

Press Release

DATE: February 16, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bliss Hall

One University Plaza

Youngstown, OH 44555

Dr. Stephen Gage is available for additional information or comment regarding this concert at slgage@ysu.edu

CONTACT: Lori Factor

(330) 941-2307

lafactor@ysu.edu

HEADLINE: YSU 9th ANNUAL WIND & PERCUSSION

INVITATIONAL: Friday, February 27, 2015 | 7:00 PM

Stambaugh Auditorium

Guest schools include Poland Seminary High School and Wadsworth High School

Youngstown, OH... Visiting high school musicians from Poland Seminary High School and Wadsworth High School will join Youngstown State University Dana School of Music faculty and student ensembles for the *9th Annual Youngstown State University Wind and Percussion Invitational* at Stambaugh Auditorium on Friday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. at Stambaugh Auditorium, 1000 Fifth Avenue, Youngstown, OH.

Visiting students will participate in master classes with Dana professors during the day then participate in an evening concert at Stambaugh Auditorium with the YSU Percussion Ensemble, directed by Dr. Glenn Schaft, and the YSU Wind Ensemble conducted by YSU Director of Bands, Dr. Stephen L. Gage, with soloist, Dr. Stacie Mickens, Assistant Professor of Horn.

The YSU Wind Ensemble is recently home from a two day tour of northeast Ohio where it completed its itinerary with a feature performance, their ninth invited guest appearance in the last 17 years, at the Ohio Music Education Association State Music Convention in Cleveland last week.

The YSU Percussion Ensemble will open the concert with a Ghanaian drum piece, *Kpanlogo*, which is a recreational dance and music style from Ghana, West Africa. It was first played by the Ga ethnic group, most of who live in and around the capital city, Accra, but is now performed and enjoyed throughout the country.

The Poland Seminary High School Wind Ensemble is an integral part of the Poland HS instrumental program. Conductors, Nicholas Olesko, who holds a Bachelor degree, '01 and a

Masters degree, '07 in conducting from YSU, and Jeffrey Hvizdos, who earned a Bachelor degree, '91 from the Dana School of Music, lead a program that includes the Bulldog Marching Band, the Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band, the Concert Band, and the Jazz Ensemble.

The Poland Bulldog Marching Band recently participated in the NCAA Championship Football game in the New Orleans Superdome and has been a frequent performer at Walt Disney World in Orlando. The PSHS Wind Ensemble has given performances on a number of university campuses and was featured at a recent OMEA Convention. The ensemble has earned consistent Superior ratings at the OMEA Large Ensemble Competition over the years.

The PSHS Wind Ensemble will perform Grainger's classic, *Lincolnshire Posy*, Fillmore's *The Crosley March*, and Frank Ticheli's *Apollo Unleashed* from the composer's Second Symphony.

Conductor Steven Hadgis brings the Wadsworth HS Wind Ensemble to YSU and Stambaugh Auditorium for its premiere performance in Youngstown. This outstanding high school band has earned praise and superior ratings on the football field and on the concert stage throughout its storied history.

Situated just west of Akron, Ohio, Wadsworth High School Bands boast a 220 piece marching band, three concert bands, and a jazz ensemble. The groups have performed at many universities and have done extensive traveling, as well. Students and alumni from Wadsworth High School hold prominent roles and perform in the Cleveland Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Akron Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony.

The Wadsworth HS Wind Ensemble will open its program with Sousa's invigorating, *The Glory of the Yankee Navy*. The group's second selection will be a relatively new four-movement piece by Roger Cichy, *Flowing Pens from Concord*, which is a musical depiction of four great American authors-Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Henry David Thoreau, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. The ensemble's closing selection will be Fillmore's adaptation of *Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna* of Franz von Suppe.

After a brief intermission, the YSU Wind Ensemble will open its program with a new work composed by second year YSU Dana School of Music student, Alex Miller, who graduated from Lakeview High School. Alex's *Fanfare for Wind Ensemble* was premiered on the band's recent tour. The ensemble will then play Anthony O'Toole's exciting, *Up!*, Brian Balmage's virtuosic solo for horn entitled, *Pele for Solo Horn and Wind Ensemble*, a wind band setting of Morten Lauridsen's beautiful *O Magnum Mysterium*. The YSU WE will close its performance with a funk and rhythm and blues influenced composition by University of Michigan composer, Michael Daugherty, entitled *Niagara Falls*.

Horn soloist, Stacie Mickens completed her Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) at the University of Michigan, where she was a recipient of the Rackham Fellowship Award. She previously served on the music faculties of Luther College (Decorah, Iowa) and Winona State University (Winona, Minnesota), where she was a horn and brass instructor and chamber music coach.

In addition to her teaching, she is a frequent solo recitalist and chamber music participant. Mickens is a member of the Wheeling Symphony, the Akron Symphony, and the

Youngstown Symphony. Previously, she was a member of symphonies in Lansing, MI, Dearborn, MI, and Southwest Michigan, La Crosse, WI, Cedar Falls, IA, and Dubuque, IA. She has performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Chamber Winds, Blossom Music Festival, Madison Symphony Orchestra, and Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. Representing the University of Michigan, Mickens performed in recital at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. in 2012 as part of the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage's Conservatory Project. Mickens was featured at the 2006 Midwest Horn Workshop and the 2013 Southeast Horn Workshop, and she was featured at the 2015 Northeast Horn Workshop. In 2011 and 2012 Mickens was a performer at the Thy Chamber Music Festival in Denmark.

This concert will end with a combined Poland Seminary HS, Wadsworth HS, and YSU Wind Ensemble performance of John Philip Sousa's classic, *"Stars and Stripes Forever."*

Tickets may be ordered by phone at 330-259-0555, in person at the Box Office, or online at www.stambaughauditorium.com and at the door. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Those with a YSU ID are free. For more information, call the Dana School of Music Office at (330) 941-3636.

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