



PALMETTO CONCERT BAND TO PERFORM TWO CONCERTS
PREMIERING "THERE ARE NO WORDS" BY JAMES STEPHENSON

COLUMBIA, SC (January 29, 2016) -- The Palmetto Concert Band is pleased and honored to present two concerts this February premiering a recently commissioned piece of wind band literature, "there are no words," composed by James Stephenson.

The band's first February performance, presented as part of the University of South Carolina Band Clinic, will take place at the Koger Center for the Arts in Columbia, SC at 7:30 PM on Saturday, February 13, 2016. The second concert, the finale performance of the National College Band Directors Association (NCBDA) and National Band Association (NBA) Conference, will take place at the Gaillard Center in Charleston, SC at 9:00 PM on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Admission is free for both concerts. Seating is General Admission; no tickets are required.

About *there are no words*

there are no words was composed as a response to the tragic mass shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston on June 17, 2015 and is dedicated to Clementa, Cynthia, Tywanza, Ethel, Sharonda, Daniel, Myra, Susie, and Depayne. The work received its premiere at the Mother Emanuel AME 9 Benefit Concert produced by Chamber Music Charleston on Friday, August 7, 2015 at Sottile Theatre (Charleston, SC). Originally scored for mixed chamber ensemble, the premiere was performed by a gathering of musicians under the direction of Nathan Tucker. The version for concert band was commissioned by a consortium of ensembles and led by Scott Weiss, the Palmetto Concert Band and the University of South Carolina.

Cast in a single movement, *there are no words* moves through the stages of grief and shock that accompany tragic events such as the mass shooting at Emanuel AME Church. The number nine, symbolizing the nine victims, is prevalent throughout the work. The piece opens with nine chords consisting of nine notes, which are removed one by one. After sections representative of shock, confusion, and anger, the music gives way to a final section symbolizing the unqualified and total forgiveness that the families of the victims demonstrated in the aftermath of the tragedy. Here, a melody constructed from the rhythm of the names of the victims is heard nine times in succession, and nine individual chimes stationed around the hall give each victim individual recognition.

As a completely self-taught composer, James M. Stephenson has enjoyed an organic rise to prominence in the classical world of new literature for orchestras, wind ensembles, chamber music and soloists. Before launching full-time into composing, Stephenson played 17 seasons with the Naples Philharmonic, where he also served as an arranger contributing works for the Cincinnati Pops and Boston Pops. He now lives near Chicago with his beautiful wife, Sally, and their four children. More can be found about James Stephenson on his website, www.stephensonmusic.com.

About the Palmetto Concert Band

The Palmetto Concert Band was founded in 1999 by James K. Copenhaver and William J. Moody, and is comprised of professional and semi-professional musicians from throughout South Carolina, with members also from North Carolina and Georgia. A large majority of the ensemble's members are alumni of the University of South Carolina's School of Music, and more than half are public school band directors. These experienced performers, who receive no compensation for participating, choose to play with the ensemble because of their passion for making music and performing outstanding repertoire composed or transcribed for the wind band.

Now in its sixteenth season, the Palmetto Concert Band performs under the direction of Scott Weiss, Director of Bands at the University of South Carolina. In addition to performing a season of free concerts in the Columbia area, the ensemble has also been featured on the international stage, including invitations to perform at the 1999 and 2008 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Illinois; the South Carolina Music Educators Convention in Charleston, SC in February 2005; the American Bandmasters Association's 76th Annual Convention in Charleston, SC in March 2010; and the North Carolina Music Educators Convention in Winston-Salem, NC in November 2011.

For more information about the Palmetto Concert Band and their upcoming performances, please visit www.PalmettoConcertBand.com.

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Palmetto Concert Band Media Contacts:

Scott Weiss, Conductor - sweiss@mozart.sc.edu, 803.777.4278

Leah Cordé, Board President – lcorde@richland2.org, 803.691.7210, ext. 3302

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