

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE®

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

University Bands

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Director of Bands

Dr. Amy I. Acklin
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Dr. Jason P. Cumberledge
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Assistant Director of Athletic Bands/
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Mr. Adam Thomas
University Bands Administrative Specialist

UofLBands.com or 502-852-5116

February 18, 2026

Dear Esteemed Colleague,

I am writing to cordially invite you to nominate your outstanding middle school students for the **2026 UofL Summer Middle School Wind Band Institute**. We will be offering a special ensemble experience for **advanced middle school students** who can successfully perform **Grade 2.5 – Grade 3 music**. Directors, note this is a change from past years. In 2024 & 2025, we experimented with a 3-band model that accommodated a large nomination pool and a range of ability levels. Unfortunately, this model exceeds our building capabilities. To preserve our strong camp tradition, this year we will have two advanced groups equally distributed in ability. Any 6th-8th grade student is eligible to be nominated, given they can perform at a Grade 2.5 – Grade 3 level.

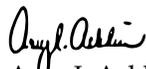
This year's Middle School Wind Band Institute will run from the afternoon of **Sunday, June 7, through the evening of Thursday, June 11, 2026**. We are delighted to have with us guest conductors Mr. Phil Thomas (Highland Hills Middle School, Retired Band Director), and Dr. Jason Freeman (UofL Assistant Director of Athletic Bands), as well as UofL faculty and students. There will be a "grand finale" concert on the evening of June 11 for parents, teachers, and the community to attend, free of charge. **The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, March 11.**

The UofL School of Music will host the 2026 Middle School Summer WBI, allowing the campers to experience a slice of college life. On check-in day, each student will complete a brief placement audition to determine the appropriate placement within the ensemble. A band camper's musical day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m., when they are picked up and return home for the evening. Each day will include full ensemble rehearsals, master classes, music theory/history instruction, and an hour break for lunch. The final day on June 11 will conclude with a free public performance in Comstock Concert Hall.

The complete cost of the camp is \$170 and must be received by **Wednesday, April 8**. Included in the camp fee is instruction, a meal plan, and a camp T-shirt. Payments are NON-REFUNDABLE. Please complete and return the attached nomination form as soon as possible, as instrument sections will close when filled.

On behalf of the entire UofL Bands Staff, we thank you for all that you do for students and your support of the UofL Summer Middle School Wind Band Institute! If you have any questions, please contact Adam Thomas at adam.thomas@louisville.edu.

Sincerely,



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