

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities

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Dear Middle Level Honors Band Musician/member:

Greetings from Minnesota! I am pleased and honored to serve as your conductor for the 2019 WSMA Middle Level Honors Band. While I currently reside in Minneapolis, Wisconsin is my home state. And I will forever cheer for the Green Bay Packers! I wanted to take a moment and send my congratulations to you, and tell you a little about the music we've selected for the 2019 Project. I've written this note to congratulate you and to tell you a little bit about the music. I've also included links should you wish to listen to the music we'll be performing. It will benefit everyone for each person to come as prepared as possible with notes and rhythms mastered. These links will help!

Albanian Dance, Shelley Hanson

This piece is fast! While *Albanian Dance* is written in cut time, it is really in 8/8 with a 3+3+2 pattern. You will need to count in your head to maintain focus, momentum, and energy in this piece. Articulations will need to be precise to maintain clarity, especially in our large band!

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWcXqMOaDZk>

Be Thou My Vision, Travis Cross

In contrast to *Albanian Dances*, *Be Thou My Vision* invites us to play with great sensitivity. It is a delicate setting of a hymn-tune based on an Irish tune, Slane. The melody starts on F concert, and we will all have an opportunity to learn the tune. In this piece we focus on sustaining phrases (some of us enjoy that more than others), and beautiful tone. Dr. Travis Cross, composer, wrote this when he was in college!

Roan Mountain Impressions, Rick Kirby

Rick Kirby is a composer from Wisconsin! He wrote this piece for my students at Central Middle School in Waukesha. It includes some percussion instruments you may not have seen before. Be sure to watch out for changing meters in this song. Mr. Kirby moves between 6/8 and 2/4 (letter B), and 6/8 and 3/4 (letter M). I am hoping that Mr. Kirby will visit us during rehearsals.

Link: There is a recording on the composer's web site - Spiritofthemusic.com To listen to the recording, go the site, click on "compositions", click on "Roan Mountain Impressions", and you should be able to hear the recording.

The King Across the Water, Bruce Fraser

We will open our program with this composition. The introduction features upper woodwind players on "tambours" for a dramatic beginning. This is a three-movement work

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_xBOK9Kc8U

You may find that some of your parts appear easier than others; I assure you that challenges lie not so much in the individual parts, but in bringing all parts together for a cohesive whole. Blending, balance,

precision, come together as we attend to the many details of the piece. In rehearsal, you will notice not only your part, but the ways in which your part fits in with others. Like a puzzle, you could say. Keep a pencil handy as you practice your parts—and also a notebook, should you find spots that are puzzling or perplexing. During our work in October we will be rehearsing and preparing for a top-notch performance, but we will also be exploring the music so we can be *understanding performers*.

Not only will we be in hot pursuit of a high-level, meaningful musical experience, we will be making new friends during our time together. Again, thanks and congratulations for being a part of this amazing work.

All best wishes,

Laura K. Sindberg, Ph.D.

Dr. Laura Sindberg

Associate Professor, Music Education