

## About the Featured Composers:



**Dramatic Essay** composer **Mark Williams** was one of the premier composers for school bands and orchestras. Co-author of the Accent on Achievement Band Method, Mr. Williams had over 200 published works to his credit. As clinician and guest conductor, he traveled to 34 states, 5 Canadian provinces, and Australia.

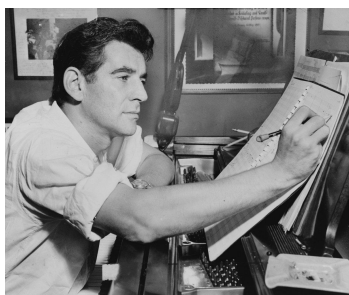
Mr. Williams was born in Chicago and grew up in Spokane, Washington. He taught music in the state of Washington for many years, specializing in elementary band. Mr. Williams held the Bachelor of Arts in Education and Master of Education degrees from Eastern Washington University and served as woodwind performer and arranger for the 560th Air Force Band. Renowned for his compositions for band, orchestra, and choir, Mr. Williams earned numerous awards including the Western International Band Clinic's Gralia Competition and several ASCAP Special Awards. In addition to his writing and travel schedule, Mark performed regularly on bassoon and served as Conductor and Artistic Director for the Spokane British Brass Band.



**Afterburn** composer **Brian Balmages** is known worldwide as a composer and conductor who equally spans the worlds of orchestral, band, and chamber music. His music has been performed by groups ranging from professional symphony orchestras to elementary schools in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Sydney Opera House, Toronto Centre for the Arts, and many more. He is a recipient of the A. Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association, won the 2020 NBA William D. Revelli Composition Contest with his work

Love and Light, and was awarded the inaugural James Madison University Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Visual and Performing Arts. In the same year, he was commissioned by his other alma mater, the University of Miami, to compose music for the inauguration of the institution's 6th president, Dr. Julio Frenk. His music was also performed as part of the 2013 Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service, which was attended by both President Obama and Vice President Biden.

As a conductor, Mr. Balmages enjoys regular engagements with all-state and regional ensembles as well as university and professional groups throughout the world. Notable guest conducting appearances have included the Midwest Clinic, Western International Band Clinic, Maryborough Music Conference (Australia), College Band Directors Conference, American School Band Directors Association National Conference, numerous state ASTA conferences, Teatro dell'Aquila (Italy), and others. He is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association and has taught instrumental conducting at Towson University where he also served as Assistant Director of Bands and Orchestras. Currently, he is Director of MakeMusic Publications and Digital Education for Alfred and MakeMusic.



**Danzon** composer **Leonard Bernstein** (August 25, 1918-October 14, 1990) was a world-renowned conductor and composer, and one of classical music's icons of the 20th century. He was Music Director of the New York Philharmonic and conducted the world's major orchestras, leaving behind an enormous legacy of audio and video recordings. His books, as well as the much-beloved televised Young People's Concerts with the New York Philharmonic, established him as a leading

educator. His orchestral and choral works include three symphonies (No. 1 "Jeremiah", No. 2 "Age of Anxiety", and No. 3 "Kaddish"), Serenade, MASS, Chichester Psalms, Songfest, Divertimento for Orchestra, Arias and Barcarolles, and Concerto for Orchestra. Bernstein's works for the Broadway stage include On the Town, Wonderful Town, Candide and the immensely popular West Side Story. In addition to the West Side Story collaboration, Bernstein worked with choreographer Jerome Robbins on three major ballets, Fancy Free, Facsimile and Dybbuk. Mr. Bernstein was the recipient of many honors, including eleven Emmy Awards, one Tony Award, the Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award, and the Kennedy Center Honors.



**Chokfi'** composer and our guest clinician, **Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate** is a classical composer, citizen of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, and is dedicated to the development of American Indian classical composition. The Washington Post selected him as one of "22 for '22: Composers and performers to watch this year" and raved about his rare ability to "effectively infuse classical music with American Indian nationalism." His commissioned works

have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Colorado Ballet, and many more.

Tate was appointed a 2022 Chickasaw Hall of Fame inductee, 2021 Cultural Ambassador for the U.S. Department of State, and is a governor-appointed Creativity Ambassador for the State of Oklahoma. He won an Emmy for his work on the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority documentary, The Science of Composing, and his music was featured on the HBO series Westworld. Tate served as Guest Composer, conductor, and pianist for San Francisco Symphony's Currents Program, and was a Guest Composer for Metropolitan Museum of Art's program Home with ETHEL and Friends.

Tate's middle name, Impichchaachaaha', means "his high corncrib" and is his inherited traditional Chickasaw house name. Learn more at [www.jerodtate.com](http://www.jerodtate.com).



Guest speaker **Gala Flagello** (b. 1994) is a composer, educator, and nonprofit director whose music is inspired by a passion for lyricism, rhythmic vitality, and fostering meaningful collaboration. With music described as "both flesh and spirit, intensely psychological without sacrificing concrete musical enjoyment" ([I Care If You Listen](#)), Flagello collaborates with leading ensembles, artists, initiatives, and institutions nationally and internationally to craft

impactful projects for performers and audiences alike. She is the Festival Director and co-founder of the nonprofit contemporary music festival [Connecticut Summerfest](#) and has been a Composition Fellow at Tanglewood Music Center, the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music, and Aspen Music Festival.

Upcoming premieres in the 2023/2024 season include Bravado for wind band by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, Vitality for wind band by the Youth Performing Arts School Wind Ensemble at the Midwest Clinic, and Until My Last Breath by Horns of the Heartland. Other season highlights include performances by the Santa Fe Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, La Jolla Symphony, DuPage Symphony Orchestra, Adrian Symphony Orchestra, and Central Ohio Symphony.