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Seggelke, assistant professor of music, to present at international World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles conference

Summary: The recipient of a University of Minnesota Imagine Fund Award will speak on the German "roots" of wind instruments and the formation of wind ensembles.

(May 22, 2009)-Martin Seggelke, assistant professor of music, or Dr. S as most of his students know him, is entering his fourth year at the University of Minnesota, Morris. And it is a big one. In addition to his position as Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble conductor, he begins a new role as music coordinator and will serve as one of only five presenters at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) international conference.

Seggelke is one of thirteen Morris professors who received inaugural University of Minnesota Imagine Fund Awards. Funded in part by a generous grant from the McKnight Foundation, the competitive Universitywide program supports scholarship and artistic endeavors in the arts, design, and humanities. Seggelke's Imagine Award will support his research and provide funding for the WASBE conference, the international organization for wind ensembles. Held bi-annually around the world, the July 2009 conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Seggelke has attended WASBE conferences since 1997 when the conference was held in Austria—a hop and a skip from his home country of Germany.

Dr. S is “more than delighted” to present “The History and Current Developments of Wind Music in Germany” at the prestigious, seven-day conference. Seggelke's research explores the German “roots” of wind instruments and the formation of one of the first full wind ensembles, a relatively new entity in the history of music. Fervor for his research is more than evident when Seggelke reflects on the stagnation of the wind ensemble in post World War II Germany and shares the story of its gradual rise in the late 70s and 80s.

Because the wind ensemble is only about 100 years old, many distinct variations have arisen. For example, wind ensemble in Singapore may be surprising or uniquely different from an American perspective, which is what the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles is all about. Seggelke brings back an international perspective from WASBE conferences and incorporates different approaches to wind ensemble as he and his University of Minnesota, Morris students explore music literature together.

Photo: Martin Seggelke directs the University of Minnesota, Morris Symphonic Winds during the 2009 Commencement ceremony.

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