

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

# Wind Symphony

## THE SKY IS BOUNDLESS

**STEVEN CAPALDO**

CONDUCTOR

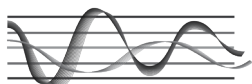
**TAYLOR TAKACH**

GRADUATE STUDENT CONDUCTOR

**ETHAN PAGE** MARIMBA

UVIC CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER

**UVIC**  
**music**



**FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026 | 8 PM**

The Farquhar at UVic  
University of Victoria

# PROGRAM

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and X̱wsep̓səm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

**A Sky So Boundless** (2025)

Katahj Copley  
(b. 1998)

**Riften Wed** (2013)

Julie Giroux  
(b. 1961)

**The Golden Hour** (2016)

Joel Love  
(b. 1982)

**First Suite in E-flat for Military Band** (1909) Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

1. Chaconne
2. Intermezzo
3. March

ed. Colin Matthews

Taylor Takach, graduate student conductor

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INTERMISSION

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**Towers of Bloom** (2025)

Kelijah Dunton  
(b. 1999)

**Nocturne** (2021)

Zhou Tian  
(b. 1981)

Taylor Takach, graduate student conductor

**Concerto for Marimba and Wind Orchestra** (2005) Emmanuel Séjourné

1. *Tempo souple*
2. *Rhythmique, énergique*

(b. 1961)

arr. J. Gudefin

Ethan Page, marimba

## PROGRAM NOTES

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### **A Sky So Boundless**

Katahj Copley

*our hands reached high  
filled with wonder  
filled with beauty filled with fear  
filled with unknown  
filled with hope  
forever connected to  
a sky so boundless*

*a sky so boundless* is an exploration of courage. Through our own journeys through the unknown and through our fight against oppression and darkness, we emerge into a light that is full of possibilities and potential. I wanted to create a work that paints both adventure and risk while exploring colors of warmth and emotions. *a sky so boundless* is a tone poem dedicated to those that persevere and fight on to reach their limitless potential and create opportunities for those to follow.

Commissioned by the Franklin High School Band in Franklin, Tenn. Dr. Michael Holland, Director of Bands

© Katahj Copley

### **Riften Wed**

Julie Giroux

Composed for Dennis W. Fisher and the University of North Texas Symphonic Band.

*Riften Wed* is the music for loves and unions, past and present such as this. A love, a wedding, a lifetime shared by two people in the middle of a storm that threatens to tear them apart. Where “‘til death do us part” is not only a reality, it’s a given. Where love is a gift worthy of all the joy and pain it demands. One life, one love, one ending. This music is for those that are truly *Riften Wed*.

© Julie Giroux

### **The Golden Hour**

Joel Love

This work began life as the second movement of *Love’s Three Images* (2016) for saxophone octet. *The Golden Hour* is a meditation on the image of the sun setting (or rising). In photography, the term “the golden hour” refers to the time just before and after sunrise/sunset, during which daylight is reddish and soft.

© Joel Love

## First Suite in E-flat for Military Band

Gustav Holst

Gustav Holst's *First Suite in E-flat for Military Band* occupies a legendary position in the wind band repertory and can be seen, in retrospect, as one of the earliest examples of the modern wind band instrumentation still frequently performed today. Its influence is so significant that several composers have made quotation or allusion to it as a source of inspiration to their own works.

Holst began his work with *Chaconne*, a traditional Baroque form that sets a series of variations over a ground bass theme. That eight-measure theme is stated at the outset in tubas and euphoniums, and, in all, fifteen variations are presented in quick succession. The three pitches that begin the work — E-flat, F, and B-flat, ascending — serve as the generating cell for the entire work, as the primary theme of each movement begins in exactly the same manner.

The *Intermezzo*, which follows is a quirky rhythmic frenzy that contrasts everything that has preceded it. This movement opens in C minor, and starts and stops with abrupt transitions throughout its primary theme group. The contrasting midsection is introduced with a mournful melody, stated in F Dorian by the clarinet before being taken up by much of the ensemble. At the movement's conclusion, the two sections are woven together; the motives laid together in complementary fashion in an optimistic C major.

The *March* that follows immediately begins shockingly, with a furious trill in the woodwinds articulated by aggressive statements by brass and percussion. This sets up the lighthearted and humorous mood for the final movement, which eventually does take up the more reserved and traditional regal mood of a British march and is simply interrupted from time to time by an uncouth accent or thunderous bass drum note. The coda of the work makes brief mention of elements from both the *Chaconne* and *Intermezzo* before closing joyfully.

© Jacob Wallace

## Towers of Bloom

Kelijah Dunton

*Towers of Bloom* embodies the flourishing and everlasting growth of the Third Street Music School Settlement and ISO [InterSchool Orchestras] Symphonic Band. We celebrate 130 years at Third Street, the nation's oldest music school settlement, where cultivating ambitious musicians of all ages from across NYC [New York City] is a time-honored tradition. The countless talented minds that have been nurtured and given a space to express themselves by this institution through its 130-year history is nothing short of GRAND. The ISO Symphonic Band has been one of the many vehicles in which talented young musicians from all walks of life have been able to come together and perform in a group that is more than a band; it is a community of welcoming artists that inspire and embrace each other's individuality and love for music, an experience that I know first hand, being a proud alumni [sic] of the group. Striving for excellence through artistic expression and creating a safe-haven for all is what Third Street and the ISO Symphonic Band are all about. This piece has been commissioned

by the Third Street Music School for the ISO at Third Street Symphonic Band by way of their FANTASTIC director, my friend and colleague: Paul Corn.

“Towers” represents tall, strong, and unshakeable entities, such as Third Street and ISO. 130 years and counting, that’s a pretty strong program, to say the least. “Bloom” represents growth, change, and evolution. Both Third Street and ISO have changed in many ways since their inception, but those changes have helped them grow into the pillars they are today. Strong and everlasting, THAT is how I arrived at *Towers of Bloom*.

© Kelijah Dunton

## **Nocturne**

Zhou Tian

*Nocturne* is a chorale for wind ensemble conceived on a cold, winter night. Lyrical and reflective, the music carries a strong sense of romanticism, and strives to convey a sense of spiritual blessing. The piece was originally written as a middle movement of my first string quartet.

My sincere appreciation goes to David Thornton, who initiated this version for wind ensemble with an excellent transcription. I made further arrangements and composed new materials for the current version.

© Zhou Tian

## **Concerto for Marimba and Wind Orchestra**

Emmanuel Sejourne

Emmanuel Sejourne has received awards for his incidental music for staged dramas, as well as musical comedies, film scores and ballets. He has taken part in numerous international festivals, several of which have commissioned works from him. One such work was commissioned by the marimba virtuoso Bogdan Bácanu, to whom it is dedicated, and who introduced it with the Salzburg Solisten at the International Marimba Competition in Linz in 2006.

The concerto, which was quickly taken up by marimba virtuosos and pedagogues, was originally written for a small string orchestra and comprises two movements, marked, respectively, *Tempo souple* and *Rythmique énérgique*. The wind orchestra transcription was adapted by Jordan Gudefin.

© Capitol Symphonic Winds

## BIOGRAPHIES

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### **Dr. Steven J. Capaldo**

D.M.A., M.Perf., B.Ed.(Mus.), A.Mus.A.(Distinction)

Dr. Steven Capaldo has distinguished himself as one of the most respected music educators, wind conductors and conductor educators in Australia and Canada, earning academic and musical recognition internationally.

Steven is currently an Associate Professor of Music Education and Conducting, Conductor of the Wind Symphony, and Head of Music Education and Graduate Wind Conducting at the University of Victoria, Canada. He has previously held positions in Music Education at the University of Wollongong (Australia) and the University of Victoria, and was the Conductor of the Sydney University Wind Orchestra and the UNSW Wind Symphony. While at the University of Wollongong, Steven held positions including Academic Program Director for the Master of Teaching degree, Faculty Director of Academic Integrity, Honours Program Coordinator, and has served as Interim Director of Music at the UVic School of Music.

Completing a Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting at UNLV, a Master of Performance (Orchestral and Choral Conducting) at the University of Sydney (Conservatorium of Music), a Bachelor of Education in Music at the University of Melbourne, and an AMusA on Saxophone (with Distinction), Steven has extensive experience working with wind orchestras, symphony orchestras, and chamber ensembles. He has established a long-standing history supporting, mentoring, and engaging in community music and music education settings as well as premiering dozens of works including many commissioned works for the wind ensemble genre and is a passionate advocate for new music and supporting diverse, underrepresented, and local composers.

An active writer, Steven composes, arranges, and transcribes music for wind orchestras, symphony orchestras, festivals and concerts. His work *Invictus Fanfare* was performed at the 2025 Invictus Games Closing Ceremony with his works being performed by groups in Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States, and recorded on Klavier records (US). Listed as a composer in the book *The Band Down Under*, Steven's music is published through Brolga Music Australia and Murphy Music Press, and has been a finalist in international composition competitions. An Assistant Producer and Co-Editor for eight Klavier Records CDs, Steven was also Chair of the Australian Jury Panel for the 2018 International Eurovision Song Contest and a panelist for Junior Eurovision 2017.

He has received critical praise for his ensembles and many awards for his academic & teaching achievements including the 2023 UVic Faculty of Fine Arts Teaching Excellence Award, the 2018 UOW Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning Award, and the 2011 Recognition of Teaching Excellence from the Australian College of Educators. As an academic, Steven has published in journals and presented papers at national and international conferences in conducting, music education, and music technology including the International EdTech Conference, the BCMEA Conference, the Australian National Band and Orchestra Conference (ANBOC), and the ASME conference.

Steven is highly active as a conductor, clinician and adjudicator having worked at local, state/provincial, national, and international levels. He has adjudicated at MusicFest (Canada's National Music Festival), the Australian International Music Festival, the Australian National Band Festival, the Whistler Con Brio Festival, conducted honour bands including the BC Honour Winds (2007 & 2024), Queensland SHEP Honour Band, Southern Sydney Honour Band, conducted concerts with the Civic Orchestra of Victoria, and was a regular guest conductor with the Wollongong Community Orchestra. Providing professional learning opportunities for music educators and conductors, he has been a conducting instructor for the Canadian Armed Forces and a conducting clinician at ANBOC (Sydney), the chief conducting clinician for the ABODA Queensland Conducting School, a clinician for the ABODA NSW Conducting School, and was the chief conducting clinician for the 2025 ABODA NSW Conducting School and the inaugural UVic Conducting Symposium.

## **Taylor Takach**

I received my Bachelor of Music (Honors Music Education) and my Bachelor of Education from Western University, where I studied piano with Tina Yanchus and James Hibbard and instrumental conducting with Dr. Colleen Richardson. Currently, I am completing my MMus (Performance, Wind Conducting) with Dr. Steven Capaldo at the University of Victoria.

I have been an international music educator for 12 years, teaching music within both Canadian and the International Baccalaureate Continuum (MYP/DP). During my time teaching abroad, I taught instrumental and general music at all grade levels, was a school administrator in China during COVID-19, and served as chair of iMADSZ (International Music, Art, and Drama Shenzhen), a non-profit organization of Arts teachers and students representing CIS/WASC Accredited International Schools. I was also fortunate to have been selected to present at the ACAMIS (Association of China and Mongolia International Schools) Arts Conference both in 2023 and 2024.

In my free time, I enjoy being silly with my wife and son, cooking, weight-training, and playing Magic: The Gathering. I truly do look forward to meeting and getting to know the music students and teachers of Victoria!

## **Ethan Page**

Ethan Page is a percussionist in his last year of studies, completing a Bachelor of Music Performance Degree at the University of Victoria. As a Musician, Ethan values versatility and makes an effort to learn how to play a new genre or percussion instrument as often as he can. Under the tutelage of Aaron Mattock, he has spent his time at UVic focusing on solo marimba and orchestral performance. Aside from the marimba, he regularly plays the drum kit in multiple bands and has performed at venues like Lucky Bar and Phoenix Bar and Grill. He has been involved in many productions around Victoria and has worked with groups such as the Victoria Symphony, the Canadian College of Performing Arts, Ensemble Laude, Meridien Wind Orchestra, and the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra.

# UVIC WIND SYMPHONY

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Conductor  
**Steven Capaldo**

## PICCOLO

Hazel Gue

## FLUTE

Amanda Coates\*

Aya Godwin

Hazel Gue

Jaden Patenaude

Trevor Tan

Bodi Kirkby

## OBOE

Cat Henderson\*

Andrew Montgomery

## ENGLISH HORN

Andrew Montgomery

## BASSOON

Eli Lyons\*

Chi leong Lao

## CLARINET

Luke Ongman\*

Maeve Calhoun

Clare Kneesch

Claire Lamont

Wyn Perry

Elizabeth Pointer

Zabrina Stead

Catherine Davison

## BASS CLARINET

Kate Sandford

## ALTO

### SAXOPHONE

Caiden Meyer\*

Piper Elliott

Belle Avery-Girard

## TENOR

### SAXOPHONE

Rylee Francis

## BARITONE

### SAXOPHONE

Cordell Anker

## HORN

Natalie Ciurysek\*

Karli Messer-Todd

Brooke Allison

Wynn Nordlund

## TRUMPET

Tyler Funk\*

Joshua Chapman

Sydney Kozak

Gabe Brouwer

Tori Langmayr

Aaron Duly

## TROMBONE

Owen Engstrom\*

Micah Knutson

Abi O'Hara

Owen Moseley

## EUPHONIUM

Ethan Lafferty\*

Senora Dunford

## TUBA

Rootbeer Voigt\*

## TIMPANI

Levi Viinikka\*

## PERCUSSION

Calvin Ransom\*

Levi Viinikka

Emma Mickelson

Walker Pearcey

Andrew Canil

Keiran Stephan

## STRING BASS

Rob Neufeld

Dylan Syrnyk

## PIANO

Ewen Larsen

## WIND SYMPHONY

### ASSISTANT

Taylor Takach

### MUSIC LIBRARIAN

Taylor Takach

### STAGE MANAGER

Eli Lyons

\* *Principal and section leader*

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