

the houston pride band presents

sugar
plum
fantasy



December 13, 2019
8PM • MATCH



from the president

Happy Holidays! And welcome to the Houston Pride Band's celebration of the music that makes this the most wonderful time of the year. Our wish for you tonight is to relax and take a break from all the holiday hustle and bustle to enjoy a festive night that will lift your spirits and remind you of the joy of this season!

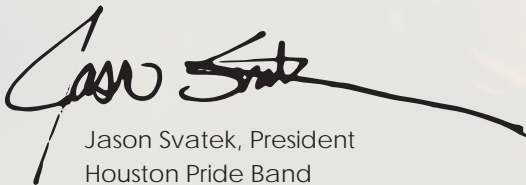
Tonight we feature selections from The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky. This beloved ballet is as synonymous with the holiday season as the Christmas tree and Santa Claus. Cities around the country (and the world) perform this ballet each year, and you're sure to hear the festive music as you're making your way around the mall.

And it is appropriate that we celebrate not only this beautiful work, but Tchaikovsky himself. You see Tchaikovsky, like us, was an LGBTQ musician. However, being a gay composer in mid-1800s Russia was certainly not an easy life. Despite his personal struggles with his identity and having to hide his sexuality, Tchaikovsky created some of the most memorable and beautiful music that is still recognized and performed today.

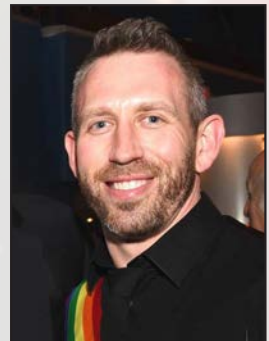
Performing works by LGBTQ composers is part of how the Houston Pride Band brings awareness to our members and audiences of the accomplishments of gay musicians. Your support helps the band continue this education and gives us the ability to bring music and joy to our community throughout the year. Your 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.

Today we are thankful to live in a time where unlike Tchaikovsky, we can live openly as LGBTQ individuals. But the journey to equality and acceptance is not over, and our community still struggles to feel safe, welcome, and understood. The Houston Pride Band continues to provide a safe place for our members to be themselves and find a welcoming and supportive environment, and we are thankful to include all of you in our family.

From all of us to each of you, we wish you a joyous and wonderful holiday and very happy new year!



Jason Svatek, President
Houston Pride Band



houston★pride★band

PERFORMING MEMBERS

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Nicholas Davila
Christi Gell
Jamee Molander
Kerry Roy
Caitlin Spofford
Sal Stow*

OBOE

Michael Moreau
Lupe Ybarra-Regan

BASSOON

David DiCamillo*
Jeremy Hasan
Becky Schlembach

CLARINET

Casey Cummings
Joe Dombrowski
Kayla Dunning
William Fu*
Julian Hernández
Paul Norris
Chelsea Rasing
Tiffany Reckley
Jeffrey Taylor

BASS CLARINET

Nicolas Droger

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Joshua Arnoldy
Fernando Arteaga
Reginald Clark
Elizabeth De Los Rios
José Magdaleno
Kevin Taylor*

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Jeff Tipps
Matthew Williams

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Edward Esguerra
Lisa Mace

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Andrew Conger
George Gehring*
Christopher Hodge
Adam Jatho
David Lea
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Jessie Meng

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BASS

Matthew Hanson

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Sharon Prince
Jen Rodríguez
Cedric Stanley
Tony Tuckwiller*
Dave Wallis
Brooke Yahney

PIANO

Sharon Prince

* Section Leader



sugar plum fantasy

Deborah Hirsch & David Lea, conductors

PROGRAM

The Nutcracker Suite
Miniature Overture
March

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
arr. Clark McAlister & Alfred Reed

Adventum

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "Ukrainian Bell Carol"

Arr. Jared Barnes

The Nutcracker Suite
Dance of the Toy Flutes
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy
Arabian Dance

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
arr. Clark McAlister & Alfred Reed

A Mad Russian's Christmas

Paul O'Neill, Robert Kinkel & Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
arr. Bob Phillips & George Megaw

INTERMISSION

Santa's Journey (Bringing Joy to the World)

Roy W. Kaighin

Gesú Bambino

Pietro A. Yon
arr. R. Mark Rogers

Appalachian Snowfall

Paul O'Neill & Robert Kinkel
arr. Bob Phillips & George Megaw

I'll Be Home for Christmas

Walter Kent/Kim Gannon

Christmas in a Nutshell

Arr. Chris Sharp

Old Scottish Melody

Arr. Charles A. Wiley

Christmas Pop Sing-Along

Arr. James D. Ployhar
Santa Claus is Comin' to Town, Silver Bells, Rudolph the Red-Nosed
Reindeer, Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

artistic directors

Deborah Hirsch

Artistic Director

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Deborah Hirsch 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.

Deborah 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.

Selected to participate in 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 spring of 2019, Deborah was honored to direct the Association of Private Lutheran Schools Honor Band and will conduct the Texas Region 19 Class CC Band this November.

Deborah is an active 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 Methodist Church and a longtime member of Pasadena Little Theater.



Artistic Directors Deborah Hirsch & David Lea

David Lea

Artistic Director

A native Texan hailing from the Golden Triangle region, David Lea earned his Master of Music Education from the University of North Texas. He earned bachelor's degrees from Texas A&M and Michigan State University in Psychology and Music Education, respectively.

David is entering his fifth year year as a school band director, and his first year as the Director of Bands at Null Middle School in Sheldon ISD. His bands have enjoyed successes at UIL and local and regional festivals. He was honored to support the diverse students at his school by serving as the founding faculty advisor for a student organization focused on inclusion, acceptance, and community.

As a private trumpet teacher, his students have made Michigan All-state, earned first divisions at regional and state solo & ensemble contest, and had the honor of participating in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

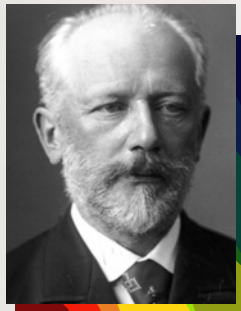
David previously played solo cornet in the Capital City Brass Band and 10-piece ensemble, which took first place in their division at the Brass Band US Open. He joined the Houston Pride Band in 2016 and is in his second year as Artistic Director. Formerly serving as section leader, when he's not conducting, he continues to play in the trumpet section.

program notes

compiled by Chris Foster

Tonight, the Houston Pride Band welcomes you to our annual holiday music extravaganza. This year we are creating a Sugar Plum Fantasy and spotlighting the music of Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Nutcracker* during our first act.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) began his adult life as a law clerk in the Russian government. Disillusioned by an “unjust promotion” over his head, he entered the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music. His compositions reflect the emotional extremes of his complicated life. He is beloved for his many ballets, symphonic poems, symphonies, operas, songs, piano music, and chamber works.



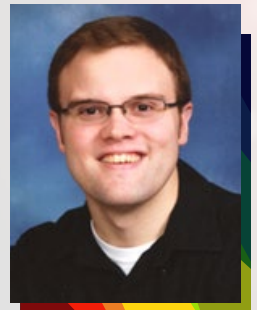
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

The Nutcracker (1891) has become the most popular ballet performed at Christmas around the world, appealing to children and adults alike. The ballet opens with Christmas Eve festivities in the home of a little girl, Marie. She receives a wonderful array of toys and presents, including a nutcracker. When the lights are out and guests gone, she steals from bed at midnight to have

another look and a wonderful thing happens: all the playthings come to life. The nutcracker is transformed into a handsome prince, who takes Marie to his magic kingdom.

Tchaikovsky took eight of the musical numbers from the ballet to create *The Nutcracker Suite*. The suite includes the Miniature Overture, the March, the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, a Russian dance (“Trepak”), an Arabian dance (“Coffee”), a Chinese dance (“Tea”), the Dance of the Toy Flutes, and finally the Waltz of the Flowers. Tonight, HPB is performing five of the eight movements.

Written to depict the events and stories surrounding the first Christmas, *Adventum* (2013) captures the anticipation, arrival, and celebration of the holidays through the use of sacred and secular carols alike. The piece opens with a quiet setting of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” which eventually gives way to an Angel’s proclamation to the shepherds. Soon after, all the bells of the world begin to ring on their own accord, building in celebration with the traditional “Ukrainian Bell Carol” before



Jared Barnes

drawing the piece to an exciting conclusion against a cacophony of ringing bells. *Adventum* composer **Jared Barnes** (b. 1985) is a musician, composer, songwriter, and Music educator teaching band in grades 5-12 in north central Iowa.

The Trans-Siberian Orchestra has been a staple of holiday music and holiday concerts in the United States since their first tour in 1999. Founded in 1996 by **Paul O'Neill** (1956-2017) and **Robert Kinkel** (b. 1957), Trans-Siberian Orchestra combines elements of rock bands and classical music to create holiday rock operas. They rose to fame based on their first hit single "Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24". On the same album was *A Mad Russian's Christmas* (1996), based on the Trepak (Russian dance) movement of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, which concludes the first act of tonight's concert.



Paul O'Neill & Robert Kinkel

Act two kicks off with *Santa's Journey* (2009) by **Roy W. Kaighin** (1951-2016). Kaighin, who had a prolific career as a composer and musician with the Royal Marines Band (UK) and the Royal Canadian Navy Band, wrote this of the piece:



Roy W. Kaighin

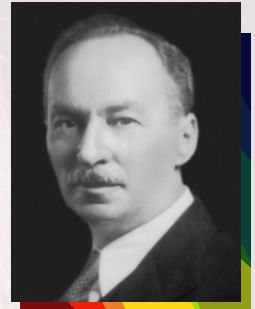
As Santa starts his journey, bringing 'Joy to the World' by delivering presents to children (and adults too), he sets off on his majestic sleigh driven by his reindeer. A few elves have snuck into the sleigh to help. With a whoosh, he flies across

the sky and over the snowy mountains. The music is in continuous motion, just like Santa's sleigh, as he has many presents to deliver before morning.

The quiet moments in the music depict Santa's arrival in small villages, away from the hustle and bustle of the big cities, touching the hearts of people everywhere. During his journey, Santa discovers the elves who have apparently lost some of the presents. Santa offers a gentle reprimand before the presents are eventually found by Elfie, the youngest elf. After all the presents have been delivered, Santa heads back home as he calls out, "I'll be back next Christmas!"

Gesú Bambino is an Italian-American Christmas carol composed by **Pietro Yon** in 1917.

The refrain (music and text) are derived from the much older Christmas carol *Adeste Fideles*. The piece is a pastorella, a piece used to signal a scene or episode that takes place out of doors, often including shepherds in idyllic settings. Yon's



Pietro Yon

(1886-1943) *Gesú Bambino* includes passages designed to mimic the sounds of pifferari (Italian bagpipers) and serves as an introduction to the angelic announcement of the birth of the infant Jesus to the sleeping shepherds.

Appalachian Snowfall is a musical interlude from Trans-Siberian Orchestra's 1998 second album, *The Christmas Attic*. The piece evokes the joyful, beautiful effect of snowfall, constantly falling, in the mountains of Appalachia. In the stage performance, this instrumental piece is accompanied by a

laser-light show between the songs “Find Out Way Home” and “The Music Box”.

“I’ll Be Home for Christmas” was recorded in 1943 by Bing Crosby, who scored a top ten hit with the song. The song is sung from the point of view of a soldier stationed overseas during WWII, writing a letter to his family. In the message, he tells the family he will be coming home for the holiday and requests

snow, mistletoe, and presents on the tree. “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” has since gone on to become a Christmas standard. The piece was composed by **Walter Kent** (1911-1994) and lyricist **Kim Gannon** (1900-1974). Gannon is credited



Walter Kent

for getting the song published. After several rejections due to the song’s melancholy mood, Gannon pitched the piece directly to Crosby while the two were playing golf and the rest is history.

Christmas in a Nutshell (2019) is a whimsical compilation of Yuletide hymn, secular songs, and themes from Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker*. The piece presents them in rapid succession, sometimes overlapping them as they seem at times to fight for the spotlight. You will hear fragments of at least 18 different songs and *Nutcracker* excerpts.

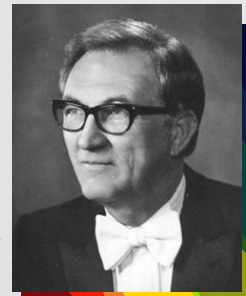
Though the textures are constantly changing, the brisk tempo remains steady throughout. Arranger **Dr. Chris Sharp** (b. 1959) is an assistant professor of music at the University of Lynchburg and a former bandleader and composer for the



Dr. Chris Sharp

Walt Disney World Company.

Old Scottish Melody (“Auld Lang Syne”) is a song by Robert Burns (1759- 1796). The title, when translated literally into English, means as ‘old long since’, but translates as ‘days gone by’. It is one of the better-known songs in English-speaking countries, and sung at the stroke of midnight on New Year’s Day. Like many other frequently sung songs, the melody is better remembered than the words, which are often sung incorrectly, and seldom in full. This 1976 setting is by **Dr. Charles A. “Pete” Wiley** (1925-1992) longtime band director at Lamar University in Beaumont.



Dr. Charles A. Wiley

We conclude tonight’s program with some holiday season audience participation. Please join us for *Christmas Pop Sing-Along*, a medley of four Christmas songs made popular during the 20th Century, arranged by **James D. Ployhar** (1926-2007).



James D. Ployhar

Have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2020!



Christmas Pop Sing-Along Lyrics

<Band Introduction>

“Santa Claus is Coming to Town”

You better watch out, you better not cry,

Better not pout, I'm telling you why:

Santa Claus is comin' to town.

He's making a list and checking it twice,

Gonna find out who's naughty and nice,

Santa Claus is comin' to down.

He sees you when you're sleeping,

He knows when you're awake,

He knows if you've been bad or good,

So be good for goodness sake!

Oh! You better watch out, you better not cry,

Better not pout I'm telling you why:

Santa Claus is comin' to town!

<Band Interlude>

“Silver Bells”

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks dressed in holiday style.

In the air there's a feeling of Christmas.

Children laughing, people passing, meeting smile after smile,

And on ev'ry street corner you hear:

Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time in the city.

Ring-a-ling, hear them ring, soon it will be Christmas day.

<Band Interlude>

“Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer”

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer had a very shiny nose,

And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names;

They never let poor Rudolph join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve, Santa came to say:

“Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?”

Then all the reindeer loved him, as they shouted out with glee:

“Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, you'll go down in history!”

<Band Interlude>

“Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas”

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, let your heart be light,

From now on our troubles will be out of sight.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, make the Yuletide gay,

From now on our troubles will be miles away.

Here we are as in olden days, happy golden days of yore,

Faithful friends who are dear to us gather near to us once more.

Through the years we all will be together if the Fates allow,

Hang a shining star upon the highest bough, and

Have yourself a merry little Christmas now.

What to Do During Intermission

We invite you to take this time to get to know the people around you a little better. Since you're all at this concert, you already have something in common—a love of music! Say hello and find out what brought them here. Also, feel free to get up and stretch. We encourage you not to leave the concert. We enjoy having you as a part of the audience so please come back to your seat and enjoy the rest of the performance.

What to Do After the Concert

We look forward to connecting with you in several ways. It's as easy as 1-2-3-4!

1. Like us on Facebook and Instagram

- <http://facebook.org/HoustonPrideBand>
- @houstonprideband
- We encourage you to share, like, and be part of our online community.

2. Give us a shout out on your favorite social media venues!

We love receiving your support and online enthusiasm about our concerts: tag us on Facebook or Instagram.

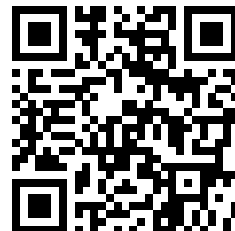
3. Donate to the Houston Pride Band

The Houston Pride Band is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization that relies on the financial support of generous donors like you to bring music to communities across Houston and the State of Texas, provide performing opportunities to local musicians, and share the musical experience through various educational opportunities. Thank you for your support!

4. Finally, Subscribe to our mailing list

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. Just do one of these:

- Email the information below to info@houstonprideband.org
- Visit houstonprideband.nationbuilder.com/subscribe
- Complete this form and hand it to a band member, or mail it to: P.O. Box 7124, Houston, TX 77248



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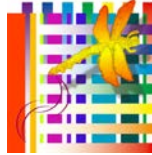
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FROM THE houston pride band

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Our Christmas Wish-List

Dear Santa,

The Houston Pride Band has been extra good this year, and we'd like our stockings filled with these items:

\$20	Leatherette music folder	\$250	New marching snare drum
\$40	New head for small Timpani	\$300	Symphonic suspended cymbal
\$45	New head for medium timpani	\$550	One pair of Viennese Crash Cymbals
\$50	New head for large timpani	\$2211	Yamaha Bass Clarinet
\$50	One Manhasset music stand	\$3400	Holton French Horn
\$90	Bach Tuba mouthpiece	\$4000	Yamaha Sousaphone
\$145	One marching snare drum harness	\$9200	Mirafone Tuba

To make a tax deductible donation, go to our donation page at <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.

Music Sponsorships

Thank you to the following elves who sponsored pieces on this concert:

Adventum

Thank you Christopher Wells

Appalachian Snowfall

Thank you Casey Cummings & Ben LeBlanc

A Mad Russian's Christmas

Thank you Kevin Taylor & Michael Moore

Suite from "The Nutcracker"

Thank you William Fu

Santa's Journey

Thank you George Gehring & Jason Svatek

Gesu Bambino

Thank you David DiCamillo

Old Scottish Melody

Thank you Mary Beth Alsdorf

Christmas in a Nutshell

Thank you Nicolas Droger

I'll be Home for Christmas

Thank you Lisa Mace

Christmas "Pop" Sing-a-Long

Thank you Christi Gell

Become a music sponsor for next concert:

\$50	Richard Strauss Also Sprach Zarathustra
\$85	Gustav Holst Jupiter (from The Planets)
\$60	John Williams Imperial March
\$65	Arr. John Moss Star Trek Through the Years
\$95	Julie Giroux Journey Through Orion
\$90	Arr. Warren Barker Blue Moon
\$95	Richard Saucedo Shooting Stars
\$50	Brian Balmages Lullaby to the Moon
\$80	Thomas Doss Galileo
\$70	David Gorham Starlight
\$100	Guest Artist Bering Handbell Choir

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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 thirty 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.

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mission

The mission of the Houston Pride Band is:

1. To provide a welcoming, comfortable and safe musical outlet for LGBT 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.

PROUD MEMBER OF THE LESBIAN AND GAY BAND ASSOCIATION

LGBA
Music. Visibility. Pride.

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 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.





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SEASON
2019-2020



STARRY NIGHT

SATURDAY • APRIL 4 • 8PM



CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY
JUNE 20
8PM

ALL CONCERTS AT MATCH

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