

September 2, 2022

Dear colleague,

As our season of music making gets underway, we are pleased to invite you and your students to participate in our annual **St. Olaf Festival of Bands**. This year's festival, to be held on **November 12**, promises to be a stimulating day for students and teachers alike. Culminating an exciting and intense day of rehearsals will be performances by the Festival Band, the St. Olaf Band, and the Norseman Band. The Festival of Bands has enjoyed a long, successful history of bringing together outstanding high school musicians to prepare and share a program with nationally known artists.

We are very excited that **Dr. Kaitlin Bove** has accepted our invitation to lead the Festival of Bands on November 12th, when she will share her expertise with the students and participating directors. Dr. Kaitlin Bove serves as director of bands and assistant professor of music at Diablo Valley College in California. She is also conductor and artistic director of the Diablo Wind Symphony, a youth wind ensemble within the Blue Devils Performing Arts organization. In addition, Dr. Bove serves on the California Band Director Association board as the diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility chair. Prior to these appointments, she held the title of director of instrumental music at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, where she instructed band, orchestra, chamber ensembles, and courses in music theory and music appreciation. She earned a doctorate of musical arts in wind conducting from University of Kentucky, where she was a student of Cody Birdwell and premiered her wind transcription of Caroline Shaw's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Partita for 8 Voices* in 2019.

Dr. Bove is from Lafayette, California and earned her bachelor and master of music degrees in education from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, where she studied with Eric Hammer. Prior to her doctoral work, she taught instrumental music at the secondary level in Payson, Utah. In this setting, she instructed courses in band, orchestra, marching band, jazz ensemble, AP music theory, guitar, folk music, musical theater, and mariachi.

Kaitlin is founder of the [And We Were Heard](#) initiative which matches underrepresented composers of wind band, orchestral, and choral literature with volunteer ensembles to generate quality recordings of the music of diverse compositional voices. In the vein of this philosophy, Dr. Bove maintains a high commitment to commissioning and performing works by both living composers. She is also co-founder of [Girls Who Conduct](#), a mentorship program that supports gender parity on the conducting podium.

Our new colleague for the year conducting the Norseman Band is Dr. Michael Buck, a 1989 graduate of St. Olaf College and the former director of bands at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. We are excited for the impact he will have on our music making and study.

There will be one Festival Band made up of students selected from the nearly 400 nominees. We invite you to nominate up to five students from your band, including your fine players on the oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, euphonium, baritone saxophone, etc. Please rank them in order of excellence from 1 to 5. Briefly state any honors your students have received (All-State memberships, contest participation, seating placement within your ensemble, etc.) and be sure to indicate whether baritone players read treble or bass clef, and list the strengths of your percussionists (timpani, mallets, etc.). **You may submit nominations online at <https://wp.stolaf.edu/music/st-olaf-festival-of-bands/> from now through October 7.**



# ST. OLAF BAND

TIMOTHY MAHR • CONDUCTOR

We issue music ahead of time, which increases the quality of the performance, so please check with your students in advance to be sure that they can attend, if selected, on Saturday, November 12. “No-shows” cause balance problems in the ensemble, deprive other students of the opportunity to participate, and are a librarian’s nightmare. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

There is a participation fee of \$12.50 per individual to register for the event, which will include lunch from Stav Hall (ranked in the top-five college cafeterias in the country by *The Princeton Review!*), along with an admissions info session. You and a guest are invited to join us for a complimentary directors’ luncheon in Buntrock Commons, where we can share ideas and good fellowship.

The safety of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors remains our top priority at the St. Olaf Festival of Bands. This event will follow whatever current COVID-19 policies are in place for St. Olaf College campus visitors. As of August 2022, college policy does not require campus guests to show proof of vaccinations. As with everything related to COVID-19, this is subject to change as circumstances change, so we strongly encourage vaccinations for those planning to participate. We ask that participants test on the morning of the day you’ll arrive on campus. If you test positive, please do not attend the event. At this point, we anticipate the participants will be able to rehearse together as a full ensemble, without distancing or masking requirements. However, participants should bring a mask and be ready and willing to wear it when instructed by college staff. Participants will be notified as soon as possible of any changes to the campus policy and may be required to show vaccination cards depending on the St. Olaf College policy at that time. ***By participating in this event at St. Olaf College, you confirm that you will wear a mask when requested and/or if experiencing symptoms, will test before coming to campus, will comply with all campus standards related to COVID-19 at the time, and voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.***

Thank you in advance for your attention to this policy, and for helping keep our campus and one another safe. First and foremost, we are committed to your safety, that of our conductors, students, faculty and staff, and audience members alike. For future updates to the St. Olaf College policies related to the Festival of Bands, please see our St. Olaf Festival of Bands website at <https://wp.stolaf.edu/music/st-olaf-festival-of-bands/>.

Please [go online](#) to complete the nomination form and luncheon reservation by **Friday, October 7**. Email [bandfestival@stolaf.edu](mailto:bandfestival@stolaf.edu) if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you at St. Olaf College. Good luck with the start of your year!

Sincerely,



Dr. Timothy Mahr, Professor  
Robert Scholz Endowed Chair in Music  
Conductor, St. Olaf Band

