

the houston★pride★band presents

Summer Love

MUSIC INSPIRED BY
THE GREATEST MUSE OF ALL



June 10, 2023
8PM • MATCH

From the President

Happy Pride! The **Houston Pride Band** welcomes you to Summer Love, a concert inspired by the greatest muse of all. Tonight's program showcases summer love, love stories, and famous relationships. And what better time than Pride Month to remind us all that love is love.

In addition to chart topping favorites, and Broadway hits, we are very proud to premiere two original works for wind band from submissions for our first Composition Competition. We hope you enjoy these original pieces, and we hope to continue to provide opportunities for composers to have their works performed, opportunities for our members to perform premiere pieces, and for our audience to experience new music for the first time!

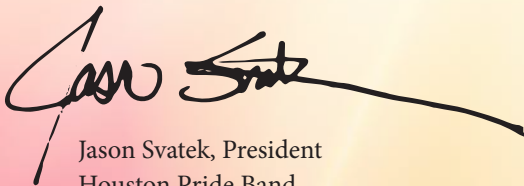
Later this month, you can again see us proudly marching and performing through downtown at the **Houston Pride Parade on June 24th**. We hope to see you there cheering us on!

We are also proud to announce our exciting concert programs for the upcoming **2023-2024 Season!** Check the back cover of your program for the list of concert themes – you won't want to miss a beat! **Season ticket packages** will be available this summer – be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and go to our website to subscribe to email updates about our upcoming events and performances!

The Houston Pride Band appreciates your generous support. Your contributions help the band bring music and joy to our community throughout the year. Your ticket purchase tonight is just the beginning – be sure to go to donate.houstonprideband.org to make additional contributions and check out the other giving opportunities within this program for ways to support our organization..

Enjoy the show!

Yours in **PRIDE**,



Jason Svatek, President
Houston Pride Band



Summer Love

DEBORAH HIRSCH & DAVID LEA
CONDUCTORS

PROGRAM

La Belle Hélène Overture	Jacques Offenbach arr. Lawrence Odom
Song for Mother Gaia	Frank Duarte
...and kisses are a better fate than wisdom I. your eyelids' flutter II. my blood approves Commissioned by the Houston Pride Band - World Premiere Performance	Alec Schantz
The Basses are Loaded	Kelly Bennette
Tango Corazón Noel Freeman, trombone	Hanna-Mari Lehtonen

- INTERMISSION -

The Beatles: Love	John Lennon / Paul McCartney arr. Jay Bocook
Loved, Never Alone World Premiere Performance	Joseph Benjamin Earp
The Beach Boys Greatest Hits	arr. Michael Brown
Summertime, from <i>Porgy & Bess</i>	George Gershwin arr. Calvin Custer
Seasons of Love, from <i>Rent</i>	Jonathan Larson arr. John Higgins
Grease!	Warren Casey / Jim Jacobs arr. John Moss

houston★pride★band

PERFORMING MEMBERS

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Christi Gell
Ruben Gomez
Jonathan Griffin
Donald Hale
Theo Harrison*
Kayla Smith
Josh Wunderlich

OBOE

Michael Moreau-Monier

BASSOON

David DiCamillo*
Jeremy Hasan
Becky Schlembach

CLARINET

Kayla DuBrow
William Fu*
Em Merrell
K. Sarah Ostrach
Jordan Pachuca
Hannah Robertson
James Walker

BASS CLARINET

Nicolas Droger

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Anna Harkness
Travis Howell
Billy Skembo
Daniel Stover

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Anthony Fernandez

TRUMPET

Zachary Alcantara
Mary Beth Alsdorf
Jason Fernandez
Adam Jatho
Rose Kantorzcyk
Pablo Lopez
Jessie Meng
Jacob Newsome
Ellie Nichols
Tajudeen Ohiri
Laura Prier
Kyra Stafford

HORN

Jorge Gutierrez*
Brice Harkness
Mackenzie Klima
Catherine Ruiz
Eric Weidner

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Trudy Allen*
Rayshaun Bennett
Colleen Callan
Noel Freeman
Nikolai Robinson

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Russell Ben Williams

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Rudy Ramirez
Brian Tighe

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Seth Bedford

PIANO

Adam Jatho
Sharon Prince

PERCUSSION

Lauren Anderson
Seth Bedford
Jose Garza
Christian Hopkins
Sharon Prince
Jen Rodriguez*

* Section Leader



Artistic Directors

DEBORAH HIRSCH

Artistic Director

Now in her 7th season with the Houston Pride Band, Deborah Hirsch is originally from Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in music therapy and music education and earned a master's degree in music at Texas A&M University-Commerce. She also served in the 312th Army Band in Lawrence, Kansas before moving to Texas.

Retiring after 37 years as a band director in Pasadena, Texas, Deborah enjoyed a successful career in public education. Ms. Hirsch was named "Teacher of the Year" in 2014.

As a participant in the Colorado University Conducting Symposium in June 2016 Ms. Hirsch studied under Steve Davis, Dr. Donald McKinney, Dr. Matt Roeder and Dr. Matthew Dockendorf. In June 2019, she attended the Conn-Selmer Institute where she was able to study, consult and collaborate with many of her band idols—Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser, Dr. Paula A. Crider, Frank Troyka, Michael Sweeney and Richard Saucedo. In the 2019, Deborah was honored to direct the Association of Private Lutheran Schools Honor Band and the Texas Region 19 Class CC Band. In November 2021, she was the guest clinician for the Texas Region 19 CCC Band and shared the podium at the Bigger and Brighter Conference of the Pride Bands Alliance.

Deborah is an active clinician, judge, and consultant across the state and is a member of Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Women Band Directors International, and Texas Music Adjudicators Association.

Ms. Hirsch is also a member of the chancel choir and bell choir at Bering Memorial United Church of Christ and a long time member of Pasadena Little Theater.



Artistic Directors Deborah Hirsch & David Lea

DAVID LEA

Artistic Director

David Lea has been an Artistic Director for the Houston Pride Band since 2018. He joined the ensemble in 2016 and has previously served as trumpet section leader. When he's not conducting, he continues to play in the trumpet section and is a founding member of Brass Tax, a HPB brass quintet.

David earned bachelor's degrees from Texas A&M and Michigan State University in Psychology and Music Education, respectively. He earned his Master of Music Education from the University of North Texas. He has performed and participated in conducting symposiums with Drs. Kevin Sedatole and Craig Kirchoff, Dr. Matthew Westage, Michael Votta and Frank Battisti.

David is currently the Director of Bands at Michael R. Null Middle School in Northeast Houston. His bands have enjoyed successes at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading

Evaluations, and local and regional festivals. As a private trumpet teacher, his students have made Michigan All-state, earned first divisions at regional and state solo & ensemble contests, and had the honor of participating in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. His professional memberships include Texas Music Educators and Texas Bandmasters Associations. David is an outspoken advocate for his LGBT+ students and was honored to support them by serving as the founding faculty advisor for a student organization focused on inclusion, acceptance, and community.

Program Notes

COMPILED BY CHRIS FOSTER

LA BELLE HÉLÈNE OVERTURE

La Belle Hélène (The Fair Helen) is the overture to a satirical operetta written as a spoof on the Greek myth of Helen of Troy. The plot centers around the rivalry between Paris and Hélène's husband Menelaus for her favor. Paris's pursuit of Hélène and her infidelity with him result in her falling in love with Paris, and Menelaus's throwing himself into the sea in a suicide attempt. He is rescued, however, and subsequently joins the army to fight the Trojan war. The first performance was given in Paris in 1864 at the Théâtre des Variétés. The Overture to *La Belle Hélène* is one of the favorites in modern orchestral programming from the pen of Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880). His numerous operettas that combined political and cultural satire with witty grand opera parodies were extremely popular in the 1850s and 1860. The great chef Auguste Escoffier is said to have created the fruit dessert "Pear Hélène" in honor of Offenbach and his work.

SONG FOR MOTHER GAIA

From the composer:

While perusing for a set of poems, I stumbled upon "June Night" by Sara Teasdale. Like most of Sara's poetry, this poem has a solemnity to it. Immediately, upon reading her poetry, three words came to mind: solitude, sincerity, and love. I adapted the poem into the following text:

*Oh, Earth you are too dear tonight,
How can I sleep, while all around
Floats rainy fragrance and the far
Deep voice of the ocean that talks to the ground?*

Oh Earth, you gave me all I have, I love you, Earth.

This adapted text resulted in **Song for Mother Gaia**, which is just that – a song for Earth, showcasing my love for our beautiful planet. I have always loved nature, and part of that love, I believe, comes from the fact that some form of it has always surrounded me. This composition explores many different colors that mimic a beautiful transient moment of daydreaming, appreciating the wonders and beauty of what I call this huge green planet, home.

...AND KISSES ARE A BETTER FATE THAN WISDOM

From the composer:

...and kisses are a better fate than wisdom was written for the Houston Pride Band inspired by the poem [*since feeling is first*] by E.E. Cummings. This piece was meant to fit into the theme of "Summer Love" and the poem [*since feeling is first*] is the first thing that popped into my mind. E.E. Cummings happens to be one of my favorite poets and is most well-known for his love poems, which is why I felt it so fitting to base this composition on one of his works. This poem, in my view, is about loving without reason and regret; putting forward the idea that feeling is most important. I find this poem to be quite profound, and while most likely not the intention of the poet, I feel as though this poem is a beautiful representation of the LGBTQ experience, as there is only life and death, and we should love how we feel we should love. The title and movement titles are direct quotes from the poem that goes as follows.

*since feeling is first
who pays any attention
to the syntax of things
will never wholly kiss you;*

*wholly to be a fool
while Spring is in the world*

*my blood approves,
and kisses are a better fate
than wisdom
lady i swear by all flowers. Don't cry
—the best gesture of my brain is less than
your eyelids' flutter which says*

*we are for each other: then
laugh, leaning back in my arms
for life's not a paragraph*

And death i think is no parenthesis

In the midst of writing this piece an unexpected inspiration presented itself and became influential in the overall scope of the composition. About a week into putting pen to paper, episode 3 of the television show *The Last of Us* aired. A show set in what is essentially a zombie apocalypse, dropped an episode that revolved around the beautiful relationship between two gay characters. It was an emotional rollercoaster of an episode that became the main inspiration of the second movement, which I wanted to feel completely and absolutely bittersweet.

THE BASSES ARE LOADED

John Philip Sousa wrote his *The National Game* march in 1925, using the sound of a baseball being struck by a bat. This march is a play on words that directly involves the national past-time. The wordplay alludes to the fact that the melody is found so often in the lower instruments of the band, particularly the tubas; truly **The Basses are Loaded**. The march is original, contemporary, and exhilarating. The composer Kelly Bennette taught for 29 years in the Texas public schools, most recently in Gilmore. He is principal tubist with the East Texas Symphonic Band and spent six years with the Lamar University Faculty Brass Quintet.

TANGO CORAZÓN

Cleverly blending the tango styles of Finland and Argentina, **Tango Corazón** is a concerto for trombone solo with wind band accompaniment. The solo trombone, performed tonight by Noel Freeman, sings over dance grooves in the percussion and wind section features. The composer, Hanna-Mari Lehtonen is a Finnish conductor, music educator, composer, and producer. She has Master's degree in music and Bachelor's Degree both in music pedagogics and in arts, entertainment, and media management.

THE BEATLES: LOVE

Based on the music of the phenomenal British rock band, famed music producer George Martin created **The Beatles: Love** for the ambitious Cirque du Soleil Las Vegas show. The show's soundtrack utilizes original Beatles recordings recast in new and imaginative settings and mixes. This adaptation of the *Cirque du Soleil* stage show was created for concert band, featuring a medley of "Because", "Drive My Car", "The Word"; "Eleanor Rigby", "Hey Jude", and "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band".

LOVED, NEVER ALONE

From the composer:

We live in such a diverse world. Sometimes we're raised to fear what we might not know or fully understand. "**Loved, Never Alone**" was written as a reminder to parents to lead with love, always. Parents should be loving champions for their child, honoring their identity and being a supportive guide during developing relationships. As parents, we can empathize with how challenging it can be for our child in a world that does not always welcome intimate bonds with someone of a different race, sexuality or identity. This composition is the journey of a child and their parent as they navigate some of young life's greatest choices and challenges. Each section of this work is intended to provoke emotions within child and parent as they each figure out who they can be. The work concludes with the strength of the child knowing their parent will always be

there, not in spite of who they choose to be or be with, but in celebration of - loved, and never alone!

THE BEACH BOYS GREATEST HITS

The Beach Boys were one of the most influential bands of the 1960s with their own distinct and innovative surf music sound that's still popular today. This medley of tuneful hits includes "California Girls", "Good Vibrations", "Surfer Girl", "Wouldn't It Be Nice", and "I Get Around".

SUMMERTIME

Summertime is an aria composed in 1934 by George Gershwin (1898-1937) for the 1935 opera *Porgy and Bess*. The lyrics are by DuBose Heyward, the author of the novel *Porgy* on which the opera was based. The song soon became a popular and much recorded jazz standard, described as "without doubt...one of the finest songs the composer ever wrote." Composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim has characterized Heyward's lyrics for *Summertime* and *My Man's Gone Now* as "the best lyrics in the musical theater". The song is recognized as one of the most covered songs in the history of recorded music, with more than 33,000 covers by groups and solo performers.

SEASONS OF LOVE

"**Seasons of Love**" is a song from the 1996 Broadway musical *Rent*, written and composed by Jonathan Larson. The song traditionally starts with an ostinato piano motif, which provides the harmonic framework for the cast to sing "Five hundred twenty-five thousand, six hundred minutes" (the number of minutes in a common year). The song is performed by the entire cast to open the second act. The lyrics ask what the proper way is to quantify the value of a year in human life, concluding in the chorus that the most effective means is to "measure in love".

GREASE!

This medley includes selection from *Grease*, the 1971 musical by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey. Named after the 1950s United States working-class youth subculture known as greasers, the musical is set in 1959 at fictional Rydell High School and follows ten working-class teenagers as they navigate the complexities of peer pressure, politics, personal core values, and love. This arrangement by John Moss includes "We Go Together", "Summer Nights", "Born to Hand Jive", "Beauty School Dropout", and "Greased Lightnin".

2023 Composition Competition

Last November, Houston Pride Band announced an open call for proposals, seeking a new composition that would capture the essence of “Summer Love,” and written for our ensemble. The response was overwhelming, with numerous submissions pouring in from talented composers globally. From this pool of remarkable proposals, Houston Pride Band is thrilled to unveil the winning composition by Alec Schantz: “...and kisses are a better fate than wisdom.” Crafted with creativity, passion, and musical brilliance, this exceptional piece emerged from a young composer deserving of the prestigious first prize in the competition. “Loved, Never Alone” by Joseph Benjamin Earp is another outstanding composition that emerged from this search, representing the depth and variety of talent showcased in the submitted proposals. We are honored to premiere it for you on this concert!

Houston Pride Band would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to all the composers who submitted their proposals for the new wind band piece. Their dedication to the craft of composition and their commitment to capturing the spirit of “Summer Love” have made this event even more special.



ALEC SCHANTZ

Alec Schantz is an educator, clarinetist, and composer from Northern California. Alec started their compositional career by arranging for the saxophone quintet Take Five. Eventually they wrote their first band piece, which premiered at their Senior Recital in 2017. They continued to write chamber music with a focus on clarinet, premiering works such as “Exhale” for clarinet quartet at their Junior Recital in 2020, “Zacramento Soo” for clarinet duet at their Senior Recital in 2021, and “Scaredy Cat” for clarinet nonet, also at their Senior Recital. Alec also had two band pieces titled “Where DOES the Sidewalk End?” and “I Wish I Could Give You Something”, both premiered by the Chico

High Band in the spring of 2022.

As an educator, Alec began their career early. Toward the end of their high school career, Alec was giving lessons and taking part in a student internship at Egling Middle School where they got firsthand experience teaching in a K-12 setting. As a university student, Alec had the pleasure of working at Cazadero Music Camp as a woodwinds coach for students of Overfelt High School. Recently, Alec has finished up their student teaching at Chico High School where they taught and co-taught Jazz Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, and a guitar class, and now looks to pursue a masters degree in composition.



JOSEPH BENJAMIN EARP

Joseph Benjamin Earp is the Director of Bands at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. He received his undergraduate degree in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Master of Music in Music Education from Anderson University (Anderson, South Carolina), and Doctor of Music Education degree from Liberty University (Lynchburg, Virginia).

In addition to teaching, Dr. Earp is an active published composer and clinician with his music being performed internationally. His major compositional accomplishments include being winner of the 2010 Claude T. Smith Composition Contest in Missouri, winner of the 2018 Thornton Community Band Composition Contest in Colorado, and multiple J.W. Pepper Editors’ Choice awards. He currently resides in Clinton, Mississippi with his wife Mary Beth and sons Jackson and Jasper.

More about Dr. Earp can be found at www.joemusic.com. Follow Dr. Earp on TikTok and Twitter @earpcomposer. Find him on Instagram as earpcomposer.

What to Do After the Concert

We look forward to connecting with you in several ways. It's as easy as 1-2-3-4!

1 Like us on Facebook and Instagram

- <http://facebook.com/HoustonPrideBand>
- @houstonprideband
- We encourage you to share, like, and be part of our online community.

2 Give us a shout out on your favorite social media venues!

We love receiving your support and online enthusiasm about our concerts!
Tag us on Facebook or Instagram.

3 Donate to the Houston Pride Band

The Houston Pride Band is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization that relies on the financial support of generous donors like you to bring music to communities across Houston and the State of Texas, provide performing opportunities to local musicians, and share the musical experience through various educational opportunities. Thank you for your support!

4 Finally, Subscribe to our mailing list

To learn more about upcoming concerts and events, subscribe to our mailing list. Houston Pride Band will not share your contact information with other organizations. Visit houstonprideband.nationbuilder.com/subscribe.



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In Memory of Christi's mom, Cathy Weismantel

THE BEATLES: LOVE

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Sponsored by William Fu

GREASE!

Sponsored by Ron DonLevy

LOVED, NEVER ALONE (WORLD PREMIERE)

Sponsored by David S. DiCamillo,
In Honor of Enzo & Aldo DiCamillo

SEASONS OF LOVE

Sponsored by Tony Johnson

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SUMMERTIME

Sponsored by Lisa & Steve White,
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TANGO CORAZÓN

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Thank you!

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The Houston Pride Band relies on donations from generous supporters like you.

Any donation you make helps the band out in the following ways:

- Paying for storage to safely house the band's equipment
- Covering costs of new music purchases
- Rental of trucks to transport equipment to performances
- Replacement and maintenance of band owned instruments
- Marketing and advertising for the band's performances
- Purchase of band polos and t-shirts for parades and public performances

The Houston Pride Band is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization that relies on the financial support of generous donors like you to bring music to communities across Houston and the State of Texas, provide performing opportunities to local musicians, and share the musical experience through various educational opportunities.

Consider making a tax deductible donation - or better yet, become a **monthly sponsor** of the band by making a recurring donation throughout the year. Just go to <http://houstonprideband.org/donate> and click on the "Donate" button. From here, you can make a one time donation, or open the "Donate" menu, and select "Donate Monthly" to become a monthly sponsor. **Thank you for your support!**

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our story

Serving as a community band in Houston's LGBTQ+ community, the Houston Pride Band has several groups that perform at local events throughout the year as well as concerts and parades. We also provide a fun social experience for musicians.

The Houston Pride Band has a proud history spanning four decades. Originally known as the Montrose Marching Band, the organization was formed by a small group of musicians in 1978 as a way to make new friends and to provide entertainment for Houston's gay and lesbian community.

The Houston Pride Band is a member of the Pride Bands Alliance, a national musical organization made up of over thirty bands across the nation and around the world. With Pride Bands Alliance, members of the Houston Pride Band have been able to participate at every Gay Games, several Presidential Inaugurations, and conferences throughout the world.

mission

The mission of the Houston Pride Band is:

1. To provide a welcoming, comfortable and safe musical outlet for LGBTQ+ and allied musicians to participate in a community band setting.
2. To encourage interest in public and private music education through concerts and events that uplift and inspire musical interest in people of all ages.
3. To use musical performances to support local community organizations and events.
4. To host and participate in local, state, national, and international conferences that foster the continuing participation of all individuals in community musical programs.

membership & rehearsals

The Houston Pride Band is open to all brass, woodwind, and percussion players of all skill levels. The band rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. For additional details, please visit our website at houstonprideband.org or email info@houstonprideband.org.

houstonprideband.org • facebook.com/houstonprideband



PROUD MEMBER OF THE PRIDE BANDS ALLIANCE

Formerly the Lesbian and Gay Band Association, the Pride Bands Alliance is a membership organization comprised of concert and marching bands from cities across the United States and the world.

Great performances are the most visible manifestation of the lesbian and gay band movement. Member bands across the country appear in hundreds of concerts, parades, and community events every year. For more information, visit www.pridebands.org.

AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CONCERT BANDS

The Houston Pride Band is also a member of the Association of Concert Bands. The mission of the Association of Concert Bands is to foster excellence in Concert Band music through performance, education, and advocacy. ACB has formed Blanket Performance Licensing Agreements with both BMI and ACSAP for performance rights for its members.



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