

Skokie School District 73 1/2



Vicki Gunther, *superintendent*
Kate Donegan, *principal*
Eden Olson, *assistant principal*

McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band

Chip De Stefano, *conductor*
Andrew Boysen, Jr., *guest conductor*

January 30, 2004
11:00 A.M.

Illinois Music Educators Association
State Conference
Civic Center Theater
Peoria, Illinois

PROGRAM

Canarios Fantasia

Douglas Akey

When the Stars Began to Fall

Fred Allen

Symphony No. 4 for Winds and Percussion

Andrew Boysen, Jr.

I. Fast

II. Smooth and Flowing

III. Scherzo and Trio

IV. Fast

World Premier

Andrew Boysen, Jr., *guest conductor*

Orange Bowl

Henry Fillmore

McCracken Middle School Band Program

School District 73 1/2 is located in Skokie, Illinois. Consisting of McCracken Middle School, Middleton Elementary School, and Meyer Primary School, our district and community prides itself on the diversity of its students and the quality of education and experience it provides for them. Music Education is a vital part of this experience.

Currently, 170 students in grades four through eight participate in the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Beginning Band and various chamber ensembles. The McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band, among the elite of middle school bands in Illinois, has performed at several prestigious events in recent years:

Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic

2003 Clarinet Choir (demonstration group for Julie DeRoche clinic)

Illinois Music Education Association State Conference

2004 Symphonic Band Performance

2003 5th Grade Band (demonstration group for Chip De Stefano clinic)

2003 Clarinet Choir (demonstration group for Julie DeRoche clinic)

2001 Symphonic Band Performance (MENC North-Central Regional Conference)

Illinois Music Education Association Music Education Day at the Capitol

2001 Clarinet Choir Performance

1998 Percussion Ensemble Performance

University of Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival

2004 (scheduled) Symphonic Band Performance (Honor Band)

2003 Symphonic Band Performance

2001 Symphonic Band Performance (Honor Band)

2000 Symphonic Band Performance

1999 Symphonic Band Performance

Illinois Grade School Music Association

2003 Selection as "honors ensemble" at State Festival

2002 Selection as "honors ensemble" at inaugural State Festival

42 consecutive Division One (superior) ratings at the IGSMMA District Contest

The Symphonic Band meets before school four mornings a week for 30 minutes and after school once a week for 80 minutes. Through a class pull-out program, each section also receives a weekly 45 minute sectional. Our students are extremely active in the IGSMMA solo and ensemble contests and have achieved much success in auditioning for the IMEA District 7 Junior Honor Band and Chicagoland Band Festival.

The Symphonic Band has also performed at the Plainfield Concert Band Festival, the Midwest Music Festival, Skokie Festival of Cultures, AYSO Opening Ceremonies, and WBBM News Radio 780 30th anniversary promotion. In the spring of 2001, the band was highlighted in WLS-TV's (Chicago's ABC affiliate) feature "Someone You Should Know." Twice in the last five years, Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen and the Village Board of Trustees have passed resolutions honoring our students' outstanding achievements in instrumental music.

The success of our band program is due to the hard work of the administration, the parents, the community, the educators, and most importantly, our students.

McCracken Commissioning Project

Believing in the importance of supporting the creation of quality young band literature, the McCracken Bands have founded a commissioning project that has yielded five new young band works in eight years:

Spirit! by Douglas Akey (Queenwood/Kjos)

Dedicated to McCracken's former Director of Bands, Donald Stahlberg, in appreciation for his 33 years of teaching at McCracken Middle School. Premiered on March 14, 1998.

Aurora Borealis by David Zabriskie (manuscript)

Written for the Symphonic Band by composer and band parent David Zabriskie. Premiered on May 21, 1998.

Tales of the Emerald Isle by Douglas Akey (Hal Leonard Corporation)

Commissioned by the Skokie School District 73 1/2 Foundation and dedicated to the students of the Symphonic Band. Premiered on March 15, 2002 with the composer conducting.

Entry of the Nobles by Douglas Akey (Hal Leonard Corporation)

Commissioned for the Middleton Elementary School 5th Grade Band. Premiered on January 31, 2003 at the Illinois Music Education Association All-State Conference.

Symphony No. 4 for Winds and Percussion by Andrew Boysen, Jr. (manuscript)

Premiered on January 30, 2004 at the Illinois Music Education Association All-State Conference with the composer conducting.

Chip De Stefano, Director of Bands



Chip De Stefano received both his Bachelor of Music in Trombone Performance and Master of Music Education Degrees from Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, he studied conducting with John P. Paynter, Steve Peterson, and Don Owens, trombone with Frank Crisafulli and Art Linsner, and music education with Bennett Reimer, Donald Casey, Jim Kjelland, and Peter Webster. Mr. De Stefano was director of the Northwestern University Basketball Band (1994-1996) and the University Jazz Lab Band (1995-1996). In addition to these responsibilities, he assisted with all the office of band's performing organizations and had conducting appearances with the wind ensemble, symphonic band, trombone ensemble, and marching band.

Mr. De Stefano is currently in his eighth year as Director of Bands at McCracken Middle School in Skokie, Illinois. Under his direction, the McCracken Symphonic Band has received first division ratings at all district and state organization contests of the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) and has made multiple appearances at the IMEA All-State Conference and the University of Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival.

As a published arranger and composer, Mr. De Stefano has received commissions from the marching bands of Northwestern University, Samford University, the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, the University of Idaho and dozens of high schools from across the United States. His works have been performed on ABC's 1996 Rose Bowl Halftime Show, *Live!* with Regis and Kathy Lee, and WBBM News Radio 780. Mr. De Stefano's works are available from Grand Mesa Music, Kagarice Brass Editions and DeStefanoMusic.com.

Mr. De Stefano's article "Using Goal Sheets for Student Motivation" was published in the Spring 2002 National Band Association *Journal*. His clinic session "Taming the Beginner Band: Strategies for Teaching Our Youngest Students" was presented at the 2003 IMEA All State Conference. Mr. De Stefano was also one of only twenty Illinois music educator's invited to participate in the 2002 IMEA Leadership Conference.

Mr. De Stefano's professional affiliations include the Music Educators National Conference, the Illinois Music Educators Association, the National Band Association, the International Trombone Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Mr. De Stefano is a recipient of four National Band Association Citations of Excellence and was awarded the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award in 2001.

Andrew Boysen, Jr., Guest Conductor

Andrew Boysen, Jr. is presently an assistant professor in the music department at the University of New Hampshire, where he conducts the wind symphony and teaches conducting. Previously, Boysen served as an assistant professor and Acting Associate Director of Bands at Indiana State University, where he directed the Marching Sycamores, conducted the symphonic band and taught in the music education department. Prior to that appointment, he was the Director of Bands at Cary-Grove (IL) High School and was the music director and conductor of the Deerfield Community Concert Band. He remains active as a guest conductor and clinician, appearing with high school, university and festival ensembles across the United States and Great Britain.



Boysen earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting at the Eastman School of Music, where he served as conductor of the Eastman Wind Orchestra and assistant conductor of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. He received his Master of Music degree in wind conducting from Northwestern University in 1993 and his Bachelor of Music degree in music education and music composition from the University of Iowa in 1991.

He maintains an active schedule as a composer, receiving commissions from the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, the Iowa All-State Band, the Rhode Island All-State Band, the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association, the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, and many university and high school concert bands across the United States. Boysen won the International Horn Society Composition Contest in 2000, the University of Iowa Honors Composition Prize in 1991 and has twice won the Claude T. Smith Memorial Band Composition Contest, in 1991 for *I Am* and in 1994 for *Ovations*. Boysen has several published works with the Neil A. Kjos Music Company, Wingert-Jones Music, and Ludwig Music, including pieces for band, orchestra, clarinet and piano, and brass choir. Recordings of his music appear on the Sony, R-Kal, Mark, St. Olaf, and Elf labels.

We are very grateful to the Skokie School District 73 1/2 PTA for providing the funds that made Mr. Boysen's appearance possible.

PROGRAM NOTES

CANARIOS FANTASIA - Douglas Akey

(Alfred Publishing Company)

Canarios Fantasia was commissioned by the Ahwatukee Foothills Concert Band and is dedicated to the first Senior Class (1999) of the Desert Vista High School Concert Band. The primary material is taken from the melody of the Baroque guitar work *Canarios* by Gaspar Sanz (1647-1710). Akey uses original material to provide melodic and stylistic contrast throughout. Although the work is primarily in 6/8, there is frequent use of 3/4 time reflecting the changing beat patterns of the original Sanz melody.

When the Stars Began to Fall - Fred Allen

(CRN Music Publishers)

When the Stars Began to Fall is a setting of the spiritual, *My Lord, What a Mornin'*. This setting is dedicated to the memory of the composer's mother, Doris Allen, and takes its title from the last line of the hymn:

*My Lord What a Mornin', My Lord What a Mornin',
My Lord What a Mornin', when the stars begin to fall.
Oh you'll hear that trumpet sound
To wake the nations underground
Sittin' at my Lord's right hand
When the stars begin to fall.*

Symphony No. 4 for Winds and Percussion - Andrew Boysen, Jr.

(Manuscript)

Symphony No. 4 for Winds and Percussion was commissioned by and dedicated to the McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band (Skokie, Illinois). It was premiered at the 2004 Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference on January 30, 2004 with the composer conducting.

Written in four movements, *Symphony No. 4* derives most of its motivic material from the first two measures. Several extended techniques and contemporary compositional methods are used throughout the work. These include bowed percussion, dissonance, aleatoric music, unmetered measures, singing, and extended use of the octatonic scale.

Orange Bowl - Henry Fillmore

(Carl Fischer)

Henry Fillmore, one of the most prolific band composers of the past century, wrote *Orange Bowl* in 1939. *Orange Bowl* is written in standard march form without a break strain. It's truly unfortunate that Carl Fischer has let this terrific march, by one of the great march masters, go out of print.

Skokie School District 73 1/2 Music Faculty

Chip De Stefano, Director of Bands
Beth Lehner, Director of Choirs

Lisa Friedman, General Music
Tina Keitel, Percussion Instructor

Skokie School District 73 1/2 Board of Education

James McGowan – President
Beth Allen – Vice President
Andrea Rosen – Secretary
Bob Quane – Secretary Pro-Tem

Karen Barr
Phyllis Cooley
David Rosario

Skokie School District 73 1/2 Administration

Vicki Gunther, Superintendent
Kate Donegan, Principal, Oliver McCracken Middle School
Eden Olson, Assistant Principal, Oliver McCracken Middle School
Dana Otto, Principal, John Middleton Elementary School
Nel Sychangco, Assistant Principal, John Middleton Elementary School
Marla Hori, Principal, Elizabeth Meyer Primary School
Don Buckman, Maintenance Supervisor

Clinicians (1996-2004)

The McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band gratefully thanks the following individuals who have so graciously given their time, and their ears, in assisting our band program:

Douglas Akey (Hendrix JHS, AZ)
Jan Barry (freelance musician)
Greg Bimm (Marian Catholic High School)
Andrew Boysen (University of New Hampshire)
Michael Burritt (Northwestern University)
Audrey Denny (freelance musician)
Donald DeRoche (DePaul University)
Julie DeRoche (DePaul University)
Rodney Dorsey (DePaul University)
Thad Driskell (Jefferson High School, IA)
Marc Dwyer (freelance musician)
Elton Eisele (Niles North High School)
Dan Farris (Northwestern University)
Richard Fischer (Concordia University)
Jay Gephart (Purdue University)
Craig Hancock (Wartburg College)
Phil Hash (Kelvin Grove Middle School)
Julie Hobbs (freelance musician)
Tina Keitel (freelance musician)
Molly Kelly (freelance musician)
Heather Landes (Northwestern University)

Brad Leeb (Oswego High School)
John Lynch (University of Kansas)
Cynthia McGregor (freelance musician)
Jerry Mohlman (freelance musician)
Matthew Olson (Furman University)
Don Owens (Northwestern University)
Pete Pappas (Glenbrook South HS, retired)
Steve Peterson (Ithaca College)
Wes Russell (Farragut School)
Don Shupe (Libertyville High School)
James Smith (freelance musician)
Susan Spindler (Lincoln Hall Middle School)
Steve Steele (Illinois State University)
Mark Taylor (Loyola Univ./Roosevelt Univ.)
Brayer Teague (Downers Grove North HS)
Duane Tutaj (Byron Middle School)
Bill Walsh (freelance musician)
Jonathan Walsh (Conant High School)
Nancy Whitaker (Greenbriar School)
Christopher Woodruff (Lycoming College)
Eric Yates (freelance musician)

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Students, Alumni, Parents, Families, and Friends

McCracken Middle School School Administration, Faculty and Staff

Barb Yablonsky, Laurie Kolpas, Mary Petriko and Mary Walker (McCracken Middle School Secretaries)

Heather Rubio and Beverly Gothelf (Middleton Elementary School Secretaries)

Miguel Marzol, Chris Cieplinski, Alvin Carter and Claudia Brutt (District Custodians)

Donald Stahlberg (McCracken Middle School, Director of Bands, retired)

Don DeRoche, Pete Pappas, and Mark Taylor for directing the Symphonic Band rehearsals and sectionals during my paternity leave.

Steve Steele and the Illinois State University Bands for providing us with rehearsal space last night.

Elton Eisele and the Niles North High School Bands for the use of their bell tree.

Margene Pappas, Brad Leeb, and the Oswego High School Bands for the use of some of their percussion equipment and for being such wonderful hosts for our pre-conference performance.

Mike Pressler and the Maine South High School Bands for loaning us *Orange Bowl* by Henry Fillmore.

Susan Spindler and the Lincoln Hall Middle School Bands for the use of their vibraphone.

Andy Boysen for delivering a wonderful work for our students to premier.

and last, but definitely not least:

Thank you to my wife Susan, son Brian, and daughter Kristen for their love, patience, and support.

McCracken Middle School Bands

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