band, the Valley Wind Ensemble, and the American Prize-winning Waynesboro Symphony Orchestra. She holds a degree in music education from Bridgewater College. During her undergraduate years, she worked under the United States Army at the Child Development Center, teaching music to young children. She also gained experience adjudicating and instructing marching bands and drumlines across Virginia.

# Program Notes

*Havana Nights* (2018)

Randall Standridge (b. 1976)

The composer writes:

“My musical tastes are wildly eclectic. One moment, you might find me enjoying Beethoven’s symphonies and the other you might find me headbanging to Iron Maiden. I have never been a musical snob, and I value and love the entire array of sounds, rhythms, and textures that the world of music, in all its forms, has to offer.

One genre I have a particular affection for is mambo. Being introduced to the style when I was in high school, I was enchanted with the melodies, rhythms, and excitement that it generates. As I dug more deeply into the style, I was introduced to the work of Yma Sumac, Tito Puente, Pérez Prado, and others. I was absolutely enchanted.

*Havana Nights* is a concert work for Wind Ensemble, but it was also conceived as a short ballet. The action takes place in the mambo clubs of Havana as our heroine (Havanna) dances her way through the night life. She encounters another young dancer and the two begin a flirtatious, seductive conversation through the art of movement. As the ballet comes to a close, Havanna casts one final, gleeful look at her would-be suitor before escaping into the night.

This work was commissioned by District 10 of the Ohio Music Educators Association for their 2018 District 10 OMEA Honor Band. I would like to thank them for trusting my creativity and allowing me to create something “entirely else” for wind ensemble. Thank you for letting me use my musical voice.

Also, this work is dedicated to one of my composition professors, Dr. Tom O’Connor. I absolutely could not have done any of this without your guidance, advice, and encouragement. I am forever in your debt.

Peace, Love, and Music.”

*Program note by composer*

*Rest* is a concert band adaptation of Ticheli's prior choral work, *There Will Be Rest*. About his adaptation for wind band, the composer writes:

"I preserved almost everything from the original: harmony, dynamics, even the original registration. I also endeavored to preserve carefully the fragile beauty and quiet dignity suggested by Sara Teasdale's words. However, with the removal of the text, I felt free to enhance certain aspects of the music, most strikingly with the addition of a sustained climax on the main theme. The extended climax allows the band version to transcend the expressive boundaries of a straight note-for-note setting of the original. Thus, both versions are intimately tied and yet independent of one another, each possessing its own strength and unique qualities."

The wind version was commissioned by Dr. Russel Mikkelson, director of bands at Ohio State University. He relates that he was looking for a piece of music with which to remember his father, and he always loved Ticheli's *There Will Be Rest*. So Dr. Mikkelson contacted Dr. Ticheli, asked him to set his choral work for wind band. *Rest* was the result.

*There will be rest, and sure stars shining  
Over the roof-tops crowned with snow,  
A reign of rest, serene forgetting,  
The music of stillness holy and low.  
I will make this world of my devising,  
Out of a dream in my lonely mind,  
I shall find the crystal of peace, above me  
Stars I shall find.*

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

*Program note by composer*

*Celestial Bodies* was commissioned by two sisters, Samm Wunderlich and Charlotte D'Aleo, in memory of their father, Rob Wunderlich. Before his unexpected passing, Rob was a dedicated volunteer and supporter of young musicians. The composer reflects on human relationships as similar to celestial bodies in space — gravitational forces shaping our orbits and paths. The music begins with a shock of grief and mourning but moves through sorrow into joy and celebration of a life lived and the lasting impact of love and community.

*Program note by composer*

**Café 512 (2010)****Ryan George (b. 1978)**

The composer writes:

“As I was beginning to brainstorm ideas for this piece I stumbled across the title of a piece by famed Argentinean composer Astor Piazzolla called “Café 1930”. I found the title immediately intriguing and in wanting to write a piece that tipped the hat heavily towards a specific style, the mood and intensity found within tango seemed to be the right fit. The similarities between Piazzolla’s work and the one I was looking to write pretty much end at the title. Whereas Piazzolla’s work is intimate, slow, and melancholy (as well as being a true tango), I wanted to write something more dance-like and energetic. The piece is built on a motivic phrase based on a 5+1+2 note grouping (512 being the area code for Austin TX) and is structured in A-B-A form.”

*Program note by composer*

**Barbaresque (2018)****Hiroaki Kataoka (b. 1983)**

*Barbaresque* was commissioned by Sendai Jyonan High School Wind Band and premiered at the All-Japan Band Competition (2018/2019). The original version was scored for a very small ensemble of 11 players, so it emphasized brass for strength and impact. For publication, the composer expanded it to 20 players, using woodwinds to enhance color while maintaining the piece’s energy. The music begins with dynamic unison figures and a strong, contemporary, exotic mood, shifts into a section with detached solo lines and an elegant waltz and then returns to the main themes to build to a strong, emphatic conclusion.

*Program note by publisher*

## **Boyer College of Music and Dance**

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, five of which have received Grammy nominations.

[boyer.temple.edu](http://boyer.temple.edu)

## **The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts**

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

[arts.temple.edu](http://arts.temple.edu)

## **Temple University**

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for "The Temple College." His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—*Perseverantia Vincit*, or "Perseverance Conquers"—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

[temple.edu](http://temple.edu)

# Boyer College of Music and Dance

## Upcoming Events

### **Master's Recital: Veronika Sveshnikova, violin**

Sunday, February 22 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Graduate Conductors Chorus and Recital Chorus**

Monday, February 23 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Master Class: Karen Slack, soprano**

Tuesday, February 24 at 3:00 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Master's Recital: Yumeng Ai, mezzo-soprano**

Tuesday, February 24 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Final Doctoral Recital: Sarah Lee, piano**

Tuesday, February 24 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **CPCA AIR: Vlad Angelov**

*What We Dance About Today: New Content and Creative Approaches in 21st-century Choreography*

Wednesday, February 25 at 5:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Chapel

### **New Music Ensemble**

Andrew Desiderio, conductor

Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Rite of Swing Jazz Café: Rico Jones Quintet**

Rico Jones, saxophone

Max Light, guitar

Davis Whitfield, piano

Tony Golden, bass

Jerome Gillespie, drums

Thursday, February 26 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

### **Senior Recital: Sadie Roser, mezzo-soprano**

Thursday, February 26 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Faculty Recital: Works by Erin Busch, David Bennett Thomas and Maurice Wright**

Friday, February 27 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Festival**

Tuesday, March 3

Temple Performing Arts Center

**High School Choral Jazz Festival**

Thursday, March 5

Temple Performing Arts Center

**Student Recital: Nam Hoang Nguyen, piano**

Monday, March 9 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Studio Recital: Cello Students of John Koen**

Monday, March 9 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Master's Recital: Chen Yi, soprano**

Tuesday, March 10 at 7:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

**CPCA Open Mic and Cabaret**

Wednesday, March 11 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

**CPCA AIR: Damon Young, University of California-Berkeley**

*Century of the Selfie*

Wednesday, March 11 at 5:00 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Chapel

**Electronic Music Ensemble**

Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Rite of Swing Jazz Café: John Swana Ensemble**

Thursday, March 12 at 4:30 PM

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

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All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change without notice.

For further information or to confirm events, please call 215.204.7609

or visit [www.boyer.temple.edu](http://www.boyer.temple.edu).