

Morton Bands welcomes you to our

2026 Spring Concert



Caterpillar Performing Arts Center; FivePoints Washington
Washington, Illinois
May 6, 2026



Morton High School Concert Band

Luke Shaffer and Andy Empey, Conductors

Knox Bridge Jubilee (2018) Todd Stalter (b. 1966)
GRADIENTS (2017) Andrew David Perkins (b. 1978)
Illinois Memories (2026)* Joshua A. Idio (b. 1995)

***Consortium Premiere**

Morton High School Symphonic Winds

Andy Empey and Luke Shaffer, Conductors

Harry's Wondrous World (2002) John Williams (b. 1932) arr. Brubaker
Baba Yetu, from "Civilization IV" (2005) ... Christopher Tin (b. 1976) arr. Conaway
How to Train Your Dragon (2010) John Powell (b. 1963) arr. O'Laughlin

Morton High School Wind Ensemble

Andy Empey and Katrina Fitzpatrick, Conductors

2026 Illinois SuperState Concert Festival 1A Honor Band

La Fiesta Mexicana (1949) H. Owen Reed (1910-2014)
"I. Prelude and Aztec Dance"
Where the Reeds Grow (2026)* Craig Fitzpatrick (b. 1978)
Urban Light (2021) James M. David (b. 1978)

***World Premiere**



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

La Fiesta Mexicana, a Mexican Folk Song Symphony for Concert Band, has dazzled many audiences of collegiate and advanced high school concerts. Authentic folk songs used are found in Chapala, Jalisco, and Guadalajara, Mexico; while other themes were taken from real Gregorian chant and Aztec dances. The first movement, "Prelude and Aztec Dance," features the tolling of church bells and the booms and cracks of fireworks as groups of people from near and far slowly descend on the huge court of a cathedral. Some come on foot, others are carried by *burro* and by cart. After a restless night of a festival, a midday parade is announced by the blaring of the trumpets of a *mariachi* band. The scene transitions one final time to the Aztecs, who lend their dancers to a grand celebration, creating an ever-increasing frenzy of motion and color.

Where the Reeds Grow takes its title from the word *Athabasca*, a name rooted in the languages of the Indigenous peoples of western Canada and often translates to "the place where the reeds grow." More than a geographic reference, the phrase evokes an image of land shaped slowly by water, wind, and time - a place of quiet persistence and natural balance. This work is not a depiction of a specific event or story, but rather a meditation on landscape and presence. Long, lyrical lines unfold gradually, favoring stillness over motion and resonance over momentum. Harmonies emerge and evolve with patience, mirroring the way reeds rise from the water not in sudden bursts, but through steady, organic growth.

Urban Light is a brilliant display of colors, forward momentum, and intertwining rhythmic layers that is inspired by the iconic Los Angeles landmark of the same name. Created by conceptual art pioneer Chris Burden in 2008, the original work is an assemblage of historic streetlamps that were transplanted from various cities in California and Oregon. The tight spacing and repetitive forms interact with the dynamic LA sunlight transitioning to the exciting nighttime glow of the city. Primary melodic and rhythmic motives are derived from the Morse code for the word "California." Chords used parallel rock/metal music that reaches a zenith here with a heavy percussion backbeat. The work of music was commissioned by the National Band Association for its 60th Anniversary and is dedicated to the composer's wife, who introduced him to the West Coast.



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
Raegan Miller

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

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets is the second installment of Harry Potter's adventures at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, based on the novel by J. K. Rowling. A mysterious elf tells Harry to expect trouble during his second year at Hogwarts, but nothing can prepare him for trees that fight back, flying cars, spiders that talk and deadly warnings written in blood on the walls of the school.

Harry's Wondrous World comes from the beloved soundtrack by composer John Williams and is a recurring staple piece in the Harry Potter film series. Williams was nominated twice for the Academy Award for Best Original Score for his work on Harry Potter.

Civilization IV is a turn-based strategy video game, in which the player's main objective is to construct a civilization from limited initial resources. Most standard full-length games start the player with a settler unit and/or a city unit in 4000 BC. The game is won when a player conquers all other civilizations, builds and sends the first space ship to another solar system, or reaches other statistical benchmarks.

Baba Yetu is a musical setting for the Swahili text of *The Lord's Prayer* (Our father, who art in heaven...). Christopher Tin's arrangement serves as the game's central musical theme. It became the first song from a video game to ever be nominated for and win a Grammy Award.

How to Train Your Dragon is an animated movie taking place on the rugged isle of Berk, where a Viking boy named Hiccup defies centuries of tradition by befriendng a dragon named Toothless. However, when an ancient threat emerges that endangers both species, Hiccup's friendship with Toothless becomes the key to forging a new future. Together, they must navigate the delicate path toward peace, soaring beyond the boundaries of their worlds and redefining what it means to be a hero and a leader.

Themes from the film's original score by John Powell have become well known and loved, especially the track "Test Drive" in which the main character passes barriers and learns to control the flight of a dragon for the first time.



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
Reagon Bishop
Taevin Hangartner
James Happach
Andrew Zupancic
Will Miller
Nathanael Ulysse
Jason McElyea

Horn

Raegan Miller

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

Knox Bridge Jubilee composer Todd Stalter writes that, “Often times, whether it is going for a walk or traveling, it is motion that sparks my musical ideas. The main theme of the piece popped into my head as my wife and I were driving through rural Georgia on vacation, and as we passed a sign that said “Knox Bridge,” I knew I had found a title for it. This lively and bright music for band features fanfares, tuneful melodies, unexpected harmonies, and lots of rhythmic drive, hopefully expressing the joy and happiness I feel for those I know in The Peach State.

GRADIENTS for Concert Band is a synthesis of ideas, designed for developing musicians. The gradient concept is expressed through dynamics, cluster chords, and extensive use of the melodic minor scale. In physics, gradients can describe an increase or decrease the magnitude of a property (i.e. temperature, pressure, or concentration) observed in passing from one point to another. In mathematics, the gradient is a synonym for the slope. It points in the direction of of the greatest rate of increase of a function, and its magnitude is the slope of that graph.

Illinois Memories was commissioned by a consortium including Morton High School’s Assistant Director of Bands, Luke Shaffer in 2024 and completed in time for Spring 2026 performances. Architect Frank Gehry once stated that architecture “should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness.” In Illinois, many structures stand in testimony to this idea, like the state capitol’s rotunda, the Cahokia Mounds, and the iconic Cloud Gate (“the Bean”). Idio’s work for band is a tribute to these and many more famous architectural landmarks that give the region its unmistakable charm. Using powerful motifs symbolizing the many features of construction and design found within the Prairie State, *Illinois Memories* seeks to capture the spirit of Illinois and reflect its rich architectural heritage.



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
2017 John Philip Sousa Foundation Sudler Shield
NAMM Best Community for Music Education

Pride in Performance

Thank you, Morton CUSD 709 for your support of Morton Bands!

Dr. Joe Sander, Superintendent
Dr. Troy Teater, Assistant Superintendent
Kirk Edwards, Principal
Todd Herrmann, Associate Principal
Scott Jones, Athletic Director
Shannon McClure & Mason Tennell, Assistant Principals

Thank You, Morton Bands Boosters and Executive Board!

Kurt Smith, President
Natalie Friend, Vice President
Nicole Potts, Treasurer

Thank You, Sponsors, for your support of Morton Bands!

Dr. Maurer - OSF Orthopedics, Great Plains Orthopedics, Dill Wealth Management, American Rental, Fitzpatrick Music, Kevin Kelly Jewelers, Morton Audiology, The Music Shoppe, Better Banks, Jacque Austin Photography, Kidder Music, Morton Buildings, Lighthouse GMC Buick, Mike Murphy Ford, Morton Community Bank, Paul F. Photo, Morton Dairy Queen

Please join us in the upcoming season for our 2026 Marching Band Production:
“What Gives You Wings?”

August 28	Home Football vs Marian Catholic
September 4	Home Football vs Canton
September 12	Washington Marching Panther Invitational (Washington, IL)
September 25	Home Football vs East Peoria Comm.
September 26	Morton Marching Invitational (Morton, IL)
October 2	Home Football vs Limestone Community
October 10	Lincoln-Way Marching Invitational (New Lenox, IL)
October 16	Home Football vs Metamora
October 17	Illinois State Marching Band Championship (Normal, IL)
October 24	Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional Championship (St. Louis, MO)
October 31	Bands of America Nashville Regional Championship (Nashville, TN)