



○○○

MISSOURI BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

BUILDING BETTER BANDS

Jan. 2026 | Vol. 31



Observe, Listen, Learn With Travis J. Cross

Directors are strongly encouraged to stop by rehearsals with Travis J. Cross—the rehearsal schedule can be found later in this newsletter. Scores will be available for directors to browse while listening, providing a valuable opportunity to follow along, observe rehearsal strategies, and engage deeply with the music in real time. Travis is Professor of Music and Director of Bands at UCLA, where he conducts the Wind Ensemble and leads the graduate wind conducting program. He is an internationally respected conductor, composer, and clinician who has appeared in more than 40 states and at major events, including the Midwest Clinic, Texas Music Educators Association, and the Music for All National Festival.

Beyond his impressive résumé, Travis was truly a joy to be around at the June convention—approachable, thoughtful, and inspiring. Directors who attend rehearsals will gain not only practical rehearsal insight but also meaningful professional growth and enjoyment from spending time learning alongside him.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 28-31, 2026

- All-State Band/MMEA

March 1, 2026

- VP Interest Form
- Young Band Director Grant
- MBA Hall of Fame Nomination
- Butch Antal Service Nomination

April 1-June 1, 2025

- Pre-registration opens

June 14-17, 2026

- MBA Summer Convention

MMEA BAND EVENTS

Wednesday, January 28

9:00 AM – MSHSAA Adjudicator's Training - Instrumental | Nautical Wheeler

10:15 AM – Small Band Spotlight: Insider Tips for Festival Success | 70-73

1:00 PM – Band - Mentor Breakout Session | 77

Thursday, January 29

8:00 AM – Sax Appeal: Practical Strategies for Building a Better Saxophone Section | 70-73

8:15 AM – Delta Woods Middle School 8th Grade Band | Paradise A

9:00 AM – Edge of Your Seat Rehearsals | Paradise C

9:15 AM – Southeast Missouri State University Horn Choir | Paradise A

10:15 AM – Blue Springs South Wind Symphony | Paradise A

11:15 AM – Lutheran South Wind Symphony | Paradise A

12:15 PM – Hickman High School Wind Ensemble | Paradise A

1:30 PM – MBA Business Meeting | 74-77

2:00 PM – MainStage for Educators: Bringing Synths to the Stage and Sideline | Nautical Wheeler

2:15 PM – MBA Meet the Conductor | 74-77

2:15 PM – If I Knew Then What I Know Now | 70-73

2:30 PM – MSSBDA Business Meeting | Cedar Cove

3:00 PM – MOAJE Business Meeting | Nautical Wheeler

3:15 PM – St. Joseph Christian Wind Band | Paradise A

5:45 PM – Lee's Summit Jazz Orchestra | Paradise A

8:45 PM – Saint Louis Wind Symphony

MMEA BAND EVENTS

Friday, January 30

8:00 AM – University of Missouri Percussion Ensemble | Paradise A

9:15 AM – School of the Osage Wind Ensemble | Paradise A

10:15 AM – Branson 8th Grade Honors Band | Paradise A

11:00 AM – MOAJE Meet the Conductor | 74-77

11:00 AM – Can't Afford NOT To: Essential Practices Towards A Thriving Band Program | 70-73

1:00 PM – Enhancing Outcomes for Your Band's Visual Program | 70-73

2:15 PM – Lafayette High School Wind Ensemble | Paradise A

2:15 PM – Teaching Improvisation: Simple Ways to Help Your Students | 70-73

2:45 PM – St. Louis Wind Symphony | Paradise A

3:15 PM – UCM Wind Ensemble | Paradise A

3:15 PM – Teaching Improvisation | 70-73

3:45 PM – Deaf Students CAN be Successful in Band! | Nautical Wheeler

4:30 PM – St. Charles West Ensemble | Paradise A

4:30 PM – You Pick Your Music - You Pick Your Rating | 70-73

Saturday, January 31

9:00 AM – From Whoa to Wow! Building Confident Young Musicians | Nautical Wheeler

11:00 AM – Breaking the Cycle of Boring Solo Sections | 74-77

1:30 PM – All-State Jazz Band Performance | Paradise A/B/C

3:30 PM – All-State Band | Paradise A

ALL-STATE BAND REHEARSALS

Wednesday, January 28

3:00 PM – All-State Registration | Nautical Wheeler

4:30 PM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Compass Rose

10:00 PM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Paradise A

Thursday, January 29

7:00 AM – All-State Band Sectionals | Compass Rose

11:00 AM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Compass Rose

3:30 PM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Compass Rose

8:30 PM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Compass Rose

Friday, January 30

8:00 AM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Compass Rose

9:45 AM – All-State Band Sectionals | Windrose

2:00 PM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Compass Rose

5:00 PM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Compass Rose

9:15 PM – All-State Band Rehearsal & Picture | Paradise A

Saturday, January 31

9:00 AM – All-State Band Rehearsal | Paradise A

3:30 PM – All-State Band Performance | Paradise Ballroom

BUILDING BETTER BANDS

MISSOURI BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

Jan. 2026 | Vol. 31



Thank You to Our 2025 SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSORS



DIAMOND SPONSORS



Missouri Alliance
for Arts Education



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS

Demoulin

University of Missouri-St. Louis

JOIN MBA

Active Membership: \$50

Associate Membership: \$40

Sustaining Membership: \$150

Retired Membership: \$30

Collegiate Membership: FREE

First-Year Teacher Membership: FREE

<https://missouribandmasters.org/membership/>

MBA Exhibitors and Sponsors
Contact Information

MBA OFFICERS

President | Sarah Sacco

President-Elect | Julie Swope

Past President | Brad Hudson

Board Member | Kenny Hansen

Secretary/Treasurer | Kurt Bauche

Membership Chair | Doug Hoover

Historian | Allyson Tipton

Calendar | Erin Johnson

Exhibitor Chair | Steve Litwiller

Technology Chair | Daniel Long

