Barnes Concert Band
Musicals & Masterpieces 24 October 2026 - Programme Notes

The Greatest Show *Benj Pasek & Justin Paul, arr Evin Frost / vocal arr. Mark Brymer*

The opening and closing song from *The Greatest Showman*, in both the film and stage musical adaptation, this song captures the energy and excitement of the life of performing artists. The film plot follows a young P T Barnum who falls in love and raises a family. He dreams of another life and creates a highly successful touring circus company.

Armenian Dances Part I *Alfred Reed*

Armenian Dances, Parts I and II, constitute a four-movement suite based on authentic folk songs from the works of Gomidas Vartebed, the founder of Armenian classical music. Part I, consists of 5 songs skilfully arranged for concert band by the composer Alfred Reed. Composed in 1972, this work provides a technical challenge for both band and conductor and has become a cornerstone of the concert band repertoire.

Simple Gift *Daisuke Shimizu*

This work, an arrangement of the 3rd movement Simple Gift (for woodwinds and percussion) from The Improving Dance - Four Episodes, was commissioned by the Showa Wind Orchestra and premiered in December 2003. With the suggestion of a melancholic character in homage to victims of the ongoing Iraqi War, this movement was written to provide a "Gift of Prayer for Peace".

MacArthur Park *Jimmy Webb arr Philip Sparke*

Over a period of four decades, Jimmy Webb (b. 1946) has written hits for several singers including Glen Campbell, Art Garfunkel, Frank Sinatra, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash and Linda Ronstadt. Running at over 7 minutes, it is 2 or 3 times the length of most pop songs and has an extended orchestral interlude. The lyrics (which have mystified most listeners) are more symbolic and sentimental than descriptive and are apparently about a lost love and a rendezvous in the park.

Choir Items

The Ultimate ‘80s Party Hits *arr. Peter Kleine Schaars*

Which are your favourite hits from the 1980s? There are certainly many answers to this question - but many responses are likely to contain these songs: Kool and the Gang's disco classic Celebration, Come On Eileen by Dexy's Midnight Runners, Whitney Houston's I Wanna Dance With Somebody and Total Eclipse of the Heart by Bonnie Tyler. These four numbers have been arranged by Peter Kleine Schaars as a fantastic '80s retro medley for concert band.

Interval

Persis *James L. Hosay*

Persis (the Greek word for Persia) features Middle Eastern modalities, colourful orchestration, and a stunning "chase" by James Hosay. It captures the vast beauty of the Persian landscape and features an enchanting and poignant love theme. Initially played by a solo Oboe, the theme is then taken up by the band and it is arguably one of the most beautiful melodies written for concert band in quite some time.

Colonial Song *Percy Grainger*

Grainger initially wrote *Colonial Song* in 1911 as a piano piece as a gift to his mother, Rose. Of his piece, Grainger wrote that it was "an attempt to write a melody as typical of the Australian countryside as Stephen Foster's exquisite songs are typical of rural America". Unlike many of Grainger's other compositions, the melodies of *Colonial Song* are not based on folk song, but are original melodies. Although Grainger created a number of arrangements for different ensembles, it is most commonly played by Concert or Military Band.

España Cañi for 3 Trumpets *Pasquel Marquina Narro arr Toshio Mashima*

España Cañi, meaning Gypsy Spain is a pasodoble written around 1923. In English it is known as *Spanish Gypsy Dance* and has been arranged here for 3 Trumpets by Toshio Mashima, a regular conductor and arranger for the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra. Always wanting to give you extra value, this afternoon we will feature the whole Trumpet section.

Jupiter from The Planet Suite *Gustav Holst arr Naohiro Iwai*

Known extensively for his work in the wind ensemble community, Naohiro Iwai's contemporary arrangement transforms Holst's powerful, brass-heavy orchestral movement into a brilliant showcase for wind and percussion instrumentation, featuring solos for Alto Saxophone, Clarinet and Trumpet.

Choir Items

Hello Dolly *Jerry Herman, arr Evin Frost*
vocal arr. Kirby Shaw

Hello Dolly is a 1964 musical that follows the story of Dolly Gallagher Levi, a strong-willed matchmaker as she travels to New York to find a match for the miserly Horace Vandergelder. The title song was most famously recorded by the legendary Louis Armstrong. The show has become an enduring international musical theatre hit with no less than 4 revivals on Broadway.

Chattanooga Choo, Choo *Harry Warren arr Evin Frost*
vocal arr. Mac Huff

Made famous by Glenn Miller and His Orchestra, it featured in the 1941 film *Sun Valley Serenade.* It became the first ever gold record presented by RCA Victor after selling around 1.2 million copies. The song opens up with the band, sounding like a train rolling out of the station before the main part of the song is heard. The song describes the journey from Pennsylvania Station in New York, through Baltimore, North Carolina to its destination in Chattanooga, Tennessee.