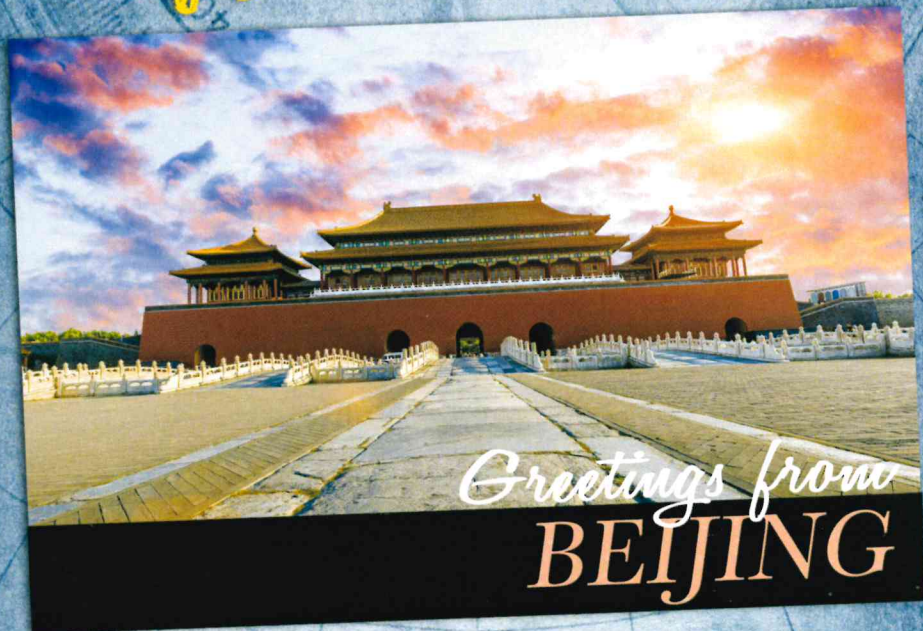


Postcards from China



featuring the

AUGUSTANA BAND

In performance at the 2019
South Dakota Bandmasters Association
Convention

Friday, February 8, 2019 • 2:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center

South Dakota State University

Brookings, SD

Program

- March Intercollegiate (1892) Charles Ives
(1874-1954)
- Lord of the Rings (1987) Johan de Meij
(b. 1953)
arr. Lavender
- Four Winds (2018) John C. Pennington
(b. 1963)

AUGUSTANA PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

***Jackson Dyce, Harrison Freese, Elizabeth Holmes,
Dana LeVan, Joseph Norem, Benjamin Rangel, John Pennington***

- Steampunk Suite (2017) Erika Svanoe
I. Charlie and the Mechanical Man Marching Band (b. 1976)
II. The Strange Case of Doctor Curie and Madam Hyde
III. Bertie Wells attends Mr. Verne's lecture on flying machines
IV. Barnum and Tesla's Tandem Bicycle

Program Notes

March Intercollegiate (1892)

March Intercollegiate by Charles Ives is typical of late 19th-century American march forms. It was Charles' father, George Ives, who steeped Charles in the lore of bands and band music; from the age of 12, young Charles was a drummer in his father's Danbury, Connecticut, Town Band. Earlier, during the Civil War, Ives senior, then 17 years old, commanded a Union Army Band. "That's a good band," President Lincoln is said to have remarked about Ives's Brigade Band of the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery.

March Intercollegiate was written some time before Ives's 19th birthday, for performance by the Danbury Band at the local fair. While showing many typical march motifs of the period, *Intercollegiate* is also prophetic of Ives's role as an American musical innovator. Notable are its subtle rhythmic alterations in the quotation of a familiar melody ("Annie Lisle") and the abrupt and unorthodox modulation at the trio.

—note by Keith Brion

Lord of the Rings (1987)

Johan de Meij's first symphony THE LORD OF THE RINGS is based on the trilogy of that name by J.R.R. Tolkien. This book has fascinated many millions of readers since its publication in 1955. The symphony consists of five separate movements, each illustrating a personage or an important episode from the book. The movements are:

- I. GANDALF (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

The symphony was written in the period between March 1984 and December 1987, and had its première in Brussels on 15th March 1988, performed by the "Groot Harmonie-orkest van de Gidsen" under the baton of Norbert Nozy. In 1989, The Symphony THE LORD OF THE RINGS was awarded a first prize in the Sudler International Wind Band Composition Competition in Chicago, and a year later, the symphony was awarded by the Dutch Composers Fund. In 2001, the orchestral version was premiered by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.

Four Winds (2018)

Four Winds was composed specifically for the Percussion Ensemble and Augustana Band 2019 tour of the People's Republic of China and was premiered at Jiaotong University in Shanghai, China on January, 10th. The initial inspiration was a LaKota Ceremonial Chant, titled, *Four Directions*, that is presented by the vibraphone in harmonics and concludes with a complete statement by the marimba in the closing section. The drums, performed with hands, brushes, and ultimately with mallets, are an imitation of Inuit Hoop Drums found in North America. The number four is manifested in both macro and micro dimensions throughout the composition.

—note by John C. Pennington

Steampunk Suite (2017)

"Steampunk" refers to a subgenre of science fiction and sometimes fantasy that incorporates technology and aesthetic designs inspired by 19th-century industrial steam-powered machinery. It places an emphasis on steam- or spring-propelled gadgets. The most common historical steampunk settings are often set in the Victorian era, but in an alternative history where technology employs steam power. It may, therefore, be described as neo-Victorian. Steampunk features retrofuturistic inventions as people in the 19th century might have envisioned them, and is likewise rooted in the era's perspective on fashion, culture, architectural style, and art. Such technology may include fictional machines like those found in the works of H. G. Wells and Jules Verne. (*Wikipedia*)

Steampunk Suite attempts to depict various scenes that take place in a fictional alternate history that features notable people alive in the Victorian era, including Charles Ives, Marie Curie, H.G. Wells, Jules Verne, P.T. Barnum and Nikola Tesla. It borrows from popular music of the era, including the cakewalk, march, waltz, and the song "Daisy Bell." These are combined with sounds of clockwork and imagined steam technology. It also borrows various musical elements from numerous composers of time, including Ives, Sousa, Satie, Karl King, Stravinsky, and Weill, with some Khachaturian and Danny Elfman thrown in for good measure. This piece has been transcribed for wind ensemble from the original chamber work *Steampunk Scenes* by the composer.

—note by Erika Svanoe

Conductors



DR. CHRISTOPHER UNGER was named the 5th conductor of the Augustana Band and began his tenure at the university in September 2015. Previously, Unger was the Interim Director of Bands at the University of British Columbia. Prior to his appointment at U.B.C., Dr. Unger served as the Assistant Conductor of both the Eastman Wind Orchestra and the Eastman Wind Ensemble. At Eastman, Dr. Unger was honoured with the Frederick Fennell Fellowship for Advanced Conducting Study, the Evan Whallon Conducting Award, and the prestigious Walter Hagen Conducting Prize. His role at Eastman provided him with the opportunity to act as a producer on the Eastman Wind Ensemble's 2013 release on Avie Records titled *Stravinsky-Octet/L'Histoire du Soldat*. In addition to conducting the wind ensembles, Dr. Unger worked with the Brass Guild, the Trumpet Ensemble, and the Graduate Chamber Orchestra. He also was chosen to conduct a featured performance of *Imis*, by Massimo Luaticella, the 2011/2012 OSSIA International Composition Competition winner, with the Ossia New Music Ensemble.

Prior to his graduate studies, Dr. Unger was the Instrumental Music Teacher at G.P. Vanier Secondary School in Courtenay, British Columbia. Under his baton, the instrumental ensembles at Vanier participated in regional and national festivals and received national recognition for their performances at Musicfest Canada. Recently, Dr. Unger won the American Prize in Conducting in the Wind Ensemble Division (2013).

Dr. Unger's principal conducting teachers were Dr. Mark Scatterday and Dr. Colleen Richardson. He has attended a number of influential conducting symposiums where he worked with master wind conductors such as Donald Hunsberger, Frank Battisti, Charles Peltz, Michael Haithcock, Allan McMurray, Craig Kirchoff, Michael Votta, Gary Hill, and Rodney Winther. He maintains professional affiliations with the College Band Directors National Association, the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and the Conductor's Guild.

Dr. Unger received his D.M.A in conducting from the Eastman School of Music in 2013. Additionally, he holds degrees from the University of Western Ontario and the University of British Columbia.



DR. JOHN PENNINGTON is an educator, composer, performer, author, producer and conductor. Dr. Pennington is currently a Professor and Chair of the Music Department at Augustana University and recently the Artistic Director of the Animas Music Festival in Durango, Colorado. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan, Arizona, and Arizona State. As an orchestral performer, Dr. Pennington is currently the Principal Percussionist and Associate Principal Timpanist and with the South Dakota Symphony and Principal Timpanist with the Music in the Mountains Summer Music Festival Orchestra in Durango, Colorado. Dr. Pennington is currently a Cultural Envoy for the State Department in the Middle East (most recently Lebanon) where he presents concerts, clinics and masterclasses. With performances on four continents and over twenty-five states he has performed on *A Prairie Home Companion* and been a featured performer at six Percussive Arts Society International Conventions. With over thirty recordings to date he has recorded for Ensemble 21, Summit, Cristo, OCP, Tresona, and Equilibrium labels. Recent recording releases include: *Gitanjali*, for Voice, American Gamelan, Harmonium, and Guitar (composed & produced-2014), *Song of God Among Us*, Advent Music for Choir, Guitar and Percussion (percussion-2016-17), *Brasileirinho*, South American Music for Guitar and Percussion (co-produced composed and arranged-2010), *Steps* (co-produced composed and arranged-2008), Music for Trumpet and Percussion with Stephen Dunn, *Lou Harrison, American Gamelan* (produced, conducted and performed 2007), *Compassionate and Wise* (co-produced, composed and performed 2006-

Equilibrium Press). Active as a composer and arranger he has over forty compositions for soloist, duo, chamber, musical/theatrical, and films and dozens of arrangements for numerous instrumental and vocal combinations. Extensive studies in world music have included experience in African, Middle Eastern, Indonesian, Cuban and the South Indian Karnatak tradition. Currently, Dr. Pennington continues his study and teaching of the Northern Hindustani tradition of music in North India and the Javanese and Balinese traditions of Indonesia. Please visit JohnPennington.com for more information.

AUGUSTANA BAND

FLUTE

*Emily DeGroot '21, Lismore, MN
Macie Class '22, Sioux Falls, SD
Brittany Kauffman '21, Hamburg, MN

BASSOON

*Sophie Drotzmann '20, Yankton, SD
Joseph Norem '20, Houston, TX

CLARINET

*Emily Oyos '19, Brandon, SD
Rachel Nguyen '21, Sioux Falls, SD
Grace Fetrl '21, Maple Grove, MN
Nicole Kratz '20, Sioux City, IA
Sarah Archer '21, Brandon, SD

BASS CLARINET

Avery Schupner '21, Tea, SD

SAXOPHONE

*Adam Dale '19, Sioux Falls, SD
Janai Crawford '22, Tea, SD
Jimmy Uthe '20, Sioux Falls, SD
Briana Pitz '22, Mitchell, SD
Jack Taylor '19, Rapid City, SD (Tenor)
Lydia Sargent '22, St. James, MN (Tenor)
Anna VanRavenswaay '21, Montevideo, MN
(Baritone)
Kohl Courbat '21, Tea, SD (Baritone)

BLUE & GOLD BAND ARTISTS

William Kruse '22, Sioux Falls, SD
Ben Rangel '21, Sioux Falls, SD

TRUMPET

*Morgan O'Neal '22, Sioux Falls, SD
Robbie Miller '18, Sioux Falls, SD
Natalie Ferris '20, Yankton, SD
Holden Sutter '21, Lincoln, NE

HORN

*Nathaniel Pekas '22, Sioux Falls
Paige Morgan '22, Pipestone, MN
Hannah Cushing '22, Montevideo, MN
Kaitlyn Hanna '21, Sioux Falls, SD
Mollie Varpness '20, Montevideo, MN

TROMBONE

Corey Albrecht '20, Fairfax, MN
B-Anders Long '20 Byron, MN
B-Trenor Campbell '20, Sioux Falls, SD

EUPHONIUM

Sam Konzem '22, Sioux Falls, SD
Trey Townsend '19, Sioux Falls, SD

TUBA

*Fletcher Hotz, '21, Minneapolis, MN

PERCUSSION

*Dana LeVan '20, Tea, SD
Ellie Holmes '22, Brandon, SD
Hank Freese '21, Sioux Falls, SD
Jackson Dyce '20, Sioux Falls, SD

*Principal



The Augustana Band ready to perform at the National Library of China Concert Hall, Beijing.

During the January Term, the Augustana Band cruised the Yangtze River and voyaged through historic Wuhan, Xian, Beijing and Shanghai on a guided journey fit for ancient emperors and eager Augustana Vikings.

Students in the band explored China's famed monuments and locations including the Forbidden City, ancient temples, villages and enchanting river gorges. They walked along the Great Wall, came face-to-face with the Terracotta Army, and visited people in their homes and in university settings. The band experienced ancient and modern China (and food!) at its absolute best and performed for full houses in some of China's most spectacular concert halls. Best of all, they made friends with the Chinese people, and came home with an enhanced global view and their place in it.

This tour marked the 20th Anniversary of our first tour by the band to Asia in 1999. We have learned a great deal since that first adventure, and China has changed in imaginable ways. What remains, however, are memories of enthusiastic audiences each time we are there, and of sights and sounds that will remain with students forever.

THE 2019 TOUR CONCERT SITES

Shanghai Jiao Tong University, one of the most prestigious universities in China. The Band performed to a full-house with the SJTU Band in honor of the Alumni Day celebrations and induction of new members of the Alumni Hall of Fame.

Hubei Theatre, Wuhan, Hubei Province. The band was featured in concert in the city's 1400-seat sold-out concert hall.

Hubei University, Wuhan. Our third visit to this comprehensive university where we have become "old friends" and the welcome extends from seminars with students, the opportunity to learn how to "dragon dance" and a full-house concert with the HU "Traditional" Chinese Music Orchestra.

Xi'an Concert Hall, Xi'an, Shanxi Province. In the heart of the city of the home of the Terra Cotta Warriors stands a gorgeous arts complex, including the 1,250-seat Xi'an Concert Hall which was full for our concert.

National Library of China Concert Hall, Beijing, Hebei Province. The impressive National Library has an equally impressive 1200 seat concert hall on its grounds. The band performed here to an enthusiastic full-house of music students and music lovers from the area.