Mon Are The Song



HILLIARD MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

8TH GRADE TREBLE CHOIR

2025 OMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 7, 2025 CLEVELAND, OHIO





David J. Stewart, Superintendent • Melissa Swearingen, Treasurer

The Hilliard City School District is incredibly proud to recognize our Memorial Middle School 8th Grade Treble Choir under the direction of Mrs. Kelsey Burkett, for being selected to perform live at the Ohio Music Education Association's 2025 Professional Development Conference.

On behalf of the Board of Education and our entire district, I wish to congratulate each member for their hard work and dedication. Being invited to perform at one of the largest Music Educator Conferences in the United States is an amazing accomplishment.

Our district is blessed to have the support of our parents and community, who place a high level of importance on the Performing Arts in education. We are honored to have these students representing our district.

Sincerely,

David J. Stewart

Superintendent, Hilliard City Schools

On behalf of the Fine Arts Department of the Hilliard City School District, I am so pleased to recognize Hilliard Memorial Middle School's Eighth Grade Treble Choir on their being selected to perform at the 2025 Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference. Kelsey Burkett, along with assistance from Alyssa Schott, spends countless hours working with these talented young musicians leading them to a performance level that is deserving of statewide recognition.

What most impresses me about this choir is that it is a group with 100% turnover each year yet maintains a consistency of performance level quality that never filters. This is a testament to the quality of the overall program. From the musical training at our elementary schools, through Joy! Grubbs teaching at the feeder sixth grade school, through Mrs. Burkett and Ms. Schott, as well as Mr. Jeremy Witt, working with the eighth graders at Memorial there is a seamless consistency of quality and an unwavering expectation of excellence in choral music.

As the Fine Arts Coordinator, I could not be prouder of the Memorial Middle School Eighth Grade Treble Choir in the entire choral program at Memorial Middle School & Bradley High School. The school district is fortunate to have this and many other fine programs developing the musicianship, sense of pride, work ethic and many other life skills for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Sholl — Fine Arts Coordinator - Hilliard City School District

A Note From The Director

Hello! Thank you so much for choosing to attend our performance today! My goal in planning this program was to give you the opportunity to see and hear what the middle school singer is capable of as a performer. I am a firm believer that if you have a voice, you can sing. The 8th Grade Treble Choir is a non-auditioned ensemble made up of students who want to sing, grow as human beings, and for a bond in being part of something bigger than themselves.

Today's program consists of repertoire from the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years. Middle School choir is that "sweet spot" where we can pick repertoire from both children's choir genres as well as start pushing them to achieve more advanced pieces that allow them to grow vocally, musically, and intellectually. I once heard someone say "Middle school is not 'little high school'-it is 'big elementary school '.'" I think this is so important to remember both from an education standpoint as well as a developmental one.

In 2022, the 8th Grade Treble Choir was invited to perform at OMEA and we unfortunately never got to experience the mountain top moment, as that week a major blizzard hit the entire state of Ohio. This has weighed heavy on my heart ever since. I hope that you are reading these words now, which would mean that we did indeed make it to our 2025 OMEA Performance!

I am so proud of the incredible humans you see in front of you. Proud is really an understatement. Grateful. Humbled. Blessed. The majority of them are two year members, and chose to come back to choir again when many of their peers move on to other electives. This particular group of young people is one of the most talented, intelligent, and kind groups of 8th Graders that I have ever taught. They have repeatedly shown up and given their absolute best. I truly am incredibly lucky to get to be their teacher.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my people! My wife, Jen, and daughter, Harper who have traveled here today, and deal with the many hours I am away from home. They show up to every performance and are my biggest cheerleaders. Thank you to my best friend, Emily Campbell, who presided over our performance today and has been my soul sister for 15 years. Thank you to Cierra Lee for designing our program and post card, and who also acts as our vocal coach for the Jaguar A Cappella Program. Jeremy Witt & Alyssa Schott: Thank you for being such wonderful co-teachers. Together, we have shaped our program into a safe, loving, and musically enriching environment, with each individual singer thriving as both musician and human being. #jagfam

2025 OMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE HILLIARD MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE TREBLE CHOIR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025 -3:30 PM

KELSEY D. BURKETT, Conductor

ALYSSA SCHOTT, ASST. CONDUCTOR
DR. JOOWON KIM, ACCOMPANIST
ERIN BROADHURST, VIOLA
EMILY JOHNSON, CELLO
PHIL NAGY, PERCUSSION & GUITAR

SOPHIE ABATE, PERCUSSION
XANDER BULLINGER, PERCUSSION
NIMA RAYCHAUDHURT, VIOLIN
CHARLES PFORSICH, VIOLIN
JOLIE HOANG, BASS

Sections to be performed without apple	ause.
1.	
You are the Song	
	Text by Robert Bode
	Santa Barbra SBMP 1552
As You Sing	Sarah Quartel Oxford University Press
Playground Tunes	
Tayground Turies	Heritage Music Press
	15/1549H
II.	
Si Verias a la Rana	
	arr. Moira Smiley moirasmiley.com
Terang	
Terang	ICC Publishing/Beckenhorst Press
	ICC1030DL
TIL.	
Flight	
	Walton Music WW1869
Millie Tran, Monse Melendez. Aleaha Welling, Liv Cecil,	
Children Go Where I Send TheeTra	aditional African American Spiritual
Children do where i Send Thee	arr. Kevin Phillip Johnson
	Carl Fischer LLC CM9742
BowBow Sene, rap artist; Millie Tran & Anabella Bel	
IV.	
Plowshare Prayer	Spencer La Joye/arr. Nate Terry
	manuscript
	SSAA Voicing World Premier

Brynn Jones, Millie Tran, Emily Shampine, & Mary Hickey, soloists

<u>Si Verias a la Rana</u>

Rough Translation

Si veriyas a la rana Astentada en al oryana Friendo sus buenas fritas Espartiendo a sus ermanikas If you see a frog
sit on the oven
frying her best potatoes
Disperse them to your sisters

(Turkish) Ben seni severim Cok seni severiam

I love you! I love you much!

Si veriyas al gameyo Astentada en el tablero Mudando sus buenas filas Mas delgadas ke sus kaveyos If you saw a camel sit at the table move your beautiful daughters Who are thinner than a hair

Si veriyas al raton Asentada en el kanton Mundad sus mezizikas Espartiendo a sus ermanikas

If you saw a rat mitting in the corner move your little muezin Disperse your sisters

<u>Terang</u> Light

Oh cahaya yang terang

Oh light that is bright

Orang seorang, orang mati

Person alone, person dies

Orang berdua, berkira

oerkira Person in twos will bicara talk/discuss/converse

Bayang-bayang, tari,

Shadows, dance, will

berkira bicara talk/discuss/converse

This work draws inspiration from the fading performance art of the Malay-Kelantanese Wayan Kulit (shadow puppet) tradition and the mythologies and music that are a part of it. This artform largely showcases Hindu epic, the Ramayana. Terang focuses on the duel of the Celestial Archers (Dewa Panah) in the Ramayana who represent the duality of dark and light, both essential and complementary elements of human nature. I am drawn to this artform for its equal beauty in light and shadow, whereby the latter does not bear negative connotations. ~Tracy Wong

Soprano

Blythe Blankenbiller Liv Cecil Riley Cordill Kylie Gale Emmalyn Howell Quinne Knupp McKenzie Levitt Racha Lourdjane Monse Melendez Chloe Nighswander Abby Pasquerella Kourtney Richardson Emily Shilling Elise Snider Millie Tran Avi Verrett



<u>Alto</u>

Anabella Bello El Jawhari
Penny Bullinger
Sofie Dina
Kylie Eley
Eliana Ghebreyohannes
Lydia Gordon
Natali Hernandez Garcia
Payton McCarty
Izzy McClellan
Brielle Miller
Lilly Osborne
BowBow Sene
Tempy Ziehm

Mezzo

Austyn Anderson Madi Centric Emma Dittoe Chelsee Fischer Mary Hickey Brynn Jones Lilly Owens Brooklyn Rowland Callie Sacco Chloe Sexten **Emily Shampine** Albanee Schneider Amelia Staugler Evie Timbrook Jade Tomsic Kayla Tran Aleaha Welling



About The Engemble

The Hilliard Memorial Middle School Choirs have established a tradition of excellence over the last several years. Over 130 students participate in the Memorial Choirs. The singers perform a variety of repertoire in contrasting styles and genres. They have consistently received Superior and Excellent ratings at OMEA Large Group Contest and have been crowned Grand Champion at the Music in the Parks Competition at Cedar Point for several years. In June 2016, the MMS Choirs made their Carnegie Hall Debut as a part of the Songs of Inspiration and Hope, under the direction of Mrs. Lori Loftus of the Southern California Children's Choir. In 2018, the 8th Grade Treble Choir performed at the Ohio Choral Directors Summer Conference.

The Choirs are divided into voice based ensembles to foster the voice change transition as well as the social emotional needs of the middle school student. The choirs perform on four at home concerts a year, presenting Treble, Tenor-Bass, Cambiata, and SA(T)B literature that both fosters their musical learning as well as provides social and emotional connection to the world as a whole. The choirs are fed by the Station Sixth Grade choral program, directed by Joy! Grubbs. Following middle school, students have the opportunity to join one of the five curricular choirs at Hilliard Bradley High School, under the direction of Jeremy Witt & Alyssa Schott. In addition to the curricular choirs, Memorial Middle School and Bradley High School offer four contemporary a cappella groups as part of the Jaguar A Cappella program: Blue Notes, Wave, Echo, and Shades of Blue.

The Hilliard Memorial MS 8th Grade Treble Choir is honored to have been selected at the 2025 Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference in Cleveland, OH. We would like to thank the many professionals, family, and friends that have helped us prepare along the way, including Dr. Lynda Hasseler, Dr. Chad Payton, Dr. Laura Kitchel, Amber Fisher, Nate Terry, & Alyssa Schott. We are so grateful to Dr. Joowon Kim for his impeccable collaborative artistry as an accompanist. Thank you to MMS/Bradley HS Orchestra Directors Erin Broadhurst & Emily Johnson, for helping prepare our outstanding string players and for joining us today. Thank you to Phil Nagy, who is always willing to jump in to help enhance our performances as well Sophie Abate, Xander Bullinger, Nima Raychaudhuri, Charles Pforsich, & Jolie Hoang for their incredible instrumental skills. Additionally, a huge thank you to Mrs. Mindy Mordarski and Mr. Jon Way for the support and advocacy for the Memorial Performing Arts Department and the Memorial Staff for being such wonderful role models for the Jaquar Family! Finally, we are so grateful to our Fine Arts Coordinator, Dr. Mark Sholl, for acting as a constant advocate, sounding board, and bridge for the teachers, students, and administrators of the Hilliard City School District.



Kelsey D. Burkett Conductor

Raised in Solon, OH, Kelsey D. Burkett is a 2006 Graduate of Capital University, where she majored in Music Education and served as the alto section leader in the renown Chapel Choir. She completed her Masters of Music in Music Education and Kodaly Certification from Capital University in 2019. In her 19th year of teaching, she has a passion for the developing voice and middle school singers.

She serves as the Director of Choirs at Hilliard Memorial Middle School, where she directs the 7th Grade Treble Choir, 8th Grade Treble Choir, and Blue Notes A Cappella. She also serves as co-director, alongside Jeremy Witt & Alyssa Schott, of Hilliard Bradley High School's premier contemporary a cappella group, Shades of Blue A Cappella, who were crowned the 2023 ICHSA National Champions. Together, her team runs the Jaguar A Cappella Program, consisting of four 7-12 contemporary a cappella groups.

Choirs under her direction have consistently received Superior and Excellent ratings and Grand Championships at the District, State, and National Contest levels. In June 2016, the MMS Choirs made their Carnegie Hall Debut as a part of the Songs of Inspiration and Hope Concert under the direction of Mrs. Lori Loftus. In Summer of 2018, the MMS 8th Grade Treble Choir performed for the Ohio Choral Directors Association Summer Conference at Otterbein University and in 2021 were invited to perform at the Ohio Music Education Conference. Ms. Burkett is a warrior for Social Justice within her community, and co-founded the Hilliard BIPOC Alliance, for her coworkers of color within the Hilliard City School District, working for change within and outside of their classrooms. Currently, she serves as the National Co-Chair for Contemporary/Commercial Choirs for the American Choral Directors Association and the Treble Honor Choir Chair for the Ohio Choral Directors Association.

In March 2020, she was awarded the 2020 Country Music Association Foundation's Music Teachers of Excellence, one of only 10 teachers from across the United States.

Ms. Burkett maintains an active singing career, performing with professional ensembles around the city of Columbus. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the Organization of American Kodaly Educators. Above all her professional accomplishments, her greatest joy is being mom to 6-year-old Harper, wife to Jen, and cat mom to Phil.

Follow her on Instagram: @biracialchoirunicorn



and vocalist originally from Orland Park, Illinois. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Music Education specializing in vocal music. At Hilliard Bradley High School, Schott is responsible for teaching the treble voices of the Bradley Choir program. She directs the Concert Choir, Chorale, co-teaches the 8th Grade Treble Choir at Memorial Middle School with Kelsey Burkett, and assists Jeremy Witt with the Symphonic Choir

Schott currently serves as the South Central Region Chair for the Ohio Choral Directors Association. She co-presented at the annual 2023 OMEA conference in Columbus, Ohio in a session geared towards young educators preparing to transition into a new professional position. In March, she is scheduled to present an interest session at the 2024 ACDA national conference in Dallas, Texas.

Alongside Witt and Burkett, she leads the Jaguar A Cappella Program which boasts four contemporary a cappella groups in grades 7-12. She directs Wave A Cappella and serves as a co-director of Shades of Blue, Bradley High School?s premier contemporary a cappella group. In addition to local performances, Shades of Blue competes in the ICHSA tournament, performed at the ACDA national conference in Cincinnati, completes recording projects released on streaming platforms, maintains an active social media presence, and has regularly performed at national conferences in recent years.

During her time at Ohio State, Schott spent a year as the assistant director of the Hilliard Youth Chorus. She served as the state Student Representative for the OCDA State Board as well as the President of the student chapter of the ACDA at OSU. Schott studied voice with Professor Loretta Robinson and conducting with Dr. Kristina MacMullen. Schott was the winner of the Wilson Vocal Competition and recipient of the Swank Vocal Award and John Long Music Education Award.

In addition to her scholastic commitments, Schott sings professionally as a soprano soloist around the Columbus area and is an active member of the Ohio Music Education Association and American Choral Directors Association. She regularly sings as a soloist and soprano section leader at First Community Church in Grandview, Ohio. She resides in Hilliard with her fiancé, Austin, and three cats, Jubal, Mabel, and Phoebe.



performer from Hilliard, Ohio. He is a graduate of Cedarville University with a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education and of Kent State University with a Master's in Music Education. He currently is in his seventh year of teaching and serves as the Director of Choirs at Hilliard Bradley High School. In his role at Bradley, Jeremy conducts the Symphonic Choir and Concert Choir Tenor/Bass. He also oversees the Jaguar A Cappella program, co – directs Shades of Blue a cappella with Ms. Kelsey Burkett and Mr. Alyssa Schott, and directs ECHO

a cappella. In addition to his responsibilities at Bradley, Jeremy directs the 7th and 8th Grade Tenor/Bass choir at Memorial Middle School.

Jeremy is very involved in the contemporary a cappella movement. He has served as a producer for the all – a cappella radio station, Acaville. Jeremy has worked as a judge for the Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards, and as a judge for the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella and International Championship of High School A Cappella. Jeremy founded Cedarville University's first contemporary a cappella group, The Inversions, and served as the Music Director/President four years. Under his direction, the group had sold-out concerts, produced two EP studio recordings, and had their singles "Stay" and "Mad World" selected for the international a cappella compilation album Voices Only. The "Mad World" music video was nominated for an A Cappella Video Award.

Jeremy has continued his work in contemporary a cappella educationally through developing the Hilliard Bradley High School A Cappella program with Kelsey Burkett and Alyssa Schott. In recent years, the program has grown from one to four contemporary a cappella groups. Jaguar A Cappella consists of one middle school group, Blue Notes, and three high school groups WAVE, ECHO, and the award-winning Shades of Blue. In 2023, Jeremy was awarded Ohio Music Education Association's Outstanding Young Music Educator! He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, Ohio Choral Directors Association, Ohio Music Education Association.

Jeremy is lovingly supported by his wife, Lindi, and daughters, Hayden & Hattie.



Dr. Joowon (im earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree with a major in music composition from the Ohio State University. He also holds a Master of Music degree in music composition from Western Michigan University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from the Kyungbuk National University in South Korea. He has served on the music adjunct faculty since 2014 in Hiram college, Wright State University and is currently teaching in Indiana Wesleyan University. Dr. Kim has been working as a music instructor to teach piano, music composition and theory, and also as a music

director, organist, accompanist, worship team leader in many churches in the US and South Korea for 25 years. He is currently a music instructor in music studios and staff accompanist at BalletMet and Ohio State University.

Shelby Reed

In the sixth grade, Shelby attended her first choir class and has since surrounded herself with music. Shelby Reed is from DeGraff, Ohio, and graduated from Riverside Local Schools in 2021. She continued her studies at Ohio University majoring in Music Education- Choral Emphasis with a minor in conducting. She's expected to graduate in the Spring of 2025.

Shelby's teaching is very methodical, connecting each step to the next. Creativity, expression,

collaboration, reflection, and growth play a role within her classroom. Teaching is her passion, music is her hobby, and her future career will be a perfect blend of the things she loves. She hopes to inspire others and provide a safe space for her students.

Hilliard City Schools

Contact

2140 Atlas Street Columbus, OH 43228 PH: (614) 921-7000 FX: (614) 921-7001

hilliardschools.org

Kara Crowley Kelley Arnold Beth Murdoch

Brian Perry Zach Vorst

Board of Education

Mindy Mordarski, Principal Jon Way, Asst. Principal Justin Lemmerman, Athletic Director Stephanie Bobek & Carolyn DiSalvo, Guidance Counselors

Amanda Downey, School Social Worker



Mindy Mordarski, Principal • Jon Way, Asst. Principal

On behalf of Hilliard Memorial Middle School, I want to congratulate the 8th grade Treble Choir on the incredible achievement of being selected to perform at the OMEA Conference! This is an honor that reflects the hard work, dedication, and passion each of you has put into your music. Your collective efforts, under the guidance of Mrs. Kelsey Burkett, have clearly paid off, and this opportunity is a well-deserved recognition of your talent.

Performing at such a prestigious event is a huge accomplishment. The OMEA Conference is a wonderful platform to showcase your abilities and share the joy of music with others at the conference. I have no doubt that you will inspire everyone who hears your performance, just as you inspire each other with every note you sing.

Mrs. Burkett, thank you for your leadership, commitment, and support in helping the choir reach this milestone. Your guidance is clearly making a positive and lasting impact on your students, and this achievement is a testament to your dedication as a teacher.

Once again, congratulations to Mrs. Burkett and the Treble Choir on this well-deserved recognition. I'm certain your performance will be an unforgettable experience for everyone in attendance.

Go Jags!

Sincerely,

Mindy Mordarski Principal Hilliard Memorial Middle School

The Arts in the tilliard City School District

Hilliard City schools are committed to education, ensuring the child is in a safe and caring environment where administrators, teachers, support staff, and parents offer programs and resources that make learning both fun and challenging.

Student success results from a variety of carefully planned curricular and co-curricular activities that stress academics, citizenship, character, the arts, health, and well-being, and social development.

We believe that Arts Education is essential for all learners because:

- The arts provide critical opportunities and learning experiences not available in any other discipline.
- As we connect the arts experiences to other disciplines, students value those disciplines in new and deeper ways.
- Our young musicians are the voice and record of our humanity and help us develop our cultural and aesthetic understanding.

We believe that dance, drama, music, and visual art are important to society because the arts:

- Embody our deepest personal expression.
- Connect cultures and celebrate the diversity beyond one's experience.
- Represent forms of thinking and ways of knowing and participating with the world through cognitive and sensory experiences.
- Provide basic symbol systems by which people communicate, express, and acquire understanding.
- Represent a powerful economic force which will provide ever-expanding, career and economic/consumer opportunities.
- Are abilities with which all people are born and which can be developed to higher levels.

Hilliard City School District Performing Arts Staff

Dr. Mark Shall

Fine Arts Coordinator

Alton Darby Creek Campus

Billy Giacomelli Megan Hennes

Avery Elementary

Amy Rittberger Stacy Bosh

Beacon Elementary

Nicole Mazon

Britton-Norwich Learning Campus

Terri Root Liz Arteta-Cunningham

Brown Elementary

Isabelle McClure

Crossing Elementary

Logan Fletcher

Hoffman Trails Elementary

Tom Root

Horizon Elementary

John Graham

J.W. Reason Elementary

Becky Curran

Ridgewood Elementary

Gabriel Gonzales

Scioto Darby Elementary

Joyce Brandt

Washington Elementary

Meredith Kennedy

Station Sixth Grade

Joy! Grubbs, Director of Choirs
Diana Niklas, Director of Bands
Emily Way,
Director of Orchestras
Emily Thomas, Asst. Director of
Bands & Orchestra

Tharp Sixth Grade

Sarah Chang, Director of Choirs
Nicole Brocke, Director of Bands
Caitlin Bartholic,
Director of Orchestras

Hilliard Memorial Middle School

Kelsey D. Burkett,
Director of Choirs

Alyssa Schott, 8th Grade Treble
Choir Asst. Director
Jeremy Witt,
Tenor-Bass Choir Director
John Montgomery,
Director of Bands & General Music
Emily Johnson,
Director of Orchestras
Erin Broadhurst, Asst. Director of
Orchestras

Hilliard Heritage Middle School

Ashley Biedenharn,

Director of Choirs

Matt Smith,

Director of Bands

Sara Given,

Director of Orchestras

Hilliard Weaver Middle School

Jeannette Muzzalupo,
Director of Choirs
Angela Davoll,
Director of Bands
Virginia Faulkner,
Director of Orchestras

Hilliard Bradley High School

Jeremy Witt,
Director of Choirs
Alyssa Schott,
Asst. Director of Choirs
Andrew Rice,
Director of Bands
Courtney Rupert,
Asst. Director of Bands
Erin Broadhurst,
Director of Orchestras
Emily Johnson,
Asst. Director of Orchestras

Hilliard Darby High School

Dr. Michael Martin,
Director of Choirs
Hannah Sterman-Wilson,
Asst. Director of Choirs
Jeremy Kozman,
Director of Bands
John Riegel,
Director of Orchestras

Hilliard Davidson High School

Josh Dufford,
Director of Choirs
Siri Nguyen,
Asst. Director of Choirs
Shawn Malone,
Director of Bands
Luke Shultz,
Asst. Director of Bands
Don Ley,
Asst. Director of Bands
Patrick Barrett,
Director of Orchestras

Innovative Learning Campus

Phil Nagy