# UNDER

- The -

# MISTLETOE

## a concert by the houston \* pride \* band

December 16, 2017 · 7:00pm · MATCHouston

# FROM The PRESIDENT

Tam very excited to welcome you to the Houston Pride Band's 39th season! The holidays are upon us, and we are thrilled to have our family, friends, and fans come together tonight to celebrate this magical time of year.

Thanks to hurricane Harvey, our first concert of the year, The Stars at Night, had to be canceled on Labor Day Weekend. This was such a big disappointment for our band family, as that concert was part of the planned 2017 Lesbian & Gay Band Association annual conference here in Houston. I want to thank Russell Ben Williams and his committee who worked tirelessly for two years on the conference planning and all of the volunteers and donors who contributed to those efforts.

Also, this is our first performance since we lost our dear friend Debbie Hunt this summer. Debbie was the heart of our organization for over 25 years and tonight's performance is dedicated to her memory. She came out of the audience to join the percussion ensemble at our Tapas concert last May and we know her spirit will be with us again on cowbell tonight, and always.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the dedication and talent of our artistic director, Deborah Hirsch. She stepped into the role without hesitation when it became vacant in June 2016 and has been keeping our ship on course for almost two years. Our band family thanks Deborah for all of her hard work and vision.

As we come together during these complicated and sometimes uncertain times for our country, I hope tonight's celebration of family, friendship, and the holiday spirit will bring you peace and joy. On behalf of the entire Houston Pride Band, I want to with you all a safe and happy holiday season!



Chris Foster *V President, Houston Pride Band* 

# UNDER The MISTLETOE

program

Let the Bells Ring!

Passacaglia on an Old English Carol

Stille Nacht

arr. Robert Buckley

Robert Longfield

Ted Arthur

Franz Grüber arr. Chip Davis for Manheimm Steamroller arr. Robert Longfield for band

> arr. Chip Davis arr. Robert Longfield for band

Fanfare and Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

#### Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

The Gift Within

Kenneth Clayborne, Artistic Director Jason Plata, soloist Joe Tate, Principal Accompanist

Christmas on Broadway It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas • Pine Cones and Holly Berries • Toyland • March of the Toys My Favorite Things • We Need a Little Christmas • God Bless Us Everyone

featuring the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

#### intermission

Tidings!

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

#### Bering Memorial UMC Handbell Choir

featuring the Bering Memorial UMC Handbell Choir

In a Manger

Rob Seible, director

arr. Joel Raney

Norlan Bewley

leff Simmons

In the Christmas Mood A Holly Jolly Christmas • Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer • Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Frosty the Snowman • Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree

Grown-Up Christmas List

David Foster & Linda Thompson-Jenner arr. Michael Brown

Brooke Yahney, vocal solo

Santa Wants a Tuba for Christmas

Gonzalo Agudelo, vocal solo Chris Foster, tuba solo

Secret Agent Santa

Selections from The Polar Express

Glen Ballard & Alan Silvestri arr. Michael Story

The Polar Express • When Christmas Comes to Town • Hot Chocolate • Believe • Spirit of the Season

## houston\*pride\*band

#### flute/piccolo

Miles Davis Alex Martinez-Hage Sal Stow\* Samantha Vickery Paige Wallis

#### oboe

Hunter Cauble Josh Richards Lupe Ybarra-Regan

#### bassoon

David DiCamillo\* Becky Schlembach

#### clarinet

Joe Dombrowski William Fu\* Billy Gresham Leslie Jared Artezia Luna Chelsea Rasing Thomas Stubbs Jeffrey Taylor

#### bass clarinet

Nicolas Droger Justin Madden-Rhinehart

#### alto saxophone

Gonzalo Agudelo Fernando Arteaga Mark Bailes Edward Esguerra Kevin Taylor\* Matthew Williams

#### tenor saxophone

Adrian Leyva Raycheal Proctor

baritone saxophone

Lisa Mace

#### trumpet

Mary Beth Alsdorf Byron Aragon Francisco Bucio David Lea\* Jessie Meng Jennifer Watts

#### french horn

Jaunetta Cooper Jorge Gutierrez Justin Hensley Christopher Hodge\* Alexa Thibodeaux

#### trombone

Trudy J. Allen\* Chris Atieno Noel Freeman Chris Longoria Nicole Taylor Christopher Wells

#### euphonium

Ryan Horine\* Russell Ben Williams Brooke Yahney

#### tuba

Chris Foster Rudy Ramirez Brian Tighe

#### percussion

Lauren Anderson\* Lindsey Bavousett Andrew Chu Sharon Prince Jen Rodriguez Tony Tuckwiller Dave Wallis Laura Wiggs

\* Section Leader

#### board of directors spec

Chris Foster, President Adrian Leyva, Vice President Noel Freeman, Treasurer Christopher Hodge, Secretary Elizabeth De Los Rios, At-large William Fu, At-large Nicole Taylor, At-large Christopher Wells, At-large Brooke Yaney, At-large

#### s special thanks

To all of our volunteers: Cody Derrick Edward Gonzalez Kurt Grether Michael Moore Kenneth Regan-Ybarra Jason Vetsch

And to our audience

#### houstonprideband.org | facebook.com/houstonprideband



#### **Deborah Hirsch**

Artistic Director

ORIGINALLY FROM BALTIMORE, Maryland, Deborah Hirsch graduated from the University of Kansas with a 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.

#### Crawford Howell

Associate Conductor

**B**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 two cats, Madison and Bailey, and taking life a little slower. Crawford is happy to be playing Tuba in the Houston Pride Band and conducting a few pieces now and then.



LET THE BELLS RING is a dynamic setting of the famililar Ukrainian Bell Carol. Composer Mykola Leontovych first composed the song for choir in 1916. His choral work "Shchedryk", pairs a folk song and a separate four-note folk tune. In the 1930s, composer and conductor Peter J. Wilhousky adapted Leontovych's music, and added new English lyrics (unrelated to the original Ukrainian lyrics). This version has become a staple of the holiday repertoire. Robert Buckley is a sought-after composer and conductor in Canada, who also works with a variety of popular music acts and television companies. He is known for his song "This Is My Home" which has become a favorite patriotic anthem in Canada. He lives in Vancouver with his wife Marlise.

#### Passacaglia on an Old English Carol

Robert Longfield

PASSACAGLIA ON AN OLD ENGLISH CAROL is a set of variations based on the sixteenth-century Christmas hymn, "Coventry Carol." A passacaglia was originally a strummed interlude between instrumental dances or songs. In modern music, the term is often used to denote a piece that has a more or less fixed bass pattern that is repeated consecutively throughout most of the piece. **Robert Longfield** is an American composer, arranger, conductor, and educator best known for his compositions for concert band and string orchestra. He graduated from the University of Michigan and the University of Miami. He is retired from being the band and orchestra director at Miami Palmetto Senior High School and is currently the conductor of the Greater Miami Symphonic Band.

#### Stille Nacht

Franz Grüber arr. Chip Davis and Robert Longfield

ON CHRISTMAS EVE IN 1818, the assistant pastor in a small village church in the Austrian Alps wanted a

special service to honor his Lord. Church organist Franz X. Gruber (1787-1863) composed a tune to go with a poem the clergyman had written. "Stille Nacht" has been translated into over 200 languages and has become one of the most universal religious songs of Christmas.

Chip Davis (b. 1948) arranged this instrumental version. The driving force behind Mannheim Steamroller, Davis was among the pioneers of neo-classical electronic music, and helped give rise to the new age phenomenon. He graduated from the University of Michigan where he played in the marching band. He toured with the Norman Luboff Choir. He became famous under the name C.W. McCall for his country-oriented advertising jingles and popular CB song, "Convoy". Founder of American Gramafone records, he produces very successful albums under the name of "Fresh Aire by Mannheim Steamroller". He lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

#### Fanfare and Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. Chip Davis for Mannheim Steamroller arr. Robert Longfield for band

ADAPTED FROM THE MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CD A Fresh Aire Christmas, this is actually two publications in one. First is a glorious fanfare, listed on the CD as "Hark! The Herald Trumpets Sing." The fanfare is in the High Renaissance tradition of antiphonal brass choirs echoing one another. Next is a contemporary Mannheim treatment of the familiar carol, complete with a rock groove combining rhythmic and harmonic surprises.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is a Christmas carol that first appeared in 1739 in the collection *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, having been written by Charles Wesley. A somber man, Wesley had requested and received slow and solemn music for his lyrics, not the joyful tune expected today. The popular version is the result of alterations by various hands, most notably Felix Mendelssohn. A hundred years after the publication of *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, in 1840, Mendelssohn composed a cantata to commemorate Johann Gutenberg's invention of the printing press, and it is music from this cantata, adapted by the English musician William H. Cummings to fit the lyrics of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", that propels the carol known today.

#### **Christmas on Broadway**

arr. John Higgins

THE GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF HOUSTON, under the direction of Kenneth Clayborne, joins the Houston Pride Band for this rousing medey of holiday songs which originated on the Broadway stage. Included are: "It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas" and "Pine Cones and Holly Berries" from the 1963 Meredith Wilson musical *Here's Love*, "Toyland" and "March of the Toys" from the 1903 Victor Herbert operetta *Babes in Toyland*, "My Favorite Things" from the 1959 Rodgers & Hammerstein musical *The Sound of Music*, "We Need a Little Christmas" from the 1966 Jerry Herman musical *Mame*, and "God Bless Us Everyone" from the 1994 Alan Menken musical *A Christmas Carol*.

John Higgins is a managing producer/editor for Hal Leonard Corporation, the nation's largest publisher of printed music. He began in the music field as the student arranger for the University of Michigan Band under Dr. William D. Revelli, and gained invaluable experience as a public school music teacher in suburban Chicago. He is best known for his many compositions and arrangements for choirs, bands, and orchestras.

#### Tidings!

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

THE HOUSTON PRIDE BAND IS HAPPY to welcome the Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Handbell Choir under the directions of Rob Seible as our guests for Douglas E. Wagner's Tidings! This holiday medley includes "O Come, All Ye Faithful", "He is Born", "Silent Night", and "Joy to the World."

**Douglas E. Wagner**, is an internationally recognized composer and arranger. With 30 years as a high school music educator and administrator behind him, Doug now devotes all of his time and energy to writing, editing, and their allied activities. Doug resides in Indianapolis with his wife, Sandy, a professional lettering artist and music engraver.

#### In the Christmas Mood

arr. John Wasson

INSPIRED BY GLENN MILLER'S famous big band hit "In the Mood", this toe-tapping holiday medley brings together some of the 20th century's most popular songs and carols. Wrapped up in the big band style, you can listen for "A Holly Jolly Christmas", "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer", "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!", "Frosty the Snowman", and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree."

John Wasson is an award-winning composer, arranger, performer and conductor whose works have been performed by the Gatlin Brothrs, Tim McGraw, Tony Bennett, Harry Connick, Michael Bolton, Reba McIntyre, Frank Sinatra Jr., Mel Torme, Joel Gray, Liza Minelli and Bob Hope. Wasson studied at the University of North Texas where he earned degrees in Music Theory and Trombone Performance. For over 30 years he has been associated with the Dallas Brass both as a charter performing member and as primary composer/arranger of many works in their extensive repertoire.

#### **Grown-Up Christmas List**

David Foster & Linda Thompson-Jenner arr. Michael Brown

Grown-UP CHRISTMAS LIST was originally recorded by composer David Foster, with Natalie Cole on vocals, for his 1990 non-holiday album *River of Love*. In 1992, Amy Grant recorded a version for her second Christmas album, *Home for Christmas*. In 2003, former American Idol winner Kelly Clarkson performed "Grown-Up Christmas List" on the show's Christmas special, and was released on the album *American Idol: Great Holiday Classics*. Both records charted in the Billboard Top 20 in their respective years.

Michael Brown is a native of New Orleans and earned music theory degrees from the University of Texas and Furman University in Greenville, SC. He is currently Chief Arranger for The United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own") in Washington, DC. His arranging credits include: the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, the Opening Ceremonies of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, UT, the National Symphony Orchestra, and the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, DC. He draws upon his experience as a college and high school band director, church orchestra director, and freelance trumpeter.

#### Santa Wants a Tuba for Christmas

Norlan Bewley

THIS ORIGINAL SONG IS BY COMPOSER and low brass musician Norlan Bewley. The song and was performed by Bewley and famed tuba professor Harvey Phillips for many years at TubaChristmas events around the country. Originally written for a tuba/euphonium quartet with vocalist and tuba solo, Bewley recently arranged this version for concert band.

Norlan Bewley is a brass player specializing in performance on all of the low brass instruments. For the past twenty years he has had extensive experience teaching, performing on, and composing for low brass. Bewley is the founder and principal composer/arranger for UPBEAT BRASS. A former student and longtime professional colleague of Harvey Phillips, he serves as Associate Director of Harvey Phillips's tuba ensembles and projects. He was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for music composition in 2005.

#### Secret Agent Santa

Jeff Simmons

THIS FUN HOLIDAY MEDLEY takes a romp through the many musical motifs and clichés associated with secret agent films. Arranger Jeff Simmons has been writing band music for over 25 years and currently lives in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where he is a church music director and the keyboardist & saxophonist at the Carolina Opry.

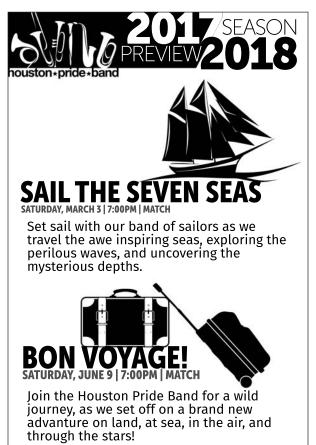
#### Selections from The Polar Express

Glen Ballard & Alan Silvestri arr. Michael Story

THIS PIECE IS A SUITE OF FIVE SONGS from the 2004 holiday film starring Tom Hanks. The movie, which

employed motion capture computer-animation, is based on the popular children's book of the same title by Chris Van Allsburg. The selections include "Believe" which earned a Grammy, "The Polar Express", "When Christmas Comes to Town", "Hot Chocolate", and "Spirit of the Season". The music was composed by veteran movie music writers Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard, and arranged for band by Michael Story.

Michael Story holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Music Education from the University of Houston, where he served as assistant director of the UH Cougar Marching Band under the leadership of Dr. William Moffit. He has over 1,200 compositions and arrangements published for concert band, marching band, jazz ensemble, and orchestra, as well as numerous solo and ensemble collections. He lives in Houston with his wife Iris.







THE HOUSTON PRIDE BAND will dearly miss our beloved friend, mentor, and fellow musician, Debbie Hunt.

Debbie, who ironically was a percussionist by

training, was the heartbeat of our organization for over 25 years. Along with her wife Connie, she brought fun, laughter, and love to both the Houston Pride Band and to our national parent organization, the Lesbian and Gay Band Association. She was with us, carrying the Houston Pride Band banner in the Houston Pride Parade last June. Beyond just being a key member of our ensemble and dearest friend, Debbie was a part of a trailblazing

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For more info visit: bcpahouston.org/audition duo of attorneys who fought for almost three decades for the rights of families of all kinds in Houston.

The Moore and Hunt firm was known for practicing family law for ALL families. Debbie worked primarily on estate planning, putting documents in place for unexpected events and making sure that each person's rights were protected in the event of disability or death. In the last few years of her career she also worked in the area of family formation for those clients using assisted reproduction technology and surrogacy. Together Connie & Debbie represented thousands of clients with a primary goal of assuring that sexual orientation and gender identification were not a deterrent to effective legal representation and outcomes.



welcomed and celebrated, including you. It doesn't matter who you are or what you have done or what has been done to you—we have a place for you—if you are black, brown, white, red, yellow or anything in between, gay, straight, bisexual, lesbian or transgender, Native American or immigrant, lay or clergy, male or female, young, old, abled or differently-abled, poor or rich, short, tall, wide or deep, you are not only welcome here, you are celebrated here.



# 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:

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

#### membership + rehearsals

The Houston Pride Band is open to all brass, woodwind, and percussion players of all skill levels. The band rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at The Houston School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA), 4001 Stanford Street in Montrose.

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### proud member of the Lesbian and Gay Band Association

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 Music. Visibility. Pride. movement. Member bands across the country appear in hundreds of concerts,

parades, and community events every year. For more information, visit www.gaybands.org.

### and the Association of Concert Bands

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



## The Houston Pride Band thanks our generous 2017-2018 Season Donors & Sponsors

#### Composer

\$10,000+ Debbie Hunt & Arabia Vargas Art McGimsey in memory of Beverly McGimsey

#### Conductor

\$5,000-9,999 Bunnies On The Bayou, Inc. Joe W. Dombrowski William Fu

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