



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

2025/26 SEASON

Adventures Await

Symphonic Winds & Percussion Ensemble

Ryan V. Scherber

Music Director & Conductor, Symphonic Winds

Matthew Larson

Director, Percussion Ensemble

Brianna Bell & Bobby Bellairs

Graduate Conducting Associates

7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

MALTZ PERFORMING ARTS CENTER • SILVER HALL
1855 ANSEL ROAD CLEVELAND, OH

CWRU 200  **1826**
Celebrating 200 years **2026**

Department of Music
case.edu/arts/music

CWRU Music 2025–26 Concert Season

As Case Western Reserve University celebrates its **200th anniversary**, the **Department of Music** proudly presents a vibrant season of concerts, recitals, and special events showcasing the talents of students, faculty, alumni, and guest artists. From classical masterworks to contemporary compositions, these performances highlight the creativity, scholarship, and artistic excellence that have shaped CWRU’s musical legacy for two centuries.

The season invites audiences of all ages to experience inspiring live music while celebrating our **Bicentennial** and supporting the next generation of musicians and scholars.








The **Maltz Performing Arts Center** (est. 1924), a collaboration between Case Western Reserve University and The Temple–Tifereth Israel, is a landmark campus venue supported by Milton and Tamar Maltz and other philanthropic leaders. Its stunning 1,200-seat Silver Hall hosts CWRU Music concerts, and community events that draw thousands each season, with the Nord Family Greenway linking the center to campus and University Circle.

Accessibility

We are committed to providing accessible facilities for all audience members. Please inform our staff if you require assistance or special accommodations.

Thank you for joining us today — enjoy the performance!

-  Silence phones & devices
-  No flash photos or recording
-  Restrooms located on each level
-  No food or beverages
-  **Emergencies:** follow staff/call 216-368-3333



**Maltz
Performing
Arts Center**

case.edu/maltzcenter

CWRU BANDS

Percussion Ensemble

Ephemera	Francisco Perez (b. 1990)
Sharpened Stick	Brett William Dietz (b. 1972)
Spiraling Light	Nathan Daughtrey (b. 1975)

Symphonic Winds

Neon Lights	Katahj Copley (b. 1998)
<i>Bobby Bellairs, graduate conducting associate</i>	
Rise Up!	Brooke Pierson (b. 1987)
<i>Brianna Bell, graduate conducting associate</i>	
Parhelion	Roseanne Etezady (b. 1973)
In Living Color	Katahj Copley (b. 1998)
<i>Virtual Alumni Band in celebration of CWRU's Bicentennial</i>	
Farewell to Gray	Donald Grantham (b. 1947)
Paprikash	Julie Giroux (b. 1961)

CWRU BANDS

Piccolo

*Erin Huang, *music & biomedical engineering*

Flute

Arneet Bains, *neuroscience*

Colin Fields, *music & mathematics*

*Sophie Gerew, *mathematics & political science*

*Erin Huang, *music & biomedical engineering*

Minju Kim, *biochemistry*

Samuel Kim, *biology*

Sabrina Maule, *biomedical engineering*

Chaitra Mynampati, *biomedical engineering*

Noah Nguyen, *music & cognitive science*

Leah Nez, *bioethics (PHD)*

Ella Quan, *mechanical engineering & aerospace engr.*

Manasa Venkataramana, *biochemistry*

Jovencia Webbeking, *music & aerospace engineering*

Gianna Wong, *mechanical engineering*

Joanne Yoon, *materials science & engineering.*

Ada Yang, *biology*

*Anji Zheng, *neuroscience*

Oboe

Kiran Sah, *mechanical engineering*

Owen Biscoe, *chemical engineering*

Ray Qi, *electrical engineering*

Bassoon

*+Kaleb Conger, *civil engineering*

Kwaku Kwabia, *computer engineering*

*Bryce Harrington, *chemical engineering*

Clarinet

*Sana Adi, *biomedical engineering*

Saul Arellano, *biology*

*Kennedy Brehm, *music & polymer science + engr.*

Connor Elison, *music & mechanical engineering*

*Ava Haehn, *nursing*

Maya Lang, *chemical engineering*

Caleb Park, *mechanical engineering*

*Charithma Peiris, *neuroscience & psychology*

Daniel Shen, *mechanical engineering*

Bass Clarinet

Cameron Toscano, *music & biomedical engineering*

*Anders White, *chemical engineering*

Cindy Xu, *biomedical engr. & materials science + engr.*

Contrabass Clarinet

*Cameron Toscano, *music & biomedical engineering*

Alto Saxophone

*Charlotte Brew, *biology*

Ryan Gensler, *mechanical engineering*

*Lydia O'Dell, *music & mechanical engineering*

*Abby Ostrander, *mechanical engineering*

Carter Ross, *biology*

Tenor Saxophone

*Harry Ganz, *music & political science*

Aidan Ghylin, *electrical engineering*

*Aine Thomas, *computer science & english*

Charlotte Post, *mechanical engineering*

Baritone Saxophone

Michael Cogliano, *mathematics & physics*

*Veronica Moskal, *music & mechanical engineering*

Horns

*Isaac O'Brien, *aerospace engineering & music*

*Russell Zhang, *music education*

Trumpet

James Adair, *computer science*

*Genevieve Fritz, *music education*

+Hunter Grace, *political science & sociology*

Anvika Manchepalli, *neuroscience*

Jennifer Morrison, *electrical engr. & biomedical engr.*

Jack Overman, *economics*

Lachlan Robertson, *mechanical & aerospace engineering*

Trombone

Cole Johnston, *animation*

*Tyler Kirkpatrick, *engineering physics*

Joey Messersmith, *mathematics*

*John McGonegal, *music & mechanical engineering*

Madhav Narayan, *systems biology*

*Lucas Newell, *biochemistry*

Alex Piezuch, *biochemistry*

Robbie Shephard, *engineering physics & astronomy*

Euphonium

*Jared May, *physics (PhD)*

Veronica Saburova, *mechanical engineering*

+Nick Shafer, *mechanical & aerospace engineering*

Ling Wu, *chemistry*

Tuba

*+Andrew Director, *music & finance*

Julia Ferrin, *mechanical and aerospace engineering*

Aryn Hubbard, *medicine (MD)*

Double Bass

*Madelyn Updike, *music & civil engineering*

Percussion

Ervin Abbeyquaye, *chemical engineering*

Keegan Balster, *neuroscience & chemistry*

Owen Benedict, *history & physics*

Tyler Kramer, *biochemistry*

Jack Matyas, *mechanical engineering & music*

Felix McElwaine, *aerospace & mechanical engineering*

+Julie Moeller, *animation*

Rose Pluchino, *aerospace engineering*

*Swapnil Roy, *computer science & music*

Vajk Volgyesi, *mechanical engineering*

JW Whisenhunt, *computer engineering*

Symphonic Winds members are listed alphabetically to reflect the musical contributions of all members.

*denotes principal

+denotes graduating student

MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Dr. Ryan V. Scherber (he/him/his) is Associate Professor of Music Education, Director of Bands, and Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies in Music Education at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Scherber's duties include teaching music education coursework at the undergraduate and graduate level, field observations of student teachers, coordinating the music education teaching licensure program and administrative oversight of the CWRU Bands program. In addition to his duties with CWRU, Dr. Scherber serves as Instructor of Tuba and Euphonium within the Joint Music Program between Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Music. Scherber holds the Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) as well as the Master of Music and Ph.D. in Music Education from Florida State University (FSU). Prior to CWRU, Dr. Scherber served as music teacher for the Southeastern Local School District in South Charleston, OH where he taught music at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Dr. Scherber's ensembles have been invited to perform at the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference and Severance Hall, the home of The Cleveland Orchestra, and his research interests include pitch perception, nonverbal communication, trauma-informed pedagogy, and classroom interactions.

GRADUATE CONDUCTING ASSOCIATES

Ms. Brianna Bell (b. 2001) is a second-year music education with licensure (MAL) masters student at Case Western Reserve University and is proud to be a graduate conducting assistant for the Symphonic Winds. Bell holds a Bachelor's of Music in Music Composition from Baldwin Wallace University, where she served as head drum major of the Marching Yellow Jackets and conducting apprentice for the Treble Choir. In January 2023, Bell released her debut album *Invisible Past* on all streaming platforms and has composed for BW's Treble Choir and Symphonic Wind Ensemble as well. Bell was also commissioned in 2023 by Dr. Ken Heinlein to write a tuba solo titled *Secrets of the Ocean*, which was selected for and performed at the 2024 International Women's Brass Conference held in Japan in August 2024. When she is not busy writing songs or playing piano, Brianna enjoys working at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, spending time with friends and family, and cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers with her cats Oreo and Karma. Bell hopes to one day become a director of athletic bands while also pursuing her composition career.

Mr. Bobby Bellairs is a first-year masters student in the Music Education with Licensure program at Case Western Reserve University. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from St. Olaf College where he studied saxophone performance with an emphasis in jazz studies. As a musician, he has performed with multiple world-renowned jazz musicians, been a member of classical and jazz chamber groups, performed with the St. Olaf Orchestra, composed and recorded alongside various student lead R&B and pop groups, and worked in professional pit orchestra settings. In 2025, he was a winner of the St. Olaf senior soloist concerto competition and performed John Klenner's *Just Friends*, as arranged on Charlie Parker's *Bird with Strings* Album. As an educator, Bellairs strives to inspire student creativity with music by emphasizing the exploration of personal interests and diverse performance settings. In his own time, Bellairs enjoys spending time outside, exploring Cleveland, and gathering with friends to enjoy great food.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Darg Boni, *music, biochemistry*
Tyler Kramer, *biomedical engineering, pre-health*
Ben Kressbach, *integrated biomedical sciences*
Jack Matyas, *mechanical engineering*
Felix McElwaine, *aerospace engineering*
Rose Pluchino, *aerospace engineering*
Vajk Volgyesi, *mechanical engineering*
John Whisenhunt, *computer engineering*

DIRECTOR

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Matthew Larson was appointed the director of the Case Western Reserve University Percussion Ensemble in 2014 and has been the Cleveland Institute of Music percussion teacher at CWRU since 2010. In 2022, Matt joined the Kent State School of Music as adjunct professor of percussion. As a performer, Matt is the principal percussionist of the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra and associate principal percussionist with the Erie Philharmonic. Matt has also performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Blossom Festival Band, and Blossom Festival Orchestra. As an extra with the Cleveland Orchestra, Matt has performed several concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Matt has a Master's Degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music where his primary teacher was Cleveland Orchestra Principal Percussionist Richard Weiner. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Minnesota where he studied with Fernando Meza. Matt has also studied with Earl Yowell of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and Elliot Fine of the Minnesota Orchestra.

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Neon Nights

Neon Nights is a captivating journey through the vibrant and exhilarating world of nighttime revelry. I wanted to immerse the listener in a sonic landscape pulsating with Afro-Latin rhythms and harmonies, evoking the bustling energy of urban nightlife.

As the piece progresses, it weaves its way through a tapestry of diverse rhythms and scenarios, much like the ever-changing facets of a bustling nightlife. The music takes the listener on a journey through a spectrum of emotions and atmospheres, vividly illustrating the various elements of a vibrant urban evening. At one moment, the music builds a lush, kaleidoscopic glow of a light show, as the ensemble's harmonies shimmer and sparkles, casting a mesmerizing spell. In contrast, the music also transports us to the heart of a heat-filled dance floor, where infectious rhythms and spirited melodies inspire movement and celebration. *Neon Nights* paints a vivid picture of neon signs and dazzling visual displays that transform the cityscape into a luminous wonderland.

Note provided by the composer, Katahji Copley

Parhelion

A Parhelion, sometimes also called "sun dog," or "whirling rainbow," is an optical illusion caused by sunlight passing through ice crystals in the upper atmosphere, causing bright spots to appear around a "solar halo" that encircles the sun. The phenomenon causes a ring of brilliance to appear around the sun, with gems of light dotting the perimeter of the circle, evoking the appearance of three suns in the sky. In some folk traditions, parhelia signifies a sign of great change or transition on the horizon.

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Parhelion is dedicated to Gary Hill, whose warmth and brilliance enlighten everyone and everything in his radius. All of us who have worked with him, laughed with him, and learned from him are brighter because of his luminous curiosity and radiant energy. This piece is written in honor of his transition from full-time university professor into the next phase of his life and career.

Note provided by the composer, Roshanne Etezady

Farewell to Gray

Farewell to Gray was commissioned by the United States Military Academy Band in celebration of the Academy's 200th anniversary. While considering which I could do to give this work particular resonance for West Point cadets, it was pointed out to me that following graduation, the cadet would no longer wear the distinctive gray uniform worn throughout his or her matriculation, and that this has long been a significant event in each cadet's life and career. It is an ending and a beginning accompanied by all the ambivalent feelings such events entail, and this is what I have tried to reflect in the music.

Note provided by the composer, Donald Grantham

In Living Color

In 2020, the world had to pause as the global pandemic of COVID-19 entered all of our lives. So many events and so much of life's simple joys were taken from us including for many the opportunity to perform music. Music is one of the greatest means of communication and when taken away, the language of music becomes foreign and for some the passion for music is lost. Now as the world slowly begins to turn again, the passion of music and the passion to hear live music has grown. Through separation, we have grown stronger.

This is why I wrote this piece. *In Living Color* is an ode to live music and he return to the wind band stage. This piece was inspired by the different colors of modern jazz like Snarky Puppy and the likes of George Gershwin to hits like Estelle's American Boy in order to create a kaleidoscope of colors and energy. This is a celebration of life and all the small things that lead to the big things. This is *In Living Color*.

Note provided by the composer, Katahji Copley

Rise Up

This concert band arrangement of a winning fanfare from the annual Dallas Winds fanfare competition is a perfect concert opener or closer. The joyous and energetic opening and closing as well as melodic B section make the piece excellent for any concert.

Note provided by the composer, Brooke Pierson

Paprikash

The altered Phrygian Dominant Scale (altered by raising the 3rd scale degree in the Phrygian mode) is one of my favorite scales/modes to compose in. Also known as the Freygish or Fraigish scale, this fifth mode of the harmonic minor scale is used in many forms and nationalities of music. We hear this most often with Jewish, Greek, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Flamenco and some forms of Russian music. When using this scale it is almost impossible to sound like anything other than the aforementioned types of music. I like all of those types of music, so composing in this mode is nothing but fun. With this particular piece, I decided to go with a Jewish, Greek, Hungarian and overall Slavic flavor.

Growing up, I played all of the Hungarian rhapsodies on the piano. I found them energetic, fascinating and most of all passionate. I did not want to put this piece into a specific ethnic category, so I went with the title Paprikash referring to the chicken dish which uses lots and lots of paprika. It is a dish that is prepared and enjoyed by most if not all of the countries whose musical styles I was going to compose in. I like to think of this piece as my own personal recipe combined with lots and lots of Freygish paprika.

Note provided by the composer, Julie Giroux

UPCOMING EVENTS

7:30 PM • Monday, April 20, 2026

Odes to Love

Case Concert Choir

Bay Village Middle School Chamber Choir

Florence Harkness Memorial Chapel

7:30 PM • Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Earth

Case/University Circle Symphony Orchestra

Camerata Chamber Orchestra

Maltz Performing Arts Center

7:30 PM • Thursday, April 23, 2026

Contemporary Klezmer Compositions

Klezmer Music Ensemble

Florence Harkness Memorial Chapel

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