

the houston pride band presents

PROJECT: EARTH

A MUSICAL EXPLORATION OF OUR "BLUE MARBLE"



April 6, 2024
8PM · MATCH

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome! Tonight, we're excited to present our most ambitious concert yet – the **Houston Pride Band** presents **Project: Earth**.

Prepare to rejoice in the splendor of our “blue marble” tonight as we explore our amazing planet through music. The first half of the concert includes new and familiar pieces that celebrate our world through different perspectives. And after intermission, we will feature a performance of LGBTQ composer **Julie Giroux's Symphony No. 6 “The Blue Marble.”** This work pushed the band to tackle a very difficult piece of music that has largely been performed by college ensembles and semi-professional groups. The band worked very hard these past few months and I'm so proud that we get to perform this tonight – complete with a visual media experience. I hope it moves and inspires you!

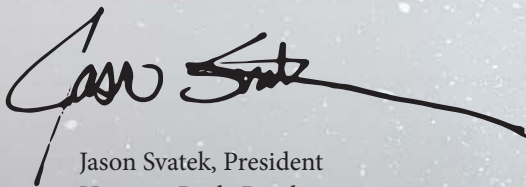
Our 2023-2024 concert season **An Elemental Journey** concludes with our next concert “**Winds of Summer, Rhythms of the Sea**” featuring the world premiere performance of an original work for wind band – “**Storm Surge**” composed by **JaRod Hall**. Make sure you are here at **MATCH** on **Saturday, June 15, 2024** to be a part of this amazing concert.

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.

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 tonight's concert!

Yours in **PRIDE**,



Jason Svatek, President
Houston Pride Band



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PROJECT : EARTH

A MUSICAL EXPLORATION OF OUR "BLUE MARBLE"

DEBORAH HIRSCH & DAVID LEA, CONDUCTORS

PROGRAM

The Gathering of Eagles

Bob Baker (Squamish First Nation)

arr. Robert Buckley

Sheltering Sky

John Mackey

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

arr. Jay Dawson

What a Wonderful World

George David Weiss & Bob Thiele

arr. Richard Saucedo

Mt. Everest

Rossano Galante

- INTERMISSION -

Symphony No. VI - The Blue Marble

Julie Giroux

I. The Big Blue Marble

II. Voices in Green

III. Let There Be Life

Film by Julie Giroux in collaboration with ION CONCERT MEDIA

houston pride band

PERFORMING MEMBERS

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Nicholas Davila
Violet Garner
Amanda Hager
Gregory Obregon
Gabe Rodriguez
Josh Wunderlich

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Michael Moreau-Monier
Lupe Ybarra-Regan

BASSOON

David DiCamillo*
Spencer Salinas
Becky Schlembach

CONTRABASSOON

Matthew Hanson

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Sydney Dean
Kayla DuBrow
William Fu*
Haylon Haynes
Alexia Hernández
Shannon Kilbert
Jordan Pachuca
Melanie Pando
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Anthony Fernández

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Becky Schlembach
Brooke Yahney

* 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

THE GATHERING OF EAGLES

As work continues toward reconciling the past with the First Peoples of North America, it is also necessary to forge a shared path forward based on our commonalities rather than our differences. Music seems a very good place to start. This publication began as a conversation with Squamish Nation Cultural Adviser and performer, Bob Baker, who generously agreed to share a piece of his aural tradition - a song that he received many years ago. It took time for him to shape *The Gathering Of Eagles* into the song it has become today, and he granted permission for composer Robert Buckley to expand it into a work for concert band. The result is a remarkably beautiful piece that honors Squamish Nation tradition and allows us all to share a small part of this rich culture. The piece was commissioned by the West Vancouver Youth Band, and their hope in commissioning the piece was that it would foster a deeper love, respect and understanding for the people and culture of the Squamish Nation (and all First Nations) through shared music. *The Gathering Of Eagles* received its premiere at The Chief Joe Mathias Centre, Squamish Nation, North Vancouver, March 3, 2018. -Douglas Macauley, WVYB Conductor

Robert Buckley has a diverse career as a composer, arranger, performer, producer, recording artist and conductor. He conducted and arranged for major artists such as Michael Buble, Bryan Adams, Celine Dion, Our Lady Peace, Simple Plan and Aerosmith, to name a few. Robert has served as composer-in-residence at several universities, including Pacific University, Friends University, and Troy University. He lives in Vancouver, BC, Canada with his wife, choreographer and director, Marlise McCormick.

SHELTERING SKY

John Mackey's *Sheltering Sky* is a striking departure from much of the twenty-first century wind band music. Its serene and simple presentation is a throwback of sorts -- a nostalgic portrait of time suspended. The work itself has a folksong-like quality -- intended by the composer -- and through this an immediate sense of familiarity emerges. The work unfolds in a sweeping arch structure, with cascading phrases that elide effortlessly. From there emerge statements of each of the two folksong-like melodies -- the call as a sighing descent in solo oboe, and its answer as a hopeful rising line in trumpet. Each new phrase begins over the resolution of the previous one, creating a sense of motion that never completely stops. The melodies themselves unfold and eventually dissipate until at last the serene introductory material returns -- the opening chords finally coming to rest. -Jake Wallace

American composer John Mackey holds a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with John Corigliano and Donald Erb, respectively. Mr. Mackey particularly enjoys writing music for dance and for symphonic winds, and he has focused on those media for the past few years. He has held college residencies at Florida State, University of Michigan, Ohio State, Arizona State, University of Southern California, University of Texas, among many others. To entertain himself while procrastinating on commissions, John is a photography enthusiast.

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

"For the beauty of the earth" is a sacred choral composition by famed English composer John Rutter. It is a setting of a hymn of the same name written by Folliott S. Pierpoint and published as a hymn for the Eucharist in 1864. Rutter composed the anthem in 1978 and dedicated the composition to Rosemary Heffley and the Texas Choral Directors Association.

John Rutter was born in London and studied music at Clare College, Cambridge. He first came to notice as a composer during his student years; much of his early work consisted of church music and other choral pieces including Christmas carols. Since 1979 he has divided his time between composition and conducting. His music has featured in a number of British royal occasions, including the two most recent royal weddings. He holds a Lambeth Doctorate in Music, and in 2007 was awarded a CBE for services to music.

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

This timeless song, originally sung by Louis Armstrong, was recorded by Kenny G for his album *Classics in the Key of G* in 1999, and features members of the HPB saxophone section tonight.

"What a Wonderful World" was composed by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss and first recorded by Armstrong in 1967. That recording was inducted in the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999. Intended as an antidote for the increasingly racially and politically charged climate of everyday life in the United States, the song has a hopeful, optimistic tone with regard to the future, with reference to babies being born into the world and having much to look forward to.

MT. EVEREST

Comprised of robust brass melodies, sweeping woodwind lines, and rhythmic ostinati, this composition captures the epic grandeur and beauty of Everest, the highest mountain on Earth.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Rossano Galante received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Trumpet performance from SUNY Buffalo in 1992. That same year he was one of nineteen people from around the world to be accepted to the University of Southern California's Film Scoring Program. He studied with the late Jerry Goldsmith, who won an Academy Award for his film score for *The Omen*. In 1999, Mr. Galante moved to California to pursue a career in film composition and orchestration. For his large-scale wind ensemble compositions, he has been commissioned by the Federation of Gay Games-Paris 2018, Atlanta Freedom Band, Hofstra University Symphonic Band, and the Nebraska Wind Symphony, among many others.

SYMPHONY NO. VI - THE BLUE MARBLE

This major work was commissioned by the Metropolitan Wind Symphony, Lewis J Buckley, music director, in commemoration of their fiftieth season. *Symphony No. VI* premiered with the Metropolitan Winds on May 1st, 2022. Here are the composer's own thoughts on each of the three movements:

Movement I. The Big Blue Marble.

"It is often said that the first full image of Earth, "Blue Marble", taken by Apollo 17 in 1972, was the first full picture of the planet Earth. The picture is actually upside down. It happened sometime between 4:59:05 and 5:08:14 hours after Apollo's launch as they traveled up to 25,000 miles an hour. It is the most reproduced picture in history. It became painstakingly clear to humanity just how small and vulnerable our one and only home actually is. This movement celebrates that home in a variety of ways; think of it as an abbreviated introduction to planet Earth through music."

Movement II. Voices in Green.

"I spent hours simply listening to the recordings of the Amazon jungle by the world-renowned sound engineer George Vlad. The recordings were made during the rainy season when humidity is at its highest and birds are the most vocal. The sounds transport you into the heart of the jungle which feels incredibly, alive. The exotic calls of the birds and the echoes from other birds of the same species, the insects, the frogs and the rain; you can practically feel and smell the rain. The rain forest has its own music. The density of growth with every shade of green, is the backdrop for this beautiful, strange opera.

I knew I wanted to write music to those sounds. I composed *Voices in Green* with the Amazon jungle sounds playing as my audio backdrop. It influenced every note and phrase. In my mind and heart, I was there, adding my voice to theirs. *Voices*

in *Green* can be performed strictly on its own...Think of this movement as a concert taking place in the heart of the Amazon Rainforest."

Movement III. Let There Be Life.

"Violence, death, murder, birth, and life: I wanted to capture that commonality with music in the third and final movement. There is a recurring theme throughout the finale. It evolves, much like life on Earth. It moves through the music, transporting us from one musical setting to the next, ending in a majestic, grandiose way.

The miracle of Earth is life. It is the fragile, silken thread that holds existence together. As with the famous Blue Marble photograph, I hope this symphony reminds people just how frail and beautiful Earth is.

I hope *The Blue Marble* fills hearts and minds with a renewed love for our planet, our one and only home. Earth is the one thing we all have in common. It does not belong to us. We belong to it. It is our only home and we should always treat it as such with every generation leaving it healthier and happier than the way they found it."

Emmy-winning composer Julie Ann Giroux graduated from Louisiana State University in 1984. She started playing piano at 3 years of age and began composing at the age of 8 and has been composing ever since. Her first published work for concert band was composed at the age of 13. She was hired by Oscar-winning composer Bill Conti as an orchestrator, and her first project with Conti being "North & South" the mini-series. With over 100 film, television and video game credits, Giroux collaborated with dozens of film composers, producers, and celebrities including Martin Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, Madonna, Liza Minnelli, Celene Dion, Paula Abdul, Harry Connick Jr. and many others. Projects she has worked on have been nominated for Oscars, Emmys, Grammys and Golden Globe awards.

She has won individual Emmy Awards in the field of "Outstanding Individual Achievement in Music Direction". When She won her first Emmy Award, she was the first woman and the youngest person to ever win that award. She has won it three times. Giroux has been a true force in a male dominated field and has accrued many previously male only awards. She was the first female composer inducted into the American Bandmasters Association in 2009.



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A concert by the Houston Pride Band

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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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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 or email info@houstonprideband.org.

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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.

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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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