



# **The Minnesota State Band**

under the direction of

**Keith Liuzzi, Conductor**

Evan Varns, Associate Conductor

Presents:

## **Song and Dance**

Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 7:00 PM

Como Park Lakeside Pavilion  
1360 Lexington Pkwy N  
St Paul, MN 55103

## PROGRAM

The Marriage of Figaro (1958)..... W. A. Mozart (1756 - 1791)  
Arr. by Earl Slocum

The Last Grand Polka (1995) ..... John Cacavas (1930 – 2014)

I Love a Sousa March (1971) .....John Warrington (1911 - 1978)  
Vocalist: Avri Blashack

Rio Con Brio (1995) .....Hugh M. Stuart (1917 – 2006)

Gershwin! (1983)..... George Gershwin (1898 – 1937)  
Arr. By Warren Barker

*Fascinating Rhythm    Embraceable You    Somebody Loves Me*  
*Somebody to Watch Over Me    I Got Rhythm*

## INTERMISSION

Whitewater Chantey (1993) .....David Wells (b. 1952)

The Shadow of Your Smile (1965) .....Johnny Mandel (1925 – 2020)  
Arr. By Ken Whitcomb  
Vocalist: Avri Blashack

The Hustle (1975) ..... Van McCoy (1940 – 1979)  
Arr. By Robert Russell Bennett

Sweet Caroline (1969).....Neil Diamond (b. 1941)  
Arr. By Tim Waters  
Vocalist: Keith Liuzzi

Hoagy Carmichael in Concert (1978) ..... Hoagy Carmichael (1899 – 1981)  
Arr. By Warren Barker  
*The Nearness of You    In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening*  
*Heart and Soul    Lazy River    Stardust*  
Vocalist: Avri Blashack

Just a Closer Walk with Thee (1980) ..... Arr. By Don Gillis  
Adapted for Band by Calvin Custer

## Minnesota State Band Personnel 2024

<b>Flute/Piccolo</b>	<b>Alto Saxophone</b>	<b>Trombone</b>
Suzanne Benson ('21)	Melanie Day ('21)	Nick Jensen ('23)
Gail Bullard ('09)	Nikki Katzke ('24)	Jack Kennedy ('18)
Teresa Cerling ('19)	Linda Lundstrom ('23)	Isaac Smithe ('23)
Nita Cunningham ('22)		Michael Sweet ('16)
Carrie Halden ('04)	<b>Tenor Saxophone</b>	
Laura Millberg ('09)	Peter Wickert ('22)	<b>Bass Trombone</b>
		Jim ten Bensel ('22)
<b>Oboe</b>	<b>Baritone Saxophone</b>	
Eric Laska ('18)	Devin Naumann ('21)	<b>Euphonium</b>
Rosemary O'Connell ('16)		Dennis Opland ('08)
	<b>Trumpet</b>	Jonathan Wharton ('23)
<b>English Horn</b>	Luke Baker ('24)	Jason Wiley ('22)
Rosemary O'Connell ('16)	Brian Black ('22)	
	Gordy Flam ('24)	<b>Tuba</b>
<b>Clarinet</b>	Carol Jensen ('18)	W Rayford Johnson ('16)
Anthony Afful ('17)	Stuart Lane ('23)	John Moore ('00)
Kat Almquist ('24)	Andy Mobley ('02)	Thomas Wells ('18)
Greg Baker ('23)	Dan Newland ('97)	Lloyd Winfield ('19)
Donna Hogenson ('06)	Brittany Zastrow ('23)	
Sara Kysylczyn ('23)		<b>Percussion</b>
Frederick Larson ('03)	<b>French Horn</b>	Craig Allen ('02)
Carmen Nickish ('98)	Gerald Abraham ('19)	Alison Cameron ('24)
	Lucy Davis ('21)	Chuck Campana ('20)
<b>Bass Clarinet</b>	Jim McCreary ('10)	Julie Henry ('19)
Evan Varns ('00)	Alison Penner Rahn ('23)	Allison Wyatt ('23)
	Lori Pfeifer ('21)	
<b>Bassoon</b>		
Gayle McClellan ('23)		
Clancy Theade ('19)		

## Join Us for our 2024 Concerts!

Annual Como Park Concert Series

Wednesday, August 21; 7:00 PM

Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 N. Lexington Pkwy. St. Paul

Fall Tour – Montevideo and Willmar, Minnesota

Friday, October 4; Montevideo Veterans Home; 3:30 PM

Saturday, October 5; Barn Theater; Willmar; 2:00 PM

Holiday Concert – Friday, December 13; Time TBD

St. Joseph the Worker, 7180 Hemlock Ln N., Maple Grove, MN 55369

## PROGRAM NOTES

**The Marriage of Figaro (1958)** In 1782, the French playwright, Beaumarchais, offered private readings to King Louis XIV of his comedy of manners, *The Marriage of Figaro*. Instead of being pleased, the monarch decided the story was “detestable and must never be produced.” The irreverence was simply too much. As “forbidden fruit,” the play became the rage of the aristocracy, and it surfaced repeatedly in secret productions. *The Marriage of Figaro* was unquenchable and Mozart decided this was just the ticket for his opera buffa. The music opens with bustling notes, like whispers of gossip which gain momentum. Ultimately, these fragments gel into an energetic theme which romps throughout. A helter-skelter atmosphere prevails; there is no rest, the perfect introduction to the hilarious opera. It has delighted audiences as a separate concert piece for hundreds of years.

**The Last Grand Polka (1995)** John Cacavas is probably best known for his television scores, including *Kojak*, and *The Time Machine*. He displayed an early talent for music, teaching himself to play the saxophone and forming a band at age 14. During service in the military, he was assigned to Washington, DC, where he was an arranger for the United States Army Band. He also wrote the theme song for the 2005 video game *Grand Theft Auto: Liberty City Stories*. This polka is a rollicking tune; you may hear bits of another famous polka quoted in the music. Go ahead, get on your feet and show us your stuff!

**I Love a Sousa March (1971)** And don't we all! Over his long career, Sousa wrote 130 marches. (The Minnesota State Band has played only about 25 of them; we have a long way to go.) Which one(s) are your favorite? Is it *El Capitan*? Or perhaps *Semper Fidelis*, named for the U. S. Marine Corps motto “always faithful”? Our singer mentions those two. Maybe you prefer another: *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, *The Washington Post*, or *The Liberty Bell*, to name but a few.

**Rio Con Brio (1995)** takes us on a colorful, spirited journey to Brazil. This music invites you to get up and dance to its energetic rhythms. The term “con brio” is an often-used musical term that tells the musicians to play “with spirit”. Besides being shorthand for Rio de Janeiro, “rio” can mean “I laugh”. This music will certainly leave you with a smile on your face.

**Gershwin! (1983)** was arranged to celebrate the centennial of the great American composing team George and Ira Gershwin. Melodies can be delightful, harmonies can be interesting, and most certainly, rhythms can be fascinating. 100 years have passed since the birth of some of these classic songs. This is a splendid treatment of some of the Gershwins' major hits, including *Fascinating Rhythm (1924)*, *Embraceable You (1930)*, *Somebody Loves Me (1924)*, *Someone To Watch Over Me (1926)* and *I Got Rhythm (1930)*.

**Whitewater Chantey (1993)** is a piece descriptive of a seafaring journey. The familiar Navy hymn, *Eternal Father Strong to Save*, and several sea chantey themes are woven throughout this powerful and dramatic arrangement.

**The Shadow of Your Smile (1965)**, also known as *Love Theme from The Sandpiper*, was introduced in the 1965 film with a trumpet solo by Jack Sheldon and later became a hit for Tony Bennett. It won the Grammy Award for Song of the Year and the Academy Award for Best Original Song. In 2004, the song finished at number 77 in AFI's 100 Years...100 Songs poll of the top tunes in American cinema.

**The Hustle (1975)** became a No. 1 disco hit on the *Billboard* Hot 100 during the summer of 1975. While in New York City to make an album, McCoy composed the song after watching patrons at a nightclub do a dance called "the Hustle". McCoy was a musical prodigy. By the age of 12, he had begun writing his own songs, and performing in local amateur shows with his older brother. He has approximately 700 song copyrights and produced songs by such recording artists as Gladys Knight & the Pips, Aretha Franklin, Peaches & Herb, and Lesley Gore.

**Sweet Caroline (1969)** has two origin stories. In 2007, Diamond stated the inspiration for the song was John Kennedy's daughter, Caroline, who was 11 years old at the time it was released. He sang the song for her at her 50th birthday celebration in 2007. However, in 2014, Diamond said the song was about his then-wife Marcia, but he needed a three-syllable name to fit the melody. In 2019, *Sweet Caroline* was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Recording Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". In 2020 the song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

**Hoagy Carmichael in Concert (1978)** Hoagy Carmichael was a fascinating man: a composer, pianist, singer, actor, bandleader, lawyer and artist. This medley features five of his greatest hits. *In the Cool, Cool, Cool of the Evening*, with lyrics by Johnny Mercer, won Carmichael his first Academy Award for Best Original Song. *Stardust*, an idiosyncratic melody in medium tempo, a song about a song, has become an American standard, recorded by hundreds of artists. *The Nearness of You, Heart and Soul* and *Lazy River* complete the set.

**Just a Closer Walk with Thee (1980)** is a traditional gospel song and jazz standard that has been performed and recorded by many artists. Performed as either an instrumental or vocal, it is perhaps the most frequently played number in the hymn and dirge section of traditional New Orleans jazz funerals. The title and lyrics of the song allude to the Biblical passage from 2 Corinthians 5:7 which states, "We walk by faith, not by sight." This arrangement was originally written for the Canadian Brass and has been adapted for concert band.

The Band would like to extend special appreciation to our Associate Members. Thank you for your support!

**Gold Associate Members**

Barbara Brauer                      Rupert Strobel

**Silver Associate Members**

Robert English                      Art & Donna Hogenson  
Dan & Jane Lambrides              Art Lemka                      Naurine D. Lennox  
Lori Mobley                              Thomas Ostertag  
Andrew & Carol Whitman              Delores Zbikowski

**Bronze Associate Members**

Teresa Cerling                      Sharon Heaton                      Irma Johnson  
Howard Leathers                      Bonnie McLellan                      Agnes Reek  
Kathleen Vang                      Ray Voelker                      Doug Watnemo



## Become an Associate Member of the Minnesota State Band

The MSB is proud of the many people who have taken an active interest in supporting the **“Only remaining State Band in the United States.”** We humbly seek your tax-deductible contribution to help keep our music tradition alive for another 126 years.

Associate membership runs from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025. Choose the contribution level that is right for you. The Minnesota State Band will list all Bronze, Silver and Gold contributors in our concert programs.

Please mail your contribution to Minnesota State Band, P.O. Box 130033, St. Paul, MN 55113. You can also give online by credit or debit card at <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Minnesota-State-Band>.

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I would like to become an Associate Member at the following level:

Associate Level (\$30)       Silver Level (\$100 - \$249)

Bronze Level (\$50 - \$99)       Gold Level (\$250 and up)

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