

Cobb County School District presents...

LASSITER

Percussion Ensemble



the GMEA In-Service

FRIDAY

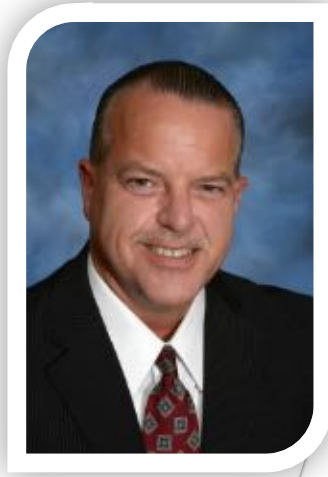
JANUARY 31, 2025

OCONEE RIVER ROOM • ATHENS, GA

8:45AM PERFORMANCE



January 31, 2025



Chris Ragsdale
 Superintendent, CCSD

Dear Parents and Friends:

The Cobb County School District is proud to be represented at the 2025 Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference by the Lassiter High School Percussion Ensemble. Our community is pleased and excited that these fine young musicians have been invited to participate in such a prestigious event.

At a time when many music departments in public school systems across the country are fighting for their existence, we in the Cobb County School District recognize the importance that music plays in our students' lives. As our students move on into the world, their involvement with music will bring creativity and imagination to their work. Their experience will help them move on with many of the skills they will need to be successful in their future careers.

Under the direction of James Thompson Jr., Jeff Harper, Kimberly Snyder, and Kyle Parciany, Lassiter High School students show commitment and dedication to musical excellence. The program at Lassiter is recognized as one of the finest in Georgia and continues to reach new levels of excellence.

On behalf of the Board of Education, staff, students, parents, and community of the Cobb County School District, I congratulate you and thank GMEA for this opportunity.

Best regards,

Chris Ragsdale
 Chris Ragsdale
 Superintendent



Lassiter High School

2601 Shallowford Road
 Marietta, GA 30066
 (678) 494-7863
 Fax: (678) 494-7865

Dr. Chris Richie
 Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

On behalf of the faculty at Lassiter High School, I would like to express my congratulations to the Lassiter High School Percussion Ensemble under the direction of Kyle Parciany. It is an honor to be selected to participate in the 2025 Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. We are proud of the many honors our band has received as well as the individual accomplishments our students have received in recognition of their excellent performances Mr. Thompson, the staff, and our students work tirelessly to deliver a quality band program. Being invited to perform at the 2025 GMEA In-Service is a testament to the talent, commitment, and dedication of our students.

Lassiter High School's band program has a longstanding history of excellence. I would like to extend my congratulations to our teachers, clinicians, parents, and the Lassiter community of educators including assistant directors Jeff Harper and Kimberly Snyder as well as middle directors Jill Barnocki, Stephen Fields, Rob Lowery, and Val Stony. It is through all their efforts that our students have opportunities to showcase their talents at this prestigious event.

Sincerely,

Chris Richie

Dr. Chris Richie
 Principal
 Lassiter High School
 Cobb County School District



Dr. Chris Richie
 Principal, Lassiter High School

January 31, 2025

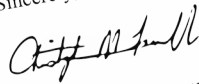
Dear Parents and Friends,

The Cobb County School District is fortunate and proud to have such an outstanding Fine Arts program at Lassiter High School. It is indeed a wonderful honor to be selected to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. This performance will be an event to remember for parents, students, friends, and faculty. The music program at Lassiter has a wonderful tradition of musical excellence since the school opened. The dedication of students, faculty, administrators, and parents to go beyond the "status quo" and will be demonstrated by the performance.

A commitment to music making is almost a way of life at Lassiter. Under the leadership of James Thompson Jr., Jeff Harper, Kimberly Snyder and Kyle Parciany, the band continues to be a model program for Cobb County and Georgia. We are extremely proud of the quality and professionalism displayed by these young musicians.

We hope that you all enjoy this musical experience. We also thank GMEA Executive Board for their tremendous support of fine music programs across Georgia.

Sincerely,



Christopher M. Ferrell, PhD
Supervisor of Instrumental Music



Christopher Ferrell
Supervisor of Instrumental Music

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Randy Scamihorn, Chair • David Banks, Vice Chair
Becky Saylor • Leroy Tre' Hutchins • David Chastain • Nichelle Davis • Brad Wheeler

SUPERINTENDENT

Chris Ragsdale

ABOUT LASSITER HIGH SCHOOL



Lassiter High School is a four year public high school located in Marietta, Georgia, a suburban community within the greater metropolitan Atlanta area; approximately thirty minutes northwest of Atlanta.

Student enrollment is 2181, grades 9 through 12. Lassiter High School was established in 1981 and named for Mr. Leamond N. Lassiter who rendered distinguished service as a member of the Cobb County Board of Education for 12 years, and made innumerable contributions to education in Cobb County during his many years of service.

Lassiter High School is well known for its excellence, high standards, and preparation of college-bound students. Lassiter students consistently perform well above the state and national averages for ACT and SAT scores. The school has a high number of national merit scholars and has been awarded the Georgia Public School of Excellence and named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.



The Cobb County School District is the second largest school system in Georgia and the 28th largest in the United States. Its student population grows by nearly 2,500 each year. Continuing a strong tradition of excellence in education, student achievement remains the primary focus. The Cobb County school district has been named to the NAMM's "Best Communities for Music in America" for most years since the year 2000

THE LASSITER HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

A commitment to music-making is a way of life at Lassiter High School. With the Symphonic Band Program as the core of the band curriculum, our students strive to attain excellent musical fundamentals that will carry over into any ensemble. Students in the band program at Lassiter may participate in one of three concert bands, marching band, jazz band, an award-winning winter guard, or any of our smaller chamber ensembles. The Lassiter Band Program has enjoyed a rich tradition of outstanding teachers throughout its forty-four years of existence.

Lassiter has held an annual Symphonic Band Camp since 1988. Each January, the bands participate in an extended weekend of rehearsals, clinics, and master classes. Each concert band has a guest conductor for the weekend. In addition, the percussion techniques class has its own clinician for the weekend. Professional musicians join the campers for each instrument family and varies from year to year. This may include a professional woodwind quintet, brass quintet, percussionist, and saxophonist or free-lance instructors which are hired to perform a recital, conduct master classes and to coach chamber ensembles for the weekend. The students perform a concert at the conclusion of the weekend. As a direct result of our Symphonic Band Camp, student interest in chamber ensemble participation is quite high. Students may rehearse either before or after school or during their lunch periods

Each member of the Lassiter band is a member of the concert band program. The Lassiter concert bands have been invited to perform on many prestigious stages in the last ten years. Performances include the University of Georgia January Festival of Bands, Georgia State University's regional Music for All Concert Festival, and the GMEA In-Service.

The marching band program is an integral part of the overall program at Lassiter. The Marching "Trojan" Band has performed before many large and prestigious audiences including the 1988, 2001, 2005 2013 and 2019 Tournament of Roses Parade, the 1999, 2004 and 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the 2024 Fiesta Flambeau Parade.

The marching band has won numerous sweepstakes in contests it has entered in its history. The band made history in 1998, and again in 2002, by being the only band from Georgia ever to win Bands of America Grand National Championship. The marching band is a 10-Time Bands of America Regional Champion and most recently a 2024 Bands of America Regional Finalist.





LASSITER PERCUSSION PROGRAM

The percussion program at Lassiter has 30 students that comprise the Lassiter Marching Trojan's drumline, marching front ensemble, several large concert percussion ensembles as well as several small chamber groups. All the percussion ensembles at Lassiter are co-curricular and rehearse entirely after school during the spring semester. The percussion students at Lassiter are trained in a variety of aspects of percussion and have an opportunity to perform with not only the above ensembles but also one of three concert bands and a jazz band.

Each year "An Evening of Percussion" is held featuring the various percussion ensembles and student soloists along with special guest artists. Some past guest soloists and clinicians for the percussion program include: Mr. Tom Aungst, Mr. Jack Bell, Dr. Adam Blackstock, The Boston Brass, Mr. Michael Burritt, Mr. Glen Caruba, Mr. Lalo Davila, Mr. Clint Gillespie, Mr. Lynn Glassock, Mr. Thom Hannum, Mr. Ralph Hardimon,

Dr. Scott Herring, Mr. Steve Houghton, Mr. Jeff Kershner, Mr. John Lawless, Dr. Tony McCutchen, Mr. Chris Moore, Dr. John Parks, Mr. Rafael Pereira, Mr. Tom Roady, Mr. Charles Settle, Mr. Tom Sherwood, Dr. Paul Vaillancourt, Mr. Bill Wilder and Mr. Mark Yanich.

The ensemble was invited to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference in 2000, 2008, and 2016. This morning's performance represents the first appearance under the direction and leadership of Kyle Parciany representing a new direction and legacy of the percussion program. Under the leadership of Mr. Parciany, the band finished second in the 2023 Percussion Arts Society International Convention High School Chamber Percussion Ensemble Competition.



PROGRAM NOTES

Remnants.....Cody Holmes



Remnants is a challenging work for percussion orchestra that explores the many timbres achievable in a conventional large ensemble setup. With many musical layers to this piece, there is the constant intention of maintaining growth and decay, leading to full, driving moments as well as delicate piano playing that draws the listener's ear in. The melodic intention of the work was to create an array of short and fragmented melodic figures

that overlap yet fit together diatonically and harmonically, creating moments of familiarity and earning the appropriate title, Remnants.

Personnel:

MADELYNN BARBER, IAN MULVANEY, SCOTT ALLIGOOD, CAMERON HAWKINS
ABBY IRWIN, SULLIVAN LOWE, MICHAEL NOLAN, LUCY WEINDORF, BRANDON BEATTY
EVAN BROWNELL, AIDAN GAINES, JACKSON HOMER, NATE WHIPPLE

White Pines.....Michael Burritt

White Pines by Michael Burritt for solo marimba and percussion sextet. This piece was inspired by the energy, crispness, and majesty of the snow-covered trees in the winter months near Burritt's home in New York. White Pines is originally the second movement to a larger three movement work titled Home Trilogy and is dedicated to and commissioned by the internationally renowned percussion group Nexus. This sextet version of White Pines was orchestrated for the Inaugural All Star International Collegiate Percussion Ensemble performance at PASIC 2015.

NATE WHIPPLE - SOLOIST

Personnel:

IAN MULVANEY, CAMERON HAWKINS, CAROLINE YOUNG,
BRANDON BEATTY, EVAN BROWNELL, JACKSON HOMER,
BRIANA CASTRO-BALBI, TYLER WISSLER



Voyager.....Francisco Perez



Voyager by Francisco Perez is a light-hearted percussion ensemble work inspired by the life of Perez's beloved dog, Charles. As a programmatic depiction of his average day during the summer, this work is comprised of five episodes which musically illustrate everything from his lazy mornings to his exhilarating evening car rides. This 12 to 13 player ensemble piece captures the joyful escapades that are synonymous with a happy pup. The subject matter of the piece

easily translates to middle or high school students and provides ample opportunities to identify the various sections of the piece with Charles' daytime shenanigans. Perez has woven heroic melodies, driving rhythms, and catchy Soca patterns throughout that will instantly connect with students and audiences.

Personnel:

MITCHELL ALBRACHT, MADELYNN BARBER, JACOB MASSEY, EVAN GRAVES, LYDIA MORLEY, JONATHAN RASCO, AUDREY WILSON, EASTON FOSTER, COOPER MORRIS, KAEDEN NAGAR, MAX PRESTON, LUCAS ROZO, TYLER WISSLER, JADEN FORD, SULLIVAN LOWE, MICHAEL NOLAN, LUCY WEINDORF, EVAN BROWNELL, AIDAN GAINES

¡Higuita!.....Stephen Whibley

What happens when Mexican Marimba meets drum corps? This piece was Composed by Stephen Whibley in 2012 as an encore piece for the British percussion quartet 4-MALITY. ¡Higuita! is full speed guaracha that sizzles with groovy flair of soccer player, Rene Higuita, for whom the piece is named.

Personnel:

CAROLINE YOUNG, BRANDON BEATTY, BRIANA CASTRO-BALBI, NATE WHIPPLE, EVAN BROWNELL



Crown of Thorns.....David Maslanka



In the his notes the composer writes “The title ‘Crown of Thorns’ is an obvious reference to Christ’s crown of thorns, but the name first came to me as a possible title for a piece from seeing a plant called “Crown of Thorns” at the New York Botanical Gardens. Crown of Thorns is a rambling, thorny desert plant from the Middle East, with small green leaves, and small, pretty red flowers. The rambling, interweaving, vine-like stems suggested music to me.

As I meditated on the words “Crown of Thorns”, and on the plant, and on the idea of

a work for keyboard percussion ensemble, the following image arose:

a darkening sky
seven stars are visible:
the seven-starred halo
the golden light
the hands of blessing

The seven-starred halo is a transcended image of the crown of thorns. It is the crown of highest spiritual power arrived at through the greatest depth of suffering. The imagery is Christian, but the experience transcends religion and is universal. The music is at times sober and reflective, but more often filled with a liberated energy and joy.”

Personnel:

IAN MULVANEY, SCOTT ALLIGOOD, CAMERON HAWKINS, ABBY IRWIN, CAROLINE YOUNG, EVAN BROWNELL, JACKSON HOMER, NATE WHIPPLE

Firefly.....Nathan Daughtrey



Firefly was commissioned by the Texas Christian University Percussion Orchestra, Brian A. West, conductor. The work centers on the belief that the two species of fireflies in Japan – Genji-hotaru and Heike-hotaru – are the ghosts of fallen warriors from the terrible struggle between two clans in the 12th century. Once a year, on the night of the 20th day of the fourth month, the fireflies re-enact the great battle on the Uji River. On that night, all caged fireflies should be set free so they may take part.

The piece follows the arc of the story “Tale of the Heike,” which divides into three large sections, each centering on a different leader

and their individual personality traits and leadership prowess. The opening passage from the tale introduces the Buddhist law of impermanence, especially as it relates to good fortune.

Personnel:

EASTON FOSTER, IAN MULVANEY, SCOTT ALLIGOOD, CAMERON HAWKINS, ABBY IRWIN, MICHAEL NOLAN, CAROLINE YOUNG, BRANDON BEATTY, EVAN BROWNELL, BRIANA CASTRO-BALBI, JACKSON HOMER, NATE WHIPPLE

PERSONNEL

Class of 2028



Mitchell Albracht, Madelynn Barber, Evan Graves, Jacob Massey
Lydia Morley, Jonathan Rasco, Audrey Wilson

Class of 2027



Easton Foster, Cooper Morris, Ian Mulvaney
Kaeden Nagar, Maxwell Preston, Lucas Rozo, Tyler Wissler

Class of 2026



Scott Alligood, Jaden Ford, Cameron Hawkins, Abigail Irwin
Sullivan Lowe, Michael Nolan, Lucy Weindorf, Caroline Young

Class of 2025



Brandon Beatty, Evan Brownell, Briana Castro-Balbi
Aidan Gaines, Jackson Homer, Nate Whipple

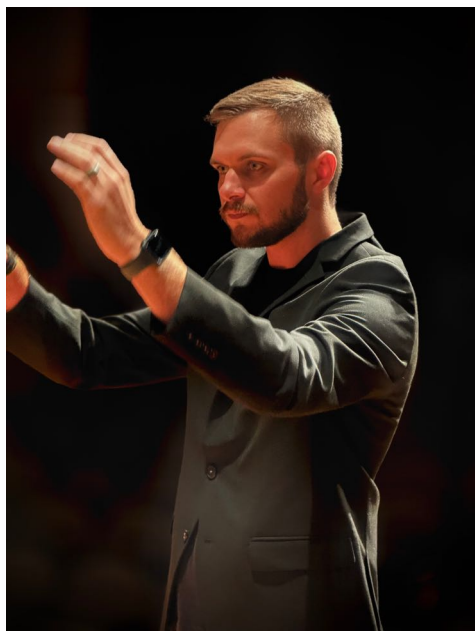
ABOUT THE DIRECTOR.....

Kyle Parciany, a native of Chicago, Illinois, holds a degree in percussion performance from Northern Illinois University. During his tenure as a student, he received guidance from esteemed faculty members such as Dr. Greg Beyer, Professor Ben Wahlund, Professor Robert Chappell, Dr. Rodrigo Villeneuve, Professor Liam Teague, and Yuko Asada.

Kyle's extensive performance collegiate experience includes engagements with the NIU Percussion Ensemble, NIU World Steelband, NIU Bau-house, NIU Clube de Samba, Huskie Marching Band, Philharmonic Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and Wind Symphony.

Presently, Kyle holds the position of Director of Percussion Studies at Lassiter High School and Simpson Middle School, where he manages the percussion studio's administration, instruction, recruitment, and performance.

His responsibilities encompass all aspects of the percussion program, including the marching battery, front ensemble, private instruction faculty and various percussion ensembles, ensuring their successful execution throughout the academic year. Additionally, Mr. Parciany coaches all percussionists of the Lassiter Concert bands and percussion technique classes.



In addition to his duties at Lassiter, Kyle serves as an Assistant Director for the Atlanta Youth Percussion Ensemble. He actively participates in regular performances with the Atlanta Percussion Ensemble and Atlanta Wind Symphony.

Prior to relocating to Atlanta, Kyle dedicated several years to instructing percussion at various high schools in the Chicago metropolitan area, including Elk Grove High School, William Fremd High School, Plainfield North High School, East Aurora High School, and Palatine High School.

LASSITER BAND DIRECTORS

JAMES E. THOMPSON, JR.

Director of Bands

James Thompson has been the head director at Lassiter High School since 2015. In addition to leading the top ensemble at Lassiter, Mr. Thompson facilitates all aspects of the band program. Under his leadership, the band program has been recognized at the state, regional, and national level.

Prior to leading the Lassiter program, Mr. Thompson served as assistant director of bands at Lassiter, Director of bands at South Forsyth and Sol C. Johnson High Schools.

Originally from Savannah, GA, James Thompson is an alumnus of Florida State University. Mr. Thompson's professional affiliations include GMEA, Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity, National Band association and the American Bandmasters Association. James is married to Nikki Thompson with whom he shares two wonderful children; James III and Aria.

JEFF HARPER

Associate Director of Bands

Jeff Harper is in his 27th year as a music educator and is currently the Associate Director of Bands at Lassiter High School in Georgia. He has served as an adjudicator and clinician for multiple marching arts organizations, including Drum Corps International (DCI), Music for All (MFA), and WGI where he serves as the inaugural education coordinator for the winds division.

Harper earned a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Georgia, a Master of Music Education from the University of Illinois, and a Specialist in Education from Berry College. Harper studied conducting with Dr. Dwight Satterwhite, Dr. John Culvahouse, and Mr. James Keene.

Harper resides with his husband, David Roth, and their son, Jacob, in Kennesaw, Georgia.

KIMBERLY SNYDER

Assistant Director of Bands

Department Chair

Kimberly Snyder is a highly accomplished musician and educator currently serving as the Assistant Director of Bands and Fine Arts Department Chair at Lassiter High School in Marietta, Georgia. A proud native of Marietta, Ga and an alumna of Lassiter High School, Mrs. Snyder has been an integral part of the school's music program since 2015

A skilled flute and piccolo player, Mrs. Snyder earned her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Kennesaw State University. Mrs. Snyder achieved her master's degree in music education from the University of Florida in 2021 and is now pursuing her specialist's degree in Instructional Technology and Design at the University of West Georgia. She has performed at Carnegie Hall with the National Wind Ensemble and conducted and played at the prestigious Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic five times. She is a charter member of the Cobb Wind Symphony, where she has been playing piccolo since 1999. She started her career at the middle school level at Floyd Middle School and Mabry Middle School for the first ten years of her career.

She is an active member of the Georgia Music Educators Association and The Music Educators National Conference. Mrs. Snyder enjoys family life in Woodstock with her husband and daughter.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Lassiter Percussion Ensemble would like to thank the following contributors to this performance

Clinicians:

Dr. Brian West
Dr. Paul Vaillancourt
Drew Tucker
Rick Dietrich
Sarah Dietrich
Corey Fair
Colin Brewer
Claire Kenney

Private Instruction:

Torrance Buntyn Jr.

GMEA Host and Presider:

Mike Lynch and Scott Brown

Lassiter High School Administrators

Dr. Chris Richie – Principal
Joseph Horton – Assistant Principal
Julie Huffman – Assistant Principal
Scott Kelly – Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Meredith Koester – Assistant Principal
Dr. Angelo Ruggiero – Assistant Principal
Matt Allen – Support Services Administrator

Mabry Middle School

Jill Barnocki – Director of Bands
Stephen Fields – Assistant Director of Bands
Jonathan Tanner – Principal
Anthony Cobb – Assistant Principal
Dr. Jennifer Anthony-Young – Assistant Principal
D’Nena Mock – Support Services Administrator

Simpson Middle School

Robbin Lowry – Director of Bands
Valerie Stoney-Assistant Director of Bands
Dr. David Church – Principal
Mandy Childress – Assistant Principal
Vickie Kogan – Assistant Principal
Allyson Greene – Support Services Administrator

LASSITER BAND BOOSTER

The Lassiter Percussion Ensemble would like to thank the Lassiter Band Booster Association for their tireless commitment and support of the program. They have been with us every step of the way helping us with equipment, chaperones, financial support and endless volunteerism to get us to this point. THANK YOU!



