



**The All-American  
Alumni Band**

presents a

**Free Family-Friendly  
Concert**

**Sept. 4th**

**3 pm**

**Shaw Bandstand**

Tower Grove Park

**Dr. Stephen Gage, conductor**    **Kathy Lawton Brown, host**  
featuring music by W.C. Handy, Scott Joplin, John Williams, and more!



## Guest Conductor Dr. Stephen L. Gage

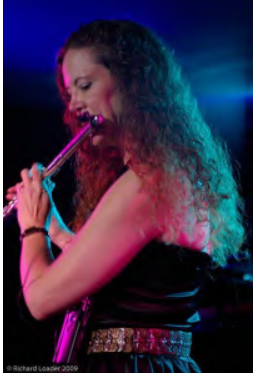
**DR. STEPHEN L. GAGE** served as Professor of Music and Director of Bands and Orchestra at Youngstown State University from 1993 to 2021. Stephen has recently accepted a position as interim Director of Bands at Indiana State University. Stephen holds degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the Eastman School of Music, and the State University of New York at Fredonia where he also earned the Performers Certificate and was a concerto winner. Professor Gage studied conducting with Harry John Brown, Donald Hunsberger, David Effron, Roy Ernst, James Keene, H. Robert Reynolds, and Paul Vermeil. In September 2010, Dr. Gage was appointed Principal Conductor of the W.D. Packard Concert Band, a professional concert band, in Warren, Ohio and remains in this position. Stephen recently retired after 28 seasons as the Conductor of the Youngstown Symphony Youth Orchestra. Dr. Gage was inducted into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association in 1999, and he has served as an officer for the National Bandmasters Association. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra (IN), in the Paris Fine Arts Center (IL) and the Pinnacle Winds (MO).

Professor Gage has written numerous published articles on conducting, rehearsal technique, and wind band literature. Stephen has served as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator of high school honor bands and orchestras as well a number of university wind bands throughout the U.S., Canada, and Ireland. His list of guest conducting appearances includes the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, the U.S. Air Force Band, the U.S. Army Band: "Pershing's Own", and the U.S. Army Field Band and Chorus, among others. Stephen and the YSU Wind Ensemble made their Carnegie Hall debut in 2005 and made a second appearance in November 2015.



## Featured Soloists

### **Deborah Yates 1978 · Colorado · Flute**



Accepted into her first symphony orchestra at the age of 13, Deborah Lee Yates was touring Europe at 16, playing piccolo with symphonic orchestras. Deborah attended the University of Northern Colorado, on full scholarship, as one of the youngest students to be accepted into the Music Performance Program. She has performed with symphony orchestras worldwide, musical theater, ballet orchestras, chamber ensembles, solo performance, and symphonic bands. Her musical theatre work has included touring off-Broadway shows.

Deborah has played flute throughout Britain and the Bay Area, including Jagz at the Station in Ascot, England, and the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, before piloting the Vortex Tribe around the world. She tours and performs with amazing performers including Jon Mulvey and Stuart Hamm both of Joe Satriani and Prairie Prince from The Tubes. She also performed, toured and recorded for years with Mingo Lewis of Return to Forever and Santana. Deborah holds a BA in Music Performance, a BSc in Computer Science, a MMSc in Management of Information, and a PhD in Information Systems.

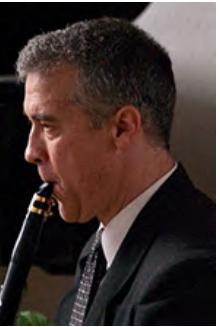
### **David Lang 1983 · Iowa · Euphonium**



David was the recipient of the Yamaha Instrument Award as a member of the McDonald's All-American Alumni Band. David went on to study Music Education at the University of Iowa. Upon graduation, he became a music educator serving Iowa schools for over 30 years. Along with his wife, David was on the staff of the Iowa's Ambassadors of Music European Tour in 1988. He continued to participate with this tour biennially for 20 years.

While in Switzerland, he discovered the Alphorn. He currently plays with Iowa Brass and DTKK German Band. He is a frequent guest soloist on Euphonium and Alphorn. Since retiring from teaching, David has become immersed in arranging, playing and recording music for Euphonium and Alphorn individually and in ensemble.

### **Douglas Moore-Monroe 1980 · Michigan · Clarinet**



Douglas Moore-Monroe is associate professor of clarinet at East Carolina University. Monroe has been on the faculty of Interlochen Arts Camp and since 2015. Douglas has performed as concerto soloist with orchestras and wind ensembles at many distinguished venues in the country. Before entering academia, Moore-Monroe performed with United States military bands. He began as clarinetist with the United States Army Field Band, Washington, D.C., where he performed as concerto soloist and was a founding member of the United States Army Field Band Clarinet Quartet. Monroe was accepted into the United States Air Force's conductor program. While in the Air Force, he was commander/conductor of both the USAF Band of the Golden West at Travis AFB, CA, and the USAF Heritage of America Band at Langley AFB, VA. One of the highest honors of his military career was leading the musical performance for the interment ceremony of President Ronald Reagan in 2004. In fall 2018, he taught at the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music, China.

### **Thomas Blanchard 1983 · Virginia · Xylophone**



Percussionist Thomas Blanchard was born in Fairfax, Virginia, and studied with members of the U.S. Army Band in Washington, D.C. He chose a career in music after being selected for the Young Apprentice Program of the National Symphony Orchestra in high school. Tom received music degrees from the University of Michigan and Temple University and has performed in 23 countries as well as multiple U.S. venues such as Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, Walt Disney World, and the Pan-American Games. Tom has recorded on numerous distinguished labels including Deutsche Grammophon and EMI, and he has been heard on NPR, CBS, The Today Show, and the Disney Channel. Tom soloed with the Bogota (Colombia) Philharmonic, and appeared on QVC live television with pianist Giovanni. Currently, Tom performs with the Delaware, Harrisburg (PA), Reading (PA), Kennett (PA), Annapolis (MD), Lancaster (PA), Pennsylvania Philharmonic, and Chautauqua (NY) Symphony Orchestras, as well as Opera Delaware, Opera Philadelphia, Philadelphia Ballet, and The Philly Pops. He has played with performing artists including Wynton Marsalis, Chris Botti, Joshua Bell, Renee Fleming, Paul Simon, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Bernadette Peters, among others. Tom regularly performs, records, and tours with the Philadelphia Orchestra, including a concert for Pope Francis in Philadelphia in September 2015.

## The All-American Alumni Band Members

### **Flute/Piccolo:**

Sherry Crider 1979 North Dakota  
Mary Haller 1978 Michigan  
Beth Johnson 1972 Minnesota  
Deborah Yates 1978 Colorado

### **Bassoon/Flute:**

Kim Townsend 1982 New Mexico

### **Clarinet:**

Douglas Moore-Monroe 1980 Michigan  
Eileen Schaefer 1978 Oregon  
Rozetta Strother 1978 Arkansas

### **Saxophone:**

Karen Altmann 1983 Illinois  
Russell Dumond 1982 Maine  
John Hobbs 1978 Florida

### **Trumpet:**

Paul Howard 1976 West Virginia  
Jeff (PJ) Littleton 1978 West Virginia  
Gene Poole 1973 Maine  
George Rogers 1977 New York

### **French horn:**

Kent Eversmeyer 1979 Kentucky  
Allison Felter 1978 Kansas

### **Trombone:**

Bryan Corbett 1978 South Carolina  
Robert Fleming 1985 Massachusetts  
Mitch Kaufman 1978 Kansas  
Nancy Lefever 1978 Georgia  
David Reed 1980 Kentucky  
Kim Scharnberg 1977 Iowa  
Martin Zentner 1974 Missouri

### **Euphonium:**

David Lang 1983 Iowa  
Carl Trevathan 1976 Kentucky

### **Tuba:**

Allen Carter 1989 Kentucky  
Jeff Sowden 1969 Minnesota

### **Percussion:**

Mike August 1977 Virginia  
Thomas Blanchard 1983 Virginia  
Pete Goodman 1974 Michigan

Members of The All-American Alumni Band would like to acknowledge and thank the students from the Central Visual and Performing Arts High School under the direction of Dustin Shrum who participated with the band today:

Dakota Augustine, Alto Sax  
Anthony Williams, Tuba  
Dillon Wilson, Flute

With special thanks to guest musicians:

Lisa Blackmore, Trumpet\*  
Mark Blackmore, Trumpet\*  
Jacob Brewer, Percussion  
Bailey Kaysor, Percussion  
Lisa Lang, Oboe  
Kriste Ludwig, Percussion  
Vicky Robichaud-Schorr, Clarinet\*  
Mitch Rotman, French horn\*  
Becky Soeder, Clarinet\*  
Arnold Stricker, Clarinet  
Jim Strother, Tuba

\* denotes former member of The Compton Heights Concert Band of St. Louis

## The All-American Alumni Band

The All-American Alumni Band began in January 2019 when a group of eight McDonald's All-American High School Band alumni began to meet regularly via conference call. The group's initial goal was to one day return to march in the Macy's Day Parade. Thus began The All-American Alumni Band and plans for an inaugural gathering in St. Louis, Missouri on Labor Day Weekend 2019.

Forty-two alumni from 28 states participated in the national debut of The All-American Alumni Band which was presented in a free, public concert by the Compton Heights Concert Band of St. Louis led by founder and president Harry Swanger. On September 2, 2019, under the batons of AAAB members Pete Goodman (MI), Donna O'Bryant (TX), and Kim Scharnberg (IA), The All-American Alumni Band performed at the Shaw Bandstand in historic Tower Grove Park to an audience of 1,000+.

In 2020, the group became a 501 c3 organization promoting Music for Life through live performance and inspiring the next generation of musicians through masterclasses and performance opportunities.

## The Compton Heights Band of St. Louis

The Band was founded in 1976 by **Harry Swanger**, President and Bassoonist. Over the years, the band performed outdoor summer concerts known as **Sunday Serenades & Musical Mondays**. In addition they performed annual Memorial Day and Holiday Pops Concerts in multiple venues around the area. The Band also performed in neighboring states and National Convention for the Association of Concert Bands at the Chase Park Plaza. Always giving back to the community the Compton Band awarded 4-year College Scholarships under its "Sousa U" College Scholarship Program for 12 years. Along with performing and rehearsing in the Band, students received private instrument lessons during their membership with the Band.

The Compton Heights Band has long been a staple of the community and The All-American Alumni Band salutes them for their dedication to instrumental music and promoting music for life among its members, fans, and generations of young musicians. Members of The All-American Alumni Band will be forever grateful for the support of Harry Swanger and The Compton Heights Band for sponsoring our inaugural concert and giving us the opportunity to bring our music and vision to the world.

Today, a Mayoral Proclamation from St. Louis City Mayor Tishaura Jones is presented to the Compton Heights Band. Declaring September 4, 2022 as "Compton Heights Band Day in St. Louis." Thank you Compton Heights Band for your remarkable music-making and service to the St. Louis community!





## Vision:

To inspire and instill a love of music by celebrating our musical gifts.

## Mission:

As alumni of the McDonald's All-American High School Band, we seek to passionately foster and nurture the art of instrumental music through partnership, education, and performance.

## Initiatives:

**Music for Life** – Promoting the concept that the benefits of music last a lifetime.

**Music for Wellness** – Enhancing health and quality of life by sharing our passion for music.

**Music for All** – Creating avenues to make instrumental music accessible to all regardless of environment or opportunities.

### Board Members

President: Kim Scharnberg 1977 • Iowa • Trombone

Vice-President: Eileen Schaefers 1978 • Oregon • Clarinet

Treasurer/Secretary—Carl Trevathan 1976 • Kentucky • Trombone

Donna Bennett 1980 • Delaware • Clarinet/Alto Sax

Allison Felter 1978 • Kansas • French horn

Pete Goodman 1974 • Michigan • Percussion

Keith Marks 1988 • Alabama • Percussion

Donna O'Bryant 1980 • New Mexico • Clarinet

John Parker • 1974-1976 • Pennsylvania • Drum Major

## History

In 1967, the McDonald's All-American High School Band was created by Ray Kroc, founder of McDonald's Restaurants, to honor two of the best high school musicians in each state, along with U.S. Territories Puerto Rico and The Virgin Islands. From 1967-1992, 104 high school seniors assembled for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The McDonald's All-American High School Band became a perennial favorite in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade for 25 years and appeared in the Tournament of Roses Parade (1969-1979, 1981-86, 1988-89), The Fiesta Bowl Parade (1982-83 and 1989), the Chicago Christmas Parade (1986-87), Carnegie Hall (1967-1992) with Lionel Hampton (1978-79) and Maynard Ferguson (1980), Chicago Orchestra Hall Concert (1977), and Avery Fisher Hall (1977). Other honors include an appearance on The Tonight Show (1977), recording with Doc Severinsen (1974-1975), and numerous features on The Today Show and The Jerry Lewis Telethon.

**Mitchell B. Rotman, M.D., with The Orthopedic Center of St. Louis is a proud sponsor of the All-American Alumni Band.**

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- **David M. Brown, M.D.**

**Spine Surgery**

- **Matthew F. Gornet, M.D.**
- **Benjamin P. Crane, M.D.**

**Orthopedic Surgery, Lower  
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- **John O. Krause, M.D.**
- **Mahesh R. Bagwe, M.D.**

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- **Lyndon B. Gross, M.D., Ph.D.**
- **Mark D. Miller, M.D.**
- **George A. Paletta, Jr., M.D.**



**Insist upon the best.**

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Special thanks to:



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Tower Grove Park and Director of Community Programs Beth Casagrand



McDonald's of Metro St. Louis Co-Op

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