The CSUN Wind Ensemble concert in the VPAC on April 23rd will feature four guest conductors — CSUN composition faculty Elizabeth Sellers and William Malpede, along with CSUN composition students Frank Duarte and Nolan Markey. Each will conduct one of his/her own compositions.

- Elizabeth Sellers will conduct *WindSong*.
- William Malpede will conduct *Eye of the Storm*.
- Nolan Markey will conduct *Rampage*.
- Frank Duarte will conduct *Hymn to the Land of the Rising Sun*.

Each of these composer-conductors comes with different conducting training, background, and experience. (Be sure to read their biographies in the program before the concert begins.) Each of them is an effective conductor. As all four of the guest conductors had limited rehearsal time with the students in the CSUN Wind Ensemble prior to the concert, none of them had the benefit of previous familiarity with our Wind Ensemble students. Their respective effectiveness as conductors at the concert depended upon each conductor’s musicality, artistry, and nonverbal communication skills and abilities.

Your assignment is to intelligently and insightfully evaluate each guest conductor’s level of success in “conducting the music, not the musicians.” Write a one-paragraph review for each of the guest conductors (typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, etc.). Your review should be 200–300 words for each guest conductor.

Each of these compositions is relatively short — between 5–8 minutes. Bring some paper to the concert so that you can jot some notes for each of the guest conductors.

Your reviews should reflect your understanding of conducting based upon concepts and attributes that we have been exploring in conducting class.

Let there be no doubt about the expectations for your writing: Your reviews should reflect collegiate-level intellect. Quality writing is expected, and your writing style matters! A great message which is poorly conveyed is an ineffective message, making the writer a poor communicator. Beyond just proper grammar and syntax, your essay should be written in compelling rhetoric and argued in a manner reflecting collegiate-level thinking.

If you have a class conflict with the VPAC concert on Thursday night, send me an E-mail before the concert. Include in your E-mail the course number, course name, class meeting time, and instructor’s name. You will be given an alternative assignment if you are not excused from the class that conflicts with the concert.

Note well! You are writing about these composers’ conducting style, *not* reviewing their compositions.

When: Thursday, April 23rd, 7:30 PM
Where: Valley Performing Arts Center