

MIAMI EAST HIGH SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENTS

A HOLIDAY CONCERT
FEATURING THE FOLLOWING GROUPS

6TH GRADE BAND
JUNIOR HIGH BAND
HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND



DECEMBER 14, 2023
MIAMI EAST AUDITERIA

6TH GRADE BAND

JEFFREY SMITH, DIRECTOR

Holiday Rock

Traditional
Arr. Bernotas

God Rest Ye Merry Peeps

Traditional
Arr. Kiefer

Jingle Bell Rock

Beal and Boothe
Arr. Sweeney

JUNIOR HIGH BAND

JEFFREY SMITH, DIRECTOR

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Traditional
Arr. Story

Santa The Barbarian

Standridge

HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND

JEFFREY SMITH, DIRECTOR

Cambridge Carol

Traditional
Arr. Gassi

A Solitary Wish

Balmages

Not So Silent Night

VanDoren

6TH GRADE BAND

<u>Clarinet</u>	<u>Alto Sax</u>	<u>Tenor Sax</u>
Ani Garrison	Pierce Gipe	Emma Register
Lauren Landis	Jackson Gray	
Adelyn Robinson	Isabella Grooms	<u>Trombone</u>
Juliet Russell	Owen Scott	Reese Rohrer
Alexis Salm-Lee		
Payton Stapleton	<u>Trumpet</u>	<u>Percussion</u>
Elayna Vallery	EJ Bennett	Braden Cooper
	Morgan Holzen	Sam Mitchell
<u>Bass Clarinet</u>	Maddie Hurst	Teaghan Rich
Trey Legg	Thomas Knapke	Zach Riley
		Will Robbins

JUNIOR HIGH BAND

<u>Flute</u>	<u>Alto Sax</u>	<u>Trombone</u>
Alyssa Bodey	Zach Furlong	Hayden Blythe
Lauren Duff	Cameron Helsinger	Daniel Mallott
Kacie Gillian	Jacob Stoll	
Kimberly Neal	Aly Tschop	<u>Tuba</u>
Kenzie Rich		Levi Detrick
Kennedy Swigart	<u>Tenor Sax</u>	
	Mason Dillon	<u>Percussion</u>
<u>Clarinet</u>		Jude Couser
Miles Gilbert	<u>Trumpet</u>	Autumn Gates
Payton Gill	Bailey Brown	Kaeson Gilbert
Clara Hoelscher	Sami Laughman	Summer Goecke
Landon Knisley	Levi Robinson	Alexi Grooms
	Bryce Uhl	Alivia Johnson
<u>Bass Clarinet</u>	Abby Whitten	Alex Martel
Sophia Harris		Zoey Niekamp
	<u>F Horn</u>	Cadence Tyler
	Maddix Jefferis	

HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND

<u>Flute</u>	<u>Tenor Sax</u>	<u>Trombone</u>
Brianna Baxter	Cole Baxter	Wyatt Black
Skyler Goecke		Kinsley Courtright
Lindsey Ott	<u>Baritone Sax</u>	
Morgan Ward	Dallas Gillian	<u>Tuba</u>
		Kaden Bodey
<u>Clarinet</u>	<u>Trumpet</u>	<u>Percussion</u>
Preston Duff	Justice Edwards	Gavin Bodey
Sevanna Harmon	Owen Fields	Julia Couser
Logan Helsing	Aiden Vonderembse	Stephanie Harris
Maelee Zerkle		Spencer Pratt
	<u>Baritone</u>	Jacob Riley
<u>Alto Sax</u>	Eric Vallery	Luke Robinson
Miriam Harmon		Austin Scherer
Nicholas Martel		

Special Thanks.....

Eric Hughes, Jason Unger, Todd Gentis, and the Miami East Board of Education
The Miami East Music Boosters for their substantial role in the education of students
The Custodial Staff of the Miami East Local Schools

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Program Notes

A Solitary Wish

Brian Balmages

I learned an amazing lesson before I began this piece. While I consider myself to be a “good” person, I read a friend’s comment about seeing a homeless woman named Joyce outside of Target. Joyce needed a new pair of shoes because it was getting cold outside and she only had sandals. My friend decided to get her the shoes, but also decided to buy her lunch and some extra food. Simple comments like “How will you heat up canned soup?” “Usually the microwave at 7-Eleven works.” “Why don’t you get the big peanut butter?” “Because it is too heavy to carry around.” And then she remarked how every single person around them averted their eyes as they walked by. It gave her a tremendous amount of perspective and a desire to be much more empathetic in the future. I thought the same thing.

Fast-forward just a few hours. I was outside a food store with my kids and there was a man outside asking for some food. I watched quite a few people walk by. Some actually said “sorry” as they walked by, but most of them did not even look at him or acknowledge him when he spoke to them. Finally, with my new “perspective” in hand, I walked up to him and asked him if he was okay. He just needed something to drink and a little bit of food. I took him into the store with me and bought him something. His name is Bruce. He is 32 years old. He has three kids – 2 in elementary school and 1 in middle school. He acknowledged that he’s made plenty of mistakes in life, but that he is trying really hard to get back up on his feet and live in the area so he can be close to his kids. We chatted for a bit, then I had to run and get my youngest to a soccer game. As we were leaving, he held the door open for us and said thanks. “It’s hard when people ignore you all day long. Thanks for stopping.” With the holiday season approaching, this struck me hard. So many of us are already making our “lists.” Others are bugging us for them so they can start their shopping early. We are annoyed because we have to go to several houses on Thanksgiving Day, or open gifts at several houses (or travel) during the holiday season. And then some perspective – someone like Joyce or Bruce – they wish for food, water, and for someone to notice them.

There are many holiday pieces out there about everything you can imagine. This one begins with a single individual (a clarinet soloist) just asking to be noticed while everyone walks by – some dropping a few coins or a dollar but avoiding conversation at all cost. As the music develops, we experience a wide range of emotions as the joy of the holidays is juxtaposed with solitude. Ultimately, in this particular story, the individual is joined by another, and eventually there are four of them together (the quartet).

Please share this story with your audience. It is my hope that this piece will spread awareness and help individuals all over the world. Donate your time, donate a small amount, or just smile and say hello. You just may make someone’s wish come true.

- Program Note by composer

Not So Silent Night

Evan VanDoren

Every child imagines what it might be like to observe Santa Claus coming down the chimney, delivering presents under the tree, enjoying milk and cookies, and so on. This programmatic work imagines how a movie soundtrack to such events might sound ... until things do not quite go as planned.

Our scene begins as Santa descends the chimney, careful to observe his new surroundings, and not wake the home's sleeping residents. Delicately, Santa begins his careful dance of tiptoeing around the home, humming Christmas tunes under his breath (*Silent Night*, *Jingle Bells*, *Up on the Housetop*, and others). He carefully places the presents under the tree, pausing briefly to ensure he hasn't awakened anyone. Slowly Santa feels more and more comfortable with his surrounds, becoming less and less aware of how much noise he's making, and eventually breaking into a full-throated merry singing as he goes about his work.

Suddenly, Santa becomes aware that he's not the only one in the room. Around the corner peers a newly awakened pet dog and not a friendly one! Panic sets in as Santa collects himself, and a full-blown chase ensues as Santa races for his exit! After a prolonged chase around the house, Santa makes his way up the chimney and out of the house. With a sense of relief, Santa and his reindeer fly off to the next house, where further antics no doubt await in what has become a ***Not So Silent Night***.

Santa the Barbarian

Randall Standridge

As I have stated before, I often suffer from an overactive imagination. This is not precisely true, as I don't really suffer...I enjoy all of the strange ideas that my mind comes up with. And I have the perfect ace in the hole, too, as any time someone asks me to explain myself, I simply say, "I'm *artistic*." But, I digress...

During my career as a composer, I have written a multitude of Christmas works. These are always quite challenging, as you have two factors working against you from the outset. One, you are dealing with a very limited amount of recognizable material, as you can only use works that are in the public domain, and two, you are writing in an over-populated genre in which almost every conceivable combination of holiday tunes has been plumbed to death. The challenge, then, is to find a new angle that puts a different spin on well loved holiday classics.

Enter Santa the Barbarian.

In this work, I have reimagined the jolly old elf as a warrior of the winter wastes. The familiar tunes of *Up on the Housetop* and *Jingle Bells* are transformed into a war cry for this incarnation of Santa, as he navigates the snowy desert with his eight mighty reindeer: Basher, Danger, Lancer, Victim, Bomb-it, Brutis, Runner, and Blitz-Them. On Christmas night, he fights his way across the unforgiving terrain in time to bring toys to all the good children, leaving a path of destruction and candy cane carnage in his wake.