

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA
INVITATIONAL HONOR BAND**

HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

DR. JOSEPH GRAY, PURPLE BAND
DR. IRA JENKINS, GOLD BAND

MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

MS. JENNEY MERRITT, WHITE BAND
MR. JOSH LYNCH, WHITE BAND

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
NORTON AUDITORIUM
11:00 A.M**



College of ARTS, SCIENCES,
and ENGINEERING

University of NORTH ALABAMA

A very special thanks to:
Ms. Courtney Woodman, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Ethan Franks, Norton Technical Director
Mr. Evan Hester, Norton Assistant Technical Director
Norton Technical Staff
Tau Beta Sigma
Percussion Studio
Dr. Whitney O'Neal, Chair, Department of Music
Dr. Meghan Merciers, Associate Dean, School of the Arts

PROGRAM TO BE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

I. MERRITT WHITE BAND

Laura Estes *Fleet Street March*

JaRod Hall *Tripwire*

Carol Britton Chambers *Byzantine Dances*

II. Lynch WHITE BAND

James Swearingen *Photo Finish!*

Randall Standridge *Nebula*

Adrian Sims *Escape!*

III. GOLD BAND

Rob Grice *Above the World*

Tyler S. Grant *Sweet Dreams*

Paul Murtha *Golden*

Randall D. Standridge *Choose Joy*

IV. PURPLE BAND

Jeremy Smith *The Eleventh Hour*

Brant Karrick *See Rock City*

Eric Whitacre *The Seal Lullaby*

Julie Giroux *March of the Sun-Dried Tomatoes*

About the Conductors:

Dr. Joseph Gray

Dr. Joseph Gray will return to the University of North Alabama as Director of Bands in the summer of 2026. Dr. Gray currently serves as the Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Mississippi State University and is a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. Army Music Program. Before joining MSU, he was the Associate Director of Bands and trumpet instructor at the University of North Alabama and taught on the music faculty at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

A versatile and accomplished performer, Dr. Gray has appeared with national Broadway touring productions of *The Book of Mormon* and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. He has held principal trumpet positions with the Shoals Symphony Orchestra and Opera Southwest and performs regularly with the Alabama, Huntsville, and Chattanooga Symphony Orchestras. His recordings can be heard on the Beauport Press and Naxos labels, and his performances have been broadcast on the nationally syndicated radio program *Performance Today*.

Dr. Gray has been active in the drum corps community for over 30 years, having performed with the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps and served on the educational staff for both the Academy and Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps. He is currently a member of the brass staff for the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps.

He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he was awarded the Eugene M. Bolz Fellowship. He also holds a Master of Music degree from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Music degree from California State University, Long Beach.

Dr. Ira Jenkins

Dr. Ira Jenkins joined the Decatur High School faculty as its Director of Bands in 2022. Students in the Bands of Decatur are quite active in various curricular and co-curricular ensembles including three band classes, percussion class, marching band, jazz ensemble, indoor percussion ensemble, chamber ensembles, and winter guards. Many of the band students earn chairs at GMEA's District 4 Honor Band as well as GMEA's All State Band. In addition to these events, students annually participate in collegiate honor bands throughout the southeast. In 2025 the Decatur High School Wind Ensemble performed (for the second time) as a featured band at the Southeastern United States High School Honor Band Clinic at Troy State University and (for the second time) at Music For All's Southeastern Concert Festival at Georgia State University. The marching band consistently receives superior ratings and best in class awards including finals appearances at Bands of America Affiliate competitions.

Prior to Decatur, Jenkins served as the Director of Bands at Alpharetta High School (GA). During his time at Alpharetta as the associate director and then head director, the Wind Ensemble performed at Carnegie Hall, Music For All's Southeastern Concert Festival at Georgia State University, and UGA's JanFest. Jenkins conducted Alpharetta Symphony's performance at GMEA's In Service Convention, and he was a guest conductor for the Alpharetta Orchestra's performance at the Midwest Clinic. The marching bands at Alpharetta consistently received superior ratings in all captions at all contests and was a class champion at their first appearance in a Bands of America Regional. The Alpharetta Band program also had three very competitive winter guards and a strong indoor percussion ensemble that were SAPA/GIPA class champions as well as WGI regional champions and WGI World Championship finalists.

Dr. Jenkins taught elementary, middle school and high school band in the following school districts—Atlanta Public Schools, Cobb County Schools, Fulton County Schools, Ossining (NY) Union Free School District, and Ridgewood (NJ) Public Schools. For over twenty-five years, Jenkins has served as a visual caption head, color guard caption head, and director of numerous winter guard programs throughout the east coast. His professional affiliations include marching band and winter guard adjudication with the WGI, DCI, BOA, UIL (TX), USBands, and numerous state circuits. Jenkins completed his undergraduate studies at Florida A&M University and Georgia State University. He holds a Master of Education in Leadership degree from Kennesaw State University, an Education Specialist in Music Education degree from the University of Georgia, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Georgia State University.

Josh Lynch

Mr. Josh Lynch is in his 23rd year of teaching and his 20th year as band director at Robert F. Bumpus Middle School. Prior to his tenure at Bumpus, he was the assistant band director at McAdory High School from 2003-2006. During his time at Bumpus, the Bumpus Bands have received superior ratings at District Assessment, State Assessment, and the ABA Music Performance Assessment each year. They have also performed at regional and national events such as the Southern Star Music Festival and the Music in the Parks Music Festival in Atlanta, GA, Festival Disney in Orlando, FL, the National Festival of the States in Washington, DC, the Smoky Mountain Music Festival in Gatlinburg, TN, and the National Adjudicators Invitational in Atlanta, GA. In 2014, Mr. Lynch led the Bumpus Symphonic Band in their first ever performance at the AMEA In-Service Conference and their first ever performance at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, IN. Mr. Lynch was also the Bumpus Middle School nominee and the middle school nominee from Hoover City Schools for the Jacksonville State University Teacher Hall of Fame in the 2010-2011 academic year. Mr. Lynch led the Bumpus Symphonic Band in their performance at the Music for All Southeastern Regional Concert Band Festival in Atlanta, GA in 2017 and the Music for All Belmont University Regional Wind Band Festival in 2025. The Bumpus Symphonic Band also performed at the 2026 College Band Directors National Association/National Band Association Southern Division Conference at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. In 2024, Mr. Lynch was inducted into the Rho Chapter of the Phi Beta Mu International School Bandmaster Fraternity. Mr. Lynch also served as Chairman of the Alabama Bandmasters Association, District IV from 2018-2020 and is a three-time recipient of the National Band Association Citation of Excellence.

Mr. Lynch is a native of Montgomery, Alabama where he attended Saint James School, graduating in 1998. Mr. Lynch then attended Samford University where he received the Bachelor of Music degree, Cum Laude, majoring in music education in 2002. He and his wife, Melanie, have a son named Taylor and a daughter named Abby Grace.

Jenney Merritt

Jenney Merritt is the band director at Discovery Middle School in Madison, Alabama. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Instrumental Music Education from The University of Alabama and a Master's degree through the American Band College in partnership with Sam Houston State University. Mrs. Merritt previously taught middle and high school band and choir in the Madison County School System and has been at Discovery Middle School in Madison City Schools since 2015, where her ensembles consistently receive superior ratings. She is an active contributor to music education in Alabama and has presented clinics at the Alabama Music Educators Association Conference (2023) and the Alabama All-State Band Clinic (2026). She resides in Madison with her husband, Matt, their daughter, Lane, and their Goldendoodle, Molly (Weasley).

About the UNA Bands

Membership in the UNA Bands is open to all UNA students with prior high school band experience. A student does not have to be a music major to participate. Almost 65% of the current band members are non-music majors and represent nearly every academic field on campus. The UNA Majorettes, Lionettes, and Color Guard are all members of the Band.

Band Performance Awards (scholarships) are available to all members of the UNA Bands regardless of academic major. Students are encouraged to audition for a performance award prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Band Performance Awards are renewable throughout a student's academic career (4+ years), and students have the opportunity to audition for an award increase near the end of each spring semester. For more details, please visit the UNA Band website: www.una.edu/universitybands. Also, like us on Facebook for updates on concerts, tickets, and more.

For more information on Band Performance Awards or to schedule an audition, contact:

Dr. Joe Gray, Director of Bands
jgray6@una.edu



Personnel

Purple Band

Flute

Daphne Naranjos
Lily Cox
Fernanda Ulloa
Avery Biggers
Mallory Natschke
Katherine Trapp
Delany Wright
Thomas Francisco
Ramirez
Jayden Dillingham
Annabelle Lane
Liberty Brown

Clarinet

Aiden Foster
Hemeli Hernandez-Diaz
Harper Watts
Ryleigh Wolfe
Caroline Seay
Kathya Marquez
Andy Ramirez Quinonez
Sara Bryn Chambers
Katherine Underwood
Miranda Willingham
Isaac Villarreal Garza
Zoe Chieffo
Delilah Phillips
Kaylee Parrish
Emmersyn Wright

Sophie Ellenburg
Olivia Weatherby
Bridgette Avery
Mallory Perkins
Lilly Pate
Sadie South
Bella Mika
Nora Dalrymple

Oboe

Asia Mansell

Bass Clarinet

Madi Willis
Karmyn Parker
Sebastian Baltazar

Contrabass Clarinet

Major Holt

Bassoon

Landis Price
Ann Maxwell Coats

Alto Saxophone

Anthony Green
Caden Wilson
Morgan Spinks
Asher Jones
Zoey Canady
Charlotte Little
Hannah Beddingfield
Ethan Pendergrast

Griffin Bayne
Judson Morris

Tenor Saxophone

Preston Robertson
Ryan Beavers

Bari Saxophone

Wyatt Denny
Kayleigh Jones

French Horn

Conner Campbell
Karley Geiger
Briley Stone
Layla Allcorn
Harper Wallace
Arabella Johnston

Trumpet

Brantley Gatlin
Maxwell Morgan
Analynn Bernat
Matthew Thompson
Kingston Kirk
Hunter Weeks
Bethany Reeves
Austin Holmes
Sam Carter
Braxton Moore
Brayden Santoni
Noah Hight
Annalise Seay
Levi Ferguson
Jake Cain

Trombone

Lawson Ledbetter
Holleigh McIngvale
Hayden Wagnon
Ben Elder
Andrew Keith
John Trapp
Richard Ethridge

Baritone

Jake Hernandez
Hudson Jenkins
Troy Lovett
Catelynn Williams

Tuba

Tyler Shires
Cody Peeden
Emily Sink
Kylie Biggers

Percussion

Jasmine Prince
Juan Gomes
Abby Gail Williams
Kayla Strickland
Hayden Reid
Cadence Sledge
Sini Mayfield
Angel Butler
Dylan Parker

Gold Band

Flute

Patricia Shelton
Jillian Snyder
Kez Borden
Haley Harris
Kylie Hallman
Kaitlyn Gable
Mikayla Coppock
Anabelle Moore
Chloe Alfred
Jenniffer Garcia

Clarinet

Nora Shirley
Hailey Monson
Nathalia Abarca
Sylvia Hernandez
Ma'Ray Salery
Natalie Trotter
Kalea Willis
Penelope(Ollie) Lane
Nevaeh Terry
Cameron Vance

Aaliyah Brow
Jazmin Wilson

Bassoon

Aiden De La Garza

Bass Clarinet

Allie Delaney
Maddison Hunt
Xylee James

Alto Saxophone

Riley Driskell
Garrett Wagnon
Aaron Juan Arango
Lara Freeland
Marina Rich
Meredith Glenn
Samantha Candelaria
Austin Cross
Dalton Baker

Tenor Saxophone

Tanner Moore
Lexi Briscoe

Bari Saxophone

Daniele Brewer

French Horn

Marley Willis
Lane Davis
Austin Juengel

Trumpet

Jace Ogle
Trevor Keith
Isaiah Gregg
Chloe Welborn
Danilo Gaspar Juan
Ella Kelsey
Sadie Doyle
Lex Payne
Marcelina Zuazo
Gage Philips
Lois Biggers
Caitlyn Juengel
Daniel Trejo
Nathan Todd

Trombone

Wendy Juan
Joshua Tucker
Madison Zeng
Jacob Leitschuh
David Arrillaga
Kadence Prance

Baritone

Brady Popwell
Erik Santoyo
Kamndon Stewart
Chance Harrison

Tuba

Taniyah Byrd
Bentley DeVaney
Moises Miguel DeLa Cruz
Blake Guin

Percussion

Addison Todd
Nikita Larson
Eli Glidewell
Karsen Bruns
Sawyer Kilpatrick
James Early
Levi Wint
Allie Mazur
Zaina Brimer
Tripper Adams

Merritt White Band

Flute

Brinkley Thuenen
Briana Bermudez
Khloe McMunn
Harper Bright
Charlene Lambert
Ryleigh Miller
Khoriana Frye

Clarinet

Avery Walters
Mila Ramirez
Rylee Wilkerson
Lily Haynes
Martha Sebastian
Clayton Shores
Ava Cromwell
Katie McLin
Evalyn Turpen
Isiah Brown
Kayatia Burt

Bass Clarinet

Emily Kay

Oboe

Landon Jaramillo

Bassoon

SJ McCalpin

Alto Saxophone

Trent Woodfin
Carter McAdams
Lola Ward
Lennon Davis
Eli Bunger
Thomas Bascom
Rowan Williams
Sarah Nelson

Tenor Saxophone

Liam Hudson

French Horn

Sydni Brown
Madison Hovater
Shaylyn Jackson

Trumpet

Lluvia Gonon
Alex Rodriguez
Loreki Shaw
Jon Phillip
Ricardo Curtz
Allison Hernandez
Madisyn Hodges
Ella Scaife
Arden King
Isaac Parrish
Justin Sapp
Michael Butler

Trombone

Lilyanna Ortega
Joseph Navarro
Hayden Watson
Silas Jackson
Bailey Monson
Khloe Peoples
Dylan Pugh
Emmet Deuel

Baritone

Miki Scott
Cohen Kirk
Kotus Garry

Tuba

Austin Muse

Percussion

Glenda Borden
Brooks Hutcherson
Emmersyn Brickner
Joshua Brown

Brantley Hood
Aubriana Copeland
Keiersyn Brown
Alex Earl
Rayce Moore

Lynch White Band**Flute**

Joseph Cagle
Pravi Talluri
Sofia Cienfuegos
Hailey Guthrie
Sadie Johnson
Brenley Bales
Madisyn Reddell
Savion Bentley

Oboe

Lily Stancil
Chloe Coats

Bassoon

Emma King

Clarinet

Maylea Bennett
Lorena Curtz
Genesis Alonzo
Ezra Bates
Jaylee McRight
Chloe Kent
Parashatha Talluri
Cameron Kubek
Olivia Henson
William Yuille

Bass Clarinet

John Weatherford
Ava Gomez

Alto Saxophone

Charlie Moore
Winn Baswell
Wesley McGee
Connor Young
Benjamin Brock
Corey Lively
Jonah Lane
Jamar Weakley

Tenor Saxophone

Parker Sutfin
Claudia Ortega

Bari Saxophone

Emma Umphrey

French Horn

Tyler Yearwood
Abigail Mays
Connor Kelems

Trumpet

Nora Rickman
Fisher Watts
Sawyer Snipes
Aiden Kozik
Hadley Hammond
Mason Knight
Weston Lee
Joshua McDonald
Vaughn Crandal
Ember Morris
Brody Kitchen
Chase Qualls
Jonas McDonald

Trombone

Barnett Andrews
Jessie Washington
Colby Smith
Connor Manley
Eli Willis
Leah Wilkerson
Mathew Butler
Gatlin Shedd
Landon Mazur

Baritone

Brantley Self
Addyson Hamilton
Laila Townsend

Tuba

Elijah Perry
Ezra Uptain

Percussion

Dylan Harper Chang
Samuel Udnerwood
Lizzie Hines
Melody Mostafavi
Wyn Rickman
Maddie Patten
Christopher Brown
Jack Willcut
Mathew Gardener