
The 62nd Annual
Festival
of Winds and Percussion
AT TENNESSEE TECH
February 14–15, 2025

November 15, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you and your students to participate in the 62nd 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 we are excited to announce the return of a third clinic band! Our clinicians include Alex Kaminsky, Jerell Horton, and Aubry Rollins. Our Composer-in-Residence is Dr. Nicole Piuonno.

All students participating in the 2025 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 the three honor bands (the Wayne F. Pegram Honor Band, the Joseph W. Hermann Honor Band, and the Col. Maurice Haste Honor Band). Using an online nomination form, directors may nominate up to twenty (20) 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 Friday, December 13, 2024**. You will receive confirmation of which students have been selected on or before Monday, December 16, 2024. 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 62nd annual 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
(931) 372-6559
jlmiller@tntech.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Directors may nominate *up to* 20 students for participation in the Festival. Nominations must be submitted using the online Nomination Form <https://forms.gle/embA2FgmYWDAPCg67>. **The deadline to nominate students is 12 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2024.** 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 Monday, December 16, 2024 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 Monday, December 16, 2024. For full consideration, **audition recordings must be received by 11:59 p.m. Friday, January 31, 2025.**
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 will not be accepted.** Registration and payment information will be sent with your list of selected students.
5. Festival registration fees will be \$20.00 for each registrant paying between December 16, 2024 and January 31, 2025. The registration fee increases to \$25 per student between February 1-10, 2025. Major credit cards, debit cards, and e-Checks are all acceptable. **ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**
6. Monday, February 10, 2025 (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 Cathleen Walker at cwalker@tntech.edu or by phone at (931) 372-3065.
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 14, 2025 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 (2/14) 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 three honor bands, will be held in Wattenbarger Auditorium on Saturday, February 15, 2025 beginning at 5 p.m. (CST). This concert is FREE and will be streamed live via the Tennessee Tech School of Music website and Facebook page.

2025 FESTIVAL OF WINDS AND PERCUSSION GUEST ARTISTS



Alex Kaminsky is Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. He holds degrees from the University of Florida and Indiana University, is active as an adjudicator, and is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician across the country. Prior to coming to VanderCook, Kaminsky's high school bands performed at many prestigious events and national conferences including the American Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, National Band Association, Music for All National Concert Band Festival, Carnegie Hall, and 4 times at the Midwest Clinic. Professor Kaminsky has been awarded the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence numerous times and has been recognized with several achievement awards for education. Kaminsky is a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician, an elected member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and the American School Band Directors' Association, and also holds memberships in CBDNA, NBA, and Phi Beta Mu.



Jerrell Horton is the Director of Bands at Vestavia Hills High School in Alabamba. He is a graduate of Samford University. Prior to his appointment at Vestavia Hills High School in 2006, he served as the assistant band director at both Pizitz Middle School and Vestavia Hills High School. Since becoming the Director at Vestavia Hills High School, the bands have consistently earned superior ratings at district and state concert band assessments. The Vestavia Hills Wind Ensemble performed at the 2011 Alabama Music Educators Conference, and the Music For All National Concert Band Festival in 2013. The Vestavia Hills High School Rebel Marching Band performed in the 2010 London New Year's Day Parade in London, England, the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland, and the Rome New Year's Day Parade in 2024. The Vestavia Hills High School band program was awarded the National Program of Excellence Southern Division Blue Ribbon Award presented by the National Band Association. Mr. Horton is a Conn Selmer clinician and has been a frequent honor band clinician in the Southeast. Mr. Horton

has served on staff as the Leadership Clinician for the Auburn Summer Marching and Leadership camp and lead a group of adult volunteers at Music For All Summer Symposium. Mr. Horton is a National Board Certified teacher and was named to SBO magazine's 2014 list of 50 Directors Who Make a Difference. Mr. Horton was honored to serve on the 2017 Music for All Tournament of Roses Honor Band of America teaching staff and was delighted to serve once again in 2022.



Aubry Rollins is a dedicated music educator originally from Spring Hill, Tennessee. She earned the Bachelor of Music Education from Tennessee Tech University in 2014. Rollins began her teaching career at Sunset Middle School in Williamson County before relocating to Texas in 2016. In Texas, she served as the Director of Bands at Manor Middle School in Killeen ISD until 2022. During her tenure in Killeen, Rollins demonstrated her leadership and commitment to music education by coordinating the District Middle School Honor Band, 6th Grade All Star Band, played flute in the local Heights Concert Band and Temple Symphonic Band, served as a District and Campus Mentor, and was the clinician for the TMEA Region 8 Concert Band in 2017. Under her guidance, bands have achieved success through the UIL process and beyond. She has also played a significant role as a mentor for many new teachers. Rollins is an active member of the Texas Music Educators Association and the Texas Bandmasters Association. Currently, she serves as the Assistant Director of Bands at Stockton Junior High in Conroe ISD.



Dr. Nicole Piunno is a composer who views music as a vehicle for seeing and experiencing the realities of life. Her music often reflects the paradoxes in life and how these seeming opposites are connected as they often weave together. Her harmonic language and use of counterpoint mirrors the complexity of our world by acknowledging light and dark, past and present, beauty and brokenness, confinement and freedom, chaos and order, spiritual and physical, life and death. Dr. Piunno holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in composition and a Master of Music degree in theory pedagogy from Michigan State University. Her composition teacher was Ricardo Lorenz. She earned a Master of Music degree in composition at Central Michigan University, studying with David Gillingham. Dr. Piunno earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education with emphasis in instrumental music. Her music has been performed by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, the United States Coast Guard Band, and at many universities and conservatories around the country. Her large ensemble music has also been featured at multiple

regional CBDNA conferences, the Midwest Clinic, and numerous all-state concerts.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 14

8:00–9:15 a.m.	Registration in Bryan Fine Arts Lobby
9:30–12:00 p.m.	Honor Bands in Rehearsal <i>Pegram Honor Band—Wattenbarger Auditorium (WAT)</i> <i>Hermann Honor Band (BFA 101)</i> <i>Haste Honor Band (Roaden University Center)</i>
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 in Masterclasses & Rehearsals
1:30–2:20 p.m.	Director's Clinic #2 with Alex Kaminsky (BFA 374)
3:00–3:50 p.m.	Director's Clinic #3 with Jerell Horton (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 <i>Sodas, chips, and cookies free to all attendees.</i>

Saturday, February 15

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 Dr. Nicole Piunno (BFA 374)
4:00 p.m.	Honor Bands Dismissed/Prepare for Concert
5:00 p.m.	Honor Bands in Concert (WAT)