

National Band Association
South Division Regional Conference



South Forsyth Middle School
Symphonic Band

Northwestern State University
February 20, 2020 | 2:00 PM

The Forsyth County School System

presents the

South Forsyth Middle School
Symphonic Band

In performance at the

2020
College Band Directors National Association
National Band Association
Southern Division Conference

The logo is a purple oval with a white border. Inside the oval, there is a stylized white 'S' and 'F' intertwined. The text 'SOUTH FORSYTH MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND' is written in white, uppercase letters around the inner edge of the oval. The year '2020' is centered above the main text.

Dr. Andrew F. Poor, Director of Bands
Mr. Nathaniel Hughes, Assistant Director of Bands
Dr. Oliver Molina, Northwestern State University, Guest Artist

Northwestern State University
A. A. Fredericks Fine Arts Auditorium
February 20, 2020
2:00 PM

Greetings from the Superintendent

On behalf of the Forsyth County Board of Education, I would like to congratulate the South Forsyth Middle School Symphonic Band on the prestigious honor of being selected to perform in the 2020 College Band Directors National Association/National Band Association Southern Division Regional Conference. Only eleven middle school bands are invited from across the country for this honor. As one of Forsyth County's finest middle schools and a National Blue-Ribbon School, South Forsyth Middle School Band program has experienced significant growth under the leadership of Dr. Andrew Poor. We are proud of South Forsyth Middle School and the success of the band program and wish them all the best with their performance. Thank you to the organizers of the National Band Association Southern Division for allowing our students to be featured at your event.

Enjoy the Experience!



Dr. Jeffrey Bearden
Superintendent



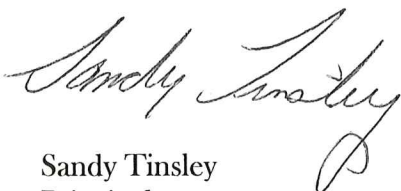
Greetings from the Principal

It is with great pride that I share my congratulations to the South Forsyth Middle School Symphonic Band directed by Dr. Andrew Poor and Mr. Nathaniel Hughes. The list of accolades and accomplishments under their direction is quite expansive. The most recent recognition earned by our band is the 2019 GMEA Middle School Exemplary Performance Award. Furthermore, our band has been honored to be an invited ensemble at the 2019 Music for All Southeastern Regional Concert Band Festival at Georgia State University, as well as, the Southeastern United States Middle School Clinic at Troy University.

Under the direction of Dr. Poor, the band program has grown at an extraordinary rate, growing the program 170 percent in six years. Dr. Poor has a remarkable way of challenging students to reach new levels of performance while making the learning relevant and fun.

The SFMS band program has played a very significant role in the lives of our middle schoolers. It is unquestionably an educational asset in our community due to the exemplary development of students' musical skills. Most importantly, it has become a vital piece of the lives, experiences, and opportunities of each member. I would like to thank the organizers and the hosts of the 2020 College Band Directors National Association/National Band Association Southern Division Regional Conference for the invitation for our students to perform at this prestigious event.

Sincerely,



Sandy Tinsley
Principal



South Forsyth Middle School Band Program

In seven years under the leadership of Dr. Andrew Poor, the South Forsyth Middle School Band program has experienced significant growth and now serves over 480 students. One of the earliest honors the program received was the *Middle School Exemplary Performance Award* from the Georgia Music Educators Association in 2014 and was again honored with the same award in 2019. The South Forsyth Middle School Bands consistently earn Superior ratings at the GMEA District 9 Large Group Performance Evaluation. With a strong chamber music program, a large percentage of students successfully participate in the GMEA District 9 Solo and Ensemble Festival, as well as, provide a significant presence in the District 9 Middle School Honor Bands and GMEA All-State Bands. Some notable performances by the Symphonic Band include the 16th and 20th Annual *Southeastern United States Middle School Clinic* at Troy University, 25th Annual University of Georgia *Middle School Honor Band Festival*, 2017 Georgia Music Educators Association *State In-Service Conference* in Athens, Georgia, University of Alabama *Middle School Honor Band, National Band and Orchestra Festival-Carnegie Hall* in 2018, and the *Music for All Southeastern Concert Band Festival* at Georgia State University in 2019. Additionally, the Symphonic Band participated in the 2015 *Walt Disney World Festival Disney* program and earned the *Gold Award* and *Best in Class Award* and was invited to return and participate in the *Disney On-Stage* program in 2017. Students from the band program have numerous opportunities, including, Sixth-Grade Band, Sixth-Grade Advanced Band, three Concert Bands, Chamber Winds, Composers Club, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and Pep Band.

I



Members of the Symphonic Band

Flutes

Jeana Lee ◊ ♪
Nikhita Raghavan
Lauren You ♪
Krisha Gelli
Adya Raghuvanshi
Aiden Lee ◊
Yash Kirtane
Audrey Chung
Harshitha Gutta
Prianka LeCroy

Oboes

Sidharth Kaushik
Dianna Jin

Bassoons

Akhil Alwin ◊
Srijith Vishnubatla ◊
Ian Kuysten

Soprano Clarinets

Ivy Zhuo ◊ ♪
Darshana Anand ◊ ♪
Sophia Zhao ◊ ♪
Iris Chang ◊ ♪
Vishal Ramasubramanian ◊
Kavya Iyer ◊
Ananya Putta
Sai Gayathri Prakash ◊
Lily Kate Stewart ◊
Michelle Huang
Joseph Rodelas
Charlie Zhang ◊
Eunice Choi ◊
Vikram Devaraju
Riya Malhotra

Bass Clarinets

Evan Barnhart ◊
Tanmay Kasavaraju ◊
Owen Qin
Abhay Narendrakumar

Alto Saxophones

Raj Mehta ◊ ♪
Donovan Luo ◊ ♪
Roshan Koliparthi
Yashvi Patel ◊
Sam Orouji
Joseph Vattakkunnel ◊
Charles Huang
Pavan Kabadi

Tenor Saxophone

Reya TK
Ethan Kerl

Baritone Saxophone

Pareen Sharma

Trumpets

Anshul Naini ◊ ♪
Arnav Solanki ◊
Aiden Nguyen ◊ ♪
Francisco Valentinotti
Arushi Mishra
Adi Sathe ◊
Noah Saylor ◊
Antonio Urias
Zachary Davis
Roger Wang ◊
Keonhee Kim
Sawyer Baker
Amrutha Battu
David Cheon

Horns

Rithvik Busa
Raghav Raghunath ◊
Suchet Padmakumar ◊
Urvi Golambade
Rhys Legault
Martin Ye
Krithika Rakesh
Manthan Gupta
Vaibhavee Shirkhedkar ◊

Trombones

Matthew Quach ◊ ♪
Luigi Fernandez ◊
Jacob Chuven
Santhosh Nalla
Jake Thedford
David Appleman ◊
Asher Punyasamudram
Diego Aponte
Victoria Lee

Euphoniums

Jackson Cox
Bhaarath Singh
Tanushka Mithun

Tubas

Skanda Bharadwaj
Sudhan Sivakumar ◊
Rithik Dhivakar
Aaryan Kulkarni
Anubhav Behera
Aiyaz Ali

Percussion

Colin Magill ◊ ♪
Jacob Warren ◊ ♪
Austin Lee ◊
Ryan Chalmers ◊
Matthew Yang
Ethan Kong ◊ ♪
John Kuchinski
Samanyu Badam

◊ denotes District Honor Band

♪ denotes All-State Band

Program

Andrew F. Poor, Conductor

Until the Scars (2019)John Mackey (1973)

Make Our Garden Grow (1956)Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
arranged by Joseph Kreines
Mr. Nate Hughes, conductor

Xylophonia (1925)Joseph Green (1892-1939)
arranged by William L. Cahn
Dr. Oliver Molina, soloist
Assistant Director of Bands/Director of Percussion
Northwestern State University

Melodious Thunk (2012)David Biedenbender (1984)

The Pathfinder of Panama (1915).....John Philip Sousa (1854-1939)

South Forsyth Middle School

South Forsyth Middle School (1,333 students in grades 6-8) was originally located on the same campus as South Forsyth High School prior to 1998. The current campus is in the lower southeast corner of Forsyth County, Georgia, in the city of Cumming. Forsyth County has experienced rapid growth in the past decade, growing from a population of 114,000 in 2004 to over 236,000 in 2019. This growth trend is expected to continue over the next decade which makes Forsyth County one of the top five fastest growing counties in the country. Demonstrating excellence in the arts, academics and athletics, South Forsyth Middle School was named a U.S. Department of Education National Blue-Ribbon School in 2014 and a Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch in 2019. The success of the school comes from strong leadership, and our Principal, Sandy Tinsley, was named 2018-2019 National Distinguished Middle Level Principal of the Year by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Annually, our students' test scores are among the highest in all academic areas in the state, and the school has been the recipient of numerous state-level recognitions for academic excellence. The arts are also thriving at South Forsyth Middle School with over 75% of the school population involved in our outstanding band, chorus, art, and drama programs. Moreover, the school is proud of its nationally recognized robotics program, top performing math team, numerous outstanding athletic programs, and successful clubs, such as, HOSA, DECA and FBLA. The staff and students actively embrace our mission of: Educating, motivating, and empowering today's students for tomorrow's opportunities. The students from South Forsyth Middle School attend either, Lambert High School in Suwanee, Georgia, or South Forsyth High School in Cumming, Georgia.

Program Notes

Until the Scars (2019) by John Mackey (1973)

Until the Scars is an adaptation of the first movement of *Wine-Dark Sea: Symphony for Band*, a work centered around the ancient story “The Odyssey” by Homer. The first movement of the symphony is entitled, *Hubris*, and depicts Odysseus’ journey home following his triumph in Troy. The composer writes, “Odysseus filled his ship with the spoils of war, but he carried another, more dangerous, cargo: Pride.” To depict this marauding and arrogant return home, Mackey begins the work with a brash fanfare and a triumphal march. As the work progresses, there is an unrelenting march forward with the whole piece at one tempo. The opening fanfare returns in various forms as a unifying theme for the work. Utilizing complex harmonies, dissonance, mixed meters, and a wide array of musical colors, Mackey has created an exciting adaptation from his Symphony.

Make Our Garden Grow (1956) by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)/arranged by Joseph Kreines

Make Our Garden Grow is the final song from the operetta, *Candide*. In the final scene having followed numerous tragedies and deceit, Candide optimistically realizes the only purpose of living is to cultivate the earth and “Make Our Garden Grow.” Composed by the preeminent American composer, Leonard Bernstein, the work is drawn from the 1759 novella of the same name by Voltaire. Originally produced for Broadway in 1956, the production had a limited run and received mixed reactions. Following revisions by Bernstein and several librettists, the operetta returned to Broadway in 1974 and won four Tony Awards and has since become a widely popular comic operetta. With a beautiful melody and an optimistic theme, *Make Our Garden Grow* is one of the iconic songs from the Bernstein library.

Xylophonia (1925) by Joseph Green/arranged by William L. Cahn (1892-1939)

Joe Green was the brother of ragtime artist George Hamilton Green and the two were frequent collaborators. *Xylophonia* is a throwback to the xylophone showpieces from the turn-of-the-century. Composed for xylophone and piano, this ragtime march was quickly an audience favorite. Green, who was an accomplished percussionist, enjoyed a successful career as both a performer and soloist. Fortunately, we have numerous extant recordings of Green performing, *Xylophonia*, and he occasionally included intriguing improvised sections in these performances. We are honored to share the stage with **Dr. Oliver Molina**. Dr. Molina and Dr. Poor were colleagues at Fayette County High School in Fayetteville, Georgia.

Melodious Thunk (2012) by David Biedenbender (1984)

“Melodious Thunk was inspired by the famous jazz pianist Thelonious Monk. Monk’s wife, Nellie Smith, nicknamed him “Melodious Thunk” because of his clunky, awkward, and brilliant piano playing, and his, somewhat scatterbrained and disoriented nature. I really liked the idea of playing around with Monk’s name—first, because I personally really enjoy “spoonerisms” and, second, because this nickname provided great musical inspiration. Melodious—well, that’s obvious—and thunk (which is a great onomatopoeia) became the starting points for the piece. Big, fat thunks are interspersed with pointy, clunky, bluesy blips, which are then transformed into a long, smooth, laid-back melody accompanied by a funky bass line. I haven’t consciously borrowed any specific tunes or licks from Monk, although I do use a small fragment of Dizzy Gillespie’s *Salt Peanuts*, but I hope you’ll hear some similarities between this piece and Monk’s iconic style and quirky attitude.”—Notes by the Composer

The Pathfinder of Panama (1915) by John Philip Sousa

After the Panama Canal was completed in 1914, the Sousa Band was invited to complete a nine-week engagement at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915. One of twelve marches Sousa composed for various fairs and expositions, *The Pathfinder of Panama* was dedicated to both the Panama Canal and the Panama-Pacific Exposition held in San Francisco in 1915. The “Pathfinder” in the title does not refer to an individual but to the Panama Canal, an engineering triumph which shortened ocean voyage between New York and San Francisco by 8,000 miles. In classic Sousa style, the march utilizes tuneful melodies, exciting break strains, and virtuosic obligato moments that showcase the entire ensemble. *The Pathfinder of Panama* continues to be one of the most endearing and oft performed marches from Sousa’s extensive catalog of compositions.

Our Conductor



Andrew F. Poor, DME, is Director of Bands at South Forsyth Middle School in Cumming, Georgia. Previously, he served as the Assistant Director of Bands and Chair of the Fine Arts department at Fayette County High School in Fayetteville, Georgia. From 2006-2015, Dr. Poor served as a part-time music education instructor at Columbus State University Schwob School of Music. Dr. Poor received his Doctor of Music Education and Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He also holds the Bachelor of Music Education (High Honors) from the University of Florida. Dr. Poor is a member of *Phi Beta Mu* International Bandmasters Fraternity, *Phi Mu Alpha* Sinfonia, ASCAP, NAFME, National Band Association, and the Georgia Music Educators Association.

Dr. Poor is a past chair of the GMEA Band Adjudication Committee, and currently serves as an All-State Band Organizer, as well as, co-organizer of the GMEA District 9 Middle School Large Group Performance Evaluation and the District 9 Middle School Honor Band. From 2014-2018, he served as the Southern Division representative to the National Council for Music Composition.

In his twenty-eighth year as a music educator, Dr. Poor has been the recipient of numerous honors, notably, the 2015-2016 South Forsyth Middle School *Teacher of the Year* and Forsyth County *Middle School Teacher of the Year*. Additionally, he was recognized as the 2016-2017 Forsyth County *System-Wide Teacher of the Year*. His ensembles have given invitational performances, including, the 17th International Cultural Festival in Tottori, Japan, 1997 Florida Music Educators State Conference, 2014 and 2018 *Southeastern United States Honor Band and Clinic* at Troy University, 2015 *University of Georgia Middle School Honor Band Festival*, 2017 GMEA State In-Service Conference, 2017 *University of Alabama Middle School Honor Band*, and the 2018 *National Band and Orchestra Festival-Carnegie Hall*. Dr. Poor has been the recipient of the National Band Association *Citation of Excellence* on five occasions and the South Forsyth Middle School Band program received the 2014 and 2019 GMEA *Middle School Exemplary Performance Award*.

An active composer, commissioned works by Dr. Poor have been performed at several distinguished events, including, Midwest Clinic, GMEA State In-Service Conference, GMEA All-State Band, International Tuba and Euphonium Conference, University of Georgia MidFest, University of Alabama Honor Band Clinic, *Music for All*/National Concert Band Festival, and numerous local concerts. His wind band and chamber works appear in the catalogs of C.L. Barnhouse, Northeastern Music Publications, and Eighth Note Music. His hymn-setting, *My Father's World*, was selected by the Midwest Clinic Board of Directors as a notable new work in 2010. His fanfare, *To the Stars*, was selected by bandworld.org as one of the top new band pieces for 2011. His arrangements for the marching band have been performed by Olivet Nazarene University, University of Tennessee-Martin, and numerous high schools in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Dr. Poor is frequently invited to serve as a consultant, adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor. He has presented at the Midwest Clinic, Ohio Music Educators Association State Conference, Florida Music Educators Association State Conference, and seven times at the Georgia Music Educators Association State In-Service Conference. He has also served as a curriculum consultant to the Cobb County School District, Bibb County Schools, and the Polk County School District (Bartow, Florida). Active in the drum and bugle corps activity, Dr. Poor is currently the Co-Brass Coordinator for the Spirit of Atlanta and has served on the brass staff of the Blue Stars, Phantom Regiment, and as a consultant to Pacific Crest. Prior to teaching drum corps, he enjoyed a successful 18-year career as an adjudicator for DCI. Dr. Poor lives in Suwanee, Georgia with his wife, Marilyn, his son, Addison, who is an All-State trumpet player in the Lambert High School band and an outstanding wrestler, and he is proud of his daughter, Kayla, who is a superb horn player and a music educator in South Carolina.

Assistant Director



Nate Hughes currently serves as Assistant Director of Bands at South Forsyth Middle School in Cumming, Georgia. At SFMS, his responsibilities include co-teaching the sixth grade beginning instrument classes and the four concert bands, as well as directing the jazz band. A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Nate received his Bachelor of Music degree from Austin Peay State University where he was a member of the Governor's Own Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Trumpet Ensemble, and Jazz Collegians. While at APSU, Nate studied the trumpet with Mr. Robert Waugh and conducting with Dr. Gregory Wolynec. In the world of pageantry arts, Nate was a member of the trumpet section of 7-time Drum Corps International World Champion The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from Rosemont, Illinois. He was also a cast member of Rhythm X Winds from Dayton, Ohio. Nate has served on the instructional staff of several high schools in Tennessee and Georgia, as well as drum corps including Music City Drum Corps, Southwind Drum and Bugle Corps, and is currently serving on the brass staff for the Spirit of Atlanta. Nate programs marching band shows for several bands throughout the Southeast, in addition to composing original music, writing drills, and staging winter guards. He is also an active adjudicator and

can be found judging both performance and effect captions. Nate currently lives in Cumming, Georgia where he works and spends his free time improving his culinary skills.

Guest Artist



Dr. Oliver Molina is an active percussion performer, educator, arranger, adjudicator, and clinician. He is a versatile percussionist with experience in many areas of percussion, from orchestral to marching to jazz and many others. He has performed at various state Day of Percussion events, PASIC and other music education conferences. Oliver has also participated in many professional development workshops such as the Alan Abel Summer Percussion Workshop and Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Workshop. He has served as a clinician for the "Yamaha Sounds of Summer" percussion camp and has adjudicated many marching contests and state solo and ensemble festivals. As an active soloist and chamber ensemble musician, Oliver seeks new literature from composers and commissions new works. He has joined several consortiums that included works from composers such as Alejandro Vaino, Baljinder Sekhon, Steven Snowden, Ivan Trevino, and Marc Mellits. Oliver has teamed up with Dr. Joe W. Moore III to form the Omojo Percussion Duo. The duo was formed in 2013 and they have presented clinics and performed recitals throughout the

southeastern United States. Oliver is an Assistant Professor of Music and Assistant Director of Bands at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. At NSU, he teaches the marching band percussion section, applied percussion lessons, an introduction to music education course, conducts a concert band, and co-directs the percussion ensemble. Oliver earned a doctor of musical arts degree in Percussion Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Iowa under Dr. Dan Moore. While at Iowa, he served as a band teaching assistant for the Hawkeye Marching Band, and as the instructor/arranger for the Hawkeye Drumline. Oliver has written halftime show music and drill as well as stand tunes for the HMB. He oversaw all percussion activities with the athletic bands and taught a drumline techniques course in the spring semester. Oliver earned a master in music from the University of Arkansas, where he also arranged and instructed for the percussion section of the Razorback Marching Band. He earned a bachelor in music education from the University of Central Florida. Oliver's percussion teachers include Dr. Dan Moore, Jim Dreier, Chalon Ragsdale, Jeff Moore, Kirk Gay, Jim Yakas, and Daniel Neimeyer, and Dr. Richard Mark Heidel for conducting. Oliver is a Yamaha Performing Artist and is an education endorser for Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, Remo Drum Heads, Sabian Cymbals, and Black Swamp Percussion. His professional affiliations include the Percussive Arts Society, College Music Society, National Association for Music Education, the National Society of Steel Band Educators, and the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society.

Acknowledgements

The members of the South Forsyth Middle School Band would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helped to make this performance a success. "It takes a village."

ADMINISTRATION

Principal	Sandy Tinsley
Assistant Principal	Elizabeth Rushton
Assistant Principal	Dr. Jo-Anne Jackson
Assistant Administrator	Danielle Sherfey
Superintendent	Dr. Jeff Bearden
Fine Arts Specialist	Catherine Keyser
Board of Education	Tom Cleveland
	Darla Light
	Wes McCall
	Kristin Morrissey
	Nancy Roache

COLLEAGUES and MENTORS

Stephen Hendricks, South Forsyth High School
Allen Justus, South Forsyth High School
Scott McCloy, Lambert High School
Tonya Mashburn, Lambert High School
Robert W. Smith, Troy University
Frank T. Williams, Boca Ciega High School (ret.)
Dr. David Waybright, University of Florida
Prof. Gary Langford, University of Florida (ret.)
Dr. Terence Milligan, University of Cincinnati (ret.)
Prof. Alan Siebert, University of Cincinnati
Prof. Eugene Corporon, University of North Texas
Dr. Myra Rhoden, Fayette County High School
Dr. Steven Tyndall, Truett-McConnell College
Alfred Watkins, Lassiter High School (ret.)
Freddy Martin, Westminster Schools
William Miller, Florida Bandmasters Hall of Fame
Joe Kreines, Florida Bandmasters Roll of Distinction
Dr. David Gregory, retired, Georgia Hall of Fame
Joel Denton, Ooltewah High School, (ret.)
Greg Snyder, Lakota West High School, (ret.)
Eric Brown, Percussion Instructor
Achim Reus, Horn Instructor
Melissa Saylor, Clarinet Instructor
Brandyn Taylor, Saxophone Instructor
Kay Fairchild, Trumpet Instructor

OUR FAMILY

Marilyn Poor, caring and supportive wife
Kayla Poor, wonderful daughter, educator, musician
Addison Poor, awesome son, wrestler, and musician

FORSYTH COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Mike Mitchell, Desana Middle School
Reggie Humphrey, Lakeside Middle School
Leá Breeding, Liberty Middle School
Sarah Dunn, Little Mill Middle School
Jacob Wildes, Otwell Middle School
Claire Kenney, Otwell Middle School
Edward Anthony, North Forsyth Middle School
Fred Chang, Piney Grove Middle School
Hunter McGee, Riverwatch Middle School
Dean Patterson, Riverwatch Middle School
Patrick Doyle, Vickery Creek Middle School

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Kimmy Wood, Visual Art
Maxwell Marshall, Chorus
Robden Philips, Drama and Musical Theater

WITH APPRECIATION

Dr. Corey Spurlin, NBA Southern Division Chair,
Auburn University

Dr. Jeffrey Matthews, Director of Bands, Conference
Host, Northwestern State University

Reggie Humphrey, South Forsyth Middle School,
Assistant Director of Bands, 2015-2019

The 2018-2019 and 2017-2018 8th-Grade band students,
who played an integral part in us earning this honor

April Hicks, travel planner, Family Memories Travel

Dawn Densmore, friend and photographer

All the parents who helped with so many tasks that
helped to make this performance a reality.

Gayla Wakefield, South Forsyth Middle School, our
amazing bookkeeper

Patti Wallace, South Forsyth Middle School,
Principal's Secretary

The faculty and staff of South Forsyth Middle School for
their support of the band program

