Symphonic Wind Ensemble to perform fall concert Nov. 30

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin-Platteville’s Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform its fall concert on Thursday, Nov. 30 in the Brodbeck Concert Hall, Center for the Arts, at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Barry Ellis, director of bands and professor of music at UW-Platteville, and Matthew Gregg, senior lecturer, associate director of bands and director of the Marching Pioneers at UW-Platteville, will conduct the ensemble performance.

One highlight of the concert will be a soprano solo of Gustav Mahler’s “Um Mitternacht” (“Song of the Night”) by Rebekah Demaree, a voice professor at UW-Platteville. Another highlight will be the “Bass Tuba Concerto” by Ralph Vaughan Williams, performed by Justin Rhodes, winner of last spring’s Phi Mu Alpha/Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concerto Competition. Rhodes is a senior music major from Black Earth, Wisconsin.

“This is our first full concert performance of the season and features our annual student concerto winner,” said Ellis, who noted that Rhodes competed in their concerto competition and was declared the winner by a panel of judges.

“I would like to thank Dr. Barry Ellis, Dr. David Earll, the brothers of Phi Mu Alpha, and everybody else that made this performance possible,” said Rhodes. “I’m so incredibly humbled to be able to perform with this fantastic ensemble.”

“It has been a distinct pleasure to work with Justin Rhodes as he has grown into such a talented young tubist,” said Dr. David Earll, assistant professor of tuba, euphonium and trombone at UW-Platteville and Rhodes’ applied tuba teacher. “I remember seeing so much potential in him when he arrived at UW-Platteville as
a freshman, and I am so incredibly proud that he will be able to perform this centerpiece of the tuba solo literature.”

Earll noted that the work Rhodes and the ensemble will play, Ralph Vaughan Williams’s “Concerto for Bass Tuba,” is not only an exciting musical adventure for the tuba and accompanying ensemble, but a monumental turning point in the history of the tuba. “The Vaughan Williams Concerto, written in 1954, is the first true concerto for the tuba, and allowed for the tuba to finally move from the back row to a place of equality with the other members of the orchestra and wind ensemble,” said Earll.

Additional concert repertoire will include “March of the Resistance” from “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” by John Williams, “Give Us This Day” by David Maslanka, “Trittico” by Václav Nehlýbel and “Contre qui, rose” by Morten Lauridsen.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is the premier wind and percussion group of the UW-Platteville music program, with members chosen by audition. The repertoire is carefully chosen to provide a variety of musical experiences from the traditional to the historical to contemporary art literature. There are 44 UW-Platteville students in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Students are from a wide variety of disciplines, including music, criminal justice, engineering and biology, to name a few.

Tickets are $7 for general admission, $5 for students and are available at the door or online through the University Box Office, located in the lower level of Ullsvik Hall. Call 608-342-1298 or 877-727-1CFA or visit tickets.uwplatt.edu.

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