

the **houston** ★ **pride** ★ **band** presents

# Ignite!

A CONCERT FUELED BY THE ENERGY AND  
PASSION ASSOCIATED WITH FIRE AND LIGHT



September 30, 2023  
8PM · MATCH

# From the President

Welcome to the Houston Pride Band's 2023-2024 concert season – **An Elemental Journey!** This season we'll be taking you on a musical exploration of fire, light, darkness, earth, wind, and sea. Get ready for an unforgettable season, kicking off with tonight's program - **Ignite!**

You can look for The Houston Pride Band at performances throughout the fall. Our **BrassTax** small ensemble will be performing in collaboration with Pride Chorus Houston at their upcoming concert on Saturday, October 14th. And our **Pep Band** will be performing at **The Woodlands Pride Festival** on Saturday, October 21st. Be sure to support our band at these events!

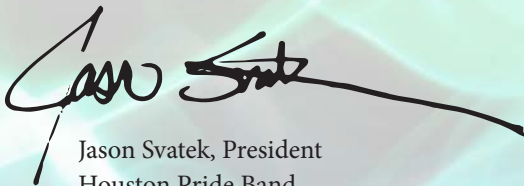
It's not too late to get **Season Tickets** for our remaining **2023-2024 Season** concerts! Check the back cover of your program for the list of concert themes – you won't want to miss a beat! Just go to our website to purchase. And if you don't already, be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and go to our website to subscribe to email updates of our upcoming events and performances.

Our **MATCH** Concert season continues Saturday, December 9th as we take the stage to present “**Twas the Night**,” a night of music highlighting favorite holiday stories.

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

Enjoy the show!

Yours in **PRIDE**,



Jason Svatek, President  
Houston Pride Band



## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST

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



**SUBSCRIBE**



# Ignite!

DEBORAH HIRSCH & DAVID LEA  
CONDUCTORS

## PROGRAM

Urban Light

James M. David

Excerpts from *The Firebird*

Igor Stravinsky  
arr. Jay Bocook

Phoenix Rekindled

Grace Baugher-Dunlap

Sunshine

Katahj Copley

Spirals of Light

Sean O'Loughlin

## - INTERMISSION -

Helios: Dawn of a New Day

Jordan Sterk

Ritual Fire Dance, from *El Amor brujo*

Manuel de Falla  
arr. Jay Bocook

Autumn Light

Randall D. Standridge

Conga del Fuego Nuevo

Arturo Márquez  
tr. Oliver Nickel

Fever

John Davenport & Eddie Cooley  
arr. John Moss  
Hugh Stone, guest soloist

Earth, Wind & Fire in Concert

arr. Richard Saucedo

# houston ★ pride ★ band

## PERFORMING MEMBERS

### FLUTE/PICCOLO

Ruben Gómez  
Amanda Hager  
Donald Hale  
Theo Harrison\*  
Teresa Newman  
Gabe Rodríguez  
Runze Shen  
Kayla Smith  
Josh Wunderlich

### OBOE

Lupe Ybarra-Regan

### BASSOON

David DiCamillo\*  
Spencer Salinas  
Becky Schlembach

### CLARINET

Sydney Dean  
Kayla DuBrow  
William Fu\*  
Haylon Haynes  
Alexia Hernández  
Em Merrell  
Jordan Pachuca  
Hannah Robertson  
Jordan Stewart  
Steve Tarry  
James Walker

### BASS CLARINET

Jedd Bingham  
Nicolas Droger

### ALTO SAXOPHONE

Anna Harkness  
Zach Newman  
Daniel Stover  
Kevin Taylor\*

### TENOR SAXOPHONE

Anthony Fernández  
Matthew Williams

### BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Lisa Mace

### TRUMPET

Zachary Alcantara  
Mary Beth Alsdorf  
Jason Fernández  
George Gehring\*  
Adam Jatho  
Rose Kantorczyk  
Jessie Meng  
Jacob Newsome  
Ellie Nichols  
Josh Poff  
Kyra Stafford

### HORN

Jorge Gutiérrez\*  
Jimmy Huynh  
Mackenzie Klima  
Eric Weidner

### TROMBONE

Trudy Allen\*  
Chris Atieno  
Rayshaun Bennett  
Noel Freeman  
Ivan Henton  
Nikolai Robinson  
Jason Svatek

### EUPHONIUM

Ryan Horine\*  
Crawford Howell  
Nanci Nuñez

### TUBA

Chris Foster\*  
Michael Julian  
Rudy Ramírez

### DOUBLE BASS

Brice Harkness

### PIANO

Sharon Prince

### PERCUSSION

Lauren Anderson  
Colleen Callan  
Andrew Christian  
Christian Hopkins  
Sharon Prince  
Jen Rodríguez\*  
Dave Wallis

\* Section Leader





# Artistic Directors



## DEBORAH HIRSCH

Now in her 8th season with the Houston Pride Band, Deborah Hirsch is originally from Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in music therapy and music education

and earned a master's degree in music at Texas A&M University-Commerce. She also served in the 312th Army Band in Lawrence, Kansas before moving to Texas.

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

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

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

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



## DAVID LEA

David Lea is in his eighth season as a member of the Houston Pride Band, and has served as Co-Artistic Director since 2018. Since joining the artistic team, David has conducted the Houston Pride Band at the Women Band Directors International conference in 2022 as a featured concert and clinic ensemble, and served on the Artistic Team for the Pride Bands Alliance national conference in 2021. He has also represented HPB as a guest conductor for the Houston Chamber Music Society Wind Project. After bringing two world premiere performances to the HPB Audience in 2023, David is excited to be working with composer JaRod Hall to commission a new work to culminate the band's 45th season.

David is also a founding member of BrassTax, the Houston Pride Band Brass Quintet. BrassTax has performed throughout Houston as a musical ambassador for HPB's outreach initiatives, and will be featured as a guest collaborator this season with Pride Chorus Houston. Outside of BrassTax, David also plays trumpet for the NFL Houston Texans' Deep Steel Thunder.

David currently serves as the Head Band Director and fine arts department chair at Null Middle School in Sheldon ISD. His bands have enjoyed successes at UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluations, and local and regional festivals. As a private trumpet teacher, his students have made Michigan All-state, earned first divisions at regional and state solo & ensemble contests, and had the honor of participating in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

David earned bachelor's degrees from Texas A&M and Michigan State University in Psychology and Music Education, respectively. He earned his Master of Music Education from the University of North Texas. His professional memberships include Texas Music Educators and Texas Bandmasters Associations.

# Program Notes

COMPILED BY CHRIS FOSTER

## URBAN LIGHT

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*Urban Light* is a brilliant display of colors, forward momentum, and intertwining rhythmic layers that is inspired by the iconic Los Angeles landmark of the same name. Created by conceptual art pioneer Chris Burden in 2008, the original work is an assemblage of historic streetlamps that were transplanted from various cities in California and also Portland, Oregon. The tight spacing and repetitive forms interact with the famously dynamic LA sunlight transitioning to the exciting nighttime glow of the city. Primary melodic and rhythmic motives are derived from Morse code for the word “California,” creating an asymmetrical and syncopated groove that continuously builds in energy. Parallel “barre” chords reveal a classic rock/metal influence that reaches its zenith with a heavy percussion backbeat. This work was commissioned by the National Band Association for its 60th anniversary and is dedicated to the composer’s wife.

Dr. James M. David (b. 1978) is an internationally recognized composer who currently serves as professor of music composition at Colorado State University and is particularly known for his works involving winds and percussion. His symphonic works for winds have been performed by numerous prominent professional and university ensembles and his compositions have been presented at more than sixty national and international conferences throughout North and South America, Asia, Europe, and Australia. A native of southern Georgia, Dr. David graduated with honors from the University of Georgia and completed his doctorate in composition at Florida State University.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE FIREBIRD

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In Stravinsky’s *The Firebird* ballet, the tale centers on the dashing Prince Ivan Tsarevich, who finds himself one night wandering through the garden of King Kashchei, an evil monarch whose power resides in a magic egg, which he guards in an elegant box. In Kashchei’s garden, the Prince captures a Firebird, which pleads for its life; the Prince agrees to spare it if it gives him one of its magic tail-feathers, which it consents to do. The Prince continues through his evening and happens upon thirteen enchanted princesses, the most beautiful of them catches his eye. Acting under Kashchei’s spell, she lures him to a spot where Kashchei’s guards can ensnare him, but before he can be put under a spell himself, the Prince uses the magic tail-feather to summon the Firebird, who reveals to him the secret of Kashchei’s magic egg. The Prince smashes the egg, breaking the web of evil enchantment, and goes off to marry the newly liberated Princess, with whom, of course, he will live happily ever after.

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) was born in Russia, became a French citizen by 1934, and then a naturalized American in 1945. His early musical training was inconsequential (though his father was a respected Russian opera singer) and thus he studied law. It was not until he joined with the great Russian composer Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov that Stravinsky’s musical talents became ignited. *The Firebird* marked the beginning of the now legendary collaboration between composer

Igor Stravinsky and Serge Diaghilev, the impresario of the famous Ballet Russe. Stravinsky was a totally unknown pianist and composer in 1910, but *The Firebird*, followed by *Petroushka* and *The Rite of Spring*, catapulted him to the forefront of contemporary composers, a position never relinquished.

## PHOENIX REKINDLED

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*Phoenix Rekindled* was written in recognition of those who deal with depression and burn out, especially in our music community. The composer hopes this piece will offer a moment of rest and encouragement: You will come back from this; you will get your fire back! The piece was commissioned by the Lockport Township High School Wind Symphony for their performance at the 75th annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Grace Baugher Dunlap (b.1995) is a Kansas-born composer, horn player, and music educator. Her music is known for its memorable melodies and highlights emotional aspects of the human experience. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a Masters in Music Composition and Graduate Certificate in Music Theory Pedagogy. Previously she studied Music Composition and French Horn at Kansas State University where she later received a Graduated Certificate in Music Education. Grace lives in Kansas City with her husband Max, her cats Elsa and Willett, and many, many plants.

## SUNSHINE

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*Sunshine* is an ode to the sun and the shades it beams throughout the world. The beginning displays the brightest of the sun: an infancy filled with hope and promise. As the piece continues, vibrant energy and happiness gazes throughout, leading to a tone shift infusing passion to a more intense color. Continuing in its forward direction, *Sunshine* reaches a moment of bliss- a moment of relaxation and concludes with a burst of colors represented by the motifs of the piece.

Carrollton, Georgia native, Katahj Copley (b. 1998) premiered his first work, *Spectra*, in 2017 and hasn’t stopped composing since. As of 2017, Katahj has written over 100 works, including pieces for chamber ensembles, large ensembles, wind ensembles, and orchestra. Katahj received two Bachelor of Music degrees from the University of West Georgia in Music Education and Composition in 2021. He is currently studying composition with Omar Thomas at the University of Texas at Austin. Aside from composing, Katahj is an excited educator who teaches young musicians the joy of discovering music and why music is a phenomenal language.

## SPIRALS OF LIGHT

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*Spirals of Light* is a work that is celebratory in nature and uses the many colors of the modern wind band. A rousing fanfare motive, a ubiquitous oscillating figure, and an Irish folk-style melody provide plenty of variety for the achieving ensemble.



Sean O'Loughlin (b.1972) is the Principal Pops Conductor of the Victoria Symphony and also of Symphoria in Syracuse, NY. As a composer and arranger, his music is characterized by vibrant rhythms, passionate melodies, and colorful scoring. Through his growing number of commissioned and published works, Sean is excited to continue contributing to the rich history of orchestral and wind band literature. Sean was a composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, and holds composition degrees from New England Conservatory and Syracuse University.

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## HELIOS: DAWN OF A NEW DAY

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Helios, Greek god of the sun, is said to ride in his chariot pulled by fiery steeds as he brings the sun across the sky each day. The energetic melodies of this piece capture the spirit of his magnificent journey with powerful fanfares depicting the moment the sun breaks over the horizon.

Jordan Sterk (b. 1990) received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Michigan State University. During his time at Michigan State he studied privately with Tuba and Euphonium Professor, Philip Sinder and Associate Professor of Music John T. Madden, amongst others. In his spare time Jordan enjoys composing music, arranging and drill writing. Jordan lives in Owosso, Michigan with his wife where he teaches beginning through high school band.

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## RITUAL FIRE DANCE

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'Ritual Fire Dance' is taken from Manuel de Falla's ballet *El Amor brujo* (1914-1915). The dance is mesmerizing and whirling, performed by the gypsies to exorcise a ghost; but it is also, like many other famous encores, a dramatic and exciting piece with a recognizable melody. *El Amor brujo* (Love Bewitched) had its world premiere in Madrid in 1915. Of the 13 movements, the Ritual Fire Dance is probably the best known. With sudden changes in dynamics and mood, the composer captures all the excitement of the Andalusian folk dance. Although considered a pure folklore piece by many, the ballet does not contain any authentic folk tunes. The subject of *El Amor brujo* was taken from folk legend and concerns Candelas, the beautiful Spanish heroine which is in love with the handsome Carmelo, the bullfighter. However, she cannot approach him because of the constant intervention of a ghost representing a curse on the family. In desperation, she turns to sorcery, and as the clock strikes midnight, does the Ritual Fire Dance in an effort to banish the evil spirit which is ruining her life.

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946) was one of the greatest Spanish composers. He studied piano with and composition as a child in Madrid. It was in 1907 that he went to Paris where he became friends with Debussy, Ravel and Dukas, who aided and encouraged him. Under their influence he adopted the principles of impressionism without, however, giving up his personal and national style. In 1939, at the end of the Spanish Civil War, disenchanted with the Spanish regime of Franco, he moved to Argentina where he lived the last years of his life in seclusion. The music of Manuel de Falla is rooted both in the folksongs of Spain and in the purest historical traditions of Spanish music.

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## AUTUMN LIGHT

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From the composer: "Autumn is my favorite season of the year, but its meaning and symbolism are always complicated in my mind. It

is a season of change, a season of colors, a season of darkness, and a season of mortality. As I have gotten older, the weight of time has grown heavier and heavier on my shoulders. We are all given one life, and no matter how well or poorly we live it, the seconds pass, the days pass, the seasons pass... and then it's over. *Autumn Light* is a meditation on all of this. The colors of the season, the slow descent into darkness, and the bittersweet nostalgia felt at time's passage are woven into its shifting orchestration, somber harmonies, moments of silence, and emotional framework. My intent is for the listener and performer to reflect on their lives and their finite natures."

Randall Standridge (b.1976) received his Bachelor's of Music Education from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor, before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his Master's in Music Composition, studying with Dr. Tom O'Connor and Dr. Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas with his husband and their very, very spoiled pets.

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## CONGA DEL FUEGO NUEVO

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*Conga del Fuego Nuevo* is an up-tempo and celebratory piece inspired by the Afro-Cuban conga, a popular style characterized by memorable tunes and exciting buildups, which Márquez integrates with ease into the piece. Conga is an uptempo, celebratory piece, bright and catchy, with the percussion section providing the signature kick at the end of the conga pattern.

Arturo Márquez (b. 1950) is a Mexican composer. He began his musical training in La Puente, California, in 1966, later studying piano and music theory at the Conservatory of Music of Mexico and also composition at the Taller de Composición of the Institute of Fine Arts of Mexico, in Paris privately with Jacques Castéride, and at the California Institute of the Arts.

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## FEVER

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"Fever" is a song written by Eddie Cooley and Otis Blackwell, who used the pseudonym John Davenport. It was originally recorded by American R&B singer Little Willie John for his debut album. It was received positively by music critics and included on several lists of the best songs during the time it was released. It has been covered by numerous artists from various musical genres, most notably by Peggy Lee, whose 1958 rendition became the most widely known version of "Fever" and the singer's signature song. Lee's version contained rewritten lyrics different from the original and an altered music arrangement.

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## EARTH, WIND & FIRE IN CONCERT

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Earth, Wind & Fire is an American band that has spanned the musical genres of R&B, soul, funk, jazz, disco, pop, rock, dance, Latin, and Afro pop. They have been described as one of the most innovative and commercially successful acts of all time. Rolling Stone called them "innovative, precise yet sensual, calculated yet galvanizing" and declared that the band "changed the sound of black pop." This medley is arranged by Richard Saucedo, and features the songs "September" and "Fantasy".

# Guest Artist



## HUGH STONE

Hugh Stone (he/him) is a native to his namesake, Houston, TX. Hugh is a showman through and through, and lives to make people smile. He's honored to have won Game of Kings Season Three and the title of Mister Lambda 2022. You can catch Hugh Stone performing regularly in the HTown Kings show at Pearl Bar and other venues around town.

Hugh's out-of-drag persona is Grace Gibson (she/her), also a native Houstonian. Grace is a Senior Talent Buyer at Stage Right based in Nashville and books concerts at the company's owned and operated venues across the southeast US. Grace graduated from Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and went on to get a Bachelor of Arts in Music Business from University of Texas at Austin. Grace currently sings with the Bering Church Choir and performs every chance she can get - from community theater to drag shows to karaoke. Most recently, Grace started a podcast and organization called Y'all Out, a platform designed to encourage intentional events and networking for the LGBTQIA+ community.

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

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

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In honor of our friend and colleague, Dave Wallis.  
We will miss you!!!

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## FEVER

Sponsored by Deborah Hirsch,  
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## THE FIREBIRD

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In honor of Rowan Shimer, grandson  
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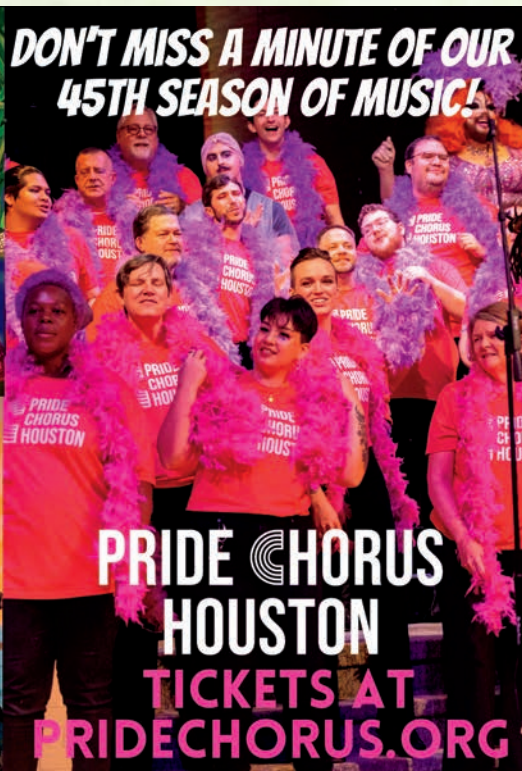
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# houston★pride★band

## our story

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

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

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

## mission

The mission of the Houston Pride Band is:

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

## membership & rehearsals

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

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



## PROUD MEMBER OF THE PRIDE BANDS ALLIANCE

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

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

## AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CONCERT BANDS

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

# houston pride band

## 2023-2024 SEASON

### 'T WAS THE NIGHT

HIGHLIGHTING FAVORITE HOLIDAY STORIES

SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 9 | 8PM

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