

STANDING OVATION

CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE

Symphonic Band Excellence

Holiday Spectacular

Dr. Christian Carichner
Artistic Director & Conductor

Saturday
December 13
7:30 p.m.

MET Recital Hall,
Simon Estes Music Hall, ISU
2427 Union Drive, Ames

Sunday
December 14
3 p.m.

Staplin Performing Arts Center
3650 Woodland Avenue
West Des Moines



The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble (CIWE) is an adult symphonic band with musicians drawn from the greater Des Moines area. Founded in 2003 by a group of central Iowa music educators under the leadership of Dr. Evan Feldman, CIWE has grown from its roots as a primarily educator ensemble into a vibrant group of musicians representing a wide range of backgrounds and professions.

In 2025, CIWE was honored as a **Bravo Greater Des Moines Spotlight Award Winner**, recognizing its artistic excellence and community impact. We are also proud that we are invited to be a featured performer at the 2026 Iowa Bandmasters Conference. Other notable recognitions include performing under the direction of Colonel Jason Fettig, former conductor of "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, at the Iowa Bandmasters Association Conference in May 2023, and an invited performance at the Regional Conference of the Association of Concert Bands in Omaha, Nebraska, in April 2024.

Each season, CIWE presents five public concerts along with special events, reaching audiences across Central Iowa. The ensemble is committed to expanding access to high-quality live music by partnering with local human services agencies to engage underserved communities. CIWE also supports the next generation of musicians through its annual high school student solo competition, awarding cash prizes to outstanding young performers.

The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization registered as a corporation in the State of Iowa.

MISSION To build lifelong engagement in the arts by providing meaningful and challenging concert band experiences.

VISION The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble will be the Midwest's premier wind ensemble performing conscientious programming to appreciative, loyal, and diverse audiences.

VALUES We believe in the power of music to positively impact people. We believe our performances should be accessible to everyone.

DR. CHRISTIAN CARICHNER

Artistic Director & Conductor



Dr. Christian Carichner serves as the Associate Director of Bands and Director of the Cyclone Marching Band at Iowa State University. He oversees all aspects of the Athletic Band program including the 350-member Iowa State University Cyclone Football 'Varsity' Marching Band, Men's and Women's Basketball bands, Volleyball Band, Wrestling Band and State Storm. In addition to his athletic band duties, Christian also teaches the Marching Band Methods course and instructs the applied Tuba and Euphonium studios. Previously, Christian served as Assistant Director of Bands at ISU in addition to instruction of the low brass studios, teaching low brass methods, and directing both the Concert and Campus bands.

While serving as director of the Cyclone Marching Band, the band was awarded the prestigious Sudler Trophy – the highest honor bestowed upon a collegiate marching band in the United States.

Christian attended Ithaca College where he earned degrees in music education and performance while studying tuba with Dave

Unland and brass pedagogy with Alex Shuhan, as well as conducting studies with Stephen Peterson, Jeffery Grogan and Janet Galvan. After Ithaca, Christian earned a Master of Music degree in Tuba Performance from Arizona State University where he studied with acclaimed Tubist and pedagogue Sam Pilafian. Christian also studied tuba with Patrick Sheridan, Charles Villarrubia and Matt Good.

Christian has performed or taught in 47 states and 12 different countries across the globe. Recently, he was a clinician/presenter at The Midwest Clinic, the CBDNA Athletic Band Symposium and a performer/clinician at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference.

Christian has also performed with the Arizona Musicfest Orchestra, the Tampa Tradewinds, the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Conway Symphony, Pinnacle Brass, Rhythm and Brass, Proteus 7, Salt River Brass and has performed with the national tour of the hit Broadway musical Chicago.

Christian served for many years as Brass Caption Head for the Phantom Regiment and The Academy Drum and Bugle Corps, as well as a lead brass instructor for the Aimachi Marching Band from Nagoya, Japan. Currently, he is in demand as a guest clinician, judge and show designer/arranger.

Christian is a member of CBDNA, Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Kappa Phi and the International Tuba Euphonium Association. He is an honorary member of both Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. Christian is also the first marching brass artist for Pearl/Adams where he consults on the design of their marching brass instruments and is also an Adams Custom Brass artist.

MUSICIANS

Central Iowa Wind Ensemble

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Dr. Christian Carichner

PICCOLO/FLUTE

Lydia Richards

FLUTE

Elysia Crecelius
Elly Hartbecke
Sarah Howell
Joni Kinnan
Rose Kundel*

OBOE

Kristin Rasmussen

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Colleen Schulze

BASSOON

Emily Castelline
Laura Thieben
Laura Williams Graham

CLARINET

Lauren Cassaidy
Colin Gaynor
Pam Hayden
Walter Hyde
John Kahrl
Gayle Lundak
Elizabeth Peterson
Bryce Sederburg
Katie Seehusen
Sura Smadi
Kristi Stubblefield
Christina Tait
Dana Thacker

BASS CLARINET

Tony Pappas-Garton

SAXOPHONE

Jacob Lemons – Tenor
Cameron Mitchell – Alto
Joseph Thering* – Alto
Jennifer Williams – Baritone

TRUMPET

Brian Burke
Hans Decker
Dan Giesinger
Rebecca Gomez
Lynn Lange
Henry Leader
Sarah McEntee
Steve Newman*
Rich Thimmesch

HORN

Greg Barton
Kristy Carter-Mauss
Cristina Deeds*
Spencer Marsh
Logan TeKolste

TROMBONE

Rick Eichner
James Deeds
Josh Deutmeyer
Fred Lange*
Ryan Rowley
Colton Sleister

EUPHONIUM

Sara Reichart
Justin Wells

TUBA

Brian Kinnan*
Leo Salazar
Chad Thompson

PERCUSSION

Collin Bell
Kate Cassaidy
Josh Grant
Jaxson Mrzena
David Naylor*
Jeff Norton
Harris Rogerson

* Denotes Section Leader

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR



JOHN BURNETT-LARKINS
ANNOUNCER

John Burnett-Larkins is an accomplished host of musical ensembles and events. He's been the announcer of the Iowa State University Cyclone Football Marching Band since 2000, has been the emcee for Ames Municipal Band concerts for an equal number of years, and is also known as the host of Ames Tubachristmas since that event's premiere there in 2010.

John also has a significant background as an announcer for Iowa State University sports events and currently serves in that role for Cyclone gymnastics meets.


His full-time job is serving as a communication specialist in Iowa State University's College of Engineering where he works with the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering in news and feature writing, web site and social media work, publications, photography and more.



403 IOWA AVE
LUTHER, IA 50152
PHONE: (515) 257-7490
CATERING: (515) 218-5706
WHATCHASMOKINBBQ.COM


BOOK YOUR CATERING TODAY!
SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS
STYLE BBQ FOR GROUPS
OF 25 TO 5,000





Happy Holidays

GIVE A YEAR LONG GIFT
WITH A SUBSCRIPTION TO
THE IOWAN
6 ISSUE SUBSCRIPTION
FOR JUST \$24



ORDER AT IOWAN.COM

CONCERT PROGRAM



Holiday Spectacular

Selections from the following:

- 
- A Most Wonderful Christmas arr. Robert Sheldon
 - A Winter's Journey Randall Standridge
 - In Heavenly Peace Franz Gruber
arr. William Owens
 - Jingle Them Bells James Pierpont
arr. Julie Giroux
 - Nutcracker Fantasia Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
arr. Julie Giroux
 - Silent Night in Gotham Franz Gruber
arr. Julie Giroux
 - Snow on Snow Megan Vinther
 - The Twelve Days of Christmas arr. Julie Giroux
 - Walking Down Christmas Lane arr. Jarod Hall
 - What Child is That Playing Carol of the Bells? arr. Julie Giroux
 - Yuletide Sleigh Rides Josh Trentadue

PROGRAM NOTES

Holiday Spectacular

A Most Wonderful Christmas

arr. Robert Sheldon

In this arrangement packed full with exuberance and sparkle, *A Most Wonderful Christmas* blends some of the most beloved tunes of the season into a vibrant and uplifting overture. Sheldon's masterful scoring captures the joy, warmth, and familiar cheer of holiday favorites, inviting listeners to settle in and celebrate the spirit of the season.



A Winter's Journey

Randall Standridge

This piece is a joyful, rhythmic celebration of winter travel and the people waiting at the other end of the road. Using the familiar melody of *Over the River and Through the Wood* as its foundation. The composer combined it with original material to create a fast-paced ride in a compound 12/8 meter — perfect for evoking the gallop of hooves, the jingle of bells, and the crisp energy of a snowy day.

The piece opens with a festive burst of momentum, full of active percussion, colorful scoring, and melodic moments for every section of the band. In the middle section, the mood turns more reflective and nostalgic — as if we're remembering winters past, warm fires, and familiar faces. Then, the music lakes off again, building to a triumphant and energetic finale.

In Heavenly Peace

Franz Gruber

arr. William Owens

Owens' lyrical and tender arrangement of *Silent Night* offers a moment of reflection and calm. Gentle orchestration and warm melodic writing bring out the carol's timeless message, allowing the ensemble to explore its most expressive and tranquil colors.



Jingle Them Bells

James Pierpont

arr. Julie Giroux

Julie Giroux takes *Jingle Bells* for a spirited joyride in this clever and exuberant reimagining. Syncopation, style changes, and bursts of playful energy keep the familiar tune fresh and fun — a musical sleigh ride full of surprises.



Continued to Next Page

PROGRAM NOTES

Holiday Spectacular

Continued from Previous Page

Nutcracker Fantasia

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

arr. Julie Giroux

"This arrangement came about through an actual experience I had. I wanted to do a setting of some type of *The Nutcracker* ... which would include many of my favorites from the ballet — and not just the typical ones we hear in the Suite. To refresh my memory, I decided to watch the entire ballet. Somewhere during the performance I fell asleep. I blame my age. While I was sleeping, I was dreaming a few of the melodies in quite different settings. When I woke up, the ballet was still going. This experience serves as the premise for this chart.

We start out with a Godfather-like setting of *The Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairies*, followed by *Waltz of the Flowers* done in two styles. First, that of a Rogers and Hammerstein-style waltz; then a slow Copland-ish setting. This concludes the fantasia (my dreaming) portion of this chart. The rest of it is literal, so literal that all the keys are the original keys from the composer's score."

— *Program note from the composer.*



Silent Night in Gotham

Franz Gruber

arr. Julie Giroux

What if *Silent Night* unfolded not in a quiet chapel but in the dark, moody soundscape of a comic-book metropolis? Giroux's inventive arrangement blends noir-styled harmonies, dramatic rhythmic figures, and shimmering textures to recast the classic carol in a completely unexpected light. It's atmospheric, cinematic, and uniquely captivating.

Snow on Snow

Megan Vinther

Inspired by winter imagery and poetic stillness, *Snow on Snow* envelops the listener in a soft, crystalline sound world. Vinther's writing gently layers motifs and harmonies, echoing the quiet accumulation of snowfall—a musical meditation on beauty, calm, and the delicate hush of winter.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

arr. Julie Giroux

With her signature wit and orchestral imagination, Giroux transforms this cumulative classic into a delightfully inventive musical adventure. Unexpected stylistic twists and playful orchestration bring new life — and plenty of humor — to each verse, culminating in a festive and spirited finale.



Continued to Next Page

PROGRAM NOTES

Holiday Spectacular



Continued from Previous Page

Walking Down Christmas Lane

arr. Jarod Hall

Bright, engaging, and full of rhythmic charm, Hall's arrangement strings together familiar holiday melodies as though strolling past warmly lit holiday scenes. Each musical "stop" offers a burst of nostalgia, wrapped in fresh contemporary scoring.



What Child Is That Playing Carol of the Bells?

arr. Julie Giroux

Giroux seamlessly intertwines two treasured melodies — *What Child Is This?* and *Carol of*

the Bells — to create a haunting yet radiant tapestry of sound. The juxtaposition of lyrical beauty and driving rhythmic energy highlights the emotional depth of both carols, resulting in a powerful and memorable fusion.

Yuletide Sleigh Rides

Josh Trentadue

This composition is full of sparkle and momentum, and Trentadue delivers a jubilant ride powered by rhythmic vitality and festive cheer. Brimming with bright percussion, lively melodies, and the unmistakable joy of holiday celebration, *Yuletide Sleigh Rides* sends listeners off with warmth, excitement, and a smile.

THANK YOU!

There are many people to thank for their contributions to today's performance and to our growth over the years.

CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE BOARD MEMBERS:

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Dr. Christian Carichner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Richard Thimmesch

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J.R. Deeds, President

Rose Kundel, Vice President

Rick Eichner, Treasurer

Justin Wells, Secretary

Brian Kinnan, Director

Gayle Lundak, Director

David Naylor, Director

Chad Thompson, Director

Paul Ferrone – A Management Practice for Arts & Cultural Organizations

Mary Bendgen – Graphic Designer

Lynn Lange – Music Librarian

Thank You to the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall, Simon Estes Music Hall, Iowa State University, Staplin Performing Arts Center and Valley High School Bands

ANNOUNCING THE 2026 AIMEE KRUG MEMORIAL STUDENT SOLO COMPETITION

The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble is proud to announce the 16th Annual Aimee Krug Student Solo Competition, with auditions scheduled for February 15, 2026. This competition is a fantastic platform for students to showcase their musical skills and passion.

Audition Date: February 15, 2026

Application Deadline: January 19, 2026

CASH PRIZES AWAIT:

Winners of the competition stand a chance to receive cash prizes for first, second, and third place! Additionally, the first-place winner will have the extraordinary opportunity to perform their solo with the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble on May 3, 2025.

We believe that great opportunities should be shared, so we encourage you to spread the word to students, friends, band directors, and private teachers. Let's ensure that deserving musicians in our community don't miss out on this chance!

Thank you for your support in promoting the arts and nurturing the musical talent in our community. We look forward to receiving applications from enthusiastic and dedicated young musicians.

CENTRAL IOWA
WIND ENSEMBLE
Together... We're a Band!

Presents the 16th Annual Aimee Krug Memorial
Student Solo Competition

CASH PRIZES:
First Place: \$1,000
Second Place: \$500
Third Place: \$250

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
January 19, 2026
AUDITION DATE:
February 15, 2026

First Place winner will perform their solo in concert with the
Central Iowa Wind Ensemble on May 3, 2025.

A founding member of the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble, Aimee shined as a gifted oboe instructor and performer. Her passion for teaching students was demonstrated by having several All-State qualifying students over the years. Aimee passed from this life on Saturday April 3, 2016 following a courageous battle with breast cancer. Aimee was a cherished member of the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble and we are dedicating this solo competition to her memory.

For more information and to register, scan the QR Code
or visit www.ciwe.org/outreach/solo

Follow us on [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#)

Aimee Krug was a founding member of the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble. Aimee shined as a gifted oboe instructor and performer. Her passion for teaching students was demonstrated by having several All-State qualifying students over the years. Aimee passed from this life in 2010 following a courageous battle with breast cancer. Aimee was a cherished member of the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble and we dedicate this solo competition to her memory.



To learn more about the competition and access the application form, please scan the QR Code or visit www.ciwe.org/outreach/solo.

WAYS TO SUPPORT CIWE

CHAIR UNDERWRITING PROGRAM

Chair Underwriters are a select group of individuals who believe in the mission and vision of the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble and its values of the power of music to positively impact people and that their concerts should be accessible to everyone. Donors who contribute \$500 or more have the option of choosing a musician's chair and receiving recognition as that chair's underwriter for the concert season.

By becoming a Chair Underwriter, you demonstrate your commitment to the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble and make it possible for others to have the transformative experience concerts can provide.

For more information, contact
Rich Thimmesch at 515-991-8653
or via email at executivedirector@ciwe.org.

THANK YOU TO CHAIR UNDERWRITERS! PLEASE HELP US FILL THE REMAINING CHAIRS:

Conductor	\$1,500
Piccolo	Rose Kundel
Flute	Brian & Joni Kinnan
Oboe	Rich & Karen Thimmesch
Bassoon	\$500
Clarinet	Gayle Lundak
Bass Clarinet	Tony Pappas-Garton
Alto Saxophone	\$500
Tenor Saxophone	\$500
Baritone Saxophone	\$500
Trumpet	Renee & Steve Newman
French Horn	Greg Barton
Trombone	\$500
Bass Trombone	\$500
Euphonium	\$500
Tuba	Chad Thompson
Timpani	\$500
Percussion	Don Manley



For more information about Supporting CIWE, please contact
Rich Thimmesch at 515-991-8653 or via email at executivedirector@ciwe.org.

MAJOR GIFTS – IMMEDIATE IMPACT

Key Features:

- Funds are available for immediate use.
- May be unrestricted or designated for a specific purpose of your choice.
- Terms are documented through a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure your wishes are honored.

Examples of Major Gifts:

- One-time cash contributions.
- Multi-year pledges.
- Gifts of stock, real estate, or other appreciated assets.
- Qualified charitable distributions from a traditional IRA, including required minimum distributions (RMDs), may also be tax-advantageous.
- For non-itemizers there is a \$1,000/\$2,000 above the line tax deduction available for contributions to non-profit organizations.

Please consult with your tax advisor or financial planner to determine the best giving strategy for your personal situation.

How to Give:

- Donate securely online by credit card at ciwe.org or scan the QR Code.



- Mail a check to:

Central Iowa Wind Ensemble
1510 NE Stoneridge Ct.
Ankeny, IA 50021

- Work with us to specify your wishes through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

ENDOWMENT GIFTS – A LASTING LEGACY

Endowment Gifts are invested in perpetuity, providing a reliable source of annual funding that sustains CIWE's mission for generations to come.

Key Features:

- The principal remains permanently invested.
- Up to 4% of the fund's value is distributed annually to support our programs.
- Creates sustainable, long-term impact and honors your legacy of support.
- CIWE's Endowment Fund is held at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Through the Engage Iowa program, donors may qualify for a 25% state tax credit on eligible endowment gifts.

Examples of Major Gifts:

- Cash gifts directed to the CIWE Endowment Fund.
- Bequests in a will or trust.
- Beneficiary designations from retirement plans or life insurance policies.
- Gifts of stock or real estate designated for the endowment.

As with all charitable contributions, we encourage donors to consult with their tax advisor or financial planner to explore the best options for achieving their philanthropic and financial goals.

How to Give:

- Donate to the CIWE Endowment Fund.
- Include CIWE in your estate or planned giving arrangements.
- Consult with your financial or legal advisor to explore new tax-advantaged giving strategies.

2025–2026 DONORS

GRAND BENEFACTOR
\$5,000 and above

Bravo Greater Des Moines
Iowa Arts Council/
National Endowment
for the Arts
James & Cristina Deeds

BENEFACTOR
\$1,000–\$4,999

Anonymous
Donald Lamberti
Cheryl A. & Donald C. Lee
Renee & Steven Newman
Polk County Board of
Supervisors
Richard & Karen Thimmesch
Chad & Ellen Thompson

SPONSOR
\$500–\$999

McKee, Voorhees &
Sease, PLC
Greg Barton
Rick Eichner & Gayle Lundak
Rose & Scott Kundel
Don Manley
Tony Pappas-Garton
Julie Rumohr

PATRON
\$250–\$499

Anonymous
Greater Iowa Credit Union
Kemin Industries
Rieman Music
Paul & Lori Carter
Ron & Carole Hallebeck
Jeremy & Elly Hartbecke

Emily Hughes
Fred & Lynn Lange
Alan & Rochelle Naylor
Roger Nielson
Larry Saylor
Justin & Emily Wells

CONTRIBUTOR
\$100–\$249

First National Bank
Greater Des Moines
Dermatology
Jeanne Balk
Zachary Beaman
Phillip Bell
Brian Burke
Brian & Julie Cassaidy
Emily Castelle
Elysia Crecelius
Linda Decker
James & Jean Deeds
Richard L. Eichner
Brent Engelbert
Gretchen Funaro
Mitch Hambleton
Mary Ann Juhl
Gary Lemons
Jacob Lemons
Jaxson Mrzena
Jay & Cherri Nugent
Norma Pappas
Susan & Donald Pelka
Sarah Reichart
Linda Robbins Coleman
Julie Rumohr
Colton Sleister
Kathleen Seehusen
Kenneth & Donna Stinson

Peter Stoltenow
Adam Thimmesch
Craig Van Gundy
Jennifer Wade
Jeffrey & Carolyn Wells

FRIEND
\$50–\$99

Dhuha Akili
Julie Bruns
Lydia Burkholder
Christian Carichner
Annabelle Chamberlain
Diane Drake
Josh Deutmeyer
Jill Garton
Jane Hartman
Frances Henderson
Richard Hoenig
Deborah Hoppus
Jennifer Horner
David Howell
Mary Jobst
Diane Johansen
Renee Kayser
Joyce Kenagy
Janice Larsen
Dennis Mabie
Michelle Montgomery
Kathleen Murrin
Katherine Olah
John Pollak
Amy Scherer
Richard Snyder
Ramona Tortorilla
United Way
Sally Walsh

Continued to Next Page

Continued from Previous Page

INDIVIDUAL

Up to \$49

Anonymous
Ervin Ahren
Sally Benson
Lawrence Brennan
Tammy Brown
Barbara Burnham
Lydia Burkholder
Alan Carlsborg
Kristi Chambers
Cynthia Davis
William Dennis
Deb Dowling
Michelle Eisenhauer
Kristen Ericksen
Karen Freel
Russ Fulton
Janet Hanlin
Robert Hanson
Bryce Henson
Lynn Hodgeman
Diane Johansen
Wendy Keplinger
Angela Kirby
Ryan Kirk
Robert Korte
Amy LaCroix
Harriet Leitch
Michelle Mackey
Carol Meinecke
Gerald Miller
Candace Moore
Diane Moorman
Steven Moser
Danilo Noboa

Mary Norman
Roger Nowaddzky
Kenneth Ohms
Deborah Pic-Deutmeyer
Michael Plummer
Georgene Raver
Charles Roy
Judith Russell-Bucy
Carolyn Schmarzo
Kris Shay
Carol Stratemeyer
Paul Stoutenburg
ShoShanna Swanson
Allison Szurek
Teresa TeKolste
Janet Thurtell
Jennifer Wade
Kathryn Webb Wikert
Gary Wemer
Robin West

Zdzislaw Wozniczka
Mary Zirkelbach

HONORS AND MEMORIALS

In Honor of
Jeff Norton's Family
Zachary Beaman

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

John Deere
Emerson Electric
Symetra

IN-KIND GIFTS

Heuss Printing
Brian and Joni Kinnan
Microsoft
Sleister Music
Valley High School Bands



IOWA ARTS COUNCIL



Greater
Des Moines
Dermatology



YOUTH BAND FESTIVAL FOR 5th–6th GRADERS



In April, the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble (CIWE) will launch its first-ever Elementary Band Festival and Composer-in-Residence Program, an exciting new initiative that will engage nearly 200 5th- and 6th-grade students from across Central Iowa. These young musicians will come together for a full day of rehearsing, collaborating, and performing under the direction of two nationally known composers, **Laura Brittin Chambers** and **Peter Thompson**. An additional 250 students will benefit from on-site school workshops, where they will meet and work directly with Ms. Chambers who will conduct one of her own compositions. This experience not only elevates the students' musical learning but also expands CIWE's educational impact far beyond the festival stage.

GUEST CONDUCTOR AND COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE: CAROL BRITTIN CHAMBERS

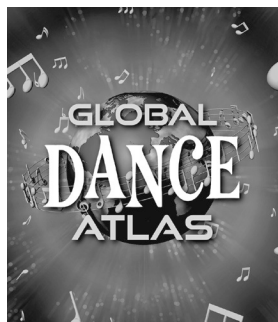
This inaugural festival will feature renowned composer Carol Brittin Chambers, current owner and lead composer of Aspenwood Music (aspenwoodmusic.com). Chambers is widely respected in the band world as a highly sought-after conductor, composer, and clinician, known for her colorful writing, engaging educational works, and dynamic collaborations with student musicians. She lives in San Antonio, Texas, where she serves on the music faculty at Texas Lutheran University, teaching composition and serving as Composer in Residence. Her expertise, energy, and passion for music education make her an extraordinary mentor for the hundreds of Iowa students participating in this year's festival.

GUEST CONDUCTOR AND COMPOSER: PETER THOMPSON

CIWE is also proud to feature Peter Thompson, a respected Iowa music educator and the creator of Amplified Warmups, a widely used resource in school band programs. Thompson has spent eighteen years with the Ames, Iowa band program, including thirteen years as the lead instructor for 6th grade band, three years assisting at Ames High School, and currently serving as the lead instructor for 8th grade. His ensembles are highly regarded, and in 2024 his group was honored with a performance at the Iowa Bandmasters Association state conference, one of the highest recognitions in the field. Thompson brings a deep understanding of young musicians, a passion for innovative teaching, and a valuable Iowa-based perspective to this year's festival rehearsals.

UPCOMING CIWE EVENTS

Visit [CIWE.org](https://ciwe.org) for free tickets and more information.



GLOBAL DANCE ATLAS

Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 3 p.m.

Pack your bags for a whirlwind tour of rhythm from around the world! From the sultry tangos of Piazzolla to the fiery passion of *Carmen*, the unstoppable energy of *Russian Sailors Dance*, and the spirited joy of shaker dances—this is a journey guaranteed to set your toes tapping and your heart soaring. Don't miss this vibrant celebration of music in motion!



FEAST!

Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 3 p.m.

Get ready to indulge in a musical menu like no other! We're serving up bold flavors with the sweeping drama of *Wine Dark Sea*, the quirky fun of *Party Potatoes*—yes, a tuba concerto about potatoes—and the outrageous spectacle of *Godzilla Eats Las Vegas!* This is a feast for the ears, filled with surprises, spice, and plenty of delight. Music has never been this delicious.

WE WOULD LOVE YOUR INPUT!



Please tell us what you think of today's concert by taking a survey. Your input will help make our future concerts better!

Scan the QR Code at left to complete a short survey or visit ciwe.org/survey.

TO LEARN MORE AND CONNECT WITH CIWE:



www.ciwe.org



CentralIowaWindEnsemble



[ciweorg](https://www.instagram.com/ciweorg)



2025-2026 Season

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS
FALL 2025

BEETLEJUICE JR.
TEEN MUSICAL, WINTER 2026

LOOKING GLASS LAND
SPRING 2026

NEWSIES JR.
SUMMER 2026



storytheatercompany.org

JOIN US FOR OUR

2025-2026 SEASON

Come experience the magic!



WEBSTER CITY
COMMUNITY THEATRE

1001 Willson Avenue, Webster City, Iowa
515-832-4456 ~ webstercitycommunitytheatre.org