# NORTH AMERICAN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS XLI



APRIL 4-5, 2025 FORT WAYNE, INDIANA





# Welcome to Fort Wayne, Indiana!

## North American Brass Band Association | 2025 Annual Championship Contest



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WELCOMES





## Welcome



On behalf of the 375,000 Fort Wayne area residents and Visit Fort Wayne's 250+ industry partners, I am pleased to extend an enthusiastic welcome back to our beautiful city - we are so delighted you are here!

We trust that you will once again find Fort Wayne to be the ideal host for the North American Brass Band Association's 2025 Championship Contest and stand ready to serve your group in style. We know that you will find your hotel, meeting spaces, restaurants and amenities to be world-class; and their staffs eager to make your visit a success.

When it comes to off-site activities, you will love to stroll down tree-lined streets to explore a growing Arts Campus, hop on our 8-miles of riverfront trails and enjoy Promenade Park, or spend the day exploring some of our favorite family-friendly attractions.

Other community highlights include the largest private collection of genealogical materials at the recently expanded Allen County Public Library, the historic Embassy Theatre, and the relaxing Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory. You'll also love the newly revitalized Electric Works, a historic GE campus given new life which is home to the region's first food hall and public market, Union Street Market.

Thank you for attending the NABBA 2025 Championship Contest in Fort Wayne. The staff at Visit Fort Wayne is ready to help you in any way possible, and we look forward to this being your best event ever! Please stop by the Visitors Center for more information and souvenirs.

Sincerely,



Jill Boggs President/Chief Executive Officer Jill@VisitFortWayne.com (260) 424-3700



#### Dear Attendees,

Welcome to the 41st North American Brass Band Championships! It is with mixed emotions that I extend this welcome, as this will be my final year serving as your president. We have reached a significant milestone this year, with a record 41 bands competing – a testament to the continued growth and vibrancy of the North American brass band community.

This year also marks a return to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. We are incredibly grateful for the tremendous support of Visit Ft. Wayne, who have been instrumental (pun intended) in making our return possible.

The North American Championships are so special because of all the people that make it happen, most importantly all the participants who have spent countless hours preparing such fine performances.



In addition to the outstanding performances, we are excited to offer even more professional development opportunities this year, including the return of the ever-popular Instant Band. We also have over 20 vendors showcasing their products and services.

A highlight of this year's event will be the performance of the new commission, Ghosts of Industry by Lucy Pankhurst. We are delighted that eight bands will perform this work, and we are even more thrilled to welcome Lucy Pankhurst in person.

I hope you can take advantage of all there is to offer at this special weekend, and I thank you for your continued support of the North American Brass Band Association.

Sincerely,



Patrick Herak

President - North American Brass Band Association





April 2025

Welcome to the participants and guests of the 2025 North American Brass Band Association Championship Contest.

As Mayor of this great city and on behalf of the residents of Fort Wayne, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our guests visiting for this special event. Our partners at Visit Fort Wayne and I value and appreciate the partnership and collaboration with the North American Brass Band Association.

We're a fun, family-friendly, and safe city that's committed to providing an enhanced quality of life for all. In addition, we offer the best in restaurants, hotels, shopping centers, family entertainment, and cultural arts. We're hopeful you'll be able to enjoy some of our unique attractions and amenities.

Enjoy your visit and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Sharon Tucker Mayor

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## FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

#### **THURSDAY APRIL 3**

12:00pm - NABBC Set-up

2:00pm - Solo Competition Piano Rehearsals Calhoun Room - Grand Wayne Center

9:30pm - NABBA Board Meeting

#### **FRIDAY APRIL 4**

8:00am - Second Section Test-piece Begins **Embassy Theater** 

8:30am - Solo Competition Finals Calhoun Room - Grand Wayne Center

9:00am - Vendors Open **Grand Wayne Center** 

SCHEDUL

9:45am - Percussion Ensemble Competition Pearl Arts Center

11:00pm - Brass Ensemble Competition Pearl Arts Center

1:15pm - First Section Test-piece Begins **Embassy Theater** 

2.00pm - Clinic: Creating and Maintaining Thriving Youth Brass Bands Jefferson B/C

3.00pm - Clinic: Excellence in Brass Banding lefferson B/C

5:00pm - Championship Section Test-piece Begins **Embassy Theater** 

5:30pm - Vendors Close

9:45pm - Championship Section Test-piece Ends

10:00pm - Solo and Ensemble Awards

#### **SATURDAY APRIL 5**

8:00am - First Section Own-choice Begins **Embassy Theater** 

9.00am - Clinic: Military Musician Panel lefferson B/C

9:05am - Third Section Begins Pearl Arts Center

9:00am - Vendors Open Grand Wayne Center

10.00am - Clinic: Composing and Arranging for Brass Band lefferson B/C

11.00am - Clinic: Brass Band Conducting lefferson B/C

11:35am - Second Section Own-choice Begins **Embassy Theater** 

1:00pm - Clinic: Youth Reading Session Pearl Arts Center

3:00pm - Youth Open Section Begins Pearl Arts Center

4:25pm - Open, Youth First and Youth Championship Section Begin Pearl Arts Center

5:00pm - Championship Section Own-choice Begins **Embassy Theater** 

5:30pm - Vendors Close

9:45pm - Championship Section Own-choice Ends

10:00pm - Band Awards

#### **PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

**ENOCH / PEARL ARTS CENTER** 

9:45am - James Madison University Percussion Ensemble Marimba Spiritual - Minoru Miki 10.00am - Cherry Blossom Brass Band Percussion Ensemble Sharbened Stick - Brett William Dietz

Percussion Trio Per Uno, Mvt. I - Nebojša Živković

#### YOUTH PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

10:15am - Brass Band of Northern Virginia

**ENOCH / PEARL ARTS CENTER** 

10:30 - Watson Brass Band - Triangle Youth Percussion Ensemble Zeug - Josh Gottry

**BREAK** 

#### **10-PIECE BRASS ENSEMBLE**

ENOCH / PEARL ARTS CENTER

Fierabrass - Juan J. Colomer 11:12am - Orchid City Brass 10 Fire in the Blood - Paul Lovatt-Cooper

arr. Michael O'Connor

11.00am - Colorado Versatile Brass

11:24am - Weston Silver Band Brass Tentet Suite on Canadian Folk Songs - Morley Calvert arr. David Marlatt 11:36am - James Madison University Brass Band

10-Piece Nugget Brass Ensemble Dies Irae from Requiem - Verdi arr. Ben Fuller 11:48am - Cherry Blossom Brass Band 10-Piece Symphony Fantastique - Dies Irae - Hector Berlioz arr. James Haynor

12.00pm - BREAK

#### **BRASS ENSEMBLE**

**ENOCH / PEARL ARTS CENTER** 

12:10pm - Dublin Silver Brass Quintet Escape - Kevin McKee

12.22pm - Old Crown Brass Quintet Full Tilt - Kevin McKee

12:34pm - Old Crown Brass Band

PFW Brasstodons

Brass Quintet No. 1, Mvt. I - Victor Ewald

12:46pm Brass Band of Northern Virginia **BBNV** Quintet

Brass Quintet No. 1 - Mvt. II

Victor Ewald

12:58pm - San Francisco Brass Quartet

Alla Burlesca - Gilbert Vinter

1:10pm - The Belles of Cincinnati Brass

Escape - Kevin McKee

1:22pm - Oakland University Brass Quartet

Divertimento - Philip Sparke 1:34pm - San Antonio Brass Band

SABB Bass Quartet Quartet for Tubas - Eric Ball

1:46pm - BREAK

1:58pm - Central Ohio Brass Band - COBBlers Fanfare for an Angel - James Stephenson

2:10pm - James Madison University Brass Band

Fishbowl Five Brass Quintet

**Quintet for Brass - Malcolm Arnold** 2:22pm - Grind City Brass Band

GCBB Quintet

Quintet - Michael Kamen

2:34pm - Capital City Brass Band

**CCBB Fossil Bones** 

Four for Four - Brian Lynn

2:46pm - Oakland University Brass Band

Grizzly Tuba Quartet

arr. Kim Scharnberg

Quartet For Tubas, ii. Andante iii. Vivo, very

rhythmical - Frank Lynn Payne

2:58pm - River Brass Trombones

No More Blues - Antonio Carlos Jobim

3:10pm - Colorado Brass Quintet

Aotearoa Sketches - Ryan Erik Adamsons

3:24pm Watson Brass Band Green Hope Tuba-Euphonium Quartet Celestial Suite - Stephen Bulla

#### **SENIOR SOLOIST**

CALHOUN

8:30am - Geoff Tyndall (Colorado)

You're Always There - Lee Fisher

arr. Andrew Wainwright

8:40am - Dwight L. Rhodes

Bride of the Waves - Herbert L. Clarke

8:48am - David Drillinger (St. Louis)

My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose -

Traditional arr. Gordon Langford

8:56am - BREAK

#### **ADULT SOLO**

CALHOUN

9:10am - Caroline A. Fauber (Massanutten)

Dragon Dances - Andrew Baker

9:18am - Brian McDermott

(James Madison University)

Cello Suite No. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011,

Prelude - J.S. Bach

9:26am - David Sayers (Fountain City)

Nightsongs - Richard Peaslee

9:34am - Steffi Tetzloff (James Madison University)

WindSprints: Sonatina for Flugelhorn and Piano -

Brandon Dicks

9:42am - Adam Daniel Torres (Dallas)

Sonata for Tuba and Piano, i. Allegro Moderato -

Bruce Broughton

9:50am - BREAK

10.00am - Andrew Malovance (Chicago)

Charivari - John Iveson

10:08am - Samuel Adam Mchenry

(University of Florida)

Glorious Ventures - Peter Graham

10:16am - Keaton Costlow (Dallas)

Unidentified Funky Object - Anton Lindenblatt

10:26am Catherine Dierkes (Cincinnati)

Carnival of Venice - J.B. Arban

#### **YOUTH SOLO** CALHOUN

10:34am Russel Johnsonbaugh (Cincinnati) Andante et Allegretto - Guillaume Balay

## **FRIDAY APRIL 4**

SECO	ND SECTION - EMBASSY THEAT
8:00am	Central Ohio Brass Band
8:25	Tampa Brass Band
8:50	Orillia Silver Band
9:15	Cincinnati Brass Band
9:40	Upper Canada Brass
10:05	Old Crown Brass Band
10:30	Break
10:35	Massanutten Brass Band
11:00	Milwaukee Festival Brass
11:25	Motor City Brass Band
11:50	Capital City Brass Band
12:15pm	St. Louis Brass Band
12:40	River Brass

1:05 **Break** 

PLAYING ORDER

#### FIRST SECTION - EMRASSY THEATED

FIKS I	SECTION - EMBASSY THEATER
1:15	Colorado Brass
1:40	Dublin Silver Band
2:05	Madison Brass Band
2:30	Brass Band of Northern Virginia
2:55	Break
3:05	San Antonio Brass Band
3:30	Illinois Brass Band
3:55	Weston Silver Band
4:20	Oakland University Brass Band
4:45	Break

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION -EMBASSY THEATER**

5:00	Atlantic Brass Band
5:30	Brass Band of Central Florida
6:00	James Madison University Brass Band
6:30	San Francisco Brass Band
7:00	Chicago Brass Band
7:30	Break
7:45	Princeton Brass Band
8:15	Dallas Brass Band
8:45	Fountain City Brass Band
9:15	Five Lakes Silver Band
10:00	Solo & Ensemble Awards

### **SATURDAY APRIL 5**

#### FIRST SECTION - EMBASSY THEATER

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8:00am	Illinois Brass Band
8:25	Weston Silver Band
8:50	San Antonio Brass Band
9:15	Oakland University Brass Band
9:40	Break
9:45	Brass Band of Northern Virginia
10:10	Dublin Silver Band
10:35	Madison Brass Band
11:00	Colorado Brass
11:25	Break

#### **SECOND SECTION - EMBASSY THEATER**

11:35	Capital City Brass Band
12:00pr	n Massanutten Brass Band
12:25	St. Louis Brass Band
12:45	Milwaukee Festival Brass
1:10	Motor City Brass Band
1:35	River Brass
2:00	Break
2:10	Tampa Brass Band
2:35	Upper Canada Brass
3:00	Old Crown Brass Band
3:25	Cincinnati Brass Band
3:50	Orillia Silver Band
4:15	Central Ohio Brass Band

Break

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION -EMBASSY THEATER**

5:00	Chicago Brass Band
5:30	Five Lakes Silver Band
6:00	Princeton Brass Band
6:30	Dallas Brass Band
7:00	Fountain City Brass Band
7:30	Break
7:45	San Francisco Brass Band
8:15	Atlantic Brass Band
8:45	James Madison University Brass Band
9:15	Brass Band of Central Florida
10:00	Band Awards

#### THIRD SECTION - PEARL ARTS CENTER

9:05am	Dublin Metro Brass
9:40	Motor City Academy Brass Band
10:15	Carlisle Brass Band
10:50	Break
11:00	Wilmington Virtuosi Brass
11:35	Cherry Blossom Brass Band
12:10pm	n Fountain City Youth Brass Academy
12:45	End
1:00	Clinic: Youth Reading Session
2:30	Reading Band End
YOUT	TH OPEN SECTION -

# PEARL ARTS CENTER

3:00	Triangle Youth Academy Brass Band
3:25	Youth Brass Academy
3:50	Dublin Youth Brass Band

Break 4:15

#### **OPEN SECTION - PEARL ARTS CENTER**

4:25 Instant Band

#### **YOUTH FIRST SECTION -**PEARL ARTS CENTER

4:50 Triangle Youth Brass Band

#### YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION -PEARL ARTS CENTER

5:20	Watson	Brass	Band
5.50	End		

CLINICS



#### **BRASS BAND CONDUCTING**

Saturday 11am-11:50am

#### **Panelists**

Dr. Evan Harger (NABBA Instant Band), Dr. Doug Lindsey (Frontier Brass Band), Dr. Mark Tayor (Chicago Brass Band)

#### Venue: Jefferson B/C

#### Description

Conductors from the Athena Brass Band, NABBA Instant Band, Chicago Brass Band, and Frontier Brass Band will lead a discussion on effective rehearsal strategies for brass bands. They will also address key considerations specific to brass band conducting, particularly for emerging conductors or those new to the brass band tradition. Additionally, panelists will share insights into their respective ensembles and the professional paths that led them to their conducting roles. The session will conclude with a brief question-and-answer

#### **EXCELLENCE IN BRASS BANDING**

Friday 3pm-3:50pm

#### **Panelists**

Dan Burdick, Becky Barger-Amato, Jessica Payne

Venue: Jefferson B/C

#### Description

Brass band musicians from diverse backgrounds will come together to discuss the challenges and milestones of their careers. Representing a spectrum of experiences - from hobbyists and educators to professional performers - each panelist will share their unique journey within the brass band community. This discussion will highlight the breadth of diversity within brass bands and explore strategies for fostering greater inclusivity within ensembles. The session will conclude with a brief question-and-answer segment.

#### CREATING AND MAINTAINING THRIVING YOUTH BRASS BANDS

Friday 2pm-2:50pm

#### **Panelists**

Dr. Amy Bliss (Dublin Youth Brass Band) & Dr. Lee Harrelson (Fountain City Academy Youth Band)

#### Moderator

Dr. Patrick Herak

Venue: Jefferson B/C

#### Description

Founders and leaders of two well-established youth band programs will share insights into cultivating a thriving environment for young brass and percussion musicians. They will discuss the development of their programs, strategies for sustaining enrollment, and methods for maintaining growth and momentum within their brass banding community. The session will conclude with a brief question-and-answer segment.

#### MILITARY MUSICIAN PANEL

Saturday 9am-9:50am

#### **Panelists**

Musician Second Class Serena Smith, Staff Sergeant Cherokee Miletti, Staff Sergeant Andrew Ribo, Sergeant First Class James Liverman

#### Venue: |efferson B/C

#### Description

Musicians from the Navy Band Northwest, 'The President's Own' United States Marine Band, and the United States Army Bands will discuss their career paths and the processes that led them to their current positions. They will provide insights into audition techniques and share their experiences as both military personnel and professional musicians. The panel will conclude with a brief question-and-answer session, offering attendees the opportunity to engage directly with the panelists.

#### **COMPOSING AND ARRANGING** FOR BRASS BAND

Saturday 10am-10:50am

#### **Panelists**

Andrew Wainwright, Dr. Lucy Pankurst, Dr. Keith Wilkinson

#### Moderator

Dr. Patrick Herak

#### Venue: |efferson B/C

Renowned composers and arrangers of brass band music will provide insights into key considerations for composers new to writing for brass bands. Topics will include ensemble scoring techniques, section divisions - particularly within the cornet section - instrumental roles, and the effective use of mutes. The discussion will offer valuable guidance for emerging composers seeking to craft idiomatic and effective brass band arrangements. A brief question-and-answer session will follow the panel.



#### **LUCY PANKHURST**

Lucy is a composer, educator and multi-instrumentalist from the northwest of England. As a composer, she has received many accolades for her work, most notably in 2011 when she became the first female artist to be presented with a British Composer Award. This work, In Pitch Black, was also the first composition for brass band to win a BCA. Lucy has subsequently been shortlisted for the awards on four more occasions and been a member of the judging panel in the Brass/Wind Band and Community/Educational Music categories for the BCAs and the Ivor Novello Awards. Recent awards include the Best New Composition at the 2023 Brass in Concert Competition. Notable commissions include projects for BBC Radio 3, the Durham International Brass Festival, the Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival, the RNCM Festival of Brass, RWCMD, BASBWE and NYBBGB, with several projects supported by PRSF and ACE. Her work has been premiered and recorded by international ensembles such as Brighouse and Rastrick, the Foden's Band, Grimethorpe Band (UK), Eikanger-Bjørsvik (Norway), Athena Brass Band (USA) and the BBC Singers (UK). She has also worked with world-class soloists, including Owen Farr (tenor horn), Brett Baker (trombone), Steven Mead (euphonium), Katrina Marzella (baritone), Dr. Jennifer Oliverio (flugel), Dr. Amy Schumaker Bliss (euphonium) and Dr. Joanna Ross Hersey. Much of Lucy's work as a composer relates to heritage and storytelling, ranging from mixed media installations and choral works to illustrative instrumental solos.

With over 18 years' experience as a music educator, Lucy has also composed many pieces for youth ensembles - from string orchestras, to massed 'flexible' ensembles with differentiated/inclusive parts. She has also developed and delivered whole-class programs of music for KS2 classes. In 2020 she released a free new resource as part of an Erasmus+ educational project called Puzzle Pieces - a collection of 25 new flexible works with idiomatically tiered parts for brass, wind, strings and percussion. Her work is included in the ABRSM brass exam syllabuses from grades 1-8 and ARSM, including features in the ABRSM publications Shining Brass and Brass Mix books. In addition to her work in schools, Lucy has lectured at various universities and conferences. Lucy is a performance (2004) and composition (2007) graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England. She was awarded a PhD in 2020 from the RNCM/MMU, where her research focussed on contemporary applications of the traditional brass band. Since 2021, Lucy has also been teaching at the RNCM, delivering a range of academic and pedagogy modules.



#### DR. GAIL ROBERTSON

Dr. Gail Robertson has a distinguished reputation as a euphonium artist and teacher, soloist, and clinician. She has also garnered worldwide attention for leadership, her work as a composer/arranger, adjudicator, and as a musical talent. Gail is Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the University of Central Arkansas, and Visiting Professor of Music (Euphonium) at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She also teaches euphonium at Boston University and the American Band College and is the former head of the UCA jazz area. Gail earned her B.A. degree from the University of Central Florida and a M.M. from Indiana University. Dr. Robertson performed for ten years with the world-famous Tubafours at Walt Disney World, Orlando. Gail completed her D.M.A. as a University Distinguished Fellow at Michigan State University.

Dr. Robertson is the Vice-President of the Athena Brass Band, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Leonard Falcone Tuba and Euphonium Festival. She is a Past President of the International Tuba and Euphonium Association (ITEA), Past President of the International Women's Brass Conference (IWBC) and served as Chair/Chief Editor of the International Tuba and Euphonium Press. Dr. Robertson and Dr. Stacy Baker tour and perform as SymbiosisDuo.

Dr. Robertson has served as an adjudicator for numerous solo and band competitions. She is a recipient of Tau Beta Sigma's highest honor, the Outstanding Service to Music Award. She was awarded the ITEA's Clifford Bevan Award for Excellence in Research for her research manuscript, 'Restoring the euphonium's legacy as cello of the wind band.' Dr. Robertson has toured the United States., Europe, Korea, China, and Japan with various ensembles. She has been a long-time member of the Brass Band of Battle Creek, the Athena Brass Band, the Blossom Festival Band, Keith Brion's New Sousa Band, Summit Brass, and Monarch Brass. Dr. Robertson has also performed as a featured euphonium soloist at Carnegie Hall with Purdue University's Wind Ensemble. She has performed as tenor tubist/tubist/bass trumpet with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Sarasota Orchestra/Sarasota Ballet, the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Robertson's published works and arrangements are available through Cimarron Music Press, GAR MUSIC, Euphonium.com, and the Tuba Euphonium Press. As a Willson Euphonium Artist, Dr. Robertson's euphonium of choice is a Willson 2950TA with a bronze Warburton/Gail Robertson mouthpiece.





#### MARGIE ANTROBUS

Margie Antrobus is a conductor, teacher at Manger Folkehogskole, adjudicator and baritone player. She is an experienced conductor and has conducted bands such as the "Manger Old Stars", Flesland Musikklag and is a member of the conductor team for the school's brass band course. Conducting highlights are winning 1st section of the entertainment contest Siddis brass with Flesland Musikklag in 2022, and representing her father by conducting Nimrod at Manger Musikklag's centenary anniversary. She is also looking forward to conducting the European Youth Brass Band 2025. Among contests she has adjudicated are the Norwegian wind band nationals, Danish brass band nationals, Brass In Concert, and the European brass band championship. As a player, Margie is hugely respected in the brass band community. She got her Bachelor in band musicianship from The University of Salford, a Master of Music at university of Manchester and has played Solo Baritone with the award winning Yorkshire Building Society Band, as well as spending several years with Manger Musikklag. She is also a member of the Yamaha Neo Ensemble and a Yamaha ambassador.



#### MATTHEW CLARK

Matthew Clark is a Canadian musician and former military officer who was born in Southport, England and later immigrated to Canada. He began his musical career in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) as a Primary Reservist in 1994, and then joined the Regular Force on euphonium in 1997. In 2021 he was appointed Commandant of the Canadian Forces Music Training Centre. Matthew has held other key, senior leadership positions, including the Commanding Officer and Director of Music of the Royal Canadian Air Force Band (2016-2021), and Commanding Officer and Director of Music of the Naden Band of the Royal Canadian Navy (2011-2016). International performances and appearances include England, France, Holland, Sweeden, Bermuda, Korea, Croatia, Bosnia and throughout the United States.

He has served also in various capacities throughout Canada, including Edmonton, AB with The Royal Canadian Artillery Band, Ottawa ON with the Band of the Ceremonial Guard and the Directorate of History and Heritage – Music.

In addition to his service to Canada, Matthew is a highly sought-after musician and has served as a guest conductor for several ensembles, including The United States Navy Band, 'The Presidents Own', United States Marine Band, the National Latvian Military Band, the Victoria Symphony, the University of Victoria Wind Ensemble, and the Winnipeg Wind Ensemble. He has also served as Director of the Wind Ensemble at the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba. Matthew has produced and recorded ten full-length albums and has commissioned new and exciting works from many noted composers.

Matthew's contributions to military music have earned him several accolades, including appointment to the Order of Military Merit in 2019 and membership in the prestigious American Band Association in 2016. He has also received the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy Commendation for his outstanding service to military music, the Commander Land Force Central Area Commendation, and the Spirit of Military Families Award.

Educated at the University of Kansas and the University of Toronto, he studied conducting and wind ensemble repertoire. He sits on the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee (American Bandmaster's Association), has also volunteered his time with Cadet Honour Bands, community and school ensembles, and served on the board of directors for the Youth Mentorship Program. He has also served as a musical advisor on the selection board for the 'Sing Me a Song' program.

In addition to his conducting and leadership roles, Matthew is also an accomplished euphonium soloist. He has recorded on the Arktos Label, featured on CBC Radio and in the British Bandsman. Matthew was also a featured soloist on three Royal Canadian Artillery Band recordings and was a main soloist with that band for 10 years. Matthew will graduate the University of Kansas in 2025 with his Doctorate in Wind Band Conducting.



#### ANNE CROOKSTON

Anne Crookston was born in Glasgow and has enjoyed a wide-ranging musical career, having been involved in choirs, brass bands, orchestras and wind bands for more than 40 years. Her earliest musical training was on tenor horn, moving to baritone aged 14. At the same time, Anne started playing oboe, later going on to study the instrument at Glasgow University, where she also conducted the Brass Ensemble, Wind Band and Orchestra before graduating with a BMus (Hons) degree in Music. Her brass band career began at Newmains in Lanarkshire. She moved to CWS (Glasgow) in 1986 and success soon followed when, in 1990, the band became the first from Scotland to win the National Championship title at the Royal Albert Hall. Anne moved to Whitburn Band in 1992 and remained solo baritone there until 2010, when she left to pursue a career in conducting. Following a short spell conducting Kingdom Brass, Anne was appointed Musical Director of Whitburn in 2011 and to the same positions with West Lothian Schools in 2013 and Bathgate Band in 2014. For the past three years she has worked with Newtongrange Silver band.

As an adjudicator, Anne has a wealth of experience, having judged at local music festivals and solo and ensemble contests, as well as throughout Europe and North America at contests, including the European Youth Championship, Siddis Brass (Norway) and regional and national events in Denmark, The Netherlands, Sweden, the USA and most recently becoming the first woman to judge the British Open Brass Band Championship.

Away from brass bands, Anne is Depute Headteacher at St. Margaret's Academy in Livingston, an external verifier for the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow and has completed a Master's degree in Education.



#### **ERIC HJELLMING**

Eric Hjellming is the Director of Events for Drum Corps International, overseeing the planning and execution of the annual DCI tour. He is an experienced Operations & Product Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit events industry with specialized skills in event operations, program management, fundraising, and performing arts.

He has served as the President of the Indiana Symphonic Band, performed cornet in the Crossroads Brass Band, and is an active freelance musician in Indianapolis. He serves as a tabulator for NABBA, Drum Corps International and Bands of America and oversees NABBA's cloud-based commentary and adjudication platform.

Eric holds a B.S. in Arts Administration with a Music concentration from Butler University, is a Certified Festival and Event Executive through the International Festivals & Events Association, and is currently pursuing an MBA at the Gies School of Business at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

#### CHRISTOPHER KING

During a very successful 25-year career as a cornet player and conductor in the British Army, Chris King renewed his relationship with brass bands, primarily as Musical Director of the Friary Brass Band. During his tenure, the band has had repeated contest success including victory at the 2010 First Section National Championships and the 2014 Senior Trophy, London Regional champions in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. He regularly acts as guest conductor to bands in the UK, including Grimethorpe and Desford Colliery.

As well as conducting Friary on a regular basis, Chris has worked as conductor in Denmark, Norway and Sweden and has adjudicated at a number of prestigious competitions including various Regional Championships, SIDDIS Elite Section, Brass in Concert, the National Championships of Great Britain and Wychavon Festival of Brass.

Chris finished his time in the Army as the Bandmaster of the Band of the Grenadier Guards in London, and now works as Director of Operations at a famous senior school in West London, where he and his wife and two daughters live. He is also a Governor of two other schools, Treasurer of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators and Chair of the Music Commission of the European Brass Band Association. With what little spare time he has left, he enjoys arranging.



#### **HOWARD J. EVANS**

Howard J Evans, DMA, MA, Mus.B (Hons), LRAM, LTCL, ARCM (Hons) is a professional musician. As a pianist and conductor he has performed at many major concert venues throughout the United Kingdom and has undertaken many visits internationally. In his early piano career he was awarded a place on the Yehudi Menuhin 'Live Music Now' scheme for performers, and also won first prize at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod Piano Competition.

Later posts held include that of National Bandmaster for the Salvation Army in the UK; Director of Music for the Salvation Army in The Netherlands, and conductor of Amsterdam Staff Band. This was followed by the role of 'Director - Classical Performance' at the University of Salford for a number of years.

He has undertaken many recording projects and concerts, as a conductor, a pianist and an accompanist. He has led the Boscombe Band of the Salvation Army for over twenty-two years, and has professionally conducted a number of UK Championship brass bands. At the present time he is also the conductor of the SA German Staff Band. He has appeared a number of times at the RNCM Festival of Brass, as well as directing Jaren Hornmusikkforening and Ila Brass Band, Elite Division bands in Norway.

His adjudicating experience has seen him engaged at a number of festivals in the UK and in the Netherlands. He has adjudicated at both regional and national brass band contests, including 'Brass in Concert' and the 'North American Brass Band Championships'. He has also significant experience as an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.



#### **COLIN HOLMAN**

Colin Holman is a Lecturer at Loyola University Chicago where he teaches music history, conducts the Symphony Orchestra and lectures in the Honors program. He is one of the most successful brass band conductors in the United States, winning six Championship titles, representing North America twice at the World Music Contest and leading a landmark tour of New Zealand. Colin has been a NABBA board member, was editor of the Brass Band Bridge magazine for eight years and has guest conducted many of North America's brass bands. He has previously adjudicated brass band competitions in the US. and the UK and enjoys planning and executing entertaining and new music concerts for brass band.



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#### MARK HOSKINS

Mark Hoskins recently retired as Director of Bands at Wheeler High School in Marietta, Georgia, after 19 years and his 25th year of service in the Cobb County, Georgia, School District. He oversaw the entire band program, consisting of three concert bands, marching band, jazz ensemble, jazz combo, woodwind and brass choirs, winter guard, and percussion ensembles. A graduate of East Tennessee State University, he is in demand as an adjudicator, clinician, and conductor in the marching band, jazz, and concert band and brass band arena. His program at Wheeler was nationally recognized in those fields as well, consistently receiving superior ratings and best-in-class awards. He is a music and brass adjudicator for both Bands of America and Drum Corps International, having served as National finals judge for both organizations. He has served as adjudicator for the Dublin Festival of Brass and the Gateway Brass Band Championships. Hoskins is a member of Phi Beta Mu Honor Music Society, the Georgia Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, Jazz Education Network, and is a founding member of the Minority Band Directors National Association.



#### **JOHN PHILLIPS**

In demand throughout North America and internationally as an adjudicator and clinician, Professor John Phillips will serve as the Judge Administrator for the 2025 NABBC. In recent years Phillips has adjudicated the US Open, The Gateway Brass Band Championships, Dublin Festival of Brass, The U.S. Masters, and the North American Brass Band Association Championships. Throughout his career he has contributed to numerous initiatives with Music For All including the National Concert Festival, the annual Summer Symposium, and the Bands of America Grand Nationals. He is a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician. He recently served as Artistic Coordinator for the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and taught at Florida Gulf Coast University. Prior to moving to Florida, he was on staff at the University of Western Ontario, where he conducted the Symphonic Band and taught conducting and music education classes. He previously taught at the University of Toronto and York University in the departments of music and education. Phillips has adjudicated music festivals and events in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Indonesia. He regularly guest conducts honor bands across Canada and the United States. For twenty years he conducted the Wind Ensemble at the National Music Camp of Canada and has been a guest conductor at the International Music Camp. Phillips has served as Judge Administrator for Drum Corps International since 2000, and was inducted into the DCI Hall of Fame, Class of 2015. He is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario where he received undergraduate degrees in Music and Education. He pursued a Masters Degree in Music Education at Boston University, a PhD in Ethnomusicology at York University, and holds an Artist Diploma in trumpet performance from the Western Conservatory of Music. He received awards of distinction for conducting from the Ontario Band Association, Phi Beta Mu, the Southern Ontario Band Festival, and an Honorary Life Membership from the Ontario Music Educators' Association. As a trumpeter, Phillips performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, Brantford Symphony and the Forest City Brass Quintet. He spent two summers at the Banff School of Fine Arts under the leadership of the Canadian Brass, studying with Fred Mills and Ronald Romm.



#### PAUL NORLEY

Paul Norley began his musical career at the age of eight, learning to play the cornet and, later, tenor horn with the Devon based Totnes Band. In 1982 he joined the Army, enlisting into the Band of The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps. On completion of training he joined the Regimental Band of The First Royal Tank Regiment and was posted to Germany. During this period he served with 5 Armoured Field Ambulance in the first Gulf War.

In 1994 Paul was posted to The Band of The Royal Lancers. Prior to this he enjoyed two years as musical director to the Hungerford Town Band. In 1996 he was selected to attend the Bandmaster's course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, graduating in 1998 with prizes for instrumental performance and composition. He was also awarded a Licentiate Royal School of Music Diploma in Bandmastership and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music. During his time at Kneller Hall he became Musical Director of Thames Brass.

In January 2000 Paul took up the position of Bandmaster of the Band of The Light Division. Whilst in this post he studied with the University of Salford and was awarded the Licentiate Diploma in Brass Band Adjudication. In 2004 he graduated from the Open University with a Masters Degree in Classical Studies and was also awarded the Licentiate National College of Brass Diploma in Conducting.

A Staff Appointment saw him become the Training Design Team Warrant Officer at Headquarters Corps of Army Music, Kneller Hall. In his spare time he enjoyed a run of contest successes as the Musical Director of Verwood Concert Brass. He is a member of the National Association of Brass Band Conductors and was accepted as a member of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators in 2004. Paul was commissioned as Captain in 2006 to become the Director of Music of The Band of The Royal Irish Regiment. Upon the disbandment of the Regular Band in October 2007, The North Irish Territorial Army Band was renamed and equipped as The Band of The Royal Irish Regiment (TA), and Paul was appointed as its first Director of Music. This was followed by appointment as Director of Music of The Band of The Kings Division in 2008. During this year he accepted the post of Musical Director to the National Youth Marching Band. He was promoted to Major and appointed as Officer Commanding Training Development Team, Headquarters Corps of Army Music, Kneller Hall in September 2010, acting as the Chief Examiner and Testing Standards Authority for all the musicians in the British Army.

A further move in 2013 saw him become Director of Music of The Brigade of Gurkhas. He returned to Kneller Hall in 2016 as Staff Officer Plans for the Corps of Army Music. 2019 saw him appointed as Director of Music of The Band of The Coldstream Guards; he retired to civilian life in Devon from this prestigious appointment in 2021. This same year he was invited to become President of the Traditional Marching Band Association (TYMBA). Delighted to accept, he now finds himself involved with Youth Marching Bands across the whole of the UK. He regularly adjudicates at various Brass Band Regional Qualifiers and is also in demand at numerous local contests across the UK and overseas. Happy to step 'outside of the box', he often undertakes workshops and masterclasses for both bands and conductors.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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#### **Recording Performances**

Recording of performances for personal use is allowed. NABBA requests that you view band performances on our YouTube channel from our live stream and when it is archived after the event.

#### Photos

The use of flash photography during performances is distracting to the performers and other audience members and is prohibited.





#### **ALLAN WITHINGTON**

Allan Withington has been one of the world's leading band conductors over the last 35 years. He has received many awards for his work throughout an array of different countries. In addition, he was a member of the trumpet section of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway for 40 years.

With the same orchestra, and over a period of ten years, he created a large selection of family concerts concentrating on the 'crossover' element of the different cultural organizations available in a very culturally alert Bergen. Here, his message has always been to entertain, enlighten and inform three different generations of orchestral concert-going audiences. He has either conducted, written or produced these concerts and often been responsible for the whole process. He has also written historically based musicals for small orchestral ensemble, choir and dance groups which have been performed as out-door spectaculars in the South-West of France.

In June 2018, his one-hour long dance performance based on the life of Coco Chanel was premiered at the Bergen International Festival. Il Maestro – in the name of Art was written during the pandemic lockdown and was premiered in May 2021 in Stavanger. This time he took to the stage as both composer, soloist and actor himself. His latest show was performed by Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band at the Brass in Concert at the Sage Concert Hall in Gateshead and was based on the life of Anne Frank during World War II. In September 2024 Allan conducted Stavanger Symphony Orchestra in five concerts featuring the Sustain group. He has conducted and recorded with the Norwegian contemporary music ensemble Bit 20 and directed Sjøforsvarets Musikkorps, the professional military band based in Bergen, Norway on various occasions.

Professional engagements around Europe have included an appearance as conductor with the brass and percussion section of Tonhalle Orchestra, Zurich, in a spectacular Christmas concert. In addition, Allan leads his own International Conductors' Summer school in Leeuwarden, Holland. He has a deepseated desire and passion to create and perform new ideas or simply re-tell old tales in a new light. His appearances as conductor for the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in his own productions have given him exposure to a wide variety of musical styles, from a full program of music to celebrate the anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to a program of contemporary music featuring composers John Adams and Michael Doherty. Dance music has become an important part of his repertoire and he has conducted Classical ballet, Riverdance and Contemporary dance with the Bergen based dance company Carte Blanche. Currently Allan is Professional Conductor of the Carlton Maine Frickley Colliery Band, England, Chief Conductor of Manger Musikklag, Norway and Musical Adviser for the Valaisia Brass Band, Switzerland.

Chris Ward

Dr. John Bell

Jessica Payne

Term ending June 30, 2027

Joe Peters

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#### **Program Design**

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TEST-PIEC

SET



#### **SET TEST-PIECES**

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION**

Crazy Twenties – Thierry Deleruyelle

#### **FIRST SECTION**

Ghosts of Industry – Lucy Pankhurst

#### **SECOND SECTION**

Laude – James Curnow

#### **THIRD SECTION**

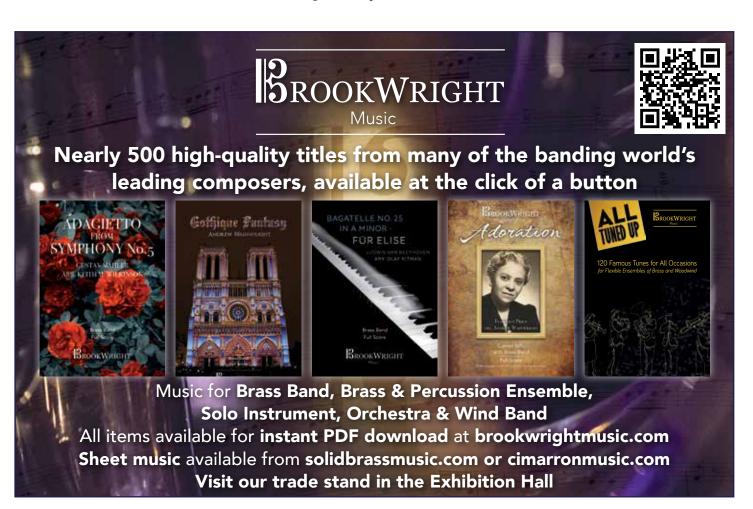
A Malvern Suite – Philip Sparke

#### YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

A Journey to the Bermuda Triangle – Pimpanit Karoonyavanich

#### **YOUTH FIRST**

Vengeance – Jared McCunnie



#### **OWN-CHOICE REPERTORE**

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION**

The World Rejoicing

Edward Gregson

Bipolar Stijn Aertgeerts

Horrorshow Simon Dobson

Revelation Philip Wilby

Hypercube Oliver Waespi

Z 1920 Peter Graham

A Brussels Requiem
Bert Appermont

Uncharted Lands

1. Thomas Banks

#### **FIRST SECTION**

English Heritage
George Lloyd

Excalibur - Sword of Justice | Jan Van Der Roost

> Red Priest Philip Wilby

Facets of the Heart
Tom Davoren

Dynasty Peter Graham

Of Distant Memories

Edward Gregson

Salome Gareth Wood

#### **SECOND SECTION**

Kingdom of Dragons
Philip Harper

Sinfonietta No. 3
Etienne Crausaz

Brass Triumphant

Gareth Wood

The Raid
Oliver Waespi

Images for Brass Stephen Bulla

St. James's - A New Beginning
Philip Harper

Excalibur Jan Van Der Roost

Wychavon Sketches

Dan Price

The Patriots
Jan de Haan

The Plantagenets

Edward Gregson

#### THIRD SECTION

St. Austell Suite Kenneth Downie

The Dark Side of the Moon Paul Lovatt-Cooper

> Inspiration |an de Haan

Rhapsody on St. Francis Andrew Wainwright

A Brief Symphony of Time
Simon Dobson

#### YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Kingdom of Dragons
Philip Harper

#### **YOUTH FIRST**

Viking Age Thierry Deleruyelle

#### **YOUTH OPEN**

Malaika Bob Munson

The Mermaid of Zennor
Philip Harper

Valerius Variations Philip Sparke

Queen of the Underworld Chris Hines

Four Cities Symphony - Mvmts. 3-4
Rodney Newton

#### **ATLANTIC BRASS BAND**





#### **Revelation** Philip Wilby

Originally formed as the Wheaton Brass Band in 1984, the three-time National Campion Atlantic Brass Band is an artist-in-residence at Rowan University in Southern New Jersey. Comprised of professional musicians, professors, educators, and community members, the band is committed to bringing the arts to the community through entertainment, educational collaborations, and fundraising efforts for local schools and charities.

Atlantic Brass Band performs throughout the year at a variety of conferences, festivals, and concert venues such as the Cape May Memorial Day celebration, the Gettysburg Brass Band Festival, and various local concerts. The band has also previously performed at the Greta American Brass Band Festival, International Trumpet Guild Conference, the National Trumpet Competition, the NAfME Eastern Division Conference, and the NJMEA Conference; and has performed internationally with a tour of Italy, two tours of England, at the Brass in Concert competition, the Scottish Open competition, and the World Brass Band Championships.

#### SALVATORE SCARPA

Salvatore Scarpa is a retired member of the Rowan University faculty where he was Director of Orchestras, conducted the University Orchestra and Opera Company productions, and taught conducting, music theory, and music history. For many years he was also a member of the conducting staff of Philadelphia Ballet, Music Director/Conductor of Bel Canto Lyric Opera Company (Philadelphia), a regular guest conductor for the Orvieto Festival of Strings (Italy), and a long-serving church musician. He is a graduate of Rowan University and the Eastman School of Music

#### **BRASS BAND OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**





CHAMPIONSHIP SECTIO

#### **Uncharted Lands** |. Thomas Banks

Under the music direction of Gareth Pritchard, the Brass Band of Central Florida (BBCF) has an active performance schedule of concerts, outreach programs and class competitions throughout the United States and the United Kingdom. The band is very fortunate to perform two separate programs each year at St. Luke's Lutheran Church as part of the prestigious St. Luke's Concert series, which also features other groups such as the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, UCF Symphony Orchestra and Orlando Concert Band. They has also performed regularly at the Winter Park Arts Festival and the Celebration Foundation Concert Series. Many students from Orange, Seminole and Volusia Counties, plus UCF and Stetson Universities have benefitted from BBCF's outreach programs and are now full-time members of the band.

BBCF has competed regularly in the Championship Section of the North American Brass Band Championships and the US Open, winning NABBA in 2005 and the US Open on four occasions. It has also appeared once at the British Open Brass Band Championships and three times at the Brass in Concert Championship, gaining second prize in 2011. BBCF is an IRS 501 c (3) tax-exempt Florida non-profit corporation. The organization's mission is to promote the traditional British Brass Band style and sound while helping to preserve and foster its long and colourful history, and its music.

#### **GARETH PRITCHARD**

Originally from South Wales in the UK, where he began playing cornet at nine years of age in the local colliery band, Gareth moved to the Orlando area in 2015. He immediately became the Musical Advisor to the Brass Band of Central Florida (BBCF) and Musical Director of the Youth Brass Band of Central Florida (YBBCF). By the summer of 2016, he was delighted to accept the vacant position of Music Director for the BBCF.

Having studied Composition, Conducting, Music History and Performance at Trinity College of Music, London, Gareth graduated with both an FTCL (Master's Degree) and an LTCL (Bachelor's Degree - with added Teacher's Diploma - TD) in just four years - a feat not matched by anyone, even to this day.

He brings with him a wealth of experience in wide ranging styles and genres from Big Band and Jazz to Classical Orchestral, Wind Band and Brass Band music at the highest level, that spans more than 50 years. Gareth has been involved with many first-class symphony orchestras, wind bands and brass bands, both as an amateur and a professional player/conductor, winning many national awards and brass band competitions both in the UK and Scandinavia. He has also been awarded the title of 'Champion Soloist of Great Britain' on two separate occasions.

Gareth is an active member of the elite Association of Brass Band Adjudicators and is also a fully registered adjudicator for Florida Bandmaster's Association. He has adjudicated at major festivals and competitions all over Western Europe and the USA. His compositions and arrangements are played worldwide, with many of them also having been commercially recorded.

CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION

#### **CHICAGO BRASS BAND**





#### The World Rejoicing Edward Gregson

Chicago Brass Band is a 30-piece brass and percussion ensemble formed in the British brass band tradition, but with Chicago flair. The band, led by music director Dr. Mark A. Taylor, just celebrated its 20th anniversary. During its first two decades, the band has won the North American Brass Band Championships, been awarded Most Entertaining Band at the US Open Brass Band Championships, twice competed in the World Music Contest in the Netherlands, participated in the renowned Whit Friday Marches in England, has been a featured ensemble in front of 40,000 brass fans at the Great American Brass Festival, competed in the 2019 New Zealand National Brass Band Championships, and won first prize at the 2019 Gateway British Brass Band Festival. The band's favorite activity in 2019, however, remains dazzling audiences in Chicago, one of the world's premier cities for brass musicianship.

The band has particularly enjoyed performances with soloists drawn from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's celebrated brass section, including Chris Martin, Charlie Vernon, Gene Pokorny, John Hagstrom, and Mark Ridenour, and multiple collaborations with famed artist Rex Richardson. Chicago Brass Band was selected to be a chamber group, with guest soloist Jens Lindemann, at the 2011 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, rekindling the brass band movement at this annual convention. Additionally, the band has continued engaging young musicians with their Project Horizon initiative, a program developed to promote and enhance the performance and enjoyment of live music in public schools. Through collaborative concerts, workshops, and clinics, the band inspires students to continue to perform and enjoy live music at a high level into and throughout adulthood, even if they do not pursue music as their chosen profession.

#### DR. MARK A. TAYLOR

Dr. Mark A. Taylor is honored to serve as the Music Director of the internationally award-winning Chicago Brass Band. Dr. Taylor is a conductor, educator, and performer in demand throughout the Great Lakes region. No stranger to brass band leadership, Dr. Taylor is now in his second decade as Music Director of the Milwaukee Festival Brass and serves on the NABBA Board as its current Vice President for Contest Operations. Elsewhere, he is the Music Director of the Waukegan Band (one of America's oldest and most historic civic ensembles) and serves as Band Director at College of DuPage. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 2016 from the University of North Texas, where his principal conducting teachers were Eugene Migliaro Corporon, Dennis Fisher, and Nicholas Enrico Williams.

Dr. Taylor's dissertation, "British-Style Brass Bands in U.S. Colleges and Universities," documented the existence of brass bands in American college music programs, past and present. Prior to his doctoral study, he served five years as Director of Bands and Coordinator of Ensembles at Loyola University Chicago and taught on the music education faculty at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. He received the Master of Music degree from Northwestern University, where he studied conducting with John P. Paynter and Stephen G. Peterson and music education with Bennett Reimer and Peter Webster. He received his undergraduate degrees from the University of Notre Dame, where his first conducting teachers were Walter Ginter and Carl Stam. Dr. Taylor and his wife and son reside in Lake Forest, IL.

#### **DALLAS BRASS BAND**





#### **Hypercube** Oliver Waespi

Dallas Brass Band was founded in 2017 under the initial umbrella of The Salvation Army. The organization quickly grew within only a few years, earning the title First Section Champions at the North American Brass Band Championships in 2022 at its very first contest. That same year, it was nominated for the Lower Section Band of the Year Award by the brass band website 4BarsRest. Today, the band competes among the highest sections of contests including the Championship Section at the North American Brass Band Championships and Division I of the US Masters Championships. Dallas Brass Band's mission is to provide inspiring music and education to North Texas while giving their musicians, students, and audiences an opportunity to experience the excitement of a traditional British brass band setting.

#### **GRANT JAMESON**

Originally from Dublin, Ohio, Grant Jameson has spent extensive time both in the United States and the United Kingdom. He received his Bachelor of Music and Masters degrees from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) in Cardiff (UK), where he studied with David Childs for six years. During his time in the UK, Grant immersed himself in the British brass band tradition and won many awards and prizes within this genre, including the Best Soloist prize at the Welsh Open (2014). Grant has also performed as guest soloist with many of the UK's finest bands, including Cory, Grimethorpe Colliery, Brighouse and Rastrick, and Foden's. Grant was also principal euphonium of Tredegar Town, Tongwynlais and Woodfalls bands, before joining the Flowers Band, with whom he won various contests and featured regularly as soloist.

As a recording artist, Grant has released two solo albums: *Genesis* (2015) and *Versatility Reimagined* (2019). He has also been featured on television and radio with broadcasts by the BBC and S4C, as well as NPR. In 2019 Grant appeared alongside fellow Besson Euphonium Artist, David Childs, performing duets at New York's Rainbow Lounge in a concert to honor Hollywood A-lister, Catherine Zeta-Jones CBE. On multiple occasions, Grant had the honor of performing as a soloist and chamber musician for HRH The Prince of Wales at his private residence in the UK.

Currently a private lesson teacher in the Frisco area, Grant is busy as both performer as Principal Euphonium with the Dallas Winds and Principal Conductor of the Dallas Brass Band.

CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION

#### **FIVE LAKES SILVER BAND**





#### A Brussels Requiem Bert Appermont

Five Lakes Silver Band (FLSB) is a nationally acclaimed British style brass band established in Rochester Hills, Michigan in 2006. The band's name refers to the Great Lakes which surround Michigan. Each week, music educators, freelance musicians, and people who make their livelihood outside of music travel to rehearse from all around the Great Lakes region.

As well as performing in a variety of venues such as concert halls, cathedrals, amphitheaters, schools, libraries, and parks, FLSB is also a championship level contesting band that regularly compete in the North American Brass Band Association Championships, Dublin Festival of Bands (DFOB) Championships, the Hannaford Festival of Bands in Toronto, Canada, and the U.S. Open Brass Band Championships.

In 2012 and 2013, FLSB won the Hannaford Cup. In 2013, the band won the First Section at the NABBA Championships, capturing its first national title. 2022 was the beginning of a new era for the band, as it was crowned Grand Champion at Dublin Festival of Brass and was awarded the Droste Shield. It successfully defended its championship at DFOB in 2023 and 2024, making that three in a row. FLSB also won the U.S. Open Brass Band Championships in 2022, 2023, and 2024, being awarded most entertaining band in three consecutive years. In 2023, Five Lakes won the Championship Section at the NABBA Championships and was crowned the champion band of North America.

#### **CHRISTOPHER WARD**

Christopher Ward became the Musical Director of the Five Lakes Silver Band in July of 2019. Under his leadership, Five Lakes won the U.S. Open Brass Band Championships in 2022, 2023, and 2024, Dublin Festival of Brass in 2022, 2023, and 2024, and were crowned North American Brass Band Champions in 2023. Christopher has recently been named a national finalist for The American Prize in Conducting a band/wind ensemble. He moved to Michigan from New York with his family in March of 2018 and is the Senior Director of Music and Gospel Arts for the Great Lakes Division of the Salvation Army. As part of his responsibilities, he is the conductor of the Great Lakes Divisional Band and is the founder and conductor of the Great Lakes Divisional Choir. Christopher also serves on the North American Brass Band Association Board of Directors and is the chairman of the Great Lakes Brass Band Association. He is an artist for Work of Art Custom Batons, an ambassador for Denis Wick Products, and plays cornet with the Brass Band of Battle Creek.

Prior to his appointment in Michigan, Christopher served as an Assistant Music Director for the Salvation Army in Greater New York for 16 years, and concurrently served as conductor for several groups, including the Greater New York Youth Band and the Hempstead Citadel Band. He was a member of the New York Staff Band for 23 years, 11 of those as its Eb soprano cornet soloist. Christopher has performed or conducted in 22 different countries, and in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Tabernacle, Royal Festival Hall, The Royal Albert Hall and Buckingham Palace. He has had the privilege of performing with the New York Philharmonic, The Canadian Brass, The Kings Singers, and Sir Elton John. In recent years, he has studied conducting privately with Professor David King. Christopher received his formal music training at New York's Mannes College of Music and The State University of New York - Purchase, where he received degrees in Fine Arts of Music and Trumpet Performance.

#### **FOUNTAIN CITY BRASS BAND**





#### **Z 1920** Peter Graham

Fountain City Brass Band, founded in 2002 by Dr. Lee Harrelson, is a 30-piece, all-volunteer ensemble based in Kansas City. The band is committed to cultural enrichment by performing eclectic concerts that expand the brass band art form and are entertaining and educational for audiences. Fountain City seeks to bridge the gap between popular and classical art music by performing a wide variety of music, including modern compositions written specifically for brass bands and arrangements of classical works, jazz, and Broadway hits.

Fountain City has performed throughout North America and Europe at such events as the Midwest Clinic, Brass in Concert, Great American Brass Band Festival, U.S. Masters Brass Entertainment Championships, Glenn Miller Festival, International Trombone Festival, International Tuba & Euphonium Conference, Longs Peak Scottish Irish Highlands Festival, Missouri Music Educators Association Conference, Kansas Music Educators Association Conference, Missouri Bandmasters Association, Ohio Brass Arts Festival, Nebraska Bandmasters Association, Celebration at the Station, and the Scottish Festival of Brass. The band has collaborated with artists such as Garry Cutt, David King, Ryan Anthony, Joe Burgstaller, Jens Lindemann, Rex Richardson, Jose Sibaja, Jonathan Bates, Owen Farr, Marty Hackleman, Helen Tyler, Brett Baker, Tony Baker, Michael Dease, Brian Hecht, Wycliffe Gordon, Yu Tamaki Hoso, Christian Lindberg, David Childs, Matthew van Emmerik, Tormod Flaten, Steven Mead, Øystein Baadsvik, Patricio Cosentino, James Gourlay, Les Neish, Isabel Daws, and Patrick Sheridan.

Since its first competition in 2004, Fountain City has won ten U.S. Open Brass Band Championships, nine North American Brass Band Championships, and one Scottish Open Brass Band Championship, becoming the first U.S. band and the first non-UK band to win a major brass band competition on UK soil in over 50 years. For over a decade, Fountain City has been the top-ranked brass band in North America.

#### MICHAEL FOWLES

Widely regarded as one of the leading conductors of his generation, Michael hails from the rich musical tradition of North Staffordshire. He is an honors and post-graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music and has been Musical Director of Foden's Band since 2009. Having worked with many of the UK's leading bands, Michael has a reputation for entertaining concert programming and high standards in competition. He is well known for having transferable skills, having won championship section contests with 11 different bands, either in regular working relationships, or on a freelance basis. As such, he is much in demand both in the UK and abroad. Michael is also a member of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators and has officiated at numerous regional qualifying contests, the National Finals of Great Britain, Butlins Mineworkers Festival and the Swiss Nationals, amongst others.

Educational work also forms an important part of Michael's musical life. He is Course Director of both the Wessex Band Summer School and Foden's Armagh Summer School. He is Musical Director of Foden's Youth Band and Associate Conductor and Musical Adviser of Lions Youth Band. As a guest conductor he undertakes much training work throughout the UK with bands of all levels, from championship to youth.

Michael's work in the recording studio is also highly respected having directed around 45 CDs, including numerous solo discs, his skills for accompanying being held in high regard. In addition he has given many premiere performances, conducted concerto appearances of eminent soloists and directed broadcasts for both BBC Radio 2 and 3. He has also written articles and reviews for both Brass Band World and British Bandsman magazines. The relationship with Foden's Band has produced high quality concerts and recordings that have been met with critical acclaim and awards from the banding press.



#### **JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY BRASS BAND**





#### The World Rejoicing Edward Gregson

Currently the 2024 North American Brass Association Championship Section winning band, James Madison University (JMU) Brass Band stands as one of the most successful collegiate brass bands in the world. Formed by Professor Kevin Stees in the Fall of 2000, the band quickly rose to prominence, winning the North American Brass Band Association First Section Championship in 2004 and 2005. It has also been the NABBA Championship Section runnersup in 2006, 2007, 2010, 2016, 2019, and 2022.

JMU Brass Band maintains an active schedule, performing regularly throughout the academic year. It has been featured at numerous prestigious festivals and conferences, including the American Trombone Workshop, Virginia Music Educators Conference, Great American Brass Band Festival, U.S. Army Tuba Euphonium Workshop, and the Southeast Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference.

In the summer of 2008, the ensemble embarked on a concert tour of England, sharing the stage with many outstanding bands, including the world-famous Cory Band. In 2009, it made history as the first brass band to perform a full-length concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The band's international presence continued to grow with a performance in 2012 at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference in Linz, Austria. In 2017, it became the first U.S. brass band to be featured at the Royal Northern College of Music Brass Band Festival in Manchester, England. In 2022, the band proudly represented the United States in the Championship Division of the 19th World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Netherlands.

Always committed to showcasing new repertoire, JMU Brass Band has given the North American premiere of over a dozen major works for brass band. Currently ranked among the top 100 brass bands worldwide, JMU Brass Band continues to set high standards and achieve remarkable milestones in the world of brass music.

#### **PROFESSOR KEVIN STEES**

Kevin Stees, now in his 40th year as Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at James Madison University, leads an active career as a soloist, chamber musician, conductor and music educator. He has been a finalist in several solo competitions and was a prize winner in the Second International Brass Congress Tuba Solo Competition. Kevin has presented solo and chamber music performances at numerous universities, conferences, music festivals and workshops throughout the United States.

In addition to performances on tuba, he is very active as the conductor of the internationally recognized James Madison University Brass Band, having led the ensemble in performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., Brucknerhaus Concert Hall in Linz, Austria, Royal North College of Music in Manchester, England and the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, The Netherlands, as well as music venues throughout England, Wales and Austria. Kevin is also the conductor of the award winning Massanutten Brass Band.

#### PRINCETON BRASS BAND





CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION

#### **Horrorshow** Simon Dobson

The Princeton Brass Band, a major cultural presence in the state of New Jersey, attracts top players from throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. The band is devoted to advancing the British-style brass band tradition in their corner of the world through performance and educational outreach, involving guest artists, holding clinics, and through the Princeton Youth Brass Band. In 2008, the band brought its first NABBA trophy back to New Jersey and in 2013 was crowned NABBA Championship Section winner. In 2023, the band returned to NABBA after a six-year hiatus and claimed first place honors in the First Section of the competition. The band is currently directed by Aaron VanderWeele, Principal Euphonium with the New York Staff Band.

#### **TODD NICHOLS**

Todd Nichols' credits include work as a music educator, conductor, and performer throughout the United States. Dr. Nichols currently serves as Director of University Bands at Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey. His duties include oversight and administration of the university band program, directing the Marching Scarlet Knights and Symphonic Winds, and teaching graduate conducting. As Director of the Marching Scarlet Knights, Dr. Nichols led highly acclaimed performances in the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, 2021 Music for All Grand Nationals finals performance, 2018 NFL Monday Night Football, and for United States President Joseph Biden. Dr. Nichols served as a Guest Lecturer at New York University and Columbia University and is Past President of the Big Ten Band Director's National Association.

Dr. Nichols received his DMA in conducting at Rutgers University, MM in conducting from Messiah College and BM in music from The College of New Jersey. For 19 years, he served as Director of Bands at Roxbury and Edison High Schools in New Jersey, where his ensembles were recognized for outstanding performance at numerous local, state, and many prestigious national festivals and concerts. Dr. Nichols has co-authored two articles published in The Journal of Band Research and WASBE Journal and was inducted into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and American School Band Directors Association in 2016. Dr. Nichols received the 2022 Rutgers University Transfer Student Champion Award, two Citations of Excellence from the National Band Association, and NJ the Governor's Teacher Recognition Award.

31 ....... 30

#### SAN FRANCISCO BRASS BAND





#### **Bipolar** Stijn Aertgeerts

Formed in 2019, the San Francisco Brass Band is the Bay Area's only competitive British-style brass band. Representing all of Northern California, its members include music teachers, professional players, students, business leaders, and retirees. The band's mission is to represent the San Francisco Bay Area in national and international brass band competitions, to improve community access to high-quality performing arts, and to promote traditionally underrepresented composers and performers. The band is thrilled to have recently appointed Dr. Jeff de Seriere as Music Director. It has immensely benefitted from Dr. Seriere's expert preparation for NABBA 2025 and looks forward to working under his baton in the years to come!

#### **RUSSELL GRAY**

CHAMPIONSHIP SECT

Russell Gray, a renowned conductor and brass band pedagogue, began his career in 1998 with the Stavanger Brass Band in Norway. He has since served as the principal conductor for several leading ensembles across the globe, including the Molde Brass Band and the Reg Vardy Brass Band. Born near Glasgow, Scotland, Russell gained prominence as a cornet virtuoso, playing with the Black Dyke Band and Leyland Band. He has produced six solo albums and leads Yamaha's NEO Brass Ensemble as a Yamaha endorsed artist.

Russell has performed at prestigious venues like the Royal Albert Hall, Symphony Hall, Grieg Hall, Stravinsky Hall, and the Sydney Opera House. He is committed to nurturing young talent, having conducted the National Youth Brass Bands of Switzerland and Queensland, and serving as the artistic director of the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland since 2014.

Russell, a recipient of the lles Medal, has also made significant contributions to orchestral and wind band music. He conducted the Danish premiere of Gavin Higgins' Velocity with the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and has guest conducted for several international orchestras.

Russell graciously accepted San Francisco Brass Band's request to lead us through NABBA in 2025 after Founding Music Director, Dr. Craig McKenzie, left the Bay Area for a new employment opportunity in Miami, FL.

#### **GHOSTS OF INDUSTRY** LUCY PANKHURST

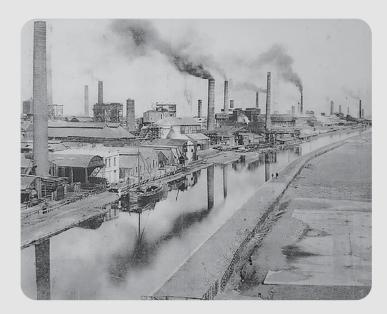
Growing up in an industrial town, there was so much working history hidden in plain sight that it became part of the landscape. Buildings and structures that we pass every day become almost invisible. That is, until they actually do disappear - THEN, their absence becomes deafening.

Ghosts of Industry explores local landmarks of the composer's hometown. Some of these have been preserved, whereas others are now long gone or in the process of demolition. The many changes in the landscape over the years have impacted the town in different ways, but always leaving a scar or 'ghost' of the industrial heritage.

The work begins with the infamously smoke-choked skyline of Spike Island with towering chimneys and factories (years later, famous for hosting an open-air Stone Roses concert in 1990). We then look across the Mersey River over the years to the now-demolished Widnes Transporter Bridge and the three remaining river crossings: the Silver Jubilee Bridge, Ethelfleda Railway Bridge and the new Mersey Gateway. Murmurations of starlings and cries from seagulls can also be heard. With an extended slow section, the music then pays respect to the chemical workers during the industrial revolution - many of whom had tragically short life expectancies due to the hazardous nature of their jobs.

Before being demolished in 2012, the Queen's Hall began its existence as a Wesleyan Chapel and was converted into a popular music and dance venue in the 1950s. The Beatles famously performed there, and for a short while a brass band contest was hosted at the hall. During this section, we hear overlapping lines of ghostly music to mark the different eras and uses of the building that was once a beating heart of the community.

The Fiddler's Ferry Power Station is a prominent landmark that can be seen for many miles and looms over the town of Widnes. At the time of composition, four of the original eight towers had been demolished - this can be heard at the end of this section, with four distant 'explosions' and subsequent echoes from the percussion. As the dust settles, the piece ends with a light suddenly igniting in the darkness. This is intended to be life returning to a broken, disused gas lantern that still stands in the town, neglected and forgotten - the final vestige of a time long past and a reminder that, despite so much change and destruction, there is still much that can be saved and preserved.



This work is my way of processing the changes and documenting it - paying respect to the industrial heritage of the area and accepting the permanency of the changes.



#### **BRASS BAND OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA**





#### **English Heritage** George Lloyd

The Brass Band of Northern Virginia is a community of musicians drawn from a range of professional and avocational backgrounds in the Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland metropolitan areas. Inspired by the famous brass bands of the UK and Europe, the band is led by worldrenowned euphonium soloist Dr. Brian Bowman. In its first three years, the band has organized community outreach concerts, masterclasses for student brass players, chamber music performances, and published recordings. In 2020, the Brass Band of Northern Virginia placed in the Cory Band's International Virtual Brass Band Contest with its performance of The Artist's Way from Modest Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, Philip Wilby's Lowry's Sketchbook, and Anthony Plog's Trumpet Concerto No. 3. The band also won the award for most entertaining video in its class. This year, the Brass Band of Northern Virginia has an active schedule of 10 programs in the DC and Northern Virginia area.

#### DR. BRIAN BOWMAN

Characterized by a virtuosic technique and a warm, rich, velvet tone, Brian Bowman's playing has thrilled audiences for more than half a century. His superb musicianship and dedication to fine brass playing made him one of the foremost euphonium soloists in the world. His history of euphonium 'firsts' is impressive: first euphonium recital in New York's Carnegie Recital Hall, 1976; first euphoniumist to serve as president of the International Tuba Euphonium Association (ITEA), formerly Tubist's Universal Brotherhood Association (TUBA); first euphonium concert tour of Japan; first Guest Euphonium Artist at the Falcone International Euphonium Competition; first euphonium masterclass at the Paris Conservatory Superior of Music, France; and Master teacher at the first Deutsche Tubaforum workshop to include the euphonium, tenor horn and baritone, Hammelburg, Germany, 1991.

Dr. Bowman enjoyed a distinguished career as a soloist and recording artist, and remains in great demand as a clinician and educator throughout the world. He has held the principal euphonium position, in addition to being a featured soloist, in each of the bands he has been associated with: The University of Michigan Symphony Band, the United States Navy Band, The United States Bicentennial Band, The United States Air Force Band and the River City Brass Band in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Bowman has performed as a soloist in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, The Virgin Islands, Norway, Finland, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Hungary, Great Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Australia, Japan, Tonga, Taiwan, Thailand and the People's Republic of China. He has appeared as tenor tubist with the New York Philharmonic, the National Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Colorado Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Worth Symphony, and the Orchestra Symphonica of Xlapa, Mexico. He has performed concertos with the Lexington Kentucky Symphony, the Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, the North Carolina Symphony and the Madison Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his live performances, Dr. Bowman can be heard on over 35 service band recordings and his six solo albums. He has appeared as featured soloist on Iowa Public Television with the Karl King Fort Dodge Municipal band and performed with the New Sousa Band in the Wolftrap PBS television special.

#### **COLORADO BRASS**





FIRST SECTION

#### English Heritage George Lloyd

Colorado Brass is the state's premier British-style brass band. The ensemble is comprised of 30 brass players and percussionists from all over Colorado. Members come to the band as professional musicians, music educators, students, and brass band enthusiasts. The band performs an annual subscription concert series in addition to national competitions and festivals, including the Rocky Mountain Brassworks Festival, the U.S. Masters Brass Band Championships, and the North American Brass Band Association Championships. It performs in a variety of styles, including British brass band standards, contemporary work, jazz, Latin music, in addition to performing world premieres.

#### DR. BRETT KEATING

Dr. Keating is the Music Director of Colorado Brass and has conducted the group since 2022. He has led the group to national recognition with podium finishes at NABBA and the US Masters. Dr. Keating has been brass banding for over 15 years and has enjoyed the opportunity to compete in England, Switzerland, and the U.S. while being a member of bands stateside and abroad.

Dr. Keating serves as Director of Bands at Colorado State University Pueblo and as Director of Bands & Brass at Western Colorado University. He is also the Music Director of the The Lake City Stinger Band (Lake City, CO), The Great Western Rocky Mountain Brass Band (Silverton, CO), and the Colorado Brass Band (Gunnison, CO). Dr. Keating previously served as Director of Athletic Bands and professor of low brass at Carroll University, as well as Interim Instructor of euphonium and tuba at the University of Kansas. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Music Educators Association and the North American Brass Band Association.

Dr. Keating held simultaneous Graduate Teaching Assistantships with the wind conducting and the tuba/euphonium studios while earning his DMA in tuba/ euphonium performance, an MM in wind band conducting, and a cognate in electro-acoustic composition at KU. He also holds an MM in performance and interpretation of classical and contemporary music from the Hochschule Luzern-Musik, where he lived in beautiful Lucerne, Switzerland for three years. Dr. Keating earned an Artist's Certificate in low brass performance, as well as a BA in performance, from the University of Wisconsin.

35 ......

#### **DUBLIN SILVER BAND**





#### **Red Priest** Philip Wilby

SECTION

FIRST

Originally founded in 2008 as the Ohio Brass Band, Dublin Silver Band (DSB) is made up of brass and percussion musicians from all parts of Ohio. Since 2010 the band has existed as part of the Dublin Community Bands, a community musical organization made up of seven different ensembles and involving over 250 Central Ohio musicians.

DSB has steadily progressed from its first participation in NABBA Championships Second Section in 2014 to placing first in the Second Section in 2015. The band then moved up to the First Section in 2016, and placed first in the First Section in 2019. It has also competed regularly in the U.S. Open Championships, being named the Most Entertaining Band seven times, being awarded the Best New Composition or Arrangement prize seven times, winning the Best March prize twice, earning 14 individual or busker awards, and placing first overall in 2015.

The members of Dublin Silver Band volunteer their time and talent because of three things they all have in common: a drive to chase perfection, a genuine affection for each other, and a passion for making connections with audiences on an emotional level. To make these connections, the band commits to performing far more than ordinary concerts, instead telling stories that engage the audience in the musical performance. It is this approach that has earned the band an international reputation.

DSB has performed and competed extensively, including in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Alabama, and, of course, throughout Ohio. The band has traveled and performed abroad, playing concerts in Ireland and England before competing in Brass in Concert in Gateshead, England in 2016. In 2020 the band once again traveled to England, competing at the Butlins Mineworkers Festival.

#### **TIM JAMESON**

Tim Jameson has served as Music Director of the Dublin Silver Band since 2010. During that time he has led the band to first place finishes in both the NABBA First and Second Sections. Before his involvement with the Dublin Silver Band, Tim was the Music Director of the Brass Band of Columbus for five years, leading BBC to a first place finish in the NABBA Championship Section in 2006.

Tim is a graduate of The Ohio State University, where he studied trumpet under Tom Battenberg and conducting under Donald McGinnis, Marshall Haddock, George Hardesty, and Craig Kirchoff. He is also active as an arranger, with works published by Cimarron Music, BVD Press, and 360° Music.

Professionally, Tim is Director of Talent Development for Ariel Corporation in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

#### **ILLINOIS BRASS BAND**





#### **Excalibur - Sword of Justice** | an Van Der Roost

Dedicated to bringing British-style brass band music to audiences in Chicago and across the Midwest, George Foster and William Homer founded The Illinois Brass Band in February of 1991 with assistance from Boosey and Hawkes. The band is composed of 30 volunteer musicians and is the most senior of Illinois' brass bands.

As a member of NABBA, IBB attended its first competition in 1993. IBB won first place in NABBA's Honors Division in 1994 and followed with an unprecedented string of six championships in seven years (1996 – 2002) in the Championship Division. IBB also represented NABBA at the Great American Brass Band Festival in 1999 and was honored to attend the 2003 British Open Brass Band Championships – the first brass band outside the British Commonwealth to compete in this prestigious event.

The band has released several recordings: A Christmas Fantasy; Championship Brass; Shaken' ... not Stirred; Live and Kickin; Harkl; and most recently Cookin' with Brass. IBB has also showcased exceptional guest soloists, including internationally renowned euphonium virtuosi Robert and David Childs, cornet soloist Roger Webster, trombone soloist Brett Baker, euphonium soloist David Thornton, and tenor horn soloist Paul Bennett. IBB has astonished audiences with the power, virtuosity, and beauty of the British-style brass band and breadth of its repertoire. Through performances, recordings, and participation in competitions and festivals, IBB continues to bring the excitement of brass band music to general audiences and brass aficionados alike.

The Illinois Brass Band is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt and Illinois non-profit corporation and are supported in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

#### **STEPHEN SQUIRES**

Stephen Squires is a musician with a career that blends his passions for conducting, teaching, and performing. As a professional conductor, Stephen has worked with many exceptional artists, including Frederica von Stade, Samuel Ramey, Janos Starker, Pinchas Zuckerman, Samuel Ashkenasi, John Browning, Leon Bates, Stewart Goodyear, Richard Stoltzman, Ani Kavafian, Wendy Warner, James Tocco and most of the principal players of the Chicago Symphony and Lyric Opera Orchestras. Fully committed to the music of living composers, he has conducted premieres of over 100 new works.

Stephen received his musical training at the Preparatory School of the Eastman School of Music, and earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam. He earned his Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting and Trumpet Performance at California State University, Northridge. Further conducting studies were with Helmuth Rilling, Maurice Abravanel, Daniel Lewis, Tsung Yeh, and at the Aspen Music Festival. Stephen has conducted recordings for the Albany, Delos, Spring Hill (a division of EMI), MEDR, and Centaur labels.

Stephen is Professor of Conducting in the Music Conservatory at the Chicago College of Performing Arts, Roosevelt University. Prior to this appointment, he served on the faculties of Plymouth State College (New Hampshire), and the Northern Illinois University School of Music. This year Stephen marks his 16th season as Music Director of The Illinois Brass Band. His other professional appointments include Music Director of the Fox Valley Orchestra (Aurora, IL), and Music Director of the Millar Brass Ensemble (Evanston). He is the former Music Director of the Illinois Chamber Symphony, the Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra (Rockford, IL), and Resident Conductor of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Stephen has guest conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Syracuse Symphony, the Green Bay Symphony, the Columbus (OH) Symphony, and the Chicago Composers Orchestra, as well as numerous educational festivals around the country. In addition to his conducting and teaching activities, he is an accomplished recital accompanist and freelance trumpeter.



#### **MADISON BRASS BAND**





#### Salome Gareth Wood

SECTION

FIRST

The Madison Brass Band, founded in 2002, is an all-volunteer 30-piece ensemble based in Madison Wisconsin. The band plays a wide variety of styles of music in and around the Midwest.

Bavarian immigrant George Scherer founded the original Madison Brass Band in 1863. Its first members were businessmen, cobblers, cigar-makers, stonecutters, and a saloon proprietor. Only one member was a professional musician. George Scherer led the band from 1863 to 1878. The band went into remission in the 1890s, in 2002 it was reestablished in its current form. The band is currently directed by Dr John Lynch.

Madison Brass Band was incorporated in 2004 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to bring the great British and American brass band tradition back to the greater Madison area. The band is active 12 months of the year, presenting concerts throughout the southern Wisconsin region. Since 2012, Madison Brass Band has competed in the North American Brass Band Association contest.

#### **IOHN LYNCH**

John Lynch is a leading international conductor and a dual citizen of the United States and Australia. He is currently Director of Bands and Professor of Music at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and the Music Director of the Madison Brass Band. He was formerly Director of Bands at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. There he created the first comprehensive university band program in the nation's history and founded their professional faculty chamber orchestra-in-residence. Prior to that he served as Director of Bands/Music at the University of Georgia and the University of Kansas. and Associate Director of Bands at Northwestern University. He was the conductor of Chicago's Northshore Concert Band, the Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, and founder of the Greater New York Wind Symphony. He has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Asia, and Australia including the national conferences of CBDNA, ABA, WASBE NAfME, the Australian National Band and Orchestra Conference, Midwest, and Interlochen. A passionate advocate for new music, he has commissioned, recorded, and premiered works from around the globe with a focus on diversity. He is a recording artist with Naxos and Klavier Records.

John is the recipient of the American Prize, the Georgia Creative Research Medal, the Stanbury Award for outstanding teaching and conducting, a Northwestern University Searle Fellow for Teaching Excellence, and elected membership in the American Bandmasters Association. He holds degrees from Indiana University, the Eastman School of Music and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

#### **OAKLAND UNIVERSITY BRASS BAND**





#### **Dynasty** Peter Graham

The Oakland University Brass Band, formed in September of 2009, enjoys the distinction of being one of the few collegiate brass bands in the country. The members of the group come from across the state of Michigan, as well as the United States and Canada. The band was recently featured in an article for Brass Band World magazine.

Among its international accolades, the band was named the University Section winner of the 2021 Kapitol Cory Online Brass Band Championships. In 2019 and 2018, it swept all three categories of Best March, Best Slow Melody and Best Major Work of the Dublin (Ohio) Festival of Brass. In 2018, adjudicator Steven Mead commented that "it was wonderful to hear such an authentic 'English' sound to the ensemble - rich, textured and homogeneous and the performance of *The Essence of Time* in particular was a joy."

In 2015 the band accepted an invitation to travel to England to perform in the Butlin's National Mineworkers Open Brass Band Festival & Competition. While there, the band was awarded second place in their division and now holds the distinction of being the highest placed American band in the history of the competition. This invitation was extended as a result of having won the First Section of the North American Brass Band Association Championships in 2014 in Grand Rapids, MI. In June of 2015, the band performed at the Great American Brass Band Festival in Danville, Kentucky where it gave three featured concerts.

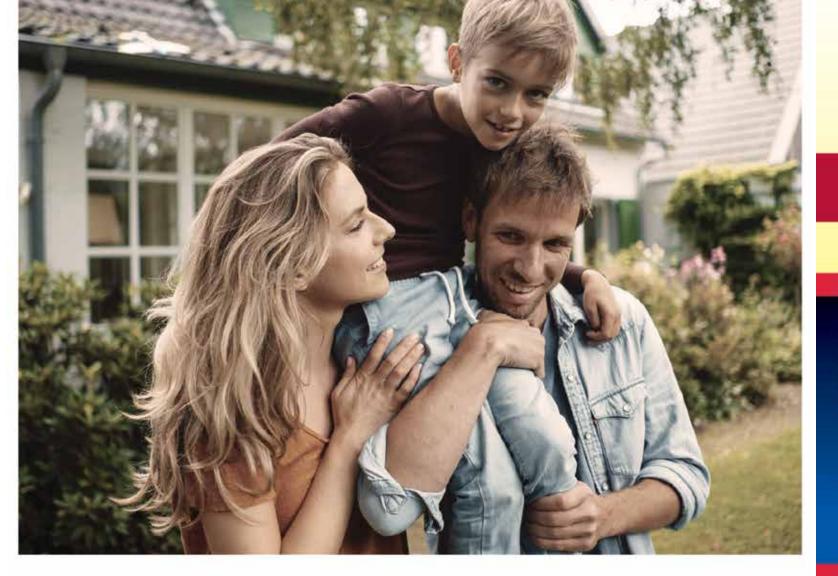
The band is comprised primarily of undergraduate and graduate music majors and non-majors. Graduates of the school's brass and percussion programs have gone on to receive scholarships to attend the country's leading graduate music programs, as well as perform in major professional ensembles.

#### **KENNETH KROESCHE**

Kenneth Kroesche is the Professor of Trombone, Euphonium and Tuba at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. He holds a master's and doctorate of musical arts degree in performance from the University of Michigan, in addition to a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Texas State University.

He has appeared as a euphonium soloist with a number of notable ensembles, ranging from the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to the U.S. Army Band at the West Point Military Academy. The Washington Post described him as "an expert on the instrument." As an orchestral musician, he is the principal trombonist of the Oakland Symphony Orchestra and the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. He is a frequent guest musician with the area's leading ensembles, which include the Detroit Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, Flint Symphony and Detroit Chamber Winds. In addition, each summer he performs as an euphoniumist with the Toledo Symphony Concert Band.

In 2009, he formed the Oakland University Brass Band which since its inception has gone on to receive national and international recognition. From 2008-2011, he served as the conductor of the award winning Capital City Brass Band of Lansing, Michigan. In addition, he has served as the music director of the Smoky Mountain Brass Band, and as a regular guest conductor of the Michigan Chamber Brass, the Round Top Music Festival Institute, among others.



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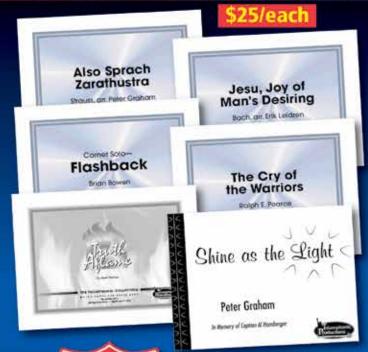
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#### SAN ANTONIO BRASS BAND





#### Of Distant Memories Edward Gregson

Currently under the baton of Dr. Matthew Mireles (Chair of St. Mary's University Dept. of Music) San Antonio Brass Band (SABB) selects the finest brass musicians in South Texas by audition or invitation. Its members include professional musicians, university and public school instructors, freelance musicians as well as college students. Each Spring, the band travels to compete against the finest brass bands of the United States and Canada at the North American Brass Band Championships. In 2018 SABB was the first ever Texas band to compete, at the same time as winning first place in the First Section. SABB performed for the 2018 International Trumpet Guild Convention and accompanied world renowned cornet artists, Philip Smith (NY Philharmonic ret.) and Tom Hutchinson (Cory Band).

SABB is a volunteer organization committed to promoting brass banding through performances in San Antonio and throughout South Texas, as well as participating in the North American Brass Band Association's annual Championships.

#### **DR. MATTHEW MIRELES**

Dr. Matthew Mireles is Chair of the Department of Music at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX, and also serves as Director of Bands, and Professor of Euphonium, and Tuba.

Internationally recognized as a conductor and performer, Dr. Mireles has conducted and performed with groups including the United States Army Field Band, The Tutti World Music Festival Band, The Military Wind Band of Upper Austria, The World Adult Wind Orchestra Project, the Backburner Tuba-Euphonium Collective, and numerous Orchestras, Honor Bands, and institutions in the United States.

As a euphonium soloist, Dr. Mireles was the Gold Medal Winner of the Leonard Falcone International Euphonium Competition. He was also the winner of the Mid-Texas Symphony Young Artist Competition, the University of Alabama Concerto-Aria Competition, and the International Tuba Euphonium Conference (ITEC) Chamber Music Competition.

His solo album Prometheus includes works for euphonium with strings, wind ensemble and piano. Dr. Mireles has given solo recitals at the International Tuba Euphonium Conference, the United States Army Band Tuba Euphonium Workshop, the National Band Director Association convention, Texas Music Educators Association, and Texas Bandmasters conventions, and at numerous other conferences and universities. Dr. Mireles also performs with the internationally renowned Boreas Quartet. Their album, The Serpent's Kiss, was the winner of the ITEA Roger Bobo Award for Recording Excellence.

Dr. Mireles earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Master of Music degree from the University of Alabama, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary's University.

#### **WESTON SILVER BAND**





FIRST SECTION

#### Of Distant Memories Edward Gregson

Now in their 104th year, Weston Silver Band (WSB) traces its continuous history back to 1921, when it was created as the Weston Boys' Band in Weston, now part of the City of Toronto. Under the baton of Music Director Larry Shields, the band's membership is made up of accomplished brass players from the Toronto area.

One of the original six bands at the inaugural 1983 NABBA Championships in Raleigh, NC, WSB returned to competition at the 2014 NABBA Championships after an 18-year hiatus, earning first place in the Second Section before transitioning to the First Section in 2015. WSB was honoured to secure first place finishes in 2015 and 2017, along with second place finishes in 2016 and 2018.

In June 2017, Weston Silver Band appeared in one of the preeminent arts festivals in North America, Luminato Festival, in the DORA award-winning stage production of En avant, marche! In June 2019, WSB embarked on their first-ever tour to Yorkshire, England, becoming the first Canadian band to compete in the historic Whit Friday Brass Band Contest, placing 18th out of 122 bands. In November 2023, WSB returned to the US Open Brass Band Championships, taking second place and winning several additional recognition awards including Best Soloist and Best Individual Performer for WSB Euphonium virtuoso Robert Miller. In April 2024, WSB became the first Canadian brass band to be ranked in the top 200 brass bands worldwide (4barsrest world rankings).

Through excellent artistic and educational performances for musicians and communities, WSB actively seeks to promote the brass band tradition as an important part of the cultural heritage of the Province of Ontario, as well as a dynamic and unique voice for contemporary composers and arrangers.

#### **LARRY SHIELDS**

Larry Shields began his musical training in the Salvation Army York Temple Corps and played bass trombone in Weston Silver Band until 1992. An honours graduate of Humber College (Toronto) in Music Performance, Larry has played professionally for over 35 years and has been an educator for 33 years. A Yamaha Education Artist, Larry is currently the Music Director for the National Music Camp of Canada, the Weston Silver Band, and the Brampton Concert Band, as well as the Head of Music at Country Day School in King City.

A busy freelance musician, Larry has been blessed to back up many great musicians, including David Foster, Andrea Bocelli, Aretha Franklin, Michael Bublé, and Diana Krall, and some old favorites such as David Clayton Thomas, Paul Anka, Chaka Khan, and the Temptations. Larry has also performed in the Toronto productions of Miss Saigon, Lion King, Show Boat, and Crazy for You Educators Association, and Texas Bandmasters conventions, as well as at numerous other conferences and universities. Dr. Mireles also performs with the internationally renowned Boreas Quartet. Their album, The Serpent's Kiss, was the winner of the ITEA Roger Bobo Award for Recording Excellence.

Dr. Mireles earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Master of Music degree from the University of Alabama, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary's University.

SECTION

SECOND



#### **CAPITAL CITY BRASS BAND**





#### **Excalibur** | an Van Der Roost

The award-winning Capital City Brass Band (CCBB), founded in 2001, one of the nation's leading exponents of brass band music, is an all-volunteer brass and percussion ensemble inspired by the traditional British-style brass band. The members of the band gather from across mid-Michigan to dazzle audiences with exciting brass band concerts. The band's broad repertoire includes not only classic British brass band works, but also virtuoso transcriptions of orchestral works, jazz, and popular music.

CCBB began competing in brass band festivals in 2011, capturing the Third Section title in the North American Brass Band Association Championships. Subsequent trips to the NABBA Championships have garnered the band second place finishes in the Second Section in 2014 and 2015 and first place trophies in 2016 and 2019. Ensembles and soloists from the CCBB have won many awards in the NABBA Solo and Ensemble Competitions. The band has also made four appearances at the US Open Brass Band Championships, earning a third-place award with their 2013 performance and a 2nd place finish in both the 2022 and 2023 Challenge Section.

The CCBB performs frequent concerts in the mid-Michigan area. The band is dedicated to inspiring younger brass musicians and has teamed up with area high school programs to present clinics and shared concerts. CCBB has showcased several guest artists and recorded two CDs.

#### **DR. STEVEN KANDOW**

Dr. Steven Kandow joined the CCBB as conductor in the Fall of 2023. He holds degrees from Michigan State University and Central Michigan University. His primary areas of research deal with the performance technique of quarter-tonal literature and the effective usage of leitmotif in video game soundtracks. Dr. Kandow previously played in the trombone section of the CCBB from 2011 to 2014. He was a member of the CCBB Fossil Bones trombone quartet and the CCBB 10-piece ensemble that both placed first at the 2014 NABBA Competition.

As a conductor, Dr. Kandow has served as the music director of the Five Lakes Silver Band, and has guest conducted for many other groups, including s the MSU Wind Symphony & Symphony Band. When he isn't busy leading the CCBB or at his day job as a software developer, Dr. Kandow enjoys traveling, reading and spending quality time with friends and family.

#### **CENTRAL OHIO BRASS BAND**





#### The Plantagenets Edward Gregson

Central Ohio Brass Band (COBB) was formed in 1989 as the Ohio Collegiate Brass Band. Today, COBB is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose members represent a diverse cross section of the Central Ohio community and a multitude of professions, including teachers, dentists, nurses, IT specialists, and a variety of business careers.

COBB competes regularly at the North American Brass Band Association Championships, having earned first place in the First Section five times (2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012). In the winter of 2009, COBB was awarded first place in the Devilish Publishing online competition, based in the United Kingdom. In addition to the NABBA Championships, COBB has performed at the Butlin's Mineworkers Open National Brass Band Festival in the United Kingdom, the Great American Brass Band Festival, the US Open Brass Band Championships, the Dublin Festival of Brass, and the International Trombone

COBB enjoys a vigorous performance schedule, frequently playing at church functions, community festivals and with school groups to promote lifelong learning, as well as to foster the brass band tradition in the United States.

COBB has been hosting the Ohio Brass Arts Festival since 2007 and will continue with its 18th edition on Saturday June 21, 2025, at Creekside in Gahanna Ohio. The band invites you to join them for its annual event as it embraces its mission and help to share brass band music with its community!

#### DR BENJAMIN COY

Dr. Benjamin Coy serves as Music Director for the Central Ohio Brass Band and Executive Director for the Central Ohio Symphony. As a trombonist, he has performed with the Columbus Symphony, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, Brass Band of Columbus, Vaughn Wiester's Famous Jazz Orchestra, and many other ensembles. He has held tenured positions in the Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Iowa, and the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra. He particularly enjoys staged works and has performed with Opera Project Columbus, the Ohio Light Opera, and the national tour of Hairspray. A prolific composer, Dr. Coy has published music through Warwick Music Publishing, Ensemble Publications, and Cherry Classics Music.

Dr. Coy is an internationally-recognized teacher and regularly presents clinics on pedagogical topics at conferences, including the International Trombone Festival and the Texas Music Educators Association Convention. From 2015-2023, he served as the brass professor at South Texas College, where he also directed the symphonic band and taught music theory. He now teaches through his own private lesson studio in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Coy earned his doctorate in trombone performance and pedagogy at The Ohio State University. He previously studied in Chicago, earning his master's degree at Northwestern University and his bachelor's at the Chicago College of Performing Arts. His primary teachers were Chicago Symphony musicians Jay Friedman and Michael Mulcahy.

#### **CINCINNATI BRASS BAND**





#### The Raid Oliver Waespi

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The Cincinnati Brass Band (CBB) was founded in 1993 and organized by William Harvey of Buddy Rogers Music; Director, Anita Cocker Hunt; and Assistant Director, Drew Cremisio. The CBB performs regularly throughout the greater-Cincinnati area bringing its signature sound in the British brass band tradition. The Cincinnati Brass Band was proclaimed as the 'Official Brass Band of Cincinnati' by the Mayor of Cincinnati in recognition of contributions to the musical culture of Cincinnati.

Community outreach has always been an important aspect of the band's history, and it continues today. The band has collaborated with other members of the Cincinnati art community including: Xavier University's Symphonic Winds Ensemble, Cincinnati's Music Resource Center, the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Prep Brass Choir, the Cincinnati School for the Creative and Performing Arts, along with several private and public schools throughout the greater Cincinnati area.

The Cincinnati Brass Band entered its first NABBA competition in 1996 and currently competes in the Second Section.

#### DR JOSHUA K. THOMPSON

Dr. Joshua K. Thompson is music director of the Cincinnati Brass Band. In addition to conducting the band, he is also the Orchestra Director at Winton Woods High school in Cincinnati, Ohio. He grew up in Ohio and attended Miami University, where he graduated with degrees in Music Education and Music Performance. After later completing his Masters Degree in Music at Bowling Green State University, he then completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Iowa. Before returning to the Cincinnati area, he taught at several colleges throughout the Midwest, teaching Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Brass Choir, Jazz Ensemble, Trumpet, Music Technology, Music Theory, and Music Education courses.

Dr. Thompson has been an active guest conductor, clinician, honor band conductor, and judge, and has also enjoyed a varied and active performing career as an orchestral trumpeter, chamber musician, and soloist. He was previously the Music Director of the Eastern Iowa Brass Band (now 'Iowa Brass') and had also played cornet in the Chicago Brass Band.

#### **MASSANUTTEN BRASS BAND**





#### Sinfonietta No.3 Etienne Crausaz

The Massanutten Brass Band, from Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley, was formed in September of 2001 and has developed a loyal and enthusiastic following of brass band enthusiasts. Now celebrating its 23rd season, the ensemble is comprised of musicians from Northern Virginia, Charlottesville, and the Shenandoah Valley. The band's personnel include school band directors, music professors, university music students, and serious amateur musicians. The ensemble performs throughout the central Shenandoah Valley region and has performed as the featured ensemble at the Virginia Music Educators Conference. The band was awarded first prize in the Second Section (2007), third prize in the First Section (2009 and 2010), second prize in the Second Section (2023), and, most recently, first prize in the Second Section (2024) at the North American Brass Band Association Championships.

#### **PROF. KEVIN STEES**

Prof. Kevin Stees, now in his 31st year as Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at James Madison University, leads an active career as a soloist, chamber musician, conductor and music educator. He has studied with tuba artists Daniel Perantoni (Indiana University), Charles Daellenbach (Canadian Brass) and Jack Tilbury (U.S. Army Brass Quintet, ret.) and holds music degrees from University of Illinois and Arizona State University. He has been a finalist in several solo competitions and was a prize winner in the Second International Brass Congress Tuba Solo Competition.

Kevin has presented solo and chamber music performances at numerous universities, conferences, music festivals and workshops, including the U.S. Army Band Tuba-Euphonium Conference, Southeast Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference, International Tuba-Euphonium Conference and the Keystone Brass Institute. He has performed with a number of orchestras including the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, Canadian Chamber Orchestra and the Calgary Philharmonic, and was a member of the Southwest Brass Quintet and the Skyline Brass.

Kevin currently performs with the Madison Brass (quintet-in-residence at James Madison University) and the Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival Orchestra. In addition to performances on tuba, he is very active as the conductor of the internationally recognized James Madison University Brass Band, having led the ensemble in performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. and the Brucknerhaus Concert Hall in Linz, Austria, as well as music venues throughout England, Wales and Austria. He is also the conductor of the Massanutten Brass Band. Additionally, he is on the Board of Directors of the North American Brass Band Association and a member of the International Tuba Euphonium Association.

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#### **MILWAUKEE FESTIVAL BRASS**





#### Sinfonietta No.3 Etienne Crausaz

Founded in 1985, Milwaukee Festival Brass is made up of volunteer brass and percussion players from all over Southeastern Wisconsin. Led by its highly regarded Director, Mark A. Taylor, it has added its own unique flair to a repertoire ranging from classics to contemporary selections using traditional British Brass Band instruments.

As highly regarded musical ambassadors for the great and vibrant city of Milwaukee, the award-winning Milwaukee Festival Brass supports its strong cultural foundation and is dedicated to developing younger brass and percussion musicians. The band is dedicated to advancing and maintaining a successful brass band of the highest possible musical quality. As a nationally recognized organization, we will strive to satisfy the musical ideals of our members while simultaneously nurturing audience awareness and establishing community support.

#### DR. MARK A. TAYLOR

Dr. Mark A. Taylor is the Music Director of Milwaukee Festival Brass. Dr. Taylor made his Wisconsin debut with the band in 2011 as a guest conductor and now serves as the ensemble's full time artistic leader. A conductor, educator, and performer in demand throughout the Great Lakes region, Dr. Taylor served five years as director of bands and coordinator of ensembles at Loyola University, and was a member of the music education faculty for the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

Dr. Taylor has received degrees from the University of Notre Dame and Northwestern University. He is also a graduate with his Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree from the University of North Texas and his principal conducting teachers have included John P. Paynter, Stephen G. Peterson, Dennis Fisher, and Eugene Migliaro Corporon. He is a member of the National Band Association, College Music Society, College Band Directors National Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He, his wife and son reside in Lake Forest, IL.

#### **MOTOR CITY BRASS BAND**





#### Kingdom of Dragons Philip Harper

Motor City Brass Band (MCBB) was established in 1996 and performs in a variety of venues throughout the year in a wide range of musical styles from classical to jazz, and pop to sacred. MCBB has performed throughout Michigan, the Midwest, and Ontario, Canada.

MCBB was established in 1996 by John Aren, a Salvation Army officer and former member of the then National Champion Illinois Brass Band, and has a long tradition of participation in brass band competitions. The band annually participates in the North American Brass Band Association Championships and, in 2022, placed first in the Second Section. In 2005 MCBB participated in the U.S. Open Brass Band Championship and won the award for Best Performance of a March, as well as taking second place in the overall competition. In 2023 MCBB has also won its fifth consecutive Detroit Music Award as the Outstanding Classical Small Ensemble.

MCBB continues to spread a love of the brass band sound and philosophy throughout the State of Michigan, and in 2010, inaugurated the Motor City Festival of Bands. This event has brought together some of the finest community and brass bands from across Michigan to perform separately, and as a massed band. Conducting the massed bands have been such notable figures as Leonard Slatkin, Music Director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, William Himes, noted composer and conductor, and Colonel Thomas Palmatier, retired commander of the US Army Band (Pershing's Own).

#### **GORDON WARD**

Gordon Ward was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England and started learning the cornet at age six. After attending the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, he was employed as a brass teacher and conductor of the Hull Youth Concert Band. He also attended the University of Hull and gained a post graduate certificate in education.

He was offered the position as Director of Music for The Salvation Army in New York in 1980 and emigrated to the USA. He became the conductor of the Greater New York Youth Band and oversaw the music programs in 30 centers, as well as extensive summer camps and conservatories at the Star Lake Camp. Under his musical direction the GNY Youth Band undertook tours throughout the USA, Canada, Australia, Argentina, and Europe.

In 2019, after leaving New York, he moved to Michigan to reside in Northville and serves as President of the Five Lakes Silver Band, as well as becoming a playing member of that band. He also joined the Royal Oak Salvation Army Band as principal cornet and the Eastern Michigan Divisional Band. After serving as Interim Conductor for MCBB, Gordon accepted the position of Music Director and Conductor of the band in June 2022.

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#### **OLD CROWN BRASS BAND**





#### Kingdom of Dragons Philip Harper

The Old Crown Brass Band was founded in 2007 and has become one of Fort Wayne's premier performing ensembles. The 32-piece brass and percussion ensemble is composed of members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, local music educators, and professional musicians. All members of the band are non-compensated and share a passion for brass band music. While conforming to the model of the traditional British brass band, the band programs all types of music including marches, jazz arrangements, show and movie scores, and orchestral transcriptions. Much of the band's music is specially arranged for Old Crown by its resident arranger, Tony Alessandrini. The band has also formed a separate ten-piece performing ensemble known as "Old Crown Lite'. The band performs at many venues throughout northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio.

Old Crown has performed at the 2010 and 2018 Indiana Music Educators' Association Conference. The band has received numerous honors, including first place in the Open Section of the 2014 and 2015 North American Brass Band Association Championships. Old Crown moved up to the Third Section of the 2016 Championships and received third place honors. The band repeated third place finishes in 2017 and 2018. In 2019, Old Crown won first place in the Third Section. The band moved up to the Second Section in 2023 and was awarded third place. OCBB placed third in the 2024 U.S. Open Brass Band Championships. The band has served as host for the NABBA Championships from 2015 – 2020 and will again host the Championships in Fort Wayne in 2025 and 2026.

The Old Crown Brass Band has enjoyed several conductors during its history and is currently led by co-conductors T. J. Faur and J. Joseph Peters. The band is a member of Arts United of Fort Wayne and the North American Brass Band Association.

#### J. JOSEPH PETERS

J. Joseph Peters is the founder and current director of the Steuben County Festival Choir and the Choir Director at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola, Indiana. Joseph studied trombone, organ, piano, and conducting at the Interlochen Arts Academy, DePauw University, and the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He has studied with world renowned performers such as trombonist Carl Lenthe of the Bavarian State Opera, organist Todd Wilson, conductor Gabriel Crouch of the King's Singers, and conductor David Efron of the Cologne Opera. He was an Emerson Scholar at Interlochen Arts Academy where he earned his high school diploma while double majoring in trombone and organ. Joseph earned a Bachelor of Music in trombone performance with a second major in computer science and a minor in organ from DePauw University, on full music merit scholarship, while also becoming a certified choirmaster through the American Guild of Organists. He then earned a Master of Music from the Jacobs School of Music in bass trombone and conducting and has been named a Pressler Scholar Emeritus. He serves on the Steuben County Humanities Fund board. In 2018, Joseph became the most recent and youngest recipient of the Angola Mayor's Arts and Humanities Award. He currently works as Vice President of sales and marketing at Powerscreen Midwest in Chicago, where he fulfills his childhood fascination with heavy equipment. Most recently, he has been bestowed the honor of becoming a Knight of Magistral Grace in the Order of Malta for his involvement in the Catholic Church. Joseph has been co-conductor of Old Crown Brass Band for two years.

#### **ORILLIA SILVER BAND**





#### **Images for Brass** Stephen Bulla

The Orillia Silver Band was formed over 70 years ago under the direction of Harry Peacock, a well-known figure in the Orillia music scene. The band performs regularly throughout the Orillia area and beyond at events that range from concerts to the annual Orillia Santa Claus Parade, the Highland Games and the convocation at Lakehead University. The band's own concert series, held at the Orillia Opera House, includes fall, Christmas, Winter and Spring concerts, and its summer season sees it performing at parks and events throughout June, July and early August every year.

#### **NEIL BARLOW**

Orillia Silver Band's current Music Director, Neil Barlow, has been with the band since 2013. After an extensive global engineering career, Neil and his family settled in the Muskoka area where he and his wife, Kim, have been involved in the local professional arts for many years. Along with his prowess as a brass player, Neil brings a wealth of knowledge about brass bands and extensive experience as a conductor of all genres of music. He was the founding Music Director for the award-winning Five Lakes Brass Band in Michigan, as well as currently directing the OSB, and working with the Clarkson Brass and Kingston Brass small ensembles.

#### **RIVER BRASS**





#### Brass Triumphant Gareth Wood

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River Brass was founded in 1991 under the name 'Bend in the River Brass Band'. The group took its name from the oxbow bend of the Ohio River that separates the cities of Evansville, IN and Henderson, KY. In 2015, as the band continued to add members from across the entire IN/KY/IL tri-state region, it rebranded to 'River Brass' to equally represent its members near both the Wabash and Ohio Rivers.

The band's members are post-high school players from southwestern Indiana, western Kentucky, and southeastern Illinois. Members range in age from late teens to their eighties. This diverse group is brought together by their common interest in making and sharing high quality brass music.

River Brass has been a competing member of NABBA since 2007, having scored podium finishes in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2016. It was the winner of the open section of the Gateway Festival of Brass in 2023.

In 2019, as an educational outreach of the band, the River Brass Youth Band was formed. This program gives students the opportunity to gain exposure to the brass band world and network with other brass players from across the region. Currently open to high school students, the program is tuition-free and promises to provide a unique musical challenge to all levels of talent.

#### **ERIC OBERMEYER**

Eric Obermeyer is a Southern Indiana native who works as a freelance musician, collaborative pianist, private lessons studio instructor, and band director.

A graduate from Jasper High School, Eric received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Murray State University, and now serves as the director of bands at Harrison High School.

Eric has been an active member within the River Brass programs since 2019, having served as President and Vice President on the Board of Directors, principal euphonium player with River Brass, director of the River Brass Youth Band, and is currently Director of the River Brass Band.

#### ST. LOUIS BRASS BAND





#### St. James's - A New Beginning Philip Harper

Founded in 1998, the St. Louis Brass Band features some of the area's finest brass musicians, educators, and students, who come together to perform classics, marches, jazz, and the very best contemporary brass band music. Acclaimed by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch as "one of the city's newest treasures," the STLBB has won awards at NABBA and the U.S. Open Bass Band Championships. Generous financial support has come from the Missouri Arts Council, Regional Arts Commission, Ameren Illinois, the Garvey Foundation, Boeing, and area music stores throughout the region.

In 2014 the St. Louis Academy Brass Band was established as part of the Educational Outreach Program. The Youth Brass, for middle school age students, was added in 2022.

Guest soloists with the St. Louis Brass Band include Patrick Sheridan, Karin Bliznik (former Principal Trumpet - St. Louis Symphony Orchestra), Gerry Pagano (bass trombone, retired - St. Louis Symphony Orchestra), J.D. Shaw (Boston Brass co-founder and horn), and Christine Brewer (Grammy award-winning soprano).

#### **DR. JOHN BELL**

Dr. John Bell has served as the Music Director for the St. Louis Brass Band since 2009 and serves on the NABBA Board. In addition to his work in the brass band arena, he is the newly appointed Director of Wind Ensemble at McKendree University, in Lebanon, Illinois, and Professor of Music Emeritus at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, a role he held for 30 years.

Dr. Bell is an elected member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and has been an invited clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States, Asia and Canada, for DCI, Music for All, the World Music Festival, and numerous championship events. Previous appointments include Music Director of the Rocky Mountain Brassworks Brass Band in Denver, Colorado, Associate Director of Bands at the University of Northern Colorado, Doctoral Conducting intern at the University of Illinois, and band director at Willowbrook and Rolling Meadows High Schools in the Chicago suburbs.

Ensembles under his direction have been selected for performances at the international conference of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles in Chiayi City, Taiwan; the national convention of the Music Educators National Conference (now NAfME); divisional conferences of the Southwest and North-Central College Band Directors National Association; the state conferences of the Illinois Music Educators and Colorado Music Educators; and twice in New York City's Carnegie Hall.

Dr. Bell resides in Lebanon, Illinois, with his spouse, Dr. Jennifer Moder-Bell and their pup, Wiggles.

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#### **TAMPA BRASS BAND**





#### **Spinnaker** Brendan Sweeney

Founded in 2019, the Tampa Brass Band (TBB) is the premier British brass ensemble in the Tampa Bay area, bringing the rich traditions of British brass band music to Florida's Gulf Coast. Comprised of a diverse group of professional brass and percussion players, music educators, and passionate enthusiasts, the band represents the region's finest talent. TBB's performances are a dynamic blend of thrilling brass band repertoire, alongside carefully crafted arrangements of orchestral and popular classics. Known for its versatility, the Tampa Brass Band regularly presents a wide array of musical styles, from traditional brass band marches to contemporary works. Their engaging concerts can be found in venues across the Tampa Bay area, and the band is a proud participant in educational outreach, providing performances and clinics that inspire local music students. As well as featuring iconic brass band masterworks by celebrated composers, TBB is committed to showcasing emerging voices in the brass band world, having premiered works by up-and-coming composers like Andrea Hobson and Brendan Sweeney.

In 2022, the Tampa Brass Band made a notable debut at the North American Brass Band Championships in Huntsville, Alabama. This appearance marked the beginning of the band's competitive journey, and it has since continued to grow in stature, earning individual and ensemble accolades in subsequent competitions. As part of the Tampa Brass Works Organization, a Florida-based non-profit, TBB not only fosters the traditions of British brass bands but also serves as an educational platform. The organization's mission is to elevate the musical skills of brass and percussion students throughout the Tampa Bay area, providing them with unique opportunities for growth and mentorship. With its commitment to musical excellence, community engagement, and educational outreach, the band continues to set the standard for brass music in the region.

#### **ROSS HOLCOMBE**

Ross Holcombe is the music director of the Tampa Brass Band. He also serves as the Associate Principal Trombonist of The Florida Orchestra, and teaches trombone on the faculty of the University of South Florida. Previously, Ross has held orchestral positions with the Santa Fe Opera, Spokane Symphony, and the Vermont Symphony Orchestras, as well as teaching positions at Whitworth University, Eastern Washington University, Gonzaga University, and Florida Southern College. He has appeared as a soloist with The Florida Orchestra, Spokane Symphony, Gonzaga University Wind Symphony, and the New England Conservatory Symphonic Winds.

As a conductor, Ross has been the director of several trombone choirs at university level. In addition he has appeared as a guest conductor for rehearsals or concerts with numerous brass ensembles and trombone choirs, as well as bands and orchestras such as the Spokane Falls Community Band, the Tampa Bay Symphony, and the Florida Orchestra. Also a prolific arranger of music for brass, symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, and choir, Ross has been commissioned and performed by ensembles and organizations throughout the United States, including The Florida Orchestra, the New England Conservatory Symphonic Winds, the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, TFO Brass Ensemble, NEC Trombone Choir, Vermont Symphony Brass Quintet, and the Atlantic Brass Quintet. His music is published by Cherry Classics. Ross received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Trombone Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music, where his primary teacher was Norman Bolter. Additionally, he studied conducting at NEC with William Drury and Charles Peltz. Outside of his musical career, Ross is an avid cyclist, disc golfer, and backpacker. He lives in Tampa with his wife, Emily, and their two dogs, Sydney and Billie.

#### **UPPER CANADA BRASS**





#### Wychavon Sketches Dan Price

Upper Canada Brass (UCB), a member of the North American Brass Band Association and the Canadian Band Association (Ontario), is a traditional British-style brass band with a Canadian flair. From its modest beginnings as a brass choir in 2011, UCB evolved into a full British-style brass band in January 2018. The same year, the band made its debut at the North American Brass Band Association Championships in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and returned with even more enthusiasm in 2019. Despite the significant setback of COVID-19, UCB has shown remarkable resilience, staging its first post-COVID concert in May 2022, a testament to the Canadian spirit.

Since then, the band has performed in the Markham/Richmond Hill area (York Region) and the counties of Simcoe and Ontario (County). With its home in Markham, Ontario, the band draws musicians from a 125-kilometre radius (77 miles), who enjoy presenting Canadian composers and artists and the current repertoire of other great brass band composers and artists.

UCB currently hosts a four-concert series and several outreach concerts with its quintet, sextet, and tentet. The band's repertoire is varied, spanning from traditional brass band literature to hymns, marches, transcriptions, and even pop music (Canadian rock!). In addition to NABBC (2018 and 2019), the band has performed at the Great Canadian Brass Band Festival and recently had the pleasure of collaborating with the King Edward Singers in their John Rutter's *Gloria* performance.

The band has been privileged to work with world-renowned musicians Tom Hutchinson (Principal Cornet - Cory Band), Gary Curtin (Principal Euphonium - Foden's Band), Olivier Laquerre (bass-baritone - Opera Atelier), Sheona White (tenor horn), and Dmytro Garbovskyi (baritone - formerly of Mariinsky Theatre Opera). UCB's musicians are excited to be returning to NABBC after the COVID hiatus under the direction of its founding conductor, Rita Arendz.

#### **RITA ARENDZ**

Rita Arendz is a freelance musician, conductor, adjudicator, and clinician living in Ontario. She has conducted orchestras, wind bands (including military bands), brass bands, wind ensembles, and brass ensembles in Canada, the United States, France, Holland, and the United Kingdom. Rita was a member of the Canadian Forces Reserves for nearly 30 years, of which more than 18 were as Captain and Director of Music of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. During this time, she travelled to England, France, Holland, South Korea, and the United States for musical duties. She also taught instrumental music and conducting and was responsible for training Canada's Reserve Musicians. She finished her military career as the Staff Officer for Bands at 32 Canadian Brigade Group and worked with the Public Affairs office. Some highlights in her conducting career included before the Princess Alexandra of Kent and the Queen Consort Camilla (then Duchess of Cornwall).

Rita holds a Master of Music (Performance Conducting) and a Bachelor of Music Performance (French horn) from the University of Toronto. She is a member of the North American Brass Band Association, Toronto Musicians' Association, Canadian Band Association (Ontario), Brass Band Conductors Association, and Brass Bands England.



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#### **CARLISLE BRASS BAND**





#### St. Austell Suite Kenneth Downie

The first Carlisle Brass Band was created in 1844. Today's Carlisle Brass Band was created in 2018 by members of the Carlisle Town Band to provide motivated brass and percussion players in Pennsylvania's Cumberland Valley with the opportunity to perform historic and modern brass band musical literature. Organized as a British brass band, the band performs 12-15 concerts annually. Notable accomplishments include two appearances at the Gettysburg Brass Band Festival, numerous performances at local patriotic events and recurring musical support to U.S. Army War College Graduation ceremonies. Administratively, the Carlisle Brass Band and the Carlisle Town Band are subordinate organizations of the Carlisle Band, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, and both operate under the Bylaws of the Carlisle Band.

#### **DAVID KNOTT**

David Knott is a professional percussionist, educational leadership advocate, and conductor. He currently serves as a member of the instrumental music faculty coordinating and directing all Middle Division Band activities at Milton Hershey School in Hershey, PA. In 2024, he was appointed as the Assistant Conductor of the Hershey Symphony. David is also the conductor of the Carlisle Brass Band, which he began leading in the winter of 2023, and cofounder of the Mozart and Friends Wind Ensemble.

From 2020 to 2023, David was part of the summer music faculty at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. There, he developed and taught a class on the Tactical Integration of Trauma-Informed and Social Emotional Learning Strategies for Music Education, enhancing the perspectives of numerous music educators on students' emotional needs within ensemble settings.

David's previous work experience includes directing the percussion studio and teaching courses on Percussion for Music Education and Percussion for Music Therapy at Elizabethtown College and Messiah University. As a leadership advocate, he founded the Central Pennsylvania Wind Conductors Society, which aims to elevate music educators through mentoring, professional collaboration, and performance opportunities for student ensembles. David earned his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Master of Music Degree in Percussion Performance from Michigan State University. He has studied with renowned mentors such as Jack Stamp and John Whitwell.



#### **CHERRY BLOSSOM BRASS BAND**





#### Rhapsody on St. Francis Andrew Wainwright

The Cherry Blossom Brass Band was founded in 2023 to provide meaningful, challenging artistic experiences and competition opportunities for musicians in the Washington D.C. area. The band's mission is threefold:

- 1. Bring high-quality, high-energy, and entertaining performances to audiences in the greater Washington D.C. area;
- 2. Provide an opportunity for musicians to learn about the British brass band tradition through direct experience; with a focus on regional and national competitions;
- 3. Create a sense of community, both internally for musicians and externally for its audiences, around the British brass band tradition.

In less than two years, the band has held 11 concerts, raised hundreds of dollars for local public school music programs, and placed second in its inaugural NABBA debut in the Third Section. An all-volunteer ensemble, the band's members include professional musicians, music educators and administrators, and amateur musicians.

The Cherry Blossom Brass Band would like to offer a special thank you to the Herndon United Methodist Church for their continued support in providing rehearsal space and other resources, and to all of its donors who have made this journey possible.

#### **ANDREW WOOD**

Performer and music educator Andrew Wood completed his BM in music performance at James Madison University, studying with Dr. Chris Carrillo. Additional teachers included Chris Sala (US Navy Band) and the late Steve Hendrickson (National Symphony Orchestra). As a trumpet studio teaching assistant at Louisiana State University, he studied with Matthew Vangjel and Brian Shaw. Andrew is Director of Bands and Orchestra at Gonzaga College High School. He is also ABD for a DMA in trumpet performance at George Mason University, where he studies with Dr. Kevin Gebo, Dr. Michael Nickens, and Dr. Chris Trojano.

As a soloist, Andrew has appeared with the Massanutten Brass Band, LSU University Band, Cherry Blossom Brass Band, and George Mason 9th Green Machine Regiment Band. He placed first in the 2019 North American Brass Band Association Cornet Slow Melody Competition. He has commissioned works from Hannah Rice, Jack Yagerline, and Ryan Stees.

Andrew has performed with the Rockbridge and Capital City Symphonies, Two Rivers Chamber Orchestra, Albemarle Symphony, James Madison University Brass Band, Massanutten Brass Band, and Brass of the Potomac. He is a founding member of Cherry Blossom Brass Band, and was Principal Cornet prior to his role as Music Director.

Andrew co-founded the Orange Line Brass Quintet, and performs with the George Mason 9th Green Machine Regiment Band. As an educator, Andrew has worked with organizations such as the Louisiana State University's Stately Oaks summer band camp, the Louisiana Music Educators Association, Fairfax County Public Schools, and the DC Music Educators Association.

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#### **DUBLIN METRO BRASS**





THIRD SECTION

#### The Dark Side Of The Moon Paul Lovatt-Cooper

Dublin Metro Brass is the most recent addition to the Dublin Community Bands family, having been formed in 2018. Dublin Metro Brass provides an opportunity for members to study challenging brass band literature, to compete locally and nationally, and to bring quality entertainment to the community. Recent highlights include placing 3rd in the Third Section of the 2023 North American Brass Band Championships and placing 2nd at the 2024 Ohio Brass Arts Festival.

#### **JASON NIPPERT**

Jason Nippert is currently the Assistant Band Director at Dublin Coffman High School. He lives in Hilliard, Ohio and has been involved in the brass band community in Dublin since 2014 when he first participated in the Dublin Youth Brass Band. Jason has been a featured composer, conductor, assistant conductor, coverage conductor, euphonium, baritone and trombone player, and a performance substitute performer for local bands including the Dublin Youth Brass Band, Dublin Silver Band, and the Dublin Cornet Band. Jason also currently serves as the Assistant Conductor and Lead Trombone for the Dublin Cornet Band.

#### **FOUNTAIN CITY YOUTH BRASS ACADEMY**





#### A Brief Symphony of Time Simon Dobson

The Fountain City Youth Brass Academy was founded in 2008 by Helen Harrelson while she was on a sabbatical from her job in England. Helen is a native of England and grew up in the brass band tradition before attending the Royal Northern College of Music. From there, she became one of the world's foremost baritonists and performed with some of the finest bands in the United Kingdom. Her passion for music education and this rich tradition led her to establish the FCYBA.

The FCYBA began as day-long 'expo' workshops and has grown into season-long brass bands with over 150 members. The bands within the Academy are made up of brass and percussionists of all standards and abilities from late elementary through young adult. The bands of the FCYBA are non-cut programs for participants 18 years of age and younger. The conductors and specialists for the FCYBA bands are professional music educators that also perform with the Fountain City Brass Band.

Since its inception, the bands of the FCYBA have won numerous national championships at the North American Brass Band Championships and the US Open Brass Band Championships, and been featured at prestigious events such as the Great American Brass Band Festival and the Kansas Music Educators Association's annual conference.

#### DR. LEE HARRELSON

Dr. Lee Harrelson is a Professor of Music at Missouri Western State University where he also serves as the Director of Instrumental Studies and Bands, low brass specialist, and conducts the Missouri Western Symphonic Winds. Dr. Harrelson has also served on the faculties of the University of Kansas, the University of Central Missouri, and the UMKC Conservatory. He attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where he studied music education and performance before completing his masters and doctorate at the UMKC Conservatory.

Dr. Harrelson is the founder of the Fountain City Brass Band and currently serves as its Artistic Director, Executive Director, and Principal Euphoniumist. Dedicated to furthering the development of brass bands in America, Dr. Harrelson, along with his wife Helen, founded the Fountain City Youth Brass Academy, which regularly serves 120 students per year, and in 2019, the National Youth Brass Band of America. After serving three years as the Executive Director of the U.S. Open Brass Band Championships, in 2022, Dr. Harrelson founded the U.S. Masters Brass Band Entertainment Championships.

In the fall of 2019, Dr. Harrelson was awarded the first-ever Visiting International Professor position with the world-famous Brighouse & Rastrick Band. In addition to collaborating with and conducting the band, he worked closely with Prof. David King during preparations for the band's appearances at the British Open and the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain.

Dr. Harrelson can be heard on numerous commercially released recordings and has appeared throughout North America and Europe as a clinician, soloist, and chamber musician. He is a Besson/Buffet Crampon performing artist.

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#### **MOTOR CITY ACADEMY BRASS BAND**





#### **Inspiration** | an de Haan

Motor City Academy Brass Band, formerly Motor City Youth Brass Band, was established in 2006 as an educational outreach program of Motor City Brass Band. The band welcomes dedicated musicians who wish to achieve a high level of musicianship through performing brass band literature.

MCABB consists of members of high school level and beyond that have a variety of musical backgrounds. The main focus of the band is to help members improve in all areas of brass and percussion performance and introduce them to the world of British-style brass banding. The band has participated in the North American Brass Band Association Championships consistently from 2014-2018 and 2022-2024 and was awarded second place in the Youth Division in 2017 and third place in the Third Section in 2024. Two soloists and an ensemble have also placed in the top three at NABBA. In its first year of competition at the U.S. Open Brass Band Championships in 2024, the band achieved second place in the Challenge Section.

Guest clinicians have included Brett Baker, Andy Esch, Philip Hannevik, Helen Harrelson, David King, Paul Lovatt-Cooper, John Madden, Christopher Ward, and Gordon Ward. MCABB annually performs at the MCBB Sounds of the Season concert and a pre-NABBA concert with MCBB and Five Lakes Silver Band.

The mission of MCABB is to provide high quality instruction and performing opportunities for brass players and percussionists in Southeast Michigan using the traditional British brass band instrumentation. MCABB uses talented artistic direction, visionary leadership, and community involvement to ensure a successful experience. Instructors include: Andrew Cicchelli (cornet), Zach Musienko (cornet), Jennifer Kmet (tenor horn), Scott Voytush (trombone), Iyla Miller (baritone and euphonium), Colin Holstein (tuba), and Patricia Fisher (percussion). Motor City Academy Brass Band is a family of musicians that are committed to lifelong learning and exceeding expectations.

#### **BONA OPATICH**

Bona Opatich became the conductor of the Motor City Academy Brass Band, formerly Motor City Youth Brass Band, in January, 2011. Bona received her Bachelor of Music Education from Michigan State University and her Master of Music degree from Bowling Green State University, where she conducted the tuba-euphonium ensemble and was a graduate assistant on full scholarship.

During her 35 years of teaching public and private school musicians, she was the K-12 Director of Music in DeTour Village, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and following her masters degree, she became Director of Music at Wayne Trace High School in Ohio. After returning to Michigan, she held various positions in the Waterford School District including the Director of Bands at Mott High School. Bona currently has a private lesson studio, assists the music faculty in Bloomfield Hills, and is a member of Detroit Harmony, an initiative to give every student in Detroit an instrument.

Throughout her career, Bona has always been an active performer. She has performed throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Europe, China, and in the New Zealand National Brass Band Championships in 2023 and 2024. Since 1997, she has performed in Motor City Brass Band and currently plays euphonium. Her Motor City Brass Band Board of Directors positions have included Secretary, Treasurer, Artistic Committee Chair, and she is currently the Education Outreach Chair. She has studied euphonium with Steven Mead and conducting with Philip Hannevik and Christopher Ward.

#### **WILMINGTON VIRTUOSI BRASS**





THRD

SECTION

#### The Dark Side of the Moon Paul Lovatt-Cooper

Wilmington Virtuosi Brass was formed in 2023. Richard Hillson, a former National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain solo cornet, moved to Wilmington and when playing with the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra recognized the amount of brass talent in the area. WVB has been warmly embraced by its musician members and the North Carolina audience since its inception, selling out venues and introducing the community to British-style brass repertoire. Most of the band's musicians come from an orchestral or military music background, so it has been a fascinating journey adapting to the different styles of this type of music. NABBA 2025 will be the band's first contest as an ensemble, and a first brass contest for most of its members.

Under the guidance of Tony Granados, along with Dr. Dominic Talanca of UNCW, it has been a great experience so far. WVB hosted a March concert with Dr. Brett Baker, giving the band a chance to work with one of the world's preeminent brass musicians. The band is delighted to be experiencing its first NABBA contest and is excited to put Wilmington's name on the national stage.

#### **TONY GRANADOS**

Tony Granados is a Producing Coordinator for Carolina Performing Arts and a freelance musician in central North Carolina. Tony can be seen performing with the orchestras for the Carolina Ballet and N.C. Opera, Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, and is a founding member of the Boylan Brass.

Tony maintains a private studio of high school and middle school students, and regularly runs sectionals for school bands. Tony is an adjudicator for marching bands and teaches brass techniques for several local high school marching band programs. He was the Brass Supervisor for Carolina Gold Drum and Bugle Corps, winning the DCA - A Class Championship and High Brass in 2012, 2018 and 2019.

Tony serves on the Board of Directors for NABBA, including two terms as President from 2019 - 2023. From 2008 to 2023, Tony was the Artistic Director for the Triangle Brass Band, winning the Third Section in 2022 and 2018, and runner-up in 2019 at the NABBA Championships. From 2001-2013, he was the Director of the Triangle Youth Brass Band program, building it from 17 students to over 70 in two bands and winning eight NABBA Youth Section Championships.

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#### **WATSON BRASS BAND**





#### Kingdom of Dragons Philip Harper

The Triangle Youth Brass Band, located in Raleigh, North Carolina, was formed in 1997 as an expansion of the Triangle Brass Band's educational endeavors. The organization consists of four ensembles, the Triangle Youth 'J. Perry Watson' Brass Band, Triangle Youth Brass Band, Triangle Youth Brass Band, Triangle Youth Brass Band, Triangle Youth Percussion Ensemble, and serves over 100 of the Triangle's most talented young musicians. The mission of the TYBB is to provide engaging, transformative musical experiences to the finest high school brass and percussion players through exceptional performance in the British brass band medium.

Over the past two decades, the TYBB has grown into one of the premier youth brass band programs in the United States. The Triangle Youth Brass Bands typically perform three concerts annually. Additionally, the groups often travel and perform outside the Triangle area of North Carolina. Recent tours have taken the bands to the North American Brass Band Association Championships, where the band earned First Place Honors in the Youth Division in 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, and 2022, 2023 and 2024. The bands were featured performers at the Great American Brass Band Festival in 2003, the City of Greensboro's Independence Day fireworks celebration in 2006 and 2008, and have performed with the Georgia Brass Band, U.S. Coast Guard Band, Dallas Brass, Presidio Brass, Triangle Wind Ensemble, and Concert Singers of Cary.

The TYBB program is comprised of approximately 100 brass and percussion students, in grades 9-12, who share a commitment to excellence in performance. Since 1997 the TYBB has represented high schools in Wake, Durham, Orange, Johnston, Cumberland, and Nash counties. Members perform strictly on British brass band instrumentation.

#### JESSE RACKLEY

Jesse Rackley is the Artistic Director of the Triangle Youth Brass Bands and conductor of the Watson Brass Band, a 30-piece British-style brass band comprised of the most talented high school brass and percussion players in the Central North Carolina region. Previously, he served as Music Director of the Triangle Youth Brass Ensemble from 2009-2013. Under his direction, the Triangle Youth Brass Band program has expanded from two to three brass bands, as well as a percussion ensemble.

Jesse is an accomplished tenor trombone and euphonium performer and educator. He is the Principal Trombone of the Fayetteville Symphony and New Carolina Sinfonia and performs regularly with the North Carolina Symphony. He has performed with the Virginia Symphony, Charleston Symphony, Greensboro Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony, Wilmington Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle, and Eastern Music Festival Orchestra. As a soloist, Jesse has been featured with the Triangle Brass Band, Triangle Youth Brass Band, 440th US Army Band, and East Carolina University Tuba Ensemble.

Jesse was the winner of the 2009 and 2007 Southeast Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference solo euphonium competition, runner-up in the 2002 International Tuba Euphonium Conference Young Artist Solo Competition, and semi-finalist in the 2002 Leonard Falcone International Tuba Euphonium Competition. As a teacher, Jesse maintains a large and active private studio throughout central North Carolina. His students consistently receive top honors in the N.C. All-District and All-State Bands and participate in various summer festivals. Jesse is in frequent demand as a soloist, clinician, and adjudicator throughout North Carolina. He lives in Morrisville with his two sons, Noah and Ryan, and his partner, Cindy.

#### TRIANGLE YOUTH BRASS BAND





#### Viking Age Thierry Deleruyelle

The Triangle Youth Brass Band, located in Raleigh, North Carolina, was formed in 1997 as an expansion of the Triangle Brass Band's educational endeavors. The organization consists of four ensembles, the Triangle Youth 'J. Perry Watson' Brass Band, Triangle Youth Brass Band, Triangle Youth Academy Brass Band, and Triangle Youth Percussion Ensemble, and serves over 100 of the Triangle's most talented young musicians. The mission of the TYBB is to provide engaging, transformative musical experiences to the finest high school brass and percussion players through exceptional performance in the British brass band medium.

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#### **MATT EDWARDS**

Matt Edwards is in his 22nd year as Director of Bands at Fuquay-Varina High School. Under his direction, the bands of Fuquay-Varina High School have continued a long tradition of musical excellence, competitive success, and connection to the community. The Marching Bengals have earned nearly 50 caption and class awards over the last five years during competitions in North Carolina. The Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble consistently receive Excellent and Superior ratings at District MPA. His students are regular participants in All-District, All-State and collegiate honor groups and continue their musical careers in as non-music majors in college ensembles and as music majors and minors at universities across the eastern United States.

Matt has performed professionally as a trombonist with the Triangle Brass Band, North Carolina Wind Orchestra, Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, Cape Fear Regional Theater, Greensboro Philharmonia and the Highland Brass Quintet. Students under his private instruction have earned seats in Southeast and Central All-District Bands and the NC All-State Honor Bands. Matt received his Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1996 from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is a member of the North Carolina Music Educator's Association (NCMEA), National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and East-Central District Band Director's Association (ECDBA). He was honored by the Central District Bandmasters' Association (CDBA) with the 2008 Director of the Year and the 2014 Award of Excellence.

Matt has served as ECDBA High School MPA Chair (2016-2022), CDBA President (2010-2012), NCBA MPA Committee representative (2009-2012, 2015-2018), CDBA High School All-District Auditions Chair (2005-2008), Southeast District All-District Clinic Chair/Host (1998) and Southeast District Concert MPA Chair/Host (2001). He is entering his 11th year as Music Director of the Triangle Youth Brass Band and has served as conductor at the UNCG Summer Music Camp. Matt is married to Robin Gorham and lives in Fuquay-Varina with their cat, Annie.

#### **DUBLIN YOUTH BRASS BAND**





YOUTH OPEN SECTION

#### Malaika Bob Munson

#### Queen of the Underworld Chris Hines

Dublin Youth Brass Band (DYBB) was created by the Dublin Community Bands in 2014 and provides a unique opportunity for all students to experience a traditional British brass band. Originally started as a yearly summer workshop, the band was expanded in 2023 to also have a brass and percussion day and full winter/spring term. DYBB students work with and frequently play next to members of the award-winning Dublin Silver Band (DSB) and Dublin Metro Brass (DMB). These adult mentors help from within the section, run sectionals, and serve as examples of lifelong music makers.

DYBB is a payment optional band, which means that all families have the option to pay what fits within their budget with no questions asked. Additionally, all brass band-specific instruments are provided for free. DYBB strives to remove the barrier of finances in extracurricular music-making to truly make quality music education inclusive. The ensemble is generously supported in part by the Dublin Arts Council. DYBB has performed at the Ohio Brass Arts Festival, Dublin Festival of Brass, and the Dublin Brass Band Showcase. This will be the Dublin Youth Brass Band's first appearance at the North American Brass Band Association Championships.

#### DR. AMY SCHUMAKER BLISS

Dr. Amy Schumaker Bliss began conducting the Dublin Youth Brass Band in 2023. Previously, she was co-conductor and co-founder of both the Atlantic Youth Brass Band and the Rowan University Brass Band.

As a performer, she has been a featured soloist with Atlantic Brass Band, Rowan University's Wind Band, Rowan University's Wind Ensemble, Kent State University's Wind Ensemble, Athena Brass Band, Lancaster Allegro Symphony, Dublin Silver Brass Band, and San Francisco Brass Band. She was a featured artist and host at the International Women's Brass Conference (IWBC) at Rowan University (2017) and a recitalist at the IWBC in Mito, Japan in 2024.

As an adjudicator, Amy has served on panels for the North American Brass Band Association (Youth Section), Falcone Euphonium Young Artist Competition, The International Tuba Euphonium Association (ITEA) Young Artist Tuba and Euphonium Competition, the IWBC euphonium competitions, the IWBC composition competitions, and both the Midwestern and Southern regional ITEA artist euphonium competitions.

Amy attended Capital University Conservatory of Music in Columbus where she double majored in euphonium performance and music education, studying with Dr. Thomas Zugger. She earned her master's degree in euphonium performance studying with Steven Mead and David Thornton at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England where she earned Honors with Distinction in Performance. In 2015, she graduated from Rutgers University as the school's first doctoral euphonium student, studying with Dr. Stephen Arthur Allen and Aaron VanderWeele. Amy lives with her husband and two sons just outside of Columbus, Ohio.

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#### TRIANGLE YOUTH ACADEMY BRASS BAND





Valerius Variations Philip Sparke Four Cities symphony - Mvmts. 3-4 Rodney Newton

The Triangle Youth Brass Band, located in Raleigh, North Carolina, was formed in 1997 as an expansion of the Triangle Brass Band's educational endeavors. The organization consists of four ensembles, the Triangle Youth 'J. Perry Watson' Brass Band, Triangle Youth Brass Band, Triangle Youth Academy Brass Band, and Triangle Youth Percussion Ensemble, and serves over 100 of the Triangle's most talented young musicians. The mission of the TYBB is to provide engaging, transformative musical experiences to the finest high school brass and percussion players through exceptional performance

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#### **ROBIN GORHAM**

in the British brass band medium.

Robin Gorham retired from teaching middle school band in June of 2020 after a 25-year career and taught most recently at Fuquay-Varina Middle School. Throughout her career, her students earned placements in district and state level honor bands and her concert bands earned superior and excellent ratings at concert band festivals. Robin has presented at several professional development conferences as well as hosted and mentored student teachers from area universities. Her service and leadership in education included serving the Central District Band Directors Association as Chairman as well as multiple other roles within the organization.

Robin received her undergraduate music education degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her Masters of Music in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In 2003, she earned National Board Certification and is honored to have received the North Carolina Band Association's Award of Excellence from Southeastern Band Directors Association in 2009 and from East Central Band Directors Association in 2021. She is a member of North Carolina Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, and was inducted into the American School Band Directors Association.

Robin maintains a private horn studio and is the brass instructor for the Fuquay-Varina High School Marching Band. She lives in Fuquay-Varina with her husband, Matt Edwards, Director of the Fuquay-Varina High School Bands, and their cat, Annie.

#### YOUTH BRASS ACADEMY





YOUTH

OPEN SECTION

#### The Mermaid of Zennor Philip Harper

Youth Brass Academy was first formed in January 2024. The band won first place in the Youth Open Section of the 2024 NABBA Championships in what was its very first contest.

#### **ZAC ROHNER**

Zac Rohner, born and raised in Rome, Georgia, attended Jacksonville State University where he studied Music Education and French horn. After graduating with his bachelor's degree in 2022, he moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where he began working as the Director of Bands at Whitesburg Middle School. He currently performs with the Brass Band of Huntsville and serves as the Music Director for the Youth Brass Academy of Huntsville.

#### DR. DOUGLAS BLACK

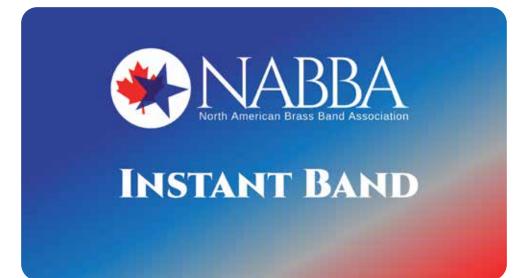
Dr. Doug Black is the Coordinator of Music and Assistant Professor of Tuba/Euphonium and Music Education at Alabama A&M University, Tuba Faculty at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and the Director of Education for the Brass Band of Huntsville. He teaches applied tuba and euphonium, brass ensembles, music appreciation, and music education courses. Doug has previously served on the music faculty at Nottoway County Public Schools, Halifax Community College, Winthrop University, and the University of South Carolina.

Doug has performed concertos with the Southern Stars Symphonic Brass Band, University of Alabama in Huntsville Wind Ensemble, Winthrop University Wind Symphony, Carolinas Wind Orchestra, and Peoria Municipal Band and given recitals in the Midwest United States, Southeast United States, and Canada. Doug is an active orchestral tubist; he was the principal tuba of the Rock Hill Symphony Orchestra, Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, Union Symphony Orchestra, was the principal tuba and cimbasso of Opera Carolina, and has performed with the Durham Symphony Orchestra, Augusta Symphony, South Carolina Philharmonic, Aiken Symphony Orchestra, and the Tuscaloosa Symphony. Doug has also performed with the North Carolina Brass Band, Brass Band of Huntsville, Southern Stars Symphonic Brass Band, Triangle Brass Band, and was the tubist with Tim Zimmerman and the King's Brass. He has performed and presented at numerous regional and international conferences.

Doug is an Eastman Tuba Artist.



#### **INSTANT BAND**





The Wreckers Overture Ethel Smyth arr. Jessica Payne 'Mid all the Traffic Leonard Ballentine Ravenswood March William Rimmer

In 1997, a visionary conductor, David Druce of the Woods Manufacturing Band of Canada, ignited a spark of collaboration. Recognizing the financial constraints that prevented some bands from traveling to the North American Brass Band Championships in Red Wing, he sought to create an opportunity for individual players to experience the thrill of performing on the NABBA stage. Gathering a diverse ensemble of approximately 16 Canadians, ten Americans, and four British musicians, he pioneered the very first Instant Band. This remarkable group, united by their passion for brass music, delivered a compelling performance after just two days of intensive rehearsal.

This year, inspired by the enduring spirit of camaraderie and musical excellence, the NABBA board is thrilled to revive the Instant Band. With the growth of the brass band movement across North America, we are committed to fostering inclusivity and creating pathways for even more musicians to participate in our championship experience. The Instant Band offers a unique opportunity for individuals from various bands, who might otherwise be unable to attend, to come together, forge new connections, and celebrate the joy of making exceptional music. We invite you to join us in this celebration of unity and musical passion, where the love of brass transcends geographical boundaries and financial limitations.

#### DR. EVAN HARGER

Dr. Evan Harger (Assistant Professor) serves as Music Director and Conductor of the UNC Symphony Orchestra at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. An advocate for new music and living composers, Dr. Harger serves as a Staff Conductor for Global Arts United festivals in Sofia, Bulgaria; Vienna, Austria; Brasilia, Brazil and São Paulo, Brazil. Additionally, he holds the position of Associate Conductor of the Newfound Chamber Winds, an ensemble made up of professional musicians from around the United States and Canada.

Past guest conducting has included the Oregon Mozart Players, Ensemble PHACE, St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra, Sofia Philharmonic, UNICAMP Symphony Orchestra, Idaho All-Collegiate Band, Marywood String Celebration Chamber Orchestra, PMEA District 9 Orchestra, PMEA District 8 Orchestra, PMEA District 7 Orchestra, Berks County Honor Orchestra, and the Lycoming County Honor Band. Prior to his appointment at UNC, he conducted at Texas A&M University Kingsville, the Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley - which was invited to perform at the 2023 Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association All-State Conference - and Marywood University. Dr. Harger holds his D.M.A. in Orchestral Conducting from Michigan State University, under the tutelage of Prof. Kevin Noe.

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**Youth Open Section** 

Championship Section	First (Honors) Section	Second (Challenge) Section
2024 – James Madison University	2024 – San Francisco	2024 – Massanutten
2023 – Five Lakes Silver	2023 – Princeton	2023 – San Francisco
2022 – Fountain City	2022 – Dallas	2022 – Motor City
2019 – Fountain City	2019 – Dublin Silver	2019 – Capital City
2018 – Fountain City	2018 – San Antonio	2018 – Rockville
2017 – Atlantic	2017 – Weston Silver	2017 – Rockville
2016 – Fountain City	2016 – Pikes Peak	2016 – Capital City
2015 – Fountain City	2015 – Weston Silver	2015 – Dublin Silver
2014 – Stavanger	2014 – Oakland University	2014 – Weston Silver Band
2013 – Princeton	2013 – Five Lakes	2013 – Chesapeake
2012 – Atlantic	2012 – Central Ohio	2012 — Madison
2011 – Atlantic	2011 – Central Ohio	2011 – Natural State
2010 – Fountain City	2010 – Central Ohio	2010 – Spires
2009 – Fountain City	2009 – Central Ohio	2009 — Natural State
2008 – Fountain City	2008 – Georgia	2008 – Spires
2007 – Fountain City	2007 – Central Ohio	2007 – Massanutten
2006 – Columbus	2006 – New England	2006 – Georgia
2005 – Central Florida	2005 – James Madison University	2005 – Spires
2004 – Chicago	2004 – James Madison University	2004 – New England
2003 — Stavanger	2003 – Cincinnati	2003 – Spires
2002 – Columbus & Illinois (Tie)	2002 – Prairie	2002 – Sunshine
2001 – Illinois	2001 – St. Louis	2001 – Spires
2000 – Illinois	2000 – Cincinnati	2000 – Sunshine
1999 – Columbus	1999 – Cincinnati	1999 – St. Louis
998 – Illinois	1998 – All-Star	1998 – Prairie
997 – Illinois	1997 – Eastern Iowa	1997 – Cincinnati
996 – Illinois	1996 – Dominion	1996 – Cincinnati
995 – Columbus	1995 – Eastern Iowa	1995 – Buffalo Silver
1994 – Hawthorn City	1994 — Illinois	1993 – Varsity All-Star
993 – Columbus	1993 – Sheldon Theatre	1992 – Varsity All Star
1992 – Ohio Collegiate	1992 – Eastern Iowa	1991 – Milwaukee
991 – Columbus	1991 – Ohio Collegiate	1990 – Ohio Collegiate
1990 — Columbus	1990 – Eastern Iowa	1989 – N Carolina State University
1989 – WRAL	1989 – Eastern Iowa	1988 – N Carolina State University
1988 – Columbus	1988 – WRAL	1987 – Eastern Iowa
1987 – Columbus	1987 – WRAL	1986 – N Carolina State University
1986 – Columbus	1986 – Sunshine	
985 – Gramercy	1985 – Sunshine	
1984 – Gramercy	1984 – Sunshine	
1983 – Smoky Mountain	1983 – North Carolina State University	

3rd (Explorer) Section	Youth Championship (Youth) Section
2024 – Fountain City Youth Brass Academy	2024 – Watson
2023 – Jacksonville State University	2023 – Watson
2022 – Triangle	2022 – Watson
2019 – Old Crown	2019 – Fountain City Youth Hon
2018 – Triangle	2018 – Fountain City Youth Hon
2017 – Milwaukee Festival	2017 – Fountain City Youth Hon
2016 – Milwaukee Festival	2016 – Fountain City Youth Bras
2015 – Chapel Brass	2015 – Fountain City Youth Bras
2014 – Fountain City Youth Brass Academy	2009 – Triangle Youth
2013 – Chapel	2008 – Cincinnati Honors
2012 – Bend in the River	2007 – Triangle Youth
2011 – Capital City	2006 – Triangle Youth
2010 – Oakland University	2005 – Cincinnati Honors
2009 – Tri-State	2004 – Triangle Youth
2008 – Tri-State	2002 – Triangle Youth
2007 – Tri-State	2001 – Triangle Youth
2006 – Tri-State	2000 – Junior Varsity All-Star
2005 – Central Illinois	1999 – Junior Varsity All-Star
2004 – Jericho	1998 – Junior Varsity All-Star
2002 – Varsity All-Star	1997 – Junior Varsity All-Star
2001 – Varsity All-Star	1996 – Junior Varsity All-Star
	1995 – Junior Varsity All-Star
Open Section	1994 – Junior Varsity All-Star
	1993 – Junior Varsity All-Star
2022 – Motor City Academy	1992 – Junior Varsity All-Star
2019 – Fountain City Honor Band	1991 – Varsity All-Star
2015 – Old Crown	1990 – Varsity All-Star
2014 – Old Crown	1988 – Varsity All-Star
2009 – Huntsville	1987 – Varsity All-Star
2008 – West Michigan	
2003 – James Madison University	Youth First Section
2002 – Syracuse University	
2001 – Syracuse University	2023 – Triangle Youth
1997 – Northwinds	2023 – Triangle Youth
1996 – Woods Manufacturing Co	2022 – Triangle Youth
1995 – Woods Manufacturing Co	2019 – Triangle Youth
1991 – University of Northern Iowa	
1990 – River City Youth Band	
1983 – North State Silver	

outh) Section	
,	2024 – Youth Brass Academy
4 – Watson	2023 – Triangle Youth Academy
3 – Watson	2022 – Triangle Youth Academy
2 – Watson	2019 – Fountain City Youth
9 – Fountain City Youth Honor Band	2018 – Triangle Youth
8 – Fountain City Youth Honor Band	2017 – Fountain City Youth
7 – Fountain City Youth Honor Band	2014 – Motor City Youth Brass Band
6 – Fountain City Youth Brass Academy	2013 – Triangle Youth
5 – Fountain City Youth Brass Academy	2012 – Triangle Youth Brass Ensemble
9 – Triangle Youth	2009 – Triangle Youth Brass Ensemble
8 – Cincinnati Honors	2008 – Triangle Youth Brass Ensemble
7 – Triangle Youth	2007 – Triangle Youth Brass Ensemble
6 – Triangle Youth	
5 – Cincinnati Honors	President's Award
4 – Triangle Youth	
2 – Triangle Youth	2024 – Hannaford Street Silver Band
1 – Triangle Youth	2023 – Dr. Ronald W. Holz,
0 – Junior Varsity All-Star	Dr. J. Perry Watson & Dr. Paul Droste
9 – Junior Varsity All-Star	2012 – James Curnow
8 – Junior Varsity All-Star	2013 – Anita Cocker Hunt
7 – Junior Varsity All-Star	2014 – Bramwell & Edward Gregson
6 – Junior Varsity All-Star	2015 – Stephen Bulla
5 – Junior Varsity All-Star	2016 – Kevin Stees & James Madison
4 – Junior Varsity All-Star	School of Music
3 – Junior Varsity All-Star	2017 – Dr. Peter Graham
2 – Junior Varsity All-Star	
1 – Varsity All-Star	
0 – Varsity All-Star	
8 – Varsity All-Star	
7 – Varsity All-Star	
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3 – Triangle Youth	
2 – Triangle Youth	
9 – Triangle Youth	
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AWARDS

PRESIDENT'S

#### **PRESIDENT'S AWARDS 2025**

#### WOMEN OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND

The North American Brass Band Association is honored to present the group 2025 President's Award to the Women of the Ohio State University Marching Band (OSUMB). For decades, The Ohio State University Marching Band has been recognized as a pinnacle of precision, musicality, and showmanship. What many may not realize is the groundbreaking role this ensemble has played in advancing the inclusion and recognition of women in the world of brass banding.

In a tradition historically dominated by men, these extraordinary women have (for over 50 years now) shattered stereotypes and defied expectations. With unwavering determination and exceptional talent, they have earned their place amongst 'the Best Damn Band in the Land'. Their contributions extend far beyond the football field. They serve as powerful role models, inspiring countless young women to pursue their musical passions and strive for excellence in all their endeavors.



These women carry the values of dedication, musicality, and teamwork instilled in them during their time in the OSUMB, enriching the brass band community as a whole. They embody the spirit of this award. They are not just musicians; they are pioneers. They embody the spirit of progress, dedication, and artistic brilliance. They have redefined what it means to be a member of a brass band, and in doing so, have enriched the tapestry of this art form for generations to come.

For their remarkable contributions, hard work, musical excellence, and profound impact on brass banding particularly in Ohio, but also throughout North America, I am proud to recognize the women of the Ohio State University Marching Band as the group 2025 President's Award recipient.

Some of the women that have served roles with the OSUMB and TBDBITL Alumni Band:

- Rose Angelica Long-time music educator. Enjoying a second career as a multiple award-winning country music singer and song writer.
- Shelley Graf Served as the first female head drum major at Ohio State. Still a crowd pleaser and is the most active drum major in alumni activities, coordinating all the drum majors that perform with the TBDBITL Alumni Band.
- Lisa (Haines) Henry One of the founders of The Script Ohio Club, which has two endowments that provide new instruments for the band and scholarships for band members
- Sandy Johnson Created and runs the TBDBITL Mentoring Program.
- Sara Lawhorn Organizes the annual TBDBITL reunion registration (with around 600 registrants annually, a true miracle worker).
- Heather (Phillips) Smith Founded the Adopt-A-Row program and ran it for many years.
- Jill Stemley Organizes the annual 'Hyper Friday' gigs that raises tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships for the band.

Some of the teams of women that have impacted the OSUMB and TBDBITL Alumni Band:

- Nancy Porter, Kathy (Gess) Duncan, and Kristen (Staas) Hollinger Created the annual all trumpet row dinner as part of the Adopt-A-Row program (hosting over 80 trumpets, sopranos and flugels for dinner every year). The only event where all six trumpet rows enjoy a meal together and socialize with alumni
- Nancy Porter and Denise Blocker Have hosted an annual post reunion cookout for last 33+ years for 75-100 alums.

Some of the women that have had a larger impact on the NABBA Community:

- Lisa (Cozad) Galvin Long-time music educator in the central Ohio area. Arranger and show designer for the OSUMB. Served as Interim Co-Assistant Director of the OSUMB. Charter member of the Brass Band of Columbus and the Athena Brass Band.
- Jan Duga Was the first female "i" dotter. Retired veteran who enjoyed a 30-year career in the number-one Air Force band stationed in Washington, DC and continues to play with Brass Band of Northern Virginia and the Athena Brass Band.
- Diana (Droste) Herak Long-time music educator in the central Ohio area. Current co-director of TBDBITL Alumni Band and director of the Dublin Cornet Band. She was part of the first baritone CD project and has played with the Athena Brass Band.
- Jessica (Leach) Sneeringer Had many leadership roles in brass bands having directed the Central Ohio Brass Band to several first section titles and has served as Athena Brass Band conductor for many years. She has served as NABBA Judge, and guest conductor in England and Japan.

Some of the women tangential to the Ohio State University Marching Band:

- Laura Lineberger Served as an office assistant for the OSUMB. She went on to serve in the US Army Brass Band and helped with NABBA when it was hosted in Washington DC. She was a Charter member of the Brass Band of Columbus and founded, plays with, and serves on the board of the Athena Brass Band.
- Marcia LaRue Served as an arranger for the OSUMB for two years and played in the Brass Band of Columbus. She has gone on to have a successful career as a composer/arranger and educator. She currently conducts the Good News Brass.

These are just a sampling of the many women that have made a great impact on brass banding.

#### **PRESIDENT'S AWARDS 2025**

#### DAVE JONES

The North American Brass Band Association is honored to present the individual 2025 President's Award to Dave Jones, a tireless advocate and dedicated servant of the brass band movement in North America. For over a decade, Dave has shaped the landscape of NABBA, lending his expertise and passion to the organization's growth. His 11 years of service on the NABBA board, including two impactful terms as Secretary from 2015 to 2019, demonstrate his unwavering commitment to the association's mission.

Dave's dedication extends far beyond board service. He spearheaded the effort to host the NABBA Championships in Fort Wayne, transforming it into a premier event. Now in its sixth year with his leadership, the Fort Wayne contest stands as a testament to his exceptional commitment, personal sacrifice, and generous spirit. He orchestrates a seamless and welcoming experience for bands and attendees alike, ensuring the continued success of this vital event.

As a charter member and three-term President of the Old Crown Brass Band, Dave embodies the spirit of community brass banding. He contributes his musical talents as a baritone player, having previously played the euphonium and trombone, and currently serves as the band's Operations Manager.

Dave's reputation precedes him; he is known for his reliability, his ease of collaboration, and his unwavering support. He welcomes newcomers with open arms, encourages musicians of all levels, and fosters a positive and inclusive environment within the brass band community. For his remarkable contributions, his steadfast dedication, and his profound impact on brass banding in North America, I am proud to recognize Dave Jones as the individual 2025 President's Award recipient.







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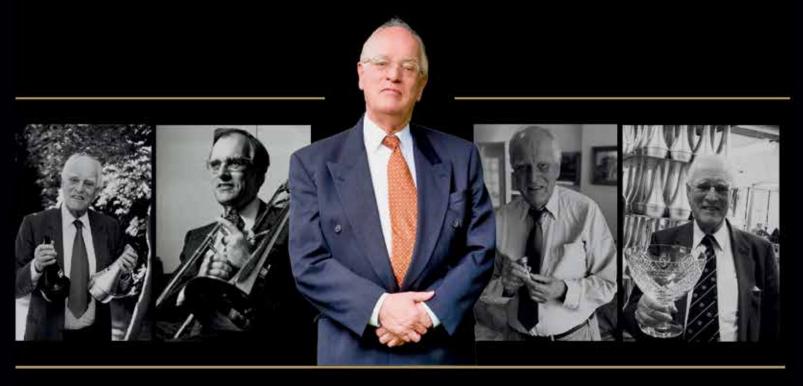
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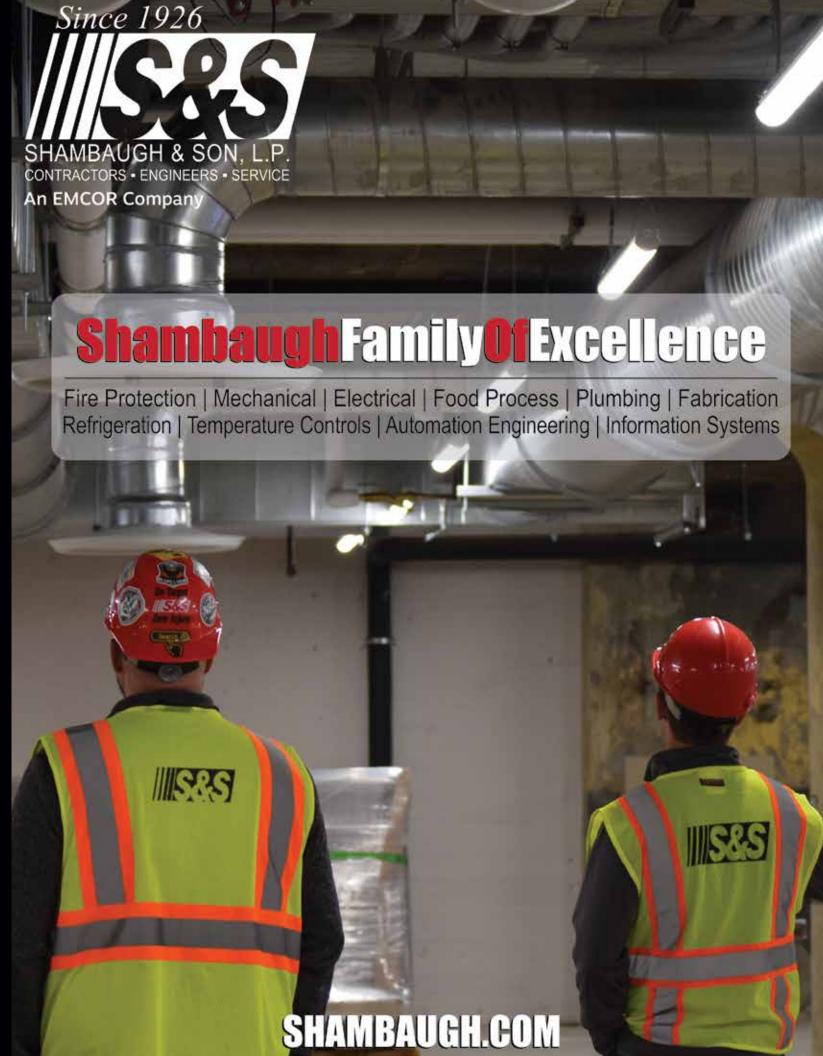




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