UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Fine & Applied Arts

University of Illinois Bands
Harding Band Building, MC-524
1103 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear NEMFA musicians:

CONGRATULATIONS on being selected to participate in NEMFA 2023 as a performer in the Concert Band! You should be very proud of this accomplishment and I know we will have a great weekend together next year.

My name is Dr. Beth Peterson and I am excited to serve as the guest conductor for the Concert Band Festival in 2023. I have conducted college and high school bands for the past 30 years and have recently retired from the University of Illinois where I was a faculty member in Bands.

I've been working closely with the NEMFA festival organizers to select a diverse and exciting program for you. The repertoire we will perform is listed here:

Florentiner March, by Julius Fucik

Dum Spiro Spero by Chris Pilsner

Symphony of Fables, Movements 1 and 3 by Julie Giroux

Rocketship, by Kevin Day

Please consider spending a little time on YouTube finding videos of these pieces, listening to different performances and check out the composers online too. I've chosen the Fucik because I think it is one of the best marches ever written – it has amazing melodies and something fun to play for every section. The Pilsner is lovely, and lyrical giving us great opportunities to be musical – the translation of the Latin title means, "While I breathe, I hope" – a lovely sentiment. The Symphony of Fables by Julie Giroux is a five-movement work and we'll just play two movements due to time constraints – each movement programmatically depicts a different children's fable/story. Finally, Rocketship is a great, rousing closer that uses a marching snare drum to set the groove. Mr. Day is a relatively young composer from Texas whose music is very popular.

I'm super excited to meet you all in a few months (it will be here before you know it – so keep practicing)! We will have a wonderful weekend together.

Beth Peterson