

D.W. Daniel High School
“Zero Hour”
Jazz Orchestra

Gunar Sekhon
Photography



SCMEA “Virtual” Conference
2021



School District of Pickens County

Building success beyond the classroom

March 1, 2021

Dear Music Educators,

On behalf of the School District of Pickens County Board of Trustees and Administration, I congratulate the D.W. Daniel High School "Zero Hour" Jazz Orchestra on its selection to the 2021 SCMEA Virtual Professional Development Conference.

The School District of Pickens County is very fortunate to have such an outstanding band program at Daniel High School under the leadership of Mr. Chaz Paxton. Being represented at the SCMEA Virtual Professional Development Conference is a true testament to the hard work of the students, band staff, and the support of the Daniel High School Band family. These students are ambassadors of Daniel High School and our community and we are proud of their accomplishments.

The School District of Pickens County firmly believes that the arts programs play an important role in building students for the world beyond high school and we are grateful to all of those that pour into these students.

Thank you for allowing Daniel High School to showcase our talented musicians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danny B. Merck".

Danny Merck, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Superintendent's Office

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Daniel High School

A Tradition of Excellence

Members of the South Carolina Music Educators Association,

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great achievement and hard work of the D.W.Daniel "Zero Hour" Jazz Orchestra. The South Carolina Educators Music Association has chosen our Jazz Orchestra as a featured performer for this year's virtual conference. The hard work and dedication of these performers and their conductor is evidenced by this recognition.

Every morning there is jazz music emanating from the band room that fills the halls of D.W.Daniel High School. Through a challenging year, our jazz students have woken up early to attend before school class and rehearsals. These students have adjusted to all COVID policies and have shown great flexibility and adaptability during a year when there was no normal. Throughout the challenges, the group has maintained high expectations and standards for their ensemble. The Jazz Orchestra provides respite from a year of hardships.

Congratulations on being chosen as a featured performer at the South Carolina Educators Music Association Virtual Conference. This achievement is well deserved. We are proud of our "Zero Hour" Jazz Orchestra!

Thank you for this recognition and for the opportunity for our students to showcase their hard work and skills.

Shannon Sharkey
Principal, D.W. Daniel High School



Mrs. Shannon Sharkey, Principal

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PERSONNEL

Reeds

Elliott Swain - Alto I #
Ivan Lin - Alto II
Will Shull - Alto II
Augustus Hedden - Tenor I #
Charlie Brooks-Knepfle - Tenor II *
Jaret Barnes - Bari
Roger Hu - Clarinet

Trombones

Wade Groff - Trombone I #
Zac Wood - Trombone II #
Jack Mackiewicz - Trombone III
Aidan Moore - Trombone III
Graham McCrary - Trombone IV
Ransom Broome - Tuba

Trumpets

Charlie Smith - Trumpet #
Sam Housand - Trumpet
Tyler Crownover - Trumpet
Gunar Sekhon - Trumpet
Guan Chen - Trumpet
Nic Herden - Trumpet

Rhythm

Liam Chandler - Piano
Ian Altman - Bass
Thomas Harding - Drums
Kam Jacoby - Vibes %

- All-State Jazz

* - Alumni Guest

% - Student Teacher

PROGRAM

Cruisin' for a Bluesin' (1989)

Andy Wiener
arr. Peter Blair
Grade 5 - Hal Leonard

Goodbye, Pork Pie Hat (1979)

Charles Mingus
arr. Alan Baylock
Grade 3 - Alfred Publishing

Blue Bossa (1965)

Kenny Dorham
arr. Mark Taylor
Grade 4 - Hal Leonard

Cool - from *West Side Story* (1957)

Leonard Bernstein
arr. Mark Taylor
Grade 3 - Hal Leonard

Ever After (2017)

David Springfield
Grade 4 - Kendor Music

Come Out Swingin' (2010)

Larry Neeck
Grade 3 - Barnhouse



Chaz Paxton is currently the Director of Bands at D.W. Daniel High School (SC) where he directs and conducts the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, and the Lion's Pride Marching Band. Chaz is an active clinician, judge and guest conductor and has worked with various high school bands as a consultant, arranger, and designer. In addition, Chaz has presented clinics at the South Carolina Music Educators In-Service Conference, the North Carolina Bandmasters Association In-Service Conference, and the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. Bands and ensembles under Paxton's direction have received consistent Superior Ratings in concert and marching venues and have won six South Carolina Marching Band State Championships.

Chaz received the Bachelor of Music Education and Masters of Education in Administration and Supervision from Southern Wesleyan University. Performance experience includes the Carolina Wind Symphony and the Palmetto Concert Band, both community wind bands in the Columbia, SC area. Professional memberships include the National Association for Music Education, the South Carolina Music Educator's Association, the South Carolina Band Director's Association, the National Band Association and Phi Beta Mu Honorary Bandmasters Fraternity. Chaz served as a representative on the SCBDA Marching Committee for seven years, has served on the SCBDA Adjudication Committee, and served on the SCBDA Executive Board as the Marching Band Committee Chairman for five years. Chaz is currently serving as President for the South Carolina Band Directors Association and is a member of the Advisory Council for the Carolina Winter Ensemble Association. Chaz was the 2008 Batesburg-Leesville High School Teacher of the Year, the 2017 Pickens High School Teacher of the Year, is a five time recipient of the National Band Association Citation for Marching Excellence, and has received the Professional Excellence Alumni Award from the Southern Wesleyan University School of Education. In addition, Chaz is an Education Artist with Innovative Percussion, Inc. and currently resides in Central, SC with his wife Leah, and their two children, Cadence and Carter.



Charlie Brooks-Knepfle is a student at Clemson University working towards a B. A. in Performing Arts. Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Charlie moved to Clemson, SC in 2010. Charlie is an alumnus of D. W. Daniel High School where he played in symphonic, marching and jazz ensembles and was named the Louis Armstrong Outstanding Jazz Musician as a senior.

At Clemson, Charlie performs in the Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Tiger Band, Saxophone Choir and Quartet and the Jazz Combo. He was the recipient of the 2019 Scott Hendrickson Memorial Jazz Award and the 2020 Mu Beta Psi Award for excellence and dedication to Clemson Bands.

In 2020, Charlie was selected to play in the Disney All-American College Band in Anaheim, CA (which has since been put on hold as a result of COVID-19). Charlie is a section leader in the Clemson Tiger Band and is a part of the leadership team of the Kappa Beta chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi. Charlie maintains an active saxophone studio for young saxophonists and plans to obtain a Masters Degree in Jazz Studies.



The D.W. Daniel High School Band Program

The D.W. Daniel High School band program is a comprehensive program in the upstate of South Carolina. The program consists of two concert bands, marching band, jazz band, percussion ensemble, two winter guards and multiple chamber ensembles. The program is a multi-time recipient of the South Carolina Band Directors Association Outstanding Performance Award. The Lion's Pride Marching Band is a consistent SCBDA State Finalist and were named the 2017 and 2019 AAA Upper State Champions and the 2019 AAA State Champions. The Concert and Jazz ensembles have performed to critical acclaim in numerous festivals in Atlanta, St. Louis, Virginia Beach and Washington, D.C. The D.W. Daniel Band Program is committed to providing LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCES THROUGH MUSIC.

The D.W. Daniel High School "Zero Hour" Jazz Orchestra

The D.W. Daniel High School "Zero Hour" Jazz Orchestra is one part of the curriculum in the D.W. Daniel High School band program. The jazz orchestra meets each day before school from 7:40 - 8:30am and membership is open to any student in the band program. The Jazz Orchestra has performed at numerous festivals throughout the Southeast, is an annual performing group at the Central Railroad Festival, the SWU Jazz Invitational and has been featured in the Main Street Jazz program in downtown Greenville. The D.W. Daniel Jazz Orchestra has frequently maintained a presence in the SCBDA All-State Jazz Band, placing at least one student in the All-State Jazz Band for 22 of the last 24 years, including five students in 2021. The D.W. Daniel Jazz Orchestra is committed to performance of a variety of jazz styles using both jazz standards and contemporary works.

Acknowledgments

School District of Pickens County Administration

Dr. Danny Merck, Superintendent,

Mrs. Sharon Huff, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Stephanie Lackey, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Josh Young, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. John Eby, Coordinator of Communication

The School District of Pickens County School Board of Trustees

D.W. Daniel High School Administration

Mrs. Shannon Sharkey, Principal

Mrs. Kathy Ward, Assistant Principal

Mr. Ricky Evans, Assistant Principal

Lauren Merck, Assistant Administrator

Mr. Michael Salina, Fine Arts Department Chair

The Faculty and Staff of D.W. Daniel High School

SCBDA Executive Board:

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Leah Turner, Vice President

Alicia Crutchlow, Conference Chair

Daniel Marsh, Director of Bands, Edwards Middle School

Daniel-Edwards Band Boosters

Professor Greg Day, Southern Wesleyan University

Joel Denton

Gunar Sekhon, cover art

***A special Thank You to my wife, Leah, and our two children, Cadence and Carter, for always supporting me and being my biggest cheerleaders. I love you!