



UNIVERSITY BANDS

Presents

TCU Wind Symphony

“Maestro! A Tribute to John Williams”

Bobby R. Francis, Conductor
Dr. Drew Dickey, Guest Conductor
Dr. Thomas Singletary, Guest Conductor
Brian Youngblood, Guest Conductor
Brendan Korak, Graduate Guest Conductor

April 7, 2026

7:00pm

Van Cliburn Concert Hall at TCU

For the President’s Own

John Williams (b. 1932)

Star Wars (Main Title)

John Williams (b. 1932)
Arr. Stephen Bulla

Dr. Thomas Singletary, Guest Conductor

Excerpts from “Far and Away”

John Williams (b. 1932)
Arr. Paul Lavender

Brian Youngblood, Guest Conductor

Jurassic Park Soundtrack Highlights

John Williams (b. 1932)
Arr. Paul Lavender

Hymn to the Fallen

John Williams (b. 1932)
Arr. Paul Lavender

Harry’s Wondrous World

John Williams (b. 1932)
Arr. Paul Lavender

Brendan Korak, Graduate Guest Conductor

Yoda’s Theme

John Williams (b. 1932)
Arr. Donald Hunsberger, Ed. Drew Dickey

Dr. Drew Dickey, Guest Conductor

Scherzo for X-Wings

John Williams (b. 1932)
Arr. Paul Lavender

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited. Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers and phones.

About John Williams

In a career that spans five decades, John Williams has become one of America's most accomplished and successful composers for film and for the concert stage. He has served as music director and laureate conductor of one of the country's treasured musical institutions, the Boston Pops Orchestra, and he maintains thriving artistic relationships with many of the world's great orchestras, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Mr. Williams has received a variety of prestigious awards, including the National Medal of Arts, the Kennedy Center Honor, the Olympic Order, and numerous Academy Awards, Grammy Awards, Emmy Awards and Golden Globe Awards. He remains one of our nation's most distinguished and contributive musical voices.

Mr. Williams has composed the music and served as music director for more than one hundred films. His 40-year artistic partnership with director Steven Spielberg has resulted in many of Hollywood's most acclaimed and successful films, including *Schindler's List*, *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Jaws*, *Jurassic Park*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, four *Indiana Jones* films, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Amistad*, *Munich*, *Hook*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Minority Report*, *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence*, *Empire of the Sun*, *The Adventures of Tintin* and *War Horse*. Their latest collaboration, *The BFG*, was released on July 1, 2016. Mr. Williams has composed the scores for all seven *Star Wars* films, the first three *Harry Potter* films, *Superman: The Movie*, *JFK*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Far and Away*, *The Accidental Tourist*, *Home Alone*, *Nixon*, *The Patriot*, *Angela's Ashes*, *Seven Years in Tibet*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Rosewood*, *Sleepers*, *Sabrina*, *Presumed Innocent*, *The Cowboys* and *The Reivers*, among many others. He has worked with many legendary directors, including Alfred Hitchcock, William Wyler and Robert Altman. In 1971, he adapted the score for the film version of *Fiddler on the Roof*, for which he composed original violin cadenzas for renowned virtuoso Isaac Stern. He has appeared on recordings as pianist and conductor with Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Jessye Norman and others. Mr. Williams has received five Academy Awards and 50 Oscar nominations, making him the Academy's most-nominated living person and the second-most nominated person in the history of the Oscars. His most recent nomination was for the film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. He also has received seven British Academy Awards (BAFTA), 22 Grammys, four Golden Globes, five Emmys, and numerous gold and platinum records.

Born and raised in New York, Mr. Williams moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1948, where he studied composition with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. After service in the Air Force, he returned to New York to attend the Juilliard School, where he studied piano with Madame Rosina Lhevinne. While in New York, he also worked as a jazz pianist, both in nightclubs and on recordings. He returned to Los Angeles and began his career in the film industry, working with a number of accomplished composers including Bernard Herrmann, Alfred Newman, and Franz Waxman. He went on to write music for more than 200 television episodes for anthology series *Alcoa Premiere*, *Kraft Suspense Theatre*, *Chrysler Theatre* and *Playhouse 90*. His more recent contributions to television music include the well-known theme for *NBC Nightly News* ("The Mission"), the theme for what has become network television's longest-running series, *NBC's Meet the Press*, and a new theme for the prestigious PBS arts showcase *Great Performances*.

In addition to his activity in film and television, Mr. Williams has composed numerous works for the concert stage, among them two symphonies, and concertos for flute, violin, clarinet, viola, oboe and tuba. His cello concerto was commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and premiered by Yo-Yo Ma at Tanglewood in 1994. Mr. Williams also has filled commissions by several of the world's leading orchestras, including a bassoon concerto for the New York Philharmonic entitled *The Five Sacred Trees*, a trumpet concerto for the Cleveland Orchestra, and a horn concerto for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. *Seven For*

Luck, a seven-piece song cycle for soprano and orchestra based on the texts of former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove, was premiered by the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood in 1998. At the opening concert of their 2009–2010 season, James Levine led the Boston Symphony in the premiere Mr. Williams' On Willows and Birches, a concerto for harp and orchestra.

In January 1980, Mr. Williams was named nineteenth music director of the Boston Pops Orchestra, succeeding the legendary Arthur Fiedler. He currently holds the title of Boston Pops Laureate Conductor which he assumed following his retirement in December 1993, after 14 highly successful seasons. He also holds the title of Artist-in-Residence at Tanglewood.

One of America's best known and most distinctive artistic voices, Mr. Williams has composed music for many important cultural and commemorative events. Liberty Fanfare was composed for the rededication of the Statue of Liberty in 1986. American Journey, written to celebrate the new millennium and to accompany the retrospective film The Unfinished Journey by director Steven Spielberg, was premiered at the "America's Millennium" concert in Washington, D.C. on New Year's Eve, 1999. His orchestral work Soundings was performed at the celebratory opening of Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. In the world of sport, he has contributed musical themes for the 1984, 1988, and 1996 Summer Olympic Games, the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, and the 1987 International Summer Games of the Special Olympics. In 2006, Mr. Williams composed the theme for NBC's presentation of NFL Football.

Mr. Williams holds honorary degrees from 21 American universities, including The Juilliard School, Boston College, Northeastern University, Tufts University, Boston University, the New England Conservatory of Music, the University of Massachusetts at Boston, The Eastman School of Music, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and the University of Southern California. He is a recipient of the 2009 National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the United States Government. In 2003, he received the Olympic Order, the IOC's highest honor, for his contributions to the Olympic movement. He served as the Grand Marshal of the 2004 Rose Parade in Pasadena, and was a recipient of the Kennedy Center Honor in December of 2004. Mr. Williams was inducted into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2009, and in January of that same year he composed and arranged Air and Simple Gifts especially for the first inaugural ceremony of President Barack Obama.

[-www.johnwilliams.org](http://www.johnwilliams.org)

Texas Christian University Wind Symphony

Piccolo

Lucinda Gatesman

Allen, TX

Bass Clarinet

Nolan Golden*

Aledo, TX

Ryan Rodarte

Wylie, TX

Flute

Autumn Bell*

Melissa, TX

Contrabass Clarinet

Lucinda Gatesman*

Allen, TX

Nick VandenBush

McKinney, TX

Layla Escatel

Granbury, TX

David Diaz

Richmond, TX

Alto Saxophone

David Zachariah

Roanoke, TX

Ashley Tyson*

Platteville, WI

Junhwi Goo

Corinth, TX

Luke McCartney

Keller, TX

Riley Feltch

Trophy Club, TX

Jerry Olazaran

Aledo, TX

Oboe

Edgar Vazquez*

Fort Worth, TX

Ella Schupp*

Grapevine, TX

Tenor Saxophone

Bella Evans

Richardson, TX

Jett Schnackenberg

Mansfield, TX

Chloe Caudill

Fort Worth, TX

Wyland Diehl

Dripping Springs, TX

Katie Lilley

Fort Worth, TX

Baritone Saxophone

English Horn

Chloe Caudill

Fort Worth, TX

Andrew Bui

Keller, TX

Katie Lilley

Fort Worth, TX

Taylor Hardegree

Keller, TX

Trumpet

Bassoon

Diego Llamas*

Crowley, TX

Dhruv Patel*

Roanoke, TX

Landon Peugh

Arlington, TX

Andria Christian

Plano, TX

Javier Flores

Fort Worth, TX

Emanuel Arellano

Fort Worth, TX

Jackson Schneider

Aledo, TX

Ethan Vinson

Mansfield, TX

Alex Cadenhead

Mansfield, TX

Contrabassoon

Javier Flores

Fort Worth, TX

F Horn

Eb Clarinet

Alyssa Dickens

McKinney, TX

Logan Bingham

Fort Worth, TX

Cole Reed

Flower Mound, TX

Nicholas Hernandez

Keller, TX

Roger Gonzalez

Palestine, TX

Claire Nelson

Frisco, TX

Bb Clarinet

Pablo Albert*

Keller, TX

Marina Reyna

Flower Mound, TX

Samuel Brown

Schwenksville, PA

Ashley Boyington

Madison, MS

Dawson Bauman-Herl

Hurst, TX

Diego Tapia

Keller, TX

Trombone

Matthew Bailey

Highland Village, TX

Nick Shea*

Mansfield, TX

Emily Overdirth

Midlothian, TX

Seth York

Cypress, TX

Alyssa Dickens

McKinney, TX

Anthony Tinsley

Keller, TX

Joshua Roberts

Roanoke, TX

Nicholas Richa

McKinney, TX

Carlos Quintanilla

Fort Worth, TX

Dylan Sims

Dallas, TX

Liam Maybury

Mansfield, TX

Nick Meyer

Bedford, TX

Nick VandenBush

McKinney, TX

*Denotes Principal

Texas Christian University Wind Symphony

Bass Trombone

Zarrhias Sanders*
Zach Long

Mansfield, TX
San Antonio, TX

Euphonium

Maritza Gonzalez*
Tyler Pham

Rio Grande City, TX
Richardson, TX

Tuba

Rufino Medado*
Luke Hardegree
Tate Newman

Aransas Pass, TX
Keller, TX
Midlothian, TX

Piano

Syuzanna Kaszo

Fort Worth, TX

String Bass

David Gutierrez

Rowlett, TX

Harp

Kela Walton

Arlington, TX

Percussion

Jackson Perez*
Hezan Daroona
Josiah Fuentes
Alex Price
Jonathan Cotten
Davis Carr
Evan Wasson
Savanna Westwick
Logan Grubbs

Timnath, CO
Frisco, TX
Mansfield, TX
Fort Worth, TX
Cedar Park, TX
Stafford, TX
Fort Worth, TX
Prosper, TX
Euless, TX
Euless, TX

**Denotes Principal*

Program Notes

For the President's Own (2013)-John Williams

Named by President Thomas Jefferson in 1801, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, at over 200 years of age, is one of our country's most venerable musical organizations, and recognized as one of the finest of its kind anywhere in the world.

As a former member of an Air Force Band myself, one can imagine my delight and pride when I was invited to conduct the Marine Band in a concert of my music at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC in 2003. Working with them on several other occasions over the ensuing years, I've come to think of the Band and its director Colonel Tim Foley, Colonel Mike Colburn, and Lt. Colonel Jason Fettig as colleagues and friends, and felt extremely privileged and honored when in 2013, I was asked to write a piece celebrating the ensemble's 215th anniversary.

In writing "For The President's Own", I tried to create a worthy salute to the Band and its players, whose breathtaking virtuosity is always on display wherever they perform. In equal measure, their service to our country is consistently combined with their dedicated service to music itself, and we are all greatly in their debt.

-program note by the composer

Star Wars, Main Title (1977, 2006)-John Williams, Arr. Stephen Bulla

During 1997 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the release of George Lucas' classic film *Star Wars*. All of us connected with this phenomenal movie have been greatly gratified to see an entire new generation of very young film-goers enjoy the *Star Wars* trilogy and relate so strongly to its story, characters, and music.

I have always felt privileged to have had the opportunity to compose music for these landmark films, and the ongoing interest in these films and their music has continued to be one of my greatest joys.

-program note by the composer

Excerpts from Far and Away (1992, 2013)-John Williams, Arr. Paul Lavender

After seeing John Ford's classic film *The Quiet Man* as a youngster many years ago, I had always aspired to write a film score based on an Irish subject. When Ron Howard asked me to score his film *Far and Away*, I immediately realized that my opportunity had arrived.

Given the richness of Irish vernacular music, the challenge to create original melodies in the Irish style was a daunting one. Nevertheless, it was a challenge I particularly enjoyed and had great fun with.

I wrote one theme attempting to depict County Galway circa 1892, another describing the "fighting Donnelly's," a love theme for the characters Joseph and Shannon (played respectively by Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman) and a "blowing off steam" fight theme that accompanied the typically Irish hard-fought "donnybrook" that was so perfectly realized in the film.

My fondest hope is that orchestra, bands and audiences might derive even a fraction of the pleasure from this music that I had in writing it.

-program note by the composer

Jurassic Park Soundtrack Highlights (1993)-John Williams, Arr. Paul Lavender

A majestic and instantly recognizable score by John Williams gives *Jurassic Park* its larger-than-life sense of awe, danger, and adventure. Written for the 1993 Steven Spielberg film, Williams's music captures both the wonder of scientific discovery and the primal power of the prehistoric creatures brought to life on screen.

-program note from windrep.org

Hymn to the Fallen (1998, 1999)-John Williams, Arr. Paul Lavender

Saving Private Ryan, a gripping and powerful film depicting the horrors of World War II, stands as another milestone in the long collaboration between Steven Spielberg and John Williams. Williams' score includes this simple hymn, using a chorus as an instrument of the orchestra, adding a special reverence and poignancy to the noble melody. Arranger Paul Lavender brings this dignified setting to the concert band stage.

-program note from windrep.org

Harry's Wonderous World (2001, 2011)-John Williams, Arr. Paul Lavender

The success of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series has been a heartwarming phenomenon to all those who love books.

The worldwide reception that these works have received added greatly to the sense of privilege that I felt when I was given the honor of composing the music for the film version of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

The story's imaginative array of wizards flying on broomsticks and mail-delivering owls, all occupying a wondrous world of magic, offered a unique canvas for music, and the prospect of sharing it with some part of the great army of readers who love these books is a great joy to me.

-program note by the composer

Yoda's Theme (1980)-John Williams, Arr. Drew Dickey

Composed for *The Empire Strikes Back*, “**Yoda's Theme**” represents the spiritual heart of the *Star Wars* saga. Unlike the bold, fanfare-driven themes associated with heroes and battles, this music is introspective, lyrical, and deeply human—mirroring the quiet wisdom of the Jedi Master Yoda.

Musically, the theme balances simplicity and depth. Its smooth, flowing contour suggests patience and inner strength, while understated orchestration allows listeners to focus on the melodic line. Throughout the *Star Wars* films, motifs from “Yoda's Theme” reappear at moments connected to the Force, giving it broader symbolic meaning as a representation of spiritual guidance and moral clarity.

Scherzo for X-Wings (2015, 2016)-John Williams, Arr. Paul Lavender

Over the years, George Lucas's *Star Wars* saga has continued to hold its grip on the imaginations of its millions of fans worldwide.

Presented with the task of renewing and extending the great story, in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, director J.J. Abrams has risen to the challenge magnificently.

New and exciting characters join the original cast on a joy ride that offered rich possibilities to extend the musical score. Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, and Harrison Ford give particularly strong performances, and it's been my privilege to musically accompany their fresh and energetic screen presence.

For the soundtrack recording, we had the services of a brilliant Los Angeles-based studio orchestra, and with this new music, my hope is that other orchestras, bands, and audiences may also want to continue to join in the fun of *Star Wars*.

-program note by the composer

About the Conductors

Bobby R. Francis is a Professor and Director of Bands at Texas Christian University. Prof. Francis serves as Conductor of the TCU Wind Symphony, teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting, and is responsible for the supervision of all aspects of the TCU Band and Wind Conducting programs. Prof. Francis is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association (ABA) and is Past President and Chairman of the Board. Previously, Prof. Francis served on the Sousa-ABA-Ostwald Award Selection Committee that selects the outstanding new composition for Wind Band each year - the most significant award a composer for the wind band medium can receive. He also served as a member of the ABA Board of Directors for many years. He is a Past-President of the CBDNA Southwest Region and the Big 12 Band Directors Association. His former directors include Norman White (Junior High), Tom Neugent (High School) and James Keene (College). Guest conducting appearances include the U.S. Marine Band "President's Own", U.S. Army Band "The Pershing's Own," Frost School of Music - University of Miami Wind Symphony, The U.S. Coast Guard Band, the Lone Star Youth Wind Orchestra among others.

The TCU Wind Symphony has performed with guest artists including the Jens Lindemann, American Brass Quintet, Sam Palafian, Patrick Sheridan, Brian Bowman, Allen Vizzutti, Jon Lewis, Joe Eckert, Corey Mackey, Clay Garrett, Gary Whitman, Jesus Castro-Balbi, Brian West, Shauna Thompson, Markus Theinert and Boston Brass.

Prof. Francis has collaborated with many composers including Paul Dooley, John Mackey, Frank Ticheli, David Maslanka, Michael Colgrass, Curt Wilson, Joseph Turrin, James Syler, James Stephenson, Kevin Day, Eric Ewazen, Michael Daugherty, Quinn Mason, Onsby Rose, Blaise Ferrandino, Till Meyn, Haley Woodrow, Shuying Li, John Corigliano and many others. In recent years, the TCU Wind Symphony has accepted invitations to perform at the 2018 Convention of the American Bandmasters Association (ABA) annual convention with guest artists the "Boston Brass", in 2019 at the College Band Directors National Association Convention (CBDNA) in Tempe Arizona, the 2020 Texas Music Educators Association Convention (TMEA) in San Antonio with guest artist Jens Lindemann and hosted and performed at the 2025 convention of the CBDNA - at the new Boschini Music Center in the Van Cliburn Concert Hall. The TCU Wind Symphony was also invited to perform at the recent convention of the World Association of Symphonic Winds and Ensembles (WASBE) in Prague, Czech Republic. The group had to decline due to TCU's covid restrictions for international travel.

He has conducted concerts in the Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center (Dallas), Bass Performance Hall (Fort Worth), Royal College of Music (London), Lila Cockrell Theater (San Antonio), University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), Tempe Center for the Performing Arts (Tempe, Arizona), Normandy Beach (France), Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) and many locations in Italy, France, Austria, and Germany.

Professor Francis is active as a guest clinician, adjudicator and guest conductor with recent engagements including Oregon All-State Band, Texas Community College Directors Association All-State Band, Salem-Keizer Public School District Honor Band, and many Honor Band invitations. He has recently adjudicated marching band and concert festivals in Mesquite, Denton, Corpus Christi, and Allen. He recently presented a clinic at the Oregon Music Educators Association Conference and has presented many times at Arkansas State University, Lamar University, TMEA and TBA. He has also guest conducted at Auburn University and the University of Kentucky and will be guest conductor of the Ole Miss "Mid-South" Honor Band this year.

He resides in Colleyville with his wife, Teresa, who is a retired middle school band director, private horn instructor and performance artist. They have two daughters: Tamsyn and Breelyn.

Dr. Drew Dickey currently serves as the Director of Athletic Bands and Assistant Director of Bands at Texas Christian University School of Music. He oversees The Pride of TCU Horned Frog Marching Band and the Horned Frog Pep Band, conducts the TCU Concert Band, and teaches academic classes within the TCU School of Music. Dr. Dickey previously taught at the University of Texas at Austin, where he served as Associate Director of the Longhorn Band and as Assistant Director of Bands at the Butler School of Music. In addition to his position at TCU, Dr. Dickey serves as the Music Design Coordinator with the Pacific Crest Drum and Bugle Corps in Diamond Bar, California and as the brass educational lead with The Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps in Canton, Ohio.

Prior to his current appointments, Dr. Dickey held positions at The South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University and Southwood Academy of the Arts, spending a number of years as an educator and administrator in the public schools. He holds the degrees of Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the University of Texas, Master of Music in Music Education from the Ithaca College School of Music, Master of Music in Wind Conducting from Louisiana State University, and Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Thomas Singletary is a conductor, composer, and music educator whose career reflects a deep commitment to artistry, scholarship, and musical community. As a music arranger and transcriber for winds, he is highly regarded for his custom arrangements for high school and collegiate marching bands around the nation. He holds degrees in Music Education from Florida State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, and he completed his Ph.D. in Music Education and Wind Conducting at FSU, serving as a teaching assistant with the university bands.

Before his doctoral studies, Singletary spent seventeen years at Eau Gallie High School in Melbourne, Florida, cultivating a vibrant and collaborative program that flourished through concert performance, marching band, jazz, and chamber music. Under his leadership, the Eau Gallie Band earned widespread acclaim for performances at district, state, and national levels. He later joined North Central Texas College as Chair of the Visual & Performing Arts Department, where he founded and conducted the North Central Texas Winds—an ensemble uniting college musicians, local educators, and community performers. Dr. Singletary currently serves on the Music Education faculty at TCU, where he teaches courses and supervises fieldwork for instrumental music education students.

Brian Youngblood is the Associate Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at TCU. He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Abilene Christian University and his Master of Percussion Performance degree from East Texas State University. Before coming to TCU, he taught in the public schools for twelve years. He began teaching in 1987 and spent his first ten years teaching at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst Texas and followed with two years as Director of Bands and Fine Arts Director at Brewer High School in White Settlement. In 1999 Mr. Youngblood joined the faculty at TCU. During his time at TCU, he was Director of the TCU Horned Frog Marching Band for two decades. The Horned Frog Marching Band, under his direction, was recognized by the CBDNA as a “top five” university marching band. The impact of his work in the field of marching band design has been recognized for the last 35 years. His drill designs and program coordination work have placed in the top at many regional and state contests as well as a national first place at the Bands of America National Championship in 2007. He co-authored a software program for drill design and co-authored a marching band methods book titled “Marching Band Methods: A Practical Approach to Techniques and Design” that was published through Arranger’s Publishing.

Mr. Youngblood primarily teaches in the area of Wind Band Performance at TCU. He led the TCU Symphonic Band to the group’s first selection and performance at a regional CBDNA Conference. His ensemble responsibilities at TCU include the TCU Symphonic Band, and assistance with the TCU Concert Ensembles and TCU Athletic Bands. In addition to his work with the bands, he also teaches music education classes and music technology classes. In 2020 he shifted focus from marching band design and began to pursue more conducting opportunities. He accepted a position with the newly formed Fort Worth Youth Orchestra Wind Ensemble in 2021 and was honored with a national second place in the American Prize conducting contest for his work with the group. The FWYO Wind Ensemble was also honored with the Co-Champion National first place American Prize award for their Ensemble performance at Bass Hall the same year.

Mr. Youngblood is an active member of the Texas Music Educators Association, The Texas Bandmasters Association and the College Band Directors National Association. He is a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society and the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Mu International School Bandmaster Fraternity.

Mr. Youngblood is a product of public school music education in the state of Texas. Before playing in the L.D. Bell High School Band under the direction of Roger Winslow, he was in the junior high bands of Marion West, Earnest Repass and Danny Prado. His undergraduate studies with John Whitwell and Gary Lewis, then at Abilene Christian University, furthered his training in Music Education. His percussion training began with Jim McGahey and Warren Dewey and continued with Allen Teal at Abilene Christian University. His percussion professors at East Texas State University were Robert Houston and Jimmy Finney.

Mr. Youngblood is a frequent clinician and adjudicator in Texas and the Southwest. He enjoys working as a clinician with bands from every age level.

Brendan Korak is in his first year pursuing a Master of Music degree in Wind Conducting at Texas Christian University, where he serves as a Graduate Assistant with the TCU Bands. A native of Edwardsville, Illinois, Mr. Korak earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Illinois State University in 2021. While at ISU, he studied trumpet with Dr. Amy Gilreath and Dr. Anne McNamara, performing in the Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, and the Big Red Marching Machine.

Prior to graduate study, Mr. Korak taught and lived in O'Fallon, Illinois, serving as Music Director at Shiloh Village School District #85 from 2022–2025, where he directed Band and Choir and taught K–7 General Music. He also served on the instructional staff at O'Fallon Township High School, where he completed his student teaching in Fall 2021. During his time with the Marching Panthers, the ensemble performed in the 2022 Rose Bowl Parade, 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and earned national recognition through Bands of America.

As a performer, Mr. Korak was a member of the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps from 2016–2021. He later taught with Music City Drum and Bugle Corps as a visual staff member from 2023–2024. In addition, he maintains a private trumpet studio, working with students from beginner through high school.

Beyond music, Mr. Korak resides in Fort Worth, Texas, with his girlfriend, Kaitlin, and their two cats, Milo and Kiwi.

Upcoming TCU Band Events

April 10-11, 2026: TCU Percussion Festival

Boschini Music Center and Ed Landreth Auditorium

April 12, 2026: TCU HornFest

Boschini Music Center

April 15, 2026: TCU University Concert Band and Symphonic Band

7:00pm, Van Cliburn Concert Hall at the Boschini Music Center

April 18, 2026: TCU Clarinet Festival

Boschini Music Center

April 26, 2026: TCU Percussion Orchestra

7:00pm, Van Cliburn Concert Hall at the Boschini Music Center

April 27, 2026: TCU Jazz Ensembles

7:00pm, Van Cliburn Concert Hall at the Boschini Music Center

April 29, 2026: Nick VandenBush Graduate Conducting Recital

7:00pm, Van Cliburn Concert Hall at the Boschini Music Center

June 12-13, 2026: Middle School Music Experience Band Camp

Register at [TCU Band Camp Registration](#)

June 15-18, 2026: High School Music and Leadership Experience Band Camp

Register at [TCU Band Camp Registration](#)