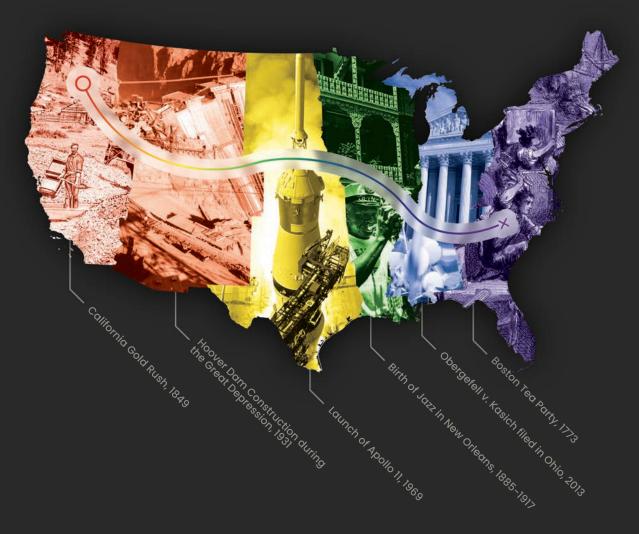
the houston*pride*band presents



THE AMERICAN JOURNEY

A concert by the Houston Pride Band

June 15, 2019 • 7pm • MATCH, 3400 S Main St. \$10 • tickets.houstonprideband.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Growing up, American History was my favorite subject in school (besides music, of course!), yet recently, I've had to relearn much of our history as what I learned was often a one-sided and incomplete history. I recently found a report was written by a 4th grade me about slavery in the colonies. The final line of that report stated "there were some masters who treated their slaves well, but most were mean and did not." That report, I got full marks on. And yet I look back and am appalled at that statement and the fact that our education system has whitewashed something as horrendous as slavery to make it seem not as terrible as it truly was. You look at what is taught about the treatment of native peoples, segregation, or of the gay rights movement (if anything was even mentioned at all) and you find similar tellings that these happened, were awful, and are in the past.

This. Is. False.

These acts against humanity are not in the past, but continue to be felt by these marginalized groups and will be so for generations to come, unless we can make inroads in not ignoring the parts of history that make us uncomfortable. We need to take that discomfort to show how our present reflects the past and what steps we can take to make sure that we don't repeat it.

It's Pride Month, and this year we are celebrating 50 years since Stonewall and all the progress we have made for becoming visible to the world and becoming full members of society. But this part of history is not set in stone. We currently have the right to marry, but we don't have equal protections under the law, and there is still discrimination against our Transgender brothers and sisters. This discrimination is most noticeable at the top with our current administration and recently the armed forces ban, but it also trickles down into the LGB portions of the community as well. Many of us here know what it is like to be oppressed for one reason or another, be it sexuality, gender, race, ability, immigration status, etc, but we need to remember that we aren't the only ones and that we are all in this together. If we relax and refuse to keep fighting for the next marginalized group, we may see that progress begin to backslide. And that is not the America I want.



Tonight's concert is a celebration of the American Journey, a trek that is fraught with problems, but also great points where people have stepped up and said "No More". There are pieces that are tied to those moments such as "Lincoln" and "The Nine", as well as standard patriotic anthems. When I listen to and play this music, I think about the moments when individuals and groups have stepped up to truly make this country better for all. That is what I am proud to celebrate with this music, and I hope that this concert inspires you to continue your fights to make sure this country is one where ALL are created EQUAL and one

we can be proud of.



Christopher N. Wells, President Houston Pride Band

houston*pride*band

PERFORMING MEMBERS

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Nicholas Davila Jonathan Griffin, Jr. Jamee Molander Kerry Roy Caitlin Spofford Sal Stow*

OBOE

Michael Moreau Lupe Ybarra-Regan

BASSOON

David DiCamillo* Becky Schlembach

CLARINET

Joe Dombrowski William Fu* Deborah Hirsch Leslie Jared Paul Norris Jason Stephens Jeffrey Taylor

BASS CLARINET

Nicolas Droger Jannet Hernandez

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Fernando Arteaga Hunter Emory Jose Magdaleno Kevin Taylor*

TENOR SAXOPHONE Jeff Tipps

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Mark Bailes Mac Crone

TRUMPET

Mary Beth Alsdorf Andrew Conger George Gehring* Christopher Hodge Adam Jatho David Lea Pablo Lopez Jessie Meng Jennifer Watts Brooke Yahney

FRENCH HORN

Jaunetta Cooper Kelly Claunch Ryan Fountain Jorge Gutierrez Judy Hsiang Jimmy Huynh Kevin Molander

TROMBONE

Trudy Allen* Noel Freeman Jason Svatek Christopher Wells

EUPHONIUM

Ryan Horine* Crawford Howell Russell Williams

TUBA

Chris Foster Rudy Ramirez Brian Tighe

PERCUSSION

Lauren Anderson Lindsey Bavousett Ashley Lengel Sharon Prince Jen Rodriguez* Cedric Stanley Tony Tuckwiller Brooke Yahney

* Section Leader



THE AMERICAN JOURNEY

Deborah Hirsch & David Lea, conductors

PROGRAM

The Star Spangled Banner

Concord

Medley:

arr. by Ralph Ford Go West! Featuring The Magnificent Seven; The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly; and Hang 'Em High

Shenandoah

Lincoln Portrait

The Honorable Judge Shannon Baldwin, narrator

National Emblem March

E. E. Bagley arr. by Frederick Fennell

John Stafford Smith arr. by John Higgins

Frank Ticheli

Aaron Copland

Clare Grundman



INTERMISSION

Medley:

"America" from West Side Story

"My Shot" from Hamilton

Ryan Fountain and Kelly Claunch, vocals

Leonard Bernstein

arr. by Johnnie Vinson

Lin-Manuel Miranda arr. by Michael Brown

Randall Standridge

The Nine

Kade Smith, vocalist

Medley:

Chapel of Love

True Colors

Marches of the Armed Forces

Phil Spector, Ellie Greenwich, & Jeff Barry arr. by Gerald Sebesky Billy Steinberg & Tom Kelly

arr. by Michael Brown

arr. by Michael Sweeney

Marines' Hymn, United States Marine Corps The Army Goes Rolling Along, United States Army Semper Paratus, United States Coast Guard The U.S. Air Force Song, United States Air Force Anchors Aweigh, United States Navy

Infinite Hope

Brian Balmages

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Deborah Hirsch

Artistic Director

riginally from Baltimore, Maryland, Deborah Hirsch graduated from the University of Kansas with bachelor's degrees in music therapy and music education, and earned a master's degree in music at Texas A&M University-Commerce. She was also a member of the 312th Army Band in Lawrence, Kansas before moving to Texas.

Deborah recently retired after 37 years as a band director in the Pasadena Independent School District, where bands under her direction performed and competed successfully at Texas Renaissance Festival, Texas UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and Region Band competitions. The band was selected three times to perform at the state



Artistic Directors Deborah Hirsch & David Lea

capitol for Arts Education Day and performed the national anthem for twenty-two consecutive years for Houston Astros. Deborah was named "Teacher of the Year" in 2014.

Deborah participated in the Colorado University Conducting Symposium in June, where she studied under Steve Davis, Dr. Donald McKinney, Dr. Matt Roeder, and Dr. Matthew Dockendorf. She is an active member of Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Women Band Directors International, and Texas Music Adjudicators Association. Deborah is also a member of the chancel choir and bell choir at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church and a board member of Pasadena Little Theater.

David Lea

Artistic Director

A native Texan hailing from the Golden Triangle region, David Lea earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Texas A&M University and a bachelor's degree in music education from Michigan State University. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in music education from the University of North Texas.

David is entering his fourth year as a school band director in Pasadena ISD, where his bands have enjoyed successes at UIL and local and regional festivals. He is honored to support the diverse students at his school by serving as the faculty advisor for an LGBTQA+ student organization.

As a private trumpet teacher, his students have made Michigan All-state, earned first divisions at regional and state solo &

ensemble contest, and had the honor of participating in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

David Lea makes his debut as Artistic Director this season and has been a member of the Houston Pride Band since 2016, formerly serving as trumpet section leader. When he's not conducting, he continues to play in the trumpet section and is a member of BrassTax, a Houston Pride Band brass quintet. He previously played solo cornet in the Capital City Brass Band and 10-piece ensemble, which took first place in their division at the Brass Band US Open.

Shannon Baldwin, narrator

Shannon Baldwin has practiced law for over 22 years. She is licensed in Georgia and Texas. She practiced law in Atlanta, Georgia for four years before returning to Texas. Shannon is a former prosecutor and opened her law practice in Texas in 2003. Currently, she is the elected presiding



Judge of Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 4. She was formerly a Partner at Baldwin Williams & Associates, PLLC. She has tried cases before a jury from traffic violations up to capital murder.

Shannon joined the U.S. Army Reserves on September 23, 1987. When she graduated from college, she was commissioned as an officer, 2nd Lieutenant.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement and Police Science at Sam Houston State University. Shannon went on to graduate Cum Laude from John Marshall Law School in Atlanta, Georgia.

Shannon is an active member of several professional organizations and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a public service sorority.

Shannon is a foster mother to a beautiful 22 month old girl!

Kade Smith, vocalist

K ade Smith, bassbaritone, hails from Oklahoma but is now a tried and true Houstonian. He came to Houston to get his Masters Degree in Music from Rice University, graduating in 2002 after singing his dream role of Figaro in Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro.



Kade is the bass section leader at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church in Montrose, a reconciling community, and has sung with various arts organizations in the city, including Opera in the Heights, Mercury Chamber Orchestra and Divergence Theatre. Since the 2004-05 season, Kade has been a chorister in the Houston Grand Opera chorus, having performed in over 40 productions including *Turandot*, *Aida*, *Carmen*, *Boris Godunov*, *La traviata*, *Lohengrin*, *Il trovatore*, *Nixon in China*, *The Phoenix*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Billy Budd*, *Faust*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Peter Grimes*, and a special production of *The Passenger*, a holocaust opera, that toured to the Lincoln Center Festival in New York City in 2015.

This is Kade's first performance with the Houston Pride Band.



onight, the Houston Pride Band celebrates the storied L history of the United States of America. The program is a trip through time as we revisit American history to show how music composers created music in those periods. We will celebrate the USA by remembering the high points, acknowledging the low, and highlight music inspired by patriotism.

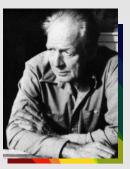
There is no other place to start that with our national anthem. The lyrics of The Star-Spangled Banner come from Defence of Fort M'Henry, a poem written in 1814 by lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812. The poem was set to the tune of a popular song in America at that time, written by Framcis Scott Key



John Stafford Smith for the Anacreontic Society, a men's social club in London. The Star-Spangled Banner was recognized for official use by the Navy in 1889, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931, and signed into law by President Herbert Hoover. Before 1931,

other songs served as the hymns of American patriotism and de facto anthems, such as Hail, Columbia and My Country, 'Tis of Thee.

The U.S. Marine Corps band, known as "The President's Own", commissioned Clare Grundman to compose Concord in 1987 for their



Clare Grundman

performance at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE) conference. The three sections of the piece are drawn from three traditional American folk tunes identified with the Revolutionary War period. First, The White Cockade was a popular fife and drum tune during the revolution. The chorale America was composed by William Billings of Boston, one of America's first choral composers. Yankee Doodle is thought to have been first sung by British military officers to mock the colonists they served alongside in the French and Indian War. The song has since been appropriated to serve as a popular patriotic tune we still sing today.

Go West! is a tribute to the music of the Old West. Well, the Old West as depicted in famous movie westerns, that is. This Ralph Ford arrangement features the main themes from three classics of American cinema: the 1960 film The Magnificent Seven composed by Elmer Bernstein, the Clint Eastwood classic Hang 'Em



Ralph Ford

High composed by Dominic Frontiere, and The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly, composed in 1968 by famous film composer Ennio Morricone.

The Shenandoah Valley and the Shenandoah River are located in Virginia. The origins of the folksong Shenandoah are obscure,

but historians date its origins in the early 19th century. Its composition has been attributed variously to a coal miner in Pennsylvania, to a young protégé of Stephen Foster, and to a housewife in Lexington, Kentucky. The composer of this setting for band, Frank Ticheli wrote of the piece:

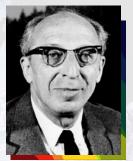


Frank Ticheli

In my setting of Shenandoah, I was inspired by the freedom and beauty of the folk melody and by the natural images

evoked by the words, especially the image of a river. I was less concerned with the sound of a rolling river than with its life-affirming energy -- its timelessness. Sometimes the accompaniment flows quietly under the melody; other times it breathes alongside it. The work's mood ranges from quiet reflection, through growing optimism, to profound exaltation.

Of all the tributes created in honor of Abraham Lincoln, almost none is more iconic than Aaron Copland's Lincoln Portrait. The work was composed in 1942, in the early days of the United States' involvement in World War II. Many Americans were eager to do their part for



Aaron Copland their country, and Aaron Copland

jumped at the change when he received a letter from Cincinnati Symphony conductor Andre Kostelanetz requesting that the composer consider contributing a work to a musical "portrait gallery" of great Americans. Copland originally hoped to portray Walt Whitman or Mark Twain, but Kostelanetz asked Copland to consider focusing on a statesman instead of another man of letters. Fellow composer Virgil Thomson warned Copland that in his opinion, "No composer could hope to match in musical terms the stature of so eminent a figure as Abraham Lincoln." Copland decided his key to success was to use Lincoln's own words as the basis for the work. He intentionally

avoided the temptation to use Lincoln's best-known speeches and phrases, focusing only one segment from Lincoln's best-known piece of oratory, the Gettysburg Address.

The first half of the concert ends with one of the most famous of American marches, National Emblem. Soon after its premiere, it became so Edwin Eugene Bagley



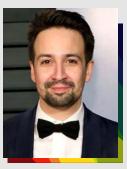
highly thought of that many people have assumed that it written by John Philip Sousa. In fact, "March King" Sousa declared it as one of the three finest street marches ever written, after two of his own compositions. National Emblem was composed by American composer Edwin Eugene Bagley in 1905. National Emblem takes its name from our national emblem, the American flag. Portions of The Star-Spangled Banner can be heard in the two strains of the march. Prominent composer and conductor Frederick Fennell has described National Emblem as a march that is "as perfect as a march can be."

The second part of the concert kicks off with a medley of two famous songs from Broadway. First is "America" from West Side Story, the classic musical adaptation of Romeo and Juliet by Jerome Kern, Stephen Sondheim, and Leonard Bernstein. The song is sung by the Puerto Rican characters as a tribute to life in America, coming at the expense of jokes lobbed at the island. Second, from the 2015 smash hit Hamilton by Lin-Manual Miranda is "My Shot". The song serves as the bold announcement the main characters' ambitions and specifically of Hamilton's character, and lays out his allegiance to the cause of the American Revolution.

Following the landmark 1964 Supreme Court decision Brown v. Board of Education, nine African-American students enrolled at Little Rock Central High School. The famous showdown between state and federal leaders led to the



Leonard Bernstein



Lin-Manuel Miranda



Randall Standridge

watershed moment when the students were admitted to the school, highlighting the long road to end racism we still fight today. To honor the sixtieth anniversary of the Little Rock Nine, composer **Randall Standridge** wrote the moving piece *The Nine*.

The Nine opens with an original spiritual that Standridge composed for the piece, entitled "Show Me the Light". The song gradually builds in strength, though dissonant sounds begin to appear, signaling the voice of opposition. The voices of dissent grow more powerful until they shout out in a triumphant fanfare. The piece then becomes a militaristic march as the forces in opposition organize and oppose all in their way. The spiritual tries to force its way through but the conflict escalates as the two sides become more frantic until they reach a point of destruction. In the aftermath of the battle, the flutes begin to state motives from the spiritual, gradually building and adding voices. The work builds again in solidarity and acceptance culminating in powerful restatement of the spiritual. After the climax, the solo voice returns until, in the final moments, all of

the instrumentalists join voices for a final statement of the song. However, as the piece concludes, dissonant notes can still be heard.

To recognize the progress we have made and are still fighting for equality, we recognize another landmark Supreme Court decision Obergefell v. Hodges which affirmed marriage rights for all. Enjoy this medley of the 1964 song "Chapel of Love", originally sung by the Dixie Cups, and Cyndi Lauper's 1986 classic "True Colors".

No look back at American history would be complete without honoring the commitment and Cyndi Lauper



The Dixie Cups



sacrifice made by the members of our Armed Forces. In *Marches of the Armed Forces*, Michael Sweeney combines the main themes of the official songs of all five branches of the military. If you are a current member of veteran of the Armed Forces, please stand and receive our applause and gratitude as the song of your service branch is performed.



Michael Sweeney

The piece *Infinite Hope* closes tonight's concert. Commissioned to honor the 70th anniversary of the Texas Bandmasters Association, the piece was premiered in San Antonio by the U.S. Coast Guard Band in 2018. Composer **Brian Balmages** took inspiration for the piece from a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." To describe the piece, Balmages writes:

Inspired by the juxtaposition of uncertainty and boundless optimism, Infinite Hope seeks to forge a path of faith, trust, belief, and assurance amidst a world of chaos. It reminds us that hopes and dreams are all around us, and that, as Robert Fulghum said, "... hope always triumphs over



Brian Balmages

experience." At some point in life, most of us experience moments that truly test our resolve - either as individuals or as a society. Despite those tests, we can always look inward and outward - and refuel on the hopes within ourselves and in others. And in that very moment, we find ourselves sharing in the magic of infinite hope.





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From left to right: Fernando Arteaga, Jason Svatek, William Fu, Christopher Wells, Elizabeth De Los Rios, Brooke Yahney, Noel Freeman, Russell Williams, Pablo Lopez

What to Do During Intermission

e invite you to take this time to get to know the people around you a little better. Since you're all at this concert, you already have something in common—a love of music! Say hello and find out what brought them here. Also, feel free to get up and stretch. We encourage you not to leave the concert. We enjoy having you as a part of the audience so please come back to your seat and enjoy the rest of the performance.

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.org/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. Just do one of these:

- Email the information below to info@houstonprideband.org
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houston*pride*band

our story

Serving as a community band in Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, the Houston Pride Band has several groups that perform at community 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 three 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 Lesbian and Gay Band Association (LGBA), a national musical organization made up of over thirty bands across the nation and around the world. With LGBA, 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 LGBT 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.
- 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.

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The Lesbian and Gay Band Association (LGBA) is a musical 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.gaybands.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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