
MID-WINTER CONCERT

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

MORTON HIGH SCHOOL



Andrew Empey, Co-Director of Bands
Katrina Fitzpatrick, Co-Director of Bands
Luke Shaffer, Assistant Director of Bands

MORTON BANDS

Morton High School Jazz Band

Jeff Arbisi, Director

How to Trane Your Saxes (2025) Jeff Arbisi (b. 1990)
Sing to the Moon (2013) Laura Mvula (b. 1986)
Sing, Sang, Sung (2001) Gordon Goodwin(b. 1954)

Morton High School Concert Band

Canto (1977) W. Francis McBeth (1933-2012)
Rippling Watercolors (2015) Brian Balmages (b. 1975)
Tailspin (2010) Rob Romeyn (b. 1961)

Morton High School Symphonic Winds

The Witch and The Saint (2005) Steven Reineke (b. 1970)
Thrash (2019) Randall Standridge (b. 1976)

Morton High School Wind Ensemble

Fantasia in G (1983) Timothy Mahr (b. 1956)
At Morning's First Light (2004) David Gillingham (b. 1947)
Hymn to the Infinite Sky (2006) Satoshi Yagisawa (b. 1975)

Morton High School Wind Ensemble

Flute

Ella Hornsby[^]
Carley Osterman
Mary Geyer
Hannah Strubhar
Nishi Patel

Oboe

Sarah McQuitty

Bassoon

Gabby Grabowski^{^+}
Ethan Boecker

Soprano Clarinet

Charlotte Potts
Lillian Morgan^{^+}
Abigail Foster[^]
Ben Hartig[^]
Taylor Rice^{^+}
Lydia Milby
Finn Tewksbury

Bass Clarinet

Gwen Eckart^{^+}

Contrabass Clarinet

Clare Specketer

Alto Saxophone

Ewan MacRitchie[^]
Henrique Brasil

Tenor Saxophone

Easton Roecker[^]

Baritone Saxophone

Helen Luker[^]

Trumpet

Sean Stenger^{^+}
Isaak Rosenthal[^]
Max Bennett
Elijah Roseboom
Christian Johnson
Conner Frank

Horn

Lindsey Bradford^{^+}
Evalina Young
Nate Sturhahn
Alaina Hornsby

Trombone

Louis Nowlan
Nick Orzel
Ellie Beckler
Sam Swearengen[^]

Euphonium

Sam Geyer
Ethan Herrman

Tuba

Will Seaman
Ben Rocheford
Ian Sipes

Percussion

Caleb Manthey[^]
Titus Yoder
Zach Weber
Colt Sauder
Bryant Empey[^]
Katy Barnhill
Henry Potts
Adrian Hoots

[^] denotes students selected to ILMEA All-District IV Bands, an additional + for All-State

Fantasia in G is a joyful celebration for winds and percussion. The piece was inspired by the opening line of Johann Schiller's poem *Ode to Joy: "Freude, Schoener Goetterfunken"* (Joy, Bright Spark of Divinity). The same text was used by Ludwig van Beethoven in his famed *Symphony No. 9*.

At Morning's First Light draws inspiration from hymns and poetry; Gillingham's compositions offer an alternative approach to performance through his synthesis of artistic mediums. For instance, within *At Morning's First Light*, his emotive sense of poetry and nature imbue the music with a sensorial experience. The light-footed quickness of woodwinds expresses the ineffability of the morning, raw and full of promise.

Hymn to the Infinite Sky is a tone poem based on the words of the conductor of the school band who commissioned the work:

The sky has to be a symbol of peace. However, there is sky where combat planes are flying when children look up. That is very sad. I wish there would be no more conflict on the Earth. I hope that children all over the world will hold onto their dreams towards the sky. I pray to the infinite sky for world peace.

Morton High School Symphonic Winds

Flute

Alyssa Schumm^
Avery Studebaker
Alayna Carey
Ella Estes
Rachel Clauson
Chrissa Berg

Oboe

Gigi Eckart
Jolie Jones

Soprano Clarinet

Skyler Kohlhagen
Hazel Lyons
Riley Oertle
Piper Kellenberger
Addison Donaldson
Ruby Luker
Addie Giosta
Nora Zurski
Sawyer Carillo

Bass Clarinet

Finn Tewksbury

Alto Saxophone

Kylie Bulfer
Gavin Bencher

Tenor Saxophone

Joe Mahle

Baritone Saxophone

Addison McClure

Trumpet

Weston Bieneman
John Hart
Cheyenne Durbin
Josie Porubcansky
Gaige Gray
Rylee Borman
Oliver Irion
Cameron Smith

Horn

Lilia Volkova
Olivia Huff
Lauren Pickering

Trombone

Bradley Stoehr
Johnathon Koscica
Lenay White
Ryan Clauson

Euphonium

Ben Barrick
Jackson Friend

Tuba

Cooper Middleton
Braeden Kaps
Joe Harper

Percussion

Jackson Soderstrom
Kate Kennay
Zuzu Smith
TJ Hinch
Zoe Keltner
Cooper Campbell
Sophie Speichinger
Carter Jones

^ denotes students selected to the ILMEA All-District IV Band, an additional + for All-State

The Witch and the Saint is a programmatic ten-minute tone poem for symphonic band in one movement that is constructed in five distinct sections to tell the story of the lives of Helena and Sibylla, twin sisters born in Germany in 1588. Starting out with a Gregorian chant-type motif, Reineke uses all manner of musical sorcery to represent the turbulent lives of these vastly misunderstood women.

Thrash is inspired by the heavy metal and hard rock bands of the 1980s. Randall Standridge was in junior high at the time, and his cassette player was regularly the home of Iron Maiden, Metallica, King Diamond, and countless others. To this day, he still loves heavy metal music, and is always excited by the driving rhythms, dissonant harmonies, and the savage sense of musical motion.

Morton High School Concert Band

Flute

Evelyn Fegley
Grace Mulconrey
Mya Reed
Sam Kaspar
Lilah Strubhar
Ella Bradford
Kayleigh Campbell
Ciera Huff

Soprano Clarinet

Tucker Anderton
Maryana Fegley
Ezra Rabe
Jack Nolte
Max Oggero

Bass Clarinet

Finn Happach

Alto Saxophone

Olivia Hooley
Bryce McMillan
Tyler Anderton

Baritone Saxophone

Jesse Sauder

Trumpet

Luke Weigardt
Elliot Green
James Happach
William Miller
Reagon Bishop

Horn

Renee Fonseca
Campbell White

Trombone

Connor Bingham
Joshua Saunders

Euphonium

Haideen Stevens
Cole Pendl

Tuba

Caleb Babin
Noah Hurst

Percussion

Joelle Hodel
Reagan Copeland
Sophia Wilson
MJ Yoder
Grace Williamson
Alexander Rose
Joshua Sauder

Canto was commissioned by and dedicated to the All-Japan Band Association on the occasion of their 40th anniversary. It was commissioned for the national contest as a required work for the Japanese junior high school bands. The composition is loosely based on the melody *Sakura*, which is well known to all Japanese children. The hand-clapping part by different sections is vital to the rhythmic movement of the piece and also much fun for the participants.

Rippling Watercolors came from the idea of a simple set of watercolors. When children get hold of these and use their imagination, the most amazing things can happen. Children can see things that adults never see. They open our minds while we help them grow and learn. With a little imagination, these watercolors can become a magnificent sunrise or sunset over the ocean, a gorgeous view from a mountaintop, or an image of a supernova in space. The smallest drop can change the pattern and create something entirely new, either with a brush or entirely within nature

Tailspin! is an aggressive and hard hitting composition capturing the peril of an airliner in rapid descent. Contemporary harmonies and driving rhythms contribute to the unique and fresh sound of this work. Varied dynamics and textures add to the drama and make this the perfect concert or festival work for young bands.

Morton High School Jazz Band

Saxophones

Ewan MacRitchie, Alto 1
Henrique Brasil, Alto 2
Easton Roecker, Tenor 1
Gabby Grabowski, Tenor 2
Helen Luker, Tenor 2
Gwen Eckart, Bari

Trumpets

Isaak Rosenthal, Trumpet I
Max Bennett, Trumpet II
Lindsey Bradford, Trumpet III
Sean Stenger, Trumpet IV
Rylee Borman, Trumpet V

Trombones

Louis Nowlan, Trombone 1
Bradley Stoeher, Trombone 2
Joshua Saunders, Trombone 3
Sam Swearingen, Bass Trombone

Rhythm

Taylor Rice, Guitar/Bass Guitar
Hannah Strubhar, Guitar/Bass Guitar
Titus Yoder, Drums/Vibraphone
Bryant Empey, Drums/Vibraphone
Adrian Hoots, Piano

M MORTON BANDS

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 since 2004, 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 downstate at Du Quoin and Carbondale Community High Schools. Luke also previously taught and performed at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, near Muskegon, MI. He lives in East Peoria with girlfriend, Maddie, and four cats.

Jazz Director and Band Aide **Jeff Arbisi** is a graduate of Washington Community High School. With an Associate of Arts degree from Illinois Central College and a Bachelor of Arts from Lincoln College, he is the Morton District Fine Arts Coordinator, manager of Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center, and Director of Jazz at Morton High and at Youth Music Illinois, of Peoria. Jeff lives and frequently bikes in Morton with his husband, Chris.

2022-2024 Illinois State Marching Band Championships Grand Champion
2005-2024 Illinois State Marching Band Championships Class AA Champion
2012, 2023-2024 Bands of America St. Louis Super Regional Class AA Champion
2024 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

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Important Upcoming Dates:

February 21: Final Pep Band

February 25: Bradley University Jazz Festival

February 26, March 19: Marching Band Leadership Clinics

March 1: Jazz in the Meadows

March 17: Heidi White Scholarship Concert

March 20: Mid-Illini Conference Honors Band

April 13: CIJS Jazz Concert

April 15: 2025 Morton Marching Band Season Preview Meeting

May 7: Spring Awards Concert (FivePoints Washington)

Looking Ahead:

2025 Marching Band Sectionals; July 8-9, 15-16

2025 Marching Band Camp; July 21-25, 28-Aug. 1

