

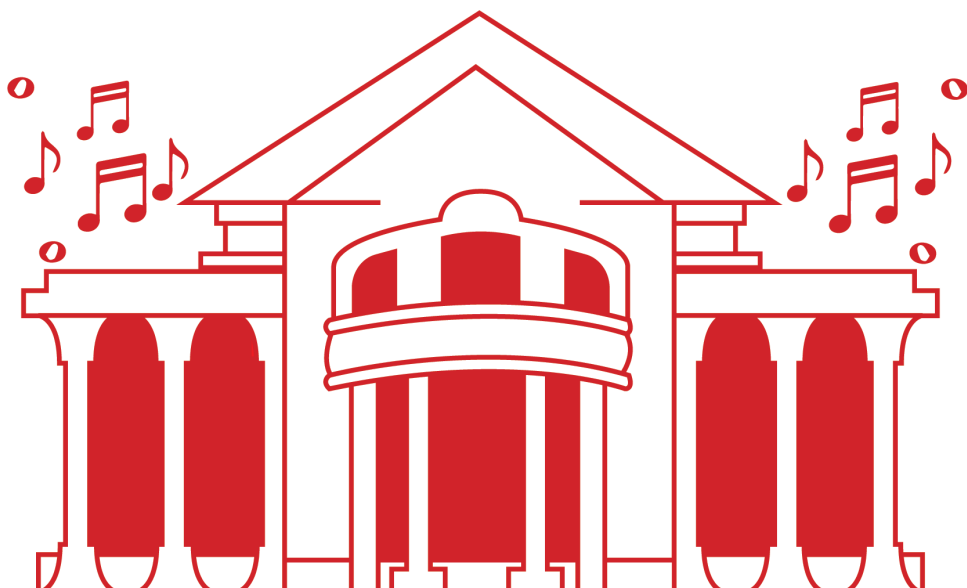
Western Kentucky University

HILLTOPPER

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP

END-OF-CAMP CONCERTS

June 13, 2025 | 2:00p



Our Third Season!

CAMP MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION IS:



to provide a FUN, HIGH-QUALITY MUSICAL EXPERIENCE



within a SAFE & WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT



where LEARNING & GROWTH ARE HIGHLY VALUED



at an AFFORDABLE COST.

As part of this mission, we have assembled a diverse group of faculty and staff from throughout the South Central Kentucky region as well as Middle Tennessee, West Texas, Ohio, and Southern Indiana. Each Summer Music Camp staff member - conductor, teacher, dorm counselor, rehearsal assistant, or administrator - is a fine musician and music teacher.

It is our hope to continue to serve a growing group of young musicians in the South Central Kentucky Region and Beyond. As a valued member of the Music Camp Family, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us and let us know what we did well and what we might improve in future years.

**Hilltopper Summer Music Camp
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101 • 270/745-4024
smc@wku.edu • www.wku.edu/band**

CAMP CONCERT SCHEDULE



2:00p | DSU Auditorium

Big Red Beginning Band

Ms. Amy Spears, conductor



2:30p | DSU Auditorium

Hilltopper Junior Band

Ms. Linda Pulley, conductor



3:10p | DSU Auditorium

WKU Senior Band

Mr. Jonathon Holmes, conductor



2:00p | Fine Arts Center Recital Hall

Piano Camp Recital

Dr. Zachary Lopes, director

Dr. Jessie Welsh, instructor

BIG RED BEGINNING BAND

Ms. Amy Spears, conductor

Above and Beyond.....James Swearingen

Etowah.....Brian Balmages

Night FuryCarol Brittin Chambers

Theme from Jurassic Park arr. Michael Story

About the Conductor

Ms. Amy Spears, conductor of the Big Red Beginning Band, currently serves as Director of Bands at South Warren Middle and High School, where she teaches band grades 6–12 alongside her colleague, Jillian McLellan. Over her 11 years at South Warren, Ms. Spears has led a wide variety of ensembles, including beginning band, middle and high school concert bands, middle and high school jazz band, pep band, and marching band, as well as individual lessons. Ms. Spears was honored to receive the KMEA Third District Middle School Teacher of the Year award in 2021 and the Warren County Public Schools Golden Apple Award in 2024. Under her direction, the South Warren bands have consistently earned distinguished ratings at KMEA Performance Assessment events, and her students regularly earn placement in district and state honor ensembles. She finds great joy in watching her students grow, work hard, and succeed – and she is incredibly proud of them! Ms. Spears holds memberships in the National Association for Music Education, Kentucky Music Educators Association, Third District Music Educators Association, Third District Band Directors Association, and Pi Kappa Lambda. She has also served as Treasurer and Secretary of KMEA Third District for the past four years. A proud alumna of WKU, Ms. Spears earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education in 2012 and her Master of Music in Conducting–Teacher Leader in 2014. During her graduate studies, she served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant with the WKU Bands from 2012–2014. WKU holds a special place in her heart thanks to the mentors, friendships, experiences, and memories that have profoundly shaped her and her career.

Big Red Beginning Band Personnel

FLUTE

Grayson Allen	Bowling Green
Tori Bejarano-Soucie	Bowling Green
Alaina Dillinger	Bowling Green
Emilie Turner	Dawson Springs

TRUMPET

Vaeda Hopkin	Burkesville
Lily Johnson	Westmorland ,TN
Liam Payne	Bowling Green
Aedith Sheehan	Grayson

BASSOON

Dylan Fuller	Goshen
Elliott Owens	Crestwood
Dallen Van Meter	Crestwood

TROMBONE

Ella Bragg	Chandler, IN
Zandar Forsythe	Bowling Green
Riley McCullough	Bowling Green
Rohan Olson	Bowling Green

CLARINET

Felix Blackerby	Bowling Green
Ida Bucklew	Bowling Green
Nikolas Cline	Bowling Green
Lukas Dolbeare	Alvaton
Bryce Golliher	Alvaton
Kaitlyn Graham	Bowling Green
Arya Kaufkins	Bowling Green
Casper Layman	Alvaton
Milo McAnally	Bowling Green

EUPHONIUM

Aiden Miller	Bowling Green
Reuben Somerville	Bowling Green
Taylee Tanner	Newburgh, IN

TUBA

Henry Gibson	Bowling Green
Ryan Huynh	Bowling Green
Knox Patsfield	Louisville

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Maia Del Rio	Scottsville
Andre Martinez Cruz	Bowling Green
Carmen O'Rourke	Bowling Green

HORN

LuLu Jones	Bowling Green
Anna Rice	Alvaton

PERCUSSION

Dayana Cabrera Garcia	Bowling Green
Hollyn Dale	Bowling Green
Gavin Davis	Bowling Green
Kiara Pflueger	Williamstown
Alaina Sheffield	Alvaton

**In recognition of each camper's contribution to their section, names are listed in alphabetical order.*

Music Camp Schools

Allen County Scottsville HS
 Apollo HS
 BG Junior HS
 Bowling Green HS
 Bowling Green Jr. HS
 Bullitt East HS
 Caldwell County HS
 Caldwell County MS
 Castle North MS
 Christian County HS
 Christiana MS
 College View MS
 Cumberland County MS
 Daviess County HS
 Dawson Springs Ind. School
 Drakes Creek MS
 DuPont Manual / YPAS

Eagleville
 East Oldham MS
 Edmonson County HS
 Fort Knox Middle HS
 Foundation Christian Acad.
 Franklin-Simpson MS
 Franklin-Simpson HS
 Grant County MS
 Greenbrier HS
 Greenwood HS
 Hancock County HS
 Home School
 SKYCTC Homeschool
 Jody Richards Elem. School
 Kirkwood MS
 Lewisburg MS
 Logan County HS

Lone Oak MS
 Lyon County HS
 Macon County HS
 Madisonville N. Hopkins HS
 Metcalfe County HS
 Monroe County MS
 Natchter Elementary
 Noe MS
 North Bullitt HS
 North Oldham HS
 North Oldham MS
 Northeast MS
 Oakland Elementary School
 Olmsted Academy South
 Portland HS
 Potter Gray Elementary
 Rockvale HS

Rossvie MS
 Rowan County MS
 Rowan County MS
 South Oldham HS
 South Oldham MS
 South Warren HS
 South Warren MS
 The J. Graham Brown School
 Trigg County HS
 Warren East HS
 Warren East MS
 Webster County HS
 Webster County MS
 Western MS for the Arts
 Westmoreland MS
 White House HS
 Youth Perf. Arts School

HILLTOPPER JUNIOR BAND

Ms. Linda Pulley, conductor

Wild BlueTyler S. Grant

There Will Come Soft Rains Robert Sheldon

Forward MarchPaul Murtha

Jungle DanceBrian Balmages

Music from *Wicked* Stephen Schwartz/arr. Sweeney

About the Conductor

Ms. Linda Pulley, conductor of the Hilltopper Junior Band, is the director of bands at Noe Middle School. Ms. Pulley is currently serving her 20th year of teaching instrumental music in Jefferson County Public Schools. Her current responsibilities include guiding and mentoring in the performing arts of concert band and jazz band at Noe Middle School. Ms. Pulley's band programs have performed many community exhibitions and consistently received distinguished ratings at events in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Georgia, and Florida. Ms. Pulley's greatest teaching accomplishments include the 2011 Grammy Signature School Enterprise Award with the Iroquois High School Band, the 2024 KMEA Conference performance with the Noe Middle School Jazz Band, and the 2025 MBDNA National Concert and Jazz Band Invitational with the Noe Middle School Symphonic Band and Jazz Band. Ms. Pulley has received a number of individual recognitions, including the 2016 Kentucky Music Education Association State High School Music Teacher of the Year, the 2023 Zambia Nkrumah Living the Legacy Middle School Teacher of the Year, and 2025 KMEA District 12 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Ms. Pulley's professional affiliations include KMEA/National Association for Music Educators (NAfME), Tri-M Music Society, Delta Omicron Fraternity Inc., Association of Black Women Band Directors, Minority Band Directors Association, American School Band Director Association, and Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity. She has been a staff member with the Kentucky Musician Abroad European Tour since 2010; is an active adjudicator, honor band conductor, and private instructor (clarinet); and performs regularly with the award-winning concert bands Louisville Concert Band/Chamber Winds Louisville and Louisville Winds. Ms. Pulley resides in Louisville, KY with her rescue dog, Ms. Roadie.

Hilltopper Junior Band Personnel

FLUTE

Annabelle Kunkel	Bowling Green
Mario Moncayo-Santamaria	Bowling Green
Chloe Shin	Clarksville, TN
Claire Shrewsbury	Princeton

OBOE

Meredith Edwards	Alvaton
Zoey Williams	Boaz

CLARINET

Sloane Apple	Bowling Green
Sophia Bystriansky	Clarksville, TN
Bella Dillinger	Bowling Green
Alyssa Fannon	Eddyville
Liv Fields	Louisville
Fia Gani	Bowling Green
Preston Gaskin	Bowling Green
Seoyoung Ha	Clarksville, TN
Charlotte Martin	Bowling Green
Tatu Matendo	Bowling Green
Bayan Ouertani	Westmoreland, TN
Sophia Scott	Kuttawah
Sydney Shirley	Bowling Green
Finley Smith	Bowling Green
Brooklynn Upchurch	Rockfield
Walter Wagoner	Louisville

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Bradley Cromer	Bowling Green
River Estes	Franklin
Arianna Lee	Clarksville, TN
Logan Lovelace	Providence
Avery Stephens	Dry Ridge

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Wesley Miller	Bowling Green
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HORN

Candace Carmichael	Louisville
Bella Himmelbrand	Bowling Green
Jodi Johnson	Murfreesboro, TN
Alexander Lebedinsky	Bowling Green
Maddie Lee	Bowling Green
Rhett Reynolds	Bowling Green

TRUMPET

Aiden Basham	Bowling Green
Daniel Bauman	Cerulean
Kaydence Clark	Princeton
Portlin Parker	Bowling Green
Jon Parkest	Slaughters

TROMBONE

Ziva Aremu	Louisville
Kailey Bejarano-Soucie	Bowling Green
Peyton Brasher	Providence
Simon Causey	Bowling Green
Dylan Cornwell	Bowling Green
Bryce Deerman	Bowling Green
Elliott Donoghue	Bowling Green
Jaxton Fleming	Dry Ridge
Emelyn Gies	Fort Knox
Garrett Hendrick	Oakland
Camp Martin	Bowling Green
Conner Maxwell	Dry Ridge
Karston Miller	Smiths Grove
Christopher Siegert	Bowling Green

EUPHONIUM

Aubrey Coomes	Owensboro
Caleb Dawson	St. Charles
Marek Stinson	Bowling Green
Kayden Woolbright	Bowling Green

TUBA

Jesse Cayce	Eddyville
Aiden Ellis-Griffith	Bowling Green
Jackson London	Boonville, IN
Ian Schondelmayer	Bowling Green

PERCUSSION

Madelyn Padin	Bowling Green
Calvin Reed	Bowling Green
Phoebe Shepherd	Bowling Green
Eli Strong	Tompkinsville

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WKU SENIOR BAND

Mr. Jonathon Holmes, conductor

Courtly Airs and Dances Ron Nelson

I. Intrada

II. Bass Danse (France)

III. Pavane (England)

IV. Saltarello (Italy)

V. Sarabande (Spain)

VI. Allemande (Germany)

◆ Please hold applause until all six movements have concluded. ◆

A Childhood Remembered Rossano Galante

Solas Ané.....Samuel R. Hazo

Esprit De Corps.....Robert Jager

About the Conductor

Mr. Jonathon Holmes, conductor of the Hilltopper Senior Band, currently serves as the head band director at Adair County High School and Adair County Middle School, where he conducts and oversees all band students grades 6-12. Mr. Holmes served as the assistant band director at Adair County High School from 2011-2014. The band program won its 21st KMEA State Marching Band Championship during this time and was a BOA National Runner Up two consecutive years. He is currently in his second year with the Adair County Band Program. Prior to his time at Adair County he served as the head band director at Glasgow High School and Glasgow Middle School, where his bands excelled. During his stint at Glasgow, his band won a state marching band championship, as well as received consistent distinguished ratings every year. The Glasgow band performed at the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington D.C. and was a Sudler Shield Small School Division Finalist 4 years in a row. Mr. Holmes is an active member of the Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity. Mr. Holmes received his undergraduate degrees in Music Education and saxophone performance at the University of Kentucky (2011). He earned his Masters Degree in Teacher Leadership from Lindsey Wilson College (2016) and Rank 1 in School Literacy from the Green River Educational Cooperative (GRREC) in 2024. Mr. Holmes resides in Columbia, KY with his wife and two children.

Senior Band Personnel

FLUTE

Samantha Beach	Brownsville
Alexander Cline	Bowling Green
Stella Kim	Bowling Green
Juli Lightfoot	Bowling Green
Tyler Martin	Louisville
Piper Smith	Bowling Green
Heath Willbanks	Lafayette, TN

OBOE

Conner Dunn	Bowling Green
Bryan Schmucker	Franklin
Silas Schwartz	Scottsville
Rhylan Storts	White House, TN

BASSOON

Ramsey Butler	Alvaton
Aidan Hogg	Alvaton
Tania Martinez Cruz	Bowling Green
Mason Nall	Crestwood

CLARINET

Hanna Bowden	Bowling Green
Ethan Cromer	Bowling Green
Gigi Garchar	Bowling Green
Mason Gordon	Bowling Green
Eva Hernandez Pena	Bowling Green
Katie Miller	Bowling Green
Makayla Nichols	Lewisburg
Wyatt Parish	Louisville
Jacob Peterson	Mount Washington
Madison Warren	Franklin

BASS CLARINET

Anley Coble	Hendersonville, TN
Taylor Creager	Bowling Green
Abby Kate Garcia	Bowling Green

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Hayden Aldridge	Clay
Paul Cordova	Bowling Green
Noah Johnson	Hawesville
Hadley Murray	Alvaton
Sidney Murray	Alvaton
Keegan White	Prospect

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Logan Coffey	Bowling Green
Athena Jettinghoff	Hopkinsville
Noah LaBron	Bowling Green
Gavin Spinner	Owensboro

BARI SAXOPHONE

Zack Ayers	Greenbrier, TN
Preston Daugherty	Russellville
Mason Jones	Bowling Green

HORN

Brian Bosse	Bowling Green
Caroline Byrum	Louisville
Elliot Davies	Bowling Green
Lilly Dayton	Franklin
Brent Escue	Eagleville, TN
Lexi Galloway	Alvaton
Shayla Garmon	Edmonton
Mariam Kaiaa	Bowling Green
Matthew Morrow	Bowling Green
Peter Gavin Oliver	Bowling Green
Joey Williams	Scottsville

TRUMPET

Jefer Cardona	Bowling Green
Aidan Del Rio	Scottsville
Logan Dodson	Russellville
Katie Dunn	Shepherdsville
Kaleb Goins	Owensboro
Juliana Lucas	Summer Shade
Elizabeth McGill	Bowling Green
Suzanne Sheehan	Grayson
Sophia Wilson	Madisonville

TROMBONE

Erik Berry	Bowling Green
Lizzie Ewing	Bowling Green
Will Holdsworth	Bowling Green
Mackynzie Hunt	Scottsville
Olivia Mills	Bowling Green
Fionn Moran	Crestwood
Tyler Salvador	Alvaton
Trevor Schallert	Bowling Green
Mox Wilson	Louisville

EUPHONIUM

Levi Carney	Louisville
Drew Cotton	Portland, TN
Leo Cruz	Fairdale
Lucas Evans	Princeton
John Owsley	Murfreesboro, TN
William Thiel	Crestwood
Sam Wilson	Louisville

TUBA

Heath Catron	Bowling Green
Kaylyn Sanchez	Owensboro
Christian Stewart	Bee Spring
Jack Thomas	Louisville

PERCUSSION

Sam Baker	Bowling Green
Jaelynn Boyer	Bowling Green
Cooper Brownlee	Bowling Green
Jax Cannon	Bowling Green
Luke Cothran	Bowling Green
Ben Hall	Lafayette, TN
Lawson Hudson	Owensboro
Tristan Jordan	Bowling Green
Kayleigh Stokes	Bowling Green
Caiden Trowbridge	Bowling Green
Jake Upton	Oakland

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PIANO CAMP

Dr. Zachary Lopes, Director of Piano Camp | Dr. Jessie Welsh, Piano Camp Instructor

In the Hall of the Mountain King	Grieg, arr. Alexander Thahn Wynn & Anna Donovan
Midnight Rider	Bober Steven Bauman, Luke Liggett, Anna Donovan
Sonatina in G Major, Anh. 5 (I. Moderato, II. Romanza)	Beethoven (1770-1827)
Contredanse	W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) Thahn Wynn
Night Train.....	Forrest, arr. Faber Steven Bauman
Irish Jig	Rollin Andrew Xing & Dalton Childress
Menuetto from Symphony No. 3	Schubert, arr. Olson Isabel Xing & Julian Barefoot
Theme from Interstellar	Zimmer, arr. Quintana
Ludwig the Holy Blade	Suzuki, arr. Glennon Luke Liggett
Invention No. 10 in G Major, BWV. 781	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
L'orage ("The Storm"), Op. 109, No. 13	Burgmüller (1806-1874) Andrew Xing
Minuetto from String Quartet, Op. 1, No. 1 33.....	(Haydn, arr. Kraehenbuehl) Piano I: Isabel Xing, Ellie Ashley Piano II: Thahn Wynn, Andrew Xing
Hungarian Dance No. 5	Brahms (1833-1897) Dalton Childress & Anna Donovan
Invention No. 2 in C Minor, BWV. 773	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Sonata in G Major, Op. 49, No. 2 (I. Allegro ma non troppo)	Beethoven (1770-1827) Isabel Xing
Sinfonia No. 13 in A Minor, BWV. 799	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Gymnopédie No. 3	Satie (1866-1925) Ellie Ashley
Impromptu in E-flat Major, Op. 90, No. 2.....	Schubert (1797-1828) Julian Barefoot
Carnival of the Animals	Saint-Saëns, Arr. Ishikawa-Kratzer Introduction & Royal March of the Lion Finale Piano 1: Julian Barefoot, Dr. Lopes, Anna Donovan Piano 2: Dalton Childress, Dr. Welsh, Ellie Ashley

PIANO CAMPERS

Ellie Ashley
Julian Barefoot
Steven Bauman
Luke Liggett

Smiths Grove
Bowling Green
Cerulean
Lewisburg, TN

Thanh Wynn
Andrew Xing
Isabel Xing

Bowling Green
Bowling Green
Bowling Green

CAMP DIRECTOR

Dr. Matthew McCurry, Camp Director, currently serves as a Pedagogical Assistant Professor of Music as well as the Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at Western Kentucky University where his responsibilities include teaching courses in music education, conducting the Spring Symphonic Band and overseeing the athletic band program, including the Big Red Marching Band - *The Pride of the Hilltoppers* and the *Spirit!* Pep Bands. Under his direction, the WKU Athletic Bands continue to make appearances on the national and international stage, most recently as the featured marching band in the 2025 London New Year's Day Parade. Dr. McCurry is the founding director of the Hilltopper Summer Music Camp after working and administrating Summer Music Camps in Tennessee for over 20 years, as well as appearing as a guest clinician for local and regional honor bands and summer clinics. Dr. McCurry was recently awarded the 2024 Third District (KY) Band Directors Association and the Kentucky Music Educators Association (KMEA) University Teacher-of-the-Year.

Dr. McCurry was most recently Assistant Director of Bands at West Virginia University, where he spent four years working with the concert and athletic bands. Before moving to WVU in 2016, he was a music educator in the public schools of East Tennessee for fifteen years, where he enjoyed twelve years as the Director of Bands at Knoxville's Carter High School. During his time there, the band grew to become the largest comprehensive band program in the county with over 200 students in two marching bands, three concert ensembles, and competitive jazz and indoor programs. The concert bands earned consistent Superior ratings in Concert Assessment Performances while the marching band was named a Top 10 Finalist Band in the State Marching Band Championships on a regular basis. Dr. McCurry also served for eleven years on the Board of Directors for the East Tennessee Band and Orchestra Association as Band Chair, Clinic Coordinator, and Audition Chair. He was named the Knoxville Rotary Club's Teacher-of-the-Year in 2013 as well as the Holston Middle School Teacher-of-the-Year (2003) and Carter High School Teacher-of-the-Year (2009/2013).

Dr. McCurry holds a Bachelor's degree in Instrumental and Vocal Music Education from Carson-Newman University, where he also earned a Master's degree in Education. He received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from West Virginia University. In his spare time, Dr. McCurry is the organist and collaborative pianist at First Christian Church in Bowling Green.

DIRECTOR OF PIANO CAMP

Dr. Zachary Lopes, Director of Piano Camp, is an active soloist and collaborative artist and has given performances and master-classes across the United States, South America, and Europe. He was the winner of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) Piano Concerto Competition and has received awards of distinction in the Schlern International Music Competition, the MTNA Northwest Regional Young Artist Competition, and the University of Colorado College of Music Honors Competition. He has been featured with his trio on CBS Sunday Morning's "A Grand Plan for Pianos" and on WUOL Louisville Classical Radio as a soloist. Recent recording projects include the Bartok Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion on Soundset Recordings and American Violin and Piano Sonatas on MSR Classics. Upcoming recording projects include a CD of Robert Muczynski's three piano sonatas to be released on Albany Records. Highlights of the past year include residencies at Louisiana State University and the University of Idaho, where he gave concerts, master-classes, and lectures on the music of Muczynski. Dr. Lopes also gave a lecture and performance on the music of Muczynski at the 2017 Jazzit Festival in Feltre, Italy this past summer. He has presented several times at the MTNA National Conference, as well as the MTNA Collegiate Chapter Piano Pedagogy Symposium, the National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Forum, and the Kentucky State Music Teachers Association Conference. He has been published in *Clavier Companion* and the *MTNA E-Journal*.

Dr. Lopes has held teachings positions at Wittenberg University and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and served as Assistant Administrative Director of the CCM Prague International Piano Institute for the summers of 2011 and 2012. Dr. Lopes is an active member of Music Teachers National Association at both the national and state level and was the Directing Coordinator and Planner of the 2nd MTNA Collegiate Chapter Piano Pedagogy Symposium in 2012. He subsequently served on the MTNA Collegiate Chapter Piano Pedagogy Symposium Steering Committee for two years. He currently serves the Vice-President/President-Elect of Kentucky Music Teachers Association.

Dr. Lopes received his master's and doctoral degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Former teachers include Eugene and Elisabeth Pridonoff, Doris Lehnert, and Robert Spillman. He is currently Department of Music Chair and Professor of Piano at Western Kentucky University and resides in Bowling Green, Kentucky with his lovely wife Jenny.

MUSIC CAMP FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. Heidi Álvarez, Flute Instructor, is Professor of Music at Western Kentucky University, where she teaches flute, flute chamber music, and music theory. Additionally, she plays second flute in the Orchestra Kentucky Bowling Green and is a mother of three. She has performed as a flute soloist and has taught masterclasses across the United States as well as in Europe, Central America, and Canada. Dr. Álvarez released compact disc recordings that feature commissioned flute chamber music: *Flute Chamber Music* by Michael Kallstrom; Volume One (CRC 2911) released in 2007 and Volume Two released in 2012, both on the Centaur Records Label; *The Light Wraps You* on the MSR Classics Label (MS 1217). She served as Treasurer and a board member for the Flute Society of Kentucky from 2005 to 2018, and served as the Site Host and Program Chair for five of these festivals. As an avid supporter of up-and-coming flutists, Dr. Álvarez is a member of the Flute Society of Kentucky, the MidSouth Flute Society, and the National Flute Association. Dr. Álvarez holds degrees in flute performance from The Oberlin Conservatory of Music (B.M.) and from The Florida State University (M.M. and D.M.). Her former flute teachers include Michel Debost, Kathleen Chastain, and Charles DeLaney. Prior to her appointment in Bowling Green, Dr. Álvarez was the Principal Flutist in the North State Symphony and taught flute and numerous courses in music theory and musicology at California State University, Chico.

Dr. Mark Berry, Percussion Instructor and Elective Instructor, is Professor of Percussion at Western Kentucky University. He is Principal Timpanist with Orchestra Kentucky, a position he has held since 2002. As timpanist and percussionist, he has performed with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Cleveland Baroque Ensemble, the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, the Owensboro Symphony, the Cantari Singers of Columbus, the Great Lakes Symphony Orchestra, the Westerville Symphony, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, and the Adrian Symphony Orchestra. Dr. Berry's three solo CD recordings can be heard on the Soundset record label. An avid composer, Berry's compositions are published by Bachovich Music Publishing, C-Alan Publications, HoneyRock Publishing, Living Sound Publications, and Tapspace Publications. He has also published several articles in *Percussive Notes* and is a recognized authority on the triangle—its history, repertoire, and instrument design. Through a grant award from the Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education, Dr. Berry founded the WKU Steelband in 2004. Also, Dr. Berry has served as percussion writer, arranger, instructor, adjudicator, and consultant with many high school marching band programs throughout the Midwest. Prior to coming to Western Kentucky University, Dr. Berry taught percussion at West Virginia University and the University of Michigan, Flint. Dr. Berry has earned degrees from the University of Michigan and The Ohio State University. His principal teachers include Michael Udow, Salvatore Rabbio, and James L. Moore, with additional studies with Michael Bump and Fernando Meza.

Dr. John Cipolla, Clarinet Instructor, is a highly respected music educator and University Distinguished Professor at Western Kentucky University, specializing in clarinet and saxophone. His exceptional teaching skills have significantly contributed to the growth and development of the institution and its music department. Dr. Cipolla's compassionate approach and unwavering support foster students and empower their potential. His dedication to excellence and passion for music education continues to inspire aspiring musicians and shape the future of the field. An accomplished performer and recording artist, Dr. Cipolla's talents have been showcased on renowned labels, and he has collaborated with prestigious orchestras. With scholarships from The Juilliard School and degrees from esteemed music institutions, Dr. Cipolla's pursuit of excellence is evident throughout his musical journey. He has received teaching awards, served as President of the International Clarinet Association, and is endorsed by leading clarinet manufacturers. Learn more at: https://works.bepress.com/john_cipolla/

Dr. Jared Cummings, Saxophone Instructor, is an accomplished performer and educator. Past experiences include guest artist recitals and masterclasses at Georgia College and State University (GCSU), Middle Georgia State University, and Columbus State University. In 2023, he premiered new works by Brian Nabors and Matthew Howell at the Biennial North American Saxophone Alliance Conference. Dr. Cummings has also appeared as a guest soloist with the Cass High School Band at the University of South Carolina Honor Band Clinic and the Southeastern Regional Music for All Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. As an educator, Dr. Cummings served as teaching assistant to the FSU saxophone studio where he taught undergraduate applied lessons, coached chamber ensembles, taught saxophone methods to undergraduate students, directed the saxophone orchestra, and taught middle and high school students at the FSU Summer Music Camps. He has also worked as part of the REW Music faculty in Lenexa, Kansas, where his students received top ratings in solo performance evaluations. Most recently, Jared was a finalist in the 2023 International Artists Competition, received second prize in the Charleston International Competition, and was a recipient of the Semifinalist Laureate award at the 2022 Fernande Decruck International Competition for Saxophone in Paris, France. Dr. Cummings holds a Bachelor

of Music Education degree from Columbus State University, a Master of Music Performance degree from the University of Missouri - Kansas City, and a Doctor of Music degree in saxophone performance from Florida State University. His primary teachers include Geoffrey Deibel, Zachary Shemon, and Joseph Girard.

Ms. Diana Dunn, Oboe Instructor, enjoys a varied career in music that encompasses her love of performing and teaching. She was a member of the Atlanta Opera and Ballet Orchestras from 2009-2020. Her performance of Salome as principal oboist in the Atlanta Opera earned praise as "bewitching" in Arts Atlanta in January 2020. Ms. Dunn is currently the English horn player of the Huntsville Symphony and frequently plays with the Gateway Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Kentucky, and Nashville Scoring Orchestra, where she has recorded many movie and video game soundtracks. She also regularly plays with the Nashville Symphony as a substitute player. Her first album, *The Travelers of Osterra*, is available for download on major platforms. Ms. Dunn earned a Bachelor of Music, *summa cum laude*, in oboe performance from the Eastman School of Music in 2005 and a Master of Music from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in 2007, where she studied with Richard Killmer and Robert Atherholt, respectively. She has been teaching privately since 2005 and is on faculty at Austin Peay State University and Western Kentucky University.

Mr. Keegan Finkbine, Bassoon Instructor, received a Bachelor's in Music Education from Northern Kentucky University in 2010 where he studied bassoon with Mr. Russell Hinkle and conducting with Dr. Brant Karrick. Mr. Finkbine earned a Master's in Bassoon Performance from the University of Georgia at Athens in 2014 where he studied with Dr. Amy Pollard. He is currently the Director of Bands at Drakes Creek Middle School in Bowling Green and assists at Greenwood High School. Previously, he was the Director of Bands at Lanier County Middle School in Lakeland, Georgia and Director of Bands at Frontier School Corporation in Chalmers, Indiana. He has taught private lessons throughout his career and his students have earned recognition in various honor bands.

Dr. Sarah Herbert, Trumpet Instructor & Elective Class Instructor, joined the faculty at Western Kentucky University as the Assistant Professor of Trumpet and Jazz in 2020. Dr. Herbert teaches applied trumpet, trumpet ensemble, and directs the WKU Jazz Band. She has previously held faculty positions at the University of Wyoming, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Miami University Regionals in Hamilton, Ohio. Dr. Herbert's recent performing career has been diverse and includes performances with jazz and commercial ensembles, as well as orchestras and chamber groups including Orchestra Kentucky, Western Kentucky University Faculty Brass Quintet, Evansville Philharmonic, Wyoming Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Wyoming Faculty Brass Quintet. In the Cincinnati area she has performed with the Fillmore Brass Band and Wind Ensemble, Washington Ave Brass Quintet, The Belairs 1950's Show Band, The Casino Players Ensemble, Bach Chorale Singers, and the Richmond Symphony Orchestra (Indiana). Additionally, she has played in numerous musical theater orchestras and performed as a cruise ship musician for Norwegian Cruise Lines based out of Miami, Florida. As a K-12 music educator, Dr. Herbert spent four years as the Director of Instrumental Music for The Menaul School, an Independent School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In this position she taught band and guitar for grades 6-12 and served as the Fine Arts Chair for the school. Dr. Herbert continues to be actively engaged in secondary education as a guest clinician, adjudicator, and committee member for the International Trumpet Guild Youth Awards. In addition to teaching and performing, Dr. Herbert has created an innovative commissioning project made possible with initial funding from the Presser Foundation's Graduate Research Award. Three new works for the unique instrumental combination of trumpet and guitar quartet have been commissioned and performed at both the 2017 International Trumpet Guild Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania with the Texas Guitar Quartet and at the 2019 International Women's Brass Conference in Tempe, Arizona with the Albuquerque, New Mexico based Rio Grande Guitar Quartet. A native of Portland, Oregon, Herbert completed her Doctor of Music in Trumpet Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 2017. She also holds a Master of Music and Certification in Music Education from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

Dr. Matthew Herman, Elective Class Instructor, is the Associate Professor of Music Theory and Theory Division Coordinator at Western Kentucky University. Their current research focus is on the pedagogy of music theory and composition, with recent presentations on composition pedagogy at the NAFME National In-Service Conference and the KMEA Professional Service Conference. They have won numerous teaching awards, and they were recently named a "Friend of the Arts" by the Sigma Alpha Iota music fraternity. With works currently published by Carl Fischer and Polymnia, Dr. Herman's compositions have been widely performed, with several large-ensemble and chamber works featured on publicly-released CDs. In 2020, Dr. Herman was chosen as the official commissioned composer for Kentucky by the Music Teachers' National Association and the Kentucky Music Teachers' Association. This culminated in an honorable mention in the 2020 MTNA Distinguished Composer Competition. Dr. Herman holds a doctorate of musical arts in composition from Temple University, a master of

musical arts from Bowling Green State University, and a bachelor of music in theory and composition from The College of Wooster. In addition to their current position at WKU, Dr. Herman has also taught music theory and composition at Shenandoah Conservatory, West Chester University and Temple University.

Ms. Hannah Monteneri, Horn Instructor, is a proud graduate of Western Kentucky University. She will be attending the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in the fall for a master's degree in Horn Performance. In her free time, Hannah enjoys cooking and painting.

Dr. Gary Schallert, Elective Class Instructor, is Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Western Kentucky University where he administrates the band program, conducts the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in conducting and music education. Additionally, he supervises instrumental student teachers. Dr. Schallert earned his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from New Mexico State University, and the Doctor of Arts degree in Wind Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado. Schallert maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States and has conducted touring ensembles in Europe, Australia, and Costa Rica. Under his leadership, the WKU Wind Ensemble performed at the 2012 and 2016 KMEA Conferences and the 2016 CBDNA Southern Division Conference in Charleston, SC. In addition to his work on the concert stage, Dr. Schallert is an active adjudicator for prestigious marching arts events across the county including Drum Corps International. He has contributed Teacher Resources Guides for nine volumes of the popular series Teaching Music Through Performance in Band. Dr. Schallert is a member of the Kentucky Music Educators Association and was recently honored with the 2017 College/University Teacher of the Year Award. Other professional affiliations include the College Band Directors National Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Band Association, and the KMEA Third District Band Director Association. He is a member of Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha, and is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Bowling Green and have four sons; Ryan, Casey, Evan and Trevor.

Prof. Chris Schmidt, Euphonium & Tuba Instructor, is an Eastman Performing Artist and is currently the instructor of tuba and euphonium at Western Kentucky University and Indiana University Southeast. He has had several of his ensembles perform at major conferences including the IUS Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble at the 2023 and 2024 International Euphonium-Tuba Festival at the ITEA Midwest Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference in 2024, the Youth Performing Arts School Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble at the ITEA Midwest Regional Tuba-Euphonium Conference in 2022, and the Oldham County High School Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble at the 2013 and 2021 KMEA Conferences. Several of his private students from various local high schools have earned placements in the Kentucky and Indiana All State Bands as well as National Honor Bands including the John Philip Sousa National High School Honor Band. Mr. Schmidt attended the University of Louisville and earned a Master of Music Performance with an emphasis in Wind Ensemble Conducting in 2010. While at U of L he studied conducting with Dr. Fred Speck and tuba with Mr. John Jones. Mr. Schmidt was also a guest tuba soloist with the University Concert Band when he performed The Fantasia for Tuba and Band by James Curnow under the direction of Dr. Greg Byrne. Prior to his time at Louisville Mr. Schmidt attended Morehead State University where he held the position of Principal Tuba in the MSU Symphony Band and earned two degrees, a Bachelor of Music Education and a Master of Arts in Secondary Education. He was also awarded placements on the MSU Dean's List, the KY Intercollegiate Band, the CBDNA Southern Division Intercollegiate Band, and the Lexington Brass Band. His primary teachers at MSU included euphonium virtuoso Dr. Earle Louder and tuba professor Dr. Stacy Baker as well as wind band conducting lessons with Dr. Richard Miles.

Prof. Jefferson Tunks, Trombone Instructor, is adjunct professor of trombone at WKU and a professional trombonist in the Bowling Green area. In 2020, he graduated from Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor's in Music Education. In 2022, he graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with a Master's in trombone performance. Jefferson is a substitute trombonist with the Owensboro Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Kentucky. His primary teachers are Lee Blakeman and Pete Norton.

Dr. Jessie Welsh, Piano Camp Instructor, NCTM, is an active teacher, performer, clinician, author, and presenter. She received her doctorate in Piano Pedagogy from Texas Christian University, where she was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award for TCU's College of Fine Arts. Jessie completed her dissertation—"Student-First Piano Pedagogy"—on the topic of the student-teacher relational connection in the private piano studio. Jessie also holds a Master of Music in Piano Performance and a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from Southern Methodist University, where she received the Paul Vellucci Award based on the nomination of the piano faculty. Additionally, Jessie completed undergraduate degrees in both Piano Performance and Music Education from the University of Central Florida, graduating magna cum

laude. She has performed in master classes and lessons for well—renowned pianists, including Alessio Bax, Olga Kern, Rebecca Penneys, Veda Kaplinsky, and Adam Golka. Formative teachers include Harold Martina, Carol Leone, Sam Holland, Ann Gipson, and Cathy Lysinger. Jessie has a wide array of group and private teaching experience, including early childhood, K–12, university, and adult education. Currently, she is serving as Pedagogical Assistant Professor of Piano at Western Kentucky University, where she coordinates the group piano program and teaches pedagogy and accompanying classes. Jessie has also served as an instructor at both Texas Christian University and Southern Methodist University; prior to her position at WKU, Jessie operated a thriving studio in Dallas, TX, served as the pianist for Mercy Presbyterian Church, and held a longstanding collaborative position with The Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas. Jessie continues her work with The Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy as the Manager of Digital Programs. Committed to advancing the field of piano pedagogy, Jessie has been a featured presenter at the College Music Society National Conference, the MTNA National Conference, the MTNA Collegiate Pedagogy Symposium, and The National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. She has been published by Piano Magazine, American Music Teacher, and MTNA e-Journal. MTNA named Jessie as the recipient of the 2019 MarySue Harris Studio Teacher Fellowship Award and recently as the 2022 recipient of the American Music Teacher Article of the Year Award. She is the chair of MTNA's Pedagogy Saturday New Professionals Track for the 2023 National Conference, a member of the 2022–2023 MTNA Task Force on Young Professionals, Collegiate Chapters, and Collegiate Members, and a member of the New Professionals Committee for the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy in 2023. Upcoming performances and engagements include a residency at Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, FL; a faculty silent film recital at Western Kentucky University; collaborative performances at the inaugural Greater Dallas Choral Society concert at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, TX; and presentations at MTNA's 2023 National Conference. When not at the piano or in the classroom, Jessie enjoys reading, running, and outdoor adventures with her family.

UPCOMING EVENT

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MUSIC CAMP ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Dr. Scott Harris, Dean of Campers & Conduct and Elective Class Instructor, is Professor of Music at Western Kentucky University, where he served as Department Head from 2013-2022 and currently teaches courses in Music Appreciation, Rock and Roll, and Percussion. Prior to his appointment at WKU, Harris taught for fifteen years at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX where he was Director of Percussion, Assistant Director for Undergraduate Studies, and Interim Director of the SFA School of Music. Dr. Harris has presented clinics and concerts at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the Texas Music Educators Association Convention, the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention, the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy, and the College Music Society National Conference. His writings on creativity, performance, and percussion have been featured in *Percussive Notes*, *Southwestern Musician*, and *Bluegrass Music News*. His performance credits include solo/chamber recitals, regional symphony orchestras, professional steel drum bands, and the 1991 World Champion Star of Indiana Drum and Bugle Corps. Dr. Harris holds degrees from the University of Oklahoma (DMA), East Carolina University (MM), and the University of Massachusetts (BM); and has studied percussion with Dr. Peter Tanner, Thom Hannum, Harold Jones, Mark Ford and Dr. Richard Gipson. He is also the past Associate Editor of Education for *Percussive Notes* magazine. Scott is an active runner and lives in Bowling Green with his wife Courtney and four children - Kelsey, Dylan, Logan, and Sydney.

Mx. Jalen Allred, Camp Administrative Assistant, is currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant with the bands department at the University of Kentucky pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts in trumpet performance and conducting. Jalen received a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from Western Kentucky University and a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from the University of Wyoming. While at WKU, they studied trumpet with Dr. Sarah Herbert and conducting with Dr. Gary Schallert and Dr. Matthew McCurry. At Western Jalen served as a Graduate Assistant for the trumpet studio and bands department, along with serving as the university's Instrumental Inventory Manager. During their time at Western Kentucky University Jalen conducted the Big Red Marching Band, *Spirit!* Pep Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Community Band, and the WKU Trumpet Ensemble. Jalen performed regularly with the instrumental ensembles at WKU serving as principal in the Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra, soloist with the WKU Jazz Ensemble, and second trumpet with the WKU Faculty Brass Quintet. A native of Lubbock, Texas, Jalen attended Lubbock Christian University where they received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education.

Ms. Mollie Crawford, Camp Administrative Assistant, is a recent graduate of Western Kentucky University with a degree in Music and Arts Administration. During her time at WKU, Mollie played in the percussion section of the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and University Symphony Orchestra, as well as drumline and mellophone for the Big Red Marching Band and the *Spirit!* Pep Band. While at WKU, she was given many opportunities for career development, including serving as a band manager, recording technician, and jazz librarian for the WKU Department of Music. Additionally, Mollie was the Assistant Event Director for the 2024 Jazz Honors Band, and is currently the percussion instructor at Logan County High School in Russellville.

Ms. Brenna Derby, Camp Administrative Assistant, is a recent graduate of Western Kentucky University Bands where she obtained a Master's Degree in Conducting (Teacher Leader). Brenna performed in Western Kentucky University's Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Symphony Orchestra. She has studied flute under the guidance of Dr. Heidi Alvarez and studied instrumental conducting under the direction of Dr. Gary Schallert and Dr. Matthew McCurry. Brenna also holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Instrumental and Choral Music Education from WKU. Prior to her assistantship, Brenna held teaching positions in the Barren County School District where she taught elementary strings and Todd County School District where she taught General Music at North Todd Elementary. Brenna is the Founding President of the Mu Iota chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota at WKU, and served as the chapter's Vice President of Membership. She has received multiple awards for her musicianship, including the John Philip Sousa Award, Jean Blankenship Award, Dr. Samuel W. and Jeane Payne Tinsley Award, and is a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honors Society. Brenna will begin a new adventure in the fall as the Director of Bands at Moss Middle School and Assistant Director at Warren Central High School in Bowling Green.

Mr. Noah Woody, Camp Administrative Assistant, is currently a graduate assistant with the Western Kentucky University Bands where he studies Instrumental Conducting. Noah is a bass trombone player and prior to coming to WKU he received a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Austin Peay State University where he studied with Susan K. Smith. Noah is also an alumni of the Theta Tau chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

MUSIC CAMP COUNSELORS

Shaylee Baxter, Beginning Band Counselor, is a senior at Western Kentucky University. She plays all flavors of saxophones in our music education department on the hill. Shaylee is from Leitchfield, KY, where she graduated from Grayson County High School.

Steven Bernard, Junior Band Counselor, is a fresh alumni of Western Kentucky University. He graduated with a degree in Music Education and is the new assistant band director at Meade County High School! Steven's primary instrument is clarinet; however, he also plays alto saxophone and french horn. Steven is from Russell Springs, KY, and a proud alumni of the Russell County Mighty Laker Band. During his free time he loves thrifting, hanging out with friends, watching scary movies and going to Dutch Bros.

Olivia Booher, Beginning Band Counselor, is a second-year student at Western Kentucky University, majoring in music education. She is a member of the WKU Symphonic Band, Big Red Marching Band, University Singers, Choral Society, and of WKU's Collegiate National Association for Music Education (CNAFME). She has been playing the flute since 2017, studying under Paula Humphreys at KWC (2020-2022), Lara Roberts (2023-2024), and Dr. Heidi Alvarez at WKU (2024-present).

Simon Bozone, Beginning Band Counselor, is a junior at Western Kentucky University majoring in Music Education. Simon plays the trumpet as his primary instrument, however, he is proficient at playing a multitude of instruments including the alto saxophone, clarinet, flute, and bassoon. Simon is from Paducah, KY and graduated from McCracken County High School.

Dalton Childress, Piano Camp Counselor, is a senior at Western Kentucky University and locally resides in Smiths Grove, KY. He is a pianist currently pursuing a BM in Music Performance and a Minor in Piano Pedagogy and plans to continue after graduation in graduate programs for Music Performance, with cognates in Pedagogy and Theory. He enjoys studying the works of contemporary composers such as William Bolcom, Nikolai Kapustin, and Einojuhani Rautavaara. When not practicing, he enjoys tending to his reef tenants, brewing special-"teas," playing games and reading novels. He is always down for a game of cards if you find him on a break!

Emily Curtsinger, Junior Band Counselor, is a flutist currently studying at Western Kentucky University to earn a Bachelor's degree in Instrumental Music Education. She is a student of Dr. Heidi Alvarez and a former student of Dr. Kallie Snyder. Emily has performed in numerous regional honor bands, collegiate honor bands, and KMEA All-State bands and is an alumna of the 2022 Governor's School for the Arts. She has competed on the state level and was the winner of the Flute Society of Kentucky's 2023 High School Soloist competition. She is a member of the WKU Wind Ensemble, Symphonic band, Big Red Marching Band, and Flute Choir.

Anna Donovan, Piano Camp Counselor, is a sophomore studying Instrumental Music Performance at Western Kentucky University, where she plays the piano. Anna is from Hendersonville, Tennessee, and enjoys collaborating with other musicians.

Parker Evans, Senior Band Counselor, is a recent graduate of Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Parker plays both the Bass Clarinet and Clarinet. He also likes to arrange and compose pieces in his free time. Parker is from Bowling Green, KY and graduated from Bowling Green High School. He also recently completed his student teaching at Allen County-Scottsville High School and Rich Pond Elementary where he was able to hone his teaching skills working with Tyler Cook and Brittany Rodriguez. This is Parker's second time being a counselor at the Hilltopper Summer Music Camp and he is super excited to progress in his teaching career going forward!

Justin Fiessinger, Senior Band Counselor, is a recent graduate of WKU with a degree in Instrumental Music Education. An avid woodwind player, Justin's primary instrument is Alto Saxophone, but he has experience playing Soprano, Tenor, and Baritone Saxophone, as well as Bb Clarinet, and Oboe. Justin is from Glasgow, Kentucky and a 2021 Graduate of Barren County High School's Early College Magnet Program.

Taryn Guyer, Beginning Band Counselor, is a rising graduate student at Western Kentucky University. She is earning her M.A. in Applied Economics, with a certificate in data analytics. Taryn's primary instrument is the bassoon, but she marched in the BRMB on baritone. She is also able to play clarinet and trumpet. Taryn is from Bowling Green, KY, and graduated from Greenwood High School, as well as Western Kentucky University with a double major in Chinese and economics, and minors in both music and psychological sciences.

Taylin Hamilton, Senior Band Counselor & Head Female Dorm Counselor, is completing her third year as a camp counselor at the Hilltopper Summer Music Camp. She recently graduated from WKU with a Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Music Education and will be attending Florida State University in the fall. Her primary instrument is the clarinet. She is from Bowling Green and is a graduate of Bowling Green High School.

Olivia Harris, Beginning Band Counselor, is a sophomore at Western Kentucky University studying Instrumental Music Education. Olivia plays the trumpet and in her spare time, she enjoys being outdoors, playing piano, singing, and painting. Olivia is from Corbin, KY, and graduated from Corbin High School.

David Holt, Beginning Band Counselor, is a tuba and low brass musician from Monticello, Kentucky. His passion for music has led him in developing his skills and techniques as a versatile low brass player and conductor. David is excited to begin his role as a Graduate Assistant in Wind Band Conducting at Western Kentucky University. He looks forward to contributing to the program while continuing to grow as a conductor and educator.

Gabbie Houchens-Granados, Beginning Band Counselor, is a junior at Western Kentucky University studying Special and Elementary Education. Gabbie plays the clarinet in several ensembles on campus, including the Marching Band, Pep Band, and Campus Community Band. She is from Glasgow, KY and graduated from Glasgow High School. Gabbie is excited for her first year at Hilltopper Summer Music Camp!

Patrick Johnson, Junior Band Counselor, is a senior at Western Kentucky University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music degree. Patrick plays the saxophone. For fun, Patrick enjoys practicing, playing piano, mellophone, and listening to as much music as possible. Patrick is from Louisville, KY, where he graduated from Christian Academy of Louisville.

Sarah McAuliffe, Junior Band Counselor, is a senior Vocal Music Education major at Western Kentucky University. She is a Mezzo Soprano in various choral ensembles, however, she also plays clarinet and oboe. Sarah was a drum major for the WKU Big Red Marching Band for the 2024 marching season and will return to the podium again for the 2025 season. Sarah is from Taylorsville, KY, and graduated from Spencer County High School.

Isaiah McFadden, Senior Band Counselor, is a senior at Western Kentucky University studying Instrumental Music Education. Isaiah plays the saxophone. In his spare time, Isaiah also enjoys reading, improvising, and listening to jazz music. Isaiah is from Mount Vernon, IN, and is a graduate of Mount Vernon High School.

Colby Monarch, Senior Band Counselor, is a senior Instrumental Music Education major at Western Kentucky University. Colby's primary instrument is trombone and he is a graduate of Warren Central High School in Bowling Green.

Nate Nash, Senior Band Counselor, Percussion Coordinator, and Head Male Dorm Chaperone, is a recent graduate of Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor's degree in Instrumental Music Education. While at WKU, he was an active percussionist, performing with the WKU Symphony Orchestra, Concert Bands, Percussion Ensembles, various musical pit orchestras, and in local churches. Nate has a strong passion for teaching and composing for percussion, and he enjoys working with students through private lessons and marching band instruction. He currently serves as a percussion instructor at South Warren High School, where he works with the drumline and front ensemble on weekends and during late summer camps. In

the upcoming school year, Nate will join Cravens Elementary in Owensboro, KY as the music teacher and director of the Cravens Steel Pan Ensemble. A native of Bowling Green, KY, Nate is committed to creating a positive, engaging, and safe learning environment for all students.

Wilbert Osorio-Hernandez, Junior Band Counselor, is a junior Instrumental Music Education major at Western Kentucky University. Wilbert plays percussion. In his spare time, he loves to practice and walk on his own time. Wilbert is from Guston, Kentucky.

Alison Schimmell, Senior Band Counselor, is a 2025 graduate of Western Kentucky University with a Bachelor's Degree in Instrumental Music Education. Alison plays the flute and piccolo. In her spare time, Alison also enjoys playing the piano, singing, and composing and arranging music. Alison is from Evansville, IN, and graduated from Mater Dei High School.

Cailee Tucker, Junior Band Counselor, is a junior at Western Kentucky University and is studying Music Education with an instrumental emphasis. Cailee primarily plays the saxophone. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, outdoor walks, and spending time with friends. Cailee is from Elizabethtown, KY, and graduated from Central Hardin High School.

Tanner Wilken, Beginning Band Counselor, is a sophomore Instrumental Music Education major at WKU. Tanner's primary instrument is the horn, but also enjoys playing trumpet and tuba. In his spare time, Tanner likes to arrange music for the horn choir at WKU where he is an active performer. He resides in Bowling Green where he was a graduate of Warren Central High School.

Sammy Wooten, Junior Band Counselor, is a senior at WKU where he is majoring in Instrumental Music Education and will be student teaching in the Fall. Sammy plays the bassoon primarily, but also enjoys playing the saxophone and tuba. Sammy is from Louisville, KY and graduated from Christian Academy of Louisville.

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