

Eureka High School Band

Presents

**Senior Concert
Celebration 2025**

Monday, May 5, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Eureka High School Gymnasium

Todd Stalter, *Director of Bands*

Mr. Kelly Nichols, Principal

Mr. Dylan Stork, Assistant Principal

Mr. Robert Bardwell, Superintendent

Program

For It Has Been Found...

Premiere Performance

Robert Sheldon

Nevada Expedition

Alan Lee Silva

Theme from *Schindler's List*

Ava Otto, Violin

John Williams
arr. Calvin Custer

Presentation of Awards and Scholarships

Thrash

Randall Standridge

Recognition of the Class of 2025

October

Joined by Friends and Family

Eric Whitacre

Program Notes

Commissioned by the Eureka School Bands and Hornet Music Boosters, composer Robert Sheldon has this to say about "For It Has Been Found..."

Todd Stalter has been a friend for many years, starting in 1991 when we taught in nearby school districts in Illinois, and on to when I served as his editor as Alfred Music. Most people know him as a very talented composer of band music, but he is also a wonderful teacher, conductor and clinician. After 34 years of serving as Director of Bands at Eureka High School, his colleagues wanted to commemorate his distinguished career with a commission, and I was so honored they asked me to write the piece for him for his final band concert in May of 2025. The title was suggested to me because these words are the definition of the word, "eureka."

Alan Lee Silva is primarily known as a film and media composer, providing music for Disney video games and various other visual and musical media entities and projects. Fortunately, he also writes extensively for educational instrumental publications. "Nevada Expedition" is an original work that evokes the Great American West in the late 1800's, its glory days of adventure and discovery.

The story goes that after Steven Spielberg screened *Schindler's List* for John Williams, Williams had to leave the room and walk outside for several minutes to gather himself before he could respond. When he

returned he told Spielberg, “You need a better composer than I am for this film.” To which Spielberg replied, “Yes, but they’re all dead.” Tonight’s violin soloist is Ava Otto, and she is performing this same solo almost exactly 25 years later to the day as her mother Laura did with my band in May, 2000.

“*Thrash* is inspired by the heavy metal and hard rock bands of the 1980s. I was in junior high at the time, and my cassette player was regularly the home of Iron Maiden, Metallica, King Diamond, and countless others. To this day, I still love heavy metal music, and am always excited by the driving rhythms, dissonant harmonies, and the savage sense of musical motion. My love of overtures and heavy metal combined into the piece you will hear. Although it is in standard ternary (ABA) format, it uses the harmonies and rhythms of heavy metal to show the concert band overture in a different light, a darker light, if you will.” - Randall Standridge

For tonight’s performance of *October* by Eric Whitacre, I am honored to be joined by family and many friends from my college years up through present day. Whitacre states that October is his favorite month; the crisp air and changes in light and color cause him to feel very sentimental. It is the same for me. It is the only piece of music that could be the last one I conduct with my Band. October is “prime time” in the world of Marching Band, and it has historically been the time when my bands solidified their bond as a unit and family and came together for magical performances that many times resulted in achievements far beyond what they thought they could accomplish, both artistically and competitively. Those performances and students live in the lore of the EHS Band, and I could tell you stories about them for days. Some of my favorite places in the world are warm up fields and spaces at stadiums all around Illinois; places where my band and I spent time together on those October Saturdays building trust and preparing for everything that was to come. Let me tell you, there is nothing like being on a warm up field at 6:12 a.m. at ISU, looking at Hancock Stadium bathed in light while we are surrounded by darkness, knowing what is at stake and what is possible, and wondering if my band, from the smallest school in the entire 45 band field, made up of every kind of kid at every ability level imaginable, can...on the biggest stage and most difficult show in the state...pull off something incredibly special. And 16 times, they did.

Upcoming Events for the EHS Band

EHS Commencement

Sunday, May 28, 2:00 p.m. Call Time
Program begins at 3:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 26, 9:30 a.m. Call Time
Parade begins at 10:30 a.m.
Service at Olio Cemetery at 11:00 a.m.

Summer Band Rehearsals

See the EHS Band Facebook Page for information

2025 Marching Band Camp

August 4 - 8, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Show for Community: August 8, 6:00 p.m., McCollum Field
Mandatory for all Band and Color Guard members

Information on the EHS Band Website: <http://ehsband.yola.com>

Eureka High School Concert Band, Spring Semester 2025

Flute

Jubal Blunier
Lizzie Collins
Eliza Denham *#
Devin Harrison
Taylor Hirst
Alyssa Hitchins
Caleb Minger
Samantha Rhoades

Clarinet

Ciarra Abel *#+
Shawn Armstrong #
Ella Bally #
Emmie Edwards
Keira Follmer
Raegan Fuller
Aiden Groeper
Kaylee Hillman
Morgan Hoekstra
Vivian Neukomm #
Ava Otto #
Ethan Vandermyde
Adyson Wood
Breanna Wood

Bass Clarinet

Allison Wetzler #

Alto Saxophone

Eli Appenheimer *
Dell Devall
Samuel Miller
Ian Scott
Mikalah Wear

Tenor Saxophone

Jackson Draminski

Baritone Saxophone

Daymon Armstrong #

Trumpet

Wyatt Braun
Bryson Bridgewater
David Finley
Adrian Lee
Simon Lynch
Grace Neukomm #
Timothy Rogers *#
Joah Stalter
Lillian Thies
Zayne Wise
Asher Zehr

French Horn

Isaac Heinold
Gavin Heyungs #
Natalie Otto *#

Trombone

Ella Blunier
Ryan Hostetler *#
Matthew Minger
Elijah Scott
Chastity Vincent
Logan Wiegand
Natalie Wierenga

Euphonium

Abram Gossmeier
Samuel Kruger
Zeke Maynard
Kane Schertz *

Tuba

Rex Denham #

Percussion/Battery

Henry Albertson
Blake Andrews
Maxx Cool
Deacon Dingleline
Anthony Denham
Tanner Ellis
Elliott Munson
Levi Rhoades
Dakota Shipley
Malyk Thorndyke

Percussion/Mallets

Emma Donovan
Isaiah Wear
Hannah Worthen
Logan Zacha

* Principal

HOI Conference
Honor Band

+ ILMEA All-State Band

EHS Band Class of 2025

Shawn Armstrong is the son of John and Pamela Armstrong. He has been in Band for four years, and plans on attending Eureka College in the fall. Shawn's favorite thing about Band is playing show music for the very first time, and "blasting out some of the best music I've ever heard." He says "If you truly enjoy Band, take the time to enjoy it."

Lilly Thies is the daughter of Dan and Leslie Thies. She has been in Band for four years, and plans on studying Civil Engineering. Her favorite BAnd memories are "being able to play alongside my friends." She has some good advice: "Enjoy Band while you're still in it."

Breanna Wood is the daughter of Matt and Tara Wood. She has been in Band for four years, and is planning on taking a gap year next year to work and then attend ICC. She says "My favorite band memory would have to be placing 12th in finals at ISU my sophomore year. That show meant so much to me and we really grew as a band that year. I absolutely loved that show and the joy I felt placing 12th felt so amazing. Being able to do that with my best friends and people who also love making music makes me so happy. My favorite thing about Band would have to be the friendships I made along my 4 years. I have met some amazing people and I am so glad I have made the friendships I now have. I would like to thank my section for the best 4 years of my life. You guys are truly amazing. I am so proud to be a part of an amazing section with you guys. Keep up the hard work and put in that dedication I know you guys have. I will miss making music with you guys so much."

Ryan Hostetler is the son of Phil and Holly Hostetler. He has been in Band for four years, and will be attending Bradley University to study Computer Science. His favorite memory is "playing in the Pep Band as loud as I could and having fun." He says "Trombones: play D-flat."

Zayne Wise is the nephew of Jason and Laura Collins. He has been in Band for three years, and will be moving to Florida to attend college in Engineering. His favorite memory in Band was winning at ISU in 2022, and placing 12th in Finals.

Chastity Vincent is the daughter of Jonathan and Sabrina Vincent. She has been in Band for three years, two of which were in Color Guard/Winter Guard. Chastity will attend ISU in the fall, majoring in Pre-Med, specializing in Medical Laboratory Sciences. Her favorite Band memory is "our one shared brain cell," and says to her section, "I'm too old for this :-)"

Grace Neukomm is the daughter of Phil and Erin Neukomm. She has been in Band for four years, and will be attending the University of Illinois in the fall, majoring in Crop Science with a specialization in Agroecology. "My favorite thing about Band was the time we all spent with each other, I made a lot of great friends and I loved being able to achieve goals with them. We all wanted to help each other and I could not have asked for a better group of people to be in band with!" She says "Trumpets, take your horn home and actually practice it. Enjoy every rehearsal because believe it or not, you will miss them."

Tucker Hinkle is the son of Tony and Heidi Hinkle. He has been in Band for three and a half years, and will attend Maryville University to study Sports Business Management. Tucker's favorite thing to do in Band is play "Locked out of Heaven" in Pep Band.

Hannah Worthen is the daughter of Ryan and Katie Worthen. She has been in Band for four years, served as a Color Guard Captain for three years, and will attend Liberty University, spin with their Color Guard, and major in International Relations. She says her favorite thing about Band is "A tie between hearing Mr. Stalter's stories and jokes and learning about the history of the pieces we play and their composers...OR...finally nailing a really challenging technical passage for the first time and hearing the

way the notes mesh with the winds' music.” She says “Thank you for all the laughs and the stories, for all the helpful hints and counting tips, and for making my last semester of Band amazing.”

Ella Blunier is the daughter of Tim and Susie Blunier. She has been in Band for four years, and will attend ICC in the fall. “My favorite memory is of my sophomore year at ISU. We got there very early because we were the third Band on, and a few of us went up into the stands, which were completely empty. It was strangely peaceful, a weird contrast to how crazy we knew it was going to be later. It put the day and the competition in a new light, and for me, it's one of my main memories of Band.” Ella says “A few years ago I considered quitting Band, and now I’m very glad I didn’t.”

Sam Kruger is the son of Mike and Laurette Kruger. He has been in Band for three and a half years, and will attend Grace College in the fall. Sam says “I enjoyed building friendships with people in other grades that I wouldn’t normally talk to. And keep your tootsies in time!”

Henry Albertson is the son of Mark and Janet Albertson. He has been in Band for four years, and will be joining the workforce and earning his CDL to work as a truck driver. Henry’s favorite thing about Band was “opportunities to develop new skills and have new experiences.” He says “No matter how hard you have to work, don’t forget to have fun.”

Eliza Denham is the daughter of Jason and Colleen Denham. She has been in Band for four years, and will attend ICC to complete their Radiology program. Eliza says “I love sitting in the front row and being able to talk to Mr. Stalter each day. I hope you all enjoy your time here and don’t take any of it for granted. Band is a great community where you can learn many lessons.”

Ciarra Abel is the daughter of Lance and Jenny Abel. She has been in Band for four years, and along with earning eight Division 1 ratings at IHSA Solo and Ensemble Contest, she has been a member of HOI Honor Band, Bradley Honor Band, ILMEA District Orchestra, ILMEA All-State Band, and is a recipient of the Mahlon Saxton and Director’s Awards at EHS. Ciarra is a member of the 144th Army Band, and will attend Illinois State University in the fall majoring in Crop Science, Animal Science, and Pre-veterinary Science. She says “My favorite thing about being in Band is listening to how drastically musicians can grow throughout the years when they are disciplined and persevere. Do hard things! You are capable of more than you think, so if it’s not hard, it’s not worth doing.”

Kane Schertz is the son of Andrew and Natasha Schertz. He has been in Band for four years, and his goal is to become an Electrical Engineer at Caterpillar, via ICC and pursuing a Masters Degree at the University of Illinois. His favorite Band memory is this year’s “comeback” against IVC at ISMBC, and he reminds everyone “Hearts on Fire, Minds on Ice.”

Deacon Dingleline is the son of Dean and Stefanie Dingleline. He has been in Band for four years, and his future plans include working in Social Services. His favorite thing about Band is “being with friends during the marching season and talking with the only other people who obsess over marching band the way I do.” Deacon says “Fill the drill spots we leave you with.”

Keira Follmer is the daughter of Tim and Sarah Follmer. She has been in Band for four years, served as a Color Guard Captain for two years, and plans on working in Real Estate and Interior Design. Keira’s favorite thing about Band is getting to make new friends throughout the year. She says “To the Clarinets: Thank you for being the best section I could be a part of. To the entire Band: I wish you all the best as you continue your years in Band.”

Alli Wetzler is the daughter of Christopher and Rhonda Wetzler. She has been in Band for four years, and served as Drum Major for three years. She has been an HOI Conference Honor Band member, and a

recipient of the Semper Fidelis Award. Alli will attend Illinois State University in the fall to major in Legal Studies, eventually earning her law degree and becoming a lawyer. “My favorite thing about Band is how it has connected me with really great people. Being in Band, you spend a lot of time with the people in the organization and make lasting connections with your peers. Band has brought me closer to a lot of the people I enjoy being around and I am so incredibly thankful for the culture and environment in the EHS Band. My favorite memory would have to be coming off the field after prelims this year at ISU. The feeling was so unlike any other and it really felt like everything came together and we were starting to see all the hard work pay off. It was definitely a moment I will never forget.” Alli reminds us: “Always work hard, but don't forget to have some fun along the way. Don't take any moment for granted and live in the now, it will be over before you know it.”

Samantha Rhoades is the daughter of Kelly and Mandy Rhoades. She has been in Band for four years, and will be attending St. Ambrose University in the fall, to study Occupational Therapy. Sam’s favorite Band memory is “when we play a piece all the way through for the first time. It’s always exciting to see the progress and how far we’ve come.” She says “Keep being the best people you can possibly be!”

Blake Andrews is the son of Jason and Becky Andrews.

Tanner Ellis is the son of Josh and Brittany Ellis.

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A Personal Note From Mr. Stalter...

It is true when they say that you never think about the end when you begin your teaching career. The end does come, whether you are ready for it or not. 34 years is a long time, but it does not seem that way when I look back at each individual year and remember the students, the music, the performances, and the memories all of us shared in the Band room and places like Disney World, Orchestra Hall Chicago, the Cotton Bowl and the Liberty Bowl, and countless other stadiums and concert halls around Illinois. Watching the video presentation at my retirement reception yesterday brought so many memories of music, people, and places, my emotions ran the gamut. I expect it to be the same tonight, and in the days to come. I have been blessed with a wonderful family, students, and colleagues, and want to take a moment to thank them.

To My Family...My wife Angie is everything. She has done more to help me build this program than anyone else, and the EHS Band could not have had the successes it has had without her. From dirty jobs like painting practice fields to creative ones like designing logos and apparel and dozens of other things behind the scenes, she also had to accept me being gone every weekend for three months in the fall and all the other evenings a high school band director has to spend at school, which was especially hard when we had a little one at home. Our son Evan was my student from 1st grade through high school, and the privilege of teaching him is one of my greatest joys. My mom Karen and sister Krista have always been active in their support, making Band Camp special every year, and to be able to share this entire experience with them is a blessing. Though my dad passed in 2000, I taught for 34 years, just as he did at Limestone Community High School as a Business teacher. I know he knows.

To My Band Colleagues...District 140 is a wonderful place to teach. I was lucky to arrive in 1991 and work with the person who started me on my instrument, Bill Anderson, and I learned a lot about the “job” and how to program literature from him. Tina Cramer taught Gen Music and lessons at EMS for the first 11 years I was here, she was an excellent woodwind teacher. Denise Quitschau took her place in 2002, and also assisted me at the high school, (at that time the Marching Band routinely had over 100 students) and then took over the EMS Band program when Bill retired. I enjoyed teaching with Denise immensely as she trained class after class of excellent players. In 2020 Ben Wyland took over the EMS Band program, and his work as an assistant for the Marching Band has been a wonderful partnership, his creative ideas and visual acumen have vaulted the program to a higher level of achievement. He is one of the most positive people I know, and his enthusiasm for music and life inspires those junior high students. Kari Marino, our Color Guard instructor and the only one I have ever worked with, has spent 27 years here. She is an amazing teacher and coach, and it is an honor to be her colleague and to call her a friend. I took special joy in working with former students like Shane Rocke and Josh Paul with the Drumline, and so many others that worked and volunteered for my camps.

To My Students...There is no Band without my students, the kids who I love to be with every single day. They amaze me with their dedication to each other and to the program. Nobody is ever going to outwork them, and they pass that discipline and expectation down from year to year. Making music with so many people over so many years has been the greatest privilege imaginable, and I am proud to say I was your teacher. To have been here in this place, at this time...how fortunate was I?

Everybody, All The Time