



Department of Music

presents the

2025 HONOR BAND & ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

February 22, 2025

George and Sharon Mabry Concert Hall
Music/Mass Communication Building

7-9 BAND

Tara Melvin, Conductor

Skyward

Katahj Copley

Terracotta Warriors

Scott Watson

Evergreen Escapades

Adrian B. Sims

Hopak!

William Owens

STRING ORCHESTRA

David Eccles, Conductor

Allegro from Concerto in D Major

Sigr. Anderssen
arr. Robert McCashin

The Old Boatman

Florence Price
arr. Dana Paul Perna

Brandenberg

Kevin Sylvester & Wil Baptist
arr. Larry Moore (Black Violin)

Pirate Suite

Charlie Harrison

3. Even Pirates Get The Blues

10-12 BAND

Ron Ellis, Conductor

Infinity

Katahj Copley

Lux Arumque

Eric Whitacre

Give Us This Day

David Maslanka

BIOGRAPHIES

Tara Melvin is an Orlando, FL native. She went through Orange County Public Schools, attending Hunter's Creek MS, Cypress Creek HS, and ended at Freedom HS. She attended the University of Central Florida, where she received a double degree in Music Education and Music Performance in Flute. She also received her Master's Degree in Music, with an emphasis in conducting. She studied under Noralee Garcia in flute, and Scott Tobias in conducting.

Ms. Melvin spent her first 7 years teaching as the Associate Director of Bands at Avalon Middle School in Orlando, FL from 2010-2017 with Katie Hoey. Her primary feeder High School was the Award-Winning Timber Creek Regiment. One of the largest middle school band programs in Orange County (between 450-500 students), her bands consistently received Superior ratings at District Performances, including the Jazz Band. Ms. Melvin founded the Jazz Band at Avalon Middle School. In 2014 and 2016, Avalon Middle School had the largest representation of students make the All-County Band, and All-County Jazz Band in 2016. Her jazz band performed at numerous community events such as: Veteran's Honor Flight Reunion, Lakeside Jazz Festival, Avalon JaZZ in the Park, Light Up UCF, Chick Fil-a Christmas, ICE! @ Gaylord Palms, Education Day in Avalon Park, Sip Sample and Stroll Community Event, Disney Springs, feeder elementary school tours, and faculty meetings.

Ms. Melvin is now in her 7th year as the Director of Bands at Awtrey Middle School in Cobb County, GA. During her time at Awtrey, her bands have also received Superior Ratings at the district level, and she has dedicated time to create additional performing ensembles that meet before school, such as the Jazz Band, Winter Winds, and Band Buddies, a mentor program for 6th grade students assigned to a 7/8th grade “mentor”. Her students continue to make District Honor Band. The Awtrey Symphonic Band was selected to perform at the 2020 GMEA In-Service Conference, the first time in Awtrey’s history to be selected to perform at an invitational event. In 2022, the Awtrey 8th Grade Band was selected to perform at the Music For All Festival at Georgia State University.

Ms. Melvin lives in Acworth, GA with her husband Josh and their fur baby, Odie. She is also an active flute/band clinician in the metro Atlanta area and has been invited as a guest conductor for honor bands in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee.

David F. Eccles is a native of Norfolk, Virginia. He currently serves as Orchestra Program and Upper School Orchestra Director at The Lovett School in Atlanta, Georgia. In the spring of 2022, he was honored with the O. Wayne Rollins Master Teacher Award. For over a decade, he was the Director of String Music Education and Orchestral Activities at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, Illinois. He has held string education positions in Georgia, Virginia, and Florida. An active clinician, adjudicator, conductor, and cellist, Eccles has served as music director and principal conductor for numerous youth orchestras. He has also served as a guest conductor for many state, county, regional, and community orchestras.

Mr. Eccles has presented education sessions at several local, state, and international conferences, including The Midwest Band and Orchestra Directors Clinic & Conference, American String Teachers Association Conference, Georgia, Texas, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Florida Music Educators Conferences. Mr. Eccles is a clinician and consulting author for the Hal Leonard Corporation. Additionally, he is a featured string educator in the book, *Rehearsing the High School Orchestra*.

He holds advanced degrees in Music Education from Florida State University and University of Miami (Florida) and a Bachelor of Music and Media from Norfolk State University. His principal teachers include Elizabeth Eccles, Laurien Laufman, Ross Harbaugh, and Dr. Michael Allen.

David is a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Kappa Lambda, and the Georgia Chapter of American String Teachers Association.

Ron Ellis serves as Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at The University of Texas San Antonio. Prof Ellis is the principal conductor and music director of the UTSA Wind Ensemble, and oversees all activities of the UTSA Band Program, which includes the UTSA Symphonic Band, the UTSA University Band, and the UTSA Athletic Bands.

A nationally recognized guest conductor, adjudicator, and composer/arranger, his works for concert band, orchestra and choir are performed by university, community, High School and professional wind bands as well as in Carnegie Hall. He also currently serves as a Music Director for Walt Disney Attractions Entertainment in Orlando where he has directed the Toy Soldiers and the Student Musician Program since 1993.

He is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, Music Educators National Conference, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Florida Music Educators Association, Florida Bandmasters Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity. He is also an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, and Tau Beta Sigma.

Prof Ellis received his Bachelor of Arts in Trombone Performance from the University of Central Florida and a Master of Music in Wind and Orchestral Conducting from the University of South Florida where he was a conducting student of William Wiedrich.

Georgia native, **Katahj Copley** (he/him/his) premiered his first work, Spectra, in 2017 and hasn't stopped composing since. As of now, Katahj has written over 100 works, including pieces for chamber ensembles, wind ensembles, and orchestra. His compositions have been performed and commissioned by universities, organizations, and professional ensembles, including the Cavaliers Brass, California Band Director Association, Admiral Launch Duo, and "The President's Own" Marine Band. Katahj has also received critical acclaim internationally with pieces being performed in Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, China, and Australia.

Katahj received two Bachelor of Music degrees from the University of West Georgia in Music Education and Composition in 2021. In 2023, he received his Masters in Music Composition from the University of Texas at Austin - studying with Omar Thomas and Yevgeniy Sharlat. He is currently studying music composition at Michigan State University.

Aside from composing, Katahji is an excited educator who teaches young musicians the joy of discovering music and why music is a phenomenal language.

“Music for me has always been this impactful thing in my life. It can soothe, it can enrage, it can quiet, and it can evoke emotions that are beyond me and this world we live in. I believe that music is the ultimate source of freedom and imagination. The most freedom I have had as a musician was through composing. Composition is like me opening my heart and showing the world my drive, my passion, and my soul.”

7-9 BAND PERSONNEL

Flute

Jein Yoo
Kenadie Hughes
McKenna Milhous
Lyla Hughes
Ashlynn Seas
Jayden Galindo
Jethro Fremouw
Mikayla Sides
Olivia Coniglio
Jiu Son

Clarinet

Jayluh Hubbard
Seyeon Kim
Sarah Nichols
Shanmukha Raghulapadu
Seoyoung Ha
Kinley Meisch
Adelaide Post
Andrea Mendoza
Evelyn Needham
Jessica Nevarez
Sophia Bystriansky
Elijah Pelle
Taylor Stamper
Jocelyn Yu
Jhosseline Calderon

Bass Clarinet

Reilly Reece

Oboe

Georgia Kubena
Jordan Hayes
Arpitha Korivi

Bassoon

Makayla Baker
Trinity Wells

Alto Saxophone

Ephraim O'Hair
Adam Nichols
Logan Sierra Kirkland
Arianna Lee
Bryson Hernandez

Tenor Saxophone

Madeline Clements
Emma Brown
John Ellis

Baritone Saxophone

Ben Leggett
Katherine Jones

Trumpet

Carter Joyce
Isabella Lloyd
Elizabeth Mueller
Ludmila Reynoso
Olivia Schnettler
Grayson Haskins
Andie Yeomans
HanaJo Gheen
William Ogburn
Emma Willis
James Sprinkle
Marley Wills
Riley Nelson
Thomas Waugh

French Horn

Olivia Robertson
Gabriela Boies
Samuel Hudson
Charles Reece
Elysia Davis
Emily Robertson
Lila Bailey

Trombone

Jacob Binkley
Paul Long
Madilynn Jacobs
Declan Lawson
Ben Morrow
Major Miles
Grace Tunstall
Cooper Park
Liam Yates
Selah Robinson

Baritone/Euphonium

Sachith Gudipati
Ethan Crane
Raymond Newton
Liam Smith
Riley Meeks
Charlotte Morris
Charles Tuttle

Tuba

Bethany Parrish
Alana Henderson
Gabriel Shepherd
Weston Weaver
Ky Runyon
Carter Sanders

Percussion

Amos Kim
Trinity Jenkins
Andrew Blair
Camilla Beltran
Araceli Bonilla
Camren Bryant
Natalie Hatley
Malachi Knight

STRING ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Violin 1

Lilli Edwards
Ignatius Oelgoetz
Asher Gannod
Joshua Ferguson
Leah Moore

Violin 2

Chloe Shin
Emersyn Blais
Christina Buntin
Ekaterina Oelgoetz
Cooper Park
Adelaide Post

Viola

Liam Dawson
Kathryn Crane
Alivia Fisher
Derrion Lee
Dean Worley
Rachel Neuliep
Benjamin Ferguson

Cello

Matia Gannod
Gabriel Wheeler
Jonathan Dolder
Cecilia Morrow
Averie Fisher
Kori Seat
Bennett Compton
Russell Compton

Bass

Liam Dawson
Catherine Moore
Gavyn Sponseller

10-12 BAND PERSONNEL

Flute

Cannon Murphree
Madi McQueen
Jenna Abbott
Sophia Vazquez
Angela Righi
Ani Timmermeier
Angelica Santiago
Braniyah Edwards
Madelyn Arndt
Wren Maggard
Samantha Glader

Clarinet

Addyson Jurecki
Alejandro Cervantes
Wyatt Ramsey
Eilah Park
Adeline Gilliland
Elizabeth Johnson
Daeun Kim
Lexi Fitzgerald
Madelynn Cobb
Lacey Mathis
Jordyn Bryant

Bass Clarinet

Faith Boshers
Isabella O'Dell
Zoe Martin
Aidan Woods
Lilly Baggett

Contrabass Clarinet

Jason Clark

Oboe

Cory Fichtl
La'Marcus Merriweather
Elisabeth Carroccia

Bassoon

Giovanni Vega
Timmy Hornbeak
Jakob Oberman

Alto Saxophone

Corey Arndt
Zachary Wiens
Jocelyn Fuentes
Mykayla Smithee

Tenor Saxophone

Peyton Biggs
Olivia Tippit
Megan Hayes

Baritone Saxophone

Anthony Chavez
Joseph Clayton

Trumpet

Gabbriella Matheny
Naomi Strader
Hannah Pendergrass
Hayden Wheeler
Devon Wade
Danielle Thornton
Ivan Buck
Brandy Rocha

French Horn

Teegan Atkins
Isabelle Thornton
Brady Fisher
Sophia Powell
Sarah Davis
Tiffany Diaz-Tejada
Sebastian Pardue

Trombone

Michael Welch
Luke Smith
Michael Wall
Brandy Price
Noah Jordan
Caleb Turner
Jonathan Spurlock
Aiden Devlin
Gabriel Morrow
Jack Hicks
Betsaida Lopez
Owen Caupp

Baritone/Euphonium

Blake Hazen
Nathan Marshall
David Milan
Alan Brownlie
Kyle Reed
Heather Neuliep
Addison Stringer
Sarae Day

Tuba

Christopher Blackston
Logan Beers
Colten Hunter
Lainey Canterbury
Eli Baggett

Percussion

Madeleine Gospodarek
Justin Bruketta
Abigail Davis
Nathan Hatley
Mirah Quast
Hilario Herrera