

Bellevue East Wind Ensemble

Nebraska Music Education Association Conference
Lied Center for Performing Arts
November 19, 2026 10:45AM

Preview Concert
Bellevue East High School Auditorium
November 15, 2026 7:00PM

Bellevue East Wind Ensemble



The Bellevue East Wind Ensemble is selected by competitive audition from our students in the advanced band course. Auditions happened right when the school year began. The students prepared this performance with one additional rehearsal or sectional a week during marching band and then kept their rehearsal schedule similar to marching band in the weeks since that season concluded.

Program

SPRING FESTIVAL — Chen Yi

GRADE 3 — HAL LEONARD

LEAFY SONG — Yukiiko Nishimura

GRADE 1 — UNPUBLISHED ARR. JEREMY KRUG

CHAMAK - III. SPARK — Reena Esmail

GRADE 4 — MURPHY MUSIC PRESS

A MINIATURE TOWN — Rika Ishige

GRADE 2 — BRAIN MUSIC

SON OF A GUN — Jennifer Jolley

GRADE 1 — MURPHY MUSIC PRESS

HOMEMADE RECIPE: NASI ULAM — Emily Koh

GRADE 2.5 — EMILYKOH.NET

ANCESTRAL FLYWAYS — Cait Nishimura

GRADE 3 — CAIT NISHIMURA MUSIC/JUST A THEORY PRESS

CHARISMAX — Manaka Suzuki, et al.

GRADE 2 — WINDSCORE

Personnel



FLUTES

Luz Quiroz, Areli Loarca Pol, Brant Doke, Jocelyn Nakai, Amos Vignolo, Ava Carter, Cannon Bissaillon



CLARINETS

Madison Ricci, Abigail Hollingshead, Jayda Cribbs, Jude Addleman, Olive Settje, Alexandre MacNabb

Personnel



SAXOPHONES

Silas Savatovic, Timothy Bogatz, Evan Stoulil, Henry Perrin



TRUMPETS

Taylor Swain, Luke Spohn, Syndey Jordan,
Marcie Triggs, Logan Failor

Personnel



FRENCH HORNS

Ashlynn Erickson, Jaken Barmore, Navaeh Carr,
Olivia Simonette



TROMBONES

Grimir Gusta, Adrian Osorio, Christopher Webb,
Stephen Layton

Personnel



EUPHONIUMS & TUBAS

Alivia Pithan, Kaylee Douglas, Hunter Ellis, Isaac Failor, Allison Gonzalez Paniagua



PERCUSSION

Dylan Fitzgerald, Joseph Keffer, Griselda Campos-Noriega, Ruby Jenkins, Alayna Covarrubias, Ethan Cave, Violet Bauer, Sofia Skudler

Graduates

2025-2026 GRADUATES



We are grateful to each and every one of these students who performed with the Wind Ensemble in the 2025-26 school year. They were integral to the amazing performances that helped us earn this opportunity. Their legacy lives on in our performance today.

Rafael Almanza, Ian Bilello, MacKenzie Clark, Makaela Davis, Omarian Davis, Izabella Dill, Daniela Evans, Daniel Garber, Jude Grout, Kaden Hanson, Cody Jones-DeVol, Aiden Lindensmith, Liliahna Lusk, Kale Ortner, James Rachwitz, Reyna Slattery, Madison Swoboda, Maddie Walter, Ethan Wichael, George Wirth, Henry Yost, and Blake Zimmerman

Program Notes

SPRING FESTIVAL — GRADE 3 — HAL LEONARD

Chen Yi wrote Spring Festival for the most important Chinese celebration of the year, New Year or Yüan Tan, a fifteen-day event. Chinese New Year is also called Spring Festival because it marks the time when winter ends and spring is close at hand. This festival begins on the first day of the first month of the lunar calendar. On a western calendar, the date usually falls between the end of January and the beginning of February. The composer drew her melodic material from a southern Chinese folk ensemble piece called Lion Playing Ball. The form of the music is constructed using a mathematical scheme called the Golden Section (a mathematical idea based on the ratio known as phi. We write the ratio of the Golden Section as 1:1.61803. When the ratio of line segments, geometric shapes, objects in nature, or proportions in a building is 1:1.61, it is called a golden ratio. Ancient civilizations thought it was the perfect proportion-the one most pleasing to the eye.

LEAFY SONG — GRADE 1 — UNPUBLISHED

Leafy song was arranged by Jeremy Krug with permission from Yukiko Nishimura and Excelcia Music Publishing. Yukiko writes: Leafy Song drifts like a gentle breeze through sunlit leaves. Built upon a simple, flowing melody, often shaped by half notes, it glides forward as soft harmonies blossom around it. A single line of melody, tenderly support by warm, vertical harmony, sways unhurried and unforced, as if nature itself were humming a quiet song carried on the wind. The rhythmic simplicity of the parts allows educators to focus on developing fundamental musicianship skills, such as tone and ensemble awareness.

CHAMAK III. SPARK — GRADE 4 — MURPHY MUSIC PRESS

Reena Esmail includes the following poem preceding the first measures of music in the score:

Just as the seed holds oil
And a spark holds fire
Your own spirit is inside of you
If you can awaken it,
You must.

Chamak is composed in 3 movements. Movement 1 is titled Ember. The second movement bears the name Luster. Chamak, the title of the work, is a Hindi word that translates to Shine.

Program Notes

A MINIATURE TOWN — GRADE 2.5 — BRAIN MUSIC

Rika Ishige graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts majoring in composition. Her concert band and ensemble works are published by Pierre Lafitan, Accord Publishing, Brain Music, CAFUA Records, Wind Art, and Foster Music. Ishige studied composition with Atsutada Otaka, Yoshiki Miyamoto, and Hiroshi Sato. She currently composes and arranges for wind band and orchestra, Anime, TV and movies. Her acclaimed work Muta in Concert was commissioned by Masahiro Tamura. She currently teaches at Makuhari Sohgoh High School.

A Miniature Town is written based on a drawing the composer observed while taking a walk; its motives were inspired by the scene. It is intended to be colorful, fun and sentimental. Performance is more compelling by having similar themes alternately accented with staccato or legato to change the color of the piece.

SON OF A GUN — GRADE 1 — MURPHY MUSIC PRESS

Son of a Gun is taken from the second chapter of Quentin Tarantino's film The Hateful Eight. In this scene, Major Marquis Warren, John Ruth, Daisy Domergue, and Chris Mannix (the new sheriff of Red Rock) are on their way to town. Major Marquis Warren does not like or trust Sheriff Mannix.

Jennifer Jolley (b. 1981) is a composer, conductor, and professor. Her work is founded on the belief that the pleasures and excesses of music have the unique potential to engage political and provocative subjects. Addressing a range of topics such as climate change, #MeToo, feminist history, and the abuses of the Putin regime, Jennifer strives to write pieces that are equally enjoyable and meaningful.

HOMEMADE RECIPE: NASI ULAM — GRADE 2.5 — EMILYKOH.NET

Homemade Recipe is a sonic reimagination of a recipe of nasi ulam , a Peranakan mixed herb rice that can be found in Malaysia, Indonesia (Bali), Thailand and Singapore. Nasi ulam consists of cooled cooked rice, mixed with shallots, galangal, lemongrass, coconut, chili, calamansi juice, with chopped herbs such as daun kaduk (wild pepper leaf), daun kesum (coriander leaf), kafir lime leaf, mint leaf, turmeric leaf, Thai basil and ginger flower. Shredded fish or shrimp is often mixed in as well. The work includes melodies and interlocking rhythmic patterns that evokes sounds from the straits of Southeast Asia.

Emily Koh is a Singaporean composer based in Atlanta, Georgia. Her music explores everyday human experiences through unconventional sound worlds, microtonality, and raw intensity. Her creative practice also encompasses instrument development, sound installations, and interdisciplinary performance.

Program Info

ANCESTRAL FLYWAYS — GRADE 3 — CAIT NISHIMURA MUSIC

Cait Nishimura (she/her) is a Japanese Canadian composer based in Waterloo, Ontario. Known for writing nature-inspired, programmatic music, Cait has established herself as a prominent voice in the concert band community. Her music has been presented at MusicFest Canada, The Midwest Clinic, and numerous other international conferences and festivals. Cait is passionate about empowering others through art, and strives to set a positive example for future generations of musicians through her creative work and her dedication to mental health awareness and environmentalism. She is an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre and holds degrees in music and education from the University of Toronto.

Ancestral Flyways is inspired by the remarkable journeys taken by hundreds of millions of migratory birds every year, as they travel great distances between their breeding grounds and wintering grounds and back again. Some species of birds migrate along established routes called flyways. Birds navigate using a combination of powerful senses and environmental cues including the position of the sun and stars, Earth's magnetic field, and visual landmarks such as rivers and ridges. Juvenile birds are often able to migrate on their own to wintering grounds they have never been to before, guided by an innate connection to these places. Migration is considered one of the most dangerous times of a bird's life, so making these journeys safely and successfully multiple times over a bird's lifetime is quite miraculous.

Bellevue East Bands joined a commissioning consortium to bring this piece to life in the fall of 2026. This performance of Ancestral Flyways is amongst the first of this beautiful work. It will be available for purchase later this year.

CHARISMAX — GRADE 2 — WINDSCORE

Charismax is a Japanese pop tune performed by the J-Pop group Snow Man. Released in August of 2025 the song gained popularity particularly for the choreography of the 9-man ensemble. Charismax was composed by Manaka Suzuki, MUTEKI DEAD SNAKE, and Hiroki Sagawa. This arrangement was made by Mikio Goma

Directors

JEREMY KRUG
DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Mr. Krug has been the Director of Bands at Bellevue East High School since 2022. After service in the United States Marine Corps, Krug received a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Memphis and a Master of Music from the American Band College of Central Washington University. Mr. Krug leads instruction with the Chieftain Marching Band, the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble 1, Percussion Ensemble 1, and Percussion Ensemble 3. Jeremy is supported by his wife Kylie, and daughters, Eleanor(7), Madilyn(4) and Abigail(soon to be 1).



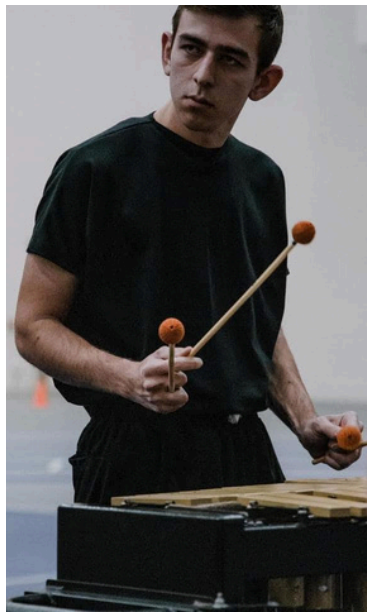


KAITLYN KECK
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Ms. Keck has been the Associate Director of Bands at Bellevue East High School since 2022. She previously served as a band director in Webb City, MO. Keck has a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Master of Arts in Educational Psychology from Ball State University. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in education from Rockhurst University. Ms. Keck leads instruction with the woodwinds of the Chieftain Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Campus Band, Pep Bands, Jazz Ensemble 2, Jazz Ensemble 3, Percussion Ensemble 2, and 6th Grade Band at Bertha Barber Elementary School.

Staff

BEN SKOFF
DIRECTOR OF PERCUSSION



Mr. Skoff is in his second year as the Director of Percussion for Bellevue East High School and first year as a full time band director at Mission Middle School. Skoff is an alumnus of Bellevue East HS and has a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He studied percussion with Dr. Hannah Weaver and Dr. Dave Hall. 2026-2027 will see the creation of the first ever Chieftain Indoor Percussion.



SAMANTHA GLEASON
DIRECTOR OF COLOR GUARDS

Mrs. Gleason has been the Director of Color Guards at Bellevue East High School since 2023. Under her leadership participation in the color guards fall and winter programs have doubled. Samantha is an alumna of Bellevue East High School and is supported by her husband Jonathan.

Woodwind Staff - Angelica Gonzalez, Zach Onken, Susan Rachwitz

Brass Staff - Jacob Downing, Noah Feemster, Aaron Pierce, Thomas Stehlik

Percussion Staff - Bryan Kain, Owen Larson, Ed Staples, Michaela Ellard

Color Guard Staff - Emma Radziunas, Olivia Martinez, Jordyn Steirman, Leah Kaluza

Bellevue East Performing Arts



East High Singers

Bellevue East offers 4 curricular choirs and serves nearly 160 students performing in a wide variety of events each year. Bellevue East offers a Freshman Choir, Mixed Chorus, East High Singers, and our show choir, Take 2. Our choirs are led by Barbra Jones and Christopher Work.

The Theater program at Bellevue East produces a play in the fall of each year with recent productions including *Frankenstein and Clue*. In March of each year the three performing arts programs collaborate to produce a musical. Recent musicals include Freaky Friday, *Little Shop of Horrors, Firebringer, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Into the Woods,* and *Les Miserables.* The theater program is led by Joe Hamik and Jerry Geho.



Little Shop of Horrors

Bellevue East Bands



Chieftain Marching Band

The Bellevue East Band program is a comprehensive band program that serves over 200 students. The program offers 4 concert bands, 3 jazz bands, 3 percussion ensembles, 2 pep bands, 3 winter guards, indoor percussion and an award winning marching band. The program is proud to support and promote chamber music with 27 entries at DMC last year. The program has had 33 All-State musicians in the last 5 years.



Wind Ensemble

The Bellevue East Bands have seen tremendous growth since 2022. Total enrollment has gone from 125 to over 220 members in 26-27.



Varsity Winter Guard

Bellevue East High School

Bellevue Public Schools



BELLEVUE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Bellevue East High School serves 1350-1450 students annually and has approximately 100 staff members. The school offers dozens of activities ranging from athletics, to performing arts, to ROTC, to academic and social interest clubs, and many vocation related clubs and associations. BEHS has a 44% Free/Reduced Lunch Rate population. BEHS is led by principal, Nathaniel Bacon. He is assisted by Assistant Principals, Chelsea Hoglund and Susan Jensen, as well as Activities Director Chad Holtz.



BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bellevue Public Schools is led by Superintendent Dr. Jeff Rippe and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert Moore. BPS serves approximately 10,000 students with nearly 700 faculty. Bellevue has 15 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 2 high schools.

Bellevue, NE & Offutt Air Force Base

Bellevue NEBRASKA

We Influence The World!

BELLEVUE, NEBRASKA

Bellevue has a population of 64,000 residents. It is the 3rd largest city in Nebraska behind Omaha and Lincoln. Omaha is directly to north of Bellevue and the Missouri River is directly east.



OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE

Offutt Air Force Base is located adjacent to Bellevue, NE and is a big source of pride for our community. Offutt AFB is home to the US Strategic Command, 557th Weather Wing, and the 55th Wing who has a role in reconnaissance, intelligence, and command and control operations.

Band in BPS

Band in Bellevue Public Schools begins in 6th grade at each of our 15 elementary schools. Our students received daily instruction from an amazing team of band directors. It is the quality of instruction that happens in our beginning bands and middle schools that enables our high school bands to have the wide range of opportunities that are available.

ADAM KILLHAM - BPS 6TH GRADE BAND

MICHAEL MOORE - BPS 6TH GRADE BAND

BENJAMIN SKOFF - MISSION MIDDLE SCHOOL

MELISSA WATZKE - MISSION MIDDLE SCHOOL

AJ BOWEN - LOGAN FONTENELLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

AARON PIERCE - LOGAN FONTENELLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

GELI GONZALEZ - LEWIS & CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

KELLI NELSON - LEWIS & CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

MARQUES ECKHOFF - BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

JASON PENTICO - BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Thanks

We owe thanks to many people for helping us make this possible:

Ted Keck, Chiyo Trauernicht, Marques Eckhoff, Jason Pentico, Aaron Pierce, and Melissa Watzke for helping our students prepare for this perofrmance.

My wife, Kylie and my daughters, Eleanor, Madilyn, and Abigail for all times I am at band doing what I love.

My colleague and teaching partner, Kaitlyn, for going with all of my ideas.

Incredible band parents whose unwavering support for these students never ends.

Incredible staff members who get the best out of each and every student and care immensely for each one of these amazing young people.

Great admin in the building and district who support what is best for students and recognize the value of music education in the lives of our students.

The best secretaries and custodial staff in the world.

Performing Arts Staff of Bellevue East who are a wonderful team of collaborators and educators.

All the band directors of BPS and their tireless efforts for excellence.