



Dear Honors Band Musicians,

Congratulations on your selection as a member of the 2020 Honors Performance Series Honors Band performing at Carnegie Hall! After a rigorous audition process, you were selected to join other outstanding young musicians from across the country and around the world to participate in this prestigious event. Your commitment to excellence has been rewarded with an opportunity to perform at one of the most iconic culture centers in the world, Carnegie Hall, in the heart of New York City.

I have chosen an exciting and challenging program for us to prepare and perform. The repertoire includes Philip Sparke's high-energy overture "Exultation," the passionate "Dulcinea" from Robert W. Smith's Symphony No. 3, Steve Danyew's programmatic train ride on the "Magnolia Star," and a world premiere of a new piece by composer Tyler Jones titled "Reflections." The show will conclude with the audience helping us on Edwin Franko Goldman's "On the Mall." This march, performed hundreds of times on the Mall in Central Park, affords the audience the opportunity to sing and whistle along to the infectious tune.

I want to share some resources with you that are pertinent to the repertoire we will be performing. Our program will open with Philip Sparke's overture titled "Exultation." You will find yourself singing the hard-driving melodies after the first time you hear the piece. You can find an excellent reference recording at <https://youtu.be/E7g5dUe7Nac>. This will also give you a head start on navigating the numerous meter changes.

Our program will include two lyrical works. The first is Robert W. Smith's "Dulcinea" from his Don Quixote Symphony. As you can hear from this recording (<https://youtu.be/ZpXPUI-B718>), there will be a lot of room for expression and interpretation in this beautiful work. The second lyrical piece is titled "Reflections" and was written by The University of Alabama's own Tyler Jones. There are no available recordings of the piece because this will be only the second performance of the work. I am excited to tell you that Tyler will be present for both rehearsals and the performance of the work! The most technically challenging piece on our program will be Steve Danyew's "Magnolia Star." Steve's tribute to the long-gone Illinois Central train that ran from New Orleans to Chicago will push everyone's skill set. All players must become comfortable with the shifting odd meters and then master the "finger-busting" passages. Check out this reference recording to get started – <https://youtu.be/Z6Spkx4hAP8>.

We will conclude our performance with a march made famous only a few blocks from Carnegie Hall. In the early 20th century, Edwin Franko Goldman's professional band was a fixture at the famous bandstand in Central Park. "On the Mall" was written in 1923 for the dedication of the bandstand, and it includes opportunities for bandmembers and audience members to sing and whistle the "toe-tapping" melodies. Here is a video (<https://youtu.be/ECOMyHe-p54>) you can use to teach your friends and family the melodies so that they can sing along!

I hope you will find these resources helpful. If everyone arrives for rehearsal with the technical challenges well in hand, we can focus our attention on the expressive and style elements that will ultimately make for memorable performances.

Again, I congratulate you on this impressive achievement. Your family, teachers, and friends should be very proud of what you have achieved. If you have any questions during your preparation, please do not hesitate to contact me at kozzello@ua.edu. Have a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you in January.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ken Ozzello
Director of Bands
The University of Alabama