



GPG Music and OurVirtualEnsemble.com are proud to present the College Band Directors National Association Intercollegiate Marching Band

For Immediate Release:



The Pride of Wildcat Land the Kansas State University Marching Band Students Honored to Perform with the CBDNA Intercollegiate Marching Band

College marching ensembles from across the nation will collaborate in a virtual performance, showcasing their talents and commitment to the performing arts.

January 4th, 2021—The **K-STATE MARCHING BAND** is proud to announce that 12 marching band students and our entire K-State Classy Cats team will be performing in the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Intercollegiate Marching Band (IMB). They will join nearly 1,500 performers from 200 bands in 45 states and Puerto Rico, all working together to produce a virtual college marching band show.

Congratulations to the following performers from the **K-STATE MARCHING BAND**:

	Name	Year in Band	Major	Section	Hometown
SR	Meredith Casey	4 th	Music Education	Drum Major	Olathe, KS
	Zoey Dutcher	4 th	Education	Color Guard	Camden Point, MO
	Gillian Falcon	4 th	Chemical Engineering	Drum Major	Salina, KS
	Chris Hovis	2 nd	Music Education	Tuba	Leawood, KS
	Jacob Keith	4 th	Finance	Trombone	Wichita, KS
	Justin Keogebon	3 rd	Computer Science	Baritone	Wichita, KS
SR	Maddie Lane	4 th	Education - English	Color Guard	Goddard, KS
SR	Delaney Madden	5 th	Family Studies/Human Services	Twirler	Osawatomie, KS
SR	Ryan Nelson	4 th	Music Education	Drum Major	Caney, KS
	Will Osorio	1 st	Music Education	Tuba	Junction City, KS
	Sohpia Shaar	3 rd	Chemical Engineering	Mellophone	Wichita, KS
SR	Riley Toom	4 th	Applied Music	Color Guard	Andover, KS

SR Indicates Graduating Senior

Congratulations to the following performers from the K-State Classy Cats:



	Name	Year on Team	Major	Hometown	
SR	Brooke Allen	3 rd	Human Development & Family Science	Olathe, KS	
	Brevin Armstrong	1 st	Elementary Education	Hutchinson, KS	
	Kathryn Artiles	1 st	Sports Nutrition	Topeka, KS	
	Chloe Bartels	2 nd	Human Development & Family Science	Olathe, KS	
	Emerson Bidnick	3 rd	Accounting	Shawnee, KS	
	Josi Frigon	2 nd	Civil Engineering	Liberty, MO	
	Jenna Gillespie	1 st	Business Administration	Lawrence, KS	
	Morgan Haworth	1 st	Secondary Education	Kansas City, KS	
	Megan Kiekbusch	1 st	Nutrition and Health	Lenexa, KS	
	SR	Bailey Lincoln	4 th	Kinesiology	Berryton, KS
		Jordan May	2 nd	Fine Arts	Topeka, KS
		Mara McElgunn	2 nd	Kinesiology	Wichita, KS
		Megan McGrevey	1 st	Computer Science	Overland Park, KS
		Mackenzie Nagel	3 rd	Journalism & Mass Communications	Shawnee, KS
Kamryn Nickel		2 nd	Arts and Sciences	Topeka, KS	
Elleigh Peters		2 nd	Arts and Sciences	Wichita, KS	
Caitlyn Rude		2 nd	Elementary Education	Garden City, KS	
Layne Steffen		2 nd	Business Administration	Olathe, KS	
Kinsley Turner		2 nd	Elementary Education	Lenexa, KS	
Kia Warren	3 rd	Elementary Education	Overland Park, KS		
Grace Williams	2 nd	Arts and Sciences	Olathe, KS		
Kaitlyn Woicke	2 nd	Business Administration	Olathe, KS		

SR Indicates Graduating Senior



“All college bands are missing out on some tremendous experiences, including Bowl games. K-State is no exception, and this opportunity gives our Marching Pride members a great chance to perform at a Bowl Game! As the Director of The Pride, I am grateful to the good folks at CBDNA and the NCAA for this fantastic opportunity for our band students!

The K-State Band made it to all the games this Fall with the exception of the last one against Texas. The 400+ member band rehearsed and performed in masks, bell covers, socially distanced, used puppy pads to collect brass “water” and spread out across the entire North end zone of Bill Snyder Family Stadium. We made it all work for as long as we could.”

-Dr. Frank Tracz
 Director, Kansas State University Marching Band

Joining in unity during a time when college marching bands have been forced to the sidelines, the CBDNA IMB will keep the spirit alive by performing virtually together. This unique project will combine college marching bands from different conferences, regions, and styles in a single performance.

The Intercollegiate Marching Band will perform “End of Time” by Beyonce in a video that will premiere online on the Intercollegiate Marching Band YouTube channel on the same day as the College Football Playoff National Championship Game on Jan. 11, 2021.

“This is going to be a historical performance,” says Dr. Mark Spede, president of CBDNA and the director of bands at Clemson University. “In this unusual year when bands have been unable to perform their traditional pregame and halftime shows during college football games, CBDNA is pleased to offer this opportunity with the help of its partners.”

The IMB performance will showcase all of the unique aspects of a college halftime show including musicians, drum majors, color guard members, dancers, and majorettes.

“During these challenging times, we are excited that CBDNA, along with some amazing partners, can offer an event so positive to collegiate band programs across the country,” says Barry Houser, chair of the CBDNA’s athletic bands committee and director of the Marching Illini at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “Many students in college bands have been forced apart due to COVID-19, but the virtual Intercollegiate Marching Band will be an event that will bring together nearly 1,500 college marching band students, unified as one band.”

Artistic Talents

The Intercollegiate Marching Band also brings together professional talent from across the marching band industry. Composer Scott Boerma, director of bands at Western Michigan University and past arranger for the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, and Chuck Ricotta, percussion instructor and arranger for the University of Michigan, created the arrangement for “End of Time.”

“In our effort to create an arrangement that will appeal to band members and fans across the nation, we chose a tune by the incomparable Beyonce,” Boerma says. “Although our arrangement of ‘End of Time’ stays true to her work, we’ve beefed it up to make it challenging and exciting for the marching band genre.”

Michael Rosales, choreographer for the 2018 Santa Clara Vanguard Drum and Bugle Corps and the 2018 Paramount Winterguard, and Lexi Duda, a national- and world-champion twirler previously with the University of Maryland, designed routines for the visual performers.

“Being the creative director of The Breakdown Camp, our goal is to nurture the passion of young artists,” Rosales says. “I chose to be involved with the CBDNA Intercollegiate Marching Band virtual show because it’s a great opportunity to give back to these artists and keep them engaged and involved through this difficult time. I want them to know that they are important and that their art form is necessary to the world.”

Our Virtual Ensemble

Our Virtual Ensemble powered by GPG Music is the IMB's presenting sponsor. All bands will be using Our Virtual Ensemble to practice music and routines as well as to submit individual videos. Editors at GPG Music will produce the final video. "The mission of GPG Music is to help music educators inspire the next generation," says Steve Martin, chief executive officer and composer. "We enjoy any opportunity to support an effort that aims to bring camaraderie and unity to the music community. Not only does this project offer the chance for students to collaborate with fellow participants from far and away, but it may also be the only way that some of them have to perform as proud members of their school's marching bands."

GPG Music, a publisher of marching band, indoor percussion, and concert band music, started Our Virtual Ensemble in the spring of 2020 as a direct response to stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The robust, plug-and-play system creates "opportunities for performing arts ensembles that may not be performing regularly or even meeting in person at all," Martin says.

Since then, Our Virtual Ensemble has produced more than 100 virtual performances on behalf of middle school, high school, college, and community bands, choirs, and orchestras.

A Larger Community

The IMB originated as the brainchild of Jeremy Williams, owner of GuardCloset.com and creator of StylePlus.TV. "This performance will show the whole country what marching band is really like, a great group of students and directors who work hard to achieve an amazing goal and who don't let anything stand in their way," Williams says. "I hope this project enlarges the sense of community that these students and directors already have by bringing everyone together in one show. We are striving for a larger community to bring awareness to the arts, a community that lasts long after this year is over, a community that grows and grows for all marching arts students."

Halftime Magazine and CollegeMarching.com are also founding partners for this project. "Many marching bands have found creative ways to stay engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we're proud to be part of a large-scale project that allows college performers to showcase their talents, bringing the sights, sounds, and spirit of the marching arts to fans worldwide," says Christine Ngeo Katzman, publisher and editor-in-chief of Halftime Magazine.

According to Michael Barasch, co-founder of CollegeMarching.com, "An unprecedented time called for an unprecedented opportunity, and we are thrilled to be part of this project."

The CBDNA welcomes additional corporate sponsors and is kicking off a fundraising campaign through FansRaise to fund the IMB as well as raise donations for the CBDNA Mike Moss Conducting Fellowships, providing underrepresented populations the opportunity to participate in a summer conducting symposium. Visit imb.fansraise.com to contribute.

“I hope that this project keeps our band programs and teams across the country in the forefront of collegiate performance, education, and sports activities as well as brings more happiness to the audience and spectators,” Rosales says. “Let’s keep the spirit alive!

For more information about the CBDNA Intercollegiate Marching Band, visit cbdna-imb.com.

About the *K-STATE* MARCHING BAND:

Since its humble beginnings in 1887, Professor Alexander Brown organized fifteen student-musicians into the first band at what was then known as Kansas State Agricultural College. The K-State Marching Band, now known to Wildcat fans as the "Pride of the Wildcat Land," has come a great distance in many, many ways.

The K-State Marching Band made its first appearance with an athletic team in 1898 when it escorted the college's baseball team to a game. Having now grown to over 300 members, the K-State band represents our university, the city and community of Manhattan, and the state of Kansas each year at home and across the country at home games, NFL exhibitions, bowl games, parades and festivals, and countless alumni, charity, and community events.

The K-State Band has become an integral part of its community and has a rich history of recognition and support at every level: public school directors and students, the K-State student body, faculty, coaches, Athletic Department, and president, local and state government.

The "Pride" has been invited to many out-of-town venues, appearing before huge audiences, both live and on television. Occasionally the band travels to perform at a Kansas City Chiefs' home game. They have also performed on three occasions at Texas Stadium for Dallas Cowboys home games and twice at Denver Broncos home games. The K-State band performed at the 1974 NFL Pro Bowl and in the 1977 Texas State Fair. In more recent years, the "Pride of Wildcat Land" has accompanied the K-State football team to eleven consecutive bowl appearances. This past year the "Pride" traveled to Arizona with the team for the 2013 Fiesta Bowl!

For decades, a memorable performance each year has been K-State Band Day. Now attracting approximately 2000 high school and middle school students converging each year on Manhattan, the day-long event includes a morning parade through the center of town and a massed band performance at half time of that afternoon's home football game at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. On September 15, 1984 the K-State Band Day was recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records. In conjunction with that year's Band Day, sixty-seven school bands joined the K-State Band on the field, creating a 3,144 piece marching band, which put them in the book as the world's largest marching band!

The "Pride" has been recognized by many local and national media, including: The Manhattan Mercury, The Kansas State University Collegian, The Topeka Capital Journal, Purple Pride, The Union Tribune, The K-Stater, and The Lawrence Journal Tribune.

Most recently, the Pride was the recipient of the 2015 Sudler Trophy. This is the most prestigious award in college marching band and recognizes excellence and innovation in marching band. The Sudler Trophy is awarded to only one college band every two years.

In 2016 the Wabash Cannonball was recognized by ESPN as the greatest pre-game tradition in the Big 12.

Membership in the "Pride of Wildcat Land" is open to all K-State students, regardless of major, with some members receiving scholarship aid. Band members come from schools throughout the state and from across the nations with diverse educational goals and backgrounds. Students representing every college on campus, and nearly every curriculum, work many hours a week in rehearsal during the marching season.

About College Band Directors National Association:

The College Band Directors National Association is a grassroots organization that serves a wide variety of constituents from the conservatory wind ensemble to the athletic band to the small college band and everything in between. We seek to be the best conductors, musicians, and educators that we possibly can be and pass that baton to the next generation.

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