

Craig D. Northrup, Founding Director
Saratoga Community Band

Waltz, Rag & One-Step

Songs & Dances from Days Gone By

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 7:30 pm

McAfee PAC, Saratoga High School
Steve Barnhill, Conductor

*Admission
is free*

Voluntary donations
appreciated

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Thank you for your donation!

Contributions directly support concert operational costs.
Cash donations will be collected during the concert.

Program

Read more about the music on the next page

Platte River Hoedown

Carl Strommen (1939-)

Irving Berlin's Songs for America

*This is the Army, Mister Jones;
Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor;
This is a Great Country; God Bless America*

Irving Berlin (1888-1989)
Arr. James Swearingen

Ashokan Farewell

Jay Ungar (1946-)
Arr. Calvin Custer

Sedona

Steven Reineke (1932-1987)

Intermission (10 minutes)

Suite of Old American Dances

Robert Russell Bennett (1894-1981)

1. Cake Walk
2. Schottische
3. Western One-Step
4. Wallflower Waltz
5. Rag

As a courtesy to the conductors, musicians, and other audience members, please turn off or silence all electronic devices, including cell phones, smart watches, and other noise-making gadgets before the concert begins. Please clap and cheer at the end of each piece!

Enjoy the music –

Thank you to our volunteer greeters and ushers!

Save the date!

Join us Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 pm for the annual concert in Wildwood Park. Bring your picnic, blanket or lawn chairs, and get ready for our open air tribute to opera!

About the Music

PLATTE RIVER HOEDOWN: Carl Strommen

Platte River Hoedown is an energetic composition published in 2014. A "Hoedown" is a Western American dance form closely associated with a jig, reel, or clog dance, performed traditionally as fiddle tunes in the bright, energetic, and upbeat style often found in the pulse of bluegrass music. This delightful piece provides a tuneful and rhythmic representation of this music for concert band.

The piece was written by Carl Strommen who is a composer, arranger, music teacher, and conductor. Born in 1939, Mr. Strommen lives on Long Island, New York, where he is an Adjunct Professor of orchestration/arranging and composition in the Graduate School at the Long Island University, Post Campus.

Mr. Strommen began arranging pieces for jazz band when he was in High School. He now has over 700 published titles (60 of which are commissions) covering a wide variety of performance and media settings. He enjoys an international reputation and is recognized by ASCAP as a recipient of the Standard Writers Award. Mr. Strommen continues to pursue his passion for music and the members of the SCB hope you enjoy his peppy piece.

Tom Beckmann, Percussion

IRVING BERLIN'S SONGS FOR AMERICA: Irving Berlin

Born Israel Baline, the songwriter who would become Irving Berlin came through Ellis Island with his parents Moses (a cantor) and Lena in 1893 when Israel was only five years old, the youngest of their six children at the time of their emigration from Russia. He loved music, though had no formal training, and earned money singing in saloons as a teenager eventually making his way to "Tin Pan Alley" as a lyricist and a song plugger. A summary of Berlin's life here would go on for pages and is impossible! He would become one of the most successful and prolific song writers and show producers in his lifetime. His tunes are hummable and catchy, his lyrics poignant and sometimes witty. He lived to be 101 and composed for over 60 years.

Berlin wrote 20 Broadway shows and over 15 movie scores, many peppered with "Americana" songs popular during, between, and after both World Wars. This medley includes well-known and lesser remembered songs, including his second most famous piece, "God Bless America" (Arguably, behind the most recorded song in history, "White Christmas"). In this collection, my favorite is the ballad "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor" from the 1949 show Miss Liberty. Hoping it would become more popular than "God Bless America," Berlin set a portion of the Emma Lazarus poem "The New Colossus" (which is inscribed on the Statue of Liberty) to music:

*Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free
Your wretched refuse from your teeming shores
Send these the homeless tempest-tost to me
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*

Babette McKay, Oboe



ASHOKAN FAREWELL: Jay Ungar

The composer, Jay Ungar, provided this explanation: “Ashokan Farewell was named for Ashokan, a camp in the Catskill Mountains not far from Woodstock, NY. It’s the place where Molly Mason and I have run the Ashokan Fiddle & Dance Camps for adults and families since 1980. Ashokan [Iroquois for “a place of fish”] is the name of a town, most of which is now under a very beautiful and magical body of water called the Ashokan Reservoir...

“I composed Ashokan Farewell in 1982 shortly after our Ashokan Fiddle & Dance Camps had come to an end for the season. I was feeling a great sense of loss and longing for the music, the dancing and the community of people that had developed at Ashokan that summer. I was having trouble making the transition from a secluded woodland camp with a small group of people who needed little excuse to celebrate the joy of living, back to life as usual, with traffic, newscasts, telephones and impersonal relationships. By the time the tune took form, I was in tears. I kept it to myself for months, unable to fully understand the emotions that welled up whenever I played it. I had no idea that this simple tune could affect others in the same way.

“Ashokan Farewell was written in the style of a Scottish lament. I sometimes introduce it as, ‘a Scottish lament written by a Jewish guy from the Bronx.’”

This waltz was originally composed for solo fiddle and was featured in the soundtrack for The Civil War documentary by Ken Burns.

Personally, I recall fondly passing the Ashokan reservoir each day on my school bus ride to grades 6-8.

John Bertschy, Bassoon

SEDONA: Steven Reineke

Steven Reineke (born 1970) is a prolific American composer and arranger, the conductor of the New York Pops, as well as a much sought after pops conductor throughout the United States. He studied trumpet and composition at Miami University of Ohio.

“Sedona” was written in 2000, commissioned by and dedicated to the Kettering, Ohio Civic Band on its 40th anniversary. It depicts the city of Sedona, Arizona, which is surrounded by mountains, red buttes, canyons, and pine forests. In this energetic 5 1/2 minute piece, Reineke uses contemporary melodies, harmonies, and rhythms to depict Sedona in all its richness.

A short memorable theme runs throughout the work, showing up in a delicate flute solo, an intricate woodwind fugue, a warm trombone solo, and a bold trumpet statement.

We hope you enjoy this beautiful piece as much as we enjoy playing it!

Karen Eshoff, Clarinet

SUITE OF OLD AMERICAN DANCES: Robert Russell Bennett

Robert Russell Bennett was born in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1916, at the age of 22, Bennett moved to New York where he would enjoy a brilliant career as an orchestrator of musicals. Bennett was credited with orchestrating more than 200 Broadway shows. He collaborated with almost every leading theater composer, including Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and many others. His work earned him an Academy Award, an Emmy and numerous other accolades.

Many quality composers began to take an interest in the wind band after World War II, and Bennett was no exception. Regarding this piece he said that his pen was practically jumping out of his pocket to give the American wind band more music to play. Despite his excitement, Bennett was only able to work intermittently on this because of other assignments scoring *Kiss Me Kate* and *South Pacific*.

Bennett called this piece “Electric Park”, named after a childhood amusement park that had a dance hall. The five movements of the suite reflect popular dances of the day, hence the name the publisher later supplied: “Suite of Old American Dances”

The cakewalk dance originated on the southern plantations, where enslaved individuals often imitated the plantation owners. The dance or ‘strut’ was danced to jig-like banjo/fiddle music, usually done by couples who, with a backward sway, strutted in a medium high step or low kicking fashion.

Although the title of this dance suggests that its roots lie in Scotland, the schottische (pronounced sha - teesh) is actually a German variant of several Bohemian dances that later developed into the polka. The schottische features quick shifts from foot to foot and a striking of the heel. These movements resemble the Scottish reel and may have inspired the name.

The Western One Step is a somewhat misleading title. As Frederick Fennell points out, “The composer informed me that this dance is also known as the ‘Texas Tommy’, an obviously bright-eyed tune with an equally bright-eyed tempo.”

Wallflower Waltz: Although the beginning of the 20th century represented a new cultural era, replete with new dance steps, the time-honored waltz still reigned as king of the ballroom dance scene.

It seems fitting that Bennett chose to end his suite with a rag. Although there is no one specific dance that can be associated with the rag style, Bennett’s choice of music is representative of the era as a whole. The ragtime era coincided with the beginning of the century, and with a new generation which was harshly criticized by its elders for embracing novel ideas. While other pieces may feel fast, you’ll hear this one is flying at “Warp Speed” (sections are 400 notes per minute).

Brian Korek, Trumpet



Band Personnel

Steve Barnhill, Director

Craig D. Northrup, Founding Director

Richard Robbins, Assistant Director

Flute/Piccolo

Trisha McHale
Christina Mendoza
Ann Northrup*
Debbie Regalbuto
Misako Tsuda

Oboe/English Horn

Babette McKay*

Clarinet

Eva Chapman
Robert Duebell
Karen Eshoff
Mateo Go
Kevin Hayashi
Rick Janowski
Frank Kibbish*
Craig Northrup
Susan Peterson
Christina Robert

E♭ Clarinet

Frank Kibbish

Bass Clarinet

Charlie Robert

Bassoon

John Bertschy*
David Pandori

Alto Saxophone

Rob Espina
Dan Ortega

Tenor Saxophone

Eric Henderson

Baritone Saxophone

Cindy Fachner

Trumpet

Dino Certa*
Hugo Huey
Steve Kim
Brian Korek*
Daniel Martin
Alison Okuno
Armand Rundquist
Nick Tripsas
Rick Varney
Bruce Weller

Horn

Stephanie Janowski
Ed Lacina
Cyndi Leany
Ken Okuno

Trombone

Todd Bevis
Karen Cheong
Dianna Kessler
Thomas Kessler*
Cha Kim
Dick King
Dick Robbins
Frank Robertson

Euphonium

Ian Lee
Christopher Okuno
Tadashi Okuno

Tuba

John Becker
Joe Matthews
Bill Walker*

Percussion

Ralph Becker-Szendy
Tom Beckmann*
Chuck Luce*
David Lung
Vinayak Sharath
Richard Stolzman
Nia Troung Le

* = Board of Directors

About the Band

Founded in 1989 by Craig D. Northrup, the Saratoga Community Band is made up of wind musicians and percussionists of all ages from Saratoga, Los Gatos and the greater Silicon Valley. Becky Dugan served as Director from 2014-2020. Michael Boitz became the SCB's third Director and served from 2021-2024. Steve Barnhill took up the leadership of SCB in Fall 2024. The SCB incorporated as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit in 2025.

Steve Barnhill retired in 2019 after 35 years of teaching at Overfelt and Evergreen Valley High Schools. Both programs were recognized for their excellence receiving numerous awards and accolades. While at Evergreen Valley he was honored to take his Wind Ensemble and String Orchestra to Carnegie Hall four different times. He also conducted the Ohlone College Community Band for ten years helping to lead that ensemble through many rewarding performances. In addition to the school programs Steve served as the brass caption lead and then director of the Santa Clara Vanguard Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps from 2007-2019 helping to guide the group to five Open Class National Championships. He still serves as a clinician in the area and works with the Lynbrook High School band program and their outstanding director Michael Pakaluk.



A wonderful bonus of retirement has been the opportunity to once again focus on his own bass trombone playing. Starting in college he began an extensive freelance professional career which included numerous performances and recording sessions with many of the finest musicians in the Bay Area. A member of the San Jose Wind Symphony and Chabot College Wind Symphony, Steve also performs with many other local ensembles.

Steve is honored to be the conductor for such an outstanding ensemble and looks forward to leading the group and our audiences through many wonderful performances exploring the finest of the wind band literature.

If you are interested in joining the band, visit www.saratogaband.com, send a note to saratogacommunityband@gmail.com, or come sit in on a rehearsal with us. No audition is necessary, just the ability to read music and play your instrument with general proficiency (High School level). Rehearsals are Mondays from 7:00-9:00 pm at Saratoga High School, September-May and we present 3-4 free public concerts throughout the year.

Join Us (Concert List or Musician)

To hear about upcoming concerts and band news, join the email list at www.saratogaband.com or like us on Facebook [@saratogacommunityband](https://www.facebook.com/saratogacommunityband). Voluntary donations are welcome!

