

MIDFEST

The 34th Annual University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival



Honor Band Conductor

DR. DOMINIC TALANCA

UNC Wilmington

Conductors

RUTHIE COLGROVE

Wesleyan Middle School, GA

LIZ LOVE

Leander Middle School, TX

HUNTER MCGEE

Riverwatch Middle School, GA

DR. MARCUS MORRIS

University of Georgia

JEFFREY ROWSER

Woodward Academy, GA

VINCENT ROSSE

Stephenson Middle School, GA

DR. SHIREE WILLIAMS

Atlanta, GA

Guest Bands

BARBER MIDDLE SCHOOL

HONORS BAND

Dr. Robert J. Grogan & Bradley J. Rikard, Conductors

**TAYLOR ROAD MIDDLE
SCHOOL SYMPHONIC BAND**

Angela Reynolds & Victoria Shrote, Conductors

IMPORTANT DATES

NOMINATIONS BEGIN: SEPTEMBER 16TH

NOMINATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 11TH

ACCEPTANCES PUBLISHED: OCTOBER 18TH

CANCELLATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 22ND

VIDEO SUBMISSION DUE: DECEMBER 2ND

FESTIVAL DATES: DECEMBER 12TH-14TH



**Hugh Hodgson
School of Music**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Dear Colleagues:

The faculty and staff of the University of Georgia Hugh Hodgson School of Music are delighted to invite you and your most accomplished students to participate in the 34th Annual Middle School Band Festival to be held December 12-14, 2024. Students will submit video auditions for band and chair placements. The event begins with registration on the afternoon of December 12 and concludes with concerts by the festival Clinic and Honor Bands on the afternoon of December 14. In addition to the clinic band or honor band experience, the festival will also feature exceptional guest band performances, and clinics designed especially for middle school band directors. Events will be held in the Hugh Hodgson School of Music and at the Foundry St. ballrooms at the Classic Center in Athens.

MidFest is designed to provide a rewarding musical experience for advanced middle school band students, grades 6, 7, and 8. Directors are encouraged to nominate their *most advanced students (up to 10% of band population)* by way of the festival email registration. **Schools whose applications are among the first 80 received are assured of having a minimum of two (2) students selected for participation in the festival.** *Saxophonists and percussionists are not eligible for automatic acceptance and will not be accepted as one of your first two choices.* More than two students from a school may be selected to participate in the festival depending upon the total number of schools participating and instrumentation needs. Nominations begin on September 16th and must be received by **5pm EST on OCTOBER 11TH**. The names of additional students selected will be made available via email on or around October 18th. All selected students will be assigned to either the Honor Band or one of seven Clinic Bands based on their video audition.

Please do not send \$95.00 festival fees for any students you nominate as Automatic acceptances or Additional Student Applicants. Those fees will be requested after all selections have been made. You have the option of paying by **credit card**. The link to our secure UGA Marketplace credit card processing page will be included in the email announcing acceptances for this year's festival. If you prefer, you may mail your payment.

Students attending the Middle School Festival must be chaperoned by adults from the participating schools. When no director is present, we ask that you assign one chaperone to be the head chaperone to handle all festival matters for your school. Please send head chaperone phone number and email to Mia Athanas at myriam.athanas25@uga.edu. As always, we recommend that you check with your individual school systems and adhere to any policies governing such events. Housing arrangements for are the responsibility of the director and/or chaperones.

We look forward to receiving your students' applications and to seeing you in Athens this December!

Warm regards,

Jack A. Eaddy
Assoc. Director of Bands

Mia Athanas
Director of Festivals

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR 2024

- Please DO NOT send any payments when you nominate students. Send all payments after acceptances have been announced on or around October 18th.
- Schools must check-in at the festival as a group. If students are being chaperoned by parents without a director present, a head chaperone must be designated to handle registration, audition information, and dispensation of any outstanding financial matters. Directors should send chaperone cell number and email to Mia Athanas (myriam.athanas25@uga.edu). **Students who attempt to check-in separate from their school's other participants will not be checked in until the remainder of the students have arrived.**
- Winds & mallets are requested to prepare two of the four Middle School All-State scales (Concerts F, Bb, Eb, Ab) and the chromatic scale (in whatever range student can successfully perform). Snare Drum & Timpani will perform the GMEA All-State round 1 etude. Students will submit a YouTube unlisted video link on our website. Instructions for creating videos will be posted on our website.
- Directors are asked to notify us of any accepted students who will not attend by the close of business on November 13th. This will permit us to reach the optimum number of students at the festival without over-accepting. After November 13th, each school will be responsible for the number of students on its Accepted list.

DIRECTOR'S CHECKLIST

- Gather the information requested on the School/Director Registration Worksheet, Student Registration Worksheet #1, and Student Registration Worksheet #2. **Please remember that these two students must not be saxophonists or percussionists.** Also gather the information requested on the Additional Student Applicants Worksheet (all your accomplished band students are eligible for this).
- Submit this information by October 11th through the link provided in the nomination email sent out September 16th.
- On or around October 18th, an email will be sent announcing which students have been accepted to the festival.
- Pay registration fees (by credit card via the website or mail a check) for your accepted students and notify our office of any accepted students who decide not to attend by November 13th. After November 13th, schools are responsible for the number of students on their accepted list.
- Make hotel reservations in Athens for yourself, your chaperones, and your accepted students.
- Join us for **MidFest** on December 12th! Hear honor and clinic band performances and rehearsals, observe, and meet inspiring guest conductors, and directors' clinics, encounter new literature performed by guest and festival bands, and visit and share ideas with colleagues from throughout the region.

PRELIMINARY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 12

3:00-6:30 PM Registration & hotel check-in (on your own)
 7:00-8:00 PM **CONCERT**
 HODGSON HALL, UGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Barber Middle School Honors Band

, Georgia

Dr. Robert J. Grogan & Bradley J. Rikard, Conductors

Taylor Road Middle School Symphonic Band

, Georgia

Angela Reynolds & Victoria Shrote, Conductors

Friday, December 13

8:30-11:45AM Band rehearsals and director hospitality
 Noon Lunch on your own
 2:15-4:45PM Rehearsals
 5:00-7:00PM Dinner on your own
 7:00-8:30 PM **CONCERT**
 HODGSON HALL, UGA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The University of Georgia Wind Symphony

Athens, Georgia

Dr. Jack A. Eaddy, Conductor

The University of Georgia Jazz Ensemble 1

Athens, Georgia

Dave D'Angelo, Conductor

Saturday, December 13

8:15-10:15 AM Band rehearsals
 10:30 AM-12:00 PM Check-out and lunch on your own
 12:30 PM **Final concerts begin**
 5:00 PM **Festival concludes**

ATHENS HOTEL INFORMATION

Directors are strongly encouraged to make reservations for accommodations as soon as the list of accepted students is published. Though there are more than enough hotel rooms in the area to serve festival students, the more economical and convenient lodging options will be reserved quickly.

The list below represents properties that university guests have utilized in the past. This list is for the convenience of directors only and does not imply an endorsement by the University of Georgia.

DOWNTOWN/CAMPUS AREA

Americas Best Value Inn	(706) 549-5400
Best Western	(706) 546-7311
Georgia Gameday Center	(706) 583-4500
Hilton Garden Inn	(706) 353-6800
Holiday Inn Express	(706) 546-8122
Homewood Suites	(706) 548-3500
Hyatt Place	(706) 425-1800
Hotel Indigo	(706) 546-0430
The Graduate – Athens	(706) 549-7020
Wingate by Wyndham Athens	(706) 707-9027

OUTLYING AREAS WITHIN 15 MINUTES OF CAMPUS

Candlewood Suites	(706) 548-9663
Comfort Inn	(706) 227-9700
Country Inn & Suites	(706) 612-9100
Fairfield Inn & Suites	(706) 549-5900
Hampton Inn	(706) 548-9600
Howard Johnson	(706) 510-1108
Microtel Inn	(706) 389-4836
Perimeter Inn	(706) 548-3000
Quality Inn	(706) 549-1530
Sleep Inn and Suites	(706) 410-2023
Spring Hill Suites	(706) 353-8484

INFORMATION FOR DIRECTORS AND STUDENTS

ELIGIBILITY: Students enrolled in grades 6, 7, and 8, recommended by their middle school director are eligible. Saxophonists and percussionists are only eligible for consideration as Additional Student Applicants and will not be admitted as automatic acceptances. **Directors are asked to nominate only their most accomplished and motivated performers (up to 10% of band population).**

APPLICATIONS: Application worksheets to help you gather the appropriate information are enclosed. Registration takes place online. Please submit the information from Student Registration Worksheets #1 and 2 for the first two nominees at our website. Also submit the information from Additional Student Applicants Worksheet and the School/Director Registration Worksheet. Please submit this information by October 11th. We will request payment for all student applicants after students have been selected.

STUDENT SELECTION: The first two nominees (**except saxophones and percussion**) will be accepted automatically for the first 80 completed applications. Additional students from each school may be accepted based on:

1. The order in which you submit them.
2. The instrumentation needs of the festival bands.
3. The accomplishments of the students indicated in the registration process.

Additional student selections will be emailed to directors on or about October 18th. Placement in the festival bands will be made based on video auditions to be submitted by December 2nd. Instructions for video submission will be included in student acceptance information.

STUDENT, DIRECTOR & CHAPERONE HOUSING is the responsibility of each director and/or chaperones. We have negotiated special group rates with several local hotels. A listing of nearby accommodations is included for your convenience.

MEALS: All meals are the responsibility of directors and/or chaperones. Several dining establishments are convenient to the University and Classic Center. The UGA East Village Commons (featuring five dining venues) is a three-minute walk from the School of Music. All-you-can-eat lunch at the East Village Commons is \$12.65.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE: Registration will begin at 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 12th. Directors will find out their students' band and chair placement at registration. Saturday concerts begin at 12:30 PM and end at approximately 5:00 PM. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend only the concert featuring their child, as seating is limited.

REGISTRATION: Please register for **MidFest** by completing the link in the student nomination email sent out September 16th. Worksheets are included to assist you in gathering the information you need for online registration.

FESTIVAL AUDITIONS: Accepted students will submit a video audition by December 2nd.

Winds: Play two scales/arpeggios (taken from the Georgia Music Educators Association Middle School All-State requirements) of your choice. (G.M.E.A. scale requirements for middle school students may be found at gmea.org.) Students are also asked to perform the chromatic scale in a comfortable range.

Snare Drummers: Perform G.M.E.A. round 1 etude.

Keyboard Percussionists: Perform two G.M.E.A. required scales and arpeggios of your choice and the chromatic scale. (G.M.E.A. scale requirements for middle school students may be found at gmea.org.)

Timpanists: Perform G.M.E.A. round 1 etude
(Please submit three different videos – one for each instrument.)

WHAT TO BRING: Wind players must bring a **folding music stand** (make sure student name is on stand), their instrument and supplies (i.e., reeds, neck strap, etc.), and a pencil. **Percussionists, please bring sticks & mallets only.** Concert black dress is preferred for the concert, but students' normal school concert dress is acceptable.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Participating directors will be able to access final information during the week before the festival. A program including rehearsal schedules, clinics, and concerts will be available at registration on December 12th and at the UGA Bands website.

UGA Band Office
Phone: (706) 542-1505
Email: myriam.athanas25@uga.edu

SCHOOL/DIRECTOR REGISTRATION WORKSHEET
(PLEASE SUBMIT THIS INFORMATION FOR EACH DIRECTOR)

Director Name: _____

School Name: _____

School Phone: () _____

Cell Phone: () _____
Will be used only for emergencies while your students are attending the festival

Email: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Best time to call: (work) _____

(home) _____

STUDENT REGISTRATION WORKSHEET #1

Use for your first automatically accepted student. Please do not nominate saxophonists or percussionists for either of your first two nominees.
Please submit this information ONLINE by Friday, October 11th.

STUDENT NAME: _____

ALL STATE? (YES / NO)

INSTRUMENT: _____ GRADE IN SCHOOL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE :() _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN FIRST AND LAST NAME:

PARENT/GUARDIAN WORK PHONE :() _____

DIRECTOR NAME: _____

DIRECTOR SIGNATURE: _____

NAME OF MIDDLE SCHOOL:

The student festival fee of \$95.00 per automatically accepted student must be received with your receipt from the online registration form. Please make all checks payable to:

UGA Middle School Festival

Students paying as individuals should be registered online by their band director and submit this completed form with payment.

