

Students, Parents, and Directors:

Congratulations on your selection for the 2023 Idaho All-State Band! We hope that this musical experience will be one that you will remember and cherish for many years to come. The Idaho All-State dates are February 1st-February 4th, on the campus of Idaho State University in Pocatello, ID.

My name is Brittany Brings; I am the director of bands at Centennial High School in Boise, and I am this year's All-State Band Chairperson. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this year's All-State Band, please contact me and I will help you find the answers to your questions. You can find my contact information at the end of this letter.

Our conductor this year is Dr. T. Andre Feagin. Dr. T. André Feagin serves as Director of Bands in the Department of Music at Central Washington University. In this position, he guides the educational and artistic vision of a comprehensive band program that includes the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, Wildcat Marching Band, and Pep Band. He heads the graduate wind band conducting program and serves as the conductor of the Wind Ensemble, the preeminent wind band at CWU. Under his leadership, the Wind Ensemble was a featured ensemble at the 2022 College Band Directors National Association Western/Northwestern Division Conference. In addition, he serves as a Dean Fellow for Student Success within the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH). In this position, he coordinates the Living Learning Community (LLC) within CAH where his programming and mentorship focus on student academic success, community engagement/building, and creating a culture of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. In addition, he serves as a member of the diversity and inclusivity committee within the CAH.

Dr. Feagin has appeared as a guest conductor with numerous All-state, regional honor bands, and professional bands and orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, and Southeast Asia. As a clinician/presenter, he has been invited to speak on conducting, diversity and inclusion in music education, and leadership at numerous music educators' conferences across the United States and around the globe. In 2022 he presented at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles convention in Prague, Czech Republic.

Dr. Feagin holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting from the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music where he was a student of the late Gregg I. Hanson. His doctoral research studies Spanish wind composer Bernardo Adam Ferrero and his wind composition *Homenaje a Joaquín Sorolla*. He holds professional memberships in the National Association for Music Education, College Band Directors National Association, World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, Washington Music Educators Association, Patron of Mu Phi Epsilon, and honorary memberships in both Tau Beta Sigma and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He currently serves on the Statement of Purpose and Diversity Committees of the College Band Directors National Association and serves on the advisory board of Emergence: Research & Performance Topics in Black Music, the scholarly publication of the National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc.

Dr. Feagin has selected the following works for our performance:

- *Jubilee Fanfare* by Yosuke Fukuda
- *DragonFly* by Katahji Copely
- *Ash* by Jennifer Jolley
- *Give Us This Day: Mvt. II: Very Fast* by David Maslanka

Below is information that will help you have a positive experience at All-State.

- **General guidelines:** Students must wear their name badge at all times and attend all rehearsals, meals, performances, etc. while at All-State. Students will be released each day after the last scheduled event has finished.
- **Music:** All music for this event must be with you for rehearsal each day.

- **Rehearsal attendance:** Concert Band students are required to attend all rehearsals and performance unless excused from a rehearsal session made in advance due to school performance at the conference concert hours or due to circumstances of a serious nature which are beyond control. Absences need to be cleared by the All-State Band Chair.
- **Rehearsal dress:** students must wear school-appropriate clothing during their time at All-State. Please make sure that you have clothing that is suitable for the time of year. You will be walking to a separate building for meals.
- **Rehearsal etiquette:** Students are expected to be in their seats when rehearsal begins with your folder (given at your first rehearsal), music, and a pencil. Water bottles are also allowed. Students are to be respectful to all adults and follow general rehearsal etiquette.
- **Cell phones and other electronic devices:** Students need to make sure all phones and electronic devices are silenced and put away during rehearsals, but may be used during breaks, meals, etc. Students need to follow their school districts' cell phone and device policy. If phones are an issue, the student's phone will be taken and returned after rehearsal.

Music must be prepared before you arrive at All-State.

Being a member of the All-State Band is an honor and a privilege. It is expected that students will have adequately prepared their music prior to our first rehearsal; there is simply not enough rehearsal time for our conductor to teach you your parts. Band directors, you will receive links to your students' music sometime this evening. Please make sure you distribute those materials to your selected students.

You are **highly encouraged** to listen to the full ensemble recordings. These can be found online on the publisher's websites, on retail websites such as www.jwpepper.com, and even on YouTube (make sure to look for quality recordings).

On Wednesday evening, February 1st, there will be a brief sectional with part checks to confirm that you are prepared. **Remember that you made a commitment to excellence via your audition and that there are students in our state who were not selected but would love to have your seat.**

Trumpet players will need to bring good quality harmon and cup mutes. Please double-check your parts and make sure that you know where and when these are indicated. If your part requires a specific mute, you will need to come prepared with that mute; mutes will not be provided.

Percussionists should provide their own implements and small percussion. This required equipment, along with percussion part assignments, will be communicated by Sunday, December 18th.

Everyone needs to bring a pop-up/portable music stand and pencils.

Finally, everyone must join the IMEA All-State Band Remind text group. This a free education text messaging service. Please send this message: **@imeaband** to the number **81010**. You will receive a reply text asking for your name. Please use your first and last name. Your number will not be visible to anyone at any time. I will use this to send you information and reminders as we get closer to All-State rehearsals. If you have any questions or problems getting this set up, please let me know and I'll help you.

Enjoy preparing the music. We look forward to seeing you at All-State!

Brittany Brings
All-State Band Chairperson
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