WEST POTOMAC HIGH SCHOOL



PERIOD 1 CONCERT BAND
FEATURED ENSEMBLE

Virginia Music Educators Association Conference
Friday, November 20 / 4 p.m.

VMEA
VIRGINIA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

WP BAND

ABOUT THE BAND

West Potomac High School's Period 1 Concert Band is the school's top concert ensemble. Its woodwind, brass, and percussion musicians study challenging wind-band repertoire while developing the listening, precision, balance, and expressive range needed for cohesive performance.

The ensemble represents a band program with a long record of musical achievement. West Potomac has received 18 Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA) Honor Band awards, and its concert bands consistently earn Superior ratings at the Virginia State Concert Assessment. In 2025-26, West Potomac was named a VMEA Blue Ribbon School for excellence across its band, choir, and orchestra programs.

In March 2026, Period 1 represented Virginia at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis. Other recent program highlights include a third-place finish for the independent drum line at the 2026 WGI Championships and a 2024 VMBC State Championship finalist appearance by the Marching Wolverines.

The band's selection for this year's Virginia Music Educators Association Conference continues that work. Under the direction of Joe Antonucci, with percussion direction by Julianna Lee, the students share a program that moves among contemporary wind-band writing, jazz influences, a memorial song arrangement, and music featuring the United States Army Brass Quintet.

HONORS



18-TIME RECIPIENT OF THE VBODA HONOR BAND DISTINCTION

SUPERIOR RATINGS AT VIRGINIA STATE CONCERT ASSESSMENT

2025-26 VMEA BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVE AT THE 2026 MUSIC FOR ALL NATIONAL CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL

PROGRAM

PERIOD 1 CONCERT BAND

VIRGINIA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 / 4:00 PM

AFROSPIRE \ BAKARI NOKURI

MOVING HEAVEN AND EARTH \ PHILLIP SPARKE

WORLD O WORLD \ JACOB COLLIER ARR. ALAN P. JOHNSON
DEDICATED TO DOUG MARTIN

SHADOWCATCHER MVT. IV:
DANCING TO RESTORE AN ECLIPSED MOON
ERIC EWAZEN
FEATURING THE UNITED STATES ARMY BRASS QUINTET

GOLDEN VISTAS
RUTH BRITTIN
GUEST CONDUCTOR: STEVE RICE

ARC OF THE STORM
TYLER S. GRANT
GUEST CONDUCTOR: BETH ANDERSON-MORGAN

SOCIÉTÉ BLUE
ANDREW DAVID PERKINS

PERSONNEL

PERIOD 1 CONCERT BAND

Piccolo
Vivian Hildebrandt

Flute
Eli Dunham
Emily Budjav
Amanda Mey

Oboe
Tara Parsons

Bassoon
Owen McLenithan

Clarinet
Molly Gorman
Koffi Butu
Abena Asumadu
Leroy Emery
Thomas Phillips
Natalie Kulinski
Grace Barrett

Bass Clarinet
Bria Christian
Fiona Lobo

Contrabass Clarinet
Nehllienne Liray

Alto Sax
Tyler Williams
Nora Garcia
Rhys Tucker

Tenor Sax
Jackson Wallace

Bari Sax
Lexi Bodendorf

Trumpet
Luke Bhatnagar
Nolan Tunyavongs
Duke Sydow
Thomas Granieri
William Ramage

French Horn
Molly Mead
Lexi Zwerdling
Matthew Castillo Cortez

Tenor Trombone
Aiden Bratten
Carson Latimer
Caileigh McMichael
Owen Leeth

Bass Trombone
Owen McLenithan

Euphonium
Grady Simmons
Mickey Bhatnagar
Luke Garber

Tuba
Burt Wagner
Derek Castillo Cortez

Percussion
Lachlan Madar
Mabel Margolis
Marcus Rusten
Jordan Dillard Scott
Charlie Allen
Charlotte Simpson
Nate Casady
Aster Peacock
Oliver Bull

Piano
Erin Andreas





FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • THRIVE

Dr. Michelle C. Reid, Superintendent
8115 Gatehouse Road
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

October 30, 2026

Dear VMEA Participants and Guests:

Music serves as a powerful form of expression that articulates ideas and aspirations. It has the capacity to bring us joy, inspire, and educate, while connecting individuals across generations, cultures, and languages.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is honored to have the West Potomac High School Period 1 Concert Band representing us at this year's Virginia Music Educators Association Conference.

This achievement is a result of numerous hours of dedicated practice and a strong commitment to their art. I sincerely commend the passion, determination, and talent exhibited by the West Potomac High School Period 1 Concert Band and am enthusiastic about showcasing their abilities to music educators throughout Virginia. The students participating in this event will further their development as performers and enhance skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Music is a vital component of a comprehensive 21st-century education, fostering the development of leadership, risk-taking, collaboration, and creative thinking among our students.

I extend my gratitude to all those who contributed to creating this invaluable opportunity for the West Potomac High School Period 1 Concert Band, as well as for student groups from across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michelle C. Reid
Superintendent of Schools

FROM THE MUSIC SUPERVISOR

Fairfax County PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENGAGE • INSPIRE • THRIVE

Instructional Services/Fine Arts
8270 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

To the Members of the Virginia Music Educators Association,

It is an honor and privilege to welcome you to the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference performance by the West Potomac High School Period 1 Concert Band under the direction of Mr. Joe Antonucci. The West Potomac High School Period 1 Concert Band demonstrates a high degree of technical proficiency achieved through rigorous practice, sustained commitment, and collaborative musicianship. The school, community, and county are excited to have such a talented group of students represent us at this event.

The West Potomac High School Band program is recognized for its strong commitment to musical excellence. The band consistently receives Superior ratings at the Virginia State Concert Assessment and is an eighteen time recipient of the VBODA Honor Band. In 2026, the concert band performed at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival as the sole representative from the state of Virginia; their independent drum line was awarded third place at the WGI Championships; and in 2024 the marching band was a championship finalist at the VMBC state competition. The students at West Potomac High School actively engage in local, state, and national ensembles, demonstrating leadership and serving as sources of inspiration within their community, school, and peer network.

On behalf of Fairfax County Public Schools, I am honored to acknowledge the exemplary group of students and their director who embody our enduring commitment to music education.

I would like to express my appreciation to VMEA for selecting our young musicians and the director of the West Potomac High School Period 1 Concert Band for this prestigious opportunity. Please enjoy the performance!

Sincerely,

Katrina D. Chaney

Katrina Davilis Chaney
K-12 Music Educational Specialist, FCPS

PROGRAM NOTES

AFROSPIRE / BAKHARI NOKURI (2023)
ESTIMATED VBODA GRADE 6

From the composer
This composition is a swelling-dance inspired by afro-cuban rhythms and grooves, most notably from Chick Corea's "La Fiesta" and Stan Kenton's "Malagueña". While the harmonic language in the piece shifted over time from when the piece was first created in April 2022, the meaning and feeling of the piece never changed. When I started the work, I was going through a particularly challenging time in school, lacking motivation and drive. I had to dig deep inside myself to find a sense of motion and reason to go on. I turned to music, finding songs that instilled a fire in me. I found that the sounds of African drums resonated within my soul the most, making me feel connected to my African roots, and pushing me to go on. "Afrospire" encapsulates this feeling of being transcended from reality and being left in a trance or dream that tells you to keep going. The word itself is a combination of two words: Afro-, meaning relating to african diaspora, and Spir-, deriving from spirit.

MOVING HEAVEN AND EARTH: CONCERTANTE VARIATIONS ON AN ORIGINAL THEME (AFTER GABRIEL FAURÉ) / PHILIP SPARKE (2012)
ESTIMATED VBODA GRADE 6

This piece consists of a theme and 4 variations; although the theme is original it contains a phrase heavily influenced by a 14-bar passage from the "Libera Me" in Fauré's *Requiem*. It is a sequence that the composer finds harmonically compelling and, although it is never quoted directly, it appears in altered form in the theme and each of the variations.

In the original, the passage is set to the words: Quando cæli movendi sunt et terra (When the heavens and the earth shall be moved) which gave inspiration for the title. After the initial statement of the theme, Variation 1 features the upper woodwinds who play a stirring melody and accompany the Fauré reference with florid arpeggios. Variation 2 spotlights the saxophones and lower woodwinds in a rhythmic, modal waltz, whilst variation 3 is a broad chorale for the brass and percussion. Variation 4 starts with a fugue, which introduces each section of the band in turn before the original theme appears in the brass while the woodwinds continue the fugal figuration.

PROGRAM NOTES

WORLD O WORLD / JACOB COLLIER ARR. ALAN P. JOHNSON (2026) UNGRADED

PERFORMED AT THE 2026 VMEA CONFERENCE IN MEMORY OF MY FRIEND AND MENTOR, DOUG MARTIN.

World, oh, world
You've been my home
Home
Home
Now, it's time for me to go
Give me wings to fly, fly home
Sun did rise and sun did fall
You've been with me through it all
Always keeping by my side
Always by my side
Love, oh, love
You've been a friend
Love, oh
Love, oh
Now, the road must reach an end
Come, it is time to go (it's time to go)
Time is swift to come to pass
Nothing stays and nothing lasts
Always moving on (moving on and on)
Always moving on
Oh, and when I call your name
I think I love again
I lay my world upon your hands
Your hands again
Oh, and when you hold my pain
I feel my fire again, ooh
You are my soul
Oh, take me home
Until we meet
Until we meet again
Until we meet again
Until we meet again
Goodbye
Until we meet again, until we meet again
Meet again
Goodbye, goodbye, goodbye, goodbye

PROGRAM NOTES

SHADOWCATCHER MVT. IV
DANCING TO RESTORE AN ECLIPSED MOON / ERIC EWAZEN (2001)
UNGRADED

Features the U.S. Army Brass Quintet
Matt Gaunitz - Trumpet *Andrew Boylan - Trumpet*
Rick Lee - French Horn *Greg Hammond - Trombone*
Andrew Dougherty - Tuba

Edward Curtis, the great American photographer who traveled throughout the American West during the early decades of the 20th century, took tens of thousands of photographs of Native Americans. He chronicled their ancient lifestyle- capturing a time and place destined to disappear in the onrush of the modern age. His mysterious, beautiful, and powerful photographs had a distinctive play of light and dark, and the Native Americans dubbed him the "Shadowcatcher". This piece, in its entirety, uses four photographs to inspire each movement. We will perform the fourth movement. The photograph is of the Kwakiutl in 1914 - dancers surrounding a smoking fire. The ancient Kwakiutl of the Pacific northwest coast had a belief that the eclipsed moon was being swallowed by a creature of the night sky. By lighting bonfire of old clothes and hair, they believed the stench would make the monster sneeze, thus disgorging the moon. The music is a programmatic portrayal of this legend. A dark, cold night with clouds rolling in front of the moon leads to the gradual lunar eclipse. Using heavy Native American-inspired drum beats, the fire is lit and the frenetic dance begins. The dance culminates in a brass quintet cadenza- a sneeze- and the quiet return of the moon as feelings of joy and peace bring the work to a close.

GOLDEN VISTAS / RUTH BRITTIN (2025)
CURRENT VBODA GRADE 3, EXPECTED RE-GRADING TO GRADE 4

GUEST CONDUCTOR: STEVE RICE

This work celebrates the life and career of music educator Arthur Holton Jr. "Golden Vistas" brings musical hints of times special to Art and his wife/ collaborator, Kathy Holton: trains, road trips, and hikes in Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada mountains, and changes of season and life. It playfully explores 5/4, 4/4, and 3/4 meters, with contrasting modes. You'll hear river rocks in the percussion, the long-long-short-long fanfare in the brass (based on the train signal for a railroad crossing), and waterfalls and falling snow in the woodwinds. The lyrical theme in the middle celebrates a long and loving relationship, and everyone gets exciting melodies as this theme grows into an exuberant finale.

PROGRAM NOTES

ARC OF THE STORM / TYLER S. GRANT (2025)
ESTIMATED VBODA GRADE 3

GUEST CONDUCTOR: BETH ANDERSON-MORGAN

The piece begins with the sound of swirling, humid air beneath a bold and commanding fanfare. The music steadily intensifies as dark gray clouds gather and the storm looms overhead. Just when it seems the tempest might pass, the tempo quickens and short interjections mimic the first falling raindrops. Rhythmic motives swirl throughout the ensemble in a way that is both thrilling and slightly disorienting – interrupted by flashes of the opening theme and burst of lightning. The work concludes with all of these elements woven together in a triumphant celebration of one of nature's most electrifying phenomena.

SOCIÉTÉ BLUE / ANDREW DAVID PERKINS (2022)
PUBLISHER GRADE 6

From the composer

In the summer of 2012, I had the opportunity to share a gig with the incredible Jazz Manouche quartet "Minor Sing" at a festival in Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, France. The incredibly talented ensemble performed with the jazz instrumentation and style made famous by Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli in 1930's Paris. "Minor Sing" opened for the Basie-style big band I was directing at the time, and the evening was absolute magic. We played well past midnight, and as the locals danced on the cobblestone streets, I looked up at the star lit sky above us, a deep indigo blue. It was one of those rare, fleeting moments where everything else faded away, and I was aware of the pure, undiluted joy of making music with friends. "Société Blue" is an homage to Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Edith Piaf, Ragtime, Dixieland, and every Hot Club on the planet.

BIOGRAPHY



JOE ANTONUCCI
DIRECTOR OF BANDS

A native of Long Island, Joe Antonucci is a versatile educator and performer based in Northern Virginia. He currently serves as the Director of Bands at West Potomac High School, where his ensembles have consistently earned the distinction of Virginia Honor Band and the Marching Wolverines have been named finalists at the VMBC State Championships. Joe also had the pleasure of conducting West Potomac's premier concert band at the 2026 Music for All National Festival. Now in his 11th year with Fairfax County Public Schools, Joe's previous appointments include Langley High School and Whitman Middle School.

Joe holds a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music from George Mason University, where he is currently a doctoral candidate. Through his time at Mason, Joe studied with Denny Edelbrock, Phil Snedecor, and Kevin Gebo. His academic tenure has been marked by excellence, including winning the 2017 GMU Concerto Competition. As an adjunct faculty member at Mason, he worked with the renowned "Green Machine" athletic ensembles and leads the "Dirty Gold Brass Band."

An active performer and clinician, Joe can be heard every Monday with the Craftworx Big Band in Gainesville, VA. He is frequently sought after as a guest clinician for concert and jazz ensembles throughout the Northern Virginia area. Joe currently resides in Fairfax, Virginia with his wife Melissa, his daughter Mia, and a new Antonucci making their debut in March 2027.

BIOGRAPHY



STEVE RICE
GUEST CONDUCTOR

Mr. Rice is a music educator with more than 35 years of teaching experience. A native of Kentucky, he earned his BME from the University of Kentucky in 1988. After teaching for three years in rural Kentucky, he was invited to serve as a graduate assistant at James Madison University. During that time, he was an arranger and drill writer for the Marching Royal Dukes. He earned his master's degree in music education from JMU in 1993.

Mr. Rice enjoyed 28 years as band director at West Potomac High School. He began with a band of 32 students, which grew over time to include concert bands, jazz bands, an indoor drumline, and an indoor guard. His bands received numerous superior ratings and Virginia Honor Band awards. Highlights of his tenure included performing in the 1996 presidential inaugural parade, the 1997 gubernatorial inaugural parade, the 1999 Virginia Music Educators Conference, and the 2010 Music for All National Concert Band Festival.

A trombone player for over half a century, Mr. Rice is a bass trombonist for the Fairfax Wind Symphony where he is on the board of directors. VBODA has been important to him as a member, district representative, and president. He still is a member of its executive board. Since 2016, Mr. Rice has served as music and tour director for the Virginia Ambassadors of Music, helping guide more than 1,000 students from the Commonwealth across Europe.

He is currently the band director at Bishop Ireton High School, where he oversees the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Guitar Program. In addition to these duties, Mr. Rice and his wife, Wendy Sue, live in Alexandria on the staff of their two Maine Coon cats, Vladimir and Boris.

It is a great honor to be conducting these wonderfully talented musicians today. It is a joy to watch Mr. Antonucci guide these young musicians as the next chapter of band unfolds at West Potomac High School.

BIOGRAPHY



BETH ANDERSON-MORGAN
GUEST CONDUCTOR

Mrs. Beth Anderson-Morgan is the lead band director for the Sandburg Band Program and has been a vital part of the music department since the 2017–2018 school year. An accomplished percussionist, passionate educator, and dedicated community advocate, she is a proud graduate of Hayfield Secondary School. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education from James Madison University, studying under Bill Rice, and her Master of Music in Music Performance from George Mason University, where she studied with John Kilkenny and John Spirtas.

Before joining Sandburg, she spent five years teaching elementary band throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. Over her decade-plus teaching career, she has inspired thousands of young musicians, fostering a love of music, teamwork, and personal growth. Her dedication has been recognized with the Fine and Performing Arts Department's Panther Pride Award for the 2021–2022 school year and Sandburg's Staff of the Month honor in February 2024.

Outside the classroom, Mrs. Anderson-Morgan remains an active performer with the world-renowned MacMillan Pipe Band, playing both tenor and snare drum. She was part of the ensemble when it earned the 2017 Grade 3 North American Championship title and continues to compete at Highland Games along the East Coast and internationally in Scotland.

Beyond her musical accomplishments, she brings a remarkable spirit of resilience and gratitude to everything she does. A proud breast cancer survivor, she has been cancer-free since January 2023, a milestone that continues to shape her outlook on teaching, performing, and embracing life. In her free time, she enjoys playing soccer in a local adult recreation league, hiking, and spending quality time with her wife, Nicole, their dog Harlow, and her close-knit musical family.

BIOGRAPHY



JULIANNA LEE
DIRECTOR OF PERCUSSION

Julianna Lee has been an active music educator in Northern Virginia since 2018. Julianna earned a Master of Music in Percussion Performance from George Mason University, working with Jonathan Bisesi, John Spirtas, and John Kilkenny. She received a Bachelor of Music degree with a Performance Concentration in Percussion from the University of Virginia, studying under Professor I-Jen Fang.

She has performed with the U.S. Air Force Band in their Collegiate Symposium, and in numerous concerts with ensembles such as the Charlottesville Symphony, Crozet Symphony Orchestra, The Washington Balalaika Society, and The Oratorio Society of Virginia.

Julianna serves as the Percussion Director at The Potomac School, James Madison High School, and Thoreau Middle School. She has served as the Percussion Caption Head at Langley High School since 2018 and the Percussion Director at West Potomac High School this fall in preparation for their performance at VMEA. Julianna is also the Assistant Director of the Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble.

BIOGRAPHY



ALAN P. JOHNSON
ARRANGER

Mr. Johnson currently serves as Director of Bands at Skyview High School in Herndon, VA. This is his 29th year in Fairfax County, previously teaching at Westfield High School, Fairfax High School, Glasgow Middle School, Chantilly High School, South County Secondary School, and Shenandoah Conservatory. The Skyview HS program is comprised of a Marching Band, a Concert Band, a Jazz Band, a Percussion Ensembles, an students pariticipate in Indoor Drumline and Winterguard.

Mr. Johnson also serves as the Music Director for the Virginia Winds Academy, an auditioned Wind Band that is made up of students from over 30 different High Schools in the Northern VA area. Mr. Johnson was a Finalist for FCPS Teacher of the year in 2015 and winner of FCPS Band Director of the Year in 2016, and in 2019 received the Outstanding Music Educator Award from James Madison University.

In his vast spare time, he writes and arranges wind and percussion music and writes drill for marching bands. His arrangements have been performed by University of Michigan, Louisiana State University, Iowa State University, James Madison University, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, The Greensboro Symphony, and many high schools.

Mr. Johnson holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from James Madison University with a concentration in Percussion and a Masters in Conducting from Shenandoah Conservatory. He is also proud alumnus of the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps. Mr. Johnson lives in Centreville, Virginia with his amazingly patient wife Kimberly, and they are occasionally visited by their children– Emily (an art Major at VCU) and Ryan (the Band Director at Jamestown HS in Virginia).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Thank you to the incredible 2025-26 Period 1 Concert Band (pictured above) for their hard work and dedication last year. Their trust in me and their belief in the value of music made this opportunity possible for the kids on stage this year.

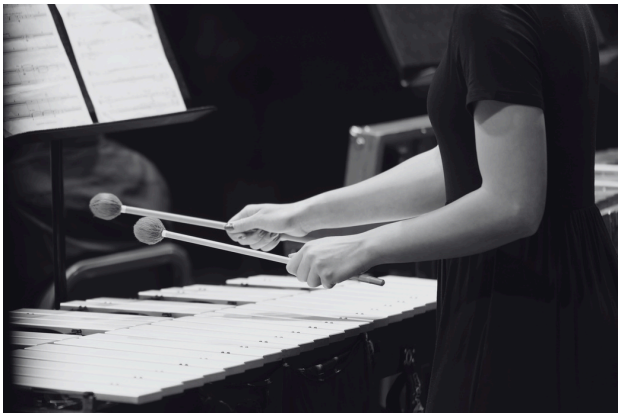
Thank you to all of our amazing band families for supporting their students in music and making all of this possible.

Thank you to the West Potomac Band Parent Association for their endless efforts to help our students (and me!).

Thank you to our incredibly dedicated administration and staff:

- Jessica Statz - Principal
- Janet Babic, Brian Valentine - Assistant Principals
- Tawanna Kinsey, Melanie Firesheets - Finance Staff
- Nelly Solares, Schuyler Kieley, Layla Feaster, Dustin Brandt - West Potomac Performing Arts Team
- Katrina Chaney - FCPS Music Supervisor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Thank you to our sectional coaches:

- Crystal Lee - Flute
- Kristin Bowers - Clarinet
- Jake McCray - Saxophone
- Andy Schuller - Trumpet
- Rob Craven - French Horn
- Evelyn Proffit - Low Brass
- Bryan Bourne - Low Brass

Sandburg Middle School Directors:

- Beth Anderson Morgan
- Samantha Gifford

Elementary Program Directors:

- Johanna Salas
- Andy Lutter
- Sheir Clark

Thank you to ALL of the private teachers, past and present, who helped our students and program grow. Thank you for sharing your talents with us!





Thank you to my mentors and friends who have helped both myself and the West Potomac Bands to reach this point.

Kyle Harrington, Alan P. Johnson, Ted Frederick, Matt Baker, Adam Foreman, Jonathan Philip, Tim Rossitini, Steve Rice, Kevin Engdahl, Rob Specketer, Jason Hallam, Paul Bernfeld, Andrew Kerper, Michael Abernathy

Finally, thank you to my wife, Melissa, for her love, support, and her incredible parenting!