

the houston pride band presents

IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS

ENTER A MUSICAL REALM
OF MAGIC AND MYSTERY



Saturday, April 18, 2026 • 7PM

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 **Zilkha Hall at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts!** We're so thrilled you've joined us here as we begin a new chapter of entertaining you with exciting performances – starting tonight with **In Your Wildest Dreams**. Our concert explores the far reaches of human imagination through a genre-spanning musical voyage about the world we enter when we close our eyes.

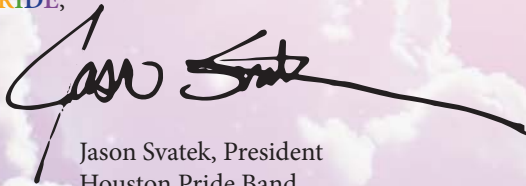
Pride Season is right around the corner – and earlier than ever here in Houston! Don't miss our marching band leading off the **48th Annual Official Houston LGBT+ Pride Parade on Saturday, June 6th**. Be sure stop by our booth at the pride festival to say hi and learn more about us – and pick up some band swag!

Our concert season concludes **Sunday, June 21st** as we present “**Pride and Passion**” here at the Hobby Center. The band will turn up the heat at a summer concert celebrating joy, love, and unequivocally living your truth – get your tickets now!

If you don't already, be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and visit our website to subscribe to email updates and receive information about the band and our upcoming events and performances. You can also scan the QR code below to subscribe.

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 organization.

Yours in **PRIDE**,



Jason Svatek, President
Houston Pride Band



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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.



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IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS

DEBORAH HIRSCH & ANTHONY MORRIS, CONDUCTORS

PROGRAM

Raging Machines _____ Brian Balmages

Dragonfall _____ Huy Nguyen

I. Warhead world premiere
IV. River Road
Alicia Chew, soprano & Tommie Trinh, tenor

On Shores of Endless Sea _____ Kevin Day

Skyward _____ Katahji Copley

Ogres and Goblins and Trolls, Oh My! _____ Julie Giroux

It's Raining Men _____ Paul Jabara & Paul Schaffer
arr. Frank Bernaerts

- INTERMISSION -

The Right Stuff _____ Bill Conti
arr. Jiří Kabát

Ad Astra Per Aspera (To the Stars Through Adversity) _____ Noel A. Freeman
world premiere

Where Dreams Dance _____ Nathan Daughtrey
Eric Wilson, euphonium

Golden _____ Ejae, Mark Sonnenblick, Ido, 24 and Teddy Park
arr. Paul Murtha

For Good _____ Stephen Schwartz
arr. Michael Brown

Illumination _____ David Maslanka

houston★pride★band

PERFORMING MEMBERS

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Clara Altfeld
Nicholas Davila
Christi Gell
Rocky Gonzales
Amanda Hager
Jadie Marshall
Zoë Myers
Huy Nguyen
Gabriel Rodriguez
Elworth Wilcox III

OBOE

Michael Moreau-Monier
Travis Seamons

BASSOON

Fernando Alvarez
Alejandro Cruz
David DiCamillo
Sam Hardcastle
Becky Schlembach*

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Delvin Coleman
Sabrina Dean-Serrano
William Fu*
Michelle Godwin
Juan Guerrero
Kamah Asha Lovelle
Jordan Pachuca
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Anthony Fernández

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Lisa Mace

TRUMPET

Mary Beth Alsdorf
George Gehring
Douglas Goff
Rose Kantorczyk
Kyle Marx
Jessie Meng
Josh Poff
Alex Rangel
Bree Rowan
Kyra Stafford
Tracie Taylor

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Henry Butler
Vincent Calpito
Beck Haynes
Jimmy Huynh
Alonzo Martínez
Justine Moore
Omar Polio
Jake Watson
Eric Weidner*
Justin Whitford

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Brooke Yahney

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.

PROGRAM NOTES

COMPILED BY THEO HARRISON

RAGING MACHINES

Raging Machines is an intense and electrifying work by Brian Balmages that captures the relentless power of mechanical motion. Driven by aggressive rhythms, sharp accents, and bold percussion, the music evokes the image of massive machines in constant motion. Contrasting sections provide brief moments of tension before the energy surges forward again with unstoppable force. The result is a thrilling, high-impact piece that showcases precision, power, and raw energy.

DRAGONFALL

Ha Long Bay (Vịnh Hạ Long) is a striking natural landmark in northeastern Vietnam. Its name translates to “descending dragon,” reflecting the landscape of towering limestone formations rising from calm waters. Over centuries, several legends have formed around these islands and caves, each inspiring a movement of *Dragonfall*.

Movement I: Warhead – Inspired by the legend of the Đầu Gỗ (Wooden Stakes) Cave, this movement uses angular brass and percussion writing to depict wooden stakes emerging from the water to defeat invading ships.

Movement IV: River Road – Based on the legend of Hang Trống and Hang Trinh Nữ (Drum and Virgin Caves), this movement tells a tragic love story marked by separation and fate. A fisherman and his love are unable to reunite, and the inclusion of two vocalists helps evoke the emotional and cultural essence of this Vietnamese legend.

ON SHORES OF ENDLESS SEA

On Shores of Endless Sea is a sweeping and expressive work by Kevin Day that captures the vastness and mystery of the ocean. Through rich harmonies and expansive melodies, the music evokes rolling waves, distant horizons, and moments of quiet reflection. The piece balances power and lyricism, gradually building to emotional peaks before receding into calm. Ultimately, it invites listeners to contemplate both the beauty and immensity of the natural world.

SKYWARD

Skyward by Katah J Copley is an energetic and uplifting work that captures the feeling of rising, striving, and

reaching toward something greater. Built on driving rhythms and bold harmonic motion, the music creates a sense of constant forward momentum and ascent. Soaring melodic lines and powerful ensemble writing evoke the imagery of flight and limitless possibility. The piece ultimately serves as a celebration of ambition, growth, and the drive to rise “skyward” beyond boundaries.

OGRES AND GOBLINS AND TROLLS, OH MY!

Ogres and Goblins and Trolls, Oh My! is a whimsical and imaginative work by Julie Giroux that brings a fantastical world of mischievous creatures to life. Through playful contrasts, shifting moods, and colorful orchestration, the music paints vivid scenes of sneaky goblins, lumbering ogres, and chaotic troll antics. Giroux’s signature humor and creativity shine through in the unexpected twists and lively character changes. Both entertaining and theatrical, the piece invites audiences on a magical, slightly mischievous adventure.

IT'S RAINING MEN

Originally recorded by The Weather Girls, *It’s Raining Men* is an iconic disco hit known for its bold energy and infectious groove. In this arrangement, Frank Bernaerts brings the song’s signature style to the ensemble with driving rhythms, punchy brass lines, and vibrant textures. The music captures the carefree spirit and theatrical flair of the original while offering performers a chance to showcase both precision and personality. Fun, flashy, and full of attitude, this arrangement is sure to leave audiences energized and smiling.

THE RIGHT STUFF

The Right Stuff, originally composed by Bill Conti for the film of the same name, captures the bravery and determination of the early American astronauts. This arrangement by Jiri Kabat brings the iconic score to the concert stage, highlighting its bold brass fanfares and driving rhythms. The music reflects both the tension and triumph of space exploration, building a sense of anticipation and heroic resolve. With its powerful themes and cinematic energy, the piece celebrates the courage it takes to push beyond the limits and reach for the unknown.

AD ASTRA PER ASPERA

Ad Astra Per Aspera is a fantastic adventure inspired by the triumphs and tragedies of space flight. It takes the listener on a journey that begins with sunrise over the cape, and out of this sunrise excitement builds as our craft makes its steady march to the pad. Just as we get a moment to hold our breath in anticipation, the power and awe of the launch take over as the craft soars toward the stars and enters orbit. Finally, we experience the triumphant return of the craft to Earth and celebrate a glorious mission accomplished.

WHERE DREAMS DANCE

Where Dreams Dance by Nathan Daughtrey is a lyrical and expressive work that explores a dreamlike sound world filled with motion and imagination. Featuring a prominent solo euphonium, the piece highlights the instrument's warm, singing tone as it weaves through flowing melodies and shimmering ensemble textures. The music shifts between moments of gentle reflection and sweeping, more intense passages, creating a vivid sense of emotional contrast. Ultimately, the work invites listeners into a space where dreams seem to come alive in motion, guided by the expressive voice of the solo euphonium.

GOLDEN

Golden is a high-energy pop anthem from *KPop Demon Hunters* that represents the central goal of the film's heroes—to fulfill their destiny and bring harmony to their world. The song serves as an “I want” moment in the story, expressing both confidence and inner struggle as the characters strive to overcome darkness and discover their true selves. Paul Murtha's arrangement captures the excitement and drive of the original, translating its infectious rhythms and soaring melodies into a powerful showcase for ensemble performance. With its blend of intensity, emotion, and pop-inspired energy, *Golden* stands as both an empowering anthem and a celebration of resilience and unity.

FOR GOOD

For Good, from the Broadway musical *Wicked*, is a heartfelt ballad by Stephen Schwartz that reflects on the lasting impact of friendship. In this arrangement, Michael Brown preserves the song's emotional core

while crafting a lyrical showcase for concert band, emphasizing tone, balance, and expressive phrasing. The music unfolds with warmth and sincerity, gradually building to a powerful, unified statement. At its heart, the piece reminds us how meaningful connections can change us “for good,” leaving a lasting imprint long after the moment has passed.

ILLUMINATION

Illumination is a powerful and uplifting work that reflects David Maslanka's deeply expressive musical voice. The piece unfolds through radiant, chorale-like passages, gradually building from moments of quiet reflection into bold, triumphant statements. Showcasing the vibrant experience of bringing light and “lighting up,” the music captures both a sense of joy and emotional intensity. Through rich harmonies and expansive phrasing, Maslanka invites listeners on a journey toward clarity, renewal, and an overwhelming sense of brightness and hope.



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GUEST ARTISTS



ALICIA MOORE CHEW, SOPRANO

Alicia Moore Chew, lyric-coloratura soprano, has masqueraded as Susanna in *Le Nozze de Figaro*, Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance* with companies in Florida, Texas, and Ohio. The Houston native has also appeared in concert with the Austin Symphony Orchestra, San Antonio Opera Guild, Laredo Philharmonic, Irving Symphony Orchestra, and The Woodlands Orchestra/Chorale. During her academic years in Texas and Ohio, Ms. Chew received various awards and scholarships, which concluded with her Master's degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. For the past several years, Ms. Chew has enjoyed conducting the Houston Tuesday Musical Club Chorus, as well as her collaboration with Houston's Lone Star Lyric Theater *Summer Opera Festival* as singer and Costume Designer.



TOMMIE TRINH, TENOR

Tommie Trinh is a baritone and middle school choir director from the Houston area. Tommie received his BM in Music Education in 2015 from the University of Houston, studying in the vocal studio of Dr. Timothy Jones. At UH, he sang with the Concert Chorale, the UH a cappella small groups, and in roles and opera choruses in many productions at the Moores Opera Center. Nowadays, most of Tommie's vocal experience is spent in the choir classroom at First Colony Middle School, where his groups have received prestigious invitations to perform at the TMEA and SWACDA conventions. Tommie also sings in the Suono Chamber Choir, a Houston-based choral group composed of primarily professional vocalists that meets every summer. When he is not singing or teaching choirs, you can often find Tommie taking on an ambitious baking challenge in the kitchen or laying on the couch with his cats, Tuna and Scoodles.



ERIC WILSON, EUPHONIUM

Eric Wilson is a euphoniumist and music educator from Houston, Texas. He holds a Music Education degree from the University of Houston, and currently teaches band at a Houston area public school. Eric has a deep passion for music and a love for performing, and he is very excited to be soloing with the ensemble today!

NOEL FREEMAN, COMPOSER

Noel Freeman is an award-winning composer, arranger, and trombonist. He has composed and arranged works for wind band, orchestra, small ensembles, and solo instruments which have been performed around the world. In addition to being a member of the Houston Pride Band since 2007, he is in his fifth season with the Conroe Symphony Orchestra where he serves as bass trombonist. He holds a B.M. in trombone performance from Sam Houston State University and is currently completing a M.M. in Theory-Composition at Stephen F. Austin State University under the mentorship of Dr. Stephen Lias.

HUY NGUYEN, COMPOSER

Nguyen is an emerging composer, educator, and performer based here in Houston, TX. He earned his Bachelor's in Education and Composition from the University of Houston and is currently working as an Elementary Music Teacher in Klein ISD. Nguyen has recently intersected Vietnamese into his work, presenting on Vietnamese children's music at the 2026 Texas Music Educators Conference as well as showcasing another work, *Sharing Che*, a choral piece that will be sung by the alumnus of the Southeast Texas Kodaly Certification Program. Nguyen is also a dedicated performer, previously a Board Member for The Prevailing Winds, he now finds community in both the Houston Pride Band and the recently established Houston Pride Orchestra. Juggling teaching, writing, and performing, Nguyen strives to excel in each facet of his musical career.

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GOLDEN

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ILLUMINATION

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To the Houston Pride Band, thank you for the joy brought to me and so many others!

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Sponsored by Bruce D Kelton

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Sponsored by Jerry Johnson
In honor of Dr. John D. Radcliffe

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Deborah Hirsch is sneaky!

Becoming
a realtor
in 2020

Being a member
of the
Houston Pride Band
since 2015.

Being retired
from education
for 11 years.

Still
fighting
for LGBTQ+
rights
in
2026!

Being
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Human!

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are now
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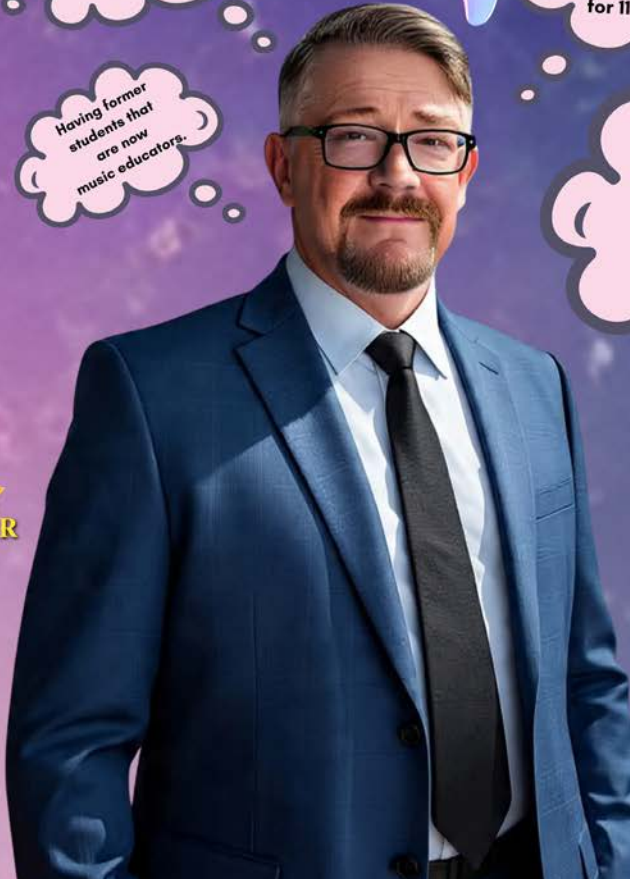
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OFFICIAL VEHICLE OF THE HOBBY CENTER

SUNDAY
JUNE 21, 2026
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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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