

Fan Fare

Volume XLIV, No. 2
Spring, 2022

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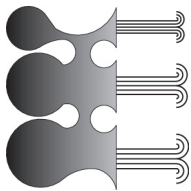
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41st annual Pops Concert

Kyle Megna and The Monsoons

Originally planned for April, 2020, the 41st annual Pops Concert will at long last take place on Saturday,

April 23, at 7 p.m. at the Fond du Lac High School PAC. The event will feature guest artists, **Kyle Megna and the Monsoons**, in the premiere performance of *I Never Can Say No*, written at the Symphonic Band's request for the Band and the Monsoons by noted Wisconsin composer John Harmon.

Based in the Fox Valley, Kyle Megna and the Monsoons were named the 2017 and 2018 Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) Alternative Rock/Rock Artist of the year and 2018 Male Vocalist of the year. An original Wisconsin band with an ever-growing local and regional audience, the band has shared the stage with acts such as Toto, Michael Franti & Spearhead, Rusted Root, Jack Russell's Great White, and Here Come The Mummies.



Through their tours in the Midwest and Southeast, the Monsoons have become a

tight-knit group of accomplished, charismatic musicians with diverse backgrounds, knowing how to have fun while keeping it professional. Best seen live, they feed off the vibe of the crowd as well as each other. Their "dark-indie-blues-folk-rock feel" is a magnetic force that's ever-charged with surges of creativity and artistic experimentation. Fused with a healthy dose of spontaneity and humor, Kyle Megna and the Monsoons channel can't-

get-enough energy that's good for the soul.

There is no admission charge for the concert. A free-will offering will be received. Reserved sponsors' seating (box seats and main floor) is available; sponsors are listed in the program and received complimentary refreshments. See the order form on Page 4.

Featured Soloist: Kurt Shipe

The Symphonic Band's own **Kurt Shipe** will be featured trumpet soloist in *A Tribute to Harry James* at the April 23 Pops Concert. Currently a resident of Oshkosh, Kurt studied music at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he performed with Grammy-nominated and Downbeat award-winning Jazz 1. Shipe has also performed and recorded with Nachito Herrera and the Cuban All-Stars, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Mark Wood, Alan Baylock, Geoff Keezer, and The Box Tops.

The son of FSB Music Director Dale and Nancee Shipe, Kurt is a member of the 132nd Wisconsin Army National Guard Concert Band and Director of the 132nd Army Band's Jazz Ensemble, based in Madison WI. He freelances on trumpet with Vic Ferrari, Wifée and the Huzzband, Kyle Megna and the Monsoons, Stephen Cooper and Nobody Famous, The Jazz Orgy, Sly Joe and the Smooth Operators, Water City Jazz Orchestra, and Unity the Band.



Director's



Spring, 2022

Our 41st Annual Pops Concert has been over two years in the making. The program you will be hearing on April 23rd is the program we would have done in the Spring of 2020 had covid not taken over our lives. This edition of the Director's Note is very similar to what I wrote in 2020. We will be premiering a new work by Wisconsin composer John Harmon, featuring Kyle Megna and the Monsoons. I would like to again share my thoughts in the process of selecting Kyle Megna and the Monsoons as our guest soloist as well as the commissioning of the new work by John Harmon.

When thinking about a guest soloist for the Pops Concert, I couldn't help but think about the talented and gifted guest soloists that have appeared with our band in the past. They all brought unique and varied talents to our band and community. When thinking about a guest soloist for this spring, I had a thought about an event and performance that happened twenty-three years ago with the San Francisco Symphony. The heavy metal band Metallica received critical acclaim for combining forces with the San Francisco Symphony, adding another layer of musical styles which can be incorporated into a single musical event. That piqued my interest in how to infuse some of today's more "popular" music with the sound of our "traditional" symphonic band.

For this year's Pops Concert we have a group of seven young men who are very talented and gifted musicians and entertainers. Therefore our "guest soloist" this year is actually a guest band. In today's musical world, it is difficult putting labels on a group and their musical style. The Monsoons describe themselves as a, "dark-indie-blues-folk-rock feel" alternative rock band. They have been the winners of the Wisconsin Area Music Industry's (WAMI Award) Alternative Rock/Rock Artist of the year awards in 2017 and 2018. Knowing the abilities of the gentlemen in Kyle Megna and Monsoons, there was no question that they would live up to the

high standards of musical excellence of previous guest soloists. But, how do we get them involved with our band?

The differences between classical music and jazz are apparent and obvious. At the same time, the distinct lines between those two "streams" of music are often blurred. If you listen to composers like Gershwin (think of "Rhapsody in Blue"), Copland, Stravinsky, Bernstein, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Duke Ellington, to name a few, you know that they have been crossing between the classical and jazz genres for years. In 1957, Gunther Schuller, an American composer, coined the phrase "Third Stream" music. Schuller defined third stream as "a new genre of music located about halfway between jazz and classical music." He insisted that "by definition there is no such thing as 'third stream jazz'." He noted that while critics on both sides of third stream objected to tainting their favorite music with the other, more strenuous objections were typically made by jazz musicians who felt such efforts were "an assault on their traditions." He wrote that "by designating the music as a 'separate, third stream,' the other two mainstreams could go about their way unaffected by the attempts at fusion." Because third stream draws on classical as much as jazz, it is usually required that composers and performers be proficient in both genres. Please keep this last sentence in mind.

Attempting to put an Alternative Rock/Jazz ensemble together with our Symphonic Band initially seemed daunting and maybe even impossible. However, after a few discussions with some people whom I respect, the name John Harmon came to mind. John Harmon is a wonderful local, national and international jazz pianist, composer and educator. Some of you might remember the group Matrix from the 70s, of which John was a member. Interestingly, when Matrix performed with the Milwaukee Symphony in 1975, the arrangements for both Matrix and the Milwaukee Symphony were written by Mr. Harmon. John and I met in August of 2019 to discuss the possibility of this collaboration, premier and performance. John agreed to write "I Can Never Say No" for both Kyle Megna and the Monsoons and the Fond du

Lac Symphonic Band. John's son Noah plays piano for the Monsoons and my son Kurt plays trumpet for them as well. Both Noah and Kurt, along with Kyle Megna, were part of this project from its inception. Without their input and support, none of this would have been a reality.

"I Can Never Say No," the title of John's new work that we are premiering at the Pops Concert, speaks volumes about John's talent and willingness to ensure that music is performed for live audiences as well as to keep adding to the musical repertoire of multiple genres. If you know John, you would know that he rarely, if ever "says no" to any request to have him write or perform. Now you know how the title of this premier work was conceived.

Earlier I asked you to remember the quote of Gunther Schuller which said, "Because third stream draws on classical as much as jazz, it is usually required that composers and performers be proficient in both genres." You will hear at this concert that both John Harmon and Kyle Megna and Monsoons fit this description without exception.

Hopefully, our musical efforts in bringing the "Third Stream" genre to the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band will be enjoyed by our listening audience as much as I have enjoyed the process of its development. As mentioned earlier, this project has been close to a three year process in the making and I am extremely pleased and proud to be presenting it this spring. As traditional as our band is (and that is a good thing), I believe it is necessary to explore new quality music in order to stay current and relevant in our ever changing society. Kyle Megna and the Monsoons, John Harmon and the membership of our band deserve all the credit for taking on and supporting such an "out of the box" challenge. Thank you to all of them. Our major sponsors for this concert need to be recognized as well, because without their financial support none of this would have been possible. Thank you Steven Peterson and Lisa Washa, Steve and Lynn Uecker and Dick and Mary Wehner!

I would like to introduce Erin Steward, the author of the "Meet a Member" portion of this edition of Fanfare. Erin is one of the younger members of our band, a former student of mine at Fondy

High, currently a French teacher in the Fond du Lac School District and our principal oboist.

Finally, I wanted you to know that I have made the decision to retire from my position as Music Director of the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band, effective November 13, 2022, following our annual Cathedral Concert. I'm announcing this at this time because throughout the summer you may see some new faces conducting the band. These would be people who are auditioning for the position. Watching someone rehearse and perform on the podium is one of the best ways to select a new music director. I'll have more to say about my retirement in the Fall Fanfare issue.

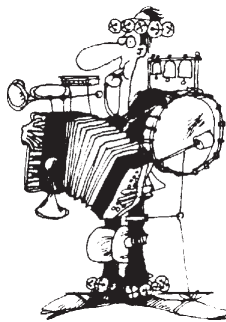
I hope to see you all on Saturday evening, April 23, 2022, for the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band's 41st Annual Spring Pops Concert. This concert is at 7 p.m. in the Fond du Lac High School PAC.

- Dale Shipe

Shipe will retire after Fall season

As announced in his Director's Notes column above, Dale Shipe will retire as Music Director following the Fall Cathedral Concert. He took on the role of Music Director in 2017, and previously served as Assistant and Associate Conductor for many years. Although the band will be sorry to see Dale go, we wish him well as he enjoys retirement with his wife Nancee, who retired from her job on March 31.

A search committee has been formed to identify a new conductor/music director. An informational flyer will be mailed to qualified candidates. The committee also invites our readers to pass this information along to potential candidates. There will be a link to the requirements and application form on the band website, www.fdlSymphonicBand.com and the Symphonic Band Facebook page. This link is now open and will close on May 1, 2022. In case the link does not work, or for more information, please contact Jill Wagner at musicwoman1956@gmail.com.



Kleine Stücke

We welcome three new musicians to the Band this season:

Melody Matty (trumpet) teaches 3rd grade in the FdL School District. Originally from Berlin WI, she is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire and moved to Fond du Lac from Las Vegas in 2009. She and her husband Dan are the parents of two children, Megan and Dustin.

Ashley Black (clarinet) completed a degree in Diagnostic Medical Sonography and is an Echsonographer at SSM Health-St. Agnes Hospital. A native of Seymour

WI, she formerly played in the Marian University Wind Ensemble.

Alyssa Homan (clarinet) hails from Wau-pun and graduated from Marian University with a degree in biology. Married to Ben Homan, she is a stay-at-home mom with their children Eden, Elsa and Ethan.

We welcome back to the band **Jimmy Jewson** (trumpet), who previously played in the band while a student at Fondy High. After earning his B.S. in Music Education at UW-LaCrosse he went on to complete his M.M. in orchestral trumpet at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Now a resident of Appleton with his wife, Laura, Jim is currently a student at Fox Valley Technical College, majoring in software development.

Congratulations to **Becky Knoll** (flute), who started a new job last fall as a licensed marriage and family therapist in the Counseling Center at UW-Oshkosh.

Meet a member - Erin Steward

Greetings, reader! My name is Erin Steward, and I am honored to be asked to share a little bit about myself with you. My first memories of the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band actually have nothing to do with me—my father first joined the band when he came to town in the 80s. I distinctly remember being small and watching him at a concert at Buttermilk. I was awed by how all these people picked up different instruments and somehow became a cohesive unit that created beautiful music, and something inside me said, "You can do that, too!"

Many years later came a moment that has defined my life for the better over and over again: 5th grade instrument selection. I remember oh-so-clearly Ms. Kawleski telling me I could do percussion or clarinet or maybe even oboe. For reasons unknown, something in me felt compelled to choose the oboe. Little did I know what all came along with this... hmm... special instrument! (Cue the jokes.) In truth, though, playing oboe has given me so many incredible opportunities. Whether it was in high school band (under Mr. Shipe's baton, no less!), different gigs and community outreach opportunities like playing in

the Leggiero Wind Quintet, or anything in between, I cannot fathom what my life would be like without music.

Speaking of life, one of the hardest questions I ever had to answer was whether or not I wanted to major in music. I attended Luther College, where even non-majors can live and breathe music, and I pondered this for a long time. Eventually, I concluded that making music and sharing it with others is one of the best things in my life, and that if I were to do this vocationally, I might lose some of the magic it presently holds for me.

Right after I graduated college in 2017 (with a degree in French and Religion), I made another life-changing decision: I was going to move to France to teach English! I spent two years there, and the incredible memories I made with the beautiful people I met accompany me wherever I go. Unfortunately, I was not able to play my oboe while there, and I missed it terribly!

When I returned back, Dale let me know that he would love to have me come join the Band on a more permanent basis (up until now, I had been a fixture as the oboist for the

Continued on P. 4

Manager Named

Tess Dlugosinski (doo-go-sin-ski) has been named the Symphonic Band's new Business Manager by the band's Board of Directors. Former manager Mary Arthur had been serving as interim manager, following the resignation of Sr. Cyndi Nienhaus last summer due to the demands of her full-time work with the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes.

Tess was a long-time member of the band's saxophone section until reluctantly retiring a few years ago due to medical problems. One of the many members who started playing in the band during their student years with Ray Wifler, Tess also served, at various times, as the band's librarian, member and secretary of the board, and manager's assistant.

After completing her degree in music education at Marian College, Tess taught instrumental music/ band and general music in Fond du Lac and Appleton, followed by several years as a teller and loan processor with American Bank / National Exchange Bank & Trust. She lives here in Fond du Lac with her husband, Jim, and their beloved "pup" Bella.

We are very fortunate to have someone with Tess' experience and skills to take over this important, though largely behind-the-scenes job with the band. (Not to mention her husband, Jim, is a wizard with all things technology-related!) Tess and Jim - welcome back to our band family!

Meet a Member, cont. from P. 3

Fourth of July concert). I was delighted to agree, as everyone has been so warm and welcoming to me from the very start. The rest, as they say, is history!

In all sincerity, I now find Mondays to be one of the best days of the week because I know I have Band rehearsal. I am humbled to be in the company of such fine musicians and people who encourage me so wholeheartedly. I hope that you, too, feel our appreciation of each other and our love for the music we make together when you attend our Pops concert this April!

2022 Summer Preview

Event	Day	Date	Time	Location
Symphonic Band (FSB)	Wed.	June 15	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Dorf Kapelle	Wed.	June 22	6:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Milwaukee Symphony	Wed.	June 29	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
FSB Americana Concert	Mon.	July 4	7:30 p.m.	Lakeside Park
Mayville Steel Drum All-Stars	Wed.	July 6	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
FSB Family Night	Wed.	July 13	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Thurs	July 14	7:30 p.m.	Firemen's Pk, Cmpbllsport
FdL H S Summer Band	Wed.	July 20	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Thurs.	July 27	6:30 p.m.	West End Park, Waupun
Torme Sings Torme	Wed.	Aug. 3	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Wed.	Aug. 10	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Kids from Wisconsin	Wed.	Aug. 17	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Thurs.	Aug. 18	7:30 p.m.	Sterr Park, Lomira
Symphonic Band	Wed.	Aug. 24	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park

Upcoming Music Events

SOUTH SHORE CHORALE

Let Music Live! Reimagined...Reawakened

—featuring—

Requiem for the Living • Dan Forrest

FdL HIGH SCHOOL PAC

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 7:30 P.M.

<https://hometowntickets.com>

FOND DU LAC JAZZ FESTIVAL

—featuring—

Brian Lydeen, saxophone, with the Lighthouse Big Band

Torme Sings Torme, with Vocalist Steve March Torme

THELMA SADOFF CENTER FOR THE ARTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 7:00 P.M.

www.thelmaarts.org

Pops Concert Reserved Seating Available!!

The Pops Concert on April 23 is free, with a free-will offering received to help defray costs. Reserved sponsors' seating, at \$15 per single main floor seat and \$100 per mezzanine box (seating for four) is available. Sponsors are listed in the program and enjoy complimentary refreshments.

For reserved seating, clip and return the coupon and check to:

FdL Symphonic Band
P O Box 1483 • FdL WI 54936
 or visit
www.fdl-symphonicband.com

SPONSORS SEATING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve:

____ Sponsors' box for 4 @ \$100 \$____
 (mezzanine level; limited availability)

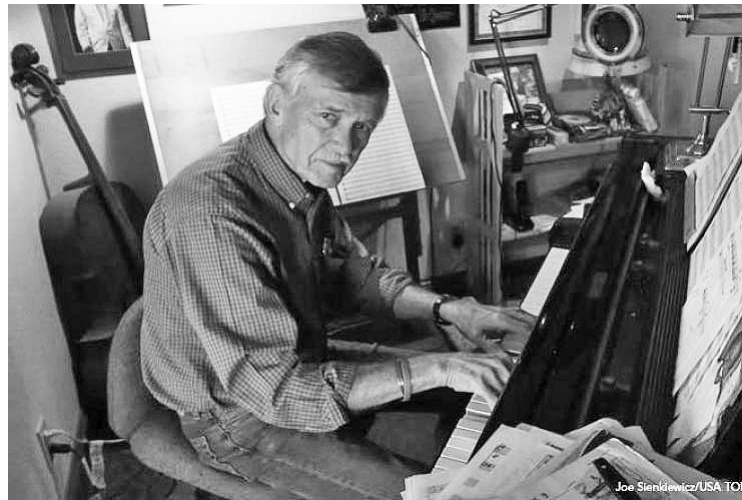
____ Sponsors' Tickets @ \$15.00 \$____
 (main floor)

Mail/email reservation confirmation to:

Please note: sponsors' orders received after April 15 cannot be guaranteed a program listing. No tickets will be mailed. Your name(s) will be on a reserved seating list when you arrive at the PAC.

Meet the Composer – John Harmon

John Harmon was born in 1935 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He began playing piano at a young age with his mother, who played mostly by ear. She taught him the basics, and the two harmonized tunes together. His exposure to jazz came early, too, thanks in part to his father's extensive collection of jazz records, which included recordings of such greats as Duke Ellington, Teddy Wilson, and Art Tatum.



to develop and direct the new jazz studies program, and in 1974 he was co-founder of the critically acclaimed, contemporary nonet, "Matrix," with whom he recorded five albums.

A widely commissioned composer, Harmon has written music for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Duluth Symphony, "The Orchestra" of Los Angeles, the Fox Valley

Symphony and the Santa Fe Chamber Orchestra. His music contains elements of jazz, as well as Americana and Native American influences.

Over the years, Harmon has been recognized repeatedly for his contributions to Wisconsin's music community. He received an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Lawrence University (2004), a Fox Valley Arts Council's Renaissance Award (2000) and a Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin State Music Association (1999). In 2005, Harmon was named a Fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters.

Pops Program

Vilabella • Kenneth Williams

Vilabella is more akin to the traditional quickstep than to the processional or symphonic march. However, the composer has added a number of unusual structural, harmonic and rhythmic touches to imbue this familiar form with a more modern sound. Originally titled "Houston on the Move," it was renamed *Vilabella* to reflect its Spanish flavor.

Selections from

The Great Race • Henry Mancini

This 1965 comedy classic from director Blake Edwards featured an all-star cast, an outlandish story, and terrific music by Henry Mancini, including *Pie in the Face Polka*, *They're Off*, *Push the Button*, *Max*, *The Sweetheart Tree*, *The Royal Waltz* and *The Great Race March*.

A Symphonic Prelude • Alfred Reed

This elaborate chorale prelude by iconic American band composer Alfred Reed is based on the 18th century Appalachian folk song "Black Is the Color of My True Love's Hair."

I Can Never Say No • John Harmon

Premiere performance of a "third stream" piece composed specifically for the Symphonic Band combined with Kyle Megna and the Monsoons. The title of the work speaks to John's inability to turn down requests for him to write or perform music. His advocacy for live music and live performance is second to none.

Symphony • John Harmon

(For love of the game ...)

Dedicated to his friend and fellow baseball fan, Robert Levy, *Symphony - for love of the game* contains twelve "sections" including *Game today! Say hey! Clearing the bases! Caught in a rundown*, and *It ain't over ... 'til it's over*. It reflects Harmon's interest in jazz, along with influences from Grainger, Gershwin, Copland and James Horner (composer of the movie scores: "Field of Dreams" and "Titanic").

Tight Squeeze • Alex Shapiro

Tight Squeeze ventures into new territory as it explores chromaticism and syncopation against a prerecorded percussion groove. The result is the wind band repertoire's first electroacoustic twelve-tone techno Latin bebop band piece!

A Tribute to Harry James • arr. Nestico

Ciribiribin, *The Mole*, *You Made Me Love You*, and *Trumpet Blues and Cantabile*, as arranged by the incomparable Sammy Nestico, featuring the FSB's own Kurt Shipe on trumpet.

Synergy • Jeff Jordan

Merriam-Webster defines Synergy as: "A mutually advantageous conjunction or compatibility of distinct business participants or elements." Another way of saying that is "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." Jeff Jordan's *Synergy* was dedicated to the memory of a band parent "Nelson Thornton, whose strong desire to bring students together through the arts created a lifelong impact on all those with whom he worked."

Fond du Lac Symphonic Band

DALE A. SHIPE
Music Director

JILL WAGNER
Associate Conductor

Saturday, April 23
7:00 p.m.
FdL High School PAC
801 Campus Drive

FREE ADMISSION
FREE-WILL
OFFERING

-41ST ANNUAL-

Pops Concert

-FEATURING-

KYLE MEGNA & THE MONSOONS

Premiere
Performance of
I Can Never Say No
by John Harmon

Selections from
"The Great Race"
Henry Mancini

A Tribute to
Harry James
Kurt Shipe, trumpet

Symphony
(For love of the game)
by John Harmon



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