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### Symphonic Winds, March 28, 2022

F. Mack Wood Conductor

John Gonzalez Guest Conductor

Seth Marshall Guest Conductor

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#### Recommended Citation

Wood, F. Mack Conductor; Gonzalez, John Guest Conductor; and Marshall, Seth Guest Conductor, "Symphonic Winds, March 28, 2022" (2022). *School of Music Programs*. 4529.  
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Illinois State University  
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts  
School of Music

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# *Symphonic Winds*

F. Mack Wood, *conductor*  
John Gonzalez, *guest conductor*  
Seth Marshall, *guest conductor*

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Center for the Performing Arts  
March 28, 2022  
Monday Evening  
8:00 p.m.

This is the one hundred and thirty-third program of the 2021-2022 season.

# Program

Please silence all electronic devices for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

*Mother Earth (2003)*

David Maslanka  
(1943-2017)

*Autumn (2017/2018)*

Cait Nishimura  
(b. 1991)

Seth Marshall, *guest conductor*

*We Choose To Go To The Moon (2020)*

Roger Zare  
(b. 1985)

*Stillwater (2019)*

Kelijah Dunton  
(b. 1999)

John Gonzalez, *guest conductor*

*Wild Nights! (2007)*

Frank Ticheli  
(b. 1958)

## ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES

The Center for the Performing Arts is equipped with an infrared audio amplification system for assisted listening. Headsets and receiver packs are available, free of charge, at the Box Office or by checking with the House Manager. An ID is needed to check out the device and must be returned to the House Manager at the end of the performance.

## Program Notes

Thank you for joining us for today's performance of the Illinois State University Symphonic Winds. We hope that you will enjoy our concert, and that you might consider joining us again for future performances here at the ISU School of Music. Please visit <http://www.bands.illinoisstate.edu> for more information. Thank you for your support!

### *Mother Earth*

Year Composed: 2003, Duration: 3:10

David Maslanka

**David Maslanka** was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1943. He attended the Oberlin College Conservatory where he studied composition with Joseph Wood. He spent a year at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, and did masters and doctoral study in composition at Michigan State University where his principal teacher was H. Owen Reed.

Maslanka's music for winds has become especially well known. Among his more than 150 works are over 50 pieces for wind ensemble, including eight symphonies, seventeen concertos, a Mass, and many concert pieces. His chamber music includes four wind quintets, five saxophone quartets, and many works for solo instrument and piano. In addition, he has written a variety of orchestral and choral pieces.

David Maslanka's compositions are published by Maslanka Press, Carl Fischer, Kjos Music, Marimba Productions, and OU Percussion Press. They have been recorded on Albany, Reference Recordings, BIS (Sweden), Naxos, Cambria, CRI, Mark, Novisse, AUR, Cafua (Japan), Brain Music (Japan), Barking Dog, and Klavier labels. He served on the faculties of the State University of New York at Geneseo, Sarah Lawrence College, New York University, and Kingsborough Community College of the City University of New York, and was a freelance composer in Missoula, Montana from 1990 until his death in 2017.

Program note from from the composer:

*Mother Earth* was composed for the South Dearborn High School Band of Aurora, Indiana, Brian Silvey, conductor. The commission was for a three-minute fanfare piece. Each piece takes on a reason for being all its own, and *Mother Earth* is no exception. It became an urgent message from Our Mother to treat her more kindly! My reading at the time of writing this music was *For a Future to be Possible* by the Vietnamese monk and teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh. He believes that the only way forward is to be extremely alive and aware in our present moment, to become awake to the needs of our beloved planet, and to respond to it as a living entity. Music making allows us to come immediately awake. It is an instant connection to the powerful wellspring of our creativity, and opens our minds to the solution of any number of problems, including that of our damaged environment. My little piece does not solve the problem! But it is a living call to the wide-awake life, and it continues to be performed by young people around the world.

### *Autumn*

Year Composed: 2017/2018, Duration: 3:00

Cait Nishimura

**Cait Nishimura** (she/her) is a Canadian composer based in Waterloo, Ontario. Known for writing nature-inspired, programmatic music, Cait has quickly established herself as a prominent voice in the concert band community. Cait's music has been presented at The Midwest Clinic, MusicFest Canada, and numerous other conferences and festivals across North America. Her work has become increasingly popular among educational music programs and within the professional new music scene, with new works being regularly commissioned and performed by ensembles and individuals around the world.

Cait is committed to creating contemporary music that is approachable, relevant, and enjoyable for all; before transitioning to a full-time career as a composer, she taught instrumental music and continues to prioritize and advocate for the value of music education. She actively seeks opportunities to connect personally with the communities for whom she writes, and she is passionate about setting a positive example for future generations of musicians— especially those from historically underrepresented groups— through her creative work, her social media presence, and her dedication to mental health awareness. As a lifelong environmentalist, she not only draws inspiration from the natural world but also uses her platform to advocate for conservation awareness and action.

Cait was the winner of the Canadian Band Association’s composition prize in 2017. She holds degrees in music and education from the University of Toronto but is an advocate of people pursuing their passions regardless of their field of study. All works are self-published under Cait Nishimura Music. To connect, please visit [caitnishimura.com](http://caitnishimura.com).

Program note from the composer:

*Autumn* was originally composed for SATB choir and was later transcribed for wind band by the composer. The choral version features original text inspired by seasonal scenic imagery. The setting for wind band stays true to the pacing and character of the original, with added instrumental texture and colour.

*The sun hides  
low in the sky  
igniting the forest  
with rays of light.  
The air lies motionless  
until a gentle wind whispers,  
disrupting this peace.  
With this wind  
dances a colourful melancholy, painting the seasons  
with brushstrokes of time.  
Memories swirl  
in this cool breeze,  
though warmth lingers  
in the arms of trees  
holding on  
until the last single leaf falls.*

### ***We Choose To Go To The Moon***

Year Composed: 2020, Duration: 6:30

Roger Zare

**Roger Zare** has been praised for his “enviable grasp of orchestration” (New York Times) and for writing music with “formal clarity and an alluringly mercurial surface.” He was born in Sarasota, FL, and has written for a wide variety of ensembles, from solo instruments to full orchestra. Often inspired by science, mathematics, literature, and mythology, his colorfully descriptive and energetic works have been performed in five continents by such ensembles as the American Composers Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Sarasota Orchestra, the Australian-based Trio Anima Mundi, the Donald Sinta Quartet, and the New York Youth Symphony. An award-winning composer, Zare has received the ASCAP Nissim Prize, three BMI Student Composer Awards, an ASCAP Morton Gould award, a New York Youth Symphony First Music Commission, the 2008 American Composers Orchestra Underwood Commission, a 2010 Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Copland House Residency Award, Grand Prize in the inaugural China-US Emerging Composers Competition, and many other honors. An active pianist, Zare performed his chamber work, *Geometries*, with Cho-Liang Lin, Jian Wang, and Burt Hara at the 2014 Hong Kong International Chamber Music Festival. He has been composer in residence at the Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival, the Salt Bay Chamber Music Festival, the Chamber Music Festival of Lexington and the SONAR new music ensemble.

Zare holds a DMA ('12) from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Michael Daugherty, Paul Schoenfield, Bright Sheng, and Kristin Kuster. He holds degrees from the Peabody Conservatory (MM '09) and the University of Southern California (BM '07), and his previous teachers include Christopher Theofanidis, Derek Bermel, David Smooke, Donald Crockett, Tamar Diesendruck, Fredrick Lesemann, and Morten Lauridsen. Zare currently serves as instructional assistant professor of composition and theory at Illinois State University and is co-director of the RED NOTE new music festival.

Program note from the composer:

In the fall of 2019 when I was asked to write a new wind ensemble work to accompany *Mare Tranquillitatis*, a piece I had written eleven years prior, I was both thrilled to revisit an older work that has meant a lot to me personally and nervous to try to find a way to bring ideas from that piece into the present and the future. As I write these program notes, we have not sent a person to the Moon in 47 years, but our drive to return there and go beyond is as strong as it has been in recent memory. For generations, we dreamed of traveling to the stars, and during the 1960s, competition with the Soviet Union finally pushed us to achieve manned space flight and travel to our nearest celestial neighbor. As President Kennedy said in his famous 1962 speech, we choose to do difficult things because they are hard, and because the reward is so much greater for achieving them. Putting people on the Moon and returning them to Earth safely was not without many trials and setbacks, such as the Apollo 1 tragedy; succeeding at this monumental task was a testament to perseverance. *We Choose To Go To The Moon* is a celebration of the achievements of the intrepid astronauts, scientists, and engineers who made what seemed impossible a reality in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and also a reflection of the excitement surrounding the possibility of returning to the Moon and going beyond to Mars in the near future.

### *Stillwater*

Year Composed: 2019, Duration: 4:45

Kelijah Dunton

**Kelijah Dunton** is a New York-based composer. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Kelijah has called the neighborhoods of Williamsburg, Bushwick, and Crown Heights home. Moving from place to place has helped him learn what it means to be around people of all backgrounds, ages, and walks of life, as well as exposed him to many genres of music in different communities.

Mr. Dunton studied alto saxophone through school and continues to be an active performer with New York City's own metropolitan music community. Without formal composition training, Kelijah has only recently [2019] embarked on his composition career, persevering as he learns from his musical peers and experiences.

Kelijah's significant musical moments include performing in NYC honor bands, competitive NYSSMA festivals, traveling to prestigious music colleges, sitting in with various award-winning jazz bands, and most recently performing with an MMC community band for all ages and music education levels.

Program note from the composer:

*Stillwater* is inspired by the beauty of a small town - Stillwater Minnesota. This town has a big lake in its center, and out of everyone's backyard it could be seen. During the winter, the very top of the lake freezes and creates this tranquil effect that could not be seen but heard. When stepping out into your backyard, you'd see this frozen mass, stuck into place and completely unmovable, but if you listened closely, you could hear that the water underneath continued to flow.

Why is this important? We as people forget sometimes that we are so much more deep and vast beneath our hard surfaces. We work, we go to school, we take care of our families, we deal with the struggles of the day-to-day routine militantly. But if we just take a moment to listen within ourselves; we discover our passions, our longings, and our sense of belongings.

## ***Wild Nights!***

Year Composed: 2007, Duration: 6:50

Frank Ticheli

**Frank Ticheli** is an American composer and conductor. Ticheli joined the faculty of the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music in 1991 where he is Professor of Composition. From 1991 to 1998, Ticheli was Composer in Residence of the Pacific Symphony, and he still enjoys a close working relationship with that orchestra and their music director, Carl St. Clair.

Ticheli is well known for his works for concert band, many of which have become standards in the repertoire. In addition to composing, he has appeared as guest conductor of his music at Carnegie Hall, at many American universities and music festivals, and in cities throughout the world, including Schladming, Austria, at the Mid-Europe Music Festival; London and Manchester, England, with the Meadows Wind Ensemble; Singapore, with the Singapore Armed Forces Central Band; and numerous cities in Japan, with the Bands of America National Honor Band.

Frank Ticheli is the winner of the 2006 NBA/William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest for his Symphony No. 2. Other awards for his music include the Charles Ives and the Goddard Lieberman Awards, both from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Walter Beeler Memorial Prize, and First Prize awards in the Texas Sesquicentennial Orchestral Composition Competition, Britten-on-the-Bay Choral Composition Contest, and Virginia CBDNA Symposium for New Band Music.

Dr. Ticheli received his doctoral and master's degrees in composition from The University of Michigan. His works are published by Manhattan Beach, Southern, Hinshaw, and Encore Music, and are recorded on the labels of Albany, Chandos, Clarion, Klavier, Koch International, and Mark Records.

Program notes from the composer:

*Wild Nights!* is a joyous, colorful seven-minute musical journey inspired by Emily Dickinson's poem:

*Wild nights! Wild nights!  
Were I with thee,  
Wild nights should be  
Our luxury!*

*Futile the winds  
To a heart in port,  
Done with the compass,  
Done with the chart.*

*Rowing in Eden!  
Ah! the sea!  
Might I but moor  
To-night in thee!*

Numerous composers have set the words of *Wild Nights!* to music (Lee Hoiby's song setting and John Adams' Harmonium come immediately to mind). However, to my knowledge, no one has used this wonderfully sensuous poem as the basis for a purely instrumental tone poem. This was my aim, and in so doing I focused most heavily on the lines "Done with the compass, /Done with the chart" and "Rowing in Eden!/Ah! the sea!" These words suggested the sense of freedom and ecstatic joy that I tried to express in my work. Throughout the piece, even during its darker middle section, the music is mercurial, impetuous, optimistic. A jazzy syncopated rhythmic motive permeates the journey. Unexpected events come and go, lending spontaneity and a sense of freedom. The work is composed in five distinct sections but contained within each section are numerous surprises and a devil-may-care swagger. Surprises are found at every turn and continue right through the final cadence. *Wild Nights!* was commissioned by the California Band Directors Association in celebration of their 50th anniversary.

## Biographies

**F. Mack Wood** is the Associate Director of Bands at Illinois State University, where he conducts the Symphonic Winds, University Band, and directs the Big Red Marching Machine. Prior to his appointment at Illinois State University, he was a doctoral graduate associate at the University of Miami, Frost School of Music and holds a master's degree in Instrumental Conducting from Louisiana State University and a bachelor's degree in Music and Human Learning from The University of Texas at Austin. After completing his undergraduate studies, Dr. Wood was a high school band director in the Dallas/Fort Worth area of Texas.

F. Mack Wood was the Director of Bands at North Forney High School just east of Dallas, TX. He opened North Forney High School and created the band program in 2009 where he oversaw all operations of the high school bands and middle school feeder program. While at North Forney High School, Mack's ensembles received numerous awards and accolades, but most importantly, many of his students continued to participate in music beyond high school. Prior to his appointment at North Forney High School, Dr. Wood was the assistant director for three years at Forney High School and one year at Irving Nimitz High School.

An active adjudicator, clinician, music arranger, and drill designer, Mack truly loves all aspects of the wind band world. In his spare time, Mack enjoys cooking and bar-b-que (they are very different according to him), playing golf, and spending time with his wife Rachel and daughter Imogen.

**John Gonzalez** is a first-year graduate student at Illinois State University currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Wind Conducting under Dr. Anthony Marinello. In addition to his studies, John is also one of the band graduate teaching assistants. His duties include assisting with the Big Red Marching Machine, Pep Band, assisting with undergraduate conducting courses, as well as guest conducting the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, and University Band.

Prior to attending Illinois State University, John was the Director of Bands and Choirs at Easton Valley High School in Preston, Iowa for five years. Under his leadership the music department quickly became more active and student participation in all ensembles more than doubled. While at EVHS John was the assistant play director and musical director in the Theatre Department. John is also active as a private trombone instructor for students of all ages and skill levels and was previously on staff for the private lesson program through the Quad City Symphony Orchestra in Davenport, Iowa.

John graduated from Western Illinois University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and a minor in Jazz Studies. He holds memberships with the National Association for Music Education, Iowa Bandmasters Association, and the Illinois Music Education Association

**Seth Marshall** is currently a first-year master's student at ISU where he holds a graduate band assistantship and studies trumpet performance with Dr. Anne McNamara. Seth received his bachelor's degree in trumpet performance from Missouri Southern State University. Seth has had various opportunities to perform with the Heartland Opera Company in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as a quarter finalist in the National Trumpet Competition, marched with the Bluecoats Drum & Bugle Corps, conducted his undergraduate ensembles, and has been a clinician for various brass events. After graduate school, Seth plans to audition for multiple doctoral programs and professional ensembles around the country in hopes of becoming a trumpet professor at a public university in the near future.



# Illinois State University Symphonic Winds

F. Mack Wood, *conductor*

## **Flute**

Brennon Best  
Adriana Giacona  
Maddie Hubbard\*  
Isaac Rutledge\*  
Emily Ruvoli  
Andy Trower

## **Oboe**

Tyler Bloomfield  
Melanie Castillo  
Elli Ji\*

## **Clarinet**

Erin Brown\*  
Danielle Cahue  
Michael Endres  
Maggie Haley  
Jessica Lyons  
Melanie Saienni  
Bella Vermillion  
Katie Allen (bass)

## **Bassoon**

Dan Owen Besana  
Nick Filano  
Kiara Price\*  
Wes Smith

## **Saxophone**

Jennifer Brewer  
Riley Erskine  
Mikey Schelinski\*  
Sam Simmons  
Hailey Woock

## **Horn**

Lydia Cermak  
Alicia Cruz  
Ariel Furgat  
Zhiyuan Gao\*  
Lucy Harazin  
Joanna Siczka

## **Trumpet**

Lauren Cancio  
Austin Caraher  
Jackson Crater  
Chloe Horn  
Milo Johnson  
Christian McLaughlin\*  
Julia Ricker

## **Trombone**

Brett Harris  
Matthew Helferich  
Eric Johnson  
Ethan Machamer\*  
Emily Rausch  
Nick Sisson (bass)

## **Euphonium**

Dylan Gray\*  
Jack O'Mahoney  
Joseph Rhykerd

## **Tuba**

Jack Giroux\*  
Brady Parks

## **Percussion**

Matt Boguslawski\*  
Sara Eckert  
Konnor Halsey  
Emma Kutz  
Matthew McAdams  
Aidan Perrault

## **Piano**

Miguel Yu

\*Denotes Section Leader