

the houston★pride★band presents



1978

2018

40

YEARS OF HOUSTON PRIDE BAND

A CONCERT AT THE HOBBY CENTER  
OCTOBER 13, 2018 • 6PM





# FROM THE 40 PRESIDENT



It is with great honor and a joyous heart that I welcome you to tonight's concert. The 2018-2019 season marks 40 years since the Houston Pride Band got its start in 1978. Tonight's 40th Anniversary Celebration

at the beautiful Zilkha Hall is a concert that has been decades in the making. Though we've gone through several name changes from our origins as the Montrose Activity Center Band at its inception, the one thing that has remained the same is the band's commitment to providing an inclusive group that provides exciting performances for the Houston community. And tonight is no exception!

This past decade since our last anniversary concert has seen many changes come to the band, including a new logo, leadership changes, new rehearsal and performance venues, but as can be seen by the presence on the stage, the band continues to see growth in its membership, both in numbers and musicianship. The repertoire you will hear tonight has been carefully crafted to not only show a wide array of styles and musical genres, but includes pieces that have been hits throughout the life of the band and showcase this growth in playing ability. This is truly a testament to the work that is poured into it by the members.

Please take time to check out the history presentations both within the program and in the lobby at intermission to see all that we've been up to in the past 40 years.

While we have all that to look back on and be proud of, the band continues to make strides into further visibility in the community with new performances and events. In addition to our main stage concerts and participation at the Houston Pride Festival and Parade (which this year also celebrated its 40th anniversary), this year we have seen a number of firsts. We provided a presence at the AIG Tower's first building pride festival, helped welcome the opening of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Glassell School with our small ensembles SaxWorx and BrassTax, performed the *Star Spangled Banner* on the field for the Houston Dash and the Sugarland Skeeters, and provided main stage entertainment for the inaugural Pride Festival in The Woodlands.

The band has come a long way from its humble beginnings, but we never want to forget all of the dedication and sacrifice that those who came before us gave to the band. We have lost many over the past decade, but their service and commitment to the ideals of the Houston Pride Band will not be forgotten, and will continue to inspire us to strive higher. We have a lot in store this season to help us celebrate this "Over the Hill" milestone, so I hope you come back and join us for our other exciting performances at MATCH and throughout the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher N. Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christopher N. Wells, President  
Houston Pride Band







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2018

YEARS OF HOUSTON PRIDE BAND

DEBORAH HIRSCH & DAVID LEA, ARTISTIC DIRECTORS  
NANCY FORD, SPECIAL GUEST EMCEE

**A Festival Prelude**

*Crawford Howell, conductor*

Alfred Reed

**Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs**

- I. In Yonder Valley
- II. Dance
- III. Here Take This Lovely Flower
- IV. Simple Gifts

Frank Ticheli

**October**

Eric Whitacre

**Handel in the Strand**

Percy Grainger  
arr. Richard Franko Goldman

**Symphonic Dance No. 3, "Fiesta"**

Clifton Williams

INTERMISSION

**Overture to Candide**

Leonard Bernstein  
arr. Clare Grundman

**ABBA on Broadway**

Benny Andersson, Björn Ulvæus, & Stig Anderson  
arr. Michael Brown

**"Over the Rainbow" from The Wizard of Oz**

E.Y. Harburg & Harold Arlen  
arr. by Warren Barker

*Melissa Medina, vocalist*

**Miss Trombone**

Henry Fillmore  
arr. by Nicholas J. Contorno

**Broadway Spectacular**

*Hello, Dolly! • What I Did For Love • Sunrise, Sunset • Tomorrow • Mame*

arr. by John Higgins

**Sheltering Sky**

*In Memory and In Memoriam  
Jason Stephens, conductor*

John Mackey

**"March" from First Suite in E-flat for Military Band**

Gustav Holst



# houston★pride★band

## PERFORMING MEMBERS

### FLUTE

Nicholas Davila  
Christi Gell  
Jonathan Griffin, Jr.  
Alex Martinez-Hage  
Jamee Molander  
Caitlin Spofford  
Sal Stow \*

### OBOE

Hunter Cauble  
Michael Moreau

### BASSOON

Daniel Curry, Jr.  
David DiCamillo \*  
Becky Schlembach

### E-FLAT CLARINET

Joe Dombrowski

### B-FLAT CLARINET

Andrew Chu  
Casey Cummings  
Joe Dombrowski  
William Fu \*  
Billy Gresham  
Julian Hernandez  
Rudy Martinez  
Paul Norris  
Chelsea Rasing  
Tiffany Reckley  
Michael Schirmacher †

### BASS CLARINET

Nicolas Droger  
Jannet Hernandez  
Melissa Thompson †

### ALTO SAXOPHONE

Gonzalo Agudelo  
Fernando Arteaga  
Mark Bailes  
Jose Magdaleno  
Kevin Taylor \*  
Matthew Williams  
Lupe Ybarra-Regan

### TENOR SAXOPHONE

Elizabeth De Los Rios

### BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Lisa Mace

### TRUMPET

Mary Beth Alsdorf  
Byron Aragon  
Andrew Conger  
George Gehring \*  
Christopher Hodge  
Crawford Howell  
David Lea  
Pablo Lopez  
Jessie Meng  
Jennifer Watts  
Tim Yanok †

### FRENCH HORN

Esmeralda Galan  
Ryan Fountain  
Jorge Gutierrez  
Jimmy Huynh  
Kevin Molander  
Debbie Seagraves †

### TROMBONE

Trudy Allen \*  
Chris Atieno  
Noel Freeman  
Matthew Hernandez  
Chris Longoria  
Cruz Sanchez  
Jason Svatek  
Nicole Taylor  
Christopher Wells

### EUPHONIUM

Ryan Horine \*  
Russell Williams  
Brooke Yahney

### TUBA

Chris Foster  
Rudy Ramirez  
Brian Tighe

### DOUBLE BASS

Matthew Hanson

### PERCUSSION

Lauren Anderson \*  
Lindsey Bavousett  
Anastasia Estrada  
David Hendrixon  
Jen Rodriguez  
Jason Stephens  
Tony Tuckwiller  
Dave Wallis

\* - Section Leader

† - Guest Artist





# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

## DEBORAH HIRSCH

Artistic Director

Originally 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 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.



Artistic Directors Deborah Hirsch & David Lea

## 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.

## CRAWFORD HOWELL

Guest Conductor

Born and raised in Channelview, Texas, Crawford Howell graduated from Baylor University with a bachelor's degree in Music Education with an emphasis in instrumental music.

Mr. Howell's 29-year teaching career included six years in Channelview ISD and 23 years in Spring Branch ISD. During Crawford's career bands under his direction competed successfully in music festivals across the states of Texas and Florida, UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and Region Band Competitions at the High school and Middle school level. Crawford also taught instrumental music privately (mainly Low Brass) over his career, and had numerous students receive individual awards on Solo's at the Region and State level. Crawford has had numerous students audition and perform in the TMEA Region, Area, and State Orchestras and Bands.

Since retirement, Crawford has enjoyed working with band programs in the Houston area, traveling with his partner Ed, spending time with their pug Lilly and his cat Bailey, and taking life a little slower. Crawford is happy to be playing tuba (or trumpet) in the Houston Pride Band and conducting a few pieces now and then.

## JASON STEPHENS

Guest Conductor, former Artistic Director

Jason is a graduate from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, where he received a Bachelor's of Music in 2003. He studied Conducting with Travis Albany and Dr. Barry Johnson and has additional conducting instruction from Craig Kirchoff, Professor of Conducting at the University of Minnesota (retired).

After moving to Houston in 2004, Jason joined the Houston Pride Band as a bassoonist in 2005. He was named Interim Artistic Director in early 2006 and appointed Artistic Director in November of 2006. After six years leading the Houston Pride Band, he stepped down to be Assistant Director in 2011 and joined the percussion section. Jason also served on the Board of Directors.

Jason has been a guest conductor for the Oak Lawn Band in Dallas, Texas and for Gay Games VIII in Cologne, Germany. He currently works for the Houston Public Library as manager for System Services and as music librarian for the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra, a professional chamber orchestra in Houston, Texas. In addition to performing with the Houston Pride Band, Jason is 2nd bassoonist with the Houston Civic Symphony, and also plays with the Hurricanes Flag Football League of Houston, Houston's gay flag football league.



## NANCY FORD

Guest Emcee, Professional Lesbian

Nancy Ford found her voice as an out lesbian in 1977, and hasn't shut up about it since.

LGBTQ media has published Nancy's work since 1988, including her award-winning column, *WHAT A WORLD*, which entertains and inspires readers wherever it appears. As an interviewer, she has engaged high-profile personalities including Bette Midler, Diane Keaton, Betty Buckley, Harvey Fierstein, Bea Arthur, Judy Collins, Melissa Etheridge, and countless other newsmakers and celebrities with wit and sensitivity.

Onstage, Nancy has performed in theatres, nightclubs, galleries, churches, and dives throughout the U.S. since 1982, appearing with Kate Clinton, Jason Stuart, Janene Garofalo, Lady Bunny, Janis Ian, and innumerable LGBTQ icons. During that time she has helped raise funds for innumerable non-profit groups supporting community charities.

The Houston Chronicle says this about *THE DYKE SHOW*, her autobiographical musical comedy show: "Nancy Ford...takes us to the edge with her blatant honesty and irreverent sense of humor, stripping us naked as babies, then bringing us safely back and clothing us with an unforgettable message of hope and love."

Nancy currently works as a freelance editor and copywriter for a widely diverse bank of clients including the Montrose Star, an internationally distributed oil & gas magazine, wholesale carpet manufacturers, men's underpants designers, and others.

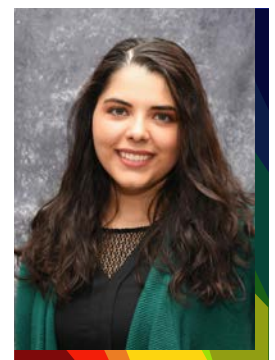
In her free time she hurls profanities at Donald Trump.

## MELISSA MEDINA

Guest Vocalist

Melissa Medina is a middle school choir director in the southeast Houston area. She has received multiple teaching honors, including teacher-of-the-year and the Together We Can award, a school district honor acknowledging her service in creating magic in her music classroom.

Medina holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Louisiana State University and is currently studying at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College in Indiana to be certified as a music therapist. She has been involved in many vocal ensembles in Houston including the Houston Symphony Chorus, Bay Area Chorus, Vox, Prima Volta, and the PasaDivas. Medina has been featured as a soloist in many of these groups.





# PROGRAM NOTES

BY CHRIS FOSTER

Tonight's concert opens with *A Festival Prelude*, composed in 1962 by Alfred Reed (1921-2005) to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Tri-State Music Festival in Enid, Oklahoma. The piece is considered to be one of Reed's most brilliant & powerful works in his prolific career. He went on to compose over 200 works, many of which have become staples of the concert band world. The scoring of *A*



Alfred Reed

*Festival Prelude* embraces the modern conception of the integrated symphonic wind band, with fully balanced instrumentation and the separation of the brass into three distinct tone color groups: the Horns, the Trumpet-Trombone group and the Cornet-Euphonium-Tuba group. The woodwind writing is centered on the balanced clarinet choir and doublings are conceived as carefully as in symphonic orchestras.

The piece that follows is a four-movement suite featuring Shaker melodies. The Shakers were a religious sect who split from the Quaker community in the mid-1700's in England. The Shakers were pacifists who kept a very low profile and were known for their architecture, crafts, furniture, and perhaps most notably, their songs. Shaker songs were traditionally sung in unison without instrumental accompaniment, and were vital components of Shaker worship and everyday life. This work, *Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs* is built from four Shaker melodies - a sensuous nature song, a lively dance tune, a tender lullaby, and most famously, "Simple Gifts," the hymn that celebrates the Shaker's love of simplicity and humility. In setting these songs, Dr. Frank Ticheli (b. 1958) sought subtle ways to preserve their simple, straightforward beauty. Melodic freshness and interest were achieved primarily through variations of harmony, of texture, and especially, of orchestration. Ticheli has been a professor of composition at the University of Southern California since 1991.



Frank Ticheli

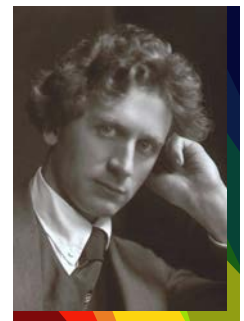
In celebration of this month, we also include the piece *October*, by Eric Whitacre (b. 1970). Composed in 2000, *October* has

quickly become a much-beloved piece in the wind band repertoire which appears on the autumn concerts of many bands. Of this piece, Whitacre wrote: "*October* is my favorite month. Something about the crisp autumn air and the subtle change in light always make me a little sentimental, and as I started to sketch I felt that same quiet beauty in the writing. The simple, pastoral melodies and subsequent harmonies are inspired by the great English Romantics (Ralph Vaughn Williams, Edward Elgar) as I felt that this style was also perfectly suited to capture the natural and pastoral soul of the season. I'm quite happy with the end result, especially because I feel there just isn't enough lush, beautiful music written for winds."



Eric Whitacre

Percy Grainger (1882-1961) was an Australian-born composer and pianist. Throughout his career, he gathered British folk songs, many of which he published as works for wind band, or incorporated them into his other works. *Handel in the Strand* is somewhat unusual for Grainger because it is entirely original material and was composed in 1911, "for piano and two or more strings, or for massed pianos and string orchestra." The piece was originally titled "Clog Dance" but Grainger quickly renamed it when a friend suggested the title *Handel in the Strand*. The title evokes an image of the great Baroque composer, G.F. Handel, strolling through downtown London on The Strand, a large thoroughfare and the home of English musical comedy.



Percy Grainger

The first half of the concert ends with Clifton Williams's dynamic *Symphonic Dance No. 3, "Fiesta"*. *Fiesta* is one of five *Symphonic Dances* commissioned by the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra to celebrate its 25th anniversary in 1964. Each of the five dances represents the spirit of a different time and place in the history of San Antonio. This dance reflects the excitement



Clifton Williams

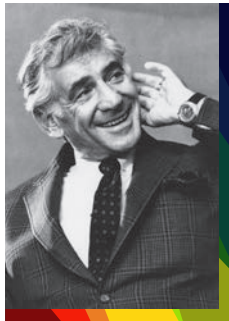
and color of the city's many Mexican ethnic celebrations, what Williams (1923-1976) called "the pageantry of Latin American celebration – street bands, bull fights, bright costumes, the colorful legacy of a proud people." He rescored this work for wind band, and it was first performed in 1967 by the University of Miami Band, where he was chairman of theory and composition

In preparing for this concert, the artistic directors polled the band for a 'favorite piece' to play on this anniversary concert. The most

votes came back for Clare Grundman's arrangement of *Overture to "Candide"*, by Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990), which kicks off the second half of the concert. Completed and first performed in 1956, *Candide* is a comic operetta based on the novella by Voltaire. Bernstein took great pride in the project and included the *Overture to "Candide"* on a New York Philharmonic program the following year.

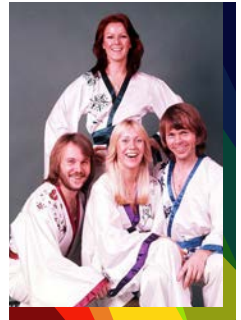
Within two years, Bernstein's quirky and effervescent overture was performed by nearly one hundred orchestras throughout the world and soon earned a permanent place in the common repertoire. Grundman (1913-1996) brought the piece to the concert band world with this arrangement in 1986.

In addition to the Houston Pride Band, the past forty years have



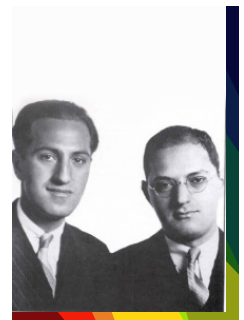
Leonard Bernstein

also seen the American love affair with the music of ABBA, starting with their original run from 1972 to 1982, the release of the popular greatest hits album 'ABBA Gold' in 1992, and taking Broadway by storm with the smash hit musical *Mamma Mia!* in 1999. The Swedish pop group has been more present and relevant than ever in the last few years with two feature films and the recent release of Cher's album of ABBA covers. We hope you enjoy Michael Brown's arrangement of music from *Mamma Mia!* entitled *ABBA on Broadway*.



ABBA

In March of next year, the Houston Pride Band will present its concert "On the Red Carpet," featuring Academy Award-winning songs and film score music. "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz* offers a small preview, having been awarded the 1939 Best Original Song Oscar. It has also always been a favorite of the LGBT community, evoking the dream of many young people to find a Technicolor escape from their gray surroundings. The song, written by E.Y. Harburg and Harold Arlen, has been recorded by many since the Judy



E.Y. Harburg & Harold Arlen



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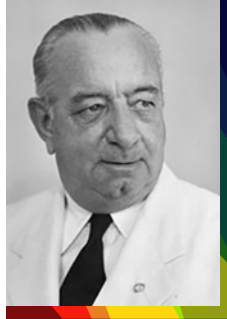
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Garland original, including Patti LaBelle, Israel Kamakawiwoʻole, Rufus Wainwright and P!nk. We hope you enjoy our presentation today featuring the vocal stylings of Melissa Medina.

We are blessed to have many wonderful musicians in the Houston Pride Band and tonight we are featuring our amazing trombone section, led by 31-year Houston Pride Band member Trudy Allen, the dean of the band.

**Henry Fillmore** (1881-1956), spent much of his life as a musician and bandmaster for circus and Shrine bands. He is considered one of the great trio of march composers from the early 20th Century, along with John Philip Sousa and Karl L. King. His talent as a trombonist shows through on many of his compositions.



Henry Fillmore

*Miss Trombone*, written in 1908 and nicknamed 'A Slippery Rag', was the first of 15 novelty tunes called "The Trombone Family" that often reflected minstrel characters. *Lassus Trombone* (1915) and *Shoutin' Liza Trombone* (1920) are two of the most famous. The series, completed in 1929, had a strong ragtime influence and featured the trombone "smear", which you're certain to notice on this piece.

A concert at The Hobby Center wouldn't be complete without recognizing the popularity of music from the Broadway stage. Rather than selecting a single show to highlight, tonight we



John Higgins

include this **John Higgins** arrangement called *Broadway Spectacular!* This medley includes some of the finest moments in American musical theatre, and features songs from *Hello, Dolly!*, *A Chorus Line*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Annie*, and *Mame*.

Next on the program is **John Mackey's** *Sheltering Sky*. It was first performed in



John Mackey

April 2012, having been commissioned by two school bands in Oswego, Illinois. Mackey (b. 1973) wrote the piece to have a folksong-like quality. The melodies have a recognizable quality, evoking thoughts of *Danny Boy* or *Shenandoah*, but are actually original to this work and impart a sense of hazy distance, as though they were from a half-

Special thanks to JD Doyle, founder of [HoustonLGBTHistory.org](http://HoustonLGBTHistory.org) for his efforts to save, protect, and promote the history of the Houston LBGT Community, and his support of the Houston Pride Band.

remembered dream. Conducted by former Artistic Director Jason Stephens, this piece is our dedication to our past. We consider this to be our "In Memory and In Memoriam" piece, to both celebrate 40 years of amazing music, hard work, and dedication, as well as to honor those who we have lost along the way.

The concert closes with a piece that is considered one of the cornerstones of band literature. Written in 1909, **Gustav Holst's First Suite in E-flat for Military Band in E-Flat** was one of the first works written exclusively for wind band, rather than adapting an orchestral work. It was a first step by Holst (1874-1934) toward his goal of making the concert band a serious concert medium. Tonight we present the final movement of the suite, the "March", which features two folk song melodies, one presented by the brass, and the second featured by the woodwinds, and a rousing finale which intertwines both.



Gustav Holst

This event is being performed at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, sponsored by Houston Area Lexus Dealers and United Airlines.



# WHAT'S NEXT?

## WHAT TO DO DURING INTERMISSION

We 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 or like Houston Pride Band concert announcements 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 (and we're a non-profit organization, so free promotions make us extra happy!) 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](mailto:info@houstonprideband.org), or
- Visit our website [houstonprideband.nationbuilder.com/subscribe](http://houstonprideband.nationbuilder.com/subscribe), or
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MONTROSE SYMPHONIC BAND

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The Montrose Symphonic Band

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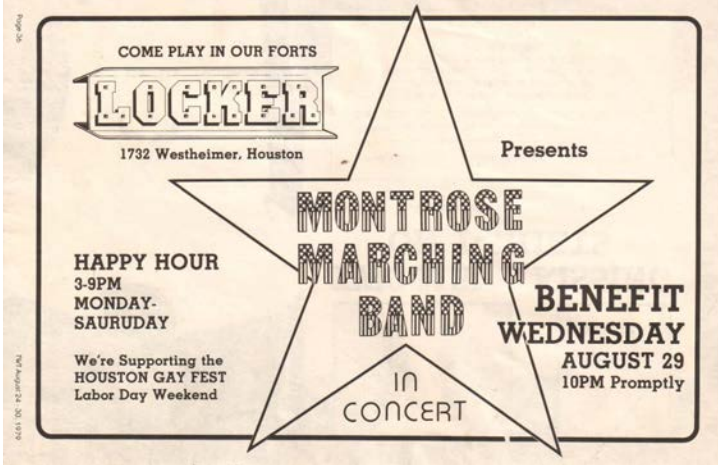
1978

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2018

YEARS OF HOUSTON PRIDE BAND  
OUR HISTORY





## 1978

### - The 1970's: A Groundbreaking Start

- 1978 was an historic year for the gay and lesbian community in the United States and especially in Houston. As we approached the tenth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the gay community was finding its political and economic strength. The first formal Gay Pride Week was held, including Town Meeting I at the AstroArena on June 25, which brought together 3,500 people. One of the outcomes of that cornerstone event in our community was the formation of the Montrose Activity Center.

- This new spirit of a unified LGBT community in Houston led a group of musicians to start meeting and making music together. They met at the Montrose Activity Center (Holman @ La Branch) periodically throughout 1978 as the Montrose Activity Center Band. As they grew in membership, the band became further organized under the leadership of Clint Moncrief, Rue Starr, and Rufus Cheney and the Montrose Marching Band was formed. In April of 1979 the group began rehearsals in the service building in Cherryhurst Park.

- For a young band, it proved to be a busy year. The band first provided a pep band for a Police vs Gays softball game in June. On July 1st, the Montrose Marching Band made its first parade appearance at the first gay organized pride parade held in Houston. Clad in red tennis shoes, blue jeans, white shirts, bandanas, and hard hats, the Montrose Marching Band was a hit with the crowds. On August 24, 1979, the group received their Certificate of Incorporation and were officially official.

- The band's first concert performance was held at The Locker Bar on August 29th (location of today's Empire Café). On October 14th 1979, the first Gay and Lesbian March on Washington took place. At the march, the Texas contingent led the way with 40 members of the Montrose Marching Band up front. The year and the decade ended with another first for the band. The Montrose Marching Band, Twirlers, and Drill Team presented its first fully-staged concert, The Joys of Christmas, at Bering Memorial Methodist Church on December 14th.

## 1979



1980

## The 1980's: Growth and Loss

The new decade saw the Montrose Marching Band continue performing inside and outside the community. In March of 1980, the Montrose Marching Band was invited to perform at Houston's City Hall for the Houston Festival. Also, the Montrose All Stars took on the Houston Fire and Police Departments in a second softball game with the Montrose Marching Band as entertainment. As the group continued to grow in size and skill, it was decided that they should widen the scope from being a marching band.

Andy Mills became the new artistic director in 1981, and the Montrose Symphonic Band and the Montrose Singers were born. During Pride Week that year, Montrose Symphonic Band played host to the Great American Yankee Freedom Band of Los Angeles and the newly formed Oak Lawn Band of Dallas for the Fred Paez Memorial Concert and Fireworks Display at Spotts Park. With the help of supporters such as Jim "Fanny" Farmer and Mary's Bar, the band was able to purchase instruments and equipment. They began to rehearse at Bering United Methodist Church.

In September 1981 & May and September 1982, the Montrose Symphonic Band held three famous concerts at the Tower Theater on Westheimer (now El Real Restaurant). The band embraced a spirit of bridging the gap between communities by making such classics as America the Beautiful and Crossley March a standard part of the programming, but never losing a gay sensibility. The May concert featured The Bone Sisters, a trombone quartet belting out such tunes as Blow the Man Down, while in drag. Mr. Mills also conducted Star Wars wearing a full Chewbacca mask.

Unfortunately, the band was struck by one of the first widely-known cases in the AIDS epidemic when band founder and director Clint Moncrief died at age 33 from pneumonia complications in March 1982. Throughout the 1980s, the band would continue to lose member to the AIDS epidemic.

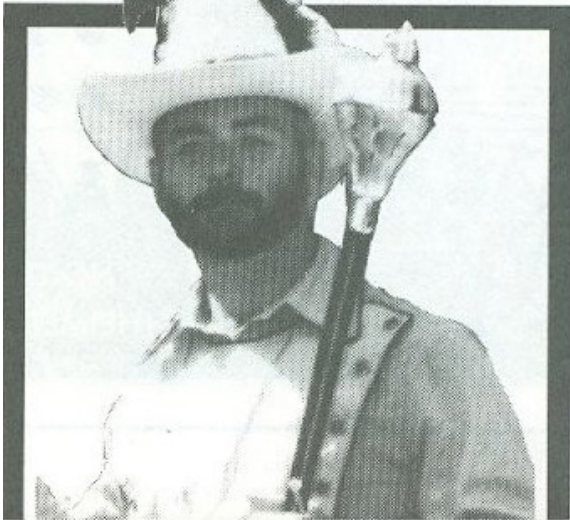
The Montrose Symphonic Band was not the only lesbian and gay band in the US. Starting in Los Angeles, the movement began to spread quickly across the country. In 1982, the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, their original name, (LGBA) was founded, with the Montrose Symphonic Band as a charter member.



1982



**CLINT MONCRIEF** — The owner of Spec's of Houston eye-wear business, who had been critically ill with Kaposi's Sarcoma, a form of cancer which had spread to his lungs, died at Memorial Hospital last Tuesday afternoon, March 9, around 2:30pm. With no health insurance at his disposal, his \$1000-plus per day hospital bills quickly mounted. The Montrose Symphonic Band will present a memorial benefit concert for Clint this Sunday at 4:00pm at Mary's. Clint had been hailed as a staunch supporter of the gay community and an enthusiastic participant in its music. Spec's customers have been referred to Wendall at Greenway Optical, (713) 661-2506, the family said. Photo by graham. ➤



TWT 03/12/82



## 1983

- The founding members of the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America were:
  - *San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps*
  - *Great American Yankee Freedom Band of Los Angeles*
  - *Montrose Symphonic Band*
  - *The Big Apple Corps (New York City)*
  - *D.C.'s Different Drummers*
  - *Oak Lawn Symphonic Band of Dallas*
  - *Minnesota Freedom Band*
  - *Chicago Gay/Lesbian Community Band*
- In March of 1984, Andy Mills stepped down and the board of directors led by Elroy Forbes was left to handle the many tasks of running a community band. David Christianson stepped in as Artistic Director.
- The band continued to perform at community events such as Gay Pride Week, the Houston and Dallas Pride Parades, the Gay Softball World Series, the Diana Foundation Awards, the Montrose Christmas Tree Lighting at Mary's, and a Texas Gay Rodeo Association event in Simonton, Texas. The big event of that year was the first Lesbian and Gay Bands of America massed band concert at the Hollywood Bowl in California. It was a magical evening for the performers as well as the audience. The special guest for the evening was Rita Moreno.
- At the end of 1984, R. Vernon "Bob" Morgan took over the conducting duties for the annual Christmas concert. He continued to lead the band through some great concerts in 1985 including a Gay Pride Week concert featuring City Councilman George Greanias narrating Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait*, and a concert at the Miller Outdoor Theater featuring local television personality Marijane Vandiver.
- By the late 1980's the AIDS epidemic began to take its toll on the band. The group which had as many as 75 performers was down to around 30, many musicians playing as long as they could until their health would not allow it anymore. Montrose Symphonic Band members found themselves performing in more and more benefits for AIDS organizations, including a special one in 1986 featuring Andy Mills in a return to the podium in memory of the band members they had lost. The concert featured singers Marsha Carlton and Teresa Mauney.
- Several conductors helped get the band through the end of the decade, including Jerry Bach, Ralph Gutierrez, and Roy Cisneros. In 1987, the band officially changed its name to the Lone Star Symphonic Band. During Pride Week of 1989, the Lone Star Symphonic Band presented a special concert event *Stonewall Memories: An Evening of Pride* to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The concert featured members of the Oak Lawn and of Dallas and the Montrose Singers.

## 1989



1990

## The 1990's: Excitement & Tough Times

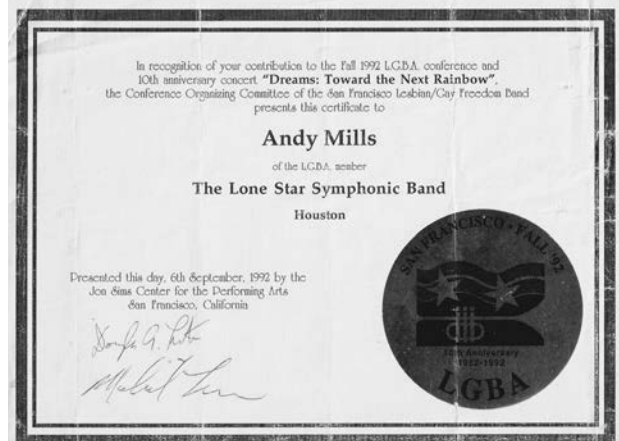
The summer of 1990 brought the band's first opportunity to travel internationally. The third Gay Games was being held in Vancouver, British Columbia, and the Lone Star Symphonic Band wanted to be part of it. Through much fundraising and the organizational efforts of Trudy Allen, they were able to send all 25 members of the band to participate. Members marched in the opening and closing ceremonies as well as a sold-out performance in Vancouver's historic Orpheum Theater.

After traveling all the way to Canada, the LGBA world came to Houston the following year, as the Lone Star Symphonic Band hosted the annual conference in 1991. It was an exciting, western-themed weekend that culminated in a concert at Jones Hall, featuring a band with over one hundred musicians from across the country. Roy Cisneros led the evening. Guest conductors included former conductor Andy Mills, Tom Graff of Vancouver's Lesbian and Gay Rainbow Band; Nanisi Barrett, the Lone Star Symphonic Band's swing band conductor; and Susan Wood, Associate Conductor of the Minnesota Freedom Band.

Another historic opportunity occurred in 1993 with the election of Bill Clinton as President of the United States. LGBA was invited to perform at the Inaugural Parade, marking the first time a GLBT group marched in an inaugural event. Six members of the Lone Star Symphonic Band were in attendance. The band played along the parade route on the freezing January afternoon. In a memorable moment, the band played "America the Beautiful" as the President walked by. When he saw the LGBA banner, he smiled and gave a "thumbs up" to the band. A tremendously moving moment for all involved.

In 1994, the Gay Games were held in New York City, and the Lone Star Symphonic Band would play an even bigger role. The concert was at the Paramount Theater at Madison Square Garden. Houston's own Connie Moore produced the event, a major feat in the era before email, and Nanisi Barrett served as the Artistic Director. The concert was well attended, especially considering the competition: Barbara Streisand was playing on the main stage, next door.

In 1994 Roy Cisneros stepped down after what was the longest tenure of any of the band's conductors to that point. The band's membership had dwindled to single digits and Connie Moore, Debbie Hunt, and Russell Williams, refused to let the band collapse. Buoyed by the emotional support from other LGBA bands, they renamed themselves the Houston Pride Band and plotted a comeback filled with renewed hope, changed attitudes, and a new sense of direction.



1994

## 1995



- In February 1995, current and past musicians met with some newly-recruited
- new members to determine a course of action and find a new rehearsal space.
- Dignity Houston came to the rescue. On April 21, 1995, with coordinating
- efforts of C. Patrick McIlvain, the Rice University Gay & Lesbian Alumni,
- and Pride-Rice Gay & Lesbian Student Group, the band made its first public
- appearance as the Houston Pride Band, in a performance benefiting the Annise
- Parker for City Council Campaign Fund.

- In the spring of 1996, the Houston Pride Band and Dallas' Oak Lawn Band,
- under the artistic direction of Beau Cain, joined forces to bring LGBA to San
- Antonio for a performance in front of the Alamo. In October of that year,
- the Houston Pride Band was formally granted 501(c)3 status as a tax-exempt
- charitable organization.

- Membership in the band was growing steadily in the mid-90s, but one thing was
- still missing: a full-time Artistic Director. The band had not had a permanent
- conductor since its rebirth as the Houston Pride Band. Members of the group
- took turns at the conductor's podium, but the lack of a primary conductor was
- making it increasingly difficult to learn new music to present to the gay and
- lesbian community. Finally late in 1996, Lynne Weynand joined the group
- as Artistic Director. Within weeks, the band put on a series of Christmas
- performances at Dickens on the Strand in Galveston, and at the Briar Patch,
- E.J.'s, Rascal's, and Gentry bars in Houston. Members of the board of directors
- for the Tom Moore Community Music Foundation were on hand at the Gentry's
- performance and made a surprise announcement: the band had been chosen
- as the primary recipient of a grant from the foundation. With the grant, the
- band had a huge advantage over years past. The group was able to purchase new
- instruments, repair old ones, and restock the music library.

- In January of 1997, LGBA was again invited to perform at President Clinton's
- second inaugural parade. This time Lynne Weynand was chosen as one of the
- conductors for the event. The event kicked off the year in a grand style and the
- band kept it going with over seventeen performances throughout the year.

- In June of 1997 the Houston Pride Committee moved the annual pride parade to
- the evening. The Houston Pride Band took advantage of the change and created
- uniforms of black pants and shirts under shimmering gold lamé vests and
- capes, topped off with glow-in-the-dark accessories. The twenty-two member
- band was joined by twenty more musicians from Dallas' Oak Lawn Band for a
- memorable march down Westheimer.

- In 1998, the band celebrated its 20th anniversary with a gala concert event at
- the Hollyfield Center featuring a guest performance by the Gay Men's Chorus of
- Houston and with some friends from the Oak Lawn Band of Dallas. The concert
- program featured an all-time member list and the program included a reunion
- of former Lone Star Symphonic Band and Houston Pride Band conductors.

## 1999



2000

## The 2000's: A Resurgence

The turn of the century found the Houston Pride Band again without an artistic director. A few staunch members rehearsed every week. Arthur Dickey, David Christenson, and Pierre Tejada took turns on the podium at different times to keep the band going. Still supporting the community, the band played at events such as AIDS Walk, the Bering United Methodist Church's Spring Fling, Galveston's Dickens on the Strand, and of course the annual Houston Pride Parade. Members of the Houston Pride Band also participated with LGBA in performances in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia during Gay Games VI in 2002. After these performances, LGBA decided to rename itself the Lesbian and Gay Band Association to be inclusive of member bands outside of the United States.

As the 25th Anniversary of the Houston Pride Band approached, the Board of Directors decided that a return to the concert stage was in order, and the first self-produced concert in several years was planned for October of 2003. Band member Scott Ashcraft stepped forward to conduct. The small group of performers that night hoped that the concert would help the band turn a corner, and they were right. This concert event marks the beginning of the current era of the Houston Pride Band.

Houston Pride Band continued putting together concerts and performing throughout the community. In the fall of 2004 Scott Ashcraft stepped down as the Artistic Director. A friend of the band, Les Wood, stepped right in to help pull off the holiday concert for the year. He then led the band in their most musically challenging concert, *Out West*. Special guest Emcee was Gene Mikulenko, the first openly gay rodeo champion.

Slowly but surely the band began to grow, and the audience began to grow as well. Following the departure of Wood as artistic director, bassoonist Jason Stephens stepped to the podium on a full-time basis and spent the next six years building the band musically and slowly, but surely, the band membership began to grow as well.

The band's 30th Anniversary season had a wonderful climax with the gala concert at Zilkha Hall in the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. There were many former members, including two of the founding members, Andy Mills conducting his signature piece, and lobby presentation of the history of the Houston Pride Band.

With the election of Barack Obama in 2008, LGBA was once again invited to march in the Inaugural Parade and a mass band braved the cold to march down Pennsylvania Avenue.



2009



## 2010

### - The 2010's: Now that's a Band



In the second decade of the twenty-first century, the Houston Pride Band continued to grow in size, skill, and spirit. In 2010, 20 musicians from around the country joined with the Houston Pride Band in a regional LGBA event for a concert titled No Strings Attached at Zilkha Hall. The afternoon concert also featured a guest appearance by the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. The following year, in the summer of 2011, Jason Stephens stepped down after six years at the helm and turned the baton over to Skip Martin, who had been the Associate Conductor.

With a music education background, Skip Martin was recognized for his talents in improving the musical performance of the Houston Pride Band. He was named one of the Artistic Directors when the Oak Lawn Band of Dallas hosted the 2012 LGBA Conference. The Houston Pride Band had almost 20 members attending the conference including several who provided support to our sister band by serving on the planning committee for the event.

When President Barack Obama was reelected in 2012, the LGBA was asked to march in the Inaugural Parade for the fourth time. The Houston Pride Band had a strong showing, sending 11 members to Washington to perform with a truly massive band.

In the spring of 2014, the course of the Houston Pride Band took another unexpected turn with the untimely death of our leader, Skip Martin. Jason Stephens once again took up the baton to carry the Houston Pride Band into our next chapter as we searched for a new permanent artistic director. Despite such an emotional season, the band came together to grow in both numbers and musicianship. At the Under the Rainbow concert in June 2015, Michael Roberts was introduced as the band's new Artistic Director and Deborah Hirsh joined the band as the Assistant Director.

The 2015-16 season saw many exciting developments for the Houston Pride Band. In June 2015, the Houston Pride Festival and Parade moved to downtown Houston. Thanks to the organizational efforts of band member Chris Foster, the Houston Pride Band joined forces with friends from the Oak Lawn Band, the Pride of San Antonio Showband, and the Redemption Winter Guard to create a marching contingent exceeding 100 members for the first time. Just

## 2015



2016

two months later in August, the Houston Pride Band successfully bid to host the 2017 LGBA Annual Conference. Also in 2015-16, the band's membership grew to over 50 active members, prompting a change in both rehearsal and concert venues. After a long and fruitful relationship with Bethel Church UCC, the band moved their rehearsals to the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Montrose beginning in March 2016. In March, the band began its current performance relationship with the Midtown Arts and Theatre Complex-Houston (MATCH).

After the 2015-16 season, Michael Roberts stepped down as Artistic Director. Deborah Hirsch stepped forward as the Artistic Director during this period of transition and through the planned LGBA Conference in 2017. The 2016-17 season was highlight by the Houston Pride Band performing the national anthem before a Houston Astros game, a first, a performance at the Gay Softball World Series in Austin, and was invited to be the marching band of the Deck the Halls holiday parade in the Westbury area of southwest Houston.

In August of 2017, Hurricane Harvey ruined the planned LGBA Annual Conference and Concert at the Wortham Center. Despite this heartbreak for the band members, the band persevered and had a wonderful 39th season with even more membership growth. After another search, the band named David Lea and Deborah Hirsch as artistic directors in July 2018 in time to prepare for the band's Ruby Anniversary Concert in October.

The Houston Pride Band's history is one of many ups and downs, but some things have remained constant throughout: our dedication to our music, our community, and to each other. Thank you for celebrating with us at 40...and still fabulous!



2018

# PRESIDENTS

1978

Ted Boya	1979-1980
President(s) unknown	1980-1983
Debbie Holmes	1983-1984
Elroy Forbes	1984-1985
Kelly Martino	1985-1986
Debbie Holmes	1986-1987
Kenny Joe Spivey	1987-1988
Tom Moore	1988-1989
Thaddeus Coverdale	1989-1993
Kirsten Johnson	1991-1992
Connie Moore	1992-1993
Brian Howrey	1993-1994
Russell Ben Williams	1993-1996
Connie Moore	1995-1997
Russell Ben Williams	1997-1998
Debbie Hunt	1998-1999
Russell Ben Williams	1999-2000
Debbie Hunt	2000-2001
Connie Moore	2001-2003
Kevin Taylor	2003-2004
Kyler Landry	2004-2005
Debbie Hunt	2004-2006
Kyler Landry	2006-2007
Kevin Taylor	2007-2008
Joseph Wiese	2008-2009
Kiyona Corpening	2009-2010
Ron Louvier	2010-2011
Kevin Taylor	2011-2012
Rudy Martinez	2012-2014
Joe Dombrowski	2014-2016
Chris Foster	2016-2018
Christopher Wells	2018-pres.

**MONTROSE MARCHING BAND**



**MONTROSE SYMPHONIC BAND**

*Exact dates unknown*




**HOUSTON PRIDE BAND**




**houston\*pride\*band**

# CONDUCTORS

1978

Clint Moncrief	1978-1981
Andy Mills	1981-1984
David Christianson	1984
Bob Morgan	1984-1985
Jerry Bach	1985-1986
Ralph Gutierrez	1986-1988
Nanisi Barrett*	1990-1991
Roy Cisneros	1988-1994
Ralph Gutierrez	1994-1995
Beau Cain	1995-1996
Lynne Weynand	1996-1998
Irvin Decker	1998
Virginia Prudence	1999
Arthur Dickey	1998-2003
Pierre Tejada	1998-2003
Scott Ashcraft	2003-2004
Les Wood	2004-2005
Jason Stephens	2005-2011
Skip Martin	2011-2014
Jason Stephens	2014-2015
Michael Roberts	2015-2016
Deborah Hirsch	2016-pres.
David Lea	2018-pres.

\*Swing Band



# LOOKING BACK

## DEBBIE SEAGRAVES

*Joined 1979*

For me the first Gay Pride Parade we marched in was a bit of an affirmation, to be out marching openly down Westheimer with the band was definitely life-changing! I found and lost many



wonderful friends who were like family to me. Our first big trip to New Orleans for Mardi Gras parade ended in the loss of our organizer and drum major Clint Moncrief due to Kaposi sarcoma. He was one of the first people I ever

knew the die from this horrible disease and sadly, was not the last.

We continued to make strides moving from the tiny room at Cherryhurst Park to Bering Memorial Church. I remember installing ceiling tiles there in exchange for rehearsal space. We moved up to perform at the Tower before it sadly closed. Those were amazing concerts! I still have my concert poster and photographs from the concert. We not only put a concert band on stage, we also had a trombone choir called the Bone Sisters and a woodwind quintet!

I also had the good fortune to perform with the band at the Hollywood Bowl sharing the stage with Rita Moreno at the Gay Games in Los Angeles in the very early 80s. What great memories I have of that trip!

We used to provide live and recorded music for the Diana Foundation Awards, the music was great fun to play! Doing concerts at Dickens on the Strand were fun because we got to dress in costume! (what queen can't resist a good costume?). My last trip with the band with the band was to the 1989 Gay Games in Vancouver, British Columbia. Another amazing trip with several great performances with my band family!

Following that trip I moved to San Antonio where I currently live. I am a recently retired band director. As a brass specialist, I teach

private brass lessons and perform with several concert bands and the award-winning San Antonio Brass Band.

I started with the Montrose Band in 1979 in that tiny room in Cherryhurst Park and it's such a great feeling to see the band continue that mission of providing exciting music to their audiences and growing into the great organization it is today. As for me I'm using my musical talents now in the Pride of San Antonio Showband as a euphonium player and associate conductor. Currently, I am interim Artistic Director while we begin our search for a new Artistic Director. I'm hoping we can grow the Pride of San Antonio Showband following in the Houston Band's footsteps to continue to provide great music for our community!

## TRUDY ALLEN

*Joined 1987*

One of the many memories that are locked into my brain is a performance at Dickens on the Strand in Galveston. We were scheduled to perform two shows this day with about a three hour window between performances. Now, if you know this group at all, that's more than enough time to get into trouble! We walked over to one of the bars on the island and proceeded to have drinks and reflect on the performance we just did and "prepare" for the next one.

I'm not sure of how many drinks were consumed, but we will say... too many! After our

"preparations", we walked, or stumbled back to the stage where we were scheduled to play. We were miked with a crowd in bleachers before us. One song in particular had a trombone solo to be performed by my good friend, Tracy Anderson. I was assigned to play 2nd part this day. However, when it came time for the solo part, Tracy proclaims "I can't play this, I'm drunk"! What this means is that the second fiddle should perform the solo, which I had not practiced. Since we were miked, you could see the crowd in



the bleachers giggling among themselves. I was in a complete panic because somehow I had to do this. I did manage to do it while the audience waited to see if it would be heard. Tracy never knew, until now, how much of a confidence booster that was for me. I love her for it. Thanks Tracy!

## RUSSELL BEN WILLIAMS

*Joined 1989*

Growing up in a small town in South Texas in a world before the internet, I didn't know a whole lot about LGBT life beyond my own zip code. I moved to Houston in 1989 at the age of 25, and within a week of settling in to my new home, I found



an ad in This Week in Texas seeking musicians for what was then the Lone Star Symphonic Band. I called the number in the ad and on the other end of the line was Connie Moore. She invited me to attend a rehearsal, and by the following week,

I was a member of the band and my life would never be the same again.

It is difficult to pinpoint a favorite memory, but what comes to mind the most is the way Connie influenced my life through band. I was flipping burgers when I joined the band, but she saw more in me. She took me under her wing and encouraged me to join the board where I learned much about event planning, marketing, outreach, and food garnishing (but that's a whole 'nother story).

She also encouraged me to run for a board position with the Lesbian & Gay Band Association (LGBA), and this provided even greater learning opportunities. I worked my way up the ranks and eventually took the role of LGBA President, and Connie was always by my side like my own personal gay whisperer saying, "Precious, you can do this!"

Producing performance events for LGBA at Gay Games in Sydney and Chicago, she was always there for advice, emotional support, and cocktails. And hugs! She was my mentor, my cheerleader, and a dear friend. And to be fair, she was also there to bring me down a notch when the diva ego got out of line. But then that was followed by cocktails.

Through our anniversary performance, I will cherish the memories of Connie's impact on my life. And I take great comfort in knowing

that she is one of the many guardian angels watching over us tonight, along with Debbie Hunt, Skip Martin, Andy Mills, and so many others.

## MELISSA THOMPSON

*Joined 1989*

Houston Pride Band, who are we? A collective group of musicians who love to perform and give back to our community. We are (P)assionate, (R)adiant, (I)ncredible, (D)edicated, (E)mpowered individuals who through the universal gift of music have become family.

Houston Pride Band started 40 years ago and the legacy continues to challenge, develop, supply and embrace individuals with the joy of music. As musicians we add a unique "voice" to life. Our message



fervently crosses boundaries and speaks of passion and pride through our musicianship. Our "voice" evokes profound emotion from those who hear and feel our offering. Our spouses, friends, leadership, audience, supporters, organizers, and musicians together make up the Houston Pride Band.

I joined the Houston Pride Band in August of 1989. I was first invited by Connie Moore to come "try it out". That one invitation turned into 23 blessed years. I quickly learned about discipline, organizing my time and being committed to something larger than my own career or small circle of friends. My first love was playing music. But in a short time, the incredible individuals in the band and the opportunity to give back to the community lifted my spirits equally.

My fondest memories happened outside of rehearsal. Topping the list were the "campy shows" with elaborate stage setups and performances. Who knew camping could be so much fun? Dining with band members after rehearsals. Dinners would last hours and would invoke enlightening and hilarious banter. Traveling across oceans, states, territories and countries to play with our LGBA family. Filling the air with inspiring music that encouraged participants at AIDS and cancer walks, Dickens on the Strand, and playing at the DePelchin Home for underprivileged children. Mardi Gras parades in Galveston with festive gatherings at Connie and Debbie's home on 25th street. The "big sound" of LGBA on the



first downbeat during my first rehearsal with over 170 musicians. Performing for the Inauguration of President Clinton and watching him give us the “thumbs up” as he passed our band on Pennsylvania Avenue. Night time Gay Pride parades and progressive Christmas concerts at the gay bars in Houston. The Grand Canal parade in Amsterdam where we played our instruments on an open- air boat and greeted the world of athletes and fans. Opening ceremonies of multiple Gay Games and marching into the stadium where tens of thousands of people from all over the world cheered us on.

Sounds like a fairytale, well maybe it was! And, maybe it still is because we forever belong to this outstanding band. We are a part of something bigger than ourselves, we collectively share the gift that has been shared with each of us individually. We share love, compassion, respect, kindness, joy and a little bit of “showbiz”. Thank you for enriching my life Houston Pride Band, you are with me always.

**LISA MACE**

*Joined 1997*

**F**or the last 21 years, the Houston Pride Band has brought me so much joy. I’ve been introduced to people who hold the same musical love and values that I hold, given me friends for life, and introduced me to my wife. I have laughed with my band family and have cried at the loss of those who have left this world before us.

I have attended 13 LGBA conferences and made many memories. The rehearsals can be grueling and Boobs at Sun rise makes for a

great way to close out a wonderful week of band with a few of my friends.

I have safety pinned tuxedo pants on Elroy Forbes and laughed as Connie Moore kissed a newly wedded bride in St. Louis. I’ve played at a memorial for Skip Martin even though I couldn’t see my music through my tears. I have watched as Trudy Allen survived a stroke and came back to play her trombone. I have proudly played the Star Spangled Banner for the Houston Astros and the Sugarland Skeeters.

What I’m trying to say is that there is so much more to being a part of this band than what

three paragraphs can contain. With all of the memories that I have from being a part of this wonderful organization, all I can really share is that “BAND EQUALS LIFE AND LIFE EQUALS BAND”. Any questions?

Bari Saxually yours,  
*Lisa Mace*



*Special Thanks*

**The HPB 40th Anniversary Production Committee would like to express our gratitude to the following:**

Best Western Plus Downtown Houston

The HPB Board of Directors

Bondy Intermediate School

Stephen Crawford

HPB’s many Donors and Benefactors

Nancy Ford

The former members of HPB from Years 1-39

Kirk Goodman and Nathan Haworth

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The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts

Lesbian and Gay Band Association

Melissa Medina

Jason Stephens and Crawford Howell

Our Friends, Family, and Fans

# houston★pride★band

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY ROSTER

On the occasion of the Houston Pride Band's 20th Anniversary in 1998, the band compiled a roster of former members, to the best of their available records and memories. Tonight, we supplement that list with the names of band members from the last 20 years to give you our best effort at the all-time roster of the Houston Pride Band. We regret any omissions. While many musicians are talented at multiple instruments, each person appears in the list only once. We recognize our colleagues and pioneering predecessors for their hard work and musicianship.

### FLUTE/PICCOLO

Grace Albee  
Bob Archer  
Melanie Ashcraft  
Scott Ashcraft  
Gerald Bach  
Jerry Bachorowski  
Wayne Bailey  
David Bartee  
Gail Berkowitz  
Lauren Brady  
Brian Briones  
Heather Charron  
Paula Cooper  
Nick Davila  
Miles Davis  
Sandy Davis  
Julie Dinkins  
Jonathan Ellis  
Donnie Gallegos  
Miguel Garcia  
James Gebhardt  
Christi Gell  
Jonathan Griffin  
David Hamilton  
Ron Haslacker  
Katrina Hildebrandt  
Victor Kendall  
Scottlen Liles  
Brenda Loomer  
Jacquelyn Lopez  
Joel Luks  
Travis Lyles  
Christie Maloney  
Marty Manegold  
Lester Martin  
Wayne Martin  
Alex Martinez-Hage  
Margie McBath  
Mark McCoy  
Heidi McMunn  
Jamee Molander  
Alex Montemayor  
Tom Moore  
Greg Morgan  
Michael Musick  
Resa Patterson  
Robert Patton  
Abel Perez  
Tom Perkinson  
Sandy Phelps  
Joel Quinones  
Kevin Ramirez  
Aaron Reines

Melissa Ricks  
Carl Schneider  
Karen Schuster  
Joanna Serra  
Caitlin Spofford  
Sal Stow  
Joey Tidline  
Samantha Vickery  
Ginger von Wening  
Paige Wallis  
W. L. Wotipka

### OBOE

Hunter Cauble  
Thaddeus Coverdale  
Matthew Hadley  
Leslie Henderson  
Tom Johnson  
Dale Keeney  
Eileen Louvier  
Grant Louvier  
Michael Mistris  
Michael Moreau  
David Stanley  
Lupe Ybarra-Regan

### BASSOON

Daryn Bauer  
Darrell Carr  
David Christianson  
Daniel Curry  
David DiCamillo  
Hugo Doege  
Debbie Fullerton  
Laetan Gaspard  
Billy Nail  
Becky Schlembach  
Donald Wilson

### CLARINET

Andy Ayala  
Kacey Baccus  
Diane Bachmuth  
Ed Baltz  
Joey Barry  
Jim Bozeman  
Brandon Bradley  
Patricia Burgess  
Barrett Burris  
David Carpenter  
Josh Cerame  
Roy Cisneros  
Rusty Clark  
Wendy Covington  
Casey Cummings  
Steve Darby

Phil Deacy  
Arthur Dickey  
Mark Dickson  
Joe Dombrowski  
Margaret Dufton  
Charles DuRapau  
Ed Eaton  
Keith Eschenburg  
Mary Francisuss  
Tish Frederick  
William Fu  
Mark Gamewell  
Dan Gauthier  
Russell Gobel  
Lydia Godfrey  
Billy Gresham  
Margaret Hale  
Roy Henry  
Julian Hernandez  
Adam Hile  
Jace Hill  
Deborah Hirsch  
Don Hite  
Elyse Hoeb  
Sarah Holliday  
Kenny Hufford  
Donna Jackson  
Leslie Jared  
David Jerome  
Michael Kloster  
Chris Kubena  
Will Lenton  
Ron Louvier  
Artezia Luna  
Roger Malone  
Skip Martin  
Rudy Martinez  
Kristin Maters  
Clemente Mathes  
Jerry McCall  
Francisco Mendez  
Jason Micelle  
Brian Miller  
Farhan Mithani  
George Moryl  
Cody Newton  
Steven Nicholas  
David Nielson  
Paul Norris  
Al Oliver Jr.  
Susan Palmer  
Rosemary Perez  
Jimmy Powell  
Becky Radley

Chelsea Rasing  
Tiffany Reckley  
George Roscoe  
Susan Ruiz  
Claire Sandringham  
David Schaidler  
Brian Schellburg  
Michael Schirmacher  
David Shaffner  
Margaret Smart  
Ray Smith  
Heather Spraberry  
Kathy Springer  
Amanda Stafford  
K. Doug Stewart  
Tom Stubbs  
Steve Tarry  
Jeffrey Taylor  
Kristen Theriot  
Ron Thompkins  
Veronica Tristan  
Harold van Prooyen  
Daniel Verastegui  
Elsa Villarreal  
Milton Waghalter  
David Williamson  
Jerry Wright

### BASS CLARINET

Travis Arbing  
Chad Davis  
Nicolas Droger  
Cecil Farrell  
Jannet Hernandez  
Jon Hernandez  
Justin Madden-Rhinehart  
Melissa Thompson

### SAXOPHONES

Gonzalo Agudelo  
Sandra Andrade  
Brack Armstrong  
Fernando Arteaga  
Mark Bailes  
Daniel Birch  
Kathy Brown  
Chris Collins  
Amy Cook  
Rich Corder  
Christina De Leon  
Elizabeth De Los Rios  
Edward Esguerra  
Mary Ellen Fuess  
Amy Fulton  
Billy Furguson

Daniel Garcia  
Gregg Gebelsberger  
Wayne Geeslin  
Brian Howrey  
Alan Hutchinson  
Jerry Jahn  
Randy Julia  
David Junkmann  
Jerry Kelly  
Adrian Leyva  
Larry Luke  
Lisa Mace  
Jose Magdaleno  
Tony Martin  
Phillip Mayard  
W. C. McClendon  
Chet McCollough  
Christy McKinney  
John Miles  
Diana Mobley  
Clint Moncrief  
Connie Moore  
Alana O'Neil  
Rick Pashkin  
E. L. Jazz Paz  
Rick Peel  
Raycheal Proctor  
Edward Ramos  
Randy Richards  
David Richardson  
Mark Richmond  
Michael Roberts  
Chris Roff  
Rawslyn Ruffin  
Diane Schattenberg  
Jaime Serna  
Sandra Serra  
Greg Siegrist  
David Skirvin  
Larry Smith  
Susan Starr  
Daniel Stover  
Darby Suiter  
Yannis Taillasson  
Kevin Taylor  
Sharon Taylor  
Denise Tennill  
Alice Valdez  
Randi Wallin  
Matt Wheeler  
Matthew Williams  
Karma Yoakem  
Paul Youngjohn  
Peter Zeimet



## TRUMPET

Rudy Alonzo  
Mary Beth Alsdorf  
Anita Anderson  
Byron Aragon  
Kenneth Bales  
Raul Barcenas  
Richard Bardwell  
Sarah Barret  
Brandon Bates  
Greg Bell  
James Bell  
Shawn Borgerding  
Randi Bushue  
Denise Chambliss  
Rufus Chaney  
Ryan Chastain  
Cheryl Clark  
Andrew Conger  
Cherri Conner  
Hector Cortez  
Keith Davenport  
Robin DeVelvis  
Connie Dieringer  
Randy Dunn  
Debbie Ellerman  
Dale Englefield  
Mary Finn  
Harry Fowler  
Andrew Frost  
Jim Gabbard  
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Les Bates  
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Steven Wadenpfohl  
Kelly Walker  
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Carol Wright  
Cliff Wright

## TROMBONE

Dale Adams  
Trudy Allen  
Tracy Anderson  
Mark Astramovich  
Chris Atieno  
Trudy Bach  
Jose Barrios  
Ted Boya  
Bill Bridges  
Angie Carmichael  
Kiyona Corpening  
John Crow  
Howard Edens  
Dan Edwards  
Boyce Erwin  
Noel Freeman  
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Amanda Solis  
Rue Starr  
Curtis Strickland  
Jason Svatek  
Nicole Taylor  
Michael Tucker  
David Vogelaar  
Christopher Wells  
Howard Wells  
Debby Westfall  
Fran Wilcox

## EUPHONIUM

Leo Aguilar  
Kenny Beard  
Dirk Blankenship  
Mike Blizzard  
Matthew Crumpler  
Debbi Ellerman  
Noe Estringel

Ryan Horine  
Jose Jacobo  
Larry Johnson  
Jeff Johnston  
Dawn Keith  
Phil Kennedy  
Chris LaCleda  
Karl Lewis  
Rory Pearce  
Casey Sherrill  
Greg Wieland  
Russell Ben Williams  
Brooke Yahney

## TUBA

Cory Beckner  
Nanisi Barrett  
Joe Bowman  
Karimah Browne  
Les Christianson  
Zander Dawson  
Scott DiStefano  
Robin Dunn  
Elroy Forbes  
Chris Foster  
Dan Freeman  
Ralph Gutierrez  
Paul Hager  
Andra Haviland  
Crawford Howell  
Greg Irwin  
John Lamb  
Jim Merring  
Bob Morgan  
Tommy Murphy  
Rudy Ramirez  
Art Reyna  
Rick Robinson  
Steven Rodriguez  
Rex Sagel  
Charlie Schwobel  
Pierre Tejada  
Brian Tighe  
Eric Weidner  
Joe Wiese

## PERCUSSION

Lauren Anderson  
Lindsey Bavousett  
David Benson  
Buzz Beshears  
Beau Cain  
Andrew Chu  
Kim Comer  
Johnny Cook  
Scott Crowell  
Don Duhon  
Dennis Dunwoody  
Anastasia Estrada  
Sharon Ferranti  
Roger French  
Miranda Gamboa  
Rey Garcia  
Travis Halsey

Cassie Hawkes  
David Hendrixon  
Calvon Hinson  
Debbie Holmes  
Eric Hughes  
Debbie Hunt  
Evelyn Jamilosa  
Brandy Jones  
Milton Jones  
Douglas Lake  
Kat LeBlanc  
Joseph Lenhoff  
Nancy Lukasik  
Doug Massey  
Brandy McGuffey  
James Meine  
Steve Moore  
Lewis Pace  
Carmel Penlar  
Kevin Poe  
Peggy Prather  
Johnny Ray Pritchard  
John Ritchie  
Jen Rodriguez  
Laura Rodriguez  
Justin Shahan  
Joe Shreve  
Carl Sibley  
Taylor Siebeneicher  
Jason Stephens  
Margaret Stone  
Tony Tuckwiller  
J. R. Valdez  
Danny Villa  
Troy Vuillemot  
Dave Wallis  
Brian Walters  
Laura Wiggs  
Gary Worster

## PIANO

Shannon Hesse  
Evelyn Jamilosa  
Sharon Prince  
Rob Seible  
Phillip Smith  
Pam Stephens

## DOUBLE BASS/ HARP/STRINGS

Brett Gensler  
Matthew Hanson  
Bobby Heeny  
Kelly Martino  
Teresa Mauney  
Vincent Pierce  
Barry Shatswell  
Pat Sullivan

## TWIRLER/FLAG

Larry Butler  
Michael Cowie  
Vince Crenshaw  
Gerald Joyce  
Larry Salazar

# houston★pride★band

## CONCERT HISTORY

*This is a compilation of concerts produced by the Houston Pride Band over the last 40 years. This list focuses on “stage” concerts, and does not include the dozens of public and community service performances held at occasions such as PrideHouston, AIDSWalk, Dickens on the Strand, EmPower Houston, and more*

### OUR CURRENT SEASON

#### **The American Journey**

June 20, 2019 • MATCH

#### **On the Red Carpet**

March 2, 2019 • MATCH

#### **Merry and Bright**

December 8, 2018 • MATCH

#### **40th Anniversary Celebration**

October 13, 2018 • Hobby Center Zilkha Hall

### PAST PERFORMANCES

#### **Bon Voyage**

June 9, 2018 • MATCH

#### **Sail the Seven Seas**

March 3, 2018 • MATCH

#### **Under the Mistletoe**

December 16, 2017 • MATCH

*LGBA Annual Conference Concert*

#### **The Stars at Night**

September 3, 2017\* • Wortham Center

#### **Tapas**

May 20, 2017 • MATCH

#### **Picture It 2 – Music & Art**

March 18, 2017 • MATCH

#### **Yuletide Ride**

December 3, 2016 • MATCH

#### **Dances with the Stars**

October 15, 2016 • Merfish Teen Center

#### **True Colors**

May 22, 2016 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Picture It – Music & Cinema**

March 5, 2016 • MATCH

#### **Stocking Stuffers**

December 12, 2015 • Resurrection MCC

#### **#LovesLove: Houston’s Fabulous Gay Wedding**

October 17, 2015 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Under the Rainbow**

May 30, 2015 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Storytellers**

February 21, 2015 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Houston Pride Band Bares All**

October 25, 2014 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Houston Pride Band Reads a Book**

June 7, 2014 • Resurrection MCC

#### **It’s a Woman’s World**

March 1, 2014 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Heroes**

October 5, 2013 • Resurrection MCC

#### **The Great Outdoors**

June 1, 2013 • Resurrection MCC

#### **War & Peace**

February 23, 2013 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Bittersweet**

October 13, 2012 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Until the Fat Lady Sings**

June 9, 2012 • Hobby Center Zilkha Hall

#### **In with the New**

March 31, 2012 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Guilty Pleasures**

November 2, 2011 • Hobby Center Zilkha Hall

#### **Americana**

June 11, 2011 • Hobby Center Zilkha Hall

#### **For the Kid in You**

February 26, 2011 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Across the Pond**

November 13, 2010 • Resurrection MCC

#### **No Strings Attached**

May 30, 2010 • Hobby Center Zilkha Hall

#### **Flights of Fancy**

February 27, 2010 • Resurrection MCC

#### **pOpera!**

October 24, 2009 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Music Without Borders**

June 19, 2009 • Resurrection MCC

#### **The Best of All Possible Worlds**

March 7, 2009 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Godzilla Eats the Houston Pride Band**

November 14, 2008 • Resurrection MCC

#### **Celebrate! Thirty Years of Music, Visibility, & Pride**

June 27, 2008 • Hobby Center Zilkha Hall



### **Celebrating Relationships**

February 9, 2008 • Resurrection MCC

### **Celebrating Diversity**

September 29, 2007 • Resurrection MCC

### **Our Favorite Things**

May 10, 2007 • Resurrection MCC

### **Carnival!**

January 25, 2007 • Resurrection MCC

### **Spooked on Classics**

October 19, 2006 • Resurrection MCC

### **Music & Laughter: The Universal Language**

April 1, 2006 • Resurrection MCC

### **Holiday Vacation Spots**

December 15, 2005 • Resurrection MCC

### **This Global Village**

October 22, 2005 • Resurrection MCC

### **Out West: Themes from the Wild West**

April 23, 2005 • Resurrection MCC

### **Christmas on 'da Bayou**

December 16, 2004 • Resurrection MCC

### **Cinema Magic**

October 2, 2004 • Resurrection MCC

### **Winds of Change**

May 8, 2004 • Resurrection MCC

### **25th Anniversary Concert**

October 25, 2003 • Resurrection MCC

### **20th Anniversary Celebration**

November 14, 1998 • Hollyfield Center

### **Come Blow Your Horn**

April 21, 1995

### **Pride = Power**

June 2, 1992 • Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto

*LGBA Annual Conference Concert*

### **Stars Across America**

September 29, 1991 • Jones Hall

### **The Right Rite of Spring**

March 30, 1991 • Resurrection MCC

### **A Winter Fantasy**

December 21, 1990 • Resurrection MCC

### **Fall Concert**

October 20, 1990 • Resurrection MCC

### **The Lone Star Symphonic Band presents the Turtle Creek Chorale**

April 21, 1990 • Hamman Hall

### **Christmas Concert**

December 16, 1989 • Metropolitan Multi-Service Ctr

### **Broadway Hit Parade**

October 28, 1989 • Metropolitan Multi-Service Ctr

### **Stonewall Memories: An Evening of Pride**

June 24, 1989 • Metropolitan Multi-Service Ctr

### **A Teddy Bear Christmas Concert**

December 5, 1986 • Resurrection MCC

### **Music Out of This World**

October 11, 1986 • Hamman Hall

### **Come to the Cabaret**

September 28, 1985 • Allen Park Inn Ballroom

### **Spring Concert**

April 13, 1985 • Lanier Middle School

### **A Teddy Bear's Picnic**

May 10, 1985 • Miller Outdoor Theare

### **Annual Christmas Concert**

December 8, 1984 • Lanier Middle School

### **Gay Pride Week Concert**

June 23, 1984 • Cullen Performance Hall

### **Celebrate Christmas!**

December 1, 1983 • Cullen Performance Hall

### **Unity Through Diversity**

June 26, 1983 • Cullen Performance Hall

### **Twas the Night Before Christmas**

December 11, 1982 • Cullen Performance Hall

### **New York! New York!**

September 25, 1982 • Tower Theatre

### **Fred Paez Memorial Concert**

June 26, 1982 • Cullen Performance Hall

### **In Concert featuring The Bone Sisters**

May 22, 1982 • Tower Theatre

### **Montrose Symphonic Band in Concert**

February 7, 1982 • Kindred Spirits, 5245 Buffalo Spdwy

### **Montrose Symphonic Band in Concert**

December 11, 1981 • Bering Memorial UMC

### **In Concert at the Tower Theatre**

September 19, 1981 • Tower Theatre

### **Under the Stars**

June 27, 1981 • Spotts Park

### **Houston Festival Concert**

March 22, 1980 • Houston City Hall

### **Celebrating the Joys of Christmas**

December 14 & 16, 1979 • Bering Memorial UMC

### **Come Boogie with the Band**

October 1, 1979 • Copa Disco, 2631 Richmond

### **Montrose Marching Band in Concert**

August 29, 1979 • The Locker, 1732 Westheimer

# 40 40TH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

Chris Foster, Chair  
Byron Aragon  
Mark Bailes  
Elizabeth De Los Rios  
Joe Dombrowski  
Noel Freeman  
Deborah Hirsch  
David Lea  
Pablo Lopez  
Kevin Taylor  
Russell Williams  
Brooke Yahney

## HOUSTON PRIDE BAND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christopher Wells	President
Jason Svatek	Vice President
Noel Freeman	Treasurer
Fernando Arteaga	Secretary
Elizabeth De Los Rios	At-Large
William Fu	At-Large
Pablo Lopez	At-Large
Russell Williams	At-Large
Brooke Yahney	At-Large



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





# 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 twenty-five 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.
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 at The Houston School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA), 4001 Stanford Street in Montrose.

### DONATE

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### GET UPDATES

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### PERFORM

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[houstonprideband.org](http://houstonprideband.org) • [facebook.com/houstonprideband](https://facebook.com/houstonprideband)

## PROUD MEMBER OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY BAND ASSOCIATION



**Music. Visibility. Pride.**

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](http://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.



# THE HOUSTON PRIDE BAND THANKS OUR GENEROUS 2018-2019 SEASON SPONSORS

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David Lea  
Kevin Taylor

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David DiCamillo  
Chris Foster  
Lisa Mace

## Members

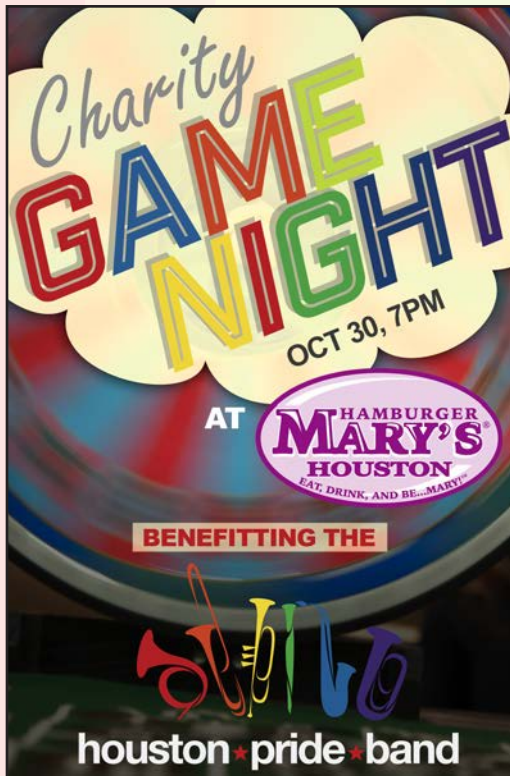
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Gonzalo Agudelo  
Lauren Anderson  
Byron Aragon-Castellano  
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Chris Atieno  
Andrew Chu  
Andrew Conger  
Casey Cummings  
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Please consider helping us reach our fundraising goals by donating at <http://houstonprideband.org/donate>



# 40

YEARS OF HOUSTON PRIDE BAND

Join us as we celebrate our 40th season

## Merry and Bright

December 8, 2018 • 7:00P • MATCH

Kick off your holiday season with Houston Pride Band as our annual holiday extravaganza promises to make your holiday merry and bright!

## On the Red Carpet

March 2, 2019 • 7:00P • MATCH

Celebrate Oscar™ Season with Houston Pride Band's tribute to the movie music and original songs which have taken home the golden statue.

## The American Journey

June 20, 2019 • 7:00P • MATCH

Join Houston Pride Band for a music journey through American history, celebrating the music that has made the American music experience unique and memorable.

learn more at  
[houstonprideband.org](http://houstonprideband.org)





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