Frequently asked questions

What is JR/SR Honor Band?

On November 18th and 19th, Texas A&M University-Commerce will host the 59th 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.
- Perform in one of the two clinic honor bands.
- Work with internationally known guest composer John Mackey. Work with Conductors, Phillip Clements, TAMUC Director of Bands, and Allan Goodwin, TAMUC Associate Director of Bands.
- Attend a faculty recital by internationally recognized TAMUC 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. Mackey’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/music and click on Annual Programs and Workshops and then 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 $35.00 per student. To celebrate the musical accomplishments of the students, we offer the following discounts: 2015-2016 All-Region members may attend for $25.00, 2015-2016 All-Area members may attend for $15.00, and 2015-2016 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 with cash, check (made out to Texas A&M University-Commerce) or credit card.
What if I have a play-off game on that Friday night?

We recognize that bands may still be involved in playoff games. While some 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 have to miss the Friday session due to a conflict with a football game are asked to arrive promptly by 7:15 AM on Saturday morning to register and audition prior to the morning session.

What music do I audition on?

Honor band auditions are for placement in one of two bands and for chair placement only. Every student nominated before the ensembles are full 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 are unable to commute to the event and 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 make hotel reservations, please call the Hotel Magnuson in Commerce (903.886.4777) or the Holiday Inn Express in Greenville (903.454.8680) and ask for the Texas A&M University-Commerce Junior/Senior Honor Band weekend rate. 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 19th 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: http://www.tamuc.edu/music (Click on Annual Programs and Workshops and then JR/SR Honor Band)

Will the concert be recorded?

Yes! A professional recording of the concert will be made and forms will be available to order. The cost will be $20.00.