the houston★pride★band presents

INTO THE VOID

A MUSICAL JOURNEY THAT WILL TRANSPORT YOU THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

Sunday, October 4, 2026 · 4PM

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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the **Hobby Center** and the **Houston Pride Band's 2026-2027 concert season!** Help us kick off our 49th season with a Big Bang as we dive into a universe beyond the limits of our imagination with **"Into the Void."**

We have a great year ahead, not only with our upcoming concerts, but also with performances around the community. Our **Marching Band** will be performing at the **Third Coast Pride Parade** in Galveston on **Sunday, October 18th.** And the band will once again be performing at **The Woodlands Pride Festival** on **Saturday, October 31st**. Be sure to support our band at these events!

Our concert season continues with TWO chances to get into the holiday spirit! Take a ride on **"The Fruitcake Express"** at **MATCH** on **Saturday, December 5th** and **Sunday, December 6th**. You won't want to miss our annual holiday concert – tickets go on sale soon!

We'll be back here at **Zilkha Hall at the Hobby Center** to finish our season with two more concerts – **"Chef's Kiss"** on **Sunday, April 4th** and **"Pride Island" on Sunday, June 6th**. Tickets are on sale now, so get yours now to get the best seats!

The Houston Pride Band had its first performance in 1978, so our 50th anniversary is coming up! Plans are underway to celebrate this important milestone with special events and a commemorative concert. Make sure you follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and go to our website to subscribe to email updates to keep up with the latest on our 50th season and our upcoming events and performances.be.

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 **houstonprideband.org/donate** to make additional contributions and check out the other giving and sponsorship opportunities within this program for ways to support our organizationanization.

Yours in PRIDE,

Jason Svatek, President
Houston Pride Band



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INTO THE VOID

DEBORAH HIRSCH & ANTHONY MORRIS, CONDUCTORS

PROGRAM

Also Sprach Zarathustra — **Richard Strauss**
arr. Robert Longfield

Prelude in E-flat Minor, Op. 34, No. 14 — **Dmitry Shostakovich**
tr. H. Robert Reynolds

Overture from "Dancer in the Dark" — **Björk**
arr. Dwayne S. Milburn

Journey Through Orion — **Julie Giroux**

Dreamsong — **Richard L. Saucedo**
Sharon Prince, piano

Urban Light — **James M. David**

- INTERMISSION -

Begin Transmission — **John Herndon**
percussion ensemble

The Imperial March (Darth Vader's Theme) — **John Williams**
arr. Paul Murtha

PAPER CUT — **Alex Shapiro**

Doctor Who: Through Time and Space — **Murray Gold**
arr. Robert Buckley

Into the Unknown ***from Frozen II*** — **Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez**
arr. Paul Murtha

The Time Warp — **Richard O'Brien**
arr. Tom Wallace

A Dolly Parton Tribute — **arr. Noel A. Freeman**
world premiere

Rocketship! — **Kevin Day**

houston★pride★band

PERFORMING MEMBERS

FLUTE/PICCOLO
Clara Altfeld
Lisa Brown
Christi Gell
Rocky Gonzales
Theo Harrison*
Jadie Marshall Azevedo
Sofia Perugini
Gabriel Rodriguez
Elworth Wilcox
Josh Wunderlich

OBOE
Travis Seamons
James Tichy
Lupe Ybarra-Regan

BASSOON
Fernando Alvarez
Alejandro Cruz
David DiCamillo
Becky Schlembach*

CLARINET
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Myra Bozeman
Delvin Coleman
Sabrina Dean-Serrano
Hayden Forsythe
William Fu*
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Sharon Prince
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PIANO
Sharon Prince

** Section Leader*

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



DEBORAH HIRSCH
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Deborah Hirsch, originally from Baltimore, Maryland, earned her bachelor's degrees in music therapy and music education from the University of Kansas, followed by a master's degree in music from Texas A&M University–Commerce. Prior to moving to Texas, she proudly served as a member of the 312th Army Band in Lawrence, Kansas.

After a distinguished 37-year career, Deborah retired from the Pasadena Independent School District, where she was honored as "Teacher of the Year" in 2014. Throughout her career, she was known for her dedication to student success, musical excellence, and community engagement.

In retirement, Deborah remains an active and passionate musician and conductor. She continues to clinic and conduct Region and Honor Bands across the area and has participated in conducting symposia at the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of Missouri–Kansas City Conservatory. At the Conn-Selmer Institute, she had the opportunity to study, collaborate, and consult with many esteemed leaders in music education, including Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser, Dr. Paula A. Crider, Frank Troyka, Michael Sweeney, and Richard Saucedo.

Always eager to embrace new opportunities, Deborah has performed in World Pride parades in New York City and Washington, D.C., as well as the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. She is honored to make her third appearance on the podium at a Pride Bands Alliance Conference this May in Philadelphia and looks forward to marching in the Rose Parade in January.

Deborah is an active clinician, mentor, and adjudicator. She maintains professional memberships in the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Women Band Directors International, and the Texas Music Adjudicators Association.

In addition to her musical endeavors, Ms. Hirsch is a member of the chancel choir and bell choir at Bering Memorial United Church of Christ and a member of Pasadena Little Theatre.



ANTHONY MORRIS
ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Anthony Morris is a conductor, educator, and advocate. He is the Associate Artistic Director of the Houston Pride Band and the Assistant Director of Bands at Null Middle School in Houston, Texas.

Before joining HPB and NMS, he was a Master's Conducting Associate at the University of Georgia, where he assisted in teaching beginning and advanced conducting courses, conducted the five performing ensembles, and served as a teaching assistant for the Redcoat Marching Band. He has received the opportunity to conduct the United States Air Force Band as a United States Air Force Conducting Fellow. He has also appeared as a guest conductor with the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" and was named a Conducting Fellow for the H. Robert Reynolds Conducting Institute at the 76th Annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.

His passion for music education has led him to create the Relative Pitch Podcast, which discusses modern issues regarding music education and helps pave the way for much-needed change to make a more diverse, enriching, and equitable music community. Through his advocacy efforts, he has presented sessions at the Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic, the College Band Directors National Association Conference, the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference, and the Florida Music Education Association Conference.

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PROGRAM NOTES

COMPILED BY THEO HARRISON

ALSO SPRACH ZARATHUSTRA

Richard Strauss's ***Also sprach Zarathustra*** was inspired by the philosophical writings of Friedrich Nietzsche and is famous for its monumental opening, "Sunrise." Its powerful brass proclamation has become one of classical music's most recognizable moments, particularly after its use in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Robert Longfield's arrangement brings the grandeur and drama of Strauss's orchestral masterpiece to the concert band.

PRELUDE IN E-FLAT MINOR, OP. 34, NO. 14

Written in 1932–33 as part of Shostakovich's set of 24 Preludes for piano, this ***Prelude*** stands apart for its dark, introspective, and deeply dramatic character. In only a few minutes, Shostakovich creates a remarkable emotional journey, beginning with a quiet and somber melody before building toward an intense and powerful climax, then gradually returning to the subdued atmosphere of its opening. H. Robert Reynolds's transcription transforms the original piano work into a rich wind ensemble setting, allowing the music's shifting colors and dramatic contrasts to take on new dimensions. The result is a work that moves from quiet reflection through anguish and intensity before finding a final moment of uneasy repose.

OVERTURE FROM "DANCER IN THE DARK"

Björk composed the music for Lars von Trier's 2000 film *Dancer in the Dark*, which follows Selma, a Czech immigrant and single mother who is gradually losing her eyesight due to a hereditary condition. As her vision deteriorates, Selma escapes the difficulties of her everyday life by imagining the world around her as a musical, finding moments of beauty and wonder even as her circumstances become increasingly tragic. The ***Overture*** introduces this musical world, beginning quietly before unfolding into a rich and haunting soundscape. Its recurring melody returns throughout the film, ultimately connecting the opening music to Selma's final moments and reflecting the contrast between the darkness of her reality and the vibrant inner world she creates through music.

JOURNEY THROUGH ORION

Inspired by photographs captured by the Hubble Space Telescope, Julie Giroux's ***Journey Through Orion*** takes listeners on a musical voyage approximately 1,500 light-years from Earth into the constellation Orion. The music explores the breathtaking Orion Molecular Cloud Complex, including the Great Orion Nebula, Barnard's Loop, M78, M43, and the famous Horsehead Nebula. Giroux describes these celestial images as a source of endless fascination and imagines the music as a journey through a place where "stars and ideas are born." Commissioned by the Association of Concert Bands and premiered in 2006, the work transforms the vastness, mystery, and beauty of deep space into an exhilarating musical experience.

DREAMSONG

Richard Saucedo's ***Dreamsong*** is a lyrical work originally inspired by his daughter, Carmen. Saucedo initially titled the piece *Little One's Dream*, reflecting his belief that a child will always remain their parent's "little one," regardless of age. Featuring a gentle and expressive piano solo accompanied by the concert band, the music reflects the tenderness, hope, and encouragement of a parent supporting a child as they pursue their dreams. At its heart, ***Dreamsong*** is a musical expression of unconditional love and the belief that we should always encourage those we love to reach for their dreams.

URBAN LIGHT

James M. David's ***Urban Light*** captures the energy, movement, and ever-changing atmosphere of a city after dark. Driving rhythms and vibrant musical textures evoke the constant motion of streets filled with people, vehicles, and lights, while contrasting lyrical moments offer glimpses of the quieter side of urban life. The music continually shifts between excitement and reflection, creating a musical portrait of a city that never seems to stop moving. ***Urban Light*** invites listeners to imagine the sights, sounds, and stories unfolding beneath the glow of a city skyline.

BEGIN TRANSMISSION

John Herndon's ***Begin Transmission*** is an energetic introduction to the world of percussion ensemble music. Built around a simple theme derived from the first five notes of the D-minor scale, the piece develops through changing rhythms, textures, and instrumental colors. Performers shift between instruments and playing techniques, creating a constantly evolving musical conversation. With its infectious energy and steady forward momentum, ***Begin Transmission*** invites listeners to experience the many possibilities of percussion.

THE IMPERIAL MARCH (DARTH VADER'S THEME)

Few film themes are as instantly recognizable as John Williams's ***The Imperial March***, first introduced in *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* in 1980. Built around a dark, imposing melody and a relentless march rhythm, the music represents Darth Vader and the intimidating power of the Galactic Empire. Williams's use of this recurring theme is an excellent example of a musical leitmotif — a melody associated with a particular character, place, or idea. Paul Murtha's arrangement brings the unmistakable power and drama of this iconic theme to the concert band stage.

PAPER CUT

Alex Shapiro's ***Paper Cut*** invites musicians and audiences to discover music in one of the most ordinary objects around us: a simple sheet of paper. The piece combines prerecorded electronic sounds, paper, and concert band instruments, with performers using paper to create a surprising variety of rhythms, textures, and sounds before the traditional instruments enter. Inspired in part by the sounds and possibilities of everyday objects, Shapiro challenges us to reconsider what can be a musical instrument and what music can be. With its playful energy and unexpected sounds, ***Paper Cut*** turns an ordinary piece of paper into an essential part of the performance.

DOCTOR WHO: THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

Since its debut in 1963, *Doctor Who* has taken audiences on adventures across time and space with the Doctor, a mysterious Time Lord who travels the universe in the TARDIS, encountering friends, enemies, and civilizations along the way. This arrangement by Robert Buckley brings together several of Murray Gold's dramatic and memorable themes from the modern *Doctor Who* series, including music associated with the Doctor, the Cybermen, the Daleks, Rose, and Martha. From the otherworldly opening theme to moments of suspense, heroism, and adventure, the music captures the wonderfully unpredictable spirit of the Doctor's travels. Allons-y!

INTO THE UNKNOWN

Featured in Disney's *Frozen II*, ***Into the Unknown*** finds Elsa struggling with a mysterious voice calling her beyond the familiar world she has built for herself. Although she initially resists the call, she ultimately chooses to follow it, setting out on a journey of discovery that will change everything she knows about herself and her past. The song explores the very human tension between the comfort of what we know and the uncertainty of what lies ahead. Paul Murtha's energetic arrangement captures Elsa's growing determination as she finds the courage to answer the call and venture into the unknown.

THE TIME WARP

Few songs are as instantly recognizable—and as irresistibly fun—as ***The Time Warp*** from *The Rocky Horror Show* and its 1975 film adaptation, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Made famous by Tim Curry in his iconic portrayal of Dr. Frank-N-Furter, the song captures the outrageous, theatrical, and wonderfully unconventional spirit that has made *Rocky Horror* a cultural phenomenon. We are proud to include ***The Time Warp*** on this concert in celebration of Tim Curry's remarkable life and career and the lasting impact he has had on generations of performers and audiences. Tom Wallace's arrangement brings that same campy, high-energy spirit to the concert band stage—so get ready to jump to the left, and then a step to the right!

A DOLLY PARTON TRIBUTE

Few artists have left a mark on American music and culture as lasting as Dolly Parton. A gifted songwriter, performer, actress, and philanthropist, Dolly built a seven-decade career defined by unforgettable melodies, heartfelt storytelling, quick wit, and an unmistakable larger-than-life personality. This medley celebrates several sides of her remarkable musical legacy, from the playful attitude of "Why'd You Come in Here Lookin' Like That" and the irreverent humor of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" to the timeless beauty of "I Will Always Love You" and the enduring anthem "9 to 5." In honor of Dolly's passing, we celebrate not only the music she gave us, but also the joy, generosity, resilience, and unapologetic individuality that made her such a beloved figure to generations of people.

ROCKETSHIP!

Kevin Day's ***Rocketship!*** is an energetic and vibrant work that captures the excitement of a rocket launch from countdown to liftoff. Written in 2017 for Paul Rosales and the students of William James Middle School in Fort Worth, the piece combines driving rhythmic patterns, powerful harmonies, and rapidly shifting musical ideas to create a sense of constant motion. A prominent marching snare drum passage adds to the feeling of anticipation and propulsion as the music builds toward its exhilarating conclusion. Like a rocket blasting beyond the atmosphere, ***Rocketship!*** takes listeners on a fast-paced musical journey that ultimately reaches its destination: the stars.

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DOCTOR WHO: THROUGH TIME AND SPACE

Douglas Goff & Dalian Payne
Nikolai Robinson

A DOLLY PARTON TRIBUTE

Nate Jones - In honor of the HPB Trombones.

DREAMSONG

Christi Gell
Sharon Prince - In memory of Bob Manchester.

INTO THE UNKNOWN

Deborah Hirsch - In grateful appreciation to the band for your endless enthusiasm and dedication.

JOURNEY THROUGH ORION

Crawford Howell - In honor of my dear friends Karen Parmley & Mike Doggett.
Brianna Hemeyer-Taylor - In honor of the Taylor Family.

PAPER CUT

Ellen Winters

PRELUDE IN E-FLAT MINOR, OP. 34, NO. 14

Fernando Alvarez

THE TIME WARP

Lisa & Steve White - In honor of our daughter, percussionist Lauren Anderson.
Ellen Winters

URBAN LIGHT

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our story

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

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

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

mission

The mission of the Houston Pride Band is:

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

membership & rehearsals

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

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PROUD MEMBER OF THE PRIDE BANDS ALLIANCE

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

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

AND THE ASSOCIATION OF CONCERT BANDS

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

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