Overview

Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

Band / Banda

‘Symphonic’ / ‘sinfonisch’

Summary

Outlook
Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

• Etymology
  – Latin: Cappa
  – English: Cap
  – French: Capuchin
  – German: Kappe
Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- Cappa Sancti Martini
  - St. Martin (316 – 397) was a Roman soldier in France
  - Later he became bishop of Tours and shared his cloak with a beggar on a cold winter day
Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- **Cappa Sancti Martini**
  - The part of the cloak kept by him became a famous relic, the *cappa Sancti Martini*
  - The priest who took care of the cloak was called *cappellanu*
    - Chaplain (Gb)
    - Chapelain (Fr)
    - Kaplan (De)
• **Cappa Sancti Martini**
  – Since 800, persons who are involved in church services are called **capellani**
  – The **place** where the cloak was kept, was called **capella**
    ▪ Chapel (Gb)
    ▪ Chapelle (Fr)
    ▪ Kapelle (De)
Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- Cap(p)ella, which is the diminutive form of cap(p)a, is supposed to originate from Mediaeval Latin and means a small, hooded coat.

- Avignon 1335: The understanding of the musical term ‘capella’ / ‘chapel’ / ‘chapelle’ / ‘Kapelle’ goes down the path of the Papal ‘capella intrinseca’
  - This ‘chapel of the interior’ was in charge of the church services, music included!
Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

• Change of meanings over the centuries
• A Cappella
  – Johann Gottfried Walther, ‘Musikalisches Lexikon’
    • Indessen ist die Päbstliche Music darinnen von anderen unterschieden, daß man dabey keiner Orgel oder anderer Instrumenten brauchet, sondern die Stücke nur hersinget
Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

- **17th century**: Michael Praetorius
  - *Capella fidicinia*
    - An ensemble of strings and winds

- **19th century**
  - Synonym for musicians of an orchestra
  - *Pejorativ term* for dance, military and wind orchestras of minor quality

*Today*

- **Blaskapelle Marchviertel**

- **Staatskapelle Dresden**
Capella / Chapel / Kapelle

• Negative labelling: *Kapellmeistermusik*
  – Eclectic, not creative
  – Richard Wagner
    ▪ Incapacity of chapel masters to compose music
    ▪ Wagner’s example: Mendelssohn

• Positive labelling: Adorno
  – Wagner and Mahler, composers of *Kapellmeistermusik* of the highest repute
  – The chapel masters know best the wishes of the audience
  – Possible argument for ’symphonic’ wind music?
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Summary
Band – Etymology

- Etymology – some meanings towards the musical term:
  - Latin
    - Bandum, a flag, an emblem of war
  - Old High German (Althochdeutsch)
    - 8th century bintan: ‘fest miteinander vereinigen’ – close-knit
    - Eine Bande: a group of criminals, a gang
  - French – bande:
    - 1100-50 bende: piece of metal in the form of a circle, ring
      - « pièce de métal en forme de cercle, anneau »
    - 15th century: group of persons, bound together through affinity or a common objective
      - Bande musicale: for example ‘une bande de hautbois’
  - Banda: Stage band in Italian operas (Rossini, Verdi)
‘A Band is a Band is a Band’ (R.F. Camus)

- Amy Camus in a recent text:
  - The word “band” is problematic. What comes to mind when that word is spoken?

  - Rock Band
  - Marching Band
  - Brass Band
  - Jazz Band
  - Swing Band
  - Big Band
  - Concert Band
  - Dixieland Band
  - Circus Band
# Band – Terms

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<th>English</th>
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<td>Wind Orchestra</td>
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<td>Concert Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symphonic Band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind Ensemble</td>
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</table>
• Una **banda de música** es una agrupación musical formada básicamente por instrumentos de viento o de cuerda
  – A music band is a musical group formed basically by wind or **string instruments**
• **Banda sinfónica**
• **Banda de concierto**
La principal diferencia entre una **banda de música** y una **banda sinfónica** es que la primera solo está compuesta por instrumentos de viento y percusión, mientras que la segunda está compuesta, también, por algunos instrumentos de cuerda, como el violonchelo, el contrabajo, el piano, el arpa, pero nunca violines ni violas. Existen bandas sinfónicas con solo instrumentos de viento pero con todas las familias.
The main difference between a **music band** and a **symphonic band** is that the first one is only composed of wind and percussion instruments, while the second is also composed by **some string instruments**, such as cello, double bass, piano, harp, but never by violins or violas. **There are symphonic bands with only wind instruments** but with all the families.
Band – Definition of Italian Wikipedia

• Banda musicale, o semplicemente banda, o anche orchestra di fiati
  – Musical band, or simply band, or even wind orchestra

• The term ‘symphonic’ is not used!
Overview

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Summary
Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

• Etymology
  – MGG
    • Greek origin – ‘Zusammenklang’
    • Term of music theory, apprenticeship of intervals
  – The word ‘symphony’ derives from the Greek syn (‘together’) and phōnē (‘sounding’)
  – In late Greek and medieval theory, consonance, as opposed to diaphonia or dissonance. The word symphonos also sometimes meant a unison as distinct from antiphonos, an octave, and paraphonos, a 4th or 5th.
    » (Grove, Symphonia)
  – The adjective ‘symphonic’ applied to a work implies that it is extended and thoroughly developed
    » (Grove, Symphony)
Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- **Symphonic** wind music:
  - Definition by Hofer
    - Symphonic wind orchestra is art music for winds of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century
  - First mention according to Suppan in a regional journal in 1932
  - First non-functional concert pieces
    - 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} Suite (Holst)
    - *Dionysiaques* (Schmitt)
  - 1957: Hans Werner Henze
    - *Hochzeitsmusik aus dem Ballet “Undine” für Sinfonisches Blasorchester*
Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

• Meaning
  – The adjective ‘symphonic’ applied to a composition, implies that it is extended and thoroughly developed. (Grove, Symphony)
  – 2 Examples
    1. Beethoven’s string trios
       ▪ About ½ hour of length
       ▪ Clearly structured
       ▪ **Symphonic** work?
         o Concerning the number of musicians: **no**
         o Concerning the structure, e.g. four movements: **yes**
         o Concerning the length: **yes**
Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

• Meaning
  – 2 Examples
    2. Derek Bourgeois‘ Apocalypse, up to 80 musicians
       ▪ 20‘ of length
       ▪ Interesting piece written in 2002
       ▪ With many style influences, eclectic
       ▪ **Symphonic work?**
         o Concerning the number of musicians: **yes**
         o Concerning the structure: **yes? / no?**
         o Concerning the length: **no**
## Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- Wikidata entrance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>German</th>
<th>Bavarian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>concert band</td>
<td>orchestré d'harmonie</td>
<td>Harmonieorchester</td>
<td>Blosmusi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>performing ensemble consisting of several members of the woodwind, brass, and percussion families of instruments</td>
<td>relativement grand ensemble musical regroupant la famille des bois, la famille des cuivres et la famille des percussions</td>
<td>Orchester mit Blechbläsern, Holzbläsern und Schlagwerk</td>
<td>No description defined</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>symphony band</td>
<td>harmonie</td>
<td>Sinfonische Blasmusik Harmonie</td>
<td>Blasmusik Blousmusi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

- Wikidata entrance
**“Symphonic” band**

- Different scholars / different views
  - Depending on country, region, traditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Woodwinds:</th>
<th>Brass</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Flutes (Picc.) in C</td>
<td>4 Horns in F/E flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Oboes</td>
<td>3 Trumpets in B flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bassoons</td>
<td>3 Trombones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarinet in E flat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Clarinets in B flat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alto clarinet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass clarinet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Contrabass-clarinet)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

|                            |                           |
| 2 Alto saxophones in E flat|                           |
| Tenor saxophone in B flat  |                           |
| Bariton saxphone in E flat |                           |

|                          |                           |
| Strings:                 |                           |
| Contrabass               |                           |

- Kornett

- Bassflügelhorn and Euphonium in Eastern Austria

Wolfgang Suppan, Das neue Blasmusiklexikon 1994
Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

• My attempt at a definition
  – Free of functional tasks, in Europe often consisting of timely defined project orchestras, in the USA consisting of thousands of school and academic ensembles with often changing musicians
  – Playing original wind band pieces, along with ambitious arrangements and (concert) marches
  – Performing concertant wind music
Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

• My attempt at a definition
  – Having a worldwide uniform instrumentation, yet variable in number, but omitting instruments with regional identity and character
  – Producing a uniform sound
  – Being able to perform current wind music off-the-peg from publishers worldwide becoming, like symphony orchestras, comparable (and evaluable – in contests)
Symphonic wind band / sinfonisches Blasorchester

• Critical position
  – Term ‘symphonic’ **over-used**
    • Fluctuates between meaningfulness and meaninglessness
  – In relation to wind music **grandiloquent**
  – **Discrimination** against the so-called ‘serious’ and the ‘ordinary’
    • Counterexamples, not using the term **symphonic**
      ▪ La Garde Republicaine and la Banda dei Carabinieri don’t use the term ‘symphonic’, but belong to the best wind orchestras in the world…
      ▪ … and use their typical instrumentation, providing and conserving their national identity
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Summary

- Term Chapel / Kapelle uncontested, historically clearly proven
- Term Band / Banda associated to multiple meanings in English
- Term symphonic for wind music:
  - Not easy to define
  - Borrowed from the music of great masters
  - Overused, unadapted, grandiloquent, arbitrary
  - Nebulous
  - Compositions of an eclectic style
  - Possible better term: Concert music for winds?
Thank you for your attention