



SHADES  
*of*  
*Blue*  
a cappella

AMERICAN  
**CHORAL DIRECTORS**  
ASSOCIATION

2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 25, 2023

ARONOFF CENTER: PROCTOR & GAMBLE HALL  
CINCINNATI, OHIO





## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you very much for choosing to attend our performance today! It is a tremendous honor to be selected to perform at the **2023 ACDA National Conference**. What you see before you today is the culmination of six years of growth and development since Shades of Blue's inception as a contemporary a cappella group.

Contemporary a cappella has grown significantly in the past decade through its inclusion in television, movies, and prominent media. One area where contemporary a cappella has grown the most is the secondary choral program. In recent years, contemporary a cappella groups have become an integral part of many choral programs throughout the country. This is true of our choral program at **Hilliard Memorial Middle School** and **Hilliard Bradley High School**. We have developed the Jaguar A Cappella program which provides opportunities for 60+ students every year to perform contemporary a cappella. **Shades of Blue is the premier ensemble of Jaguar A Cappella**. Students in this ensemble give two periods per day in their schedule: one to a traditional choral ensemble and one to Shades of Blue.

I believe strongly in creating opportunities for students to step up as leaders and have ownership in our choral program. One of my favorite aspects of contemporary a cappella is when it comes time to perform, as the director, I must step back and let the students run the show. In my experience, the voice and ownership students are given in ensembles such as this creates opportunities they carry with them far beyond high school.

Today's program is a glimpse into the world of contemporary a cappella where the most beautiful and versatile instrument, the voice, is used in unique ways to create a wide spectrum of sounds and textures. All of the songs performed today are commissioned custom arrangements specifically for the voices standing in front of you. My hope through today's program is for you to see that the perceived gap between choral singing and contemporary a cappella is really not much of a gap at all.

I would like to express my gratitude for these students and their significant contributions to create this performance. These students are involved in so many facets of our school, and yet continue to perform at an extremely high level. Thank you to the most amazing co-directors, Kelsey and Alyssa. Thank you for putting your heart and soul into this group and never putting a lid on the capabilities of high schoolers. Collaborating creatively with both of you is one of the greatest joys in my career. Thank you to my wife, Lindi, daughter, Hayden, parents, and siblings who have always been my biggest supporters.

I would like to dedicate today's performance to all of the past members of Shades of Blue a cappella who gave their time, energy, talents, and hearts to make this group what it is today. Thank you: Dylan Ball, Sabriye Bayati, Audrey Brill, Audrey Brown, Bella Calderon, Nate Centa, Sonia Clark, Gabe Contreras, Rachel Emery, Braden Evans, Emily Ewen, Cayden Ferguson, Jacky Figueroa, Ryleigh Fouts, Levi Gardner, Daniel George, Keaton Headley, Hannah Hubler, Nate Hubler, Nick Madama, Ryan Madama, Rob Martin, Alexander Miller, Savannah Montgomery, Jenny Morrison, Dylan Newcomb, Kait Newcomb, Kylie Niple, Bri Nutter, Evan Poff, Elyanna Rondon, KC Sandy, Aaron Sartain, Alex Seymour, Tyler Stanley, Jenna Vosskuehler, and Megan Woodruff.

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**Jeremy Witt, M.M.Ed.**

Director of Choirs, Hilliard Bradley High School  
Jaguar A Cappella | Shades of Blue  
Hilliard, Ohio

**Shades of Blue A Cappella**  
American Choral Directors Association 2023 National Conference  
February 25, 2023 | Aronoff Center: Proctor & Gamble Hall, Cincinnati, Ohio

Risk it All.....OPB Ella Henderson  
Arr. Rob Dietz

Quinn Mazon, *Lead*

Apple Pie.....OPB Lizzy McAlpine  
Arr. Rob Dietz

Callene Laslo, *Lead*

exile.....OPB Taylor Swift feat. Bon Iver  
Arr. Jamey Boezi

Love Me Now.....OPB (feat. Zoe Wees)  
Arr. Rob Dietz

MaKenna Sandy, *Lead*

Quinn Mazon, Sydney Driscoll, Annabelle Brock and Callene Laslo, *Quartet*

Outsider.....OPB Rachel Grae  
Arr. Katherine Bodor

Skylar Zakrzewski, *Lead*

Brighter Days.....OPB Blessing Offor  
Arr. Shams Ahmed

Jared Morisue-Lesser and Jay Phillips, *Lead*

**Shades of Blue A Cappella** is the premier Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble of the Jaguar A Cappella Program at Hilliard Bradley High School in Hilliard, Ohio. Made up of students in the 9-12 grade levels, they are selected after a rigorous audition process that takes place each Spring. These singers are also a part of one of the four curricular choirs of the Bradley Choir Program. They rehearse daily as a class as well as once a week in the evening and on an occasional Saturday. Each of their songs is custom arranged for the group. Shades consistently works with some of the best arrangers in contemporary a cappella, including Rob Dietz, Shams Ahmed, and Katherine Bodor.

Initially established as a chamber ensemble upon the opening of Bradley High School in 2010, they have evolved into one of the most successful high school a cappella groups in the country. They perform on three at-home concerts a year as well as for a variety of community organizations, including the City of Hilliard, Hilliard City School District (HCSD), the Columbus Clippers, Ohio State Athletics, and many more.

Beginning in 2020, studio recording became a part of their culture. In the past two years, Shades has released their first EP, as well as seven singles, which are available on all streaming platforms. In March 2023, their debut album *Brighter Days* will be released. They have also enjoyed building their online community on TikTok, having gone viral with their rendition of Taylor Swift's "exile." Their debut EP, entitled *Courage*, was nominated for "Best High School EP" at the 2022 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards. They have competed in the International Championship of High School A Cappella for three years advancing to semifinals each year. They will compete again this year for the first time since 2020, on March 4th at Bradley High School. In March 2022, they were one of 10 featured high school groups at the National A Cappella Convention in Orlando, Florida. Shades of Blue A Cappella has had their recordings selected for *Voices Only!* and BOHSA (Best of High School A Cappella). In December 2022, their live video from NACC was nominated for an A Cappella Video Award.

The singers of Shades of Blue A Cappella love building their community through vocal music and serving as ambassadors of both the HCSD and the larger Contemporary A Cappella demographic. They are grateful to the American Choral Directors Association for opening up doors to feature a contemporary a cappella group at this year's National Conference.





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**DIRECTORS**  
Jeremy Witt, Kelsey D. Burkett *and* Alyssa Schott

**BRADLEY CHOIR**  
bradleychoir.com

**JAGUAR A CAPPELLA**  
bradleychoir.com/acappella

 [youtube.com/@shadesofblueacappella](https://youtube.com/@shadesofblueacappella)

 [@shadesofblueacappella](https://tiktok.com/@shadesofblueacappella)

 [instagram.com/shadesofblueacappella](https://instagram.com/shadesofblueacappella)

 [facebook.com/shadesofblueacappella](https://facebook.com/shadesofblueacappella)

 [open.spotify.com/artist/7wn9svZSguisH-GoDGT7dVM](https://open.spotify.com/artist/7wn9svZSguisH-GoDGT7dVM)

 [music.apple.com/us/artist/-shades-of-blue-a-cappella/1555534525](https://music.apple.com/us/artist/-shades-of-blue-a-cappella/1555534525)

**SOPRANO**  
Annabelle Brock

**TENOR**  
Jay Phillips  
Tyler Seymour  
Devan Shanmugam

**MEZZO**  
Sydney Driscoll  
Quinn Mazon  
MaKenna Sandy

**BARITONE**  
Brayden Laslo  
Kyle Metzler  
Jared Morisue-Lesser

**ALTO**  
Addison Creeger-Tom  
Sofia Italiano  
Callene Laslo  
Emerson Swendal  
Skylar Zakrzewski

**BASS**  
Lance Thongsavanh

**VOCAL PERCUSSION**  
Iain Tolber





**Jeremy Witt** is an educator, conductor, and performer from Hilliard, Ohio. He is a graduate of Cedarville University with a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education and of Kent State University with a Master's in Music Education. He currently is in his seventh year of teaching and serves as the Director of Choirs at Hilliard Bradley High School. In his role at Bradley, Jeremy conducts the Symphonic Choir and Concert Choir Tenor/Bass. He also oversees the Jaguar A Cappella program, co - directs Shades of Blue a cappella with Ms. Kelsey Burkett and Ms. Alyssa Schott, and directs ECHO a cappella. In addition to his responsibilities at Bradley, Jeremy directs the 7th and 8th Grade Tenor/Bass choir at Memorial Middle School.

Jeremy is very involved in the contemporary a cappella movement. He has served as a producer for the all - a cappella radio station, Acaville. Jeremy has worked as a judge for the Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards, and as a judge for the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella and International Championship of High School A Cappella. Jeremy founded Cedarville University's first contemporary a cappella group, The Inversions, and served as the Music Director/President four years. Under his direction, the group had sold-out concerts, produced two EP studio recordings, and had their singles "Stay" and "Mad World" selected for the international a cappella compilation album Voices Only. The "Mad World" music video was nominated for an A Cappella Video Award.

Jeremy has continued his work in contemporary a cappella educationally through developing the Hilliard Bradley High School A Cappella program with Kelsey Burkett and Alyssa Schott. In recent years, the program has grown from one to four contemporary a cappella groups. Jaguar A Cappella consists of one middle school group, Blue Notes, and three high school groups WAVE, ECHO, and the award-winning Shades of Blue.

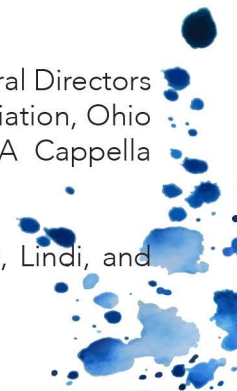
On February 2nd, Jeremy was awarded Ohio Music Education Association's Outstanding Young Music Educator for 2023!

Jeremy is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, Ohio Choral Directors Association, Ohio Music Education Association, and the A Cappella Education Association.

Jeremy is lovingly supported by his wife, Lindi, and daughter, Hayden.



**JEREMY  
WITT**





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## KELSEY D. BURKETT



Raised in Solon, OH, **Kelsey D. Burkett** is a 2006 Graduate of Capital University, where she majored in Music Education and served as the alto section leader in the renown Chapel Choir. She completed her Masters of Music in Music Education and Kodaly Certification from Capital University in 2019. In her 17th year of teaching, she has a passion for the developing voice and middle school singers. She serves as the Director of Choirs at Hilliard Memorial Middle School, where she directs the 7th Grade Treble Choir, 8th Grade Treble Choir, and Blue Notes. Alongside **Jeremy Witt** and **Alyssa Schott**, she oversees the Jaguar A Cappella Program, which boasts four contemporary a cappella groups in grades 7-12. She also serves as co-director of Bradley High School's Award-Winning Contemporary A Cappella Group, Shades of Blue, who have gone viral on TikTok and Instagram with over 350,000 views of their multiple arrangements of pop hits.

Choirs under her direction have consistently received Superior and Excellent ratings and Grand Championships at the District, State, and National Contest levels. In June 2016, the MMS Choirs made their Carnegie Hall Debut as a part of the Songs of Inspiration and Hope Concert under the direction of Mrs. Lori Loftus. In Summer of 2018, the MMS 8th Grade Treble Choir performed for the Ohio Choral Directors Association Summer Conference at Otterbein University. In 2022, they were chosen as the only middle school choir to perform at the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference. Ms. Burkett has been spurred to be a warrior for Social Justice within her community, and recently co-founded the Hilliard BIPOC Alliance, for her coworkers of color within the Hilliard City School District, working for change within and outside of their classrooms. Recently, she co-presented as part of the OCDA Virtual Series "New Directions" on the Decolonization of Choral Ensembles. She also serves as the South-Central Region Chair for the Ohio Choral Directors Association. In 2022, she was appointed an American Choral Directors Association National R&R Co-Chair for Contemporary and Commercial Choirs.

In March 2020, Ms. Burkett was selected as one of 10 educators from across the United States as a Country Music Association Music Teacher of Excellence.

Ms. Burkett maintains an active singing career, performing with professional ensembles around the city of Columbus. She is also in demand as a clinician, music education advocate, and honor choir conductor. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, Ohio Music Education Association, and the Organization of American Kodaly Educators. She lives in Columbus with her 4-year-old daughter, Harper, and their cat, Phil.

Follow her on Instagram:  
[@biracialchoirunicorn](#)





**Alyssa Schott** is a music educator, conductor, and vocalist originally from Orland Park, Illinois. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Music Education specializing in vocal music. At Hilliard Bradley High School, Schott is responsible for teaching the treble voices of the Bradley Choir program. She directs the Concert Choir, Chorale, and assists Jeremy Witt with the Symphonic Choir. She additionally co-teaches the 8th Grade Treble Choir at Memorial Middle School with Kelsey Burkett.

Alongside Witt and Burkett, she leads the Jaguar A Cappella Program which boasts four contemporary a cappella groups in grades 7-12, three at Bradley High School and one at Memorial Middle School. She also serves as a co-director of Shades of Blue, Bradley High School's premier contemporary a cappella group. In addition to local performances, Shades of Blue competes in the ICHSA tournament, completes recording projects released on streaming platforms, maintains an active social media presence, and has regularly performed at national conferences in recent years.

During her time at Ohio State, Schott spent a year as the assistant director of the Hilliard Youth Chorus. She additionally completed internships with both Caprrio Columbus and the Columbus Children's Choir. She served as the state Student Representative for the Ohio Choral Director's Association as well as the President of the student chapter of the American Choral Director's Association at OSU. Schott studied voice with Professor Loretta Robinson and conducting with Dr. Kristina MacMullen. She performed as a member and soloist in The Ohio State Women's Glee Club, Symphonic Choir, and in stage productions through the OSU Opera and Lyric Theater Department. Schott was the winner of the Wilson Vocal Competition and recipient of the Swank Vocal Award and John Long Music Education Award.

In addition to her scholastic commitments, Schott sings professionally as a soprano soloist around the Columbus area and is an active member of the Ohio Music Education Association. She currently sings as a soloist and soprano section leader at First Community Church in Grandview, Ohio. Schott also recently co-presented at the annual 2023 OMEA conference in Columbus, Ohio in a session geared towards young educators preparing to transition into a new professional position.

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ALYSSA  
SCHOTT





### **Annabelle Brock**

(Sophomore, Soprano, 2-Year Member) has been singing in choirs for six years. This is her first year in Symphonic Choir, and her second year in Shades of Blue A Cappella. She is also a member of the New World Singers with the Columbus Children's Choir, an honors student, and involved in theater at Bradley High school. In the future she hopes to gain more experience in film and media production.



### **Sydney Driscoll**

(Junior, Mezzo, 1-Year Member) has been in choir, since the 6th grade and a cappella since 7th grade. Sydney has loved music, especially singing, since she was little. Being in something like Shades of Blue is a huge honor for Sydney.



### **Addison Creeger-Tom**

(Sophomore, Alto 2, 2-Year Member) has been singing in choirs and a cappella for four years. She is in her first year in the Symphonic Choir. In the future, she would like to pursue cosmetology and hopefully record some songs, both covers and originals. She also wants to get into acting and movies. Go follow her on TikTok @wasian\_101.



### **Sofia Italiano**

(Junior, Alto 1, 2-Year Member) has been in Shades of Blue for two years. She also maintains a 4.0 GPA and plays basketball at Hilliard Bradley. Sofia has been in choir since eighth grade and is now the leader of the soprano section of Symphonic Choir. In the future, Sofia plans to study law. A Cappella means a lot to Sofia and she has gained many skills and friends from it. Sofia would like to thank her parents, director, friends, and her two cats, Rodeo and Mitchell.





### **Brayden Laslo**

(Senior, Baritone, 2-Year Member) played football and baseball and loves to sing. He plans on going to Ohio University to study journalism and sports media. He's been in choir since sixth grade. A Cappella is a great way to express yourself by singing and performing. He wants to thank his family and directors for instilling passion and confidence in his singing.



### **Quinn Mazon**

(Sophomore, Mezzo, 1-Year Member) started choir classes their freshman year and is now in Symphonic Choir and wanted to try a cappella. Quinn plans to continue choir and a cappella throughout high school. Quinn loves music and is excited for all of their upcoming performances.



### **Callene Laslo**

(Sophomore, Alto 1, 1-Year Member) has been in choir for 6 years and also does theater at Hilliard Bradley High School. She is on the Student Advisory Board for Hilliard City Schools, is a sophomore class representative, and is a part of the Hope Squad. In the future, she hopes to continue her passion for music at a high level and go to college to become a psychologist. A Cappella has been a new journey for Callene, but she has loved every moment of it! She wants to thank her directors, family, and friends for all of the love and support they have given her through it all.



### **Kyle Metzler**

(Senior, Baritone, 1-Year Member) has always been involved with music since he was in middle school and hasn't stopped since. Kyle joined a cappella back in 2017, when he was in 7th Grade at Hilliard Memorial Middle School. As of now, Kyle is highly involved with his high school's theater program and is the social media manager for his theater troupe. For the future, Kyle plans to go to college in Ohio and he wants to major in theater. Kyle cannot wait to perform with Shades of Blue. He thanks his family and friends for supporting him endlessly.





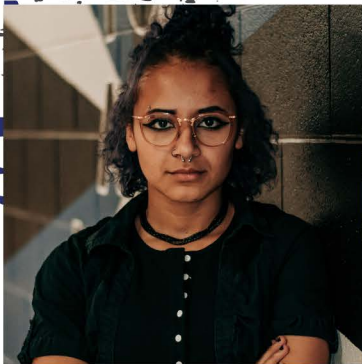
### **Jared Morisue-Lesser**

(Junior, Baritone, 2-Year Member) has loved all things music and performing since he was little. He's a singer, actor, dancer, and violinist. He joined a cappella in the 7th Grade in his middle school group, Blue Notes. Jared is in his school's top orchestra and choir, theater troupe, and is also a Boy Scout. To Jared, a cappella is a place to have fun making music with other people he connects with. Jared plans on going to college and majoring in musical theater and hopes to pursue his dreams of performing professionally. He would like to thank his family for their continued support and his vocal teacher, Jodi Quint for her expertise.



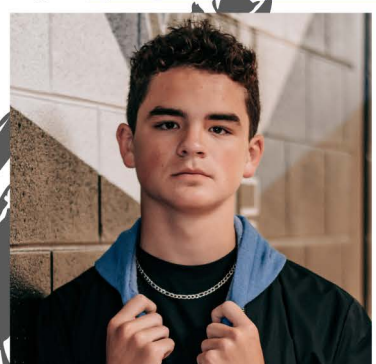
### **MaKenna Sandy**

(Junior, Mezzo, 2-Year Member) has been influenced by music her whole life. From singing at church since she was little to being in school musicals. She has experienced all types of music. She uses music as a way to stay positive, even when things get rough. She loves a cappella and all it has given her. To her, Shades of Blue is more than just a cappella group; they are her second family. She is so proud of all they've accomplished and can't wait to see what the future brings them. She is still deciding what her future will be, but she hopes that music will always be a part of it.



### **Jay Phillips**

(Senior, Tenor, 3-Year Member) was a part of Hilliard Memorial's Blue Notes A Cappella their eighth grade year and joined choir their freshmen year. They have also been a part of theater since sixth grade, being inducted into the National Thespian Society just last year. After graduation, they plan to pursue music writing & creation. Jay would like to thank their parents and brother for continuously supporting them no matter what.



### **Tyler Seymour**

(Sophomore, Tenor, 1-Year Member) has been in choir for 4 years and a cappella for three years. He has also been a lacrosse player and cross country runner since elementary school. Tyler has loved a cappella and choir ever since he started singing. It means a lot to him and is a large part of not only his life, but his entire family's. It's an important hobby and he loves spending time with his friends in the group. Thank you all!





### **Devan Shanmugam**

(Sophomore, Tenor, 1-Year Member) Devan is a sophomore at Bradley High School. This is his first year in Shades of Blue as a tenor. He is also in the Symphonic Choir at Bradley. Devan plans to go to college after high school and major in business. Devan would like to thank all of the a cappella directors for giving him the chance to be in Shades of Blue, as well as his old sister, Jayla, who convinced him to do a cappella.



### **Lance Thongsavanh**

(Junior, Bass, 1-Year Member) is extremely grateful for Mr. Witt, Ms. Schott, and Ms. Burkett for everything that they've done to make his experience in a cappella wonderful. He's also grateful for his parents for supporting him. The only sport he plays is tennis in the spring. He's not quite sure about which college to go to after high school, but he thinks it's either computer science or engineering. Words cannot express how much singing, his parents, and his directors means to him as a singer and a person.



### **Emerson Swendal**

(Freshman, Alto 1, 1-Year Member) As a freshman, Emerson is really enjoying her first year in Shades. Outside of school and Shades, she loves to spend her time playing guitar, scuba diving, and skiing in the colder months. In the future, she plans to continue to explore musical opportunities and grow her vocal abilities. A cappella is extremely important to Emerson, as it is a chance to indulge in her passion of music and to sing with other talented people. She is able to show emotion through the music she performs and loves every second of it.



### **Iain Tolber**

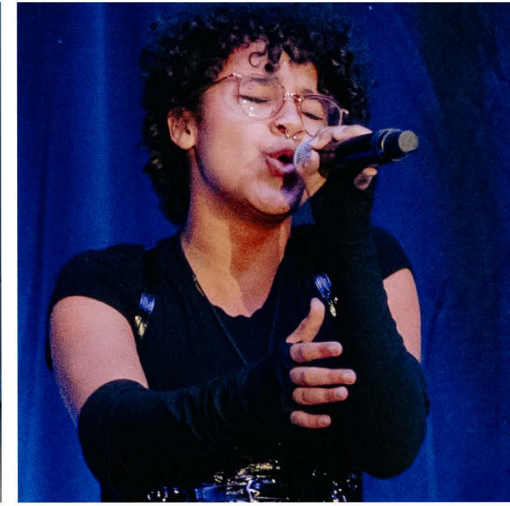
(Sophomore, Vocal Percussion, 1-Year Member) is a very energetic person. He plays football and baseball at Hilliard Bradley. He plans to play college sports in his future and continue with a cappella. A Cappella is a very important part of his life. He has met great friends and learned responsibility while being a part of it. He is thankful for his Dad, Grandma, and choir directors for being there and putting up with him, even when he's annoying. Thank you.





## Skylar Zakrzewski

(Senior, Alto 2, 3-Year Member) has enjoyed singing since she was little and has done choir since seventh grade. She got her start in music through the Columbus Children's Theatre, participating in a handful of musicals starting in fourth grade. Her most recent achievement is winning the 2022 Hilliard Idol Senior Division. A Cappella has influenced Skylar in many ways. The program pushes her to work hard and try her best, both in music and in other aspects of her life. Following graduation, Skylar plans to attend school for Interior Design. She would like to thank her family for their never-ending support, and her directors for pushing her to work hard and for all the amazing opportunities they present to her.





# HILLIARD CITY SCHOOLS PERFORMING ARTS STAFF

**Dr. Mark Sholl**  
*Fine Arts Coordinator*

**Alton Darby-Darby Creek Learning Campus**  
Billy Giacomelli  
Megan Hennes

**Avery Elementary**  
Amy Rittberger  
Stacy Bosh

**Beacon Elementary**  
Nicole Mazon

**Britton-Norwich Learning Campus**  
Terri Root  
Meredith Kennedy

**Brown Elementary**  
Jane Ehret

**Crossing Elementary**  
Logan Fletcher

**Hoffman Trails Elementary**  
Tom Root

**Horizon Elementary**  
Margie Romine

**J.W. Reason Elementary**  
Becky Curran

**Ridgewood Elementary**  
Julie Cannell

**Scioto Darby Elementary**  
Joyce Brandt

**Washington Elementary**  
Tom Regouski

**Station Sixth Grade**  
Joy! Grubbs, *Director of Choirs & General Music*  
Diana Niklas, *Director of Bands*  
Emily Way, *Director of Orchestras*  
Emily Thomas, *Asst. Director of Bands & Orchestras*

**Tharp Sixth Grade**  
Sarah Chang, *Director of Choirs & General Music*  
Nicole Brocke, *Director of Bands*  
Caitlin Bartholic, *Director of Orchestras*

**Hilliard Memorial Middle School**  
Kelsey D. Burkett, *Director of Choirs*  
John Montgomery, *Director of Bands*  
Erin Broadhurst, *Director of Orchestras*  
Emily Johnson, *Asst. Director of Orchestras & General Music*

**Hilliard Heritage Middle School**  
Adam Heaston, *Director of Choirs*  
Joe Burke, *Director of Bands*  
Sara Given, *Director of Orchestras*

**Hilliard Weaver Middle School**  
Jeannette Muzzalupo, *Director of Choirs*  
Angela Davoll, *Director of Bands*  
Virginia Faulkner, *Director of Orchestras*

**Hilliard Bradley High School**  
Jeremy Witt, *Director of Choirs*  
Alyssa Schott, *Asst. Director of Choirs*  
Andrew Rice, *Director of Bands*  
Matthew Smith, *Asst. Director of Bands*  
Erin Broadhurst, *Director of Orchestras*

**Hilliard Darby High School**  
Dr. Michael Martin, *Director of Choirs*  
Hannah Sterman-Wilson, *Asst. Director of Choirs*  
Jeremy Kozman, *Director of Bands*  
John Riegel, *Director of Orchestras*

**Hilliard Davidson High School**  
Nic Crowther, *Director of Choirs*  
Joshua Duffer, *Asst. Director of Choirs*  
Shawn Malone, *Director of Bands*  
Luke Shultz, *Asst. Director of Bands*  
Don Ley, *Asst. Director of Bands*  
Patrick Barrett, *Director of Orchestras*

**Innovative Learning Campus**  
Phil Nagy

**Online Academy**  
Kent Hansher

## SHADES of BLUE A CAPPELLA SUPPLEMENTAL STAFF

**Technical Director:**  
Eric Farnbauch

**Choreographers:**  
Aria Cadeau & Olivia Harless

**Vocal Percussion Coach:**  
Jackson Guirnalda

**Vocal Coach:**  
Cierra Lee

**Recording Engineer:**  
Phil Nagy



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William Warfield, Principal  
Cort Hamilton, Asst. Principal  
Adam Walton, Asst. Principal  
Dr. Terrie Turney, Asst. Principal

David Stewart, Superintendent  
Brian Wilson, Chief Financial Officer  
Mike McDonough, Asst. Superintendent  
Jill Abraham, Asst. Superintendent

Board of Education  
Kara Crowley  
Nadia Long  
Beth Murdoch  
Brian Perry  
Zach Vorst



## THE *Arts* IN THE HILLIARD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hilliard City schools are committed to education, ensuring the child is in a safe and caring environment where administrators, teachers, support staff, and parents offer programs and resources that make learning both fun and challenging.

Student success results from a variety of carefully planned curricular and co-curricular activities that stress academics, citizenship, character, the arts, health, and well-being, and social development.

### WE *Believe* THAT ARTS EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL LEARNERS BECAUSE:

- ★ The arts provide critical opportunities and learning experiences not available in any other discipline.
- ★ As we connect the arts experiences to other disciplines students value those disciplines in new and deeper ways.
- ★ Our young musicians are the voice and record of our humanity and help us develop our cultural and aesthetic understanding.

### WE *Believe* THAT DANCE, DRAMA MUSIC and VISUAL ART ARE IMPORTANT TO SOCIETY BECAUSE:

- ★ Embody our deepest personal expression.
- ★ Connect cultures and celebrate the diversity beyond one's experience.
- ★ Represent forms of thinking and ways of knowing and participating with the world through cognitive and sensory experiences.
- ★ Provide basic symbol systems by which people communicate, express, and acquire understanding.
- ★ Represent a powerful economic force which will provide ever-expanding career and economic/consumer opportunities.
- ★ Are abilities with which all people are born and which can be developed to higher levels.

On behalf of the Fine Arts Department of the Hilliard City School District, I am so pleased to recognize Hilliard Bradley High School's Shades of Blue A Cappella on their being selected to perform at the American Choral Directors Association 2023 National Conference. Jeremy Witt, along with assistance from Kelsey Burkett and Alyssa Schott, spend countless hours working with these talented young musicians leading them to a performance level that is deservedly nationally recognized.

The Shades of Blue is just a part of a thriving choral program at Memorial Middle School and Bradley High School, that constantly draws rave reviews from professional colleagues. As a teaching team, Mr. Witt, Ms. Burkett, and Ms. Schott demonstrate the highest level of teaching excellence and professional interaction with, and for their students every day.

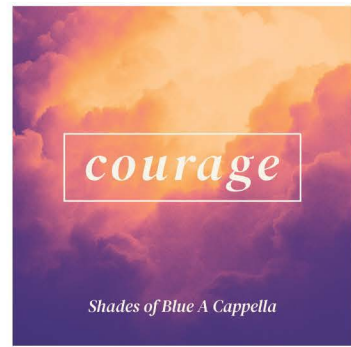
As the Fine Arts Coordinator, I could not be prouder of Shades of Blue, and the entire choral program at Hilliard Bradley High School. The school district is fortunate to have this and many other fine programs developing the musicianship, sense of pride, work-ethic and many other life skills for our students.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Mark Sholl – Fine Arts Coordinator, Hilliard City School District**



# LISTEN to SHADES OF BLUE A CAPPELLA



SHADES OF BLUE  
A CAPPELLA  
DEBUT ALBUM  
**BRIGHTER DAYS**

RELEASE DATE  
MARCH 17, 2023



**THANK YOU:**  
Dr. Mark Sholl  
HCSD Administration  
Bradley HS Administration  
Hilliard Music Boosters  
Rob Dietz  
Katherine Bodor  
Shams Ahmed  
Jamey Boezi  
Shades of Blue A Cappella  
Parents, Families, & Friends

Photos courtesy of:  
IKM Photography and Morisue Photography

ACDA  
**2023**

FEBRUARY 22-25 / CINCINNATI, OH



SHADES  
of  
*Blue*  
a cappella

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