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*
Don Owens, *guest conductor*
Matthew Olson, *tenor saxophone*
Sarah Evans, *student teacher conductor*

January 21, 2005
4:00 P.M.

Michigan Music Education In-Service Conference
MENC North-Central Regional Conference
Hill Auditorium
Ann Arbor, Michigan

PROGRAM

English Folk Song Suite — Ralph Vaughan Williams

I. March: Seventeen Come Sunday

Variation Overture — Clifton Williams

Kentucky 1800 — Clare Grundman

Sarah Evans, *student teacher conductor*

Shenandoah — Frank Ticheli

Onafade Noslo — Don Owens

I. Latin Dancing

World Premier

Don Owens, *guest conductor*

Matthew Olson, *tenor saxophone*

Prelude and Fugue in Bb Major — Johann Sebastian Bach

transcribed by Roland Moehlmann

The Pride of the Wolverines — John Philip Sousa

edited by Frederick Fennell

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, Fifth Grade 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)

MENC North-Central Regional Conference

2005 Symphonic Band Performance (Michigan Music Education In-Service Conference)
2001 Symphonic Band Performance (Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference)

Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference

2005 Symphonic Band (demonstration group for Chip De Stefano and Karen Debauche clinic)
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 Educators Association Music Education Day at the Capitol

2001 Clarinet Choir Performance
1998 Percussion Ensemble Performance

University of Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival

2004 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

2004 Selection as "honors ensemble" at State Festival
2003 Selection as "honors ensemble" at State Festival
2002 Selection as "honors ensemble" at inaugural State Festival
43 consecutive Division One (superior) ratings at the IGSMA District Contest

The Symphonic Band meets before school four mornings a week for 33 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 IGSMA 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 six new young band works in nine 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.

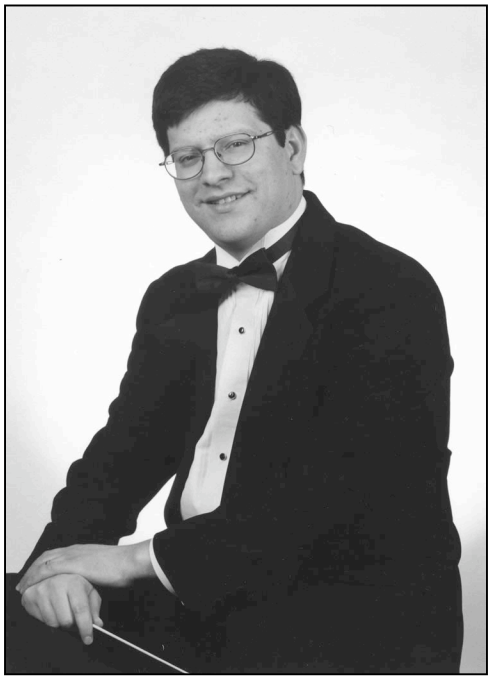
Tales of the Emerald Isle by Douglas Akey (Hal Leonard Corporation)
Commissioned by the Skokie School District 73 1/2 Foundation and dedicated to the students of the Symphonic Band. Premiered on March 15, 2002 with the composer conducting.

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 Educators Association All-State Conference with the composer conducting.

Onafade Noslo for Tenor Saxophone and Concert Band by Don Owens
Premiered on January 21, 2005 at the Michigan Music Education In-Service 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 ninth 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 Illinois Music Educators Association (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 five National Band Association Citations of Excellence. He was awarded the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award in 2001 and the IGSMA Barbarha Buehlmann Young Conductor Award in 2004.

Don Owens, Guest Conductor

Don Owens, Associate Professor of Conducting, Coordinator of the Jazz Studies and Pedagogy Program, Director Emeritus, Contemporary Music Ensemble, and the National High School Music Institute at Northwestern University, began his tenure at Northwestern University in 1979. Before coming to Northwestern, he taught for twelve years at Evanston (Illinois) Township High School where his duties included directing band, brass ensembles, and jazz band, as well as teaching classes in music theory, popular music, and composition. He created the Electronic Music Studio at ETHS in 1971. Many of his ETHS students went on to become music majors at many of the major Schools of Music in the United States and Canada.

Owens received the Bachelor of Music Education degree from North Texas State University, where he also studied Composition and Jazz. His Master of Musical Arts degree is from the University of Illinois, where he studied composition with Morgan Powell, Merrill Ellis, Samuel Adler, and Salvatore Martirano. He has won several grants and awards, and is regularly commissioned for new works each year.

In his first few years at Northwestern, Mr. Owens conducted the Nationally renowned Jazz Ensemble, directed the "Wildcat Marching Band" and Symphonic Band, and taught advanced Method classes for undergraduate Music Education Majors. He currently serves as Coordinator of the Jazz Studies and Pedagogy Program, teaching courses in Jazz Writing, Seminar in Jazz Pedagogy, Jazz in the Public Schools, and conducting the Jazz Ensemble. Under his leadership, Northwestern now offers the B.M. in Jazz Studies and the M.M. in Jazz Pedagogy.

In addition to Owens' responsibilities in the Jazz area, he served as Director and Conductor of the internationally acclaimed Contemporary Music Ensemble for over 20 years. This group performed over 100 world premiers, as well as the more standard 20th century repertory. In 1991, the Northwestern CME served as the primary chamber music ensemble for the *John Cage Now* World Festival. In the spring of 1995, the NUCME served as one of two visiting Artists Ensembles for the National Meeting of the Society of Composers at the University of Iowa. In 2002, the CME played a major part in the Stephan Wolpe Festival, sponsored by the School of Music.

During the summers, Owens served as Director of the National High School Music Institute, from 1991 to 2004. Under his leadership, the enrollment increased by 100% and is currently thriving as a *Pre-Collegiate Music Major Experience* for high school-aged students. With a curriculum that requires the attending students to declare a Major - Classical Guitar, Composition, Jazz Studies, Music Education, Piano, Strings, Voice, or Winds and Percussion- NHSMI has consistently attracted students from all 50 states, as well as many foreign countries.

Mr. Owens is an internationally recognized clinician/conductor. He has served as an adjudicator and has conducted Festival and All-State Concert and Jazz Bands in Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin, Canada, Greece, Germany, and Norway. As a conductor, he has shared in the art of music making with world famous figures from both the Jazz and Contemporary Classical idioms. His compositions have been performed across America, as well as in Canada, England, Greece, Germany, Japan, Norway, and South America.

In April of 1998, Mr. Owens presented a Faculty Recital of his original compositions at Northwestern. A CD of that recital, plus other works was produced: *Don Owens/Compositions.* In April of 2001, he presented another Faculty Recital, with all new works, including two works for Jazz Ensemble, one Chamber work, entitled...*Harmolodics I...*, and two Wind Ensemble pieces, *Two Elegies for Alto Saxophone and Wind Ensemble*, and a major work in four movements, *Concerto for Wind Symphony*. The new CD, *Don Owens/Compositions II*, from that recital is available from the Composer. This second CD also contains *Sirhcaladav, for solo soprano saxophone and wind ensemble,* performed by Chris Vadala and the National High School Music Institute Wind Ensemble, a work commissioned by The Commission Project. Most recently, Owens premiered a new work entitled, *Soundations, a set of miniature episodes for Concert Band,* performed by the IMEA District VII Junior Honor Symphonic Band. In January, 2002, Mr. Owens premiered a new work, plus conducted several of his other compositions and arrangements with the Athens (Greece) Municipal Jazz Band, as well as a concert of new music with the Athens Municipal Contemporary and Computer Music Ensemble. In 2004, *Three Movements for Symphonic Band,* was premiered by the York Community Symphonic Band under the baton of Ronald Polancich, who commissioned the work. In January of 2005, the first movement of a new work for *Jazz Tenor Saxophonist and Symphonic Band* will be premiered at the MENC Convention at the University of Michigan by the McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band, Chip De Stefano, conductor, Matt Olson, soloist. The complete work (3 movements) will be performed in the Spring of 2005.

Mr. Owens is the author of several articles dealing with contemporary music and composition and has had many of his compositions published. He is a member of M.E.N.C, Illinois Music Educators Association, International Association for Jazz Education (Past President for the Illinois State Unit), Pi Kappa Lambda (Past President of Alpha Chapter), and Phi Mu Alpha.

Matt Olson, Guest Soloist

A native of Racine, Wisconsin, Matt Olson is Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Master of Music degree in Jazz Pedagogy and Bachelor of Music degree in Saxophone Performance from Northwestern University, Matt's teachers have included Frederick Hemke, Debra Richtmeyer, Mike Kocour, Don Owens, Paul Bro, and Jonathan Helton.

Matt has performed professionally with Randy Brecker, Kurt Elling, Benny Carter, Chris Vadala, Doc Severinsen, Manhattan Transfer, Lou Rawls, the Temptations, the Four Tops, Peabo Bryson, children's entertainer Shari Lewis, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and the Chicago Jazz Ensemble. His performances have taken him to the Montreal Jazz Festival, as well as Chicago's Jazz Showcase and Orchestra Hall. He was selected to perform at the 2002 and 2004 North American Saxophone Alliance national conferences, the 2003 World Saxophone Congress, and has also been a featured guest artist with jazz ensembles at Northwestern University, Samford University, and several Chicago area high schools.

Matt is active nationally as a clinician and adjudicator and serves as instructor of saxophone for the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, and as summer instructor of jazz saxophone and jazz combos for the National High School Music Institute at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He holds memberships in a variety of professional music societies including the International Association of Jazz Educators, North American Saxophone Alliance, Pi Kappa Lambda, MENC, Music Teachers National Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Sarah Evans, Student Teacher Conductor

Sarah Evans is currently in her final year at Northwestern University pursing Master's degrees in Music Education and Clarinet Performance. Originally from LaSalle-Peru, Illinois, Miss Evans was very active in her high school bands, choirs and community orchestra. Miss Evans received her Bachelor of Music in Clarinet Performance from Illinois Wesleyan University where her main teachers were Roger Garrett and Steve Eggleston. While there, she was principal of the Wind Ensemble and Civic Orchestra. She also worked as a piano accompanist for the School of Music while keeping up an extensive private teaching studio.

At Northwestern University, Miss Evans has stayed busy performing with the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Civic Orchestra, and other chamber ensembles. Miss Evans has studied clarinet with J. Lawrie Bloom and conducting with Dr. Mallory Thompson. She has also most recently assisted and conducted the New Horizons Band of Wilmette while staying an active performer and private teacher in the area.

Program Notes

English Folk Song Suite – Ralph Vaughan Williams

I. March: Seventeen Come Sunday

(Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.)

English Folk Song Suite, written in 1924, is one of last century's first significant works composed for band. Throughout the work, Vaughan Williams's love of folk music is quite evident, and following its premier he asked his student Gordon Jacob to transcribe the work for orchestra and brass band. The first movement is written in arch form (ABCBA) and uses a different folk melody for each of its major sections. After a very brief introduction *Seventeen Come Sunday*, the title folk melody, is presented in F dorian. The tranquil *Pretty Caroline* follows in Ab major with a change back to F dorian for *Dives and Lazarus*.

Variation Overture – Clifton Williams

(Ludwig Music Publishing Company)

Variation Overture is a serious effort on the part of Clifton Williams to utilize mature techniques of composition within a simple framework. The theme with its contrasting idea is treated in four varied ways (march, waltz, lyric, and fanfare), resulting in a piece cast in the form of a concert overture and made cohesive by use of the variation principle. The writing of the work took place during August and September of 1961.

The world premier performance of *Variation Overture* took place at the American School Band Directors' Association Convention at Cleveland, Ohio, December 1961 performed by the Northwest High School Band of Canal Fulton, Ohio.

Kentucky 1800 – Clare Grundman

(Boosey & Hawkes, Inc.)

As the title suggests, Clare Grundman uses three American folk songs from the turn of the 19th century in his writing of *Kentucky 1800*. The melodies *The Promised Land, I'm Sad and I'm Lonely,* and *Cindy* feel seamless through Grundman's ability to create transitions using material from the melodies themselves.

Shenandoah – Frank Ticheli

(Manhattan Beach Music)

Ticheli writes:

> "In my setting of Shenandoah I was inspired by the freedom and beauty of the folk melody and by the natural images evoked by the words, especially the image of a river. I was less concerned with the sound of a rolling river than with its life-affirming energy -- its timelessness. Sometimes the accompaniment flows quietly

under the melody; other times it breathes alongside it. The work's mood ranges from quiet reflection, through growing optimism, to profound exaltation."

In addition to the *Shenandoah* melody, Ticheli uses a second theme derived from the folk melody as well as subtle references to *Taps* and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The work was commissioned by the Hill County Middle School Symphonic Band in Austin, Texas. It is dedicated in memory of Jonathan Paul Cosentino (1984-1997) a horn player in the Hill Country band program.

Onafade Nolso – Don Owens

I. Latin Dancing

(Manuscript)

Onafade Nolso for Jazz Tenor Saxophonist and Symphonic Band was commissioned by and is dedicated to the McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band (Skokie, Illinois). The tenor saxophone solo was written for Matthew Olson, the current Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies at Furman University. The first movement "Latin Dancing" was premiered at the 2005 Michigan Music Education In-Service Conference/MENC North-Central Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan on January 21, 2005 with the composer conducting and Mr. Olson as soloist. The complete work is scheduled for premier in the Spring of 2005.

The primary building block of the movement is an eight bar groove performed by the bass voices and percussion. The soloist not only plays the "head" over this groove, but improvises over it as well. Throughout, the accompaniment consists of tone clusters and traditional Latin background figures. As the solo continues, the backgrounds and soloist become more "out" through the use of aleatoric notation. A short shout chorus is followed by an abbreviation of the head as the work builds to a dramatic close.

Prelude and Fugue in Bb Major – J.S. Bach, trans. by Roland Moehlmann

(Warner Brothers Publications)

Prelude and Fugue in Bb Major is one of several of Bach's organ works that Roland Moehlmann transcribed for concert band. This work is from the collection *Eight Little Preludes and Fugues.* Originally in C major, Moehlmann placed his transcription in a more band friendly key a whole step lower. The work is inscribed to Dr. Raymond F. Dvorak, former director of bands at the University of Wisconsin.

The Pride of the Wolverines – John Philip Sousa, ed. by Frederick Fennell

(Warner Brothers Publications)

Sousa composed *The Pride of the Wolverines* in 1926 for the City of Detroit at the request of its mayor, W. John Smith. The work gains its title from one of the State of Michigan's nicknames.

It is our honor to perform *The Pride of the Wolverines* at the 60th Michigan Music Education In-Service Conference in honor of our hosts at the University of Michigan and in memory of Frederick Fennell (1914-2004).

Skokie School District 73 1/2 Music Faculty

Chip De Stefano, Director of Bands
Beth Lehner, Director of Choirs
Lisa Friedman, General Music

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
Cyndi Cohen, Business Manager
Steve Ruelli, Maintenance Supervisor

Clinicians (1996-2005)

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 (Kroc Middle School, CA)
Elton Eisele (Niles North High School)
Dan Farris (Northwestern University)
Richard Fischer (Concordia University)
Jay Gephart (Purdue University)
Craig Hancock (Wartburg College)
Phil Hash (Calvin College)
Julie Hobbs (freelance musician)
Tina Keitel (freelance musician)
Molly Kelly (freelance musician)
Heather Landes (Northwestern University)
Brad Leeb (Oswego East High School)
John Lynch (University of Kansas)
Rex Martin (Northwestern University)
Cynthia McGregor (Southwestern College)
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, retired)
Bill Walsh (freelance musician)
Jonathan Walsh (Conant High School)
Nancy Whitaker (Greenbriar School)
John Whitwell (Michigan State University)
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, Mary Walker, and Barbara Peters (McCracken Middle School Secretaries)

Heather Rubio and Beverly Gothelf (Middleton Elementary School Secretaries)

Lisa Sonderman and Lorraine Lewandowski (District Business Office Staff)

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

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

John Whitwell, Don Owens, Rodney Dorsey, Rex Martin and Matt Olson for their wonderful and inspiring work with our students in preparing for this performance.

Glenn Williams, John De Stefano and the Forest Hills Central High School Bands (Grand Rapids) for use of their facilities yesterday.

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

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

and last, but definitely not least:

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

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