



Western Kentucky University

HONORS BAND CLINIC



THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF BAND MUSIC

HIGH SCHOOL HONORS BAND CONCERT

Dr. Jayme Taylor, conductor
9/10 Big Red Honors Band

Dr. Scott Bersaglia, conductor
11/12 Gray Honors Band

Dr. Eric Smedley, conductor
11/12 White Honors Band

Dr. Scott Tobias, conductor
11/12 Red Honors Band

Friday, January 23, 2026
6:30 p.m.

The Auditorium at Van Meter Hall
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

PROGRAM
to be selected from the following

9/10 BIG RED HONORS BAND

Dr. Jayme Taylor, conductor

Shattering Infinity	Benjamin Dean Taylor
Breath of the Mountains.....	Cait Nishimura
Jungle Dance	Brian Balmages
Simple Gifts <i>from</i> Four Shaker Songs.....	Frank Ticheli
American Riversongs	Pierre LaPlante

Brief Intermission

11/12 GRAY HONORS BAND

Dr. Scott Bersaglia, conductor

Charm.....	Kevin Puts
Polly Oliver.....	Thomas Root
Cajun Folk Songs.....	Frank Ticheli
Combination March	Joplin/Schuller

Brief Intermission

11/12 WHITE HONORS BAND

Dr. Eric Smedley, conductor

Everglow.....	Katahj Copley
Colorado Peaks	Dana Wilson
Safely Rest.....	Nicole Piunno
Blue Tango.....	Leroy Anderson

Brief Intermission

11/12 RED HONORS BAND

Dr. Scott Tobias, conductor

Mt. Everest	Rossano Galante
AYO	Katahj Copley
One Life Beautiful.....	Julie Giroux
The Governor's Own	Alton Adams
Joy In All Things.....	Brian Balmages
Ride	Samuel Hazo

WKU Honors Band 2026 Conductors

Dr. Jayme Taylor, conductor of the 9/10 Big Red Honors Band, is Assistant Professor of Music and the Associate Director of Bands at Colorado State University where he conducts the Symphonic Band and serves as the Director of Athletic Bands directing the Colorado State University Marching Band, Rampage Basketball Band, and Presidential Pep Band. Prior to his appointment at CSU, Dr. Taylor served as Assistant Professor of Music Education and conductor of the Wind Ensemble at Carson-Newman University, and as Assistant Director of Bands and Assistant Director of Athletic Bands at the University of South Carolina. He earned degrees from the University of South Carolina (DMA) studying under James K. Copenhaver and Dr. Scott Weiss, and from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (M.M. in Conducting, B.M. in Music Education). Dr. Taylor is an active clinician and adjudicator of both concert and marching ensembles and is also a prolific drill designer for high school and collegiate marching bands. He has served as a middle and high school band director in East Tennessee and has extensive experience as an instructor and member with several drum and bugle corps including the Bluecoats of Canton, Ohio, Cavaliers of Rosemont, Illinois, and Troopers of Casper, Wyoming. Dr. Taylor is a member of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), the National Band Association (NBA), the Colorado Bandmaster's Association (CBA), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Pi Kappa Lambda, and is an alumnus of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. Dr. Taylor resides in Fort Collins with his wife Missy and their son Avery.

Dr. Scott Bersaglia, conductor of the 11/12 Gray Honors Band, serves as the Pastor of Worship at Grace Baptist Church in Somerset, KY. Before entering full-time ministry, he held conducting positions at Campbellsville University, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, The University of Michigan, as well as at Pikeville Independent Schools and Laurel County Schools. Dr. Bersaglia is the Founder and Music Director of the Sacred Winds Ensemble and serves as President of Sacred Winds Ministries. In 2022, he was appointed Director of the Somerset Big Band. He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts and a Master's degree in conducting from The University of Texas at Austin, and he holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Morehead State University. His principal conducting teachers include Jerry Junkin, Richard Miles, and Greg Detweiller. He is a member of the Kentucky Music Educators Association and currently serves as the State Band Chair. Additionally, he holds memberships in Phi Mu Alpha, Tau Beta Sigma, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternities. Bersaglia resides in Somerset with his beloved wife and their two wonderful daughters.

Dr. Eric Smedley, conductor of the 11/12 White Honors Band, is Associate Professor of Music in Bands at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he directs the Symphonic Band, teaches undergraduate and graduate instrumental conducting courses, and serves as the director of the Big Red Basketball Band. Smedley earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Washington and Master of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from the Jacobs School of Music. He previously served on the music faculties of Boise State University and Western Kentucky University, and as a public-school music educator in Cocoa Beach, Florida; Santa Monica, California; and Kenosha, Wisconsin. He has conducted throughout North America and in Vietnam, Poland, Russia, and Japan. Smedley maintains an active schedule as a clinician, guest conductor, adjudicator, and trumpet performer. His Symphonic Band was selected to perform at the 2018 College Band Directors National Association North Central Conference. He was a finalist at the 2023 Warsaw Wind Band Conducting Competition in Warsaw, Poland. In 2025, Navona Records released the album *Origins and Expansions*, featuring a composition by Kevin Bobo, world-renowned steel pan soloist Liam Teague, and the IU Wind Ensemble. Smedley's research interests are varied and include projects in the areas of contemporary wind band literature, wind band orchestration, and conducting pedagogy. His book chapters on composers Joseph Turrin, John Mackey, and David Dzubay are published in *A Composer's Insight: Thoughts, Analysis, and Commentary on Contemporary Masterpieces for Wind Band*, and he has additional research published in the *Teaching Music through Performance in Band* series. He is also an empirical researcher, most recently publishing "Conductor Gestures Influence Evaluations of Ensemble Performance" in the refereed journal *Frontiers in Psychology*. Smedley is a member of the Gamma chapter of the international band fraternity Phi Beta Mu and is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He is a member of the College Band Directors National Association and the National Association for Music Education. He lives in Bloomington, Indiana, with his wife, Jessica, their daughter, Ella, and their Bedlington Terriers, Piper and Finn.

Dr. Scott Tobias, conductor of the 11/12 Red Honors Band, currently holds the position of Director of Bands and Professor of Music at West Virginia University where his responsibilities include conducting the WVU Wind Symphony, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, and providing administrative leadership for the WVU Bands program. Prior to his appointment at West Virginia University, Dr. Tobias served as Director of Bands at the University of Central Florida and as Associate Director of Bands at Appalachian State University. He also previously served as a high school band director in the public schools of Georgia and South Carolina. Additionally, Dr. Tobias has served as director of several community music organizations including the Youth Band of Orlando, the Macon Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the Appalachian Youth Wind Ensemble. Bands under Dr. Tobias' direction have performed nationally and internationally at events such as the College Band Directors National Association Southern Division Conference, the New York Wind Band Festival in Carnegie Hall, the Western International Band Clinic, the Cabalgata de Reyes (Madrid, Spain), the London New Year's Day Parade, and the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival. Dr. Tobias remains active as a guest conductor and clinician working with collegiate honor bands, all-state bands, and district honor bands throughout the United States. Additionally, he has presented sessions at numerous state music educator conferences as well as the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. Dr. Tobias has been recognized with election to membership in the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and was named West Virginia Bandmaster of the Year by Phi Beta Mu. He is also a recipient of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award as well as the Hayes School of Music Outstanding Teacher Award. Dr. Tobias is a Past President of the National Band Association and a Past President of the Big 12 Band Directors Association. He currently serves as Executive Secretary of the National Band Association. Additional professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu, College Band Directors National Association, National Association for Music Education, West Virginia Music Educators Association, Pi Kappa Lambda, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. A native of South Carolina, Dr. Tobias earned the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Furman University, the Master of Music Education degree from the University of Georgia, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the University of Georgia.

WKU Honors Band Student Participants

Students are listed alphabetically within each section to recognize each individual contribution to the ensemble.

11/12 RED BAND

FLUTE

Samantha Beach
Leah Chen
Kristen Eastridge
Anna Goff
Kayla Miller
Haley Orberson
Kaitlyn Osorio
Tyanna Smith
Jose Solis
Oliver Sparks
Madeline Stanley
Jeremy Tomlinson

OBOE

Rowan Huston
Stella Miner

CLARINET

Savannah Bellamy
Olivia Bowers
Marle Campbell
Jaden Davis
MJ Dawson
Mason Gordon
Ariana Martinez
Ally McKiness
Christian McQueary
Katie Miller
Ella Moore
Steven Pham
Jackson Runtenelli
Juan Santiago
Andrea Scott
Alexandria Springer
Elli Trivizadakis

BASS CLARINET

Lillian Benton
Victor Cordero
Ashley Li
Collin Swartz

BASSOON

Owen Halcomb
Kayleigh Holzknecht

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Ian Cunningham
Greyson Davis
Levi Garrett
Solomon Weiss

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Landen Arnold
Cameron Ebelhar

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Robert Brown

HORN

Brian Bosse
Elliot Davies
Lilly Dayton

11/12 WHITE BAND

FLUTE

Ryleigh Banks
Layly Clemente
Laila Founder
Stella Kim

TRUMPET

Zeke Bristow
Neal Calvert
Kaleb Goins
Abby Graves
Nolan King
Jack Powell
Kane Simmons
Thomas Stricker
Trent Stricker
Keaton Thompson
Darius Williams
Sophia Wilson

TROMBONE

Logan Bishop
Franklin Estes
Hailey Keith
Jackson Kimbler
Sara Marshman
Tyler Salvador
Gael Samudio
Destin Sheriff
Abe Taylor
Daphne Wilson

BASS TROMBONE

Ricardo Reyes

EUPHONIUM

Ellery Bickers
Wyatt Camp
Lucas Evans
Sam Page
Placido Vicente

TUBA

Avery Gowin
Cliff Ogden
Daniel Robertson
Christian Stewart
Patrick Thomason

PERCUSSION

Cooper Brownlee
Jaxon Clark
Luke Cothran
James McEwen
Landon Newman
Jake Upton
Marshall Wiggins

11/12 GRAY BAND

FLUTE

Lillian Atherton
Ava Groves
Joslyn Hinton
Mackenzie Hulsey
Sage Maxwell
Sorcha Pattee
Madeline Piecul
Madison Price
Katelyn Reagan
Anna Tooley
Braxtyn Woodring

OBOE

Max Combs
Conner Dunn

CLARINET

Ben Abbott
Olivia Atkinson
Maggie Basham
Emma Boisseau
Teralan Carver
Abbey Daniels
Elijah Ford
Jordyn Head
Miranda Howey
Brionna Lucas
Azden Miller
Emma Petranek
Eion Roberts
James Thomas

BASS CLARINET

Camden Bryd
Andrew Fulkerson
Victoria Vazquez

BASSOON

Liam Briggs

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Andy Cruz
Aiden Gentry
Caden Jacobs
Tracy Millay
Carson Smith
Yssa Tabigue

TENOR SAXOPHONE

James Miller
Matthew Miller

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Mason Jones
Gavin Spinner

HORN

Michael Andrews
Ella Burns
Kylene Daugherty
Jaysan Helm
Frank Leirey
Mauricio Suarez Rojas
Gabe Thomas
Andrew Whitley

TRUMPET

Tristan Anderson
Alexis Buehl
Chloe Cook
Will Graham

Arabelle Green
Avery Larison
Tristan Lashley
Ava Lucas
Deborah Maiers
DeArion Stewart
Melodie Yocum

TROMBONE

Elijah Barnett
Leannah Blondin
Juan Cenobio-Leonardo
Mattie Clark
Blake Green
Alexander Hatter
Will Phelan
Peyton Reed
Wyatt Sweet

BASS TROMBONE

Evan Henderson

EUPHONIUM

Joe Bland
Alan Brownlie
Eli Gregory
Keegan Gunn
Evan Vittitow

TUBA

Jaslynn Harrell
Michael Harris
Zachary Kvindis
Collin Parson
Landon Popplewell
Riley Salmons

PERCUSSION - Battery

Noah Gibson
Hunter Johnson
Landon Newton
Jait Youmans

PERCUSSION - Keyboard

Addison Akers
Michael Calhoun
Icel Tabigue
Asa Woodcock

OBOE
Nate Davis
Julia Emsweller

CLARINET
Jadeb Baah
Ava Ballard
Michael Bennett
Cayden Collins
Peyton Embry
Elijah Farmer
Gigi Garchar
Abbygale Humphrey
London McDowell
Addisun O'Bannon
Abbie Sills
Alex Strunk
Kevin Willett
Kaylee Williams

BASS CLARINET
Taylor Creager
Xalola Finch
Jadasi Valdivia

BASSOON
Aidan Hogg

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Jackson Canning
Wesley Grace
Connor Lee
William Mattingly
Abigail Propes

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Kira Benningfield
Christian Williams

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Stockton Beasley Brown
Nick Plemmons

HORN
Wyatt Baker
Jorge Garcia
Brody Millay
Alayna Musson
Victor Palacios
Anna Stanley
Piper Wells

TRUMPET
Rose Marie Bernal
Christian Buskov
Noah Campbell
Amelia Cothran
Alex Epley
Neelie Laird
Deranne Lasley
Joshua Miller
Andrew Moore
Hayden Sandefer
Jonah Schmidt

TROMBONE
Aiden Devlin
David Dunavant
Maverick Morris
Kooper Naylor

Julianne Risner
Katheryn Saenz
Aidan Salyers
Branton Smith
Kayden Tran

BASS TROMBONE
Hayden Walker

EUPHONIUM
Lucas Coomer
Landon Day
Savannah Haynes
Lillia Morgan
Hannah Reynolds
Adrian Whitehead

TUBA
Kane Denney
Carter Douglas
Ben Higdon
Kaylyn Sanchez
Sawyer Wolf

PERCUSSION - Battery
Ethan Ladnier
Diego Padin
Draven Rudnick
Eli Shaffer

PERCUSSION - Keyboard
Addison Ross
Nathan Stogner

9/10 BIG RED BAND

FLUTE
Alex Bovard
Abigail Brunell
Grey Carroll
Mckenna Clemons
Oluchi Igobokwe
Hannah Kennington
Keyla Loza
Gracey Parker
Suhani Patel
Olivia Shirley
Piper Smith
Kory Sulcer

OBOE
Meredith Edwards
Rex Johnston
Lakshmi Korivi

CLARINET
Addison Caddell
Katelynn Cortes
Bella Dillinger
Jack Endicott
Cynthia Flores
Fia Gani
Jessica Garcia Garcia
Marius Langley
Evelynn Lanham
Ella Murphy
Abigail Parrish
Jacob Peterson
Emily Popplewell
Ashly Serrano Morales

Alia Serrano
Abigail Sharp
Roland Smith
Addison Spainhoward
Joseph Ulrich
Emma Willcox
Kendra Williams
Addy Williamson
Cullen Wills

BASS CLARINET
Abby Garcia
Jocelyn Kincheloe
Cooper Lynch
Preston Moody
Aurelia Randall

BASSOON
Ramsey Butler
Donovan Hatchett
Landon Kruger
Evan Nunes
Trinity Wells

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Danny Alas
Shyla Felty
Isaiah Litton
Hadley Murray
Sidney Murray
Joanna Zhang

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Owen Hodges
Kaedyn Kendrick

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Paul Cordova

HORN
Dani Buckingham
Lexington Galloway
Wyatt Gootee
Van Jenkins
Isaac Jobe
Adyan Salman
Red Stepek
Alyssa Taylor
Jasper Toomey
Grayson Wendt

TRUMPET
Trey Barden
Maddie Brady
Elaine Cook
Logan Dodson
Karen Favela
Karyn Goatee
Joey Heacock
Zane Hodskins
Kaden Lucas
Logan Manley
Elizabeth McGill
Carson Miller
Tristan Price
Austyn White

TROMBONE
Payton Aaron
Erik Berry

Bennett Coots
Sam Dotson
William Holdsworth
Caleb Houchens
Mackynzie Hunt
Connor Rankin
Brandon Roberts
Trevor Schallert
Audrey Shields

BASS TROMBONE
Caleb Stanton

EUPHONIUM
Riley Andrew
Evie Kravets
Grady Vance
Kayden Woolbright

TUBA
Michael Ficker
Joey Hayse
Ty'Yonia Purefide
Noah Stoffel
Hunter Uptegraff
Lilly Vernon

PERCUSSION - Battery
Dylan Binion
Tristan Jordan
Grayson Moore
Harper Nix
Caleb Phillips

PERCUSSION - Keyboard
Kenzie Blake
Jaelynn Boyer
Ally Hammack
Chloe Huff
Anna-Leigh Minton
Lilly Smith
Adam Wallace

**JOIN US FOR OUR
FOURTH SEASON!**
HILLTOPPER
SUMMER MUSIC CAMP
JUNE 7-12, 2026

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Big Red Beginning Band
grades 6-7 with 1 year experience

Hilltopper Junior Band
grades 6-8 with 2+ years experience

WKU Senior Honors Band
grades 9-12

Piano Camp
grades 6-12 with 2+ years experience

For more information, visit our website at
WWW.WKU.EDU/MUSIC/HILLTOPPERSMC

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS & DIRECTORS

We would like to thank the following directors for their time, compassion, and dedication to their students:

Adair County HS	Jonathon Holmes
Allen County Scottsville HS	Tyler Cook, Joshua Pace
Apollo HS	Nathaniel Nash
Barren County HS	David McKinney, Abigayle Bryant
Bowling Green HS	Anjali Sivaalinkaran, Christi Shores, Lucas Allen
Breckinridge County HS.....	Paul Rotramel, Megan Pacheco
Bullitt East HS.....	Jason Novak
Butler County HS	Justus Adams, Jason Ausbrooks
Caldwell County HS.....	Mason Henry
Caverna HS	Spencer Osborne
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Christian Academy of Louisville.....	Cameron Taylor, Logan Clark, Nicole Turner
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Corbin HS	Benamen Duncan
Cumberland County HS.....	Justin Fiessinger
Daviess County HS.....	Nathan Clark, Gavin Spinner
Dixie Heights HS.....	Sarah Shamblin
Edmonson County HS	Patrick Sweazy, Tyler White
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Greenwood HS	Nick Collar
Harpeth HS	Hayden Upperman
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Henderson County HS.....	John Woods
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Rossview HS	Brandon Reynolds
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Union County HS.....	Hunter Sanders, Trace Denton
Warren Central HS.....	Jared Sells, Brenna Derby
Warren East HS.....	Johnathan Cline, Cedrick Leavell
Washington County HS.....	Scotty Burns
Wayne County HS	Jimmie Hafley
Webster County HS.....	Alex Benoit, Christian Valez

Western Kentucky University

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Emily Britton, D.M.A.	Florida State University	Horn
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John Cipolla, D.M.A.	University of North Carolina, Greensboro	Clarinet/Saxophone
Jared Cummings, D.M.	Florida State University	Saxophone
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Keegan Finkbine, M.M.	University of Georgia	Bassoon
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Gary Schallert, D.A.	University of Northern Colorado	Director of Bands
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Western Kentucky University Bands

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Dr. Matthew McCurry	Associate Director of Bands
Dr. Scott Harris	Assistant Director of Bands

WKU Bands Graduate Assistants David Holt, Megan Withers, Noah Woody

WKU Student Band Staff..... Shaylee Baxter, Michael Cecil, Olivia Harris
Patrick Johnson, Evan Kenney, Brianna Nolan, Cailee Tucker

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the following:

Emily Lindsey, Office Coordinator, Department of Music

Jeffrey Smith "Smitty", Van Meter Hall

Sarah Thomas, Van Meter Hall

Phi Mu Alpha

Delta Omnicron

Sigma Alpha Iota



WKU | Department of
Music

POTTER COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS