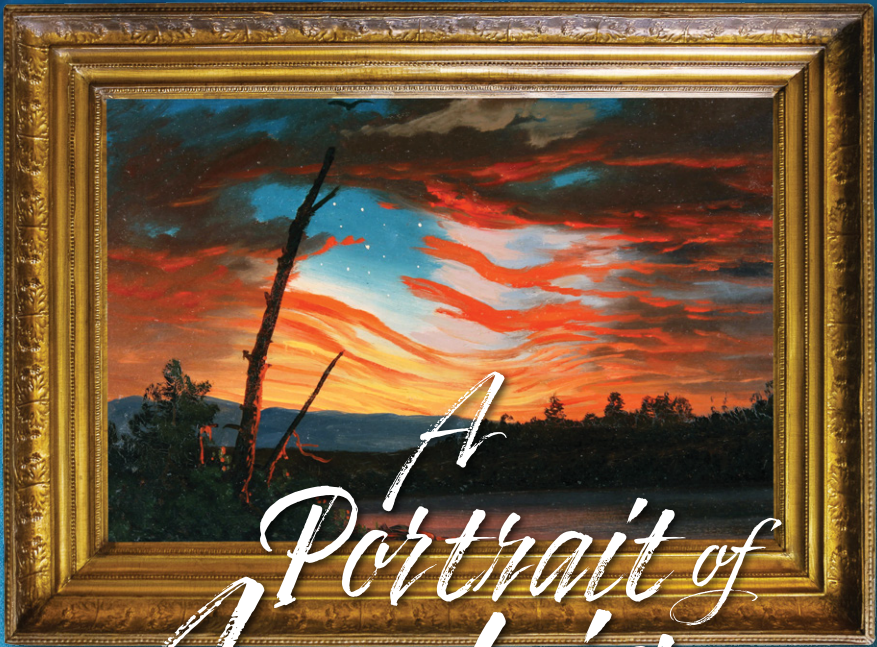


SPRING CONCERT 2025



A Portrait of America

DEAN McDOWELL | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 AT 7 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 30 AT 2 PM

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WELCOME!



On behalf of our Board of Directors, our dedicated Artistic Director, Dean McDowell, the talented members of the Desert Winds, and our many volunteers, I'm honored to welcome you to ***A Portrait of America***.

We are excited to welcome guest composer, conductor, and clinician, Tyler S. Grant, to the podium today. Mr. Grant's week has been filled with workshops and rehearsals, bringing his valuable insight, challenging musical experiences, and love for music to many of the Valley's middle and high school band students.

Today we also recognize this year's 10 scholarship recipients, all of whom are or will be majoring in music at the college level. Since 2010, Desert Winds has awarded 67 scholarships, totalling \$66,500.

Our Visiting Composer and Scholarship programs are evidence of Desert Winds' commitment to fostering broad and deep connections to music and music education throughout the Valley. I want to thank our Donors, the Band, the Board, and our Artistic Director for their continued commitment to these incredibly meaningful programs.

In a time when our nation faces deep division, and many in our community feel vulnerable, Desert Winds musicians find strength and comfort in our shared love for music and our commitment to building a welcoming and inclusive space. We believe in creating a safe haven where everyone's voice is valued, and our music can thrive. Our band is a place of belonging, a source of resilience, and a testament to our strength in unity. In partnership with organizations like Pride Bands Alliance, we celebrate diversity and foster connections that uplift and inspire. Through music, we aim to share experiences that offer support, understanding, and a sense of belonging for all, particularly for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Thanks for being here today and for taking this musical journey across America with us. We look forward to sharing our music with you!

Andy Nelson

Board President
president@desertwindsfb.org
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Sherri Marmon*^F
Aaron Rubio
David Blanke^F
Steve Jordan Brooks
Alex Bautista^F
David Latulippe^F - piccolo
Jackie Aronowitz^F - piccolo
Rob Adkisson^F
Chris Frias[#]
Allison Pengilly-Wimmer
Sioux Stoeckle
Kayla Smith
Ken Blair^F

OBOE

Kayla De Guzman^R
Larry Otwell*^F
Dennis Robertson (& English Horn)
Jacob Frick

CLARINET

Andy Nelson*[•]
Ruben Campos
Daniel Hernandez
Jeffrey Olson
Demetrio Escobar
Bob Bean
Aidan Albano-Bachtell (& Alto Clarinet)
Michael Seaburgh
Carissa Salcido
Steven Rockwell
Noela Estrada
Lorin Camangian[#]
Stephanie Bollard
Sandy Blazer
Richard Caldwell
John Gray
Steve Rocha
Doug Litwin

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Jim Athanasen
Rich Pryor

BASS CLARINET

James Macomber
Harvey Zuckman

BASSOON

Jeffrey Nottke*
Bill Pape
Amy Bahnson^F

CONTRA BASSOON

Alan Fuller

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Gary Bollard*[•]
Yvonne Bluto[•]
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Joan Lisante Hood
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Alan Sanderfoot

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Andrew Knox
Michael Kalb
Jim Mactier
Todd McIntyre
Luis Granillo[#]

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Greg Cagle[•]
Dennis Ashbrook
Abner Diaz[#]

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Ray Avila[#]
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Yris Guerra^Q
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Bryon Wirth[•]
Chip Prince

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Cliff Lyons
Ed Callihan
Amanda Paz
John Hintz
Ananda Udovich[•]
Gayleen Lang
Michelle Goddard
Dencil White
Cecil Douglas[•]

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Russ Van Horne[•]
Ernest Lopez^R
Steven Neiffer
Don Kelley[•]
Megan Larsen[•]
Nikolas Lara-Gil
Nicholas Rockwell
AJ Polston[•]
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Michael Richardson

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John Gerard
Jim Boyer
Paul Bluto
Chris Congdon^F

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Denise Montiel*
Todd Pernsteiner

Jim Clayton
Stephen Perkins
Wallace Kent[•]
Elaine Wang Meyerhoffer
Brad Spangler[•]

PIANO

Randall Creighton[•]

STRING BASS

Eric Walters[•]

JAZZ BAND ONLY

Kim Halter, Guitar
Jay Anderson, Tenor Saxophone

• JAZZ BAND

* Principal

Cathedral City HS Student

^R Redlands University Student

^Q La Quinta HS Student

^F Desert Winds Flute Choir

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to a ***A Portrait of America***, a very diverse musical interpretation of this beautiful country. It was initially sparked by our guest composer's work *Banner of the Sky* (please see program note on page 5). Frederic Edwin Church's painting reminded me of the many things that relate to our country's history as well as its beauty. First, the battles that have been fought for the freedoms we all have come to enjoy.

Second, the incredibly diverse beauty of this magnificent country we have the privilege to travel around and enjoy freely including our national parks.

And third, the reminder that freedom isn't free! We must constantly be vigilant, proactive, reactive and willing to fight and be vocal for those freedoms many want to take away.

I can't believe this is my 18th season with the Desert Winds, but the fulfillment of making music with incredible volunteer musicians, coordinating school workshops with the guest composers we sponsor and getting to know the many donors that keep our programs alive, keep me motivated. I hope you are equally inspired by our music.

Your continued support, whether it be through attending our concerts, contributing to the Conductor's Circle, or remembering us in your estate planning, all give me the energy to keep conducting and making music. I hope today's performance will inspire you.

Dean McDowell
Artistic Director



PROGRAM NOTE

Composer Tyler S. Grant has long been an admirer of breathtaking paintings of Frederic Edwin Church and particularly the creations of the Hudson River School painters. Church's oil painting, *Our Banner in the Sky*, depicts a tattered American flag in the sky emblazoned as a fierce banner of red and orange colors above blackened water. The portrait symbolizes the aftermath of battle as a singular leafless tree confidently serves as the flagpole, while Church's short brush strokes and the golden glow of the clouds form the flag's torn stripes. The deep blue-green sky courageously appears between the blazing clouds and is dotted with striking stars. In the distance above the symbolic flag, the national bird of the United States, an eagle, soars with optimism through the harrowing sky. The painting identifies three concepts most important to nineteenth-century Americans: destiny, identity, and progress.

In honor of Church's painting, Tyler S. Grant has orchestrated a musical illustration of *Our Banner in the Sky*. In the opening measures, the woodwinds represent the artist's broad-brush strokes as he begins to create the blazing landscape. A fiery musical passage is intensified by the brass as if to reproduce the dissonance of the first shots fired to sound the commencement of battle. Percussion is scattered throughout the composition representing conflict followed by a broadening of the melodic line eventually depicting defeat. In the final measures, one can hear the banner ascending into the sky with a flourish of heartfelt patriotism. Just as Church portrays such historical magnitude in his vibrant painting, Grant captures the dramatic essence of the painting in his composition.

Program note by Lori Schwartz Reichl, author & music educator

IN MEMORIAM

WE REMEMBER RECENT LOSSES TO OUR DESERT WINDS FAMILY

Jeffrey D. Knox
Father of Andrew Knox, Saxophone

Freddy J. Weaver
Grandfather of Katie Weaver, Alto Saxophone

Santo Aloisi
Desert Winds Treasurer (2015-2019)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dean McDowell studied conducting at the University of Michigan and received his BA in Music Education in 1975 from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. For 11 years, Mr. McDowell worked as an instrumental, choral and elementary school music teacher in Ohio. In recognition of his enthusiastic and effective work with student musicians, Dean received the Martha Holding Jennings Scholarship for Outstanding Teacher and Leadership Award.

Dean also pursued his love for making music by directing community theatre productions as well as playing euphonium in the Capital Pride Band of Columbus which his late husband Bob Montooth

helped found. His ability to make things happen transitioned Dean's career as a Music Educator to a specialized and sought-after tour planner working with hundreds of high school music departments creating tours of a lifetime for literally thousands of students in the U.S. and abroad.

Dean moved full-time from Columbus, Ohio to the Coachella Valley in 2006. The Desert Winds Freedom Band was in need of a permanent Artistic Director and Dean was recruited for the Artistic Director position in 2007. Under his artistic direction, the Band has grown into a highly esteemed, openly LGBTQ+ and LGBTQ+-friendly musical group for the Coachella Valley. Dean enjoys the challenge of bringing out the best of the Band's volunteer musicians and the audiences have responded in kind.

Designing future performances that continue to draw audiences, seeking greater visibility and maintaining financial viability for the Band are his priorities. Twelve years ago, Dean suggested broadening the educational outreach of the Band by bringing in guest composer/conductors to be featured with the Desert Winds performing their compositions, sponsoring workshops with these prestigious composers for the local high school band programs and to date giving \$66,500 in scholarships to deserving high school seniors accepted to major in music in college.

2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Raynerio Avila
Lorin Camangian
Kayla De Guzman
Abner Diaz Ruiz
Luis Granillo
Yris Rose Guerra
Amanda Paz
Makayla Perkins
Holden Warzecha
Nicholas Washburn

BIOGRAPHIES



GUEST COMPOSER & CLINICIAN Tyler S. Grant is an internationally recognized composer, arranger, conductor, and clinician of music for concert bands, orchestras, and chamber ensembles of all levels. His music is featured regularly in performances by both region and all state honor ensembles and is also featured annually on Editor's or Publisher's Choice Repertoire Lists around the world. His work, *Panoramic Fanfare*, was a winner of the Dallas Wind Symphony's 2014 "Call for Fanfares" Competition. *Panoramic Fanfare* has since been performed by collegiate and professional ensembles throughout North America.

Since 2010, Tyler has regularly accepted commissions for new works and produced new publications for bands and orchestras each year. He credits his mentor Brian Balmages as pivotal to his success as a composer. Notable performance venues of his works include The Midwest Clinic, Carnegie Hall, Music for All's National Concert Band Festival, the Meyerson Symphony Center, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Bands of America Grand Nationals, and numerous state-wide, national, and international music conferences and conventions.

In addition to composing and arranging, Tyler enjoys conducting and clinic engagements with ensembles throughout the United States. He has served as a clinician with over 100 school instrumental music programs and honor groups across more than 15 states. Tyler was a contributing author for Alfred Music Publishing Company's *Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development* series and has contributed interviews to numerous podcasts and articles including *School Band & Orchestra Magazine* and *The Instrumentalist*. Notable conducting venues include The Midwest Clinic and all-state bands in Nebraska, Oregon, Alabama, Louisiana, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

Tyler is a graduate of the University of Alabama where he earned a bachelor's degree in instrumental music education and studied conducting with Professor Randall Coleman. Before becoming a full-time composer and arranger, Tyler served as the Director of Bands at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School from 2019-2023. He currently resides in Atlanta, GA, and maintains an active composing and conducting schedule. His published works are available through The FJH Music Company, Inc., Alfred/MakeMusic Publications, and Tyler S. Grant MusicWorks, LLC.



GUEST EMCEE & VOCALIST Singer, actor, and cabaret artist, **Charles Herrera** has appeared all over the country and abroad in musicals, operettas, cabaret shows and theatrical productions. He has performed and produced his own critically acclaimed one-man shows in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and here in Palm Springs. In addition to singing, Charles is an accomplished actor and was recently seen in Coachella Valley Repertory's production of *The Light in the Piazza* as the Italian patriarch, Signor Naccarelli. Charles is the recipient of six DESERT STAR awards and can be seen singing at

several venues in the Palm Springs area including every Wednesday night at the iconic Purple Room Supper Club swinging to the music of the Rat Pack Era alongside his good friends, Michael Holmes and Darci Daniels.

CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE*

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We love music and are thrilled to perform for you, but we can only succeed with your help.

We urge you to consider joining the **CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE.**



Please scan this QR code or visit www.desertwindsfb.org to make a donation to the band.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who help with set-up, tear-down, and concert staffing.

THANK YOU to Temple Isaiah/JCC and its staff for assistance with rehearsal and performance space and day-to-day operations.

A PORTRAIT OF AMERICA

DESERT WINDS FLUTE CHOIR PRE-CONCERT MUSIC

When Johnny Comes Marching Home _____ Traditional/arr. Phyllis Avidan Louke

Simple Gifts _____ Traditional/arr. Ricky Lombardo

Ashokan Farewell _____ Jay Ungar/arr. Ricky Lombardo

Baroque Hoedown _____ Jean Jacques Perrey & Gershon Kingsley/arr. Ricky Lombardo

DESERT WINDS SYMPHONIC BAND

Star-Spangled Banner _____ John Stafford Smith & Francis Scott Key/arr. John S. Smith

American Big Top _____ Brian Balmages

American Riversongs _____ Pierre La Plante

Banner of the Sky _____ Tyler S. Grant

Conducted by guest composer Tyler S. Grant

Sag Harbor Sunset _____ Robert Sheldon

Red Rock Mountain _____ Rossano Galante

INTERMISSION

DESERT WINDS JAZZ BAND

Oh, Lady be Good _____ George & Ira Gershwin/arr. Terry White

Moon River _____ Henry Mancini & Johnny Mercer/arr. Billy Byers

Georgia on My Mind _____ Stuart Correll & Hoagy Carmichael/arr. Dave Wolpe
Charles Herrera, Guest Vocalist

Love Is Here to Stay _____ George & Ira Gershwin/arr. Dave Wolpe
Featuring Jay Anderson on Tenor Saxophone

New York, New York _____ Fred Ebb & John Kander/arr. Robert W. Lowden

SPRING CONCERT 2025

DESERT WINDS SYMPHONIC BAND

Semper Fidelis _____ John Philip Sousa, Edited by Col. John Bourgeois

Pacific Grooves _____ Tyler S. Grant

Conducted by guest composer Tyler S. Grant

Rushmore _____ Alfred Reed

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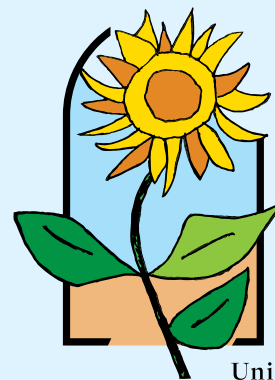
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