



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND

BUCKEYE INVITATIONAL

A festival showcasing the region's finest high school marching bands

October 3, 2026

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On behalf of The Ohio State University Marching Band and the School of Music, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Ohio Stadium and the 2026 Buckeye Invitational! Today, we are thrilled to showcase the talents of so many outstanding high school marching bands from across the region. Each of you has invested countless hours into rehearsals, teamwork, and perfecting your craft, and this event is a celebration of all that dedication. Whether you are here to perform, support your friends, or simply enjoy the music, I am confident you will leave inspired by the artistry and spirit on display.

To our student performers: keep making music. The lessons you learn on the field—discipline, camaraderie, resilience, and joy—are lessons that will stay with you for a lifetime. Many of our current Ohio State band members began just as you are now, performing in events like this one, and they have gone on to achieve incredible things both in music and beyond. I hope you will consider continuing your musical journey after high school, and perhaps even with us here at Ohio State.

Thank you for being part of today's Buckeye Invitational, and best wishes for a memorable performance. Go Bucks!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christopher D. Hoch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hoch".

Dr. Christopher D. Hoch

Director of Marching and Athletic Bands
Associate Director of University Bands

SCHEDULE

Time	Band	OMEA Class
10:00am	Crooksville High School	C
10:15am	Adena Local Schools	C
10:30am	West Jefferson High School	C
10:45am	Chippewa Jr/Sr High School	C
11:00am	Elgin High School	Festival
11:15am	Brooklyn High School	Festival
11:30am	Vermilion High School	Festival
11:45am	Logan Elm High School	B
12:00pm	Heath High School	B
12:15pm	Highland High School	B
12:30pm	Wilmington High School	B
12:45pm	Maysville High School	B
1:00pm	Lexington High School	B
1:15pm	Bellefontaine High School	Festival
1:30pm	Batavia High School	Festival
1:45pm	Lakeview High School	Festival
2:00pm	Louisville High School	A
2:15pm	Willoughby South High School	A
2:30pm	Copley High School	A
2:45pm	Canal Winchester High School	A
3:00pm	Walter E. Stebbins High School	A
3:15pm	Mason County High School (KY)	A
3:30pm	Wallington High School (NJ)	Festival
3:45pm	Xenia High School	Festival
4:00pm	Peters Township High School (PA)	Festival
4:15pm	Westland High School	AA
4:30pm	Delaware Hayes High School	AA
4:45pm	Hilliard Bradley High School	AA
5:00pm	Beavercreek High School	AA
5:15pm	Dublin Scioto High School	AA
5:30pm	Westerville Central High School	AA
5:45pm	Dublin Jerome High School	AA
6:00pm	Medina High School	AA
6:15pm	William Tennent High School (PA)	Festival
6:30pm	Walnut Hills High School	Festival
6:45pm	Massillon Washington High School	Festival
7:00pm	Forest Hills	AA
7:15pm	Marysville High School	AA
7:30pm	Westerville South High School	AA
7:45pm	Franklin Heights High School	AA
8:00pm	William Mason High School	AA
8:15pm	Miamisburg High School	AA
8:30pm	Hoover High School	AA
8:45pm	Middletown High School	AA
9:00pm	The Ohio State University Marching Band	
9:30pm	Awards	

THE 2026 BUCKEYE INVITATIONAL

On behalf of The Ohio State University, the School of Music, the Department of Athletics and The Ohio State University Marching Band, welcome to the 2026 Buckeye Invitational!

The Ohio State University Marching Band salutes the dedication and hard work of the band students, directors, band boosters and parents, and the communities who support them. We hope that the Buckeye Invitational will prove to be a very positive musical experience in the lives of the students performing today. We wish each band good luck, and we thank these student musicians for sharing their talents with us.

Welcome to Ohio Stadium, and please enjoy your day!

- Dr. Christopher D. Hoch**, Director of Marching and Athletic Bands, Associate Director of University Bands
Phillip A. Day, Associate Director of Marching and Athletic Bands, Assistant Director of University Bands
Josh Reynolds, Assistant Director of Marching and Athletic Bands
Mark Reynolds, Percussion Instructor for Marching and Athletic Bands
Dr. Russel C. Mikkelsen, Director of University Bands
Dr. Scott A. Jones, Associate Director of University Bands
Dr. Michael Ibrahim, Director, School of Music

AWARDS FOR COMPETING BANDS

Outstanding Music Class C:	Outstanding Music Class A:
Outstanding Auxiliary Class C:	Outstanding Auxiliary Class A:
Outstanding General Effect Class C:	Outstanding General Effect Class A:
Outstanding Percussion Class C:	Outstanding Percussion Class A:
Outstanding Visual Class C:	Outstanding Visual Class A:
Outstanding Music Class B:	Outstanding Music Class AA:
Outstanding Auxiliary Class B:	Outstanding Auxiliary Class AA:
Outstanding General Effect Class B:	Outstanding General Effect Class AA:
Outstanding Percussion Class B:	Outstanding Percussion Class AA:
Outstanding Visual Class B:	Outstanding Visual Class AA:

BUCKEYE INVITATIONAL ADJUDICATION

The competition division bands choose to compete for ratings in a system established by the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA). They must follow the rules and policies set forth by OMEA, and each band is scored on its skill levels in music, general effect, percussion and visual performance by a panel of trained OMEA adjudicators. They are separated into classifications (AA, A, B, C) based on the grade 10-12 enrollment of their school. The adjudicator panel scores each band in their specific caption, and the composite scores dictate a final rating of I (Superior), II (Excellent), III (Good), IV (Fair), or V (Poor). Bands who receive an overall rating of "Superior" will qualify for the OMEA State Marching Band Finals.

The philosophy of the Buckeye Invitational is to recognize outstanding performances in each of the caption headings and classifications, but not to award a grand champion. This encourages bands to focus foremost on higher standards of excellence while still maintaining a spirit of friendly competition. We are pleased to welcome all of our participants to Ohio Stadium today!

TODAY'S ADJUDICATORS

Music 1	Jason Graham
Music 2	Brian Stevens
Percussion	Jeremy Ewing
Visual	Calvin Fackrell
General Effect 1	Jeremy Bradstreet
General Effect 2	Eric Doolittle
Auxiliary	Stephanie Dinsmore
Timing and Penalties	Susann Ewing

FESTIVAL DIVISION

The Festival Division bands do not compete for ratings and have no restrictions as to the type of show that they might present. They are only governed by a 15-minute time limit. They will not receive ratings from the competition division judges, but will receive commentary in written and audio form from a separate panel of collegiate adjudicators. Comments will examine overall musicianship, marching, and general presentation. Today's Festival Division adjudicators are:

Dr. Tiffany Galus, Director of the Indiana University Marching Hundred

Dr. Christopher Hoch, Director of Marching and Athletic Bands, The Ohio State University

Dr. Cheldon Williams, Director of Athletic Bands, West Virginia University

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND

Director: Dr. Christopher D. Hoch
Associate Director: Phillip A. Day
Assistant Director: Josh Reynolds
Percussion Instructor: Mark Reynolds
Graduate Assistants: Paul Bissler, Zach Heffner, Uiliami Fihaki, Brooke Woods

Administrative Coordinator: Kaitlin Bowman
Business Operations Manager: Mary Machuga
Compliance and Life Skills Coordinator: LaShanda Coleman
Communications Director: David Saunders

The Ohio State University Marching Band's exhibition performance will begin with the traditional ramp entrance, performed to the music of "Buckeye Battle Cry." This maneuver has been performed at every Ohio State home football game since 1928, with the exception of 2020, and it has remained relatively unchanged over the years.

Tonight's show, *A Minecraft Halftime Show!*, brings the blocky world of Minecraft to life right on the field. With music and characters from the movie, the performances takes fans on an adventure full of energy, creativity, and fun. The band performed this show at Ohio State's most recent home game on Oct. 4 against Minnesota.

No performance of The Ohio State University Marching Band would be complete without the most memorable tradition in college band history: "The Incomparable Script Ohio." The band has been performing this trademark maneuver since 1936. Dotting the "i" in tonight's Script is **Ryan Ouimet** from Pickerington, Ohio. Ryan is getting his degree in Computer and Information Science.

Traditional Ramp Entrance

Buckeye Battle Cry.....Crumit, arr. Heine

Halftime: Wanted: Dead or Alive

Drill design: Christopher Hoch

Music arranged by: Andrew Markworth, Mark Reynolds (percussion)

Theme from The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly..... arr. Markworth
Theme from Tombstone..... arr. Markworth
Ghost Riders in the Sky.....Johnny Cash; arr. Markworth
Wanted Dead or Alive.....Bon Jovi; arr. Markworth
Ecstasy of Gold / Theme from The Magnificent Seven.....Morricone; arr. Markworth
Across the Field.....Dougherty, arr. Heine
Le Regiment de Sambre et Meuse.....Planquette, arr. Heine

MARCHING BAND HISTORY

The crowds at Ohio Stadium explode with enthusiasm as **“The Pride of the Buckeyes”** marches onto the field each fall. The band’s brilliant performances have been cheered at numerous Rose Bowl games and parades, the inaugural College Football Playoff National Championship and first 12 team playoff, as well as at the Outback, Orange, Sugar, Cotton, Citrus and Fiesta Bowls.

The Ohio State University Marching Band is one of the few collegiate **all-brass-and-percussion** bands in the country, and it is commonly acknowledged as the largest of its type in the world. However, Ohio State’s band had humble beginnings. The first instrumental musical organization on the Columbus campus was a 12-piece fife and drum corps **organized in 1878**. A 16-piece band performed for the commencement of 1879.

The modern history of the band began with Professor Eugene J. Weigel, who virtually created The Ohio State University Marching Band as we know it today. It was Weigel who changed the band to an all-brass-and-percussion instrumentation in 1934. He also introduced script writing to the football field with the first performance of **“Script Ohio”** in 1936, considered by many people to be the most memorable tradition in college band history.

Many **marching band innovations** were first tried and developed at Ohio State. Among them are floating and animated formations, measured-step marching, script writing, the fast cadence with a high knee lift, and the enhancement of rehearsals and performances through the implementation of new technologies. Brass instruments especially designed for marching bands were also first used at Ohio State. In 2013, the band garnered national attention for using iPads, a sustainable alternative to paper charts and music, to facilitate its rehearsal process.

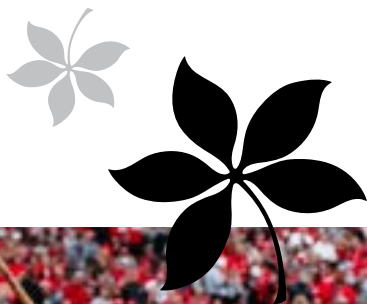
The Ohio State University Marching Band has gained, and continues to enjoy, national and international acclaim. In recent years, the band has been featured in hundreds of national and international media outlets and has been viewed by tens of millions of people online and in person. More recently, the band marched in the St. Patrick’s Day Festival in Ireland, and they cheered the Buckeyes on to victory at the first-ever expanded College Football Playoff National Championship game in January 2025. Grounded in tradition yet propelled by innovation, The Ohio State University Marching Band, year in and year out, lives up to its nickname: The Best Damn Band in the Land.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND FEATURED EVENT

2026 HOMETOWN CONCERT // NOVEMBER 20, 2026
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Join The Ohio State University Marching Band for our annual Hometown Concert, held this year at Marshon Auditorium on Ohio State's campus on Friday, Nov. 20. The Best Damn Band in the Land will entertain fans with selections from its popular halftime shows, fan favorites and traditional Ohio State tunes.

Find out more at go.osu.edu/hometown26



Greetings from the School of Music at The Ohio State University! We are absolutely thrilled to welcome you to the 2026 Buckeye Invitational! This event is truly at the heart of what we do — bringing people together from across the state of Ohio and from across the country to share a passion for music.

It is an especially exciting time for music and the arts at Ohio State as we recently opened doors to a new state-of-the-art home for the School of Music.

The Timashev Family Music Building (located on College Road) features a new and contemporary recital hall, a beautiful large ensemble rehearsal space, a jazz suite, several high-tech classrooms, 36 new practice rooms, a recording studio and multiple spaces for research lab projects. Our new home is in the heart of the Arts District — an evolving ecosystem for artistic, educational, social and commercial interchange.

Music is such an essential part of our lives. We welcome you to join us on our campus so that we might celebrate the joy of music together in Ohio. Go Bucks!



Dr. Michael Ibrahim

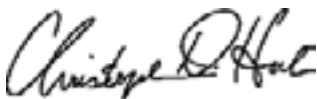
Director of the School of Music

On behalf of The Ohio State University School of Music, our band faculty, and the hundreds of talented students who participate in our concert, jazz, marching, and athletic bands, welcome to Ohio Stadium and the 2026 Buckeye Invitational!

As you contemplate life after high school, however near or far away that may be from now, I have one request of you: keep making music. You already know the gratification that comes from your time on the field and on the stage, and you certainly know the joy that comes from the friendships you have developed with your fellow band members. These opportunities do not need to end at the conclusion of your high school experience. Music is truly a lifelong pursuit, and regardless of where life takes you, I hope it includes years of music-making!

The Ohio State University Marching Band, now in its 145th year, is one of the nation's premier collegiate marching bands, and we're proud to call Ohio Stadium our home. I'm also proud to say that many of our students come from the great high schools represented here today. I hope that you, too, will consider joining us at Ohio State. Learn more about how to join the OSUMB at tddbtl.osu.edu.

Best wishes for a fantastic performance, and I look forward to a great display of musical and visual excellence today. Go Bucks!



Dr. Christopher D. Hoch

Director of Marching and Athletic Bands
Associate Director of University Bands