KU BANDS
The University of Kansas

Crossroads Wind Symphony
Paul W. Popiel & Melissa Sawyer, conductors
Kelly Misko, horn
Wind Orchestra
Matt Smith, conductor
Pete Meechan, composer-in-residence
Katie Váradi, guest conductor
November 17, 2026, 7:30 PM
Lied Center of Kansas

Crossroads Wind Symphony
Postcards

Tuttarana (2014/2024) — Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

First Suite in E-flat (1909) — Gustav Holst (1874-1934), ed. Colin Matthews

- Chaconne
- Intermezzo
- March

Wingspan (2015) — Gary Kuo

Kelly Misko, horn

Red Shoe Vignettes (2025/2026) — Pete Meechan (b. 1980)

Wind Orchestra
Renewal and Peace

Fire in the Sky (2010) — Pete Meechan

Suite of Old American Dances (1949) — Robert Russell Bennett (1894-1981)

- II. Schottische
- III. Western One-Step
- IV. Wallflower Waltz
- V. Rag

Katie Váradi, guest conductor

Towards Peace (2025) — Pete Meechan

consortium premiere

The Liberty Bell (1893) — John Philip Sousa (1854-1932), arr. by Keith Brion and Loras J. Schissel

Sound and Smoke (2011) — Viet Cuong (b. 1990)

- feudal castle lights
- avalanche of eyes

Pete Meechan, composer-in-residence

The music of Canadian-British composer Peter Meechan is extensively performed throughout the world. His music has been commissioned, recorded, broadcast and performed by some of the world's leading symphony orchestras, wind ensembles, brass bands, conductors and soloists, including: "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, The United States Air Force Band, The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own", Dallas Symphony Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra brass, The Dallas Winds, Black Dyke Brass Band, The Band of the Coldstream Guards, RNCM Wind Orchestra, Bramwell Tovey, Jens Lindemann, Ryan Anthony, David Childs, Steven Mead, Patrick Sheridan, Les Neish, Peter Moore, Linda Merrick, and many more.

Meechan's music is featured on over 130 commercial recordings and has been featured at festivals and clinics globally, including the Midwest Clinic, The American Bandmasters Association (ABA) Conference, CBDNA, the International Trumpet Guild, the International Tuba and Euphonium Association, BASBWE conferences, and in 2014 his work "The Legend of King Arthur" was used as the set test piece at the British National Brass Band Championships, held in the Royal Albert Hall, London. His works for brass band have been used as compulsory and own choice selections at music contests across the world.

His work *Perpetua* won the 2021 Sousa-ABA-Ostwald Composition Contest, and Meechan has also been a finalist in the National Band Association William D. Revelli Memorial Composition Contest (*Waves Towards the Pebbled Shore*). His first concerto for tuba, *Episodes and Echoes*, won the ITEA Harvey G. Phillips Award for Excellence in Composition. In October 2020, Meechan was awarded the CBA (Canadian Band Association) 'Canadian Composers' Award' – only the 9th recipient since the award's inception in 1991, and in 2022 he was elected into the membership of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association.

Kelly Misko, horn

Dr. Kelly Misko is the horn professor at the University of Kansas and has previously taught at Washburn University, Missouri Western State University, and Baker University. She frequently appears with the Kansas City Symphony as a substitute player and has held fellowships with the National Repertory Orchestra and the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra. Misko has performed in the touring Broadway productions *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cinderella*, and *The King and I*, as well as *Josh Groban: On Stage* at Starlight Theater. Her summer teaching engagements include teaching at the Alpine Brass & Percussion Academy in Gunnison, Co and the Fine Arts Summer Academy in Nashville, Tennessee where she performed with the Annie Moses Band on the Grand Ol' Opry Stage.

An avid chamber musician, she was a member of the horn quartet known as Genghis Barbie with which she toured nationally and recorded *Genghis Barbie: Home for the Holidays.* She gave the world premiere of Eric Ewazen's *Bachauer Fanfare* with the Vandalay Brass Quintet on New York Public Radio and performed with the American Brass Quintet for their 50th year anniversary concert. As a composer and arranger, she has written numerous chamber works including a commissioned premiere by the Arcadian Winds.

Misko received both her BM and MM degrees from The Juilliard School and her DMA from The University of Kansas with a cognate in musicology. Her primary teachers include Jerome Ashby, Julie Landsman, and Paul Stevens.

Crossroads Wind Symphony

The Crossroads Wind Symphony is an adult wind band under the direction of Paul W. Popiel and Melissa Sawyer, and is comprised of Missouri and Kansas musicians, most of who are music educators. Crossroads Wind Symphony began in 2016 with more than a year of planning and discussion to provide performance opportunities for busy musicians and directors to play their instruments, make great music together, and perform the highest quality repertoire. In 2018, the Crossroads Wind Symphony became a reality. The band rehearses just twice before each concert and performs four to five concerts each year. They have performed side by side concerts with numerous area high schools as well as benefit concerts for Band of Angels. The band performed at the 2023 and 2026 Kansas Bandmasters Association summer conventions and was selected to perform at the Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop in Wichita Kansas in 2020 and 2024.

Please visit us on the web at:
https://crossroadswindsymphony.com/

Program Notes

Crossroads Wind Symphony

FLUTE
Lynnette Ahaus *Sacred Heart and St. James*
Lori Benton *Retired Iowa Music Educator*
Megan Bricks *Forest View ES, Olathe*
Kelly Bushouse (piccolo) *Lakewood MS*
Jennifer Creek *Mission Trail MS, Olathe*
Dean Davison *Prairie View HS, Louisburg HS, retired*
Jenna Dominguez *Wellsville MS/HS*
Rebecca Fillingham *Olathe East HS*
Jennifer Holthaus *Finance Specialist*
Sara Smitko *Frontier Trail MS, Olathe*
Jessica Treat *Mill Creek MS, DeSoto*
Elca Wagner *Perry Lecompton ES*

OBOE
Isabella Currie *Oxford MS*
Emily Foltz *Washburn University*
Melissa Smith *West MS, Lawrence*
Mackenzie Vavricek *Trail Ridge MS, Gardner*

BASSOON
Devin Blackwood *Paraprofessional, Shawnee Mission East HS*
Matt Shea *Frank Rushton ES, KCK*

CLARINET
Melissa Askren (bass) *Blue Valley Schools*
John Campos *Morgan Hunter Education*
Meredith Casey *Washburn Rural MS/HS*
Kenny Chuang *QA Manager, The Smucker Co.*
Kelli Irvin *Tonganoxie HS*
Julia Janda (E-flat) *Blue Valley HS*
Victoria McManus (bass) *Santa Fe Trail Jr./Sr. HS*
Ellie Ridgway *Shawnee Mission Northwest HS*
Kenneth Rifkin *Garmin*
Emily Rossin *University of Kansas*
Melissa Sawyer *University of Kansas*
Rebecca Stapfer (E-flat) *Park Hill HS, Plaza MS*
Virginia Stemmons *Christ the King ES, Topeka*
Phoebe Stottlemire *Valley Falls MS/HS*
Taylor Urbanek *Bishop Miege HS*
Chase Wallace *Olathe School District*
Allyssa Zoller *Librarian, Countryside ES, Olathe*

SAXOPHONE
Garrett Jones (tenor) *Shawnee Heights MS/HS*
Matt Kendrick (bari) *1248 Holdings Director, Accounting & Finance*
Ty'Rese Mendez (alto) *Shawnee Heights HS*
Sophia Ord (tenor) *Good Shepherd Catholic School*
Mason Romero (alto) *Lenexa Hills ES, Shawnee Mission*
Noah Zoller (alto) *Spring Hill HS*

TRUMPET
Robert Arteaga *Retired*
Stephen Case *Manager, GDIT*
Vicki Case *Lawrence Virtual School*
Cletson Cox II *Overland Park Civic Band Director, retired*
Linda Dixon *KU Information Technology, IT Analyst*
Chris Kohl *Shawnee Mission Schools, retired*
Justin Kohmetscher *Mill Creek Upper ES, Belton*
Michael Packard *Osawatomie Schools, retired*
Steve Patternson *Army Band Director, retired*
Thomas Pi *Jefferson County North*
Scott Robinson *Billy Mills MS, Lawrence, retired*

HORN
Sam Allison *Monticello Trails MS*
Grace Baugher Dunlap *Composer*
Ella Griffin *McLouth MS/HS*
Ben Makins *Private Brass Instructor, 312th Army Band*
Kayden Matney *Caruthers EC, KCK*
Allison Newman *University of Kansas, Environmental Studies Dept.*
Hayden Pool *Anderson County Jr/Sr HS*
Eric Tinkler *Washburn Rural North MS*

TROMBONE
Cameron Akagi *Rockhurst HS*
Will Biggs *University of Kansas, Benedictine College*
Mark Bushouse *Civil Engineer*
Robert Davis *Olathe Northwest HS*
Eric Griffin (piano) *Asst. Principal, Mission Trail MS, Olathe*
Justin Love *Blue Valley West HS*
Aaron Reed (bass) *Oskaloosa Jr/Sr High*
Jacob Wilson *Olathe School District*

EUPHONIUM
Max Dunlap *Business Manager, GBD Music*
Daniel Freeman *Oxford MS, Blue Valley*
Andrew Gillespie *Park Hill South HS*
Courtney Nichols *Olathe School District*
Stuart O'Neil *Baldwin Jr/Sr HS*

TUBA
Eric Banks *Home Restoration, Private Instructor*
Martin Bergee *University of Kansas*
Jeff Carlson *Highland Park HS, Topeka*
Raymond Linville *Platte Purchase MS, Platte County*

PERCUSSION
Kimberlyn Angelo *Pioneer Trail MS, Olathe*
Brett Eichman *Shawnee Mission Northwest HS*
Britt Haney *Associate Principal, Shawnee Mission Northwest HS*
Travis Houston *Lee Summit North HS*
Brian Jackson *Olathe School District, retired*
Meridith Kincaid *Chase MS, Topeka*
Rachel Mrosko *Wellington-Napoleon R-IX School*
Mitch Shulfer *Percussion Instructor, SMNW*
Johnathon Westcott *Wolf Springs MS, Aubry Ben M*

Scan the QR code for more information about Crossroads Wind Symphony

The 2026-2027 Season
November 5 2026 7:30pm - The Lied Center of Kansas
February 6, 2027 7:30pm - The Lied Center of Kansas
April 8, 2027 7:00pm - Blue Valley West High School

Wind Orchestra

FLUTE
Johnny Hsu *Kaohsiung, Taiwan*
Gan Lei *Beijing, China*
Cameron Lynn *Overland Park, KS*
Grace Erwin, piccolo *Topeka, KS*
Oliver McQuinn *Olathe, KS*

OBOE
Dylan Reed *Shawnee, KS*
Sarah Gray, English horn *Eudora, KS*

BASSOON
Mario Puentes *Selmer, TN*
Henry Wheat *Overland Park, KS*
Cohen Nguyen *Columbia, MO*

CLARINET
Hali Alex *Tallahassee, FL*
Aaron Yu *Medford, OR*
Luke Rogers *Lawrence, KS*
Kate Crisler, E-flat *Wichita, KS*
Sydney Watson, contra *Olathe, KS*
Addison Bond *Spring Hill, KS*
Cecilia Eversole *Monument, CO*
Alex Al-Murrani, bass *Topeka, KS*
Sydney Myers *McPherson, KS*

SAXOPHONE
JJ Jamison *Rolla, MO*
Sofia Mora-Rodriguez *San José, Costa Rica*
Kathryn Yingling *Saint Joseph, MO*
Kelvin Rivera Linares *Guayanilla, PR*

TRUMPET
Wayner Ramón Ortega *Caguas, PR*
Keith Popiel *Lawrence, KS*
Roy Rivera *Kansas City, KS*
Peijin Ren *Beijing, China*
Cole Bichelmeyer *Lenexa, KS*
Christian Adams *Shawnee, KS*
Owen Wallander *Overland Park, KS*

HORN
Casey Chlapek *Liberty, MO*
Eli Johnson *Lenexa, KS*
Audrey Groth *Gurnee, IL*
Zach Nicholas *Leawood, KS*
Kelly Misko *Lawrence, KS*

TROMBONE
Brent Mead *Olathe, KS*
Maddie Lauffer *Olathe, KS*
Alejandro Fonseca *Quito, Ecuador*
Asher Trimble, bass *Shawnee, KS*

EUPHONIUM
Cole Cavanah *Kettering, OH*
Jack Stutler *Lawrence, KS*

TUBA
Jillian Arnold *Liberty, MO*
Adrian Gutierrez Jr. *Miami, FL*
Zane Lauer *Shawnee, KS*

PERCUSSION
Simone Ross *Tulsa, OK*
Ryne Poindexter *Overland Park, KS*
Wilson Geiler *Omaha, NE*
Collin Garcia *Junction City, KS*
Ben Willems *Lawrence, KS*
Audrey Schoenig *Olathe, KS*
Logan Smith *Olathe, KS*

STRING BASS
Noah Tucker *Lenexa, KS*

PIANO
Peifeng Li *Sichuan, China*

HARP
Erin Wood *Lawrence, KS*

Upcoming KU Band Events

Wind Symphony and University Band
November 19, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Chamber Lab Winds
November 22, 2026, 7:30 p.m.
Swarthout Recital Hall

Prairie Winds Festival
Wind Orchestra and Crossroads Wind Symphony with Boston Brass
February 6, 2027, 7:30 p.m.

KU Wind, Brass, and Percussion Faculty

Daniel Velasco, flute
Margaret Marco, oboe
Midori Samson, bassoon
Stephanie Zelnick, clarinet
Geoffrey Landman, saxophone
Steve Leisring, trumpet
Aaron Romm, trumpet
Kelly Misko, horn
Michael Davidson, trombone
David Earll, tuba and euphonium
Garrett Arney, percussion
Dylan Bassett, percussion
Erin Wood, harp

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