

**THE BRASS BAND OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS AND
DR. SHARON HUFF, MUSIC DIRECTOR, PRESENT**

A Christmas **ENCOUNTER**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025
7:00 pm**

**Normal West High School
501 N. Parkside Rd.
Normal, IL**



PROGRAM

A Christmas Intrada.....David Rowsell

Procession of the Nobles.....N. Rimsky-Korsakov,
arr. James Curnow

Angels on High.....Stephen Bulla

Featuring Michael Archer, trombone

Christmas Lullaby.....John Rutter, arr. John Clay

Il est Né (He is Born).....arr. William Gordon

Trumpets Wild.....Harold Walters

Featuring Gabe Myers, Josh Myers,
and Kelly Rackauskas, cornets

Christmas Encounters.....Stephen Bulla

Intermission

Spanish Dance.....Andrew Wainwright

Good Christian Men, Rejoice..... arr. Leslie Condon

All I Want for Christmas is You.....Mariah Carey,
arr. Frank Bernaerts

Featuring Kelly Rackauskas, vocals

A Christmas Finale.....Paul Lovatt-Cooper

The Glory of Christmas.....arr. William Gordon

BRASS BAND OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Dr. Sharon Huff, Music Director

E♭ Cornet

Brandon Czubachowski
Joshua Mobley

B♭ Cornet

*Kelly Rackauskas
Sherman Lewis
*Gabe Myers
David Zehr
*Margaret Mills
Lauren Cancio
David Osenga
Tom Fatten
Mark Smith
Laurie Smudzinski
Brian Choban
Grace Myers

Repiano Cornet

*Josh Myers

Flugelhorn

Myles Singleton

E♭ Alto Horn

Michele Carnahan
Kristi Lewis
John Hansen
Barbara Hutchins

Baritone

Laura Ramseyer
*Bob Stadsholt
Maggie Durbin

Euphonium

Cassie Black
Leanna Horton
Jacob Wissmiller

Trombone

Michael Archer
*Laurel Passantino
Stan Cain

Bass Trombone

*Jim Wellwood

E♭ Tuba

*Robby Pratt
Mary Estell
Dan Faundez

B♭ Tuba

Ryne Dresbach
Travis Atchison

Percussion

~*Gordon Warren
Tony Corpus
Genaro Cantu
Mike Shifflet

**Denotes Board Member
~ Denotes Band Librarian*

**Sean Breast*

**Mary Jo Douglass*

The Brass Band of Central Illinois would like to acknowledge the Town of Normal for receipt of a Harmon Arts Grant, which made this concert possible. We would also like to thank Michele Carnahan, Bloomington Junior High School, Ryan Budzinski, Normal West High School, The Music Shoppe, Mark Coons, and Laura Myers. Most importantly, thank YOU for attending our concerts, supporting our music, and giving generously of your time and money to help make our organization successful. While we perform concerts throughout Illinois, we especially love the audience in Bloomington/Normal and graciously appreciate the enthusiastic following and support we have gained. Thank you again!

ABOUT THE BBCI

The Brass Band of Central Illinois was formed in 2004 to actively promote the cultural awareness and tradition of brass bands. It also provides a musical outlet for brass players who enjoy the unique sound and instrumentation of brass band music.



Based in Bloomington as a non-profit organization, the band is dedicated to providing concerts that are both entertaining and educational. Performing a wide variety of music, the band offers indoor concerts in May and December, as well as outdoor concerts every summer. All of our concerts are free and fully accessible to the public, with no admission fee or ticket required.

Our membership is composed of volunteer musicians from all walks of life including current and retired band directors, employees of State Farm Insurance, a Director of the Salvation Army, a civil engineer, a Dept. of Homeland Security employee, and a former railroad engineer. Many of our members reside in Bloomington/Normal, but others travel from LaSalle, Decatur, Urbana, Monticello, Gridley, Morton, and Pontiac in order to rehearse and perform with the band.



Since 2007, Dr. Sharon Huff has been the Music Director and conductor of the band. Dr. Huff is a retired music professor and former public school music teacher who previously taught at Millikin University, Illinois State University, St. Norbert College, and Unit 5 Schools in Normal, IL. Dr. Huff is a native of Bloomington/Normal, and she holds a B.M.E. summa cum laude from ISU and a M.M. and D.M.A. from the University of Illinois.

Photography by Mark Coons

ABOUT OUR SOLOISTS



Michael Archer has worked at The Music Shoppe in Normal since graduating from Bradley University in 2014 with degrees in music performance and music business. Originally from Peoria, Michael has performed with many concert bands, orchestras, chamber ensembles, and jazz groups and has played for several Broadway tours at the Peoria Civic Center. Aside from the BBCI, Michael performs with the Heartland Festival Orchestra, Twin Cities Brass Quintet, and Peoria Municipal Band. When not working, he enjoys teaching private low brass lessons and playing tennis.



Gabe Myers holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Music Education from Illinois State University. This is his 27th year teaching music in the Unit 5 School District where he teaches K-5 general music at Grove Elementary and beginning band at Chiddix Junior High School. He is a founding member of the Brass Band of Central Illinois, a founding member and chief arranger for the Twin Cities Brass Quintet, and he resides in Normal with his wife, Laura, and their two sons, Caleb and Owen.



Josh Myers is a graduate of the Illinois State University School of Music. After teaching middle school band for 2 years, he transitioned to teaching private trumpet lessons as manager of the studios at The Music Shoppe in Normal. In 2005 he began a career at State Farm Insurance, where he continues working today. He and his wife April have 2 children, Grace and Simon, both brass players. He is a founding member of the Brass Band of Central Illinois and a member of the Twin Cities Brass Quintet.



Kelly Rackauskas holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Illinois State University. She currently teaches 5-12 band and 7-12 choir for the Heyworth School District. She has been a member of the Brass Band of Illinois since 2009. Kelly lives in Normal with her husband, Jarrod, and their three daughters, Ava, Harper, and Elizabeth.

THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

SING-ALONG LYRICS



HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo



AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



O Come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye,
O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.



SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

JOY TO THE WORLD!



Joy to the World! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing.
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.



**Thank you to all those who have donated to the BBCI
(since December 1, 2024):**

Anonymous	Samuel Kambhampati
Rich & Cindy Archer	Marilyn Kammler
In Memory of Augy Augspurger	Stan Kerr
Gerald Bersche	Chris Lord
Michael Black	Gretchen Monti
Steven Brown	Edgar & Ann Neely
Harlan Brucker	Richard & Barbara Nielsen
Anita Carney	Laurel Passantino
Flora Foltz	Lee & Sally Rudolph
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Sandra Groves	Tamera Shaffer
Stanley Hitchins	Char Talkington
Douglas & Beverly Jennings	Greg & Joyce Topping
Nathan Jennings	Tamera Turner
Patricia Johnson	Larry & Lurinda Venezia

If you enjoyed tonight's concert, please **consider making a tax-deductible donation** to the band to help us sustain our performances and keep them fresh, exciting, and free of charge. The Brass Band of Central Illinois is fortunate to be funded entirely by donations and grants.

**Donations may be made online
via the QR code or by mail:**

P.O. Box 850
Bloomington, IL 61702
www.bbcil.org

