



MORTON HIGH SCHOOL MID-WINTER CONCERT

February 19, 2026

The Potterdome; Morton High School
Morton, Illinois

6:00pm; High School Wind Bands Concert PROGRAM



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DIGITAL PROGRAM
WITH MORE INFO

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND

Luke Shaffer and Andy Empey, Conductors

Due North (2014)..... Michael Sweeney (b. 1952)
Where the Heavens Meet Earth (2021)..... Jeremy Bell (b. 1986)
Shadows Unleashed (2013)..... Brian Balmages (b. 1975)

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC WINDS

Andy Empey and Luke Shaffer, Conductors

Folk Song Suite (1924)..... Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
I. March, "Seventeen Come Sunday"
Such Small Things (2017)..... Nathan Daughtrey (b. 1975)
The Raptor Rides the Whale (2018)..... Andrew David Perkins (b. 1978)

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE

Andy Empey and Katrina Fitzpatrick, Conductors

Windsprints (2003)..... Richard Saucedo (b. 1957)
Irish Tune from County Derry (1918)..... Percy Aldridge Grainger (1882-1961)
Arabesque (2008)..... Samuel Hazo (b. 1966)



MORTON HIGH SCHOOL MID-WINTER CONCERT

February 19, 2026

Bertha Frank PAC; Morton High School
Morton, Illinois

7:30pm; High School Jazz Bands Concert

PROGRAM

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND II

Jeff Arbisi, Director

Zoot Suit Riot (1997)..... Steve Perry (b. 1963), arr. Paul Murtha
April in Paris (1932)..... Vernon Duke (1903-1969), arr. Jeff Hest
Tubaluba (2006)..... Philip Frazier (b. 1961)

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND I

Jeff Arbisi, Director

Channel One Suite (1969)..... Bill Reddie (1925-2016), arr. Tom Davis
Easton Roecker and Henrique Brasil, soloists

JAZZ BAND I

Saxes

Henrique Brasil
Gabby Grabowski
Easton Roecker
Lainy Barrick
Joe Harper

Trombones

Louis Nowlan
Bradley Stoebr
Maggie Hunsley
Joshua Saunders
Sam Swearingen

Trumpets

Isaak Rosenthal
Max Bennett
Lindsey Bradford
Rylee Borman
Clay Leuchtenberg

Rhythm

Adrian Hoots
Taylor Rice
Bryant Empey
Caleb Manthey

JAZZ BAND II

Saxes

Gavin Bencher
Bryce McMillan
Miley Roosa
Oliver Finnigan
Lainy Barrick
Rylan Jones
Noah Hurst
Kade Darcy
Joe Harper

Trombones

Alex Fleming
Maggie Hunsley

Rhythm Section

Bea Schrock
Raegan Miller
Cooper Campbell
Walton Groth
Taylor Rice

Trumpets

Jerry Zou
Lindsey Bradford
Gaige Gray
Selah Davis



Morton High School

WIND ENSEMBLE

Flute

Carley Osterman
Mary Geyer
Grace Mulconrey
Alyssa Schumm
Avery Studebaker

Oboe

Jolie Jones

Bassoon

Gabby Grabowski

Clarinet

Lillian Morgan
Lainy Barrick
Lydia Milby
Ben Hartig
Hazel Lyons
Riley Oertle

Bass Clarinet

Taylor Rice

Contrabass Clarinet

Clare Specketer

Alto Saxophone

Henrique Brasil
Gavin Bencher
Bryce McMillan

Tenor Saxophone

Easton Roecker

Baritone Saxophone

Addison McClure

Trumpet

Isaak Rosenthal
Elijah Roseboom
Max Bennett
Rylee Borman
Gaige Gray
Weston Bieneman
Josie Porubcansky

Horn

Lindsey Bradford
Nate Sturhahn
Alaina Hornsby
Lilia Volkova

Trombone

Louis Nowlan
Jonathan Koscica
Sam Swearingen
Ellie Beckler

Euphonium

Ben Barrick
Lenay White

Tuba

Ben Rochford
Joe Harper
Ian Sipes

Percussion

Caleb Manthey
Bryant Empey
Colt Sauder
Henry Potts
Adrian Hoots
ZuZu Smith
Kate Kennay
Sophie Speichinger

Windsprints is a flourish of notes and rhythms meant to stir the kind of emotion one might experience during the running of a 50 or 100 yard dash. The piece gets off the “starting blocks” quickly and immediately involves numerous wind and percussion instruments in a technical “race to the finish line!” Windsprints was written for students (that the composer adores) in the Wind Symphony I at Carmel (IN) High School during the late fall of 2003. The band premiered the work at the National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis in February 2004. The composer humorously promised a sequel, “*Windsprints II: the 440m Relay*,” but as of 2026 the piece does not exist.

Irish Tune from County Derry (published 1918) is based on earlier settings that date back as early as October 1902 with an essentially identical setting of this melody for wordless mixed chorus. Later versions for solo piano (1911) and string orchestra with two optional horns (1912) followed. The wind band setting is cataloged as British Folk Music Setting Nr. 20, and like all his settings of British folk music is “lovingly dedicated to the memory of Edvard Grieg.” The composer’s brief program note states, “This tune was collected by Miss J. Ross, of New Town, Limavady, Co Derry, Ireland and published in The Petrie Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland, Dublin, 1855.” The piece has stood the test of time as one of the Masterworks in the wind band repertoire and a “back pocket” standard among the nation’s top most ensembles.

Arabesque was commissioned by the Indiana Bandmasters Association and written for the 2008 Indiana All-State Band. Arabesque is based in the mystical sounds of Middle Eastern music and it is composed in three parts. “Taqa-sim” (tah’-zeem), “dabka” (dupp-keh) and “chorale.” This stunning work from the pen of Samuel Hazo is a tour de force of Middle Eastern sounds for the contemporary wind band. From delicate and sensual soloistic writing to full-blown ensemble passages with rapid fire tutti rhythms and frenzied percussion, here is a rewarding piece with drama and depth that will be the high point of any concert or festival program.



Morton High School **SYMPHONIC WINDS**

Flute

Evelyn Fegley
Lilah Strubhar
Rachel Clauson
Ella Estes
Kayleigh Campbell
Mya Reed
Sam Kaspar
Ciera Huff

Oboe

Gigi Eckart

Clarinet

Skyler Kohlhagen
Tucker Anderton
Addie Giosta
Piper Kellenberger
Ruby Luker
Max Oggero
Maryana Fegley

Bass Clarinet

Finn Happach

Alto Saxophone

Kylie Bulfer
Dawson Speichinger

Tenor Saxophone

Joe Mahle

Baritone Saxophone

Jesse Sauder

Trumpet

Elliot Green
Clay Leuchtenberg
Jerry Zou
Selah Davis
Luke Wiegardt
Oliver Irion
Ryder Padilla
Benny Price
Kaitlyn Simpkins
Lily Middleton

Horn

Renee Fonseca
Campbell White
Levi Reisdorf

Trombone

Bradley Stoehr
Alex Fleming
Maggie Hunsley
Josh Saunders
Ryan Clauson
Connor Bingham

Euphonium

Jackson Friend
Haiden Stevens

Tuba

Cooper Middleton
Caleb Babin
Noah Hurst

Percussion

Zach Weber
Cooper Campbell
TJ Hinch
Raegan Copeland
Elly Veatch
Sophie Wilson
Avery Striegel
Jackson Soderstrom

[English] Folk Song Suite was commissioned by the Royal Military School of Music (London, United Kingdom) and premiered on July 4, 1923 before its official publishing. In three movements, the suite contains many different folk songs of the Norfolk and Somerset regions of England, including “Seventeen Come Sunday,” “Pretty Caroline,” and “Dives and Lazarus” in the first movement. The first two folk songs deal with similar subject matter of military men falling in love with and marrying pretty women. The styles of these two songs, however, offset each other; the first is bouncy and jovial, the second legato and cantabile. The third song included is based on the biblical story of Dives and Lazarus, in which a poor man repeatedly begs a rich man for assistance, but is denied. To portray the antagonism of the characters, Vaughan Williams cleverly sets a duple-meter melody in the low brass against a rigorous triplet-meter accompaniment in the high woodwinds. Historically, the suite is considered along with two suites by Gustav Holst to be a cornerstone piece for wind band; one of the earliest “serious” works for the “military” band format.

Such Small Things is a gift to the composer’s baby daughter. The sweeping ballad simultaneously celebrates the anticipation of life and the joy that her life has brought into the world. Sparkling percussion and rich brass and woodwinds make this piece a treat for the listener. The composer writes, “My favorite memory every morning comes when my 4-month old daughter wakes up full of smiles and optimism. The title *Such Small Things* comes from a StoryPeople print that hangs in her nursery. Children’s Author Brian Andreas’s words perfectly capture the anticipation of her arrival into this world:

*For a long time, there were only your footprints & laughter in our dreams
& even from such small things, we knew we would love you forever.*

The Raptor Rides the Whale is an aggressive, driving, modal (Phrygian) work that heavily features the percussion section, utilizing multiple special effects. At a fast tempo, the piece pushes the boundaries while instrumentation and technical demand stay well within the reach of a young ensemble. The piece is inspired by the nonsensical artwork of Stirling Prentice, professionally known as “Winged Beast.” It is a metaphoric manifestation of one of his artworks, *The Raptor Rides the Whale*, depicting an imagined melee between these two iconic creatures. Perhaps, like a discarded chapter from a Michael Crichton novel (*Jurassic Park*, *The Andromeda Strain*, *State of Fear...*) the outcome of this improbable rendezvous would be best left to our imaginations. Here, humbly, is the suggested soundtrack.



Morton High School **CONCERT BAND**

Flute

Lilly Howell
Carly Babin
Juliet Luker
Nicholas Rose
Ella Bradford

Clarinet

Uday Anand
Mikayla Kuras
Brenton Graves
Sydney Shaw

Bass Clarinet

Bea Schrock

Alto Saxophone

Rylan Jones
Miley Roosa
Nyla Ward

Baritone Saxophone

Kade Darcy

Trumpet

Adam Lunt
Ben Meester
Aaron Cosby
Raegan Miller
Reagon Bishop
Taevin Hangartner
James Hapbach
Andrew Zupancic
Will Miller
Nathanael Ulysse
Jason McElyea

Trombone

Bradley Dennison
Cooper Roth
Cole Schlappi

Euphonium

Logan Friend
Schaeffer Friend

Tuba

Oliver Finnigan

Percussion

Luke Hartnett
Alexander Rose
Grace Williamson
Brody Buescher
Bryce Frank
Ethan Erwin
Owen Sorbe
Brogan Woiwode

Due North was commissioned for the 46th Annual University of Minnesota-Duluth Jr. High Honor Band Festival (2014) by Dr. Mark Whitlock, UMD Director of Bands and festival coordinator. The city of Duluth, Minnesota on the westernmost shore of Lake Superior is further north than most cities in the continental United States, so the title seemed appropriate! Suggesting, perhaps, an exciting downhill ski run or possibly a snowmobile chase through the woods, *Due North* is a fast-paced overture composed using a single tempo. Along the way, various moods are suggested as themes and musical ideas are passed from section to section, and the percussion section provides a driving, rhythmic pulse throughout.

Where the Heavens Meet Earth is a beautiful, lyrical work featuring flowing melodic lines and a four-note motive that transitions throughout the ensemble. The piece is inspired by the picturesque salt flats in Bolivia called Salar de Uyuni, which, after it rains, turns the flat into the world's largest mirror, reflecting the sky above.

Shadows Unleashed exudes a dark and somewhat mischievous character, painting a picture of shadows moving into and out of darkness as they carry out a ritualistic dance. At times the music sounds playful; yet other times it takes on a more sinister character. The flutes ominously introduce the shadowy theme, which develops into the dance. As the shadows are "unleashed" by various instruments, they continue their dancing, and the energy of the piece increases as well. Dissonances become more prevalent, and vocal effects enhance the contemporary nature of the piece. Erupting out of the darkness, the driving music continues feeding on itself as it moves to a dramatic finish.



Co-Director of Bands **Andy Empey** is a native of Canton, Illinois, and holds degrees from Western Illinois University and Eastern Illinois University. He has directed bands for 21 years, including tenures at Limestone Community and Galesburg. Andy is a former trumpet player of The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps of Rosemont, IL and the Star United Mini-Corps of Indianapolis, IN. He and his wife, Danielle, have three children and reside here in Morton.

Co-Director of Bands **Katrina Fitzpatrick** is a graduate of Morton High School, and has taught at Morton CUSD 709 since 1999. She holds degrees from Bradley University and Illinois State University. Katrina has been honored with performances at the Midwest Clinic, Illinois Music Education Conference, and enjoys instructing flutes at the Bands of America Summer Camp of Muncie, IN. She lives in Morton with her husband, Craig, and dog, Padfoot.

Assistant Director of Bands **Luke Shaffer** is from Big Rapids, Michigan, and currently studies at Ohio University, holding a degree from Southern Illinois University. He comes to Morton from 6 years' experience at Du Quoin High School and Carbondale Community High School. Luke also previously taught and performed at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, near Muskegon, MI. He lives in Morton with his fiancée, Maddie, and four cats.

2022-2024 Illinois State Marching Band Championships Grand Champion
2005-2025 Illinois State Marching Band Championships Class AA Champion
2025 University of Illinois Marching Band Grand Champion and Class AAA Champion
2012, 2023-2025 Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional Class AA Champion
2024 and **2026** University of Illinois SuperState Honor Band
2023 Music for All National Concert Band
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