

West Michigan Concert Winds

Muskegon, Michigan

Gail A. Brechting, conductor

"Pepita Greus" Pasodoble	Pascual Perez Chovi Arr. Harold Gore
Incantation and Dance	John Barnes Chance
Walking Tune	Percy Aldridge Grainger arr. Larry D. Daehn
Prelude, Siciliano and Rondo	Malcolm Arnold arr. John Paynter
Blue Shades	Frank Ticheli

The West Michigan Concert WINDS was founded in the fall of 1979 as a volunteer organization, dedicated to performing quality instrumental music in the community. In 1986, the band, formerly known as the Muskegon Symphonic Band, formed an affiliation with Muskegon Community College. Students and members of the community have the opportunity to participate for college credit, or just for recreation.

The band draws its members from much of the West Michigan area. While many members are current or former music educators, most are not, representing a wide variety of vocations and interests. Three or four concerts are offered at various theaters during the regular school year. The WINDS also perform at graduation ceremonies for Muskegon Community College and Baker College, and at many outdoor band shells and parks during the summer.

In the summer of 1996 they participated in the Bournemouth Music Festival during a tour of England and Wales. The WINDS toured Germany, Austria and Switzerland in July, 1999, and are planning a tour to England & Ireland in this June. The WINDS have performed at the Red Cedar Festival of Community Bands since 1997.

In April of 2005, the WINDS were selected as one of six concert bands in the Midwest to perform at the Association of Concert Bands' National Convention in Quincy, Illinois. Under the baton of Music Director Gail A. Brechting, this western Michigan group was awarded the John Philip Sousa Foundation's coveted Sudler Silver Scroll for 2005.