

Wind Music and Terminology

A Critical Review of an Immanent
Phenomenon

Damien Sagrillo, Université du Luxembourg
Wadgassen, 20th July 2018

Overview

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

Band / Banda

‘Symphonic’ / ‘sinfonisch’

Summary

Outlook

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- Etymology
 - Latin: Cappa
 - English: Cap
 - French: Capuchin
 - German: Kappe

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- *Cappella Sancti Martini*
 - St. Martin (316 – 397) was a Roman soldier in France
 - Later he became bishop of Tours and shared his cloak with a beggar on a cold winter day



Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- *Cappa Sancti Martini*
 - The part of the cloak kept by him became a famous relic, the **cappa** Sancti Martini
 - The priest who took care of the cloak was called **cappellanu**
 - Chaplain (Gb)
 - Chapelain (Fr)
 - Kaplan (De)



Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- *Cappa Sancti Martini*
 - Since 800, persons who are involved in church services are called **capellani**
 - The **place** where the cloak was kept, was called **capella**
 - Chapel (Gb)
 - Chapelle (Fr)
 - Kapelle (De)



Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- *Cap(p)ella*, which is the diminutive form of *cap(p)a*, is supposed to originate from Mediaeval Latin and means a **small, hooded coat**
- Avignon 1335: The understanding of the musical term ‘capella’ / ‘chapel’ / ‘chapelle’ / ‘Kapelle’ goes down the path of the Papal ‘**capella intrinseca**’
 - This ‘**chapel of the interior**’ was in charge of the church services, **music** included!



Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- Change of meanings over the centuries
- **A Cappella**
 - Johann Gottfried Walther, ‘Musikalisches Lexikon’
 - *Indessen ist die Päbstliche Music darinnen von anderen unterschieden, daß man dabey keiner Orgel oder anderer Instrumenten brauchet, sondern die Stücke nur hersinget*

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- 17th century: Michael Praetorius
 - **Capella fidicina**
 - An ensemble of strings and winds
- 19th century
 - Synonym for musicians of an orchestra
 - **Pejorativ term** for dance, military and wind orchestras of minor quality



Today
Blaskapelle Marchviertel



Staatskapelle Dresden

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- Negative labelling: ***Kapellmeistermusik***
 - Eclectic, not creative
 - Richard Wagner
 - Incapacity of chapel masters to compose music
 - Wagner's example: Mendelssohn
- Positive labelling: Adorno
 - Wagner and Mahler, composers of ***Kapellmeistermusik*** of the highest repute
 - The chapel masters know best the wishes of the audience
 - Possible argument for '**symphonic**' wind music?

Overview

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

Band / Banda

‘Symphonic’ / ‘sinfonisch’

Summary

Band – Etymology

- Etymology – some meanings towards the musical term:
 - Latin
 - **Bandum**, a flag, an emblem of war
 - Old High German (Althochdeutsch)
 - 8th century **bintan**: ‘fest miteinander vereinigen’ – close-knit
 - Eine **Bande**: a group of criminals, a gang
 - French – **bande**:
 - 1100-50 **bende**: piece of metal in the form of a circle, ring
 - « pièce de métal en forme de cercle, anneau »
 - 15th century: group of persons, bound together through affinity or a common objective
 - **Bande musicale**: for example ‘une **bande** de hautbois’
 - **Banda**: Stage band in Italian operas (Rossini, Verdi)

'A Band is a Band is a Band' (R.F. Camus)

- Amy Camus in a recent text:
 - The word “band” is problematic. What comes to mind when that word is spoken?

Rock Band

Marching Band

Brass Band

Jazz Band

Swing Band

Big Band

Concert Band

Circus Band

Dixieland Band

Band – Terms

English

- Band
- Wind Orchestra
- Concert Band
- Symphonic Band
- Wind Ensemble

French

- Harmonie-Fanfare
- Orchestre d'harmonie
- Orchestre à vent

German

- Musikkapelle
- Harmonieorchester
- Sinfonisches Blasorchester

Band – Definition of Spanish Wikipedia (1)

- Una **banda de música** es una agrupación musical formada básicamente por instrumentos de viento o de cuerda
 - A music band is a musical group formed basically by wind or **string instruments**
- **Banda sinfónica**
- **Banda de concierto**

Band – Definition of Spanish Wikipedia (2)

La principal diferencia entre una **banda de música** y una **banda sinfónica** es que la primera solo está compuesta por instrumentos de viento y percusión, mientras que la segunda está compuesta, también, por algunos instrumentos de cuerda, como el violonchelo, el contrabajo, el piano, el arpa, pero nunca violines ni violas. Existen bandas sinfónicas con solo instrumentos de viento pero con todas las familias.

Band – Definition of Spanish Wikipedia (3)

The main difference between a **music band** and a **symphonic band** is that the first one is only composed of wind and percussion instruments, while the second is also composed by **some string instruments**, such as **cello**, **double bass**, piano, harp, but never by violins or violas. **There are symphonic bands with only wind instruments** but with all the families.

Band – Definition of Italian Wikipedia

- **Banda musicale**, o semplicemente **banda**, o anche **orchestra di fiati**
 - **Musical band**, or **simply band**, or even **wind orchestra**
- The term '**symphonic**' is not used!

Overview

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

Band / Banda

‘Symphonic’ / ‘sinfonisch’

Summary

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- Etymology
 - MGG
 - Greek origin – ‘Zusammenklang’
 - Term of music theory, apprenticeship of intervals
 - The word ‘**symphony**’ derives from the Greek **syn** (‘together’) and **phōnē** (‘sounding’)
 - In late Greek and medieval theory, consonance, as opposed to **diaphonia** or **dissonance**. The word **symphonos** also sometimes meant a unison as distinct from *antiphonos*, an octave, and *paraphonos*, a 4th or 5th.
 - » (Grove, Symphonia)
 - The adjective ‘symphonic’ applied to a work implies that it is **extended and thoroughly developed**
 - » (Grove, Symphony)

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- **Symphonic** wind music:
 - Definition by Hofer
 - Symphonic wind orchestra is art music for winds of the 20th century
 - First mention according to Suppan in a regional journal in 1932
 - First non-functional concert pieces
 - 1st and 2nd Suite (Holst)
 - *Dionysiaques* (Schmitt)
 - 1957: Hans Werner Henze
 - *Hochzeitsmusik aus dem Ballet “Undine” für **Sinfonisches** Blasorchester**

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- Meaning

- The adjective ‘symphonic’ applied to a composition, implies that it is extended and thoroughly developed. (Grove, Symphony)

- 2 Examples

1. Beethoven’s string trios

- About ½ hour of length

- Clearly structured

- **Symphonic** work?

- Concerning the number of musicians: **no**

- Concerning the structure, e.g. four movements: **yes**

- Concerning the length: **yes**

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- Meaning

- 2 Examples

- 2. Derek Bourgeois' Apocalypse, up to 80 musicians

- 20' of length
 - Interesting piece written in 2002
 - With many style influences, eclectic
 - **Symphonic** work?
 - Concerning the number of musicians: **yes**
 - Concerning the structure: yes? / **no?**
 - Concerning the length: **no**

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- Wikidata entrance

| | | | |
|----------|----------------------|--|--|
| English | concert band | performing ensemble consisting of several members of the woodwind, brass, and percussion families of instruments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> symphony band symphonic winds symphonic band Symphonic band |
| French | orchestre d'harmonie | relativement grand ensemble musical regroupant la famille des bois, la famille des cuivres et la famille des percussions | harmonie |
| German | Harmonieorchester | Orchester mit Blechbläsern, Holzbläsern und Schlagwerk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinfonische Blasmusik Harmonie |
| Bavarian | Blosmusi | No description defined | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blasmusik Blousmusi |

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- Wikidata entrance

| | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|---|---|
| Spanish | banda sinfónica | grande conjunto de músicos que interpretan instrumentos de viento, de percusión y de cuerda | banda de música sinfónica bandas sinfónicas bandas de música sinfónica banda sinfonica banda de musica sinfonica bandas sinfonicas bandas de musica sinfonica |
| Italian | banda sinfonica | grande formazione musicale con legni e ottoni | Complesso bandistico orchestra di fiati banda da concerto orchestre di fiati |

“Symphonic” band

- Different scholars / different views
 - Depending on country, region, traditions

| Woodwinds: | Brass |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 2 Flutes (Picc.) in C | 4 Horns in F/E flat |
| 2 Oboes | 3 Trumpets in B flat |
| 2 Bassoons | 3 Trombones |
| Clarinet in E flat | 2 Cornets (in German speaking countries: Flügelhörner) in B flat |
| 3 Clarinets in B flat | Tenor horn in B flat |
| Alto clarinet | Bariton |
| Bass clarinet | F/E flat and CC/BB flat tubas |
| (Contrabass-clarinet) | |
| 2 Alto saxophones in E flat | Percussion: |
| Tenor saxophone in B flat | Big drum and side drum/cymbals |
| Bariton saxophon in E flat | Vibraphone/Marimbaphone/Xylophone/Bells |
| Strings: | |
| Contrabass | |

Kornett

Bassflügelhorn and Euphonium in Eastern Austria

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- **My attempt at a definition**
 - **Free of functional tasks**, in Europe often consisting of timely defined project orchestras, in the USA consisting of thousands of school and academic ensembles with often changing musicians
 - Playing original wind band pieces, along with ambitious arrangements and (concert) marches
 - Performing **concertant wind music**

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- **My attempt at a definition**

- Having a worldwide uniform instrumentation, yet variable in number, but omitting instruments with regional identity and character
- Producing a **uniform sound**
- Being able to perform current **wind music off-the-peg** from publishers worldwide becoming, like symphony orchestras, comparable (and evaluable – in contests)

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- Critical position
 - Term ‘symphonic’ **over-used**
 - Fluctuates between meaningfulness and meaninglessness
 - In relation to wind music **grandiloquent**
 - **Discrimination** against the so-called ‘**serious**’ and the ‘**ordinary**’
 - Counterexamples, not using the term **symphonic**
 - *La Garde Republicaine* and *la Banda dei Carabinieri* don’t use the term ‘**symphonic**’, but belong to the best wind orchestras in the world...
 - ... and use their typical instrumentation, providing and conservating their national identity

Overview

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

Band / Banda

‘Symphonic’ / ‘sinfonisch’

Summary

Summary

- Term **Chapel / Kapelle** uncontested, historically clearly proven
- Term **Band / Banda** associated to multiple meanings in English
- Term **symphonic** for wind music:
 - Not easy to define
 - Borrowed from the music of great masters
 - Overused, unadapted, grandiloquent, arbitrary
 - Nebulous
 - Compositions of an eclectic style
 - Possible better term:
Concert music for winds?

Muito obrigado pela atenção

Merci fir Äert Nolauschteren

Grazie per l'attenzione

Merci pour votre attention

Danke für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit

Благодарю вас за внимание

Köszönöm a figyelmet

Damien Sagrillo, Université du Luxembourg

Thank you for your attention

Muchas gracias por su atención