



Frequently asked questions

What is JR/SR Honor Band?

On November 15th and 16th, Texas A&M University-Commerce will host our Annual Junior/Senior Honor Band Weekend. This long-standing event features several opportunities for students over the two days:

- Attend a masterclass with the TAMUC faculty on the all-region etudes (TMEA and ATTSB tracks available).
- Perform in one of the two clinic honor bands.
- Work with internationally known guest composer **WILLIAM OWENS**.
- Work with Conductors, Phillip Clements, TAMUC Director of Bands, Garth Gundersen, TAMUC Associate Director of Bands, and Jeff Bradford, Director of Fine Arts-Richardson I.S.D.
- Attend a concert featuring the TAMUC Wind Ensemble and instrumental faculty.

How do I register?

Directors must nominate their students in order to secure participation. Each director may select a maximum of **TEN** deserving upperclassmen to participate in the event. (It is recommended that directors nominate a percussionist as part of the ten since Mr. Markowski's music is often very percussion intensive). Positions in the Honor Bands are limited and will be filled in the order the nominations are received.

Directors: To register students, please go to www.tamuc.edu/jr-sr-honor-band/. Availability is limited so please choose your students as soon as possible and CONFIRM THEIR ABILITY TO ATTEND prior to registering them.

What is the cost?

The registration fee, which includes a T-shirt, is \$40.00 per student. To celebrate the musical accomplishments of the students, we offer the following discounts for students who achieved the following status during the past year (2023-2024): All-Region members may attend for \$30.00, All-Area members may attend for \$20.00, and All-State members may attend the Junior/Senior Honor Band Weekend free of charge. This information will be verified by the director when the student is nominated. All fees are due prior to or at the time of check-in and can be paid on-line with credit card or if needed, by cash or check (made out to Texas A&M University-Commerce).

What if I have a play-off game on that Friday night?

We recognize that bands may still be involved in playoff games. While most directors excuse their student from the game to attend JR/SR Honor Band, students involved in performing at play-off games on Friday night are still strongly encouraged to participate. Students that must miss the Friday session due to a conflict with a football game are asked to submit an audition video no later than the Wednesday (November 13th) so they may be evaluated and placed into the appropriate ensemble. They should arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. to check-in prior to the morning session. Details on video submissions will be sent directly to students and directors involved in playoff games.

What music do I use for auditions?

Honor band auditions are for placement in the bands and for chair placement only. Every student nominated before the ensembles have filled is accepted into the bands. Students should prepare a one-minute technical piece and a one-minute lyrical piece. (Most students choose to use their All-Region Etudes). Because of time constraints, scales will not be asked in auditions. Percussionists should prepare a snare and mallet etude. (All-Region pieces are perfectly acceptable).

Are there master-classes for both TMEA and ATSSB students?

Yes! There will be separate masterclasses on both the TMEA and ATSSB All-Region music for each instrument. Please bring a copy of your etudes.

Is there housing available?

For directors, students, and parents that would like to spend Friday and/or Saturday night near campus, a select rate has been established with several local hotels in Commerce and Greenville.

To utilize these hotels and make hotel reservations, please call:

The Hotel Magnuson in Commerce (903.886.4777)

The Holiday Inn Express in Greenville (903.454.8680)

The Hampton Inn in Greenville (903.457.9200)

*Be sure to ask for the TAMU-Commerce Junior/Senior Honor Band Weekend rate. You may of course choose any hotel in the area you like. Please note: There is no campus residence hall housing available, and the university does not supervise students in the hotels.

Where do we eat?

There are several restaurants within a short walk of campus. The university dining hall is also available. Meals are not included in the cost of the event. A map of the area with restaurant listings will be available at check in.

What should I bring to rehearsal besides my instrument?

Percussionists are responsible for bringing their own sticks and mallets. Brass players should bring all mutes. Woodwind players should have a selection of quality reeds.

ABOUT THE CONCERT

When is the final concert? The final concert is on Saturday evening, November 16th at 7:00 p.m.

What do I wear for the concert? Please bring your school's CONCERT band uniform.

Is there a cost to attend the concert? The concert is free, so please invite your friends and family.

What is the schedule for the weekend?

Please see the schedule of events for a more detailed description of the Honor Band Weekend, located at www.ramuc.edu/jr-sr-honor-band/

Will the concert be recorded?

Yes! A professional recording of the concert will be made and will be available via multiple streaming providers (ie. YouTube Music, Spotify, Pandora, etc.) several weeks after the concert. A link, or multiple links, will be emailed to you. Many of these providers have a no-cost option. YouTube is free. However, some of the free options are subject to commercial advertisements. We hope that you enjoy the recordings.