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PRIDE CELEBRATES!

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June 21, 2025
8PM • MATCH

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy **PRIDE** everyone! The **Houston Pride Band** welcomes you to Pride Celebrates! It's been an amazing season, and what better way to finish than with a musical celebration spanning decades and genres to capture the energy and thrills of our favorite month of the year.

This year, Pride Season is more important than ever. With so many attacks on our community, Pride is an opportunity to show our unity and visibility peacefully through love, joy, and music. We hope you'll be there to cheer for the band as we lead off the **47th Annual Official Houston LGBT+ Pride Parade on Saturday, June 28th**. Be sure stop by our booth at the pride festival to say hi and learn more about us – and pick up some band swag!

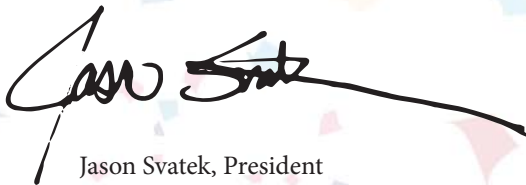
Tonight the band has its last performance under the baton of **Artistic Director David Alesco** before he begins his doctorate program in Kansas City this fall. For the past seven years, David has worked tirelessly to raise the quality of the band. He has challenged the band and, under his leadership alongside Deborah, the band has grown in ability and stature. David, thank you for sharing your energy and musicianship with the band each week, and we wish you all the best in this next chapter.

We are also excited to announce our concert dates for the upcoming **2025-2026 Season!** Season ticket packages will be available this summer – be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and go to our website to subscribe to email updates about our upcoming events and performances!

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 opportunities within this program for ways to support our organization.

Wishing you a safe and happy **PRIDE** and a wonderful summer!

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.



SUBSCRIBE

PRIDE CELEBRATES!

DAVID ALESCO & DEBORAH HIRSCH,
CONDUCTORS

PROGRAM

Rise: A Gay Games Anthem _____ Rossano Galante

Molly on the Shore _____ Percy Aldridge Grainger
Jordan Raabe, clarinet

As Summer Was Just Beginning (Song for James Dean) _____ Larry D. Daehn

Rhapsody in Blue _____ George Gershwin
Sharon Prince, piano
Jordan Raabe, clarinet
arr. Robert Longfield

Woman _____ Erin Keeton-Howard
Commissioned in consortium by
David Alesco, Deborah Hirsch, and the Houston Pride Band

- INTERMISSION -

The Cowboys, from *The Cowboy and The Girl* _____ John Williams
arr. Jim Curnow

Halcyon Hearts _____ Katahji Copley

A Night in Tunisia _____ John "Dizzy" Gillespie & Frank Paparelli
arr. Paul Murtha

Barbie's World _____ arr. Michael Brown

ABBA Gold _____ arr. Ron Sebregts

Music from *Wicked* _____ Stephen Schwartz
arr. Michael Sweeney

houston★pride★band

PERFORMING MEMBERS

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Lisa Brown
Nicholas Davila
Christi Gell
Rocky Gonzales
Sam Hardcastle
Theo Harrison*
Jadie Marshall
Huy Nguyen
Hannah Rae Melis
Gregory Obregon
Gabe Rodríguez
Elworth Wilcox III

OBOE

Michael Moreau-Monier
Travis Seamons

BASSOON

Fernando Alvarez
David DiCamillo
Becky Schlembach*

E-FLAT CLARINET

Theo Harrison

CLARINET

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Travis Howell*
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Billy Skembo
Daniel Stover
Kevin Taylor

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Anthony Fernández
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Lisa Mace

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Chris Foster*
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Brian Tighe

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David Booth
Andrew Christian
Carson Clifton
Jose Garza
Christian Hopkins
Sharon Prince
Abel Rocha
Jen Rodríguez*
Tony Tuckwiller

PIANO

Carson Clifton
Sharon Prince

* Section Leader



ARTISTIC DIRECTORS



DAVID ALESCO

David Alesco (Lea) is in his ninth season with the Houston Pride Band and has served as Co-Artistic Director since 2018. During his tenure, the ensemble has performed at the WBDI

conference, hosted the National Pride Bands Alliance Conference, and sold-out full seasons, pushing the ensemble to larger venues and boasting its largest membership yet.

He has represented HPB as a Reynolds Institute Conducting Fellow at the 2024 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic and conducting symposia across the country, and has appeared as a guest conductor for the Houston Chamber Music Society.

David will begin his Doctorate in Wind Band Conducting this Fall at the UMKC Conservatory, after 10 years in public education. David holds bachelor's degrees in psychology and music education from Texas A&M University and Michigan State University, respectively, and earned a Master of Music Education from the University of North Texas.

A note from David:

Thank you, to the entire Houston Pride Band community - for all the music and the community of people that have grown alongside me this past near-decade. Thank you to those, new and veteran, who have shown up week after week to make music with your friends and neighbors. Together, we have created a crescendo of energy for this organization that has raised the bar of performance, literature, and production (thank you Deborah!)! I've had a marvelous time seeing what we could do together, and I wish you all the very best in your seasons to come as you approach the 50th anniversary!



DEBORAH HIRSCH

Now in her ninth 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.

PROGRAM NOTES

COMPILED BY THEO HARRISON

RISE: A GAY GAMES ANTHEM

Rise: A Gay Games Anthem by Rossano Galante is a powerful and uplifting work for concert band, commissioned by the Federation of Gay Games to accompany the ceremonial raising of its official flag. Composed in 2019, the piece embodies the core values of the Gay Games—participation, inclusion, and personal best—through its heroic and evocative musical language. Galante, renowned for his cinematic and emotionally charged compositions, channels these ideals into a sweeping and reverent soundscape. The music unfolds with soaring melodies, rich harmonies, and dramatic crescendos, creating a sense of triumph and unity that resonates with audiences worldwide.

MOLLY ON THE SHORE

Molly on the Shore is one of Percy Grainger's most beloved and energetic folk-inspired compositions. Originally composed in 1907 for string quartet and later arranged for military band by the composer himself, the piece is based on two lively Irish reel tunes—"Temple Hill" and "Molly on the Shore"—drawn from Charles Villiers Stanford's *Complete Collection of Irish Country Dances*. Unlike many traditional folk settings that aim for pastoral simplicity, *Molly on the Shore* is a virtuosic display piece that demands precision, agility, and expressive flair from every section of the ensemble. It showcases Grainger's unique ability to combine the spirit of folk music with the sophistication of classical form.

AS SUMMER WAS JUST BEGINNING

As Summer Was Just Beginning (Song for James Dean) by Larry Daehn is a poignant and lyrical work for concert band, composed in 1994 as a tribute to the iconic American actor James Dean. Musically, the composition is loosely based on the British Isles folk song "The Winter It Is Past," reflecting Dean's Quaker heritage, which traces back to England, Ireland, and Scotland. The piece features a gently flowing melody with rich harmonies and expressive phrasing, creating an atmosphere of reflection and remembrance. Its sustained, cantabile lines and subtle dynamics offer performers an opportunity to explore emotional depth and musical sensitivity.

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

Composed in 1924, George Gershwin's **Rhapsody in Blue** stands as a seminal work that bridges the realms of classical music and jazz, encapsulating the dynamic spirit of early 20th-century America. Premiered at New York's Aeolian Hall, the piece was introduced as a "jazz concerto," featuring Gershwin himself at the piano. Its debut marked a pivotal moment in American music, showcasing a fusion of musical traditions that resonated with audiences and critics alike. In this arrangement by Robert Longfield, *Rhapsody in Blue* is thoughtfully adapted for concert band and a clarinet and piano soloist, making the piece accessible to a broader range of ensembles. Longfield's version maintains the essence of Gershwin's original composition, preserving its rhythmic vitality and melodic richness while ensuring playability for intermediate-level bands. This abridged arrangement captures the work's exuberant character and remains faithful to its distinctive blend of musical styles.

WOMAN

Woman is a reflection of lived experiences and a celebration of strong and capable women everywhere. Each section of this work tells a story—"Speak to Be Heard, Resonance in Routine, Inner Voice, The Dance of Demand, Overstimulated, Reeling, Fragile, Resilience, Rise, and Empower", respectively. Performing this piece is a way to honor and bear witness to the women who paved the way before us, the community of women thriving today, and the girls of tomorrow as they discover who they are meant to be. Topics of inspiration include women empowering women, finding one's voice, motherhood and the journey to, stereotypes, traditions, authenticity, self-worth, community, strength, and courage, among other things.

Visit ekhmusic.com/woman to read further inspiration and dedications from participating consortium members.



THE COWBOYS

The Cowboys, composed by John Williams and arranged for concert band by Jim Curnow, is a dynamic Western overture that brings the spirit of the American frontier to life. Originally written for the 1972 film *The Cowboy and the Girl*, starring John Wayne, the score captures the essence of the Old West with its vibrant themes and rhythmic energy. The music evokes the expansive landscapes and adventurous spirit of the film's narrative, in which a Montana cattleman enlists school-aged boys to help drive his herd to market, facing numerous challenges along the way. Jim Curnow's arrangement masterfully adapts Williams's cinematic score for concert band, preserving the brilliant effects, rhythmic drive, and lyrical themes characteristic of Williams's work.

HALCYON HEARTS

Halcyon Hearts by Katahj Copley is a vibrant and heartfelt overture for concert band that celebrates the transformative power of love and passion. The term "halcyon" refers to a period of time that is idyllically happy and peaceful, and this piece seeks to musically capture that serene joy. Copley describes the work as an "ode to love and how it affects us all," emphasizing that love, in its many forms—romantic, platonic, or the pursuit of one's passion—serves as a unifying force across humanity. He writes, "Regardless of race, gender, religion, or indifference, we are all united by a common thread: passion and love."

A NIGHT IN TUNISIA

A Night in Tunisia, composed by jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie and Frank Paparelli, stands as a seminal work in the evolution of modern jazz. Introduced in the early 1940s, this piece was instrumental in pioneering the Afro-Cuban jazz movement, blending complex bebop harmonies with Latin rhythms to create a distinctive and enduring sound. This arrangement not only highlights the rhythmic vitality and melodic intricacies of the piece but also provides an accessible platform for ensembles to explore the rich tapestry of jazz traditions.

BARBIE'S WORLD

Barbie's World, arranged by Michael Brown, is an energetic and engaging concert band medley that brings to life the vibrant soundtrack of the 2023 blockbuster film *Barbie*. This arrangement captures the essence of the movie's diverse musical landscape, featuring an all-star lineup of performers and songwriters. The medley includes the following songs: "Barbie Dreams," "Barbie Girl," "What Was I Made For?" and "Dance the Night."

ABBA GOLD

ABBA Gold, arranged by Ron Sebregts, is a dynamic concert band medley that celebrates the enduring legacy of the iconic Swedish pop group ABBA. Originally composed by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, ABBA's music has captivated audiences worldwide with its catchy melodies and infectious rhythms. This arrangement brings together four of ABBA's most beloved hits: "Dancing Queen," "Mamma Mia," "Fernando," and "The Winner Takes It All."

MUSIC FROM WICKED

Music from Wicked, arranged by Michael Sweeney, is a captivating concert band medley that brings to life the enchanting melodies of Stephen Schwartz's acclaimed Broadway musical *Wicked*. The arrangement captures the emotional depth and dynamic contrasts of the original compositions, providing a rich musical experience that reflects the story's themes of friendship, identity, and transformation. This arrangement features four standout songs: "No One Mourns the Wicked," "Dancing Through Life," "Defying Gravity," and "For Good."

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Sponsored by Ken Gregg & Patricia Andrews
In celebration of Tony Tuckwiller &
Victor Wimberly

THE COWBOYS

Sponsored by Steve Brown
To my one and only forever cowboy angel:
Richard Foland-Brown

HALCYON HEARTS

Sponsored by the Percussion Section
Dedicated to David Alesco. Thank you for
conducting the Houston Pride Band. Best
wishes on your conducting adventures to come.

MOLLY ON THE SHORE

Sponsored by David DiCamillo

A NIGHT IN TUNISIA

Sponsored by Andrew Christian

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

Sponsored by Anonymous
Dedicated to Miles McMahon

RISE: A GAY GAMES ANTHEM

Sponsored by Kevin Taylor & Michael Moore

MUSIC FROM WICKED

Sponsored by Ellen Winters

WOMAN

Sponsored by Steve Brown
To the wonderful women in my life:
Ann B, Detta M, Ann F, Katie F, Charlene G,
Marina H, Kristen McG.

SAVE THE DATE : 2025-2026 SEASON

FALL CONCERT

Saturday, October 4, 2025

WINTER CONCERT

Saturday, December 6, 2025

SPRING CONCERT

Saturday, April 18, 2026

SUMMER CONCERT

Sunday, June 14, 2026



Good luck David!

Thank you for your artistic leadership
and dedication. You will be missed!



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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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