
The 63rd Annual
Festival
of Winds and Percussion
AT TENNESSEE TECH
February 13–14, 2026

November 13, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you and your students to participate in the 63rd 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. Mohamad Schuman, Mrs. Susan Schuman, and Ms. Ashley Crosby.

All students participating in the 2026 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 12, 2025**. You will receive confirmation of which students have been selected on or before Monday, December 15, 2025. 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 63rd 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/Pp7RTgFfUrSQ2sLk7>. **The deadline to nominate students is 12 p.m. on Friday, December 12, 2025.** 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 15, 2025 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 15, 2025. For full consideration, **audition recordings must be received by 11:59 p.m. Friday, January 30, 2026.**
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 15, 2025 and January 31, 2026. The registration fee increases to \$25 per student between February 1-9, 2026. Major credit cards, debit cards, and e-Checks are all acceptable. **ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**
6. Monday, February 9, 2026 (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@tnitech.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 13, 2026 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 (2/13) 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 14, 2026 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.

2026 FESTIVAL OF WINDS AND PERCUSSION GUEST ARTISTS



Dr. Mohamad Schuman proudly served for more than three decades as a band director in Mississippi at both the secondary and university levels. Ensembles under his leadership have received numerous honors and awards and prominent performance invitations including the 2001 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the 2005 Presidential Inaugural Parade for President George W. Bush, the 2002 and 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the 2020 CBDNA-NBA Southern Division Conference and the 2020 Annual Convention of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. He has been named as a Star Teacher recipient on 4 occasions through the Mississippi Economic Council. Dr. Schuman was honored by the Delta chapter of Phi Beta Mu with the Mississippi Band Director of the Year Award in 2003 and selected as the 2019 National Federation of State High

School Associations Music Educator of the Year for the state of Mississippi and the southeastern United States. He remains active in the profession through membership in various professional organizations and through his service as a Co-Conductor for the Coastal Winds adult community band. Dr. Schuman currently serves as President of the Stone County School Board and most recently was appointed as a member of the Board for the Mississippi School Board Association.



Susan Schuman has dedicated over three decades to music education in Mississippi public schools, where her ensembles have consistently earned superior ratings in concert, sight-reading, and marching band performance. As Associate Director of Bands for the Stone County School District, her leadership helped secure prestigious invitations to the 2001 Midwest Clinic, the 2002 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the 2005 Presidential Inaugural Parade. A respected educator and conductor, Mrs. Schuman has served with the Mississippi Lions All-State Band and the United States Army All-American High School Marching Band, and her students have regularly earned positions in state and regional honor bands. She holds degrees in Music Education from Delta State University and The University of Southern Mississippi, and her many honors include multiple Middle School Band Director of the Year awards, the Edythe M. McArthur Outstanding Woman Band Director

Award, and recognition as Mississippi Band Director of the Year. Mrs. Schuman continues to teach clarinet privately and perform with the Salt Marsh Clarinet Choir and the Coastal Winds Adult Community Band.



Ashley Crosby is a native of Lakeland, Florida and is currently the director of bands at Corkscrew Middle School in Naples, Florida. She received a Bachelor of Music Education from Florida Southern College in 2006 and a Master of Music Degree from Western Illinois University in 2009. Ms. Crosby has been teaching for 16 years. Prior to her appointment at CMS, she taught at Golden Gate Middle School and Manatee Middle School in Collier County. Her concert and jazz bands consistently earn superior ratings at music performance assessments. Ashley has twice been awarded both the Linda Mann Award for concert band and the five-year Superior Award for jazz. She has presented at in-service clinics at both the state and local levels, and she serves as an active clinician and adjudicator throughout Florida. Ms. Crosby has received several accolades throughout her career, including Teacher of the Year in 2013, and most recently she received the Collier County

"Golden Apple" award in 2023. Ashley has served the Florida Bandmasters Association in various roles. She was the district chairperson in District 18 from 2014–2018 and is currently serving as the junior high/middle school representative on the Executive Board.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 13

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 Dr. Mohamad & Mrs. Susan Schuman (BFA 374)
3:00–3:50 p.m.	Director's Clinic #3 with Tech Music Faculty (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 14

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)