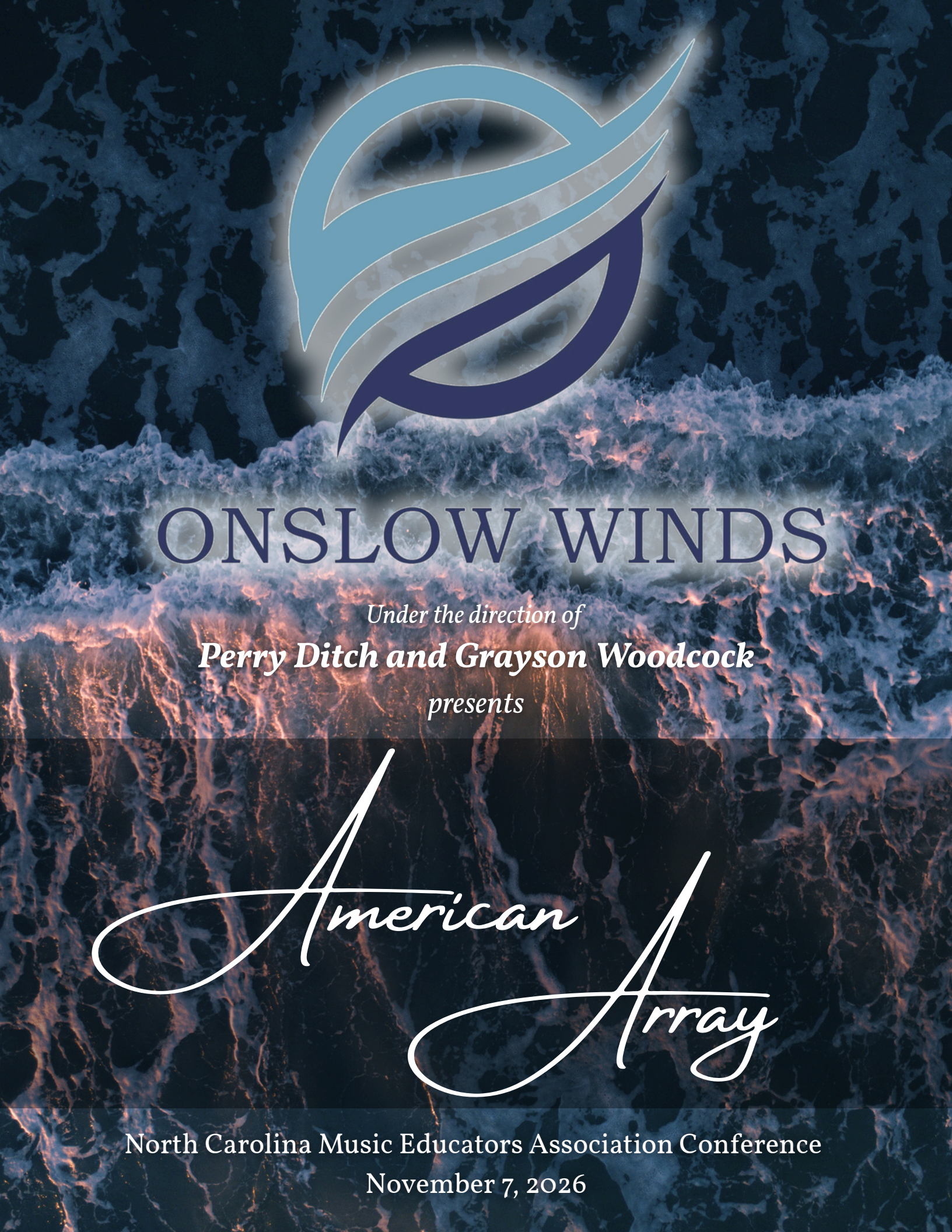

ONSLOW WINDS
Under the direction of
Perry Ditch and Grayson Woodcock
presents
American Array
North Carolina Music Educators Association Conference
November 7, 2026

*Onslow County's history is deeply connected to the waterways, forests, and coastal landscape of Eastern North Carolina. Established in 1734 and named for Arthur Onslow, Speaker of the British House of Commons, the county developed around agriculture, fishing, forestry, and communities along the New and White Oak Rivers. Jacksonville became the county seat and grew significantly during World War II with the establishment of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in 1941. Along with Marine Corps Air Station New River, the military transformed the county and remains an important part of its economy, culture, and identity.*

*Today, Onslow County is a diverse and growing community of more than 217,000 residents, blending its military heritage with strong rural and coastal traditions. Jacksonville serves as the county's commercial, educational, medical, and cultural center, while communities including Richlands, Swansboro, Holly Ridge, Sneads Ferry, Hubert, and North Topsail Beach contribute to its distinctive character. With continued population growth, expanding schools and businesses, and ongoing investment in infrastructure and community resources, Onslow County continues to evolve while remaining grounded in the values of service, resilience, tradition, and community.*

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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ONSLOW
NORTH CAROLINA

October 6, 2026

Onslow Winds Community Band
Hunters Creek Middle School
4040 Hunters Trail
Jacksonville, NC 28546

Dear Members of the Onslow Winds Community Band,

Congratulations on your selection to perform at the North Carolina Music Educators Association Conference in Winston-Salem this November! This honor recognizes your musicianship, dedication, and the spirit of community you bring to every performance.

As a member of the Onslow County Board of Commissioners and a retired educator, I am proud to see you represent our county on this distinguished stage. Music brings people together across generations and backgrounds, and Onslow Winds Community Band provides a wonderful example of that connection.

Your ensemble reflects the people who make Onslow County special. Students, educators, emergency personnel, active-duty service members, veterans, retirees, and neighbors from many walks of life come together with a shared purpose: to make music and share it with others. Each musician brings a different story, yet together you create something that enriches our entire community.

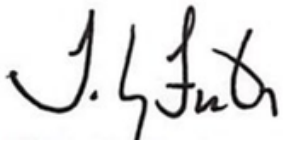
What makes your work especially meaningful is your commitment to service. You freely give your time and talents, offering performances at no cost to the public and receiving no compensation. That generosity strengthens our county's cultural life and gives people of all ages opportunities to experience the joy of live music.

I commend directors Perry Ditch and Grayson Woodcock, President Kristina McRaney, Vice President Crystal Homer, and every member and supporter whose efforts sustain this ensemble. Your leadership and commitment make this opportunity possible.

As you take the stage in Winston-Salem, know that you carry the pride and appreciation of your home community with you. Thank you for showing North Carolina what can happen when talented people come together out of love for music and service to their neighbors.

Best wishes for a memorable performance and continued success.

Sincerely,



Tim Foster, Chairman
Onslow County Board of Commissioners

# About the Onslow Winds










**The Onslow Winds Community Band was born from a shared vision among several Onslow County band directors. They recognized a need within the community for a musical outlet that extended beyond high school and college, allowing local musicians of all ages to continue playing in a concert band setting.**

**The initial spark for the band came during discussions at an All-County band event, which continued months later over dinner at the North Carolina Music Educators Conference. It was there that Perry Ditch turned to his colleague Brad Staley, then the Director of Bands at Northside High School, and asked about using the school for rehearsals. Staley enthusiastically agreed, believing it would be a valuable addition to the community.**

**With a rehearsal space secured, the directors then approached Gene Taliaferro-Jones, who was serving as Director of Bands at Dixon High School, to lead the new ensemble as its conductor. Taliaferro-Jones accepted, and the group decided to hold their first rehearsal in just two weeks, on a Monday night, with the goal of spreading the word to see who would attend. To their delight, 46 musicians showed up for that inaugural rehearsal in 2004!**

**Shortly thereafter, the Onslow Winds established its bylaws and elected Perry Ditch as its first board president. While leadership has evolved over time, the band remains dedicated to its founding principle: providing a welcoming environment for local musicians to come together and make music.**

**Today, the band proudly boasts a diverse membership, including military personnel, civilians, college students, high school students, and even advanced middle school students. This rich tapestry of talent and experience continues to enrich the Onslow Winds, ensuring its vibrant future in the Onslow County community.**







# Letters of Reccomendation

To the NCBA conference selection committee,

I am writing in support of having the Onslow Winds community band perform at the 2026 NCBA Professional Development Conference. Directed by Perry Ditch and Grayson Woodcock, the Onslow Winds exemplifies what a community band should be: a diverse range of ages, occupations, and musical experience levels coming together to create music. I recently had the pleasure of hearing them in a live performance of a program that included everything from a Sousa march to old standards to new hits; programming that appeals to a variety of audience members. Most importantly, the performance level of the ensemble was outstanding and will certainly meet the high expectations of conference attendees. The Onslow Winds would be a wonderful ensemble to follow last year's concert by the Winston-Salem Community Band, and I hope you will give them serious consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Davis

Deborah Davis

Dear NCMEA Selection Committee,

I am writing in support of the Onslow Winds Community Band for a performance at the 2026 NCMEA conference. I have known the current directors, Mr. Perry Ditch and Mr. Grayson Woodcock, for well over a decade now. I have also attended the Onslow Winds concert this winter, so I feel I can be incredibly supportive of this application. Community bands are vitally important to the health of our communities and our school ensembles, because it provides a place for musicians of all ages and backgrounds to come together to create music. This group has existed for quite a while as I understand it, and the area has a rich history of strong public school music. They are a wonderfully musical group and it is obvious they enjoy the process of performing together.

Musically, the group is quite strong and is playing a wide repertoire of music. I believe highlighting making music from cradle to grave to be a worthy goal of our organization. Perry and Grayson are wonderful musicians and educators who will be sure to create an incredible program for this event. And I believe the Onslow winds represent a high quality community program that we should be encouraging. They will give a great concert, musically inspiring, and I hope will engage more groups like this to spring up.

Sincerely,
Cindy Wagoner, Ph.D
Associate Professor Emeritus, East Carolina University

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jorge Benitez, and I serve as the Band Director at Havelock High School in Havelock, North Carolina. I am honored to write this letter in support of the Onslow Winds and their application to perform at the 2026 North Carolina Music Conference.

I recently had the opportunity to hear the Onslow Winds perform at their Spring 2026 concert on March 15th, and I was thoroughly impressed by the ensemble's musicianship and overall presentation. One of the most striking aspects of their performance was the level of difficulty in the repertoire they selected. The program featured a diverse range of literature, from engaging and accessible works for general audiences to highly advanced pieces commonly performed by collegiate ensembles. Despite the technical and musical challenges presented, the group performed with confidence and excellence.

The Onslow Winds are unique in their composition, bringing together a wide range of musicians—from middle school students to seasoned professional players. This diversity contributes to a rich and full ensemble sound while also fostering a collaborative and educational environment that is evident in their performance.

Additionally, the ensemble benefits from the leadership of highly experienced conductors who demonstrate a clear understanding of effective teaching and musical direction. The group consistently exhibited great intonation, precise rhythmic accuracy, and well-executed dynamic contrasts. Their performance reflected a high level of preparation and professionalism.

Based on my experience hearing this ensemble, I am confident that the Onslow Winds would represent their program and our state exceptionally well at the 2026 North Carolina Music Conference. I recommend them for this performance opportunity.

Sincerely,
Jorge Benitez
Band Director
Havelock High School
Havelock, North Carolina

# Perry Ditch, Director



Perry Ditch is currently the Music Education Coordinator at Fuller's Music overseeing all operations dealing with Band and Orchestra. He is the former band director at White Oak High School in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Mr. Ditch graduated from East Carolina University 1986 and taught for 6 years in Brevard, N.C. In 1992 Mr. Ditch moved to White Oak High School and since then the program has grown from 68 members to 185 members. The bands he has directed have received numerous superior ratings and awards. He has been a guest clinician and adjudicator in Virginia and North Carolina. Mr. Ditch was also the director of all the Academies at White Oak High School. In 2014 his Jazz Ensemble was selected to perform in the New York City Jazz Festival.

He is driven by his philosophy that "Music Sounds like Life Feels". The sounds that we make often can move people to feel the music. It is the journey that the ear takes when listening to the music that keeps the audience captive.

Mr. Ditch has served as a guest Clinician and Adjudicator in North Carolina and Virginia. He is sought after to deliver Professional Development in the areas of Technology, Instructional Strategies, Developing the Individual and Ensemble Musician, creating a Culture that Builds programs and Global Connections.

In June of 2017 a White Oak H.S. band did a Skype Concert for the Cheery Education Centre *(http://cheerycentre.org/)* in the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya at Mashimoni. During that session we realized that they neither had music classes nor instruments. So, the Cheery Music Project was created. The Project has grown, and many things have been accomplished. After Traveling to Kenya 3 times and is scheduled to go again this spring. Mr. Ditch recognizes the need for more help at the School and is working on a Rotary International Global Grant.

Mr. Ditch completed his master's degree from East Carolina University in 2000 and is National Board-Certified Teacher. Mr. Ditch is a past president of the Eastern District Bandmasters association and a past Secretary for the North Carolina Bandmasters Association. He is a proud member of the American School Band Directors Association.

In 2019 Mr. Ditch was awarded the North Carolina Symphonic Swalin Award for Outstanding Music Educator of the Year. Mr. Ditch was also awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the NC Governor's highest award given to a civilian in the state.

Mr. Ditch is a proud Rotarian as a member of the Rotary Club of Jacksonville New River. He loves how the club serves the community and international projects. In August of 2019 Mr. Ditch joined the Fuller's Music Family as Music Education Coordinator. Mr. Ditch is thrilled to continue to serve Students, Music Educators and Parents in Eastern North Carolina.

His greatest achievement is being the proud father to his son, Jacob Perry Ditch.

# Grayson Woodcock, Director



Grayson Woodcock is a graduate of East Carolina University's music education program. While at ECU, Grayson participated in multiple ensembles including the ECU Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble, the ECU Percussion Players and Percussion Ensemble, and the ECU Symphony Orchestra. He also is a member of the NC Teaching Fellows. Grayson has spent many years teaching percussion around the eastern part of this state.

Grayson's teaching career began at Farmville Central High School where he taught band, orchestra, and general music. He also was an instructor for Craven Indoor Percussion during this time. The ensemble went to WGI (Winter Guard International) Championships and earned a bronze medal in their class. CIP (Craven Indoor Percussion) is one of the first marching percussion groups from North Carolina to medal at WGI Championships.

He then moved to Havelock High School where he was the Associate Director of Music. He taught percussion ensemble, concert band, marching band, symphonic band, wind ensemble, and freshmen chorus. As an associate to Jorge Benitez, Grayson helped the bands and ensembles earn several superior ratings and awards from various competitions and festivals in North Carolina. Grayson was also a presenter for a professional development session where teachers in Craven county were learning about using technology in the classroom.

After Havelock, Grayson took the position of Director of Bands at Northside High School. In addition to teaching percussion ensemble, concert band, wind ensemble, marching band, beginning piano, music theory, music history, and music technology, Grayson served the Eastern District Bandmasters Association as the chairperson for middle school MPA (Music Performance Adjudication). He also worked as the pit conductor for the musicals *Big!*, *Aladdin Jr.*, and *The Little Mermaid*, and also controlled the music for *A Christmas Carol*.

Grayson left Northside in 2016 to work as a K-5 general music teacher at Sand Ridge Elementary. He would coach kindergarten through fifth grade to perform at least 3 times a year, was involved in the School Leadership Team, and earned the Arts Teacher of the Year Award for Sand Ridge Elementary. While at Sand Ridge, he stayed connected to the musicals at Northside High School by operating the microphones and sound for each rehearsal and performance of *Mary Poppins* and *Oliver*.

Grayson currently serves as the Music Education Representative for Fuller's Music. He is happy to serve the music teachers in several counties in the surrounding area. He visits middle and high schools in Onslow, Craven, Carteret, and Pitt counties each week. Grayson presents care clinics to band classes, helps to provide professional development to teachers and college students, and occasionally has the opportunity to teach in the classroom as well.

Grayson lives happily in Jacksonville, NC with his wife Brandie, their two daughters Elena and Aria, and their dog, Lacie

Onslow Winds



## Kristina McRaney, President

Kristina McRaney is the Band Director at Hunters Creek Middle School in the Onslow County School District. She has a B.M. in Flute Performance and a M.M. in Woodwind Pedagogy and Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is a member of the American School Band Directors Association and is serving as President-Elect for the NCBA Eastern District. She has played flute, piccolo, oboe and clarinet for the Onslow Winds. Since moving to North Carolina in 2021, she and each of her three children has been a part of the Onslow Winds. During her free time she enjoys traveling and exploring with her husband.



## Crystal Homer, Vice President

Crystal Homer is the band director at Southwest Middle School in Onslow County, where she has 18 years of experience sharing her love of music with young musicians. She holds a BM in Music Education and an MAEd in Instructional Technology from East Carolina University and earned her Academically/Intellectually Gifted certification through UNCW. Crystal first performed with the Onslow Winds in its early years as a high school senior and later returned to the group. She is now in her second year serving as vice president and plays both flute and clarinet in the ensemble. In her free time, she enjoys reading, playing music, and spending time with her family.



## Kasey Oregan, Secretary

Kasey Oregon is a 4th year Orchestra Director at Swansboro Middle School. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Education and a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance from East Carolina University. She is the Tri-M advisor for Swansboro Middle School and plays with the Coastal Carolina Community Orchestra. When she is not teaching or serving and bartending locally, she enjoys spending time with the best dog ever and being sea gremlin.

# Executive Board

## Rebekah Lockhart, Librarian



Rebekah Lockhart is the Chorus and General Music Teacher at Hunters Creek Middle School in Jacksonville, NC where she has taught for the last ten years. She earned her Bachelor of Music Education from Campbell University. Rebekah plays percussion in the Onslow Winds. While she has taught in Onslow county for a decade now, she started her music career teaching middle school band in Raeford, NC. She enjoys playing percussion with the Onslow Winds because it gives her a chance to still be involved in instrumental music and the band community that she has missed while teaching vocal music.

## Zach Snively, Treasurer



Zach Snively is a United States Marine stationed at Ground Supply School on Camp Johnson. He has his Undergraduate in Music from Virginia Tech and his Masters in Music from the University of Florida. He plays trumpet in Onslow Winds and the Wilmington Symphonic Winds. Zach was a member of Onslow Winds from 2015-2020 and previously held the office of treasurer and president, during which time he established the Onslow Winds Community Band as a non-profit. In addition to his passion for music, he enjoys training for different fitness events. Zach has completed marathons, bodybuilding shows, sprint triathlons, and a HYROX. He is currently training for his first 50 mile ultramarathon.

## Emily Saenz, Public Relations



Emily is currently a stay-at-home mom to her 3-year-old twins Maximus and Juniper. She received her Bachelor of Music Education from Troy University in Alabama, where she was Drum Major for the Sound of the South Marching Band and a brother of Kappa Kappa Psi. She plays alto saxophone for the Onslow Winds. Before having her children, she taught K-5 music at Dixon Elementary School. Emily first joined the community band in 2019 and came back to playing with the group in 2024.



**Flute**
Genevieve Banks
A'mya Bass
Jessica Blanchet
Karen Matthews
Kasey Oregon
Christal Poleviyuma

**Oboe**
Becca Chadwick
Christina Lopenzo

**English Horn**
Becca Chadwick

**Bassoon**
Colleen Hussion

**Clarinet**
Grace Anderson
Crystal Homer
Kristina McRaney
Tracy Riddle
Jodi Sablan
Rachael Weber
Amanda Whitford

**Bass Clarinet**
Joshua Cahill
Christopher Kenny

**Contrabass Clarinet**
Christopher Kenny

**Alto Saxophone**
Analise Benitez
Lynda Fenton
Emily Saenz

**Tenor Saxophone**
Bill Johnson
Ryliegh Weber

**Baritone Saxophone**
Jennifer Hernandez



**Trumpet**
Taya Adair
Zane Cole
Takeem Dennis
Nolan McDonald
Jose Perez III
Jose Salinas
Tim Tyson

**French Horn**
Roberto Gonzalez
Pat Koppenhaver
Elizabeth Williams

**Trombone**
Brenden Adair
Jacob Anderson
Drew Best
Eddie Best
Jacob McRaney
Ashleigh Olvera
Nathan Piedmont
Timothy Russell
Phil Smith

**Euphonium**
Greg Dundore
Nick Welch

**Tuba**
Michael Castillo
Brett Howard
Amari Lewis
Nicholas Olvera-Bryan

**Percussion**
Domenyk Croker
Trenton King
Rebekah Lockhart
Cameron Thomas
Elena Woodcock
Grayson Woodcock
Ashley Wright

# Bethany Vaughn, Guest Soloist



Bethany Vaughan is an active freelance trumpet player and educator currently residing in the Chicago area. She has performed with orchestras all over the country, including the Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, as well as the orchestras of Houston, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Louisville, Charlotte, Jacksonville, Rochester, Syracuse, and Virginia (Norfolk) among others. With Axiom Brass, Bethany has toured nationally and internationally and been a part of three recording projects. Axiom's live album with trombonist Christian Lindberg, In Full Bloom, can be found on all major streaming platforms. Bethany has also performed with Seraph Brass, 3rd Coast Brass, Stiletto Brass, and Monarch Brass. With Talos Brass, she was named a finalist in the MTNA National Chamber Music Competition. Bethany also loves to teach and is on the faculty at Lake Forest College and the Music Institute of Chicago in addition to maintaining her private studio. She has been a trumpet sectional coach at multiple area high schools and currently teaches at Lake Forest High School.

A native of Houston, TX, at eight years old Bethany fell in love with the cornet, later switching to trumpet and attending Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (while studying with former Principal Trumpet of the Houston Symphony, James Austin). Bethany then completed a Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance with a minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, where she studied modern trumpet with John Rommel and baroque trumpet with Kris Kwapis. After graduating from IU in 2021, Bethany received a full scholarship to pursue her masters degree at Northwestern University, where she studied with Michael Sachs, Thomas Rolfs, and David Bilger before graduating in 2023. Bethany has spent summers as a trumpet fellow at the Aspen Music Festival and School,the National Arts Centre Orchestra Mentorship Program, the Round Top Festival Institute, and the Texas Music Festival. She has performed at the Ravinia, Bravo! Vail, Blossom, and Peninsula music festivals and has been a Resident Artist at the Caroga Lake Music Festival since 2024.

In her free time, Bethany loves to play pickle ball, read, run, and spend time with her husband, trumpeter and composer Aaron DuBois. Soli Deo gloria!

# Program

Galop — Gary P. Gilroy

Chester — William Schuman

San Antonio Dances — Frank Ticheli

Shenandoah — Traditional, arr. Omar Thomas

Strange Humors — John Mackey

Americans We — Henry Fillmore

Ode for Trumpet — Alfred Reed

*Featuring Trumpet Soloist Bethany Vaughn*

America the Beautiful — Samuel A. Ward and Katharine Lee Bates, arr. Carmen Dragon

# Program

## ***Galop*** Gary P. Gilroy (b. 1958)

Gary P. Gilroy is an American composer who attributes music, specifically band, to keeping him in school: "I hated school. I hated everything about it, but I loved band. I loved going to music school, and I loved that part of my day."Recently retired from his position as Director of Bands at California State University, Fresno, Gilroy has built an extensive career across the spectrum of music education: an instructor and arranger for both Santa Clara Vanguard and the Blue Devils; an adjudicator for Bands of America; a guest conductor for honor bands across all fifty United States, Canada, China, and England; a composer of over 200 published works and ASCAP award recipient. Gilroy credits the success of his career to the support of his wife and two children.

*Galop* was written in 2014 as an encore for a joint performance of the Fresno State Wind Orchestra and the Clovis North High School Wind Symphony. This percussion-driven work opens with an equestrian woodblock solo, followed by staggered wind entrances, creating a formidable atmosphere. It turns on a dime to a playful, counter-moving melodic dance. The percussion keeps the momentum of the piece beneath a conversation between the woodwinds and brass, punctuating it with slapstick, tambourine, and cowbell. Despite being intended as an "exclamation point", the Onslow Winds has chosen to open its performance with this bright, theatrical work.

## ***Chester*** William Schuman (1910-1992)

Born in New York City, William Schuman fostered a love of music within his home and community, writing and performing popular music. He initially pursued a business degree at NYU, but decided to turn to composition after attending a New York Philharmonic concert at Carnegie Hall. He studied at Columbia University with composer Roy Harris and launched into composing music, including large-scale works like symphonies and ballets. He served as president of The Julliard School and was the first president of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. He received multiple major awards including the inaugural music Pulitzer prize for his cantata *A Free Song*, and the 1988 Kennedy Center Honor, bestowed "for an extraordinary lifetime of contributions to American culture."

*Chester* derives its theme from a hymn tune composed by William Billings in 1778. The tune became widely popular throughout the American colonies and was adopted during the Revolutionary period as a patriotic marching song. Schuman reimagined the tune for the third movement of his orchestral work *New England Triptych*, completed in 1956, and later arranged the movement for concert band. This overture begins with a hymnal presentation of the familiar melody before transforming it through five fast-paced and off-kilter variations, hallmarking Schuman's twentieth-century compositional style. The coda restates the hymn under the same driving tempo as the variations, ending the piece with thundering timpani and a proud fanfare.

## ***San Antonio Dances*** Frank Ticheli (b.1958)

Frank Ticheli is an award-winning American composer whose music has become integral to contemporary concert band repertoire. Born in Monroe, Louisiana, Ticheli began playing trumpet at the age of nine and developed an interest in composition. He earned degrees in composition from Southern Methodist University and the University of Michigan. He taught at Trinity University, then served as a Professor of Composition for more than three decades for the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. His music is known for its imaginative use of instrumental color and melodic brilliance.

Ticheli composed *San Antonio Dances* as a tribute to the city, which made a lasting impression on him during his three years as a young professor at Trinity University. The two-movement work reflects the city's blend of Texan and Hispanic cultural influences. The first movement, "Alamo Gardens", is a mellow tango that slowly unwinds from the shade of the oak trees. The opening clarinet solo roams through the heat in the chalumeau, ushering in flute and saxophone solos that echo its languor. They are joined by the brass in a stately yet lackadaisical fanfare to announce the arrival at the fortress. The woodwinds then go winding back through the trees to complete the journey. The second movement, "Tex-Mex on the Riverwalk", is an exploration of a lively evening at the Riverwalk. The saxophones dance in a melodic duet, awaiting the arrival of the ensemble over a patiently vamping clave and marimba. Company soon joins them, interrupting with anecdotes and laughter from the trumpet and xylophone. The evening becomes boisterous, interposed with an occasional sidebar conversation, culminating in a festive finale.

## ***Shenandoah*** arr. Omar Thomas (b. 1984)

Omar Thomas is an American composer, arranger, and educator whose music draws from a wide range of influences: particularly jazz, contemporary classical music, and the traditions of Black American music. Born in Brooklyn, New York, to Guyanese parents, Thomas studied music education at James Madison University before earning a Master of Music in Jazz Composition from the New England Conservatory of Music. He has served on the faculties of Berklee College of Music and the Peabody Institute and is currently an Associate Professor of Composition and Jazz Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Thomas has received numerous honors for his work, including the 2019 National Bandmasters Association/Revelli Award for his wind ensemble composition *Come Sunday.*

Few American folk songs are as recognizable as *Shenandoah.* It originated as a river song with multiple sets of lyrics developed revolving around the lives and journeys of fur traders traveling along the Missouri River. Thomas composed his arrangement in 2019, saying that he reimagined the arrangement in his head, first creating bass lines beneath the melody and then building the harmonies around them. Thomas imagines the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley not under bright sunshine, but beneath low-hanging clouds. Periods of heavy rain are portrayed by instrumental and body percussion. The music occasionally hints that sunlight is beginning to break through the clouds, only for the rain to return.

# Notes

## ***Strange Humors*** John Mackey (b. 1973)

John Mackey is an accomplished American-born composer, writing works for orchestra, dance, theater, and wind ensemble. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Cleveland Institute of Music, then received his Master of Music from The Juilliard School. In 2014, Mackey became the youngest composer ever inducted into the American Bandmasters Association. He has been composer-in-residence for dozens of groups, including multiple youth orchestras and universities. Mackey is also a photgraphy enthusiast. He currently lives in New York City with his spouse, A.E. Jaques, an MIT artificial intelligence ethics philosopher (who also has been put to the task of titling Mackey's many works), and their two cats, Noodle and Bloop.

*Strange Humors* began as a student composition for string quartet and djembe while Mackey was studying at Julliard. The work was later adapted for the Parsons Dance Company, and Mackey subsequently transcribed the wind-ensemble version at the request of Richard Floyd on behalf of the American Bandmasters Association. The djembe serves as the pulse of the work, entering abruptly after a Phrygian influenced English horn solo that introduces one of the main melodic ideas, which becomes further developed by the saxophones. The piece dances across multiple meters, but never slows, tangling unforgettable melodies and a propulsive groove together towards a raucous end.

## ***Americans We*** Henry Fillmore (1881-1956)

Henry Fillmore was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the eldest of five and son of a hymnal publisher. He learned many instruments growing up, but hid his affinity for trombone from his devout father who believed the instrument sinful. His mother, however, supported his clandestine endeavor, and bought Henry a trombone and helped conceal his studies. He attended the Miami Military Institute in Ohio before studying at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He composed more than 250 original works and arranged more than 750 others. He often used pseudonyms for his work, such as "Ray Hall", "Harry Hartley", and "Gus Beans". Fillmore was best known for his marches and screamers, including *The President's March*, *Rolling Thunder,* and *The Circus Bee*. He also earned the moniker of "Father of the Trombone Smear" after writing a series of novelty trombone rags called "The Trombone Family".

*Americans We* was first published in 1929 and was dedicated simply "to all of us." The march originated during a series of performances by Fillmore's 24-member band in Cincinnati. Before settling on its final title, Fillmore introduced the work under several different names, including *The Cincinnati Zoo* and *Pure Food and Health* before eventually landing on *Americans We*. The piece follows the traditional American march form with an undeniably giddy enthusiasm that is fun for players and listeners, but we should heed the words of Fredrick Fennell: "...please remember that Henry Fillmore always had more fun with his music -- than anybody."

## ***Ode for Trumpet*** Alfred Reed (1921-2005)

Alfred Reed was born in Manhattan and began studying trumpet at the age of ten. By the time he was in high school, he was performing professionally at resort hotels in the Catskills. During World War II, he performed with and arranged for the 529th Army Air Force Band, after which he studied composition at Juilliard. He went on to work as a staff composer and arranger for NBC, conductor of the Baylor Symphony Orchestra in Waco, Texas, post of editor at Hansen Publishing in New York, and a professor and director of the School of Music at the University of Miami. Reed composed more than 250 published works for band, orchestra, chorus, and chamber ensembles.

Written in 1956, *Ode for Trumpet* was composed specifically for renowned trumpeter Don Jacoby. The work was premiered by Jacoby with the Texas All-State Band after its commission. The music is built in a free variation form based on an eight-measure theme. Following a brief introduction, the theme is presented and then developed through three variations before returning in its original form. The solo trumpet and ensemble engage in a conversation that stays relaxed through waves of fanfare and lyricism. The Onslow Winds is proud to be accompanying Conn-Selmer artist Mrs. Bethany Vaughn for this performance.

## ***America the Beautiful*** Carmen Dragon (1914-1984)

Carmen Dragon was an American composer born of Italian immigrant parents in California. He conducted pop music and composed film score on top of being the conductor for the Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orchestra. This ensemble performed regularly on The Standard School Broadcast on NBC radio from the late 1920's-1970's, providing a high-quality introduction to classical music for young people in the western United States. His arrangement of America the Beautiful was originally written for symphony orchestra and was transcribed in the years following for concert band.

*America the Beautiful* was originally a poem by Katharine Lee Bates, inspired by the view of Pike's Peak in Colorado. It was published as a set of lyrics to the hymn tune "Materna" by Samuel A. Ward in 1910. This iconic arrangement of *America the Beautiful* is begins with a thunderous timpani introduction before the sweeping, familiar melody sings out from the woodwinds. The melody is explored a second time in a different key and context before it is capped in a triumphant, brass-led fanfare. Like other hymn tunes set to religious lyrics, the lyrics of *America the Beautiful* is effectively inseparable from the melody. Reflecting on the succes of the poem after it became enormously popular, Bates stated that it "is clearly due to the fact that Americans are at heart idealists, with a fundamental faith in human brotherhood."

# ACTIVE DUTY
# MILITARY



PO 2 Christina Lopenzo, Pre-Deployment Instructor, USCG



Maj. Zach Snively, Executive Officer at Ground Supply School, USMC



Cpl. Jennifer Hernandez, Motor Transportation Operator, USMC




Cpl. Jose Salinas, 3531 Motor Transport Operator, USMC



Lieut. Jose "Pepe" Perez III, Pharmacist, U.S. Navy Officer



Capt. Roberto Gonzalez, Logistics Officer, USMC

# Music Educators



Jodi Sablan, Tucker Creek Middle School Band Director



Takeem Dennis, Northside High School Band Director



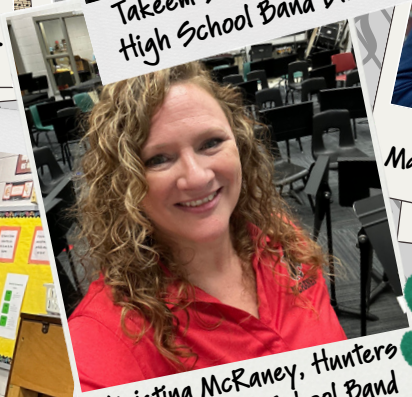
Nolan McDonald, Trexler Middle School Band Director



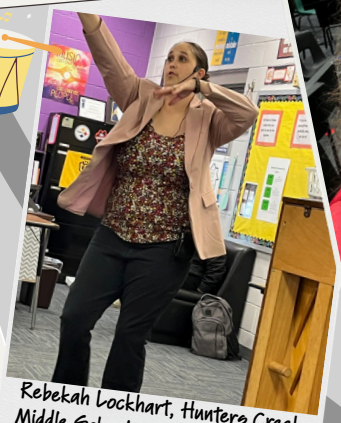
Tom Seaman, Band Director at East Duplin High School



Amanda Whitford, H.J. Macdonald Middle School Band Director



Kristina McRaney, Hunters Creek Middle School Band Director



Rebekah Lockhart, Hunters Creek Middle School Chorus Director and General Music Teacher



Brett Howard, Associate Band Director at West Craven High and Middle School



Ashley Wright, Band Director at East Carteret High School



Greg Dundore, White Oak High School Orchestra Director



Kasey Oregon, Swansboro Middle School Orchestra Director



Pat Koppenhaver, Swansboro Middle School Band Director



Crystal Homer, Southwest Middle School Band Director



Amari Lewis, Jacksonville Commons Middle School Director



Karen Matthews, Dixon Middle School Band Director

# Community Members



Timothy V Tyson, Retired Band Director, Choral Instructor, Guitar Instructor, part-time substitute teacher. Neighborhood Lawn Keeper.



Phil Smith, Retired music educator, Part-time road representative for Fuller's Music



Robin Bowling, Realtor



Grayson Woodcock, Fuller's Music Education Representative



Eddie Best, Retired Band Director




Aimee Guareno, Exceptional Family Member Program Training, Education, and Outreach



Christal Poleviyuma, Stay at Home Mom, prior high school math teacher



Lynda Fenton, Chaos Controller (Stay at Home Mom)



Rebecca Chadwick, Oboist and Creative Director for the Solstice Reed Quintet



Nick Welch, Design Engineer for Global Tooling and Products at West Pharmaceutical Services Inc.



Emmy Saenz, Stay at Home Mom, AI Data Training



Ashleigh Olvera-Guillen, Environmental Health & Safety Manager



Nathan Piedmont, Vice President for Computer Warriors



Perry Ditch, Retired Music Educator and Music Education Coordinator for Fuller's Music

# Student Musicians



Nicholas Olvera-Bryan
Richlands High School
Senior
Biology Buff



Taya Adair, senior at Richlands High School, Trumpet Section Leader



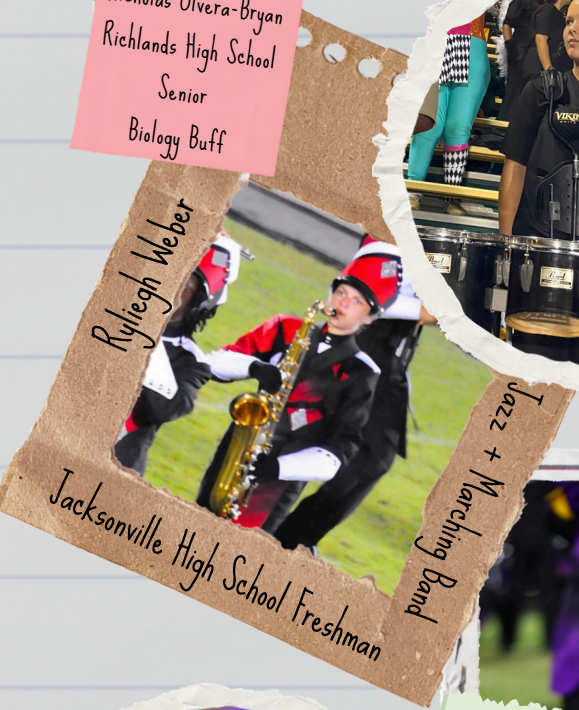
Genevieve Banks
No Job, no license, loves anthro
White Oak High School Sophomore



Zane Cole, 7th Grade
Homeschool
Soccer player for Falcons United & avid fisherman



Elena Woodcock, White Oak High School Sophomore



Rylieigh Weber
Jazz + Marching Band
Jacksonville High School Freshman



Band + OAKestra
Jacob McRaney, White Oak High School Senior



Cameron Thomas, Dixon High School Sophomore, Sneads Ferry Jazz Collective



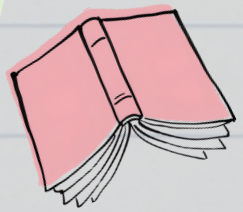
Rachael Weber
Freshman ECU Marching Pirate
Business+Communications double major, Music minor



Drew Best, Jacksonville High School Freshman



Tracy Riddle, Sophoore at UNCSA, previously Richlands High School





A'mya Bass
Jacksonville High School Sophomore

# Special Thanks to

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**Craven County Schools Print Shop**

**Hunters Creek Middle School Administration**

**Parents, Children, and Spouses of Onslow Winds performers**

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