

July 15, 2025

## Dear BMB Members and Prospective Members!

I hope this long newsletter finds you well! In a few short weeks, the 2025 BMB will be rehearsing together in preparation for our first game at Shell Energy Stadium on August 29<sup>th</sup>! We can't wait to get started with you (refer to your start dates below)!

If you are considering joining the BMB and you have not done so yet, come on! You still have time, and we still have room!

Our hearts go out to everyone affected by the recent flooding in central Texas, especially in the Hill Country region. While we unaware of any BMB members directly impacted, we want to offer our full support to anyone who may be struggling, whether personally or through family and friends. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything. We are here for you.

Please read this entire letter. If you have any questions, read our website – [www.shsu.edu/bmb](http://www.shsu.edu/bmb), and email the appropriate faculty member listed below. We aim to help you have a smooth transition to SHSU and the BMB!

### BMB Faculty and Staff:

- Prof. Darla McBryde ([dxm121@shsu.edu](mailto:dxm121@shsu.edu)) – Acting Director of the BMB and Assistant Director of Bands
- Dr. Boyce Jeffries ([bwj009@shsu.edu](mailto:bwj009@shsu.edu)) – BMB Drumline Instructor and Lecturer of Percussion
- Mr. Tim LeBlanc ([timothyjleblanc@gmail.com](mailto:timothyjleblanc@gmail.com)) – Colorguard Instructor/Drill Designer
- Mrs. Kelley McCormick ([kelley mccormick5@gmail.com](mailto:kelley mccormick5@gmail.com)) – Twirling Instructor
- Katelyn Seymour ([kes085@shsu.edu](mailto:kes085@shsu.edu)) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Band Graduate Assistant
- Alex Mata ([ajm209@shsu.edu](mailto:ajm209@shsu.edu)) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Band Graduate Assistant
- Tanner Tyler (email coming soon) – Percussion 1<sup>st</sup> year Graduate Assistant

### Joining the BMB is a Two-Step Process:

- 1) Enroll in MUEN 1116 or 3116
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year brass, woodwind, and colorguard students should enroll in Prof. McBryde's section, MUEN 1116 01
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year percussion students should enroll in Dr. Jeffries' section, MUEN 1116 02

- c. All 3<sup>rd</sup> year more students should enroll in Prof. McBryde's upper level section, MUEN 3116 02
- 2) [Register for Summer Band](#) – Registering for summer band allows us to know the following pieces of information about you:
- a. Your preferred name
  - b. Clothing sizes (we are ordering shirts very soon – please don't make us guess your size!)
  - c. Your instrument
  - d. If you need early dorm access or not
  - e. If you need a hotel during leadership, drumline, or colorguard camp

### **Stay Informed:**

- Start a habit of checking your SHSU email every day.
- Join our band app (students only) - <https://band.us/n/a4afAbZ3L872p>
- Follow us on Instagram (for anyone) – samhoustonbmb

### **BMB Practice Schedule:**

Take note of our class schedule. We require students to be available for all class times. Enroll in your courses early so that you may schedule your labs and specialized classes around the BMB course times.

- Monday nights from 6:30-8:45 pm at Bowers (facing visitor side in 2025 due to press box construction)
- Tuesday and Thursday from 4-5:45 pm at Pritchett

### **Music Migration:**

In the fall 2025, we will no longer post our music on the band website. We will be using the BEAM app instead. However, our music will be posted for a while longer. If you would like to start practicing, check it out! [www.shsu.edu/bmb](http://www.shsu.edu/bmb) - sheet music - password is thembasses

### **2025 Games:**

As you may know, Bowers, our stadium, is under construction and will not be ready for the 2025 season. Home games will be held at Shell Energy Stadium in Houston. The BMB

typically performs at all home games. Mark these dates on your calendar. BMB Members are required to attend all performances.

- Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm
- Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (Homecoming)
- Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon (Twirler Day – Armed Forces Recognition)
- Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at Noon (Saturday after Thanksgiving)

### **Potential Post-Season Games:**

- SHSU competes in Conference USA. The top two teams in Conference USA will play a championship football game on December 5, 2025, at the stadium of the No #1 ranking team. Please keep December 4-6<sup>th</sup> available.
- Conference USA is a Bowl Conference. In December 2024, SHSU competed against Georgia Southern at the New Orleans Bowl. Bowl
- Though no one can yet predict opportunities that lie ahead, we can do our best to cheer the Bearcats on and be available if needed for post-season games.

### **2025 Exhibition Performances:**

- High School Band Day—It is very **tentatively** set for September 20<sup>th</sup> at Bowers (this event will look differently than it has in the past).
- UIL Area I Contest, Katy, Texas, October 25<sup>th</sup> (All Day)
- Faculty, Friends, and Family Show – an opportunity for our Huntsville community to see our exhibition show since all our performances will be in Houston this year. We will hold this exhibition during our regularly scheduled practice time at Bowers (if construction allows) on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **University Service Performances/Events:**

These performances may include a portion or all BMB students.

- New Student Convocation – Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>
- SH Class Picture – Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> (All BMB Students)
- Family Weekend – Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> or Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> (tentative)
- Saturday @ SAM – Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (only 4-6 table volunteers needed)
- Homecoming Parade – Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

- Alumni Gala – Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Leadership Meeting and Housing:**

- Graduate Assistants, Drum Majors, Student Assistants, Visual Techs, Music Techs, Drumline Captains, and Colorguard Captains (guard and drumline as available) will meet on Saturday, 8/16/25, from 9 am to 4 pm.
- Leaders requiring a hotel room for the leadership day should note that in their [Summer Band registration](#) forms by July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Colorguard and Drumline Camps:**

- Colorguard Camp – Thursday & Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>
- Drumline Camp – Thursday through Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Colorguard or Drumline students requiring hotel rooms for their extra camp days should note that in [Summer Band registration](#) forms by July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Early Move-Ins for Campus Housing:**

- BMB woodwind, brass, and percussion members living in campus housing are must move in early on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, from noon-3pm.
- Filling out the [Summer Band registration](#) form allows us to provide your Sam ID to Reslife for a smooth early move-in day.

### **First Year Students and Bearkat Kick Off Activities:**

- Students in the leadership team along with pep-band members will perform as part of the convocation band.
- First-year BMB students should participate in convocation along with every other first-year student in the university.
  - Convocation times are assigned by college. Check out this link to see when you should attend convocation and what to expect.  
<https://www.shsu.edu/dept/fye/convocation.html>
- Bearkat Kick Off, a program designed for first-year students, begins on Thursday, August 21st, and ends on Saturday, August 23rd. First-year BMB students should attend BMB practices on Thursday evening, all day Friday, and join BKO on Saturday (unless auditioning for the School of Music ensembles).

- Once you register for summer band, Prof. McBryde will send your ID number to Bearkat Kick Off leaders, so they know not to expect you.

### **BMB Band Camp Schedule:**

- [BMB Band Camp Schedule](#) (click the link to see the schedule – times may change if needed)
- Full Band camp starts on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, with orientation, move-ins, and our family dinner.
- Band camp ends on Friday evening, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Agenda for Band Camp:**

- It is important that you attend every second of band camp practice. In just five days, the BMB will be able to perform the entire Pre-Game show, learn stand tunes, and have a plan mapped out for the 8/29 halftime show! While we will be spending some time rehearsing fundamentals and working on our signature BMB sound, we will need to start learning shows right away!

### **Instruments:**

- Members of the BMB march with the following instruments:
  - Flutes
  - Clarinets
  - Alto saxophones
  - Tenor saxophones
  - Trumpets
  - Mellophones
  - Trombones
  - Baritones
  - Sousaphones
  - Battery percussion instruments
  - Flags/Rifles (as decided by our instructor)
- The BMB provides students with the following instruments:
  - Mellophones
  - Baritones
  - Sousaphones
  - Battery percussion instruments

- A very limited number of tenor saxes to be decided upon during summer band
- Flags
- Students wishing to march bass clarinet must provide their own instrument.
- The BMB loans instruments at no cost to the members, provided the instruments are returned in satisfactory condition. Repair costs for broken or damaged instruments will be the responsibility of the student.
- If you need help with instrument needs, email Prof. McBryde – [dxm121@shsu.edu](mailto:dxm121@shsu.edu)

### **Supplies Needed:**

Use this summer to acquire your BMB supplies!

- Insulated water jug for practices
- Marching shoes – You may use your black shoes from high school (they must be flat black, not shiny or patent).
- Khaki shorts – no cargo pockets
- Short black socks for summer uniform
- Long black socks for formal uniform
- Black athletic shorts to wear under formal uniform
- Black belt to wear with khaki shorts for summer uniform
- We do have some flip folders for students that prefer to use paper music. However, you must provide your own lyre if needed. Since we are using BEAM, and you will access stand tunes on your phone, you may choose to purchase a phone lyre holder for your instrument like [this one](#). This is not a requirement, but you may find it helpful.

### **A Special Message from 2024 Drum Major, Baylor, McDugle:**

*Dear BMB,*

*I cannot express the profound gratitude and appreciation I have for this organization. The BMB is made up of the most dedicated, passionate, and truly extraordinary people and never ceases to amaze even the toughest crowds. It also has the unique ability to bring strangers together to become a family. I could not have wished for a better 3 years being a part of and serving the BMB and that is thanks to all of you.*

*With that, I want to let you all know that I will not be returning to Sam Houston next year and therefore will not be returning as one of your drum majors for the upcoming season. It was a hard decision to make, but after much thought and consideration for my academic and professional goals, I will be transferring to Texas State University this Fall.*

*I was really looking forward to this season and getting to know new people and seeing friends again, but a new opportunity has opened for me and now I must close this chapter of my life. Thank you to the directors for allowing me to be a part of and serve the BMB and thank you to my peers for being great friends and amazing and dedicated musicians. I can't wait to see and hear about what the BMB has in store this year! As always: Passion! Family! Excellence! #ILoveBMB!*

**From Prof. McBryde:**

*I want to acknowledge and thank Baylor for the time, leadership, and dedication he brought to our program. His impact was deeply felt—both on the field and off—and we're grateful for everything he contributed during his time here! Though we'll miss him, we also support and celebrate his decision to follow his dreams and take the next step in his career. Please join me in wishing him the absolute best in this new chapter!*

**That's a Wrap for Now:**

In the next letter, I'll include information about our fabulous leadership team, show music, and *Raven Ragtime* Auditions! Until then, process the information and ask any questions you have!

**Sincerely and with**

**PASSION – FAMILY – EXCELLENCE!**

Prof. Darla McBryde

Acting Director of the Bearkat Marching Band

Assistant Director of Bands

