
The 61st Annual
Festival
of Winds and Percussion
AT TENNESSEE TECH
February 9–10, 2024

November 17, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you and your students to participate in the 61st annual Tennessee Tech Festival of Winds and Percussion. The Festival has a long-standing tradition of bringing the finest clinicians to our campus to work with your students in an intensive honor band weekend. This year's clinicians include Dr. Alfred Watkins and Mr. Alan Hunt.

All students participating in the 2024 Festival must be nominated by their director. The most talented of your students, as identified by you, regardless of grade level, will be assigned to one of two honor bands (the Wayne F. Pegram Honor Band and the Joseph W. Hermann Honor Band). Using an online nomination form, directors may nominate up to fifteen (15) students from their school. Every student will be given consideration, but at the same time, I know you understand the demands of instrumentation.

Nominations must be **received by noon on Wednesday, December 13, 2023**. You will receive confirmation of which students have been selected on or before Friday, December 15, 2023. Please see the following pages for general information about this year's Festival and our clinicians.

The faculty and I look forward to hosting you and your students for the 61st Festival of Winds and Percussion. If you have any questions about the Festival, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope you and your students will plan to attend this outstanding event!

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Miller, Ph.D.
Director of Bands
Associate Professor of Music
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GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Directors may nominate *up to* 15 students for participation in the Festival. Nominations must be submitted using the online Nomination Form <https://forms.gle/AynxnuTDZcQBzwBn9>. **The deadline to nominate students is 12 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.** Please rank students in order where your best student is the first nomination and so on.
2. Directors will receive email notification on or before Friday, December 15, 2023 identifying the students who have been selected to participate.
3. Auditions must be submitted via a recorded medium (audio or video). Specific instructions, including audition materials, will be sent on or before Friday, December 15, 2023. For full consideration, **audition recordings must be received by 11:59 p.m. Friday, January 26, 2024.**
4. Students who have been selected (and are paying for themselves) or you as a director paying for all of your students must complete the Festival registration online. Registration and payment is required and must be completed online—**cash and paper checks will not be accepted.** Registration and payment information will be sent with your list of selected students.
5. Festival registration fees will be \$15.00 for each registrant paying between December 15, 2023 and January 31, 2024. The registration fee increases to \$20 per student between February 1-7, 2024. Major credit cards, debit cards, and e-Checks are all acceptable. **ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**
6. Wednesday, February 7, 2024 (11:59 p.m.) will be the final day to register students and pay online. Payments in the form of a check can be accepted on the first day of the Festival, but we prefer this be taken care of in advance.
7. If your school cannot process payment by credit card/debit card or e-Check, please contact Michelle O'Neil at moneil@tntech.edu.
8. **Minors on campus policy:** Every student attending must be accompanied by their band director or a parent/guardian. In the event the band director or the child's parent cannot attend, an authorized representative or guardian must be present and an agreement form must be signed and returned. Students cannot remain on campus unaccompanied—**NO EXCEPTIONS.** You must notify us if you, the director, will not be accompanying your student(s).
9. Students and directors will check-in from 8-9:15 a.m. on Friday, February 9, 2024 in the lobby of the Bryan Fine Arts Building. For your convenience, a tentative schedule of events is included on the last page of this packet. The final schedule will be sent by email as we get closer to the event.
10. Participants will be responsible for their own meals. The University cafeteria as well as many Cookeville restaurants and fast food establishments are available during the Festival.
11. Housing will be up to each individual school. A list of area hotels will be provided when you are notified of your school's accepted participants.
12. The Friday evening concert (2/9) will feature the Tennessee Tech Symphony Band and Concert Band, directed by Dr. Jeffrey L. Miller. Following the concert, a light reception for students and directors will take place in the BFA lobby, featuring a performance by the Tech Troubadours Jazz Ensemble.
13. The Festival concert, featuring the two honor bands, will be held in Wattenbarger Auditorium on Saturday, February 10, 2024 beginning at 5 p.m. This concert is FREE and will be streamed live via the Tennessee Tech School of Music website and Facebook page.

2024 FESTIVAL OF WINDS AND PERCUSSION GUEST ARTISTS



Dr. Alfred L. Watkins is Co-Founder, Musical Director and Conductor of the Cobb Wind Symphony, a premier all-adult community band in Marietta, GA. He is the former Director of Bands at Lassiter High School (Marietta, GA) for 31 of his 37 years. Dr. Watkins is a 1976 graduate of Florida A & M University. In July 2022, he was conferred an Honorary Doctorate from the VanderCook College of Music. His bands have earned the Sudler Flag of Honor (concert), Sudler Shield (marching) and the Sudler Silver Scroll (community band). Concert bands under Watkins' leadership have performed at 32 invitational concert band events. He has conducted All-State High School Bands in 32 states and has worked with bands in 38 states. Ensembles under Dr. Watkins' batons have performed seven times at the Midwest Band Clinic, Music for All National Festival (6 times), G.M.E.A. Convention (14 times) and the National Band Association Convention. The Lassiter Trojan Marching Band performed in Tournament of Roses Parades four times and three times in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC. They are the 1998 and 2002 Bands of America Grand National Champions and winner of nine BOA

Regionals. The Lassiter Winter Color Guard was named the 1996 and 1997 Winter Guard International World Champions. The Lassiter Concert Percussion Ensemble won the Percussive Arts Society "Call for Tapes" in 2007. Dr. Watkins is a member of the American Bandmasters Association, Florida A & M University Gallery of Distinguished Alumni and in the Hall of Fames of Conn Selmer Institute, Bands of America, Minority Band Directors National Association, and the Georgia Chapter of Phi Beta Mu Band Directors Fraternity. He is the recipient of numerous accolades including: the Midwest Clinic Medal of Honor, is a Midwest Clinic Legend, the ASBDA's "Edwin Franko Goldman Award," the Kappa Kappa Psi "Distinguished Service to Music Award," was the Phi Beta Mu "International Bandmaster of the Year" and was awarded the "2022 Outstanding Conductor Award" presented by the Association of Community Bands. He has received 28 Certificates of Excellence from the NBA, the Sudler Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation, and the Band World Magazine Legion of Honor Award. Dr. Watkins is a Co-Founder of M.B.D.N.A. and is on the Advisory Boards of the Midwest Clinic and the Association of Concert Bands. Along with Dr. Sue Samuels, in 1988, Watkins pioneered the concept of the Symphonic Band Camp, a 3-day intensive local event dedicated to the development of concert bands in your home school. The \$1.5 million Alfred L. Watkins Band Building at Lassiter High School bears his name. He and his wife of 40 years, Rita, live in Marietta, GA. They have two adult sons: Christopher, a trumpeter in the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Washington, D.C., and Jonathan, a businessman in Nashville. They have two grandchildren.



Alan W. Hunt is a native of Middle Tennessee. He graduated from Hendersonville High School in 1973 and then went on to earn the B.S. degree in Music Education from Tennessee Tech University (1977) and a Masters in Administration and Supervision from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga (1999). Mr. Hunt began his career as an educator in Ohio in 1977 but after 4 years returned to Tennessee with his wife Stephanie where he began working in the Bradley County School System. During this time he served as band director at Bradley Junior High and as assistant band director at Bradley Central High School. While at Bradley Central High School, Mr. Hunt was heavily involved in the Southeastern Color Guard Circuit where he served as President and later he and his wife Stephanie were inducted into the SCGC Hall of Fame. In 2001, Mr. Hunt was named the inaugural band director at Walker Valley High School. His wife Stephanie was the school nurse and color guard instructor and under their guidance, the Walker Valley band program grew quickly into one of the largest in Tennessee. During his tenure, the Walker Valley marching band received consistent superior ratings and was awarded Grand Champions at marching band competitions in Tennessee, Georgia and

Alabama. Additionally, the Walker Valley marching band received multiple invitations to perform in the New Year's Day Parade in London, England (2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016 and the 2019). Concert ensembles under his direction received consistent superior ratings at ETSBOA Concert Performance Assessment and accepted invitations to perform at the TMEA State Concert Festival. The Mustang Jazz Band performed at local community events and with the Lee University Jazz Ensemble as well as performed at the University of Tennessee Jazz Festival. In 2018, after an incredible 41-year career, Mr. Hunt retired. He has served as a clinician for numerous honor bands in Ohio, Georgia, and Tennessee, and maintains an active schedule as an adjudicator for Jazz Festivals in Georgia and Tennessee. Mr. Hunt also enjoys sharing his experience by mentoring band directors across Tennessee. He holds membership in the American School Band Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, Tennessee Bandmasters Association, and the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association. As a member of ETSBOA he has served on the Board of Directors, holding positions as Lower Area Representative, Jazz Chair, President Elect, President, and Past President. In 2023, Mr. Hunt was inducted into the ETSBOA Hall of Fame. He resides in Cleveland, Tennessee with his wife Stephanie. Their son Tanner Hunt is presently the Band Director at Walker Valley High School.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 9

- 8:00–9:15 a.m. Registration in Bryan Fine Arts Lobby
9:30–12:00 p.m. Honor Bands in Rehearsal
Pegram Honor Band—Wattenbarger Auditorium (WAT)
Hermann Honor Band (BFA 101)
10:00–10:50 a.m. Director's Clinic #1 with Tech Music Faculty (BFA 374)
12:00–1:30 p.m. Lunch Break
1:30–5:30 p.m. Honor Bands will Follow the Schedule Below:

Pegram Band

- 1:30–2:20 p.m. — Sectionals with Tech Faculty
2:30–5:30 p.m. — In Rehearsal

Hermann Band

- 1:30–2:50 p.m. — In Rehearsal
3:00–3:50 p.m. — Sectionals with Tech Faculty
4:00–5:30 p.m. — In Rehearsal

- 1:30–2:20 p.m. Director's Clinic #2 with Dr. Alfred Watkins (BFA 374)
3:00–3:50 p.m. Director's Clinic #3 with Mr. Alan Hunt (BFA 374)
5:30–7:30 p.m. Dinner Break
7:30 p.m. Tennessee Tech Bands in Concert (WAT)
9:00–10:00 p.m. Troubadours Jazz Reception in Bryan Fine Arts Lobby
Sodas, chips, and cookies free to all attendees.

Saturday, February 10

- 9:00–11:00 a.m. Honor Bands in Rehearsal
9:00–9:50 a.m. Director's Clinic #4 with Tech Music Faculty (BFA 374)
11:10–12:00 p.m. Honor Bands and Guests Attend the Faculty Ensembles Concert (WAT)
12:00–1:30 p.m. Lunch Break
1:30–4:00 p.m. Honor Bands in Rehearsal
1:30–2:20 p.m. Director's Clinic #5 with Tech Music Faculty (BFA 374)
4:00 p.m. Honor Bands Dismissed/Prepare for Concert
5:00 p.m. Honor Bands in Concert (WAT)