

# AMERICAN CHAMBER WINDS / USA

**T**he “American Chamber Winds” was founded in Skien, Norway in July 1983, by David Waybright and Stanley D. Hettinger. The concept for the ensemble grew out of impromptu concerts given around the Skien area and in conjunction with the first World Conference of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE).

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Waybright, Hettinger, and Malcolm Rowell were the conductors of the New England Intercollegiate Wind Ensemble that gave the finale concert to that first official WASBE convention. While rehearsing that week in preparation for the event, the conductors programmed several chamber music concerts performed outdoors and at local churches. This led to the establishment of an ensemble with instrumentation comprised of standard harmoniemusik octet with additional pairs of orchestral instruments, including piano and percussion. The touring and recording ensemble has been featured on several published recordings: *Live at W.A.S.B.E. 1991* from Manchester, England, *The Art of the Serenade*, and *Soldier Stories*, all published through Mark Recordings, and *An American Soldier’s Tale*, available through Summit Records. The ensemble has given concerts in the United States, England, France, Italy, and at the famed Summer Festival in Campos do Jordão in Brazil.

The American Chamber Winds is comprised of some of the finest wind and percussion performers from across the United States, and is very much in demand for performances worldwide.





## Guest Soloist – Joseph Alessi

Joseph Alessi was appointed Principal Trombone of the New York Philharmonic in the spring of 1985. He began musical studies in his native California with his father, Joseph Alessi, Sr. As a high school student in San Rafael, California, and was a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony before continuing his musical training at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music. Prior to joining the Philharmonic, Mr. Alessi was second trombone of The Philadelphia Orchestra for four seasons, and principal trombone of L'Orchestre symphonique de Montreal for one season. In addition, he has performed as guest principal trombonist with the London Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall led by Pierre Boulez.

Mr. Alessi is an active soloist, recitalist, and chamber music performer. In April 1990 he made his solo debut with the New York Philharmonic, performing Creston's Fantasy for Trombone, and in 1992 premiered Christopher Rouse's Pulitzer Prize-winning Trombone Concerto with the Philharmonic, which commissioned the work for its 150th anniversary celebration. His most recent appearance with the Philharmonic as soloist was in world premiere performances of Melinda Wagner's Trombone Concerto in February of 2007.

Mr. Alessi has been a guest soloist with the Lincoln Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Symphony, Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Santa Barbara Symphony, South Dakota Symphony, New Japan Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic, Orchestra of Teatro Massimo Bellini in Catania, Sicily, Mannheim National Theater Orchestra, National Symphony of Taiwan, Puerto Rico Symphony, Hague Philharmonic, Helsinki Philharmonic, and the Hartford Symphony. Mr. Alessi has also

participated in numerous festivals, including the Festivale Musica di Camera in Protogruaro, Italy; Cabrillo Music Festival; Swiss Brass Week; and Lieksa Brass Week in Finland. He was featured in the 1997 International Trombone Festival in Feldkirch, Austria, and the International Meeting of Brass Instruments in Lille, France. He is a founding member of the Summit Brass ensemble at the Rafael Mendez Brass Institute in Tempe, Arizona. In 2002 Mr. Alessi was awarded an International Trombone Association Award for his contributions to the world of trombone music and trombone playing.

# Composer – Peter Van Zandt Lane

Peter Van Zandt Lane's music has been praised by critics for its "depth, character, and pleasing complexity" (Boston Musical Intelligencer), and has been recognized for its "appeal to musicians and audiences, no matter their personal musical aesthetic" (Asymmetry Music Magazine). His recent full-length ballet, HackPolitik brings contemporary music and dance into the cross-section of art, technology, and politics, and was hailed by critics as "angular, jarring, and sophisticated . . . very compelling . . . Ballet needs live music, and this one offered it at the highest level." (Boston Musical Intelligencer). The NYC premiere of HackPolitik was a New York Times Critic's Pick, praised as "refreshingly relevant." (The New York Times).

Peter has received fellowships from Composers Now, Yaddo, MacDowell Colony, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. He has been commissioned by the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, The Sydney Conservatorium Wind Symphony, the Composers Conference at Wellesley College, Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble, the Emory Wind Ensemble, and the Purchase Percussion Ensemble, among others. His compositions have been performed across the United States and abroad, by acclaimed musicians and ensembles such as the Cleveland Orchestra, the Lydian String Quartet, International Contemporary Ensemble, The Quux Collective, Freon Ensemble (Rome), and the New York Virtuoso Singers. Peter's work has been recognized by a number of awards and prizes –most recently the American Prize and Lili Boulanger Memorial Prize (finalist)– and has been featured national and international music festivals and conferences including Spark, Original Gravity, SEAMUS, LIPM/IEIMS (Buenos Aires), Third Practice, Boston Cyber-Arts, and Festival Miami. He holds degrees from Brandeis University and the University of Miami Frost School of Music, and studied composition with Melinda Wagner, Eric Chasalow, David Rakowski, and Lansing McLoskey. He is currently Assistant Professor of Composition and Director of the Dancz Center for New Music at the University of Georgia Hodgson School of Music, and previously held teaching positions at Brandeis University, Wellesley College, MIT, and Harvard. Recordings of his music are available on PARMA/Navona Records, New Dynamic Records, and Innova Records.

# Conductor – David A. Waybright



Dr. David A. Waybright received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees at Marshall University and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in orchestral conducting from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He taught initially at Wahama High School in Mason, West Virginia and since that time has served as Director of Bands at Ferrum College, Plymouth State College, and Director of Bands and Orchestra at McNeese State University.

Dr. Waybright is currently Director of Bands at the University of Florida, where he holds the rank of professor and is the head of the conducting area. He directs the wind symphony and supervises

the band program and the graduate and undergraduate conducting curricula. Dr. Waybright is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician with wind bands, orchestras, and choirs, and has appeared in that capacity in most of the 50 states, throughout Europe, Asia and Australia. He has held residencies at many of the nation's leading music schools. In addition, he is active in the commissioning and performance of new music and has won the praise of composers such as Dana Wilson, Michael Torke, Donald Grantham, John Corigliano and Leslie Bassett for his interpretation of their works. There are many recordings available featuring the University of Florida Wind Symphony under his direction.

Dr. Waybright is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association where he serves on the Board of Directors and is a lifetime member of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles. He is also a member of the College Band Director's National Association, Music Educators National Convention and Florida Music Educators Association. Ensembles under his direction have performed invited concerts at conferences sponsored by all of those organizations. Dr. Waybright is also a member of Pi Kappa Lambda and an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha, Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi. He is a National Arts Associate honorary of Sigma Alpha Iota.