

*Performance Music at The University of Scranton presents:*

# **SCRANTON BRASS ORCHESTRA EMPTY STOCKING FUND BENEFIT CONCERT**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025  
7:30 p.m.  
Houlihan McLean Center**

**Admission: One new, unwrapped toy, child's clothing, new toiletry/personal hygiene item, or a monetary donation**

## **THE SCRANTON BRASS ORCHESTRA**

Now ending its 13th season, The Scranton Brass Orchestra is a fully professional ensemble, founded in 2011. Comprised of brass players and teachers from the region, membership is by invitation only. The group's performances are free of charge and open to the public, and feature nationally and internationally acclaimed guest artists, including many of the most respected brass players of our time. The group made its debut before hundreds of appreciative audience members in June 2011, and has since garnered acclaim from both audiences and musicians alike. The goals for the group include:

- To provide high level large brass ensemble performance and listening opportunities
- To provide participating regional musicians and teachers with opportunities to work with and observe masters of the art of brass playing (guest soloists to date have included Mark Gould, Wycliffe Gordon, Christian Jaudes, Marcus Printup, Brian McWhorter, Sam Pilafian, Andrew Garcia, Vincent Gardner, and Joseph Boga)
- To provide an aural and visual model to aid in the tonal and technical development of student brass players throughout the region
- To serve as a professional development resource for brass performers and teachers in the region
- To serve as a showcase for emerging young professional musicians originally hailing from the region
- To develop and propagate the body of literature for the genre
- To offer audiences free brass concert attendance opportunities that merge entertainment with artistic and educational experience
- To offer high quality concert events free of charge to the university and greater area community by performing during periods of Performance Music program recess outside of the regular academic year (such as intersession and summer)

# PROGRAM TO BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

## *Away In A Manger*

W.J. Kirkpatrick / arr. Nigel Horne

## *Carol of the Bells*

Mykola Leontovych / arr. William Gordon

## *Frosty The Snowman*

Steve Nelson & Jack Rollins / arr. Sandy Smith

## *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

Johann Sebastian Bach / trans. Erik Leidzen

## *Joy To The World*

arr. David Ayma

## *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam / arr. Stephen Bulla

## *Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree*

John D. Marks / arr. Robin Dewhurst

## *Russian Christmas Music*

Alfred Reed / arr. Bruce Fraser

## *Silver Bells*

Jay Livingston & Ray Evans / arr. William Gordon

## *Three Kings Swing*

William Himes



# THE BAND!

**MILES FAGLEY-ORFANELLA**, Eb soprano cornet/trumpet, a native of Kingston PA, is a graduate of West Chester University of PA with a degree in Music Education and Performance. He teaches 5th grade band and chorus in the Pocono Mountain School District and is the brass head of the Pocono Mountain East Marching Band. Miles plays with a number of churches as well as popular local bands “Brendan Brisk Band” and “Hooplah”. (At Miles’s first concert with the SBO, he shared a stand with his dad.)

**DALE CHASE**, trumpet, from Scranton PA, is a partially retired freelance musician who continues to perform regularly with the Cathedral Brass Quartet. He is known to regional audiences from the many groups in the Scranton and Poconos areas that he performed with over the years, ranging from community bands to church ensembles to wedding bands, including a quarter of a century playing with the popular band “Destiny” at Poconos resorts.

**JOSEPH DEVIZIA**, trumpet, earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Wilkes University majoring in trumpet performance. He has had a long career in the fields of mental health and works at Robinson Counseling in Wilkes-Barre as a Case Manager, and performs with a variety of groups in the Wilkes Barre and Scranton area. He was first introduced to the trumpet by the great Chris Wilski.

**CAMERON KING**, trumpet, a native of Tunkhannock, PA, is a graduate of Mansfield University, where he earned degrees in Music Education and Trumpet Performance. He currently serves as the band director at Towanda Area School District, teaching grades 5–12 band, Jazz Band, and Marching Band. Outside of the classroom, Cameron is an active performer throughout the NEPA region, playing with a variety of local ensembles and groups.

**THOMAS MARINE**, trumpet, Thomas Marine, trumpet, University of Scranton class of 2026, is an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor's in Biochemistry. Originally from Cockeysville, MD, he began trumpet in elementary school and studied under Brent Madsen at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore. He is the lead of the trumpet section in the University of Scranton Concert and Jazz Band and has played for each since 2022. He participated in the 2025 PA Intercollegiate Band.

**SEAN MASON**, trumpet, is an instrument repair technician and owner/operator of Sean Mason Music, LLC. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in trumpet performance from Moravian College, completed his certificate in band instrument repair from Renton Technical College, and earned a Master's degree in Organizational Psychology from the University of Hartford. He performs as a free-lance trumpeter with bands and chamber groups throughout the region.

**JAMIE ORFANELLA**, trumpet, teaches instrumental music in the Valley View School District and Jazz at Wyoming Seminary. In addition to trumpet, he is well-versed in a wide variety of world instruments, including the Shakuhacki flute and the didgeridoo. He freelances musically throughout the Scranton / Wilkes Barre area and beyond, playing both jazz and world music.

**JACK PARTYKA**, trumpet, is a 1973 graduate of Scranton Central High School and studied trumpet with the late Patrick J. Marcinko. In 1982 he founded and led the group “Take 5”, a dance/wedding/party band that performed in NEPA venues for thirty years. Currently a freelance player working with various local bands, musical groups, community bands, churches and quartets, he has worked in warehouse management for several publishing groups and presently for Lackawanna County as Deputy Clerk of Judicial Records.

**MASON STIVER**, trumpet, is the Director of Bands at Mountain View School District, Assistant Marching Band Director at Lackawanna Trail High School, and resides in the Clifford area. He is a 2015 graduate of Indiana University of PA with his Bachelor's degree in Music Education, and a 2018 graduate of Messiah University with his Master's in Conducting. He is also the Director of the Lenoxville Community Band that performs in the summer and fall throughout Northeastern PA.

**MARY ANN YONCHIUK**, trumpet, is retired from her career as a teacher in the Scranton School District. She has performed with the Northern Tier Symphony Orchestra and Brass Reflections quintet, and regularly plays the National Anthem for the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Railriders, the regional minor league baseball team in the International League and a Triple-A affiliate of the New York Yankees.

**JEFFREY LEAS**, flugelhorn, a 1989 graduate of The University of Scranton, is the Sr. Director of Network Engineering at Astound Broadband. He performs regularly with The Ron Leas Band, the SEM/PAI Civic Symphony Orchestra, and a variety of other musical groups in the area, and also plays solo for many special liturgies and weddings at churches in the region. He has the distinction of having played every single SBO rehearsal and concert since the founding of the group.

**EARL COTTRELL**, horn, earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. During his years in Fargo, ND, he performed and recorded with the Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, Horns of the North, and the Fargo-Moorehead Brass Quintet. He recently returned to his native NEPA to work for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and plays with college/university and professional bands and orchestras throughout the region. (Earl enjoys baking cookies, and the band enjoys when Earl bakes cookies.)

**RENA HUMMEL**, horn, is rooted in the Lehigh Valley, where she performs with the East Coast Sound Brass Quintet, freelances for various ensembles and pit orchestras for musicals throughout the region, and teaches private lessons. Rena enjoys recording music with her multi-instrumentalist husband. When not playing, she works as a Clinical Consultant for the Philips Patient Monitoring Division.

**MEGAN MCDERMOTT**, trombone, received her M.M. from Lebanon Valley College in 2025 and her B.M. degree from Marywood in 2008, both in Music Education. She is the Band Director for grades 4-12 at Carbondale Area School District, and plays with Wyoming Seminary Civic Orchestra, Wyoming Valley Band, and in various other groups in the greater Scranton area. This is her first concert with Scranton Brass Orchestra.

**ETHAN VERNE**, trombone, performs for St. Peter's Cathedral's Music Ministry, and trombone and synthesizer for the indie rock band Peach Polaroid. He graduated from Marywood University in 2023, where he played in their Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, and Jazz Band. He currently works as a Pharmacy Technician for Chewy Pharmacy. This is his first concert with Scranton Brass Orchestra.

**DON WILLIAMS**, bass trombone, holds his undergraduate degree in Music Ed. from Wilkes College, his Master of Music degree from West Chester University, and his Masters in Counseling from The University of Scranton. He is a retired high school Band Director and Guidance Counselor, and plays with musical ensembles throughout the region, including the Wilkes Civic Band, Wyoming Seminary Civic Symphony Orchestra, University of Scranton Jazz & Concert Bands, and Popstar Drive. Don is the conductor of the Wyoming Valley Concert Band.

**CONOR FLYNN**, baritone/euphonium, a native of Dunmore, PA, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in music from Bloomsburg University, and a Master of Science degree in Chemistry from Bucknell University. He has taught in the

Chemistry Departments at Bucknell and Wilkes and is currently teaching Chemistry and Physics at Marywood University.

**BRIAN HODGE**, baritone/euphonium, is director of music ensembles at East Stroudsburg University of PA. Dr. Hodge received his degrees from The University of Memphis studying with Dr. Albert T. Nguyen and has been at ESU for seven years. A multi-instrumentalist and arranger, Hodge is the Chief Arranger for the San Bernadino Symphony and “Winds of the West” ensemble, with credits in film and performances of his charts at the Hollywood Bowl for artists such as Drake and Post Malone.

**RAY STEDENFELD**, baritone/euphonium, retired as Band Director and Music Department chair from Western Wayne School District in 2014. He serves as Director of Ringgold Band of Scranton, teaches private instrumental lessons at Scranton Music Academy, and also maintains a private teaching studio. He is a graduate of Marywood College with a degree in Music Education.

**CHRIS WILSKI**, baritone/euphonium, a 1976 graduate of Mansfield, retired from Wyoming Valley West after 36 years of teaching instrumental and vocal music to grades K-12 and serving as department chair. He is a recipient of the PMEA Citation of Excellence Award. He has also been a member of the Williamsport Symphony and a regular at Rockefeller Center’s annual “Tuba Christmas”.

**RYAN LAMOREUX**, Bb tuba, a graduate of Hazleton Area High School and a tuba student of Phil Simon, serves as a consultant for marching bands throughout the tri-state area, specializing in sound design and live sound reinforcement. He is a member of the Wilkes University Civic Band, the Upper Schuylkill Band, and the Wyoming Valley Band. Ryan is currently employed as a commercial farm and poultry insurance underwriter.

**PATRICK RETTGER**, Eb tuba, a native of St. Marys, PA has a Bachelors of Science in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Masters of Music from Penn State University, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has been teaching and performing music for over 20 years including 14 years as a full time instructor at Jackson State University and 18 years with the US Army Bands and Army National Guard. He is currently a recruiter for the PA Army National Guard.

**ADAM BRENNAN**, percussion, was director of bands and professor of percussion studies at Mansfield University from 1995 - 2025. Adam has recorded numerous compact discs as conductor of the Mansfield University Bands, and can also be heard as a percussionist on Twilight Offering Music released by the University of Oklahoma Percussion Ensembles, and as conductor on Western Illinois University’s Fantasy Variations. He earned his DMA in instrumental conducting from the University of Oklahoma where he studied with Dr. William K. Wakefield, and his compositions and recordings can be found on [allthingsbands.com](http://allthingsbands.com). Recently, four of Brennan’s recordings and one of his compositions were listed as Grammy Nomination Eligible in twelve categories in two Grammy cycles. Adam is the recipient of numerous awards and honors from Kappa Kappa Psi, Mansfield University, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Marian Catholic High School (his alma mater, in Chicago Heights, IL,) and many others. An advocate for autistic children, he and his family are actively engaged in promoting autism awareness and educational rights for special needs children, serving on the Board of Directors for the Tioga County Autism Coalition (TASC).

**ADAM BURDETT**, percussion, is a resident of Pittston, PA where he resides with his wife Becky. Adam is currently the High School Concert Band, Marching Band and Chorus Director at Pittston Area High School where he has taught for the last 24 years. He is also an avid drill designer for various local marching bands throughout the area. Under his direction, Pittston Area has been well represented at various PMEA

(Pennsylvania Music Educators Association) Festivals throughout the years and has won numerous marching band championships.

**JANELLE DECKER**, percussion, is Conductor and Executive Director of Performance Music at The University of Scranton. As percussionist with the Reading Pops Orchestra from 2014-2018, Decker performed with a variety of guest artists, including Boston Brass, Brubeck Brothers, Eric Marienthal, and New York Voices. She currently is a member of the Scranton Brass Orchestra, and Wyoming Seminary Civic Orchestra, and frequently performs with the Electric City Steel Drum Project. In February of 2020, she was named “Northeast Woman” by the Scranton Times-Tribune. Decker is a member of Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, Percussive Arts Society, and Pennsylvania Collegiate Bandmasters Association.

**AARON SAWICKI**, percussion, is a Performance Music alumnus from The University of Scranton whose primary instruments are piano and organ. He serves as Director of Music Ministries at two churches and is also a member of the university’s String Orchestra, Singers, and Concert Choir. With his Mechanical Engineering degree, Aaron works at PowerRail Inc. as a Product Engineer.

### **CHERYL Y. BOGA, CONDUCTOR**

Now in her 45th year at The University of Scranton, Boga is Conductor & Director of Performance Music and founder and musical director of the World Premiere Composition Series, now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year. Numerous world-class performers have been featured as guests with ensembles she has conducted, and she maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor, clinician, and consultant throughout the eastern U.S., working with musicians ranging from high school students to professionals.

Dedicated to the performance of new music, Boga has commissioned, performed, assisted with orchestration of, prepared and/or conducted ensembles in the premieres of nearly 100 instrumental and/or choral works by both established and emerging composers, including Vaclav Nelhybel, Robert Starer, Rob Kapilow, T. Terry James, Joshua Rosenblum, Lawrence Wolfe, Wycliffe Gordon, Sam Pilafian, Jonathan Tunick, Jennifer Krupa, Kenneth Amis, and dozens of others. As a professional clarinetist before health issues cut short her playing career, Boga premiered solo works by a number of 20<sup>th</sup> century composers including Vaclav Nelhybel, T. Terry James, Robert Starer, and Joshua Rosenblum, and performed with orchestras and ensembles throughout the northeastern United States.

Boga is musical consultant to the estate of Vaclav Nelhybel and “The Nelhybel Collection at Scranton”, has conducted/performed premieres or revivals of many of his large ensemble compositions and numerous chamber works, and serves as webmaster for [www.nelhybel.org](http://www.nelhybel.org). She has served in past years as a consultant and advisor to a variety of arts constituencies, including schools, ensembles, performers, presenters, teachers, parent groups, and professional organizations, including The National Jazz Museum in Harlem, Rob Kapilow's "What Makes It Great?", Jazz at Lincoln Center, and many more too numerous to list.

Boga’s professional affiliations span membership in a variety of state and national organizations. She has served as an officer and/or committee chair in many of them, including her favorite - The Pennsylvania Collegiate Bandmasters Association - which she has served twice as president and almost four decades as auditions chair. She is the recipient of a variety of local, regional, and national awards and honors, including the National Catholic Band Association Lifetime Service Award, the Order Pro Deo et Universitat, The Sursum Corda Award, The Lawrence J. Morton Award, the inaugural Women of Courage and Vision Award, membership in Alpha Sigma Nu, and was recently honored by her colleagues in the region with the P.M.E.A. "Citation of Excellence in Higher Education".

Boga studied rehearsal techniques with Vaclav Nelhybel, clarinet with the legendary Leon Russianoff, and conducting with Rob Kapilow.

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