



*Northmont High School Bands*

*Present:*


# A SPRING CONCERT

Featuring:  
Concert Band  
Symphonic Band  
Wind Ensemble  
Percussion Ensemble

Brian Wissman - Sierra Mitchell  
Conductors

May 16, 2023 • 7 PM

Northmont Community Auditorium



# Program

## Concert Band

Conundrum

Brandon Shafner, Senior, Student Conductor

La Noche de los Alebrijes

Techno Blade

On Thin Air

*Percussion Ensemble*

Robert Sheldon

Evan VanDoren

Benjamin Dean Taylor

John Willmarth

## Symphonic Band

Photo Finish!

Cloud Dancing

Drawing Mars

Passage

Featuring Ms. Sierra Mitchell, Clarinet

*Percussion Ensemble*

James Swearingen

Richard L. Saucedo

Michael Markowski

Ben Wahlund

## Wind Ensemble

Bitscapes

Goodnight Moon

Mrs. Anna King, Soprano Solo

*Senior Recognition*

Technology

*Percussion Ensemble*

Jennifer E. Rose

Eric Whitacre

Arranged by Verena Mösenbichler-Bryant

Jim Cassela

Awards

Choose Joy

Randall D. Standridge

# Personnel

## Concert Band

### Flute

Emma Ashley  
Joslyn Barna  
Logan Fast  
Autumn Hardin  
Jamie Rickmon  
Hunter Risner

### Clarinet

Keira Bingham  
Annika Comer  
Joel Harvey  
Sebastian Luster

### Alto Sax

Jacob Bushong

### French Horn

Christopher Beal  
Griffin Coleman  
Noah Reinke

### Trumpet

Tyler Burneka  
Brayden Carsner  
Mekhi Coleman  
Austen Dozier  
Isaac Fambro  
Michael Fletcher  
Owen Hedke  
Alexander Pfeiler  
Kaydin Rugg

### Trombone

Jocelyn Brown  
Kevin Liu  
Javier Pfeiler  
Izabella Phelps  
Kamille Stanifer

### Baritone

Henry Colley-Lambright  
Elijah Nyandwi  
Brandon Shafner\*

### Tuba

Jacob Erickson  
Annie Haas  
Colton Smart

## Symphonic Band

### Flute

Jackson Combs  
Julia Gau  
Autumn Hardin  
Wyatt Miller  
Janessa Simon  
Ava Tracy  
Courtney Vanwinkle\*

### Clarinet

Allison Fletcher\*  
Jaiden O'Dell Howard  
Davin Rose

### Bass Clarinet

Nicholas Bullio

### Saxophones

Braylon Boddie (alto)  
Dawson Isaacs (alto)  
Cooper Meeks (bari)

### Trumpet

Nathan Abner  
Arnold Bolender  
Mekhi Coleman  
Hunter Dillon  
Shay Edwards  
Michael Goffinet  
Joey Hibbard  
Megan Michel  
Brandon Shafner\*

### Trumpet (cont.)

Kimora Shavers  
Kaylee Warden

### Trombone

Isaiah Atwood  
Jay'relle Cooper  
Emmalee Gross

### Baritone

Tyler Buxton  
Nevaeh Kitchens  
Ashlee Martin\*

### Tuba

Colton Bingham

\* denotes Senior

# Personnel

## Wind Ensemble

### Flute

Lily Braswell  
Cassie Dranschak  
Julia Gau  
Katie Schmitz\*  
Madeline Seibert  
Ellery Torrence

### Oboe

Jessica Pahl ∞

### Clarinet

Lola Gosser  
Joel Harvey  
Hailey Pahl  
Bradley Pipenger ∞  
Bethany Williams

### Bass Clarinet

Bobbi Carsner  
Reagan Nguyen\*

### Bassoon

Allison Fletcher\*  
Bonnie Sherman ∞

### Saxophones

Julian Clark (tenor)  
Michaela Copeland (tenor) ∞  
Gabe Malott (bari)  
Alex Mohr (alto) ∞  
Myrah Peters (alto)

### Trumpet

Rylen Dellinger  
Sophia Fritz  
Michael Goffinet  
Izzy Plummer  
Bridget Scranton  
Brandon Shafner\*  
Nona Whalen

### French Horn

Cindy Ahearn ∞  
Ryan Chatterton ∞

### Trombone

Liam Gniazdowski  
Kevin Liu  
  
**Baritone**  
Owen Franks  
Jacob Hobbs  
Shelby Walker

### Tuba

Chris Gross\*  
Levi Miller

∞ Denotes Guest Musician

## Percussion Ensemble

Sydney Asbra ¶ ≠  
Connor Baker §  
Cameron Channels ¶ ≠  
Ryan Fitzgerald ¶ ≠  
\*Allison Fletcher §  
Benjamin Gaya §  
Mia Getter § ¶ ≠

Carilyse Hall § ≠  
Jenna Hall § ¶  
Jordan Harrison §  
Ezra Hensley § ¶  
Mason Jennings § ≠  
RJay Karban § ≠  
Mackarthur Lakes §  
\*Jacob Rieben ¶ ≠

Keegan Roberts ¶ ≠  
\*Brandon Shafner ¶  
Jeffrey Shirk § ¶  
Bennett Stouder § ¶ ≠  
Jayden Swartzel § ¶  
Kyla Wilcoxson §  
\*Jared Wright ¶ ≠

§ denotes Concert Band  
¶ denotes Symphonic Band  
≠ denotes Wind Ensemble

\* denotes Senior



# *Program Notes*

## Concert Band

### **Conundrum**

A conundrum is defined as a question or problem having only a conjectural answer, but your audience will have no questions or problems enjoying this tasty musical offering. The rhythmic groove, imaginative textures, and colorful scoring will make this a favorite on your next concert -- and with a title like this, of course . . . it has great drum parts!

notes prepared by the publisher

### **La Noche de los Alebrijes**

"The Night of the Fantastical Creatures"

"Alebrijes" are brightly colored Mexican folk art sculptures of fantastical creatures, originally from the imagination of artist Pedro Linares. These friendly mythical beings are the sort you'd expect to encounter in a dream - a donkey with butterfly wings, a rooster with bull horns, a lion with an eagle head.

The composer writes, "I was originally inspired to write this piece by the role these characters played in the Disney movie *Coco*. Imagine a cool night in a small Mexican town; after all have fallen asleep. Slowly, 'alebrijes' come to life, bringing a wave of color and energy through the air and on the street!

Varied musical themes and instrument colors hint at the variety of different colorful creatures seen and heard, growing in number all the way to the piece's apex! As daylight approaches, they disappear as quickly as they appeared, fading back from where they came as night fades to morning."

notes prepared by the composer

# Program Notes

## Concert Band

### Techno Blade

A recent hobby I have taken up is knife throwing. I was pleasantly surprised to find that throwing knives make some really intriguing sounds as they spin through the air and thud into the target, or glance off the target in the case of a miss! The sounds are percussive, yet unusual, almost otherworldly, as if they might be borrowed from an alien drum machine. When you combine this with the fact that Jim Mobley, the head commissioner, is a percussionist, located right outside Detroit, which is the birthplace of techno music, it was clear to me that this piece should be inspired by electronic dance music (EDM) while incorporating sounds from my recordings of throwing knives.

At several moments in this work, all the band members are asked to be percussionists by playing on the metal around them, namely their music stand. (Sorry, I couldn't get permission to have the performers play throwing knives on stage!) Sounds in the electronic track come from me both making and throwing my own set of knives. I recorded and processed the sounds of cutting, grinding, and sanding the steel and then, of course, the sounds of "playing" with the finished knives. The melodies and harmonies found throughout the piece are all derived from words and numbers associated with knife throwing. I would like to thank the students from Brownstown Middle School Band who came up with the perfect title for this piece, *Techno Blade*.

notes prepared by the composer

# Program Notes

## Symphonic Band

### **Photo Finish!**

Down through the ages, the circus has provided us with a wealth of great music. Perhaps the most popular selections have been marches that were written in the style of a rousing gallop. One can just imagine the aroma of cotton candy and the enthusiastic tapping of feet. So be prepared; you're about to be taken on an exciting musical race from start to finish.

notes prepared by the composer

### **Cloud Dancing**

Filled with tuneful melodies and an energetic lilt throughout, *Cloud Dancing* is sure to have great appeal for students as well as audiences. There is a wealth of teachable elements as well; developing confidence in  $3/4$  and the use of simple mixed meters in the slow middle section. The tongue-in-cheek style is combined with some jazzy elements while featuring brief solos throughout the band.

notes prepared by the composer

### **Drawing Mars**

Detailed program notes from the composer are located on the following two pages.

# THERE IS LIFE ON THE PLANET MARS

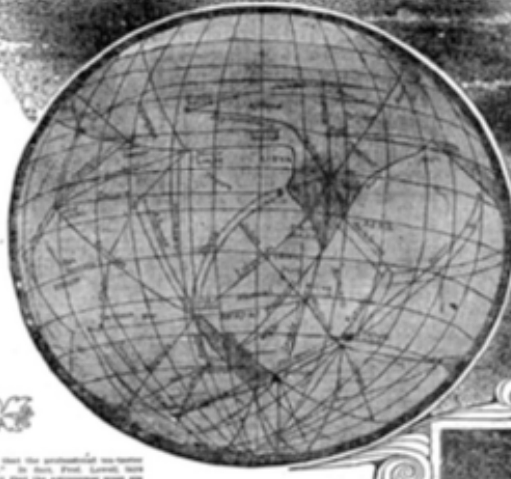
*Prof. Percival Lowell, recognised as the greatest authority on the subject, declares there can be no doubt that living beings inhabit our neighbor world.*

By Lillian Whiting.

**T**HE possibility of life on Mars, having a general and a more detailed opinion, is a subject which has been the subject of the most intense and successful speculation in the history of modern astronomy. The study of Mars, the planet's peculiar structure, has led to the discovery of the "canals" of Mars, the "polar ice-caps," and the "seasons" of Mars. The study of Mars, the planet's peculiar structure, has led to the discovery of the "canals" of Mars, the "polar ice-caps," and the "seasons" of Mars.



It will be seen that the probability of the existence of life on Mars is a subject which has been the subject of the most intense and successful speculation in the history of modern astronomy. The study of Mars, the planet's peculiar structure, has led to the discovery of the "canals" of Mars, the "polar ice-caps," and the "seasons" of Mars.



The Pecos at Flagstaff, Arizona.



In 6th grade, my entire class participated in a "wax museum" history project — a "night at the museum" at Crismon Elementary School in Mesa, Arizona. We all stood along the perimeter in the library, in front of bookcases, with a small construction paper circle on the floor in front of us. This was the "button" that, when stepped on, activated the speeches we had memorized, narrated in the voices of the historic figures we had chosen to embody. One of us dressed as Sacajawea, another as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., etc. My costume was a simple turtleneck sweater. Long before Steve Jobs made turtlenecks trendy, there was Carl Sagan, and for one night, I became him.

Before I discovered my love for music, I loved space. In my bedroom, in the many craters of my popcorn ceiling, I stuck what must have been hundreds of tiny glow-in-dark stars. On hot, summer nights, a swirling galaxy would appear as I also peppered these stickers on the blades of my ceiling fan. On my desk next was a large plastic globe of the moon and, for a short-lived time in our living room, I had even constructed a homemade planetarium taped together from triangular pieces of heavy, black garbage bags and inflated by a table fan. Inside, equipped with a flashlight and a laser pointer, I talked to an imaginary audience about my favorite constellations and the planets of our solar system

as they, too, glowed on the inside ceiling of this giant, dark plastic bubble. In the evenings, I spent hours looking at the surface of the moon, at Mars, at the rings of Saturn, at the moons orbiting Jupiter, at the Andromeda galaxy, at that fuzzy little nebula near Orion's belt, all through an 8" diameter telescope in my backyard. I even remember trying to read a couple of Carl Sagan's books, although in retrospect I was probably too young to really understand them. But after finding a few episodes of his show *Cosmos*, a TV program that made the wonders of the universe easily digestible, I was hooked. For a 7th grade English project, I even made a short film called *Their First Encounter* — my first attempt at writing and directing science-fiction, complete with fog, strobe lights, and tin foil costumes.



Actual frame from 'Their First Encounter' ca. 1999.



As my obsession grew, I eventually asked my mom to drive me two hours north to Flagstaff, Arizona where Lowell Observatory has stood at the top of Mars Hill Road for the last 100 years. Percival Lowell was born into a rich family in the mid 1800s, studied math at Harvard, travelled the world, but soon realized that the universe was calling to him. Out of his own pocket, he funded his own observatory.

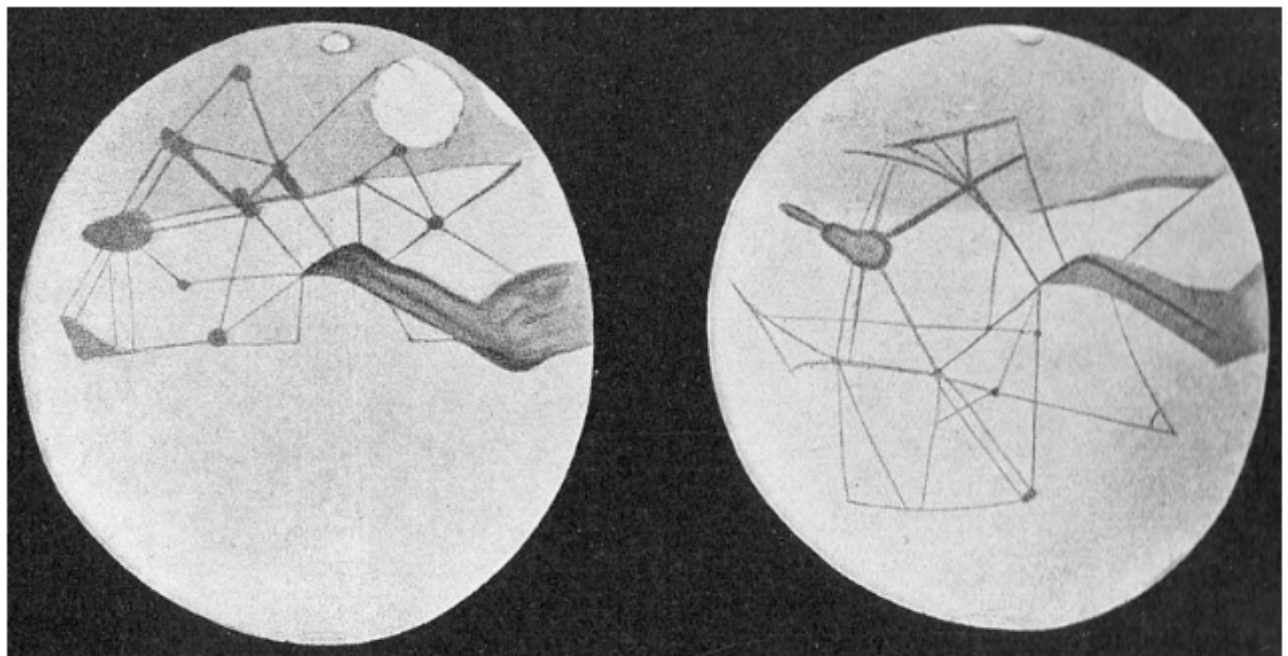
Lowell was obsessed with the planet Mars. His colleague in Italy, a guy by the name of Giovanni Schiaparelli, had discovered strange lines all across the planet — lines that, in Italian, he called 'canali' (not to be confused with *cannoli*). In Italian, *canali* roughly translates to 'channel-like landscapes' — like a riverbed — something naturally made — no big deal. But when Lowell translated the word, he called them 'canals,' which have a very different connotation. When we think of canals, as Lowell did, we probably think of something man-made, something that has been constructed with purpose and intention.

Lowell wanted to study these canals for himself, so night after night, he would look through his telescope up at Mars, then down at a piece of paper and draw the surface of the planet as he saw it. He did this for months and eventually developed a theory: he believed that Mars was a dying planet — that it was drying up — and in order to save their civilization, some kind of intelligent beings had constructed this incredible system of canals — some 30 miles wide — in an attempt to siphon melting water from the polar ice caps and funnel them down to the major metropolitan areas, the darker areas on the planet which he called oases.

The crazy thing about all this is that *people believed him!* Actually, there was really no reason to doubt him. He was well-educated, he had the best technology available for the times and one of the biggest telescopes in the world. He wrote three really convincing books arguing this theory, and in 1905, even *The New York Times* ran a full page article under the headline "THERE IS LIFE ON THE PLANET MARS: Prof. Percival Lowell, recognized as the greatest authority on the subject, declares there can be no doubt that living beings inhabit our neighbor world." In fact, it would take another 50 years for scientists to get close enough to Mars to see in better detail that oh... there aren't actually any Martian-made canals after all. Although we now know that the canals that Lowell saw were largely psychological tricks, his observations captured the imagination of the world and even inspired early 20th century science-fiction like H.G. Wells's *War of the Worlds* and Edgar Rice Bourroughs's many Mars-inspired books.

I don't think the music in *Drawing Mars* tells a story about aliens invading Earth or of "first contact" or anything like that, but I do think it tries to get inside Lowell's head as he looks through his telescope, night after night, in the dark, all alone, as his mind maybe starts to wander... and wonder... *woah, what if I'm right? What if there is life on Mars?*

Of course, we now know that Lowell's imagination maybe got the best of him, but as Einstein said, "imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution."



Drawings of "Martian Canals" by Percival Lowell.

# Program Notes

## Wind Ensemble

### Bitscapes

*Bitscapes* builds off of sounds indicative of popular 8-bit gaming systems of the 1970s and '80s. Beginning with a simple sine wave along with the sounds of the instrumental ensemble, this piece paints a sonic landscape of a retro style known as Chiptunes or BitPop that originated in the mid-1970s.

notes prepared by the composer

### Goodnight Moon

Over the first six years of his life, I must have read *Goodnight Moon* to my son a thousand times, maybe more. Somewhere around reading number 500 I began hearing little musical fragments as I read, and over time those fragments began to blossom into a simple, sweet lullaby. I knew it was a long shot, but I asked my manager, Claire Long, to contact HarperCollins and see if they would allow the text to be set to music. To my surprise and delight they agreed – the first time they had ever allowed *Goodnight Moon* to be used in such a way. I composed the piece relatively quickly, setting the text for harp, string orchestra, and my son's mother, soprano Hila Plitmann. It later created a version for soprano and piano, SATB choir and piano and finally, SSA choir and piano.

This Wind Ensemble arrangement of *Goodnight Moon* was created by Dr. Verena Mösenbichler-Bryant and premiered with the World Adult Wind Orchestra Project (WAWOP) and the World Youth Wind Orchestra Project (WYWOP). Dr. Mösenbichler-Bryant conducted the premiere in July 2017 with soprano Hila Plitmann and Eric Whitacre in attendance.

notes prepared by the composer

# Program Notes

## Wind Ensemble

### Choose Joy

#### Why Choose Joy?

Commission can take many forms. I have written pieces that celebrate special occasions, I have written works that tackle serious issues, I have created commissioned pieces that commemorate historical events, and I have written commissions that encourage me to just play around in my imagination.

I have also written too many that are memorial works. Each piece of this type is a reminder to me (and, I hope, to the audience and performers) that time is our greatest gift and most valuable asset, and we are always spending it, whether we intend to or not. When we ask someone for their hand in marriage, we are asking for and offering our most treasured possession. Our time. Our lives. When we choose a profession, we are agreeing to dedicate our time to this. When we lose someone, we are simultaneously grateful for the time we have had with them, and grieving for that time being depleted.

We never get time back. Ever.

In May 2021, I was approached by Joe Glass of Salyards Middle School about a commission. Joe and I have collaborated on a work before (*Siege*), in which I spent a week with him, his staff, and his students to create a work. We created a fun piece of music, but more importantly, we created a friendship that has continued ever since. It was time well spent.

Joe asked if I would be interested in a new commission, but that the circumstances were somewhat unusual. It is with his permission and the permission of the family involved that I am sharing these details. He told me about Nicole Crandall, a recent graduate from the high school that Joe's program feeds and his former student. Nicole had been battling Level 4 Glioblastoma, a very aggressive form of brain cancer. She was then 20 years old and had been moved into hospice care. To celebrate her, they have asked that I create a work in her honor. Illness is the thief of time.

notes continued on next page

# Program Notes

## Wind Ensemble

In spite of this, Nicole and her family had created a motto that they used to navigate this difficult time. "Choose Joy." I was very moved by this, as I feel too many people waste their time (and their lives) choosing hate, choosing anger, choosing misery. Do those emotions legitimately exist? Absolutely, but I can safely say for myself that there have been moments where I have energy to them and fed them, instead of shutting them down.

Choose Joy. I like that.

For those of you that may have been touched by cancer (either yourself or a loved one), I am sure you can agree that we never know how much time we are given on this Earth, but life events such as these can put a lot of things in perspective.

To Joe, thank you for trusting me with this project.

To Nicole and her family, thank you for reminding us that happiness can be a choice, even in the face of incredible adversity.

It is raining as I finish writing this, and I looked out my window just now. Instead of thunderheads, there is a rainbow shining in the heavens.

Even in the darkest clouds, there can be beauty and light.

This piece uses elements of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* along with a five-note motive representing the five family members of Nicole's immediate family. A trio is heard near the beginning, representing Nicole and her siblings; the parts have been written for the instruments they played in band (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone). The work alternates between a rhythmic and joyful intensity and a more nostalgic and bittersweet lyrical moment in the middle. There are moments of happiness, humor, worry, pain, and determination. I hope this work serves as a fitting tribute to all those who choose joy in times of darkness.

notes prepared by the composer



# Class of 2023

Allison Fletcher, Bassoon



Allison has been accepted to Wright State University to major in Music Education.

Favorite Piece - *A Zillion Nickels* by Samuel Hazo

Chris Gross, Tuba



Chris will be attending Ohio University majoring in civil engineering.

Favorite Piece - *Bitscapes* by Jennifer Rose

# Class of 2023

Ashlee Martin, Euphonium



Ashlee will be attending Ball State majoring in astronomy.

Favorite Piece - *Drawing Mars* by Michael Markowski

Reagan Nguyen,  
Bass Clarinet

Reagan will be attending Virginia Tech to study aerospace engineering.

Favorite Piece - *Choose Joy* by Randall Standrige



# Class of 2023

## Jacob Rieben, Percussion



Jacob plans to attend Sinclair to major in radiological technology and strive to complete many other health science-related certifications.

Favorite Piece - *A Zillion Nickels* by Samuel Hazo

## Katie Schmitz, Flute

Katie is attending Bowling Green State University as a member of the Honors College, where she will be majoring in marketing.

Favorite Piece - *Some Treasures are Heavy With Human Tears* by John Mackey





# Class of 2023

Brandon Shafner, Trumpet



Brandon has been accepted to Wright State University to major in Music Education.

Favorite Piece - *Choose Joy* by Randall Standridge

Courtney VanWinkle,  
Flute

Courtney will be attending Miami University, majoring in film and environmental science.

Favorite Piece -  
*Drawing Mars* by Michael Markowski



# Class of 2023

Jared Wright, Percussion



Jared plans to attend Sinclair for their Honda PACT program before working on cars for a Honda dealership.

Favorite Piece -

*Dues Ex Machina* by Randall Standridge

Congratulations and thank you for everything you have done for the Northmont Band Program! We cannot wait to see the positive impact you have on the future! Our door will always be open and you are always welcome!

# 4 years in a Row!

2023  
BEST  
Communities  
for MUSIC  
EDUCATION



Brought to you by The **NAMM**  
Foundation\*

# THANK YOU

The Northmont Band Program would like to thank the following individuals

High School Administration, Auditorium Staff, Mr. Tony Thomas, Band Boosters, High School Secretaries and Office Staff, High School Counselors, High School Custodial Staff, Private Lesson Instructors, Mr. Chatterton, Mrs. King, Mrs. Emmons, Middle School & Elementary Music Departments, Tiffany, Emmett, and Eliza Wissman for their support, Ms. Sierra Mitchell, for all her outstanding work as Mrs. Lewis's long term sub

## Special thanks to your guest musicians this evening

Cindy Ahearn, French Horn, Michaela Copeland, Tenor Sax  
Ryan Chatterton, French Horn - Alex Mohr, Alto Sax, Jessica Pahl, Oboe  
Brad Pipenger, Clarinet - Bonnie Sherman, Bassoon



## Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, May 21 - Graduation Band (All Non Seniors) 11am-4pm

Thursday, May 25 - Marching Band Visual Camp/Percussion Auditions 5-7pm

Friday, May 26 - Marching Band Visual Camp/Percussion Auditions 5-7pm

# HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

