



HILLCREST WIND ENSEMBLE
Avi Mehta, Artistic Director



JANINE DONSTON WITH MIDJOURNEY

Featuring the music of master composers Vaughan Williams, J.S. Bach, and John Williams, and concluding with an instrumental version of the symphonic masterpiece, *Carmina Burana*, by Carl Orff.

Saturday, Mar 28, 2026, 7:00 PM
Wilson Middle School Performing Arts Center
Parking Structure at 3733 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego CA

Proud member of the
Association of Concert Bands
The International Voice of
Community Bands
www.acbands.org



For more information, scan the QR code, or visit our website at www.hillcrestwindensemble.com



Artistic Director **Avi Mehta**

Avi is a lifelong learner, passionate about building relationships and transforming communities through music education.

He currently teaches in the San Diego Unified School District as a music educator where he directs the bands and orchestras at numerous elementary schools. He also conducts the newly formed Finest City Brass and performs regularly with the Finest City Wind Orchestra.

Prior to moving to California, Avi served as a wind ensemble conductor at the Margarita Muniz Academy in Jamaica Plain, the artistic director of the Josiah Quincy Orchestra Program, and the music director of the Randolph Community Band. He maintains an active guest conducting career internationally and works frequently with El Sistema-inspired programs, a network of ensembles (originally founded in Venezuela) that strive for social change through music education.



Associate Artistic Director **Jason Blackwell**

Jason has extensive music training including a Bachelor's and Master's in Music Education from the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music and a Master's in Instrumental Conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University.

He has worked with numerous conductors and composers of note including Dr. Peter Boonshaft, Hofstra University, Paula Crider, University of Texas, Johan de Meij, Amstel Music, Robert Ponto, University of Oregon, Frank Ticheli, U.S.C., and Col Arnald Gabriel, U.S. Air Force Band.

Jason has been a member of Hillcrest Wind Ensemble since 2022, both as a performer on alto sax, and as a guest conductor. He has served in the Associate Artistic Director position since January 2026



The **Hillcrest Wind Ensemble**, one of Southern California’s finest adult musical programs, celebrates 40 years of providing quality musical programs for the greater San Diego community. With the turn of the 21st century, the band has evolved into an elite concert band, playing more advanced music with a new mission to entertain the ideal of diversity within our ranks as well as promoting quality music to all of San Diego. The Hillcrest Wind Ensemble is a self-supporting program, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We exist on income from concert ticket sales and donations from generous patrons and sponsors like you.



The band would like to give special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make tonight's concert possible!

Production Staff

Board of Directors: Janine Donston, Gary Poirier,
Keith Schooler, Miranda Osguthorpe, Lori Calabrese

Ticket Sales.....Miranda Osguthorpe
 Press Gary Poirier
 Volunteer Coordinator..... Gary Poirier
 Graphic Design..... Andrew Newman
 Audio RecordingOscar Green, Keith Schooler
 Video Recording.....Janine Donston
 Equipment Transportation Gary Poirier, Stephan Lopic
 LibrarianSandy Petersen
 Website Manager..... Keith Schooler

CONCERT PROGRAM

Fanfare and FlourishesJames Curnow

Come Sweet Death.....J.S. Bach arr. Alfred Reed

Toccata MarzialeR. Vaughan Williams

Midway March.....John Williams arr. James Curnow

Variations on a Shaker Melody.....Aaron Copland

Jason Blackwell, Conductor

The Beau Ideal.....John Philip Sousa

Jason Blackwell, Conductor

INTERMISSION

Carmina Burana Carl Orff arr. John Krance

O Fortune, variable as the moon

I lament fortune's blows

The joyful face of spring

Dance, on the lawn

The noble forest

If all the world was mine

The god of love flies everywhere

I am the (drunk) abbot

When we are in the tavern

I am suspended between love and chastity

Sweetest boy

Hail to thee, most beautiful

O Fortune, empress of the world

*Never miss an update! Go to our homepage
hillcrestwindensemble.com, then scroll to the
bottom of page to subscribe to our email list.*

The Wind Ensemble

Artistic Director

Avi Mehta

Associate

Artistic Director

Jason Blackwell

Flute/Piccolo

Jia Chen-Gan

Nancy Hupp

Maddy Kolkow

Martha Krones

Jasmine Mikesell*

Merrilyn Pope

Adrienne Prezzano

Oboe

Tristan Anderson

Abigail Angwin

San San Blain

Bassoon

Lori Calabrese

Bridget Navarro

Clarinet

Taku Arai

Sara Baird*

Amy Chu

John Mark Graham

Patrick McMahon

Josh Mills

Dick Robinette

Nick Robinson

Dell Schroeder

Alli Stapleford

Bass Clarinet

Keith Schooler

Contrabass

Clarinet

Brian Hess

Alto Saxophone

Jason Blackwell*

Corey Jones-Weinert

Tenor Saxophone

Gary Poirier

Baritone

Saxophone

Mark Skuster

Horn

Lee Hintz

Tina Larson

Angel Moscosa

Sandy Petersen*

Igor Voevodov

Trumpet

Nicholas De La Riva

Hunter Kleinman

Hunter Kobdish-

Raney

Stephan Lopic

Julie Lees*

Gregg Peele

Trombone

Cindy Au

Charlie Butler

Phil Imming*

Steven Nguyen

Euphonium

Liz Cooper

Buddy Gibbs

Tuba

Andrew Newman

Brock Seeman

String Bass

Elida Kocharian

Timpani

Ricki Pedersen

Percussion

Joseph Cabral

Matthew LeFebvre

N. Scott Robinson

Angeli Ryan-Lim

Rose Yager

Piano

Todd Newman

**Section Leader*



Special Thanks
for the generosity of our 2025 financial family

**Premiere Tier
Ruby Club \$2500+**

Fernando Herrera
Ricki & Alden Pedersen
Gary Poirier

**Premiere Tier
Diamond Club \$1000 – \$2499**

Jason Blackwell
Russ & Janine Donston
John Oltmann & James Soe Nyun
Julie Lees & Liz Cooper
James Pea & Sandi Petersen
Keith Schooler & Oscar Green

Platinum Club \$500 – \$999

Jim Callahan & Sara Baird
Bruce Vermazen

Gold Club \$200 – \$499

Amy Chu
Imming McCabe Gift Fund
Bruce Jones
Tina Larson
Dell Schroeder
Kari Lorraine Scott

Silver Club \$100 – \$199

Fred Lee
Mel Lions
Donna Mills
Joshua Mills
Angel Moscosa
TJ O'Donnell
Miranda Osguthorpe
Mark Serbian
Pamela Simpson
Marc Skuster
Eric & Rexanna Swanson

Bronze Club \$20 – \$99

August Conrad
Sarah Eishen
Mona Freels
David Gonzalez & Galen Gattis
Patricia Green
Stephan Lopic
James McCabe
Dr. Bryan McNutt
Kerry Mills
Frances Smith
April Ventura



SAVE THE DATE!

Our next concert will be Hillcrest Wind Ensemble's annual cabaret concert "Bring Your Dance Shoes!"
Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: Hyatt Regency
Mission Bay
1441 Quivira Rd.
San Diego, CA 92109

You'll want to hit the dance floor to tunes spanning from the 1950s to present by the

Glenn Miller Orchestra, Bee Gees, Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson, Gloria Gaynor, Village People, Louis Armstrong, and more! Subscribe to our mailing list to be notified when tickets go on sale for this event at www.hillcrestwindensemble.com/contact-us



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SUPPORT THE ENSEMBLE

The Hillcrest Wind Ensemble is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The ensemble relies on ticket sales and contributions for all operational needs. However, ticket sales do not cover the expenses of producing a concert, primarily due to soaring venue rental prices. This makes donations more important than ever. Please consider the benefits of helping the band.

Your monetary donations are tax-deductible. You will receive a tax letter after the end of the year showing your total donation for the year.

www.hillcrestwindensemble.com/donate

A close-up, slightly blurred image of a rainbow flag, showing the vibrant colors of the spectrum: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The flag is draped and folded, creating soft shadows and highlights.

THE MET

Bringing People Closer to God, and One Another

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