The University of Arizona Bands
Upcoming Concerts

Wind Ensemble
Wednesday, December 7, 7:30 p.m.
Crowder Hall, $5

Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony
Norman Weinberg, percussion
featuring the Southwestern première of
Concertino for Percussion and Wind Ensemble by John Mackey
Thursday, February 16, 7:30 p.m.
Crowder Hall, $5

Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony
Sunday, March 25, 3:00 p.m.
Crowder Hall, $5

Chamber Players
Tannis Gibson, piano
featuring a première performance
by UA faculty composer Craig Walsh
Monday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.
Holsclaw Hall, $5

Wind Ensemble & UA Wind Symphony
featuring the southwestern première of
Symphony No. 9 by David Maslanka
Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.
Crowder Hall, $5
The University of Arizona Wind Symphony

Jay Rees, conductor
Shawn Cullen, graduate conductors

Tuesday, November 29, 2011
Crowder Hall
7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Music from *Girl Crazy* ................................. George Gershwin (1898-1937)  
arr. James Barnes

*Victory at Sea* ............................ Richard Rodgers (1902-1979)  
trans. Robert Russell Bennett

*Selections from Sweeney Todd* ................. Stephen Sondheim (b. 1930)  
arr. Stephen Bulla

*Symphonic Suite from Far and Away* ............ John Williams (b. 1932)  
arr. Paul Lavender

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helped innovate the medium and is referenced extensively in the book *Marching Bands and Drumlines: Secrets of Success from the Best of the Best*. In 2009, the prestigious College Band Directors National Association named the Pride of Arizona one of the top marching bands in the country. The bands have released CD recordings and appeared in numerous television features, including NBC-TV’s “Today Show” and Fox Sports.

In 2001 Rees choreographed a live human flag for the Tucson community in response to the events of September 11. His iconic design incorporated 10,000 citizens and became a national symbol. The image appeared on CNN and was published in a special issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

Rees is listed in *Who’s Who In America for the 21st Century* as well as *Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers*. He is a member of ASCAP, NARAS and CBDNA. A native of Detroit, Rees lived in Miami and Los Angeles before making his home in Tucson with his wife and two sons.

**Shawn Cullen**

Shawn Cullen, educator and conductor, has quickly earned a reputation for his high-energy teaching style and innovative artistic nuance. Cullen has held the position of director of bands, vocal music and theater arts with Tucson Unified School District where he has served as instrumental/choral educator and conductor with students K-12 since 2004. In 2008 Mr. Cullen was appointed to adjunct faculty in the School of Music at the University of Arizona as director of the UA Pep Band.

In such a short time, Mr. Cullen has enjoyed a broad and diverse professional career as an educator, performer, conductor, and artistic director. As a professional musician Cullen has traveled throughout the United States, Mexico and South America as a vocalist, instrumentalist and conductor. In 2009 Mr. Cullen became the artistic director for the Reveille Men’s Chorus, an internationally recognized ensemble with a mission to promote diversity, tolerance, and a world free from HIV/AIDS. Only in his third season with Reveille, Mr. Cullen has produced multiple crowd pleasing concerts breaking attendance records and doubling the chorus’s membership with a new and exciting artistic vision.

Mr. Cullen is a graduate of the University of Arizona where he studied trumpet, voice, conducting and music education. Ensembles under Mr. Cullen’s direction have been the recipients of the Arizona Arts Spotlight Award by Governor Janet Napolitano and continue to be awarded Superior and Superior with Distinction ratings at competitions held in Arizona and California. As part of his graduate studies Mr. Cullen made his debut with Arizona Repertory Theater in Spring of 2011 conducting *Into the Woods* and will serve as its resident conductor through the completion of his graduate work.

**Program Notes**

**Music from Girl Crazy – George Gershwin, arr. James Barnes**

George Gershwin was an American composer and pianist. Gershwin’s compositions spanned both popular and classical genres, and his most popular melodies are widely known. Among his best known works are the orchestral compositions *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) and *An American in Paris* (1928), as well as the opera, *Porgy and Bess* (1935).

Gershwin wrote most of his vocal and theatrical works, including more than a dozen Broadway shows, in collaboration with his elder brother, lyricist Ira Gershwin. George Gershwin composed music for both Broadway and the classical concert hall, as well as popular songs that brought his work to an even wider public. His compositions have been used in numerous films and on television, and many became jazz standards recorded in numerous variations. Countless singers and musicians have recorded Gershwin songs.

*Girl Crazy* is a 1930 musical with music by George Gershwin, lyrics by Ira Gershwin and book by Guy Bolton and John McGowan. Ethel Merman made her stage debut in this musical production. It has been adapted three times for film, most notably in 1943 with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland. The musical opened at the Alvin Theatre on October 14, 1930 and closed on June 6, 1931 after 272 performances. It was directed by Alexander Leftwich, with choreography by George Hale and sets by Donald Oenslager. This musical made a star of Ginger Rogers, who, with Allen Kearns, sang *Could You Use Me?* and *Embraceable You* and, with Willie Howard, *But Not for Me*. Ethel Merman, in her Broadway debut sang *I Got Rhythm*, *Sam and Delilah*, and *Boy! What Love Has Done To Me*! Also of note is the opening night pit orchestra, which was composed of many well-known jazz musicians, including Benny Goodman, Gene Krupa, Glenn Miller and Jimmy Dorsey.

**Victory at Sea – Richard Rodgers trans. Robert Russell Bennett**

Richard Rodgers was an American composer of music for more than 900 songs and for 43 Broadway musicals. He also composed music for films and television. He is best known for his songwriting partnerships with the lyricists Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II. His compositions have had a significant impact on popular music down to the present day, and have an enduring broad appeal.

Rodgers was the first person to win what are considered the top show business awards in television, recording, movies and Broadway—an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony—now known collectively as an EGOT. He has also won a Pulitzer Prize, making him one of two people (Marvin Hamlisch is the other) to receive all five awards.

*Victory at Sea* is a documentary television series about naval warfare during World War II that was originally broadcast by NBC in the United States, Mexico and South America as a vocalist, instrumentalist and conductor. Also of note is the opening night pit orchestra, which was composed of many well-known jazz musicians, including Benny Goodman, Gene Krupa, Glenn Miller and Jimmy Dorsey.
States in 1952-1953. It was condensed into a film in 1954. The music soundtrack, by Richard Rodgers and Robert Russell Bennett, was re-recorded and sold as record albums. The original TV broadcasts comprised 26 half-hour segments on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. (EST), starting October 26, 1952 and ending May 3, 1953. The series, which won an Emmy award in 1954 as best public affairs program, played an important part in establishing historic documentaries as a viable television genre.

**Selections from Sweeney Todd – Stephen Sondheim arr. Stephen Bulla**

Stephen Sondheim (born March 22, 1930) is an American composer and lyricist for stage and film. He is the winner of an Academy Award, multiple Tony Awards (eight, more than any other composer) including the Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre, multiple Grammy Awards, a Pulitzer Prize and the Laurence Olivier Award. Described by Frank Rich of the *New York Times* as “the greatest, and perhaps best-known artist working in musical theatre”, his most famous scores include (as composer/lyricist) *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Company*, *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Into the Woods* and *Assassins*. He also wrote the lyrics for *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*.

*Sweeney Todd* is a 1979 musical thriller with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and libretto by Hugh Wheeler. The musical is based on the 1973 play *Sweeney Todd*, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street by Christopher Bond. *Sweeney Todd* opened on Broadway at the Uris Theatre on March 1, 1979 and ran for 557 performances. It was directed by Harold Prince with musical staging by Larry Fuller. It starred Len Cariou as Sweeney Todd and Angela Lansbury as Mrs. Lovett. The musical tells the story of Benjamin Barker, alias Sweeney Todd, who returns to London after 15 years’ transportation on false charges. When he learns from his former landlady Mrs. Lovett that his wife poisoned herself after being raped by the judge who wrongly transported him (Judge Turpin by name), he vows revenge.

**Symphonic Suite from Far and Away – John Williams, arr. Paul Lavender**

John Williams is an American composer, conductor, and pianist. In a career spanning almost six decades, he has composed some of the most recognizable film scores in the history of motion pictures, including the *Star Wars* saga, *Jaws*, *Superman*, the *Indiana Jones* films, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Hook*, *Jurassic Park*, *Schindler’s List*, *Home Alone* and the first three *Harry Potter* films. He has had a long association with director Steven Spielberg, composing the music for all but two of Spielberg’s feature films.

Williams has won five Academy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, seven BAFTA Awards and 21 Grammy Awards. With 45 Academy Award nominations, Williams is, together with composer Alfred Newman, the second most nominated person, after Walt Disney. John Williams was honored with the prestigious Richard Kirk award at the 1999 BMI Film and TV Awards. The award is given annually to a composer who has made significant contributions to film and television music. Williams was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame in 2000, and was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004.

*Far and Away* is a 1992 adventure-drama-romance film directed by Ron Howard from a script by Howard and Bob Dolman, and stars Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. Cinematography by Mikael Salomon, with a music score by John Williams. It was screened out of competition at the 1992 Cannes Film Festival. Cruise and Kidman play Irish immigrants seeking their fortune in 1890s America, eventually taking part in the Land Run of 1893.

**Conductors’ Biographies**

**Jay Rees**

Jay Rees is an experienced and innovative musician with a varied background as a conductor, composer, arranger, and performer. He has a diverse catalog of original music written for jazz, wind ensemble, concert bands, and athletic bands that is commissioned and performed by major universities and high schools nationwide. Many of his works have been published by Warner Bros./C.P.P. Belwin, Pumpkin Monkey Music, and Musicexpresso.com. Rees teaches undergraduate music education, jazz studies, and leadership courses. He also travels as a clinician, guest speaker, and adjudicator for band programs across the country.

An accomplished musician in jazz performance, Rees has appeared throughout the United States, Canada and Japan. He has performed with such notable artists as Jimmy Cobb, Lenny White, Paul Horn, Randy Sandke and others. He toured with the international recording act The Lettermen as bassist and musical director, and is featured on their album release *Now and Then*. Rees formed the nationally touring jazz-fusion ensemble Sylvan Street, serving as bassist, leader and composer. Their debut CD, *The Perfect Leaf*, was released on Summit Records in 2009, followed by a new collection of works in 2011. Rees also collaborates with the UA jazz faculty and performs at UA’s annual AZJazz concert series.

As director of the University of Arizona marching and pep bands, Rees’ contemporary arrangements and inventive drill design have gained the Pride of Arizona Marching Band a national presence. His inspired work