

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Washtenaw Community Concert Band Announces  
Young Michigan Composers Concert Band Composition Contest  
Award for *Mach 1* by Daniel Kim**

Ann Arbor, MI — The Washtenaw Community Concert Band (WCCB) proudly announced the awarding of its prize for the Young Michigan Composers Concert Band Composition Contest.

Daniel Kim (b. 2000) is a composer and pianist whose music involves strong thematic elements and the manipulation of motivic material blended within various textures and harmonies. His influences include composers from the classical, film, and video game worlds, such as Erich Korngold, Sergei Prokofiev, John Williams, Joe Hisaishi, Christopher YOUNG, and Nomi Yuuji. Daniel has written for ensembles such as the UT New Music Ensemble, the U.S. Naval Academy Band, the Press Start Orchestra, the Illinois State University Wind Symphony, and the International Double Reed Society. He is a member of the Asian Memory Project, writing, arranging, and performing music for Asian-inspired events. Daniel holds a bachelor's degree in composition from the University of Texas at Austin. His mentors include Bruce Pennycook, Yevgeny Sharlat, Russel Podgorsek, and Donald Grantham. He is pursuing his master's degree at the University of Michigan, studying with Michael Daugherty.

The winning composition *Mach 1* is a piece for wind ensemble that evokes the thrill and exhilaration of breaking the sound barrier. The piece centers around a motif constructed from the scale degrees that correspond to the speed of sound: 7-6-7-2-7 (767.27 MPH). The motif is synthesized to convey the sensation of accelerating, cruising, falling, and rising through the air.

**Daniel Kim's composition for concert band will have its world premiere at the WCCB's free concert to be held at Towsley Auditorium at Washtenaw Community College on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.**

The competition was strong, with eight compositions submitted in 2024, all demonstrating the talent and skill of these young Michigan composers. Due to the very worthy applications made, two honorable mentions have been awarded: *Grit* by Shawn Lee of Detroit, Michigan, and *As Jesus Wept* by Zackary Jurj of Oxford, Michigan.

This Young Michigan Composers Concert Band Composition Contest is open to composers under the age of 30 and is intended to encourage and promote the creation of new music for concert band. The Washtenaw Community Concert Band's Conductor Emeritus Jerry Robbins, Ed.D., generously sponsored the cash prize of \$2,000 for the winner. To qualify, the composer must meet at least one of the following criteria: be a legal resident of Michigan; be enrolled in a public or private high school in Michigan; be enrolled in a school/college/university in Michigan,

or have completed a bachelor's or higher degree from a Michigan college/university. The contest was created with the goal of inspiring the creation of innovative music for the concert band medium.

This is the second time the WCCB has made an award for the Young Michigan Composers Concert Band Composition Contest; the first competition was held in 2021 with the winning composition *Asylum Lake* by Eric P. Szanto premiering in 2023.

The deadline for the third Young Michigan Composers Concert Band Composition Contest will be announced at a future date. For additional information about the contest and upcoming free concerts by the WCCB, visit **WCCBand.org**.

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*The Washtenaw Community Concert Band provides a welcoming environment where musicians of varying skill levels can develop, broaden, and express their musical abilities through rehearsal and performance. WCCB strives to provide its members, its concert audiences, and the communities it serves with quality musical experiences that inspire a greater appreciation for concert band music. This 60–80-piece volunteer band performs 6 free concerts per year at Washtenaw Community College and other locations in the Washtenaw County area.*