



**UNC CHARLOTTE**  
College of Arts + Architecture

The Department of Music presents

# **The Wind Ensemble**

“The Lord of the Rings”

Shawn Smith, conductor

Special Guests:

Mooresville High School Wind Ensemble  
Joshua Stevenson, Conductor

Mooresville High School Wind Ensemble

**American Riversongs**

Pierre La Plante

**O Magnum Mysterium**

Morten Lauridsen  
trans. H. Robert Reynolds

**The Witch and the Saint**

Steven Reineke

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Anne R. Belk Theater  
Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts  
Wednesday, October 3, 2018 | 7:30 pm  
[arts.uncc.edu](http://arts.uncc.edu)

# UNC Charlotte Wind Ensemble

## Symphony No. 1 “The Lord of the Rings”

Johan de Meij

- I. Gandolf [The Wizard]
- II. Lothlórien [The Elvenwood]
- III. Gollum [Sméagol]
- IV. Journey in the Dark
  - a. The Mines of Moria
  - b. The Bridge of Khazad-Dûm
- V. Hobbits

## UNC Charlotte Wind Ensemble Personnel

### Piccolo

Lydia Robinson

### Flute

Danielle Dameron\*  
Nacosia Massey  
Bryanna McKeon  
Jason Pullen  
Madison Snelson

### Bassoon

Gina Vannais\*

### Clarinet

Gavin Fulker  
Kellie Joyner\*  
Elizabeth Lanier  
Hayley Owen  
Mari Jane Sutton

### Bass Clarinet

Connor Beck  
Deanna Glenn\*

### Tuba

Matthew Locklin\*  
Bryson Harding

### Alto Sax

Avery Bumgarner  
Caroline O'Connor  
Tucker Smith\*  
Omar Wingo

### Tenor Sax

Orion Greer

### Bari Sax

Tori Mitchell

### Trumpet

Cameron Beaver\*  
Andrew Beiter  
Kevin Butler+  
Liam McMahon\*  
Andrew Sokolowski  
Kira Wagner

### Horn

Rosy Faires  
Taylor Kennedy  
Joshua Murray  
T.J. Zuber\*

### Trombone

Nicholas Carl+  
Will Cochran  
Patrick Foray\*  
Noah Hornberg

### Euphonium

Emily Golden  
Ian Gragg  
Riley Kirwan\*

### Percussion

Jacob Bohan  
Daniel Ferreira  
Brandon Hawkins\*  
Lane Mashburn  
Chris Merida  
Raven Pfeiffer

### Timpani

Nick Francis\*

\*Principal

+Wind Ensemble  
Manager

# Program Notes

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the premiere of Dutch composer Johan de Meij's seminal first symphony, subtitled "The Lord of the Rings." The symphony is based on the trilogy of the same name by J. R. R. Tolkien that has fascinated and inspired millions of readers since its publication in 1955, and consists of five separate movements, each illustrating a personage or an important episode from Tolkien's masterpiece.

The symphony was written in the period between March 1984 and December 1987, and had its premiere in Brussels on 15th March 1988. In 1989, the symphony was awarded first prize in the Sudler International Wind Band Composition Competition in Chicago, and a year later received an award from the Dutch Composers Fund. In 2001, the orchestral version was premiered by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and recorded by the London Symphony Orchestra.

Although it is not simple to summarize Tolkien's extensive and complex work, the main outline is as follows: the central theme is the Ring, made by primeval forces that decide the safety or destruction of the World. For years it was the possession of the creature Gollum, but when the Ring falls into the hands of the Hobbits, the evil forces awake and the struggle for the Ring commences. There is but one solution to save the World from disaster—the Ring must be destroyed by the fire in which it was forged at Mount Doom in the heart of Mordor, the country of the evil Lord Sauron. It is the Hobbit Frodo who is assigned to carry out this task, and to assist him a company, the Fellowship of the Ring, is formed under the leadership of Gandalf the Wizard. The Companions are secretly followed by Gollum, who will stop at nothing to recover his precious Ring. After numerous dangerous and exciting adventures followed by a surprising conclusion, Frodo and his friend Sam can at last return to their familiar Hobbit home, The Shire.

The Symphony's five movements are described as follows:

## **I. GANDALF (The Wizard)**

The first movement is a musical portrait of the wizard Gandalf, one of the principal characters of the trilogy. His wise and noble personality is expressed by a stately motif which is used in a different form in movements IV and V. The sudden opening of the *Allegro vivace* is indicative of the unpredictability of the grey wizard, followed by a wild ride on his beautiful horse "Shadowfax."

## **II. LOTHLÓRIEN (The Elvenwood)**

The second movement is an impression of Lothlórien, the elvenwood, with its beautiful trees, plants, exotic birds, expressed through woodwind solos. The meeting of the Hobbit Frodo with the Lady Galadriel is embodied in a charming Allegretto; in the Mirror of Galadriel, a silver basin in the wood, Frodo glimpses three visions, the last of which, a large ominous Eye, greatly upsets him.

## **III. GOLLUM (Sméagol)**

The third movement describes the monstrous creature Gollum, a slimy, shy being represented by the soprano saxophone. It mumbles and talks to itself, hisses and lisps, whines and snickers. It is alternately pitiful and malicious, continually fleeing, and always looking for its cherished treasure, the Ring.

## **IV. JOURNEY IN THE DARK**

The fourth movement describes the laborious journey of the Fellowship of the Ring, headed by the wizard Gandalf, through the dark tunnels of the Mines of Moria. The slow walking cadenza and the fear are clearly audible in the monotonous rhythm of the low brass, piano and percussion. After a wild pursuit by hostile creatures, the Orks, Gandalf is engaged in battle with a horrible monster, the Balrog, and crashes from the subterranean bridge of Khazad-Dûm in a fathomless abyss. To the melancholy tones of a *Marcia funèbre*, the bewildered Companions trudge on, looking for the only way out of the Mines, the East Gate of Moria.

## **V. HOBBITS**

The fifth movement expresses the carefree and optimistic character of the Hobbits in a happy folk dance; the hymn that follows emanates the determination and nobleness of the hobbit folk. The symphony does not end on an exuberant note, but is concluded peacefully and resigned, in keeping with the symbolic mood of the trilogy's last chapter, "The Grey Havens," in which Frodo and Gandalf sail away in a white ship and disappear slowly beyond the horizon.

# Biographies

**Shawn Smith** is Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Conducting at UNC Charlotte. In high demand as a band and orchestra conductor, clinician, and adjudicator, Smith has been invited to conduct professional and educational ensembles throughout the United States and conducts regularly in South America. His professional engagements include concerts with the State Symphonic Band of São Paulo (Brazil), the Symphonic Band of Córdoba (Argentina), the Corpus Christi Symphony (Texas), and members of the Charlotte Symphony (North Carolina). Most recently, Smith served as conductor of the Montana All-State Band.



Equally at home with opera and musical theater productions, Smith has conducted pit orchestras for the *Marriage of Figaro* and a six-week run of *Les Misérables*. His performances have been heard frequently on American Public Media's *Performance Today*, the most popular classical music radio program in the United States.

Smith has presented numerous rehearsal and conducting clinics in the United States, Europe, and South America. His rehearsal clinic at the 2009 International Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago was attended by over 400 band and orchestra directors from around the world. As a public school teacher, Smith served as Director of Bands and Orchestra at one of the largest high schools in Idaho, where he administered a comprehensive instrumental music program. While at Meridian High School, ensembles under his direction were distinguished as among the finest in the state.

As Director of Bands at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, he was twice awarded the Texas A&M System Teaching Excellence Award. Smith was also awarded Second Prize in Band Conducting in the 2015 American Prize competition.



**Mr. Joshua Stevenson** is the Director of Bands at Mooresville High School. In this position, he conducts the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and the Pride in Motion Marching Band. In addition, Mr. Stevenson is the Director of the Mitchell Community College Concert Band. Prior to these appointments, Mr. Stevenson was the Director of Bands at David W. Butler High School. From 2005-2008 Mr.

Stevenson was the Assistant Director of Bands at Mooresville High School, where he taught 7th through 12th grade band, and was the Music Director and Conductor of the Lake Norman Orchestra, an all-volunteer community based musical arts organization located in Mooresville, North Carolina. From 2011-2014, Mr. Stevenson was the Director of the Charlotte 49ers Basketball Band at UNC Charlotte. In 2012, he was one of three conductors selected to participate in the Young Conductor Mentor Project sponsored by the National Band Association, and in 2013, Mr. Stevenson was selected by his peers as Butler High School's Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Stevenson holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Appalachian State University and a Master of Music in Music Education from UNC Greensboro. While at Appalachian State University, Mr. Stevenson was drum major of North Carolina's Band of Distinction, and performed with the Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble I, and the Trombone Choir.

Mr. Stevenson's professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education, American School Band Directors Association, North Carolina Music Educators Association, Pi Kappa Lambda, Gamma Beta Phi, and Kappa Kappa Psi. He is also an Appalachian State University Chancellor's Scholar. From 2016-2018, Mr. Stevenson was the Chairman of the South Central District Bandmasters Association.

# UNC Charlotte Bands

The UNC Charlotte Band program consists of two concert bands, jazz ensemble, jazz combos, chamber music, basketball band, and the Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band.

The UNC Charlotte Wind Ensemble is the university's most advanced organization for winds and percussion, performing a wide variety of music from traditional to contemporary. The Wind Ensemble generally presents two concerts per semester on campus and frequently gives concert tours throughout North Carolina and the Southeast. Past honors include invitations for performance at the state conference of the North Carolina Music Educators Association and a regional conference of the College Band Directors National Association. The Wind Ensemble regularly works with guest conductors from the United States and abroad and is active in the commissioning of new music for winds, including a recent collaboration with dancers in the world premiere of composer John Allemeier's *Sadie*.

Now in its fourth year, the Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band has grown to nearly 200 students and has become well-known throughout North Carolina and the Southeast Region. The band has been invited to perform exhibition at numerous marching competitions throughout the region and has performed at games of the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte Hornets. In June 2018 the Pride of Niner Nation traveled to Normandy, France to represent the United States at official ceremonies of the 74th D-Day Commemoration.

# College of Arts + Architecture

## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

Chamber Orchestra

Thu Oct 4 | 7:30 pm  
Anne R. Belk Theater

University Chorale

Mon Oct 15 | 7:30 pm  
Anne R. Belk Theater

*Twelfth Night*

Thu Oct 25- Sat Oct 27, Wed Oct 31- Sat Nov 3 | 7:30 pm

by William Shakespeare

Sun Oct 28 & Sun Nov 4 | 2:00 pm

Black Box Theater

McColl Artist-in-Residence Liz Miller

Wed Oct 31 | 5:00 pm

Opening Reception

Rowe Galleries

### NOVEMBER

Double Vision

Tue Nov 6 | 6:00 pm

Opening Reception

Projective Eye Gallery, UNCC Center City

## CoA+A Performing Arts Services

Dean Adams, Associate Dean for Performing Arts Services

Christopher Buess, Lecturer, Production Manager

Beverly Lueke, Performing Arts Operations Manager

Liz Paradis, Audience Services Manager

Beth Rucker, Business Services Coordinator

Rachel Engstrom, Lecturer, Costume Shop Manager and Costume Designer

Matthew B. Fraiser, Lecturer, Technical Director

Hali Hutchison, Costume Lab Cutter / Draper

Rick Moll, Senior Lecturer, Master Electrician

Gordon W. Olson, Lecturer, Lighting Designer

Benjamin G. Stickels, Senior Lecturer, Sound Engineer and Asst. Production Manager

Rachel Watkins, Lecturer, Stage Management

Robinson Hall Technicians