

STATE CONCERT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Saturday May 6, 2023
Lexington High School



SC
Band
Directors
Association

Music is Instrumental to success

Concert Program

Beechwood Middle School Symphonic Band
Craig Davis

Laing Middle School Symphonic Band
Adam Vernon-Young

Anderson School District 2 Middle School Concert Band
John Fulmer, CiGi Curry

Batesburg-Leesville Middle School Symphonic Band
Glen Funderburk

John W. Moore Middle School Wind Ensemble
Richard Hyman

Sneed Middle School Intermediate Band
Matthew Carl

River Oaks Honor Band
Alice Aldredge

Northwood Middle School Symphonic Band
Jake Campbell

Rollings Middle School Symphonic Band
Marie Evans

Chapin Middle School 8th Grade
Maria Manaeva

D.R. Hill 8th Grade Honors Band
Thomas Cotter, Eric Bell, Allison Schweickert

Riverside Middle School Symphonic Band
Maggie Walters

Florence Chapel Middle School Symphonic Band
Alicia Crutchlow

Clinicians



Originally from Illinois, Cathi Leibinger moved to Miami in 1989 as a first year teacher and began her teaching career with Miami-Dade Public Schools. In 2000, she moved to Ransom Everglades Middle School, an independent school in Coconut Grove. A Past President of the Florida Bandmasters Association, she also served multiple terms as District Secretary and District Chair, Junior High/Middle School Representative to the Executive Board in 2002-2004, and President in 2018-2020

Ms. Leibinger earned a B.M.E. from Millikin University in Decatur, IL an M.S. in Music Education from the American Band College/Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon, and is presently pursuing a masters degree in Nonprofit Management from the University of Central Florida. She was a member of the American Band College graduate staff and the Western International Band Clinic Staff in Seattle, Washington from 2000 to 2018. She serves as a member of the Advisory Board for the Band Directors Group on Facebook, a professional learning group of over 27,000 members from all over the world. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Music Mentor Network, a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide student musicians equal access to highly trained music mentors in order to reach their full musical potential.

Ms. Leibinger's students have consistently earned superior ratings at Solo, Small Ensemble, Concert Band, and Jazz Band Music Performance Assessments. Her students have worked with or performed with the Dallas Brass, the Boston Brass, soloists Sam Pilafian and Patrick Sheridan (tuba), Brian Neal (trumpet), conductor Colonel Arnard D. Gabriel (US Air Force, retired Conductor Emeritus) and have premiered commissioned works by Robert Longfield and Brian Balmages. She serves as an adjudicator and clinician throughout the state and is a member of FBA, FMEA and NAFME. She is a member of the Greater Miami Symphonic Band on horn and plays bass in the Miami-based rock band, "Never Too Late."



Erin Cole Steele is the Director of the Division of Education and Senior Educational Clinician for Conn Selmer Inc. Prior to her position at Conn Selmer, Erin was the Director of Bands at Tapp Middle School in Cobb County, Georgia (1995-2017) where she was named Teacher of the Year. Under her leadership, the Tapp Band received numerous accolades including performing at the 58th annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. During her tenure at Tapp MS, she commissioned four pieces of music including Robert W. Smith's "The Great Locomotive Chase," Frank Ticheli's "Simple Gifts-Four Shaker Songs," Samuel R. Hazo's "Ascend," and was part of a consortium commissioning Eric Whitacre's "The Seal Lullaby."

Erin is a contributing editor for Hal Leonard's Essential Elements for Band. She has written chapters for three editions of the GIA publication series Teaching Music Through Performance and most recently wrote a chapter for the book Rehearsing the Middle School Band by Stephen Meyer.

Erin is an active guest conductor and speaker. She has presented sessions at the Midwest Clinic on several occasions as well as state and international conferences. She has served as the guest conductor for numerous All-State and regional honor bands, appearing in over 30 states. She served as the conductor for Youth Bands of Atlanta from 2011-2017 and a conductor for the "Encore" Music Camp for several years. She was the founder and administrator of the Cobb County Summer Band Camp in Georgia. Erin has served as a clinician for the Music for All Summer Symposium and is currently on the teaching faculty and executive director for The Conn Selmer Institute.

Erin Cole Steele earned her bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Georgia in 1995. While at the University of Georgia, she played cello, flute, and piccolo in the University Symphony Orchestra, chamber groups, Symphonic and Concert Bands, and the Redcoat Marching Band.

Erin's professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu, Sigma Alpha Iota, and the National Band Association from whom she was awarded the Citation of Excellence three times (2015, 2008, and 2003).

As a passionate supporter of school music programs, she continues to remain active in instrumental classrooms throughout the country and enjoys traveling for guest conducting and speaking engagements. Erin now resides in Scottsdale, Arizona where she and her husband Andrew enjoy hiking and biking on the weekends.



Having spent 36 years teaching middle school band, Steve Graves is currently in his 22th year as the band director at Lexington Junior High School in Cypress, CA. An active adjudicator and clinician for concert band, marching bands and percussion, and indoor percussion since 1987, Steve has also been arranging and designing for over 40 years. An adjudicator for the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association since 1989, he has been awarded the “Outstanding Adjudicator”, “Veteran Teacher”, and most recently “Outstanding Middle School Educator” awards by that association and is also a frequent clinician at their annual conference and judges training seminars. Currently serving as the vice president of Festival Adjudication, he oversees judges and adjudication policy for the Southern California region.

He has also served as an adjudicator or clinician for associations in Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Nevada, and Tennessee. A multi-time recipient of the “Teacher of the Year” and PTSA “Honorary Service” awards, Steve was named an Orange County “Arts Educator of the Year” in 2018. His books, “Drums, Keyboards, and More!” and “Great Beginnings; warm-ups for second year band” and several published works for young band are currently in use throughout the country and abroad.

Once a musician at Disneyland for sixteen years, he continues to be active as a percussionist with local community bands and several other regularly performing groups. He enjoys running, cooking, performing, and anything at the beach.

Mr. Graves holds a Bachelor’s degree in Music Education from California State University, Long Beach, and a Master of Arts degree in Band Conducting from the American Band College at Sam Houston State University.

Cheryl Floyd is in her 25th-year as Director of Bands at Hill Country Middle School in Austin, Texas. Prior to her tenure at Hill Country, she served as Director of Bands at Murchison Middle School, also in Austin, for eight years. Musical organizations under her leadership have consistently been sited for musical excellence at both local contests and national invitational festivals. Mrs. Floyd is recognized nationally for her educational and musical achievements at the middle school level. In 1990 her Murchison program was the recipient of the coveted Sudler Cup Award presented to exemplary middle school band programs by the John Philip Sousa Foundation.



The Hill Country Middle School Band has performed at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in 1998 and again in 2006 as well as Music for All's National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis (March 2012) under Mrs. Floyd's direction. Most recently, the HCMS Symphonic Band performed at the Western International Band Clinic in Seattle in November 2014. Mrs. Floyd routinely serves as a conductor on the University of Texas at Austin band camp faculty and has been a member of summer music faculties at Arkansas Tech University, Baylor University, Texas Lutheran University, Stephen F. Austin University, University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. She enjoys an active schedule as an adjudicator, clinician, author and guest conductor throughout the United States, having served as one of the first women guest conductors of the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C. in September, 1998.

In 2003, Mrs. Floyd was elected to the American Bandmasters' Association. She is the fifth female member of this 225 member organization and the first middle school band director to be chosen for ABA membership.

Over the past twenty plus years, she has maintained a keen interest in commissioning new works for concert band and has collaborated with such internationally recognized composers as Frank Ticheli, Cajun Folk Songs, Shenandoah, Bob Margolis, Renaissance Fair, Dana Wilson, Sang!, Ron Nelson, Courtly Airs and Dances, Steven Barton, Hill Country Flourishes, Chris Tucker, Twilight in the Wilderness. Catherine McMichael, Cape Breton Postcard, Undertow, by John Mackey and most recently, Spangled Heavens by Donald Grantham. The works generated by these ongoing projects have been acknowledged as being among the most significant works for young band.

A 1980 graduate of Baylor University, Mrs. Floyd has also done graduate work at the University of Texas with Paula Crider, Robert Duke and Karl Kraber. Since 1985 she has served as co-principal flute with the Austin Symphonic Band and in this capacity has performed at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic on two occasions, the American Bandmasters Association in 1993 and before the Texas Music Educators Association and Texas Bandmasters Association on numerous occasions. She is a member of ABA, TMEA, TBA, and Phi Beta Mu.



It is such a joy to see students performing for live audiences all over South Carolina once again! Across the state our band programs are growing in size and quality. We have observed this through the increased participation and performance in all of our SCBDA events. This year we continue the South Carolina Band Directors Association State Concert Performance Assessment by celebrating the success of our Middle School Bands. We are proud to offer this event to highlight our highest levels of achievement. On behalf of the entire SCBDA, I offer a profound congratulations to all the students and teachers who have earned the privilege to perform on stage today!

Truly, we all understand the trajectory of hard work and dedication involved in the preparation for adjudication. From the initial literature selection until the finals notes on stage, there is a palpable energy that leads directors and students through the music making process.

Achieving a “Superior with Distinction” is indicative of such a musical and educational development that seeks to match student achievement with literature selection to both showcase and challenge a program. Musical and personal growth through the process of preparation is the goal, and an arrival on this stage today is certainly a wonderful result.

The State CPA event is a point of pride for the SCBDA. Here our finest programs come together on one stage to receive the finest evaluations possible. Coupled with informative clinic experiences with master teachers and conductors is something unique to this event. I am truly proud of the opportunity for our SCBDA students, parents, teachers, and community members.

As one who has brought multiple ensemble to this event across several years, I have witnessed its benefits to my students and to our overall program, and I truly believe in the opportunities for growth that this will provide our middle schools this year.

Enjoy the concerts! There are no ratings today. We are all here to celebrate our South Carolina bands, making music, achieving excellence, and enjoying the day that is all about them!

Thank you, to our esteemed panel of evaluators, to Lexington High School for being our gracious host, and to all of you for coming to make sure the event is a huge success.

Always,

Leslie Gilreath

Leslie Gilreath
SCBDA President-Elect
Director of Bands, Summerville High School

May 6, 2023



Today is a proud moment for the South Carolina Band Directors Association. Our first ever State Concert Band Festival featuring thirteen of our finest middle school ensembles!

These young musicians, their directors, and their communities have strived to present the musical excellence you will witness today. They are among the finest in South Carolina and our nation. I'm so proud of the accomplishments and determination that is on display today.

The skills passed on to each directors' students cannot be measured by a single performance, but by the lifelong learning that band inspires, and a commitment to success for each student. The band programs of the SCBDA promote discipline, rigor, pride, determination, and enjoyment of music and student musicianship.

Congratulations to all involved in today's event. Thanks to our parents, school administrators, community members, and most importantly, the students and their directors for "saving band" in our schools.

Sincerely,

Chuck Deen

Chuck Deen
President, South Carolina Band Directors Association
Director of Bands, North Augusta High School

The South Carolina Band Directors Association extends their gratitude to the following people for today's event, and all of our CPA events this year. Without them, we would not be able to provide these opportunities to bands and students across the state!

THANK YOU!

Amanda Pike
Band Director, Lexington High School

Lexington 1 School District

Lexington High School Administration

All participating directors and schools

Concert Committee Members

Connect Performance Assessment Chairs and Site Hosts:

Senior Greenville: Dr. Marcus Morris, Dave Bruce, and Team Dorman

Junior Greenville: Tori Bevels, Eric Bell, and Joshua Tillman

Senior Charleston: Leslie Phillips and Gretchen Bowles

Senior Columbia: David O'Shields and Amanda Pike

Junior/Senior Pee Dee: Mark Roddy and Stephen Wisnant

Junior/Senior Rock Hill: Scott McGuire, Andrew Krieger, Ray Linkous, Marshall Woody

Junior Charleston - Meredith Melven, and the Summers Corner Performing Arts Center

Junior Columbia - Glen Funderburk and Josh Brown