

**51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
ARKANSAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION  
JULY 30 – AUGUST 2, 2025**



**FORT SMITH CONVENTION CENTER AND WYNDHAM HOTEL**

**DIRECTOR SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday, July 30**

9:30 am	<b>ABA Board Meeting</b>	Judge Parker	Hope Bruner, presiding
11:00 am-5:00 pm	<b>Registration</b>	CC Lobby	John Prater and Valerie Laney, presiding
1:00-3:55 pm	<b>"Strategies for 'Sound' Beginning Pedagogy"</b>	CC A1-2	Brian Pearson, presiding
1:00-1:55 pm	<b>Clarinet</b>	<i>Janna Lane – Lake Hamilton Junior High</i>	
2:00-2:55 pm	<b>Horn</b>	<i>Dr. Juli Buxbaum – University of Central Oklahoma</i>	
3:00-3:55 pm	<b>Trumpet</b>	<i>Grant Brinkle – Nettleton Junior High</i>	
Sponsored by the Arkansas Women Band Directors Association			
1:00-1:55 pm	<b>"Financial and Retirement Planning"</b>	CC A3	Cathy Williams, presiding
	<i>Mark White – Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, Executive Director</i>		
Sponsored by Arkansas Teacher Retirement System			
2:00-2:55 pm	<b>"Navigating Set III Senior High Jazz"</b>	CC A3	Janna Lane, presiding
	<i>Trent Warner – Jonesboro, Kaleb Knight – Vilonia, and Jason Smith – Southern Arkansas University</i>		
Sponsored by Arkansas Jazz Educators			
3:00-3:55 pm	<b>"Navigating Set III Senior High Jazz Drum Set"</b>	CC A3	Ralph Brody, presiding
	<i>Ben White – Jonesboro</i>		
Sponsored by Arkansas Jazz Educators			
4:00-4:55 pm	<b>"Is the Juice Worth the Squeeze? Choosing Repertoire That Fits Your Ensemble"</b>	CC A3	Aaron Durham, presiding
	<i>Jacob Lehman – Van Buren</i>		
4:00-4:55 pm	<b>"Fight the Good Fight: Powerful Advocacy for Your Program"</b>	CC A1-2	Hope Bruner, presiding
	<i>Nathan Cunningham – Conway</i>		
5:00-6:15 pm	<b>New Director Soirée</b>	Memphis/Tulsa	Dewayne Dove, presiding
	<b>ABA/ASBOA Clinic for Directors New to Teaching, New to Our State, and College Music Majors</b>		
	<i>Dr. Joe Clark – Houston, Spring ISD</i>		
Sponsored by ASBOA and ABA Boards; the Music Achievement Council and Amro, Palen, and Saied Music Companies			
5:00-6:15 pm	<b>Arkansas Jazz Educators Membership Meeting</b>	CC A3	Kaleb Knight, presiding
5:30-7:00 pm	Jonesboro Community Wind Ensemble Set Up/Warm Up	CC A1-2	Carl McCraney, presiding
6:15-6:55 pm	<b>ASBOA Executive Advisory Committee Meeting</b>	Wyndham Board Room	Greg Bruner, presiding
7:00-8:00 pm	<b>J. Raymond Brandon Kick-Off Concert:</b>	CC A1-2	Hope Bruner, presiding
	<i>Performance by the Jonesboro Community Wind Ensemble</i>		
	<i>Dr. Nick Balla, Conductor</i>		
8:30-9:30 pm	<b>ASBOA Executive Board Meeting</b>	CC A3	Ralph Brody, presiding
10:00 pm	<b>ABA Board Meeting</b>	Judge Parker	Hope Bruner, presiding

**Thursday, July 31**

8:00 am-12:00 pm	<b>Registration</b>	CC Lobby	John Prater and Valerie Laney, presiding
8:00-8:45 am	<b>Arkansas Instrumental Group Rehearsals</b>		
	<b>Arkansas Flutes</b>	Little Rock	Dr. Stephanie Hoeckley - ASU, presiding
	<b>Arkansas Clarinets</b>	Belle Starr	Dr. Kelly Johnson - UCA, presiding
	<b>Arkansas Saxophones</b>	CC A1-2	Dr. Brent Bristow - ASU-Beebe, presiding
	<b>Arkansas Trumpets</b>	Tulsa	Josh Jackson - Maumelle, presiding
	<b>Arkansas Horns</b>	Hot Springs	Amanda Lucy - Batesville, presiding
	<b>Arkansas Trombones</b>	Memphis	Dr. Alexandra Zacharella - UAFA, presiding
	<b>Arkansas Tubas/Euphoniums</b>	Dallas	Dr. Ryan Matejek - OSU, presiding
8:50-9:00 am	<b>Prelude to Keynote Address – Arkansas Saxophones</b>	CC A1-2	Dr. Brent Bristow - ASU-Beebe, presiding

9:00-9:25 am	<b>Keynote Address – “But for Music...”</b> <i>Marcia Neel – Music Education Consultants, Inc. and Music Achievement Council</i> Sponsored by the Music Achievement Council and Amro, Palen, and Saied Music Companies	CC A1-2	Hope Bruner, presiding
9:30 am-12:30 pm	<b>Exhibits Open</b>	CC Exhibit Hall C	Prissy Buchanan, presiding
9:30-10:25 am	<b>Reading Band – New Music</b> <i>Randall Standridge – Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching</i> <i>Phi Beta Mu Reading Band</i> Sponsored by Omicron Chapter of Phi Beta Mu and Gateway Sheet Music Company	CC A1-2	Carl McCraney, presiding
10:30-11:25 am	<b>“Conducting Symposium Part I”</b> <i>Dr. Nick Balla – Arkansas State University and Dr. Christopher Knighten – University of Arkansas</i> Sponsored by Arkansas Omicron Chapter of Phi Beta Mu	CC A1-2	Dr. Ricky Brooks, presiding
11:30 am	<b>ASBOA Region Meetings</b> I – Memphis II – Dallas III – Tulsa IV – Hot Springs V – Little Rock VI – St. Louis VII – Belle Starr VIII – CC A3 IX – CC A1-2		Region Chairs, presiding
1:00-4:30 pm	<b>Hearing Screenings</b> <i>Dr. Lori Boyd – Au.D. – Center for Hearing and Balance</i>	Bentonville/Rogers	
1:00-4:00 pm	<b>Registration</b>	CC Lobby	John Prater and Valerie Laney, presiding
1:00-1:55 pm	<b>“Conducting Symposium Part II”</b> <i>Dr. Nick Balla – Arkansas State University and Dr. Christopher Knighten – University of Arkansas</i> Sponsored by Arkansas Omicron Chapter of Phi Beta Mu	CC A1-2	Dr. Ricky Brooks, presiding
1:00-1:55 pm	<b>“Twelve Tips for Music Educators”</b> <i>Marcia Neel – Music Education Consultants, Inc. and Music Achievement Council</i> Sponsored by the Music Achievement Council and Amro, Palen, and Saied Music Companies	CC A3	Robert Hesse, presiding
1:30-4:30 pm	<b>Exhibits Open</b>	CC Exhibit Hall C	Prissy Buchanan, presiding
2:00-2:10 pm	<b>‘Kick-Off’ for Exhibits</b> <b>Music by Arkansas Clarinets</b>	CC Exhibit Hall C	Dr. Kelly Johnson - UCA, presiding
2:00-3:30 pm	<b>EXHIBITS GRAND OPENING</b> <b>Dedicated Exhibit Time</b> <i>PLEASE take advantage of this special block of time to show appreciation to the sponsors of this convention by visiting their booths.</i> <i>Some of the BIGGEST and BEST DOOR PRIZES are to be given during this time.</i> <i>Remember to bring your door prize ticket to deposit in the drawing box!</i> <b>PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OF OUR EXHIBITORS!</b>	CC Exhibit Hall C	Prissy Buchanan, presiding
3:00-3:30 pm	<b>AWBDA Meeting</b>	Belle Starr	Michelle Smith, presiding
3:30-4:25 pm	<b>“The Rhythm of Recruitment and Retention: A Cadence of Accountability”</b> <i>Dr. Joe Clark – Houston, Spring ISD</i> Sponsored by the Music Achievement Council and Amro, Palen, and Saied Music Companies	CC A1-2	Jeff Marlow, presiding
3:30-4:25 pm	<b>“Resonance and Reflection: A Sound Bath for Teacher Well-Being”</b> <i>Ben Light – Robinson High School</i>	CC A3	Claude Smith, presiding
4:45-6:45 pm	<b>ASBOA General Meeting</b>	CC A1-2	Ralph Brody, presiding
4:45-5:30 pm	<b>Arkansas Chapter of CBDNA Meeting</b>	Belle Starr	Gretchen Renshaw James, presiding
6:45-8:30 pm	<b>A Taste of Fort Smith</b>		
10:00 pm	<b>ABA Board Meeting</b>	Judge Parker	Hope Bruner, presiding
<b>Friday, August 1</b>			
7:00 am	<b>Phi Beta Mu Breakfast (Ticket Required)</b>	Dallas/Little Rock	Carrie Teague, presiding
8:15-9:10 am	<b>“Five S.M.A.R.T. Ideas to Retain THIS YEAR’S Beginners”</b> <i>Marcia Neel – Music Education Consultants, Inc. and Music Achievement Council</i> Sponsored by the Music Achievement Council and Amro, Palen, and Saied Music Companies	CC A1-2	Hope Bruner, presiding
8:30-10:00 am	<b>Registration</b>	CC Lobby	John Prater and Valerie Laney, presiding
9:00-11:30 am	<b>Hearing Screenings</b> <i>Dr. Lori Boyd – Au.D. – Center for Hearing and Balance</i>	Bentonville/Rogers	
9:00-11:50 am	<b>Exhibits Open</b>	CC Exhibit Hall C	Prissy Buchanan, presiding
9:00-11:00 am	<b>Dedicated Exhibit Time</b>	CC Exhibit Hall C	Prissy Buchanan, presiding

9:15 am	<b>All BDK's (Band Directors' Kids, 0-100+ Years) Picture</b>	CC Rotunda	Greg Bruner, presiding
10:00-10:10 am	<b>Music by Arkansas Horns</b>	CC Exhibit Hall C	Amanda Lucy - Batesville, presiding
10:45-10:55 am	<b>Music by Arkansas Trumpets</b>	CC Exhibit Hall C	Josh Jackson - Maumelle, presiding
11:00-11:50 am	<b>"Fundamentals First – Building Ensemble Quality for the Optimum Musical Performance"</b>	CC A1-2	Jeff Kee, presiding

*Dr. Richard Crain – Houston Spring ISD Retired, Stan Mauldin – Houston, TX, and Jonathan Andino - Houston Labay Middle School  
Sponsored by RG Security and Dr. Richard Crain*

11:00-11:55 am	<b>"Fundamentals of Marching Band Sound Systems"</b> <i>Hunter Durham – Jonesboro</i>	CC A3	Brian Pearson, presiding
12:00 pm	<b>ABA Business Luncheon (Ticket Required)</b>	Wyndham Ballroom	Hope Bruner, presiding
1:00 pm	<b>Christian Instrumental Directors Association</b>	Belle Starr	Joy and Bruce Shaver, presiding
1:30-2:25 pm	<b>"Honoring the Past – A Conversation with Sissy Pierce"</b> <i>John Caldwell – Arkansas Band Historian and Sissy Pierce – Rison Retired, UAM, UAPB</i>	CC A1-2	Karen Dismuke, presiding
2:30-3:25 pm	<b>"Built to March: Protecting and Elevating the Performing Athlete"</b> <i>Kaylie Lane – UCA and Lake Hamilton High School</i>	CC A1-2	Janna Lane, presiding
2:30-3:25 pm	<b>"Flute Fundamentals Demystified: What Every Music Educator Should Know"</b> <i>Dr. Stephanie Hoeckley – Arkansas State University</i>	CC A3	Cathy Williams, presiding
3:30-4:25 pm	<b>"Making a Difference through Small Ensemble Development"</b> <i>Michael Levine – Dallas Brass; Doug and Tonya Blevins – Berryville</i>	CC A1-2	Trey Reely, presiding
3:30-4:25 pm	<b>"Get to the 'Good Stuff' Faster with MusicFirst: Beyond Notes and Rhythms"</b> <i>Jody Underwood – MusicFirst Sponsored by MusicFirst</i>	CC A3	Aaron Durham, presiding
4:30-5:00 pm	<b>Arkansas Small Band Association</b>	CC A3	Trey Reely, presiding
5:00-6:00 pm	<b>Professional Headshots</b> <i>Christopher Moore – Bentonville</i>	Belle Starr	Greg Bruner, presiding

5:15 pm	<b>Music by Arkansas Trombones</b>	Wyndham Lobby	Dr. Alexandra Zacharella - UAFS, presiding
5:30 pm	<b>Music by Arkansas Flutes</b>	Lobby	Dr. Stephanie Hoeckley - ASU, presiding
5:45 pm	<b>Music by Arkansas Tubas/Euphoniums</b>	Ballroom	Dr. Ryan Matejek - OSU, presiding
6:00 pm	<b>ABA Banquet (Ticket Required)</b> <i>Seating begins at 5:40 pm</i>	Wyndham Ballroom	Hope Bruner, presiding
8:00 pm	<b>"Eldon Janzen Tribute Concert"</b>	ArcBest Performing Arts Center	Hope Bruner, presiding

***Jubilation Jazz Live 40's Radio Show***  
***Wally Fowler, Conductor***

10:00 pm	<b>ABA Bandmaster of the Year Reception</b> <i>Hosted by the Arkansas Bandmaster of the Year Committee Sponsored by Eagle Fundraising</i>	CC Rotunda	Dewayne Dove, presiding
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**Saturday, August 2**

9:00 am-12:00 pm	<b>"School Bus Driver Workshop"</b> <i>Trisha Labit – Arkansas Department of Education Sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Education</i>	Memphis/Tulsa	Greg Bruner, presiding
9:30-10:25 am	<b>"Getting MORE out of Your Student Leadership Team"</b> <i>Dr. Brandon Robinson – Missouri Southern State University</i>	Dallas/Little Rock	Valerie Laney, presiding
10:30-11:25 am	<b>"Planting the Seeds of Culture"</b> <i>Kim Webb – Greene County Tech High School</i>	Dallas/Little Rock	Peggy Jeffries, presiding
11:30 am	<b>ABA Board Wrap-up</b>	Judge Parker	Carl McCraney, presiding



***Registration hours are from 11:00 am-5:00 pm Wednesday;  
8:00 am-12:00 pm & 1:00-4:00 pm Thursday;  
8:30-10:00 am Friday in the Convention Center Lobby; Thereafter in Judge Parker***