

Saturday  
**FEB 5**  
7:30 pm

# KU Wind Ensemble, KU Jazz Ensemble I & Prairie Winds Festival Band

with special guest

## Hiram Diaz,

euphonium/trombone/vocals

Directed by **Paul Popiel** and **Dan Gailey**

**KU**  
SCHOOL  
OF MUSIC  

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The University of Kansas



**There will be no intermission during this performance.**

## PROGRAM

### KU Wind Ensemble

*Overture to Candide* .....Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)  
trans. Grundman

*Concerto for Euphonium* .....Tom Davoren (b. 1986)  
Hiram Diaz, soloist

“Energetically” from *Dragon Rhyme* ..... Chen Yi (b. 1953)  
Tom Davoren, guest conductor

### Prairie Winds Festival Band

“The Footlifter” ..... Henry Fillmore (1881–1956)  
Martin Bergee, conductor ed. Foster

*A Midwestern Suite* .....Tom Davoren (b. 1986)  
Prairie  
Storm  
Sunset  
Paul W. Popiel, conductor

“Over the Rainbow” ..... Harold Arlen (1905–1986)  
Hiram Diaz, soloist arr. Barker

*Rocketship!* ..... Kevin Day (b. 1996)  
Matt Smith, conductor

### KU Jazz Ensemble I

Selections will be announced from the stage.

## Hiram Diaz

Euphonium player Gunnery Sergeant Hiram Diaz joined “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band in January 2012. Gunnery Sgt. Diaz began his musical instruction at age 12. After graduating in 2003 from the New World School of the Arts in Miami, he attended the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music (CCM), where he earned a bachelor’s degree in music performance in 2007. His instructors have included Timothy Northcut of CCM; Jay Bertolet, former principal tuba with the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra; and Brian Bowman of the University of North Texas. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” Gunnery Sgt. Diaz was a member of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Band (283d Army Band) in Ft. Benning, Georgia. In 2016, he performed Tom Davoren’s *Ascension* as a featured soloist during the national concert tour. Since 2017, he has also served as co-leader of the band’s Latin Jazz Ensemble.

## KU Wind Ensemble

Described by *The New York Times* as “one of America’s most esteemed concert bands,” the KU Wind Ensemble (KUWE) is the premier wind band at the University of Kansas and is conducted by Paul W. Popiel, director of bands. Their Carnegie Hall debut in 2013 was described by *Feast of Music* as “showing amazing chops in their transitions and an impressive range of dynamics” and by *The New York Times* as “performing with polish, assurance and copious spirit, eliciting a rousing ovation.” The Wind Ensemble performed for President Obama for his address to KU in January 2015, at the national biennial convention of the College Band Directors National Association in 2017, and premiered Kevin Walczyk’s *Symphony No. 5: Freedom from Fear* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2018.

KUWE has hosted numerous composers in recent years, including John Corigliano, Frank Ticheli, Steven Bryant, Kevin Walczyk, Joni Greene, Aaron Perrine, Michael Torke, Joel Puckett, John Mackey, Mohammed Fairouz and Eric Ewazen as well as guest conductors Dai Zhonghui, Michelle Rakers, John Whitwell, H. Robert Reynolds and Mallory Thompson. Guest soloists recently performing with the ensemble include Jim Walker, Gail Williams, Jeff Nelsen, Jon Lewis, Joey Tartell, the Boston Brass and Chris Vadala.

## Prairie Winds Festival Band

The Prairie Winds Festival Band is comprised of high school students who have spent the past two days in clinics, masterclasses, and rehearsals with KU music faculty during the Prairie Winds Festival. This year marks the 20th year of the festival.

## Paul W. Popiel

Paul W. Popiel, professor of music, is the director of bands at the KU, only the seventh person to hold this position in the band’s storied 125-year history. Dr. Popiel conducts the KU Wind Ensemble, directs the graduate program in wind conducting and guides all aspects of the university band program. His previous appointments include the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and Oklahoma State

University. He also enjoyed several wonderful years teaching in the public schools of Texas and Michigan.

His Carnegie Hall debut in 2013 was heralded by *The New York Times*: “The ensemble, conducted by Paul W. Popiel, performed with polish, assurance and copious spirit, eliciting a rousing ovation,” while New York’s *Feast of Music* said, “Give credit to Popiel, a strong advocate for new music, who went for broke, succeeding in showing us that there is, in fact, real, adventurous music being made over on the other side of the rainbow.”

Under Popiel’s leadership, the KU Wind Ensemble has performed at Carnegie Hall in 2013, for President Obama in 2015, at the Kansas Music Educators Association (2012, 2015 and 2021), the national convention of the College Band Directors National Association in 2017 and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2018.

A proponent of distinctive new music, Popiel has commissioned and premiered numerous new works for winds, including pieces by composers Joel Puckett, Mohammed Fairouz, Michael Torke, Kevin Walczyk, James Barnes, David Dzubay, Joni Greene, Aaron Perrine and others. In 2013, Popiel was elected to the membership of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, known for the Grammy Awards.

Popiel holds degrees from Truman State University, the University of Notre Dame and Michigan State University. A recipient of a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship, he also earned a postgraduate diploma in 20th-century music at the University of Bristol, England. Popiel was also the Frank L. Battisti Conducting Fellow, serving as the resident conductor of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

### **KU Jazz Ensemble I**

The KU Jazz Ensemble I, directed by Dan Gailey, is the flagship ensemble within the Jazz Studies program. The program has received 28 *DownBeat* Student Music Awards, including Jazz Ensemble I’s 2021 award for Best College Jazz Ensemble in the Graduate Division; 2019 and 2015 awards in the Graduate Division for Best College Big Band in the U.S. or Canada; and their Outstanding Performance Award in the same division in 2017. Jazz Ensemble I performed Gailey’s flamenco suite *Palos Nuevos* at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. in April 2018. In April 2016, the ensemble performed at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City with internationally acclaimed vocalist Deborah Brown, and the band was one of six international college finalists that performed at the 2019 and 2017 Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival.

In July 2018, Jazz Ensemble I played ten shows in 13 days with Deborah Brown as part of a European tour that included invited appearances at three of the world’s most prestigious jazz festivals: the Montreux Jazz Festival (where the band performed twice), Umbria Jazz and the Jazz À Vienne Festival.

Jazz Ensemble I has had the distinction of performing with such noted guest artists as Toshiko Akiyoshi, Clark Terry, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Anat Cohen, Sean Jones, Kneebody, Renee Rosnes, Steve Wilson, Tia Fuller, Dave Douglas, Louie Bellson, Jeff Coffin, Tim Ries, Peter Erskine, Vince Mendoza, Conrad Herwig, Bob Sheppard, Gary Foster, Steve Houghton, Bob Mintzer, Bobby Shew, Carl Fontana, Dick Oatts, Frank Mantooth, Ingrid Jensen, Jon Hendricks, Pete Christlieb and many others.

### **Dan Gailey**

Dan Gailey is the Director of Jazz Studies and a professor of music at KU, where he directs Jazz Ensemble I; teaches courses in jazz composition, arranging and pedagogy; and produces the annual KU Jazz Festival. He was named to a coveted Chancellor's Club Teaching Professorship at KU in 2017. Gailey is the recipient of the 1996 IAJE Gil Evans Fellowship, presented to an emerging jazz composer from an international field of candidates. Under his direction, the KU Jazz Studies program has been the recipient of 28 *DownBeat* Student Music Awards, including Jazz Ensemble I's 2021 award for Best College Jazz Ensemble in the Graduate Division.

As director of KU Jazz Ensemble I, Gailey has led performances at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, the Jazz a Vienne Festival in France, the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival in California, the Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City. He also directed the band in invited appearances at International Association of Jazz Educators Conferences in New York City, Atlanta and Boston.

The Dan Gailey Jazz Orchestra debut CD, *What Did You Dream?*, was released in July 2010 on Origin/OA2 Records and features all original compositions by Gailey, several of which are published through iJazzMusic.com. The CD spent almost two years on the JazzWeek Radio Airplay charts, and it received very favorable reviews from *JAZZIZ*, *JazzTimes* and *Cadence* magazines, among others.

He has directed all-state high school jazz ensembles in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas and Washington, along with the 2015 NAFME All-Northwest Jazz Ensemble and the 1996 National Band Association National High School Ensemble. Gailey holds degrees from the University of Northern Colorado (MM) and Pacific Lutheran University (BM), and he is also on the board of directors for Jazz Education Abroad, a non-profit organization that presents educational workshops and festivals throughout the world with emphasis in Asia and the Middle East.