

Wind Music and Terminology

A Critical Review of an Immanent Phenomenon

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Overview

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

Band / Banda

'Symphonic' / 'sinfonisch'

Summary

Outlook





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



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- Cappa 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





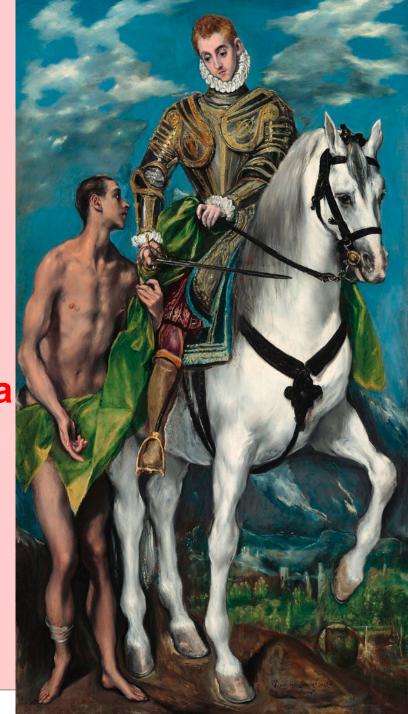


- Cappa Sancti Martini
 - The part of the cloak kept by him became a famous relic, the cappa Sancti Martini
 - The priest who took care of the cloak was called cappellanu
 - Chaplain (Gb)
 - Chapelain (Fr)
 - Kaplan (De)





- 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)



 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!





- Change of meanings over the centuries
- A Cappella
 - Johann Gottfried Walther, 'Musikalisches Lexikon'
 - Indessen ist die P\u00e4bstliche Music darinnen von anderen unterschieden, da\u00db man dabey keiner Orgel oder anderer Instrumenten brauchet, sondern die St\u00fccke nur hersinget



 17th century: Michael Praetorius

- Capella fidicinia
 - 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









- 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?





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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 crimminels, a gang
 - French bande:
 - 1100-50 bende: piece of metal in the form of a circle, ring
 - o « 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? Marching Band Rock Band Jazz Band **Brass 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!





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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 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*



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- 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



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- 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





eymphony hand

Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

Wikidata entrance

concert hand

Eliglisii	Concert band	members of the woodwind, brass, and percussion families of instruments	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	Sinfonische Blasmusik Harmonie
Bavarian	Blosmusi	No description defined	Blasmusik Blousmusi

nerforming engemble consisting of several



English

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Wikidata entrance

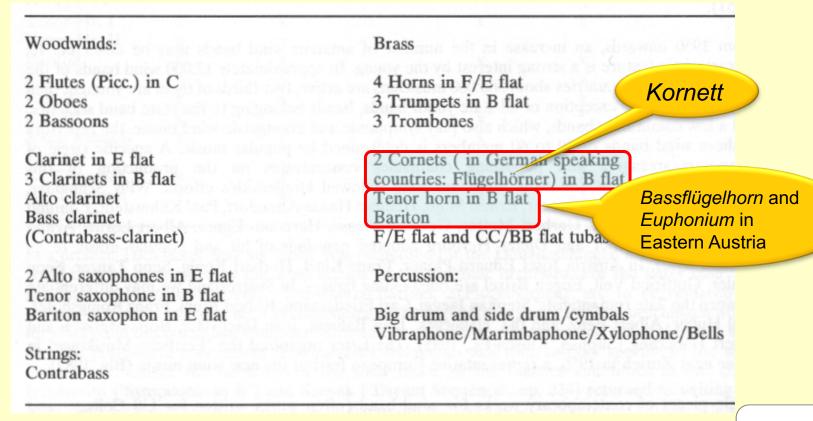
Spanish	banda sinfónica	grande conjunto de músicos que interpretan instrumentos de viento, de percusión y de cuerda	banda de música sinfónica bandas sinfónicas bandas de música sinfónica banda sinfonica banda de musica sinfonica bandas sinfonicas bandas de musica sinfonica
	\		
Italian	banda simonica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





"Symphonic" band

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







- 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





- 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)



- 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 Carbinieri 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





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- 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?







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Thank you for your attention

Muchas gracias por su atención

