



# **HICKORY RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

## **NCMEA Professional Development Conference**

Benton Convention Center

Winston-Salem, NC

November 5, 2023

1:00pm

*The North Carolina Bandmasters Association  
presents the*



*Hickory Ridge High School  
Soul Winds*

*Steven Foster, Director*

*Dr. Will Campbell, guest soloist*

*Mr. Pavel Wlosok, guest soloist*

*Mr. Ryan Comley, guest soloist*

*North Carolina Music Educators Association  
Professional Development Conference  
Benton Convention Center  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
Sunday, November 5, 2023 - 1:00pm*



Sunday, November 5, 2023

Fellow Educators,

On behalf of myself, and the Cabarrus County Schools Board of Education, I would like to extend heart-felt congratulations to Mr. Steven Foster and the Hickory Ridge High School Jazz Band for being selected to perform at the 2023 North Carolina Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. Today's performance is the result of countless hours of passionate investment by the music teachers and students who are proud to call Hickory Ridge High School their home. Their musical successes will be celebrated long after the final note today. It is my hope that future generations of musicians will truly appreciate the level of sacrifice endured by the performing arts in the face of adversity during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cabarrus County Schools will continue to make a daily commitment to our performing arts programs because we know that musical success can only be achieved through building positive and enduring relationships with our students. Through a districtwide culture built on positivity, hope, and excellence, we will ensure that each of our students reaches their fullest potential as global citizens in the 21st century. Every student. Every day. Whatever it takes.

Thank you to the North Carolina Bandmasters Association for this fantastic opportunity afforded to Mr. Foster and the Hickory Ridge High School Jazz Band. We are incredibly proud of them. Enjoy the concert.

Stay Well,

Dr. John Kopicki  
Superintendent  
Cabarrus County Schools



Hickory Ridge High School

7321 Raging Ridge Road  
Harrisburg, NC 28075  
704.454.7300  
704.454.6579 fax

Dr. Shaun Poole  
Principal

November 5, 2023

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Hickory Ridge High School I would like to thank the Jazz Section of the North Carolina Music Educators Association for inviting the Hickory Ridge Soul Winds to showcase their outstanding talent as a part of the annual NCMEA Professional Development Conference. We are honored our students can be part of such an important event.

At Hickory Ridge, we believe the arts play an extremely important role in the social, emotional, and academic development of our students. Under the direction of Mr. White, Mr. Rivero, and Mr. Foster, our students continue to exceed expectations and endeavor to become the very best of performers, students, and young men and women. The Hickory Ridge High School students who perform for you today have spent countless hours of rehearsal in preparation for today's concert, and I'm certain you will enjoy their performance.

I am extremely proud of these Hickory Ridge students, directors, and staff. Their dedication, resilience, and pursuit of excellence embody all that our community wishes to display. Mr. White's and Mr. Rivero's distinguished leadership drives our band to be held in high esteem at the local, state, national, and international levels. It has been gratifying to see the many opportunities that have been afforded these students due to their hard work and dedication. Opportunities such as these provide priceless educational experiences that extend far beyond the classroom.

Let me once again say how appreciative Hickory Ridge High School is to have students and staff participate in this prestigious event. This experience is a validation of quality leadership of our directors and the musical abilities of our great students.

Best regards,

Shaun Poole, Ed.D  
Principal  
Hickory Ridge High School





Sunday, November 5, 2023

Fellow Music Educators:

Good afternoon and welcome to the annual North Carolina Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. It is with great respect and admiration that I offer an elated congratulations to the Hickory Ridge High School Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Steven Foster. The pride and positive recognition that your efforts have brought to Cabarrus County Schools is immeasurable, and therefore, on behalf of an entire school district of staff, students, and stakeholders, please allow me to wholeheartedly express how proud of you we all are.

The unfortunate effects of the Covid-19 pandemic negatively impacted every element of the public-school education experience, but the performing arts were wounded far more than any other educational facet. Pre-dawn outdoor rehearsals in sub-zero weather were frequently the only option as countless music teachers struggled to program in-person student performance opportunities. As I sit in this concert today, it is almost inconceivable to me that those days of fear, frustration, and frozen fingers ended less than two years ago.

*Fortitude* is defined as: *the strength of mind that enables a person to encounter danger, pain, or adversity with courage.* Fortitude will save our public-school music education programs nationwide because when the only choice is fight or flight, the front line is where you will find the music teachers and music students. The young people sitting on the stage before you represent a much larger excellence-driven community of young musicians who are excited to be back inside the rehearsal and performance halls. The DNA of human history is embedded in the music that has shaped their unyielding spirit. Thanks to their sweat-equity, the super-human investment of their music teachers, and the overwhelming support of the communities that they serve, neither their history, nor their craft, will ever be erased from the blackboard of time.

Once again, congratulations to Mr. Foster, and the tremendous musicians known as the Hickory Ridge High School Jazz Band. Your performance today means so much to so many in more ways than could ever be counted. Enjoy it, and remember, one is down.

Godspeed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bart Tulbert".

Bart Tulbert  
Fine Arts Education Coordinator  
Cabarrus County Schools



# HICKORY RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BAND



Hickory Ridge High School opened its doors to students and staff in the fall of 2007 as the sixth high school in the Cabarrus County school system and has grown to approximately 1,800 students, with over 170 students currently enrolled in a band class.

The comprehensive instrumental music program consists of wind ensemble, symphonic band, concert band, jazz ensemble, marching band, musical pit orchestra, and several chamber groups.

The concert ensembles have consistently earned superior ratings at North Carolina Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment (MPA) events. Students have traveled throughout the eastern part of the United States, playing for festivals in New Orleans, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Orlando.

In 2018 the Wind Ensemble participated in a 10-day performance tour of China, giving performances in Shaoxin, Jiaxin, Shanghai, and Beijing at the invitation of the US-China Cultural and Educational Foundation. The Wind Ensemble performed for the 2022 North Carolina Music Educators Association annual conference in Winston-Salem, NC and gave performances in Vienna, Prague, and Salzburg in the spring of 2023.

The Blue Regiment marching band has won numerous first place awards and grand championships at local and regional events. They received superior ratings in past North Carolina Marching Band MPA events. In addition, they have been frequent finalists at large regional marching events, including the Western Carolina University Tournament of Champions. The ensemble has represented our school, community, and state in the 2009 and 2016 London New Year's Day Parade, as well as the 2020 Rome New Year's Day Parade.

The Hickory Ridge Winter Guard is a consistent medalists in the Carolina Winter Ensembles Association (CWEA), winning the Regional A circuit championships in 2022. They are former finalists at WGI regional events and semi-finalists at the 2013 WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio.

Hickory Ridge band students consistently place into the All-County, All-District, All-State, and All-National Honor Bands. They have participated in the Bands of America Honor Band in the Rose Parade, the Music for All Honor Band of America, the NAFME All-National Symphony Orchestra, the NAFME All-National Concert Band, the US Army All-American Marching Band, and the "President's Own" Marine Band Concerto Competition.



# PROGRAM

Caravan	Alan Blaylock
April in Paris	arr. Neil Hefti
Feel the Love	arr. Pavel Wlosok
Second Chances	Gordon Goodwin
Parfait	Steve Spiegel
Hunting Wabbits 2: A Bad Hare Day	Gordon Goodwin



## *Hickory Ridge High School Jazz Ensemble*

### Flute:

Rebekah Fife

### Baritone Saxophone:

Samuel Reid \*

### Trombone:

Wesley Connor \*

### Guitar:

Adam Cyr

### Alto Saxophone:

Everest Geist \*

Jordan Perez

Thomas Reid \*

### Trumpet:

Ivan Briscoe \*

Noah Brumbaugh

Anirudh Dhawan \*

Luke Gibson

Jameson Young

Nihal Kollath \*

Kate Marshall

Lauryn Sawyer

### Bass:

Zach McKenzie \*

### Vibes:

Preston Glanton

### Tenor Saxophone:

Shannan Costanza

Elliott Stoffler \*

### Drum Set:

Massimo Buontempo

### Piano:

Aiden Clapper

### Percussion:

Madison Lieu

Addison Smith

\* = senior



## Steven Foster

### Director of Jazz Bands

Steven Foster, a native of Hickory, NC, attended Western Carolina University from 2002-2006, and again from 2006-2009 where he studied clarinet under Dr. Shannon Thompson, and Music Education.

Steven is a tenor saxophonist and lead singer for his band, “The Extraordinaires,” based out of Hickory, NC. He has performed on stage with many artists and musicians including Delfayo and Jason

Marsalis, Jon Faddis, Ingrid Jensen, Chad Eby, Conrad Herwig, and many others. He has performed with several professional groups and pit orchestras such as The Hickory Community Theatre Pit Orchestra, the Hickory Jazz Orchestra, Charlotte Jazz Orchestra, Charlotte Jazz Band, the Charlotte Concert Band, and many more.

As a teacher, Steven has worked with marching bands, served as a clinician and woodwind instructor, and taught private lessons for band programs throughout North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. He currently teaches woodwinds in Cabarrus County at Hickory Ridge High School, Northwest Cabarrus Middle School, and Northwest Cabarrus High School.

In 2017, Steven became the director of the jazz program at Hickory Ridge High School. In that time, the band has grown into two large ensembles, and is now an integral part of the Hickory Ridge program. Both high school jazz bands consistently earn superior ratings at Western Region Jazz MPA and participate in many concerts and community events each year.

Steven is a member of the National Association of Music Educators, the North Carolina Music Educators Association, and the North Carolina Bandmasters Association. Steven is also a proud member of Kappa Kappa Psi and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, both at Western Carolina University.



## Dr. Will Campbell

### Guest Soloist

Originally from North Carolina, Will Campbell is the Director of Jazz Studies and Professor of Saxophone at UNC Charlotte. Prior to this position, he was the Director of Jazz Studies at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in Saxophone Performance and Literature degree from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the Bachelor of Music (Jazz Studies) and Master of Music (Saxophone Performance) from the University of North Texas. While attending UNT, he was a member of the One O'Clock Lab Band and directed the Three O'Clock Lab Band.

From 1990 to 1994, he toured internationally as a member of the Harry Connick, Jr. Orchestra. Recording credits include Blue Light, Red Light, When My Heart Finds Christmas, and The New York Big Band Concert (Video). Dr. Campbell has performed with artists such as Marvin Stamm, Randy Brecker, Bobby Shew, Pete Christlieb, Aretha Franklin, Frank Sinatra, Jr., Doc Severinsen, Louie Bellson, and ensembles such as The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Charlotte Symphony, Charlotte Philharmonic Orchestra, and Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra. He performs regularly with The North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra and The Piedmont Triad Jazz Orchestra.

Dr. Campbell was awarded a UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant in 2007 to record Think Tank (Cellar Live Records), his debut release as a leader and composer. In a review of Think Tank for All About Jazz, Raul d'Gama Rose stated, "Campbell is always meticulous in his pace, letting his warm, fat tone sing out as he constructs solos of breathtaking resonance." In 2015, Campbell was a co-leader on the debut recording of the Unhinged Sextet, Clarity (OA2 Records), contributing as a composer and performer. Clarity has received glowing reviews and international airplay. In 1995, he was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Fellowship Grant, which allowed him to study privately with renowned saxophonist Dick Oatts in New York City. From 1999 to 2019, he served as a member of the University of North Texas Summer Jazz Workshop Faculty and has also been invited to direct All-State Jazz Bands in New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Dr. Campbell has performed at conferences for the North American Saxophone Alliance, International Association for Jazz Education, The Jazz Education Network, and the World Saxophone Congress. He has published articles in the Jazz Education Journal, The Saxophone Journal, and The Saxophone Symposium. His arrangements and compositions are now available through University of Northern Colorado Jazz Press and Dorn Publications. Dr. Campbell is an Artist/Clinician for the Conn-Selmer Company and a Performing Artist for D'Addario Reeds and endorses these products exclusively.





## Pavel Wlosok

### Guest Soloist

Pavel Wlosok, a Czech born American pianist, award winning composer, arranger and educator, received his classical education in piano performance and composition at the Conservatory of Music in Ostrava and Janacek Academy in Bmo, and earned bachelor and master degrees in jazz studies at the University of North Texas in Denton. Since August 2002, he has been professor in jazz, and Commercial Music and Audio Production aka CMAP at WCU.

While at UNT he served as pianist-composer for the One O'clock Lab Band and as solo pianist for the UNT Wind Symphony, touring with the ensemble in Europe and North America. In June 2007, WCU's Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet performed Wlosok's original commissioned piece "Five Miniatures for Brass Quintet" at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Pavel's original compositions have been performed in the Americas, Europe and Japan, and he has been a frequent lecturer at international summer jazz camps in central Europe. He is the 2000 International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE) Gil Evans Fellowship recipient and has performed and/or recorded with jazz greats Jeff Ballard, Bob Berg, Randy Brecker, Paul Bollenback, Paquito DeRivera, Dennis Dotson, John Ellis, Jon Faddis, Joel Frahm, Danny Gottlieb, Wycliffe Gordon, Tim Hagans, Louis Hayes, Conrad Herwig, Denis Irwin, Ingrid Jensen, Sheila Jordan, Victor Lewis, Dave Liebman, Joe Lovano, Rick Margitza, Jason Marsalis, Donny McCaslin, Dave Pietro, Rufus Reid, John Riley, Bob Sheppard, Ed Soph, Bobby Watson, Kenny Wheeler and many more.

Pavel has had five Jazz albums released between 2012 and 2018 on European label New Port Line: "Live At The Grey Eagle – Jubilee Suite" (2012) with John Riley on drums and Mike McGuirk on double-bass, "Czechmate" (2013) featuring Joel Frahm on tenor and soprano saxophones, "Alternate Reality" (2014) featuring Grammy Award winner Donny McCaslin on tenor saxophone, "Smile Baby Smile" (2016) with guest guitarist Paul Bollenback, and a solo release "Respectfully Yours" (2018) paying homage to his hero jazz composers. He has also released two more albums "Storyteller" (2018) featuring Rick Margitza on tenor saxophone and "Never Too Old For Love" (2020) with guest vocalist Carly Johnson accompanied by the Wlosok/McGuirk/Riley trio. All of Pavel's records are available through his website at [www.pavelwlosok.com](http://www.pavelwlosok.com) as well as online stores such as iTunes, Amazon, and CD Baby as well as available for direct streaming via iTunes Music, Spotify, and Rhapsody.

Since 2015 Pavel has been serving as pianist and choir director at the United Memorial Methodist Church in Franklin, NC.

Pavel and his wife Andrea, a classical pianist and piano teacher, live in Sylva, NC along with their three daughters.



## Ryan Comley Guest Soloist

Originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, Ryan Comley is currently pursuing his masters in Percussion Performance at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Prior to his time in Knoxville, Ryan graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, under the tutelage of Professor Rick Dior. While studying at UNCC, Ryan could be found in a variety of ensembles, including Jazz Band, Jazz Combos, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble.

Throughout his time in Charlotte, Ryan studied a multitude of genres, making himself comfortable in many musical traditions. Ryan is also an active freelance musician who has worked with the International Lyrical Academy, an abundance of churches in the greater Charlotte area, various operas and jazz combos.

Along with being an active performer, Ryan is a strong pedagogue, with his students consistently achieving their musical goals and ambitions. In Knoxville, Ryan has the pleasure of studying with Dr. Andy Bliss and Professor Keith Brown.



**Hickory Ridge High School Band Staff**

Chris White, Director of Bands  
David Rivero, Associate Director of Bands  
Josh Jones, Brass Staff and Music Arranger  
Steven Foster, Woodwind Staff and Jazz Band Director  
Alex Johnson, Student Teacher  
Jennifer Merry, Hickory Ridge Middle School Director  
Nick Carl, Hickory Ridge Middle School Director

**Cabarrus County Schools Administration**

Dr. John Kopicki, Superintendent  
John LeGrand, Interim Deputy Superintendent  
Gordon Palmer, Assistant Superintendent of High Schools  
Bart Tulbert, Fine Arts Coordinator

**Hickory Ridge High School Administration**

Dr. Shaun Poole, Principal  
Chris Balga, Assistant Principal of Instruction  
Annika Gildersleeve, Assistant Principal  
Tiana Graves, Assistant Principal  
Peter Kim, Assistant Principal

**HRHS Band Booster Executive Board**

Karen Wright, President  
Adrienne Smith, Vice President  
Mandy Foster, Secretary  
Denise Horton, Treasurer  
Vanessa Demkowski, Major Fundraising Chair  
Tiffany Parker, Minor Fundraising Chair  
Jennifer Haston, Head Chaperone  
Rod Smith, Head Roadie





**Mr. Foster would like to thank the following:**

**Friends and Colleagues who have supported me along the way** - Sam Bogan, Alice Aldredge, David Parker, Drew Carter, Emily McNeil, Keith Lee, Chris Hardesty and the Cabarrus County Band Directors.

**HRHS feeder programs and directors who have students performing in today's concert:**

Nick Carl and Jennifer Merry - Hickory Ridge Middle School

John Brooks - CC Griffin Middle School

**Derek Smith, Steve Stevens, and Jason Partridge** who each have former students performing in the group today. Thank you for being a part of their musical journey and for being such great friends and colleagues.

Special thanks to **Pavel Wlosok, Dr. Will Campbell, Dr. James Armstrong, Ryan Comley, Sam Bogan, Derek Smith, Jerry Lowe, and Ken Davis** for your time helping us prepare for today's performance.

**Northwest Cabarrus Middle and High Schools** - Mrs. Charity Szabo, Mr. Robert Egnot, and Mrs. Alexis Richardson, Chris Hardesty, and Alice Weaver

We have incredible **band parents and supporters**. We're so fortunate to have such a supportive community and such amazing band families.

**HRHS Alumni students and parents** who have spent 16 years building a legacy and maintaining the standard of excellence that is associated with our program. Your efforts have allowed us to be here today. We thank you for your continued support of our program.

**Ian Sullivan** for all his support, always being so gracious in sharing students, letting us use the auditorium even though he really needs it, and for always being a team player in our department. We are so fortunate to have him as our theatre teacher at HRHS!

**Tina Robinette** and the NCMEA Jazz Section for the invitation to perform and be a part of this year's conference.

