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OF CHANGE AND THE VOICES OF THOSE WHO HAVE
FOUGHT FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

Power to the People!

VOTE



September 28, 2024
8PM • MATCH

From the President

Welcome to the Houston Pride Band's 2024-2025 concert season! Tonight, we'll entertain and inspire you with our **Power to the People** program - an eclectic range of music through history that celebrates the activists, movements, and ideas that unite and propel us into a future worth fighting for.

Each year, we as Americans have the right to make our voices heard through the voting process. This is a right that we should not take for granted, and it is a powerful tool to make change. Make plans to cast your vote this year – go to [vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov) to check your registration status or register to vote and learn more about voting locations and dates. Make your voice heard this November!

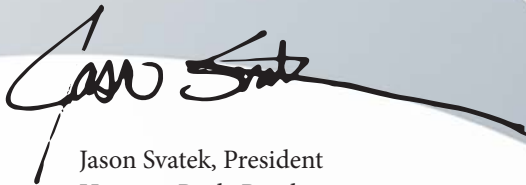
You can look for the Houston Pride Band at performances this fall. Our **Pep Band** will be the opening performance at **The Woodlands Pride Festival** on **Saturday, October 12th**. And you can cheer on our **Marching Band** at the **Third Coast Pridefest Parade** in **Galveston** on **Sunday, October 20th**. Be sure to support our band at these events!

Our **MATCH** Concert season continues **Saturday, December 7th** as we take the stage to present “**Kringle Kapers**,” our annual holiday concert that you won't want to miss – get your tickets now!

It's not too late to get **Season Tickets** for our remaining **2024-2025 Season** concerts! Check your program for the list of concert themes and go to our website to purchase. And if you don't already, be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** and go to our website to subscribe to email updates to receive information about the band and 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 and sponsorship opportunities within this program for ways to support our organization.

Yours in **PRIDE**,



Jason Svatek, President
Houston Pride Band



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. Visit houstonprideband.nationbuilder.com/subscribe.



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Power to the People!

DEBORAH HIRSCH & DAVID LEA
CONDUCTORS

PROGRAM

An American Fanfare

Rick Kirby

Like Our Fathers Before Us

Michael Barry

Selections from Les Misérables

arr. Warren Barker

Eternal Flame

Brian Balmages

Variations on 'America'

Charles Ives

arr. William Schuman / William E. Rhoads

- INTERMISSION -

The March of the Women

Ethyl Smyth

arr. Jeremy Corcoran

Bread and Roses

featuring guest artists from
Bering Memorial United Church of Christ
and The Houston Pride Band

Mimi Fariña

arr. Brad Richmond

Of Our New Day Begun

Omar Thomas

Imagine

Austin Houghton, alto saxophone

John Lennon

arr. Takashi Hoshide

Last Dance

Paul Jabara

arr. Paul Tatgenhorst

houston★pride★band

PERFORMING MEMBERS

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Michaela Butler
Nicholas Davila
Rocky Gonzales
Jonathan Griffin, Jr.
Amanda Hager
Donald Hale
Theo Harrison*
Joey Knight
Gregory Obregon
Gabe Rodríguez
Josh Wunderlich

OBOE

Travis Seamons

BASSOON

Fernando Alvarez
David DiCamillo
Becky Schlembach*

CLARINET

Steve Brown
Delvin Coleman
Kayla DuBrow
William Fu*
Alexia Hernandez
Zaikese Johnson
Jordan Raabe
Hannah Robertson
Cassidy Salentine
Jeff Taylor
James Walker

BASS CLARINET

Nicolas Droger

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Cole Duhon
Brianna Hemeyer-Taylor
Austin Houghton
Travis Howell*
Daniel Stover
Kevin Taylor

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Sandy Chen
Anthony Fernández
Shannon Ray

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Lisa Mace

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David Booth
Andrew Christian
Carson Clifton
Christian Hopkins
Sharon Prince
Jen Rodríguez*
Tony Tuckwiller

* Section Leader



Artistic Directors



DEBORAH HIRSCH

Now in her 9th 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 THEO HARRISON

AN AMERICAN FANFARE

This dynamic concert opener takes the normally hymn-like strains of *America (My Country 'Tis of Thee)* and incorporates it into a fast and energetic fanfare. The actual melody is stated only once in its entirety. Many liberties are taken with both melodic and harmonic elements of the original, making a breathtaking presentation!

LIKE OUR FATHERS BEFORE US

This powerful composition pays homage to the resilience, dedication, and legacy passed down through generations. *Like Our Fathers Before Us* evokes the spirit of tradition and unity, blending reflective melodies with moments of intensity. Michael Barry's writing captures the essence of honoring those who have come before us, particularly through his use of sweeping lines and dynamic contrasts.

The piece opens with a solemn and reflective theme, representing the foundation laid by past generations. As the music develops, we hear a variety of musical textures that symbolize growth, challenges, and triumphs. The rhythmic pulse throughout the piece represents the persistence and determination of those who continue to forge new paths while honoring their roots.

SELECTIONS FROM LES MISÉRABLES

This landmark musical brought us memorable songs and a moving story, and thanks to the 2012 motion picture is enjoying renewed popularity. Warren Barker's masterful medley captures the depth and power of the original music. Includes: *At the End of the Day, I Dreamed a Dream, Master of the House, On My Own, and Do You Hear the People Sing?*

ETERNAL FLAME

This thrilling and majestic overture by Brian Balmages pays homage to the only eternal flame memorial in the United States dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients. Subtle nods to "America" remind the listener of the incredible sacrifices made by these brave individuals. While the piece is not overtly patriotic, the olympic-style fanfares and stately themes make it more than suitable for such an occasion!

VARIATIONS ON 'AMERICA'

Variations on "America" was originally a composition for organ. Composed in 1891 when Ives was seventeen, it is an arrangement of a traditional tune, known as *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*, and was at the time the de facto anthem of the United States. The variations are a witty, irreverent piece for organ, probably typical of a "silly" teenage phenom like Ives. After a snappy figural variation, we hear a sinuous barbershop setting, a jaunty European cavalry march, a "midway" polonaise, and a scherzo.

THE MARCH OF THE WOMEN

The March of the Women is a song composed by Ethel Smyth in 1910, to words by Cicely Hamilton. It became the official anthem of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) and more widely the anthem of the women's suffrage movement throughout the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Activists sang it not only at rallies but also in prison while they were on hunger strike.

BREAD AND ROSES

A powerful march for treble choirs, this fresh arrangement was inspired by women's activism during the first decade of the 20th century. "Bread and Roses" was a political slogan that appeared initially in a speech by Helen Todd and later became the title of a poem by James Oppenheim. Composed by Mimi Fariña in the 1950s, and later recorded by a number of folk singers, the arranger was moved to create this new arrangement as a response to the rash of government sanctions against women's rights in the U.S. and around the world. Ideal for high school, collegiate, and adult community choirs, this is a bold arrangement and strong conversation-starter — a great way to share this important and inspiring story with present-day audiences.

OF OUR NEW DAY BEGUN

Of Our New Day Begun was written to honor nine beautiful souls who lost their lives to a callous act of hatred and domestic terrorism on the evening of June 17, 2015 while worshipping in their beloved sanctuary, the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal

Church (affectionately referred to as “Mother Emanuel”) in Charleston, South Carolina. My greatest challenge in creating this work was walking the line between reverence for the victims and their families, and honoring my strong, bitter feelings towards both the perpetrator and the segments of our society that continue to create people like him. I realized that the most powerful musical expression I could offer incorporated elements from both sides of that line - embracing my pain and anger while being moved by the displays of grace and forgiveness demonstrated by the victims’ families. The piece is anchored by James and John Johnson’s time-honored song, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (known endearingly as the “Negro National Anthem”), and peppered with blues harmonies and melodies. Singing, stomping, and clapping are also prominent features of this work, as they have always been a mainstay of black music traditions, and the inclusion of the tambourine in these sections is a direct nod to black worship services.

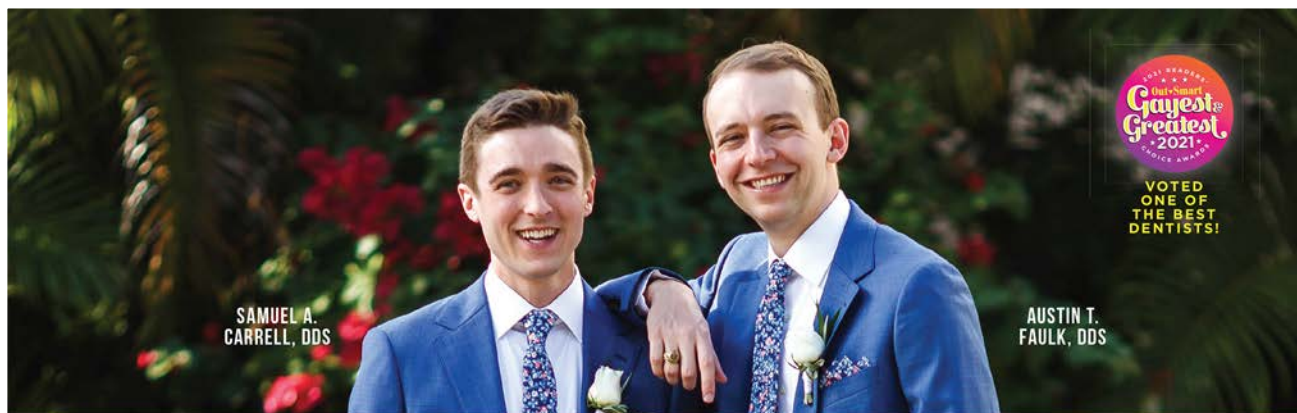
IMAGINE

Imagine is a popular song by the former Beatles member, John Lennon. Orchestrated here for wind orchestra by Japanese arranger Takashi Hoshide, the familiar tune

is taken at a steady pace, allowing for an extended saxophone solo to be placed on top of the arrangement. This arrangement gives the audience a fresh take on one of the twentieth century’s most popular songs, written to encourage the listener to imagine a world at peace without the barriers of borders or the divisions of religion and nationality, and to consider the possibility that the focus of humanity should be living a life unattached to material possessions.

LAST DANCE

Originally written for the 1978 film “Thank God It’s Friday”, *Last Dance* became an iconic disco hit performed by the legendary Donna Summer. Penned by Paul Jabara, this Grammy and Academy Award-winning song is a perfect blend of heartfelt balladry and upbeat disco rhythms. It captures the emotional intensity of a final night out, moving from a slow, soulful introduction to a high-energy crescendo, making it both a poignant farewell and a joyful celebration. Known for its infectious groove and powerful vocals, *Last Dance* has become a timeless anthem of the disco era, inspiring audiences to cherish every moment on the dance floor.



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Tony Tuckwiller, director

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Mary Beth Alsdorf
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Amanda Hager
Alexia Hernandez
Deborah Hirsch
Kirsten Kurtz
Jessie Meng
Sharon Prince
Jen Rodriguez
Brooke Yahney

BERING MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Alicia Chew
Teresa Clemens
Nancy Hall
Susan H. Lee
Page Martinez
Kei Cee Newton
Abby Powell
Eden Silva
Ember Silva
Erin Silva

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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.

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 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.

houstonprideband.org • facebook.com/houstonprideband



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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.

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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