

We Invite You To Sponsor

The Award Winning
Bunnell-Stratford
Marching Band &
Color Guard



Dear Prospective Sponsor,

Bunnell Stratford Marching Band & Guard is a non-profit organization that strives to provide opportunities for everyone in our community to participate in healthy, safe, and inclusive musical activities in a fun and family-oriented environment. The band is directed by a team of prestigious musical professionals and a volunteer staff, all of whom tirelessly provide their skills, time, and assistance to ensure the Band and Guard can offer a variety of opportunities.

As a local town marching band, our major source of revenue is generated from membership fees and donations received from generous individuals and businesses. We get very limited support from the school district, so all funds must be raised by the board and students to help our program run smoothly. These funds are then reinvested into the Band and Guard for the benefit of all band and guard members. They will help provide musical instruments, guard equipment, uniforms, pay staff, provide travel equipment (bus and truck rentals) for competitions, and help open doors for more opportunities, like our cameo in the 2023 Disney Movie 'Chang Can Dunk'.



The Bunnell Stratford Marching Band & Color Guard understands that in the current economic state, organizations require value for any sponsorship money. Thus, the board has put together a variety of Sponsorship packages to provide businesses and organizations a flexible opportunity to support our aspiring community. The Band Parent Association is a 5013-c, non-profit organization, so all contributions are tax-deductible.

Gold Sponsorship Package: \$15,000

Silver Sponsorship Package: \$10,000

Bronze Sponsorship Package: \$5,000

[Click here to make your donation.](#)

Meet the Staff

Band Director:

Sean Latham

Sean graduated from Stratford High School. He was a member of the Stratford-Bunnell Marching band for five years up until he graduated from Stratford High School in 2020. He recently joined as band director in 2024. Sean studied at Western Connecticut State University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in K-12 Music Education and is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Music Education with a concentration in High School Education at Washington State University. He will be graduating next fall. Before coming to Bunnell, he was a music instructor at both Cheshire High School and Naugatuck High School from 2021 until fall 2023. This 2024-2025 Season was Sean's first as Band Director. It has been an excellent experience, and he has loved every second of it. We are excited for our 2025 production titled "Vinyl Vibes".

Design Team:

G James Miller

Musical Arrangements, Sound Design, Percussion Arrangements Mr. G. James Miller

holds a Master of Science Degree from Full Sail University (2011), a Master of Arts Degree in Music from Columbia University Teachers College (1985), and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from William Paterson College (1983). Mr. Miller has served in many of the tri-state area schools as an Educator, Writer, and Clinician for over thirty-five years.

His writing credits include percussion ensemble works performed by University Percussion Ensembles such as East Carolina State University, Jersey City State College, Morehead State University (KY), and Jacksonville State in Alabama. Mr. Miller's exercises and ensemble works have been published and distributed worldwide by Premier Percussion. He has also authored two books on percussion technique and several articles published in trade magazines.

Mr. Miller has composed for and taught many Drum and Bugle Corps such as the Skyliners (NY), Hurricanes (CT), Westshore Men (PA), Chieftains (PA), Bridgemen (NJ), the Star of Indiana (IN), and most notably the Bushwhackers (NJ) - who were awarded the "Best Percussion" award at the world championships for five consecutive years.

G. James Miller was the District Teacher of the Year in 2023 and has been a finalist for the Teacher of the Year award in Stratford, CT. He recently retired as band director after 35 years. At Bunnell, he directed the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, the National Champion Indoor Drumline, and the eighteen-time Connecticut State Champion Marching Band.

Percussion:

Phil Dolan

Mr. Dolan holds a Master of Science degree from Full Sail University (2014), a Master of Arts degree from Fairfield University (2005), and a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Western Connecticut State University (2001). Mr. Dolan also completed four years of coursework at Morehead State University in Morehead, KY. Mr. Dolan is also a graduate of Bunnell High School (1994) and performed as a percussionist in all 4 years of the Bunnell Marching Band.

Mr. Dolan has been a writer and instructor for area marching bands over the last 20 years, working with Masuk High School, Bunnell High School, and Westhill High School. Currently, Mr. Dolan is the Band Director at Amity High School in Woodbridge, CT, where his pit orchestras for musicals have won state championship awards in 2010 (Les Misérables) and 2013 (Sweeney Todd). Mr. Dolan conducts the award-winning Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble and has been employed at Amity since 2002.

Mr. Dolan has also performed as a professional with Broadway Method Academy at the Westport Country Playhouse for the shows “Grease”, “Little Shop of Horrors”, “Evita”, and most recently “Annie” as well as a performance in the renowned 54 Below in NYC.

Drill Staff

Phil Vizzo

Drill Designer - Visual Staff Coordinator

Jeff Babey

Jeff, an alumnus of Bunnell HS, is in his fifth year on the Marching and Music staff of the Bunnell Band. He is the Director of Instrumental Music at Eli Whitney in Stratford.

Other instructors:

Bob Wilcox, Paula Latham, Jackson Sprouse, Deanna Cronin, Patrick Barnum

Color Guard

Sean LeClerc

Drill Designer - Visual Staff Coordinator
Sean began his marching arts career in 2016 at Bunnell High School from 2016 to 2021. After graduating, Sean went on to March at the University of New Haven from 2021 to 2023, Fusion Einter Guard from 2023 to 2025, and the Blue Coats in 2024. Sean has also worked with the Newtown High School Color Guard, Bunnell High School Color Guard, University of New Haven Winter Guard, and Bethel High School. Sean resides in Stratford, CT, and is currently graduating in May 2025 with his degree in political science from the University of New Haven.

Lizzie Frankel

Guard Technician

Lizzie started her color guard career in 2016. She graduated from Bunnell High School in 2021, before joining the University of New Haven Band and Winter Guard from 2021 to 2025. Lizzie has also marched with the Connecticut Hurricanes in 2018, 2020, and 2023, and will be marching this summer with the Madison Scouts. Lizzie lives in Stratford, CT, and will be graduating from the University of New Haven in May with a degree in art.

Music

Jim Marbury

Low Brass

Jim graduated from Bunnell in 1977. He holds an undergrad degree from the University of Bridgeport and a Graduate degree from SUNY at Stony Brook. He is currently a member of the Ridgefield and Norwalk Symphonies and also performs regularly with the symphonies in Wallingford, New Britain, and Waterbury. As a member of the Oakdale Music Theater orchestra, he has played with many different performers, including The Temptations, Johnny Mathis, and Don Rickles. Jim has been working with the BHS band since 1981 and currently has private students in the Stratford, Newtown, and West Haven school systems.

Jeff Babey

Woodwinds

Jeff has been a staff member with the Bunnell High School Marching Band since he graduated from Bunnell in 2003. Jeff has also taught instrumental music in Stratford since 2007. He currently teaches the bands at Second Hill Lane and Franklin elementary schools. Jeff holds a Bachelor's of Music degree in Music Education from Elizabethtown College and a Master's of Music in Music Education degree from Vandercook College of Music.

Decades of History

The Bunnell Band was formed when the school was opened in 1961.

Originally, the “Highlanders” Marching Band was organized to perform at halftime of the School’s football games, along with the cheerleaders and the dance squad. There was no “Color Guard” (Flags or Rifles), and the Drumline consisted of snare drummers and a bass drummer, and the Band included a Bagpipe section. Membership ranged from 50 members to over 100. The high standards of excellence earned them praise from the school and community.

In the late 1960s, the school changed its mascot to the Bulldog and adopted a more contemporary (for the time) approach towards Marching Band, using the latest “Squad” drills and utilizing flags for the first time. The quality of the “Bulldog” Marching Band remained high. The Late 1970s brought the band into a new generation of Competitive Marching Band. Drumline consisted of Multi Tenors, Multi Bass Drums, and all types of Color Guard implements. The band began to travel and compete outside Connecticut, achieving success that no other CT band had at this point. The band bought its second set of uniforms with funds raised by the parents.

In 1986, the Band was introduced to technology. Electronics, wireless instruments, drum trigger pads, and digital samplers were used over the next 25 years. Our technological approach to the activity has been pioneering and unparalleled, including the design of a wireless percussion pad set up for a student in a wheelchair. The most contemporary marching and musical styles were incorporated, and the Bunnell Band started to become a ‘household’ word in the marching band community. The Indoor Drumline and Color Guard were formed, and students were now offered a year-round option. In 1988, the Band Parents purchased the current uniforms we have now.

The late 1990s witnessed the band traveling far and wide across the Nation, performing at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Shea Stadium in NY, the Reflecting Pool at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, and the Hollywood Christmas Parade and the Tournament of Roses Parade in California. The Band has appeared on National Television 6 times since 1998, and has garnered many awards, including 3rd place finishes for the Drumline and Guard at the National Marching Band Championships (USSBA) held in Annapolis, MD.

Membership had grown past 160 members, incorporating students from Bunnell High School and our district sister school, Stratford High School. In addition, the band has won numerous awards for best music, best visual, and overall champions at every level of competition.

Our greatest pride comes not only from the awards we have won, the students who have developed a lifelong love of music, or a work ethic and commitment towards excellence that they have transferred into their other activities, but from the extraordinary number of students who have entered into careers in Music

From Recording Artists with Capitol Records & Professional Touring Musicians to High School Band Directors & Professors at major universities, Bunnell has had a rich tradition of students pursuing music as their life commitment.

We have always been an inclusive activity, allowing everyone who wishes to participate to join. Students with disabilities and beginning musicians have been welcomed. The Band Program offers students who may not wish to participate in competitive sports an opportunity to participate in a competitive co-educational program.

Bunnell Stratford Marching Band and Color Guard Awards & Accomplishments – Highlights

- 5th Place Finish at the inaugural USSBA National Championships, Annapolis, MD – 2006
- Connecticut State Champions - 1987, 1988, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2011, 2023
- Citrus Bowl - First Runner up - Best Perc, Best Music – 1998
- 3rd Place Percussion section out of 48 at the National Championships – 2006
- Bands at the Hollywood Bowl Grand Champions - 2005 (Best Music)
- Music-fest Orlando – Grand Champions – 2004
- USSBA Class 3A Circuit Champions 2002
- Citrus Bowl - First Runner Up – 2000
- Parade in Disneyland, Anaheim, CA - 1988, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2023
- Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade – Northeast New England Representative – 2002
- Performances at Disney World Orlando, FL – 1990, 1993, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2011
- Parade in Magic Kingdom - Walt Disney World – 2014
- Citrus Sports Parade - Orlando, FL, Disney Parade - New Year's Eve - 2018
- Performance at Shea Stadium, NYC
- Appeared in Disney's 2023 movie 'Chang Can Dunk'
- Undefeated and SWC Indoor Drumline 2024 Champions



Bunnell-Stratford Marching Band & Color Guard Alumni



Kirk Miller is a proud Bunnell High School Music Department alumnus and member of the graduating class of 2008. While at Bunnell, he marched snare in the drumline, played in the wind ensemble, and spent most of his free time in the band room or theatre. Beyond Bunnell, he attended Emerson College in Boston, MA, where he received a BFA in Theatrical Design in 2012. In 2013, he co-founded a design support services company, Earlybird, which provides technical production services to concert touring and live television productions. For over ten years, he has continued a career in the arts and live music, working alongside artists such as Bon Jovi, Usher, P!nk, Katy Perry, and Taylor Swift. In 2018, he received a Primetime Emmy Award for his contributions to the lighting design of Jesus Christ Superstar Live!



Curt DeMott is a composer who creates music for young concert bands. He began playing the piano at nine and was exposed to various music genres from an early age. After studying under Stephen Melillo, Curt focused on creating music for young bands. He and Stephen composed "STORMQUEST," a suite of 16 musical pieces that inspire and educate young bands. Curt recently produced Stephen's album "The Grey," which features intimate compositions for piano and/or small orchestra.



David Nadal is a guitarist and composer who earned degrees from Yale University (MMus) and Manhattan School of Music (BM) after graduating from BHS in 1988. He can be heard on New Focus, New Albion, EVHA, and Fluff-Tone recordings. He helped bring the final works of Elliott Carter to publication as a music editor for Boosey & Hawkes and has worked behind the scenes on hundreds of new works ranging in scale from operas to chamber music. He has several music publications to his credit; among them are his complete transcriptions of the Lute Songs of John Dowland (Dover), which has become a popular source for the repertoire and is used throughout the world.



Sue On is a dynamic conductor, accomplished violinist, and dedicated educator with extensive experience in music education and arts administration. She is currently serving as the Artistic Director of the Lakeland Youth Symphony and conductor of its symphony orchestra in addition to being the Artistic Director and conductor of the Rowan Youth Orchestra and the Rowan Youth String Orchestra at Rowan University's Community Music School. Sue is the conductor of the Repertory Orchestra with the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra (NJSYO), an El Sistema program, where she has the privilege of working with coaches who are members of the esteemed New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. In 2024, Sue made history by being the first woman of Asian descent to conduct at Mechanics Hall alongside the Worcester Youth Orchestras during their Four Orchestras Festival in Worcester, Mass.

Her recent engagements also include serving as a guest teaching artist at the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music in Jerusalem and the West Bank, where she conducted the Palestinian Youth Orchestra and taught violin.



Kersten Stevens, Queen of The Violin, is a 2002 graduate of Bunnell High School who received her undergraduate degree as a double major in Music and African American Studies at Yale University, Class of 2006. She is a six-time winner of the historic Amateur Night and Showtime at The Apollo; she's performed with renowned jazz violinist Regina Carter and international jazz bassist Christian McBride, and performed for esteemed notables President Barack Obama, Ray Charles, Denzel Washington, Dionne Warwick, and Yanni. A multi-hyphenate, Kersten is also a highly sought-after Digital Arts Marketer, serving the world-famous Apollo Theater as its Director of Digital Marketing. Kersten now celebrates her highly anticipated new album, QUEEN RISING, co-produced and featuring performances by the 8x Grammy Award-winning McBride. Learn more at www.kerstenstevens.com



Danielle Ferland is a graduate of Frank Scott Bunnell High School and New York University. She has been performing professionally since the age of 10 and was most recently seen Off-Broadway in *The Lights Are On*. *Alaska Daily*. Broadway: *All My Sons*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *The Crucible* and *A Little Hotel on the Side* (National Actors Theatre), *A Little Night Music* (City Opera), *Into the Woods* (original cast, Theatre World Award and Drama Desk nomination), *Sunday in the Park with George* (original). Off-Broadway credits include *New Girl in Town* (Irish Rep), *She Stoops to Conquer* (Irish Rep), *Engaged* (Theatre for a New Audience), *Tartuffe* (New York Shakespeare Festival), and *How I Learned to Drive*. Regional includes *The Most Beautiful Room in New York* (Long Wharf), *Baker's Wife* in *Into the Woods* (Baltimore Center Stage and Westport Country Playhouse), *The School for Husbands* (Westport), McCarter Theater, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and the Huntington. Film: *Tick Tick...Boom!* (Netflix), *Diane*, *The Normal Heart* (HBO), *Mighty Aphrodite* (Woody Allen, dir.), *Radio Days* (Woody Allen, dir.). TV: *Orange is the New Black* (Netflix), *Alaska Daily* (ABC), *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *The OA* (Netflix), *Jessica Jones* (Netflix, recurring), *Estelle* in HBO's *The Normal Heart*. *The Good Wife*, *Law and Order SVU*.

As director, she has helmed productions for Boston Children's Theater, as well as workshops and readings for many theatre companies in the tri-state area. Her one-woman show, *Sing for Your Ghosts*, premiered last spring at The Green Room 42 in NYC.





Gold Sponsorship Package 1: \$15,000

- ✔ Business Logo Displayed on Main Field for All Home Shows
- ✔ Business Logo Displayed on band trucks
- ✔ 15 Tickets to Home Competition and All Home Football Games and 10 Tickets to All State Championship Competitions (when applicable for the season)
- ✔ 15 Season-themed T-shirts: All Band & Guard members will display a Season-themed T-shirt with the Business Logo
- ✔ Marching Band & Guard Social Media Sponsorship Recognition
- ✔ Full Page Ad with Sponsorship Recognition: Home Show Competition Ad Book (Distributed digitally to all spectators and Hardcopy for Sponsor(s))

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If you have any questions regarding these package options, please email our

[Band Parent Association](mailto:parents@bunnellband.org). (parents@bunnellband.org)

Silver Sponsorship Package: \$10,000



10 Tickets to Home Competition and All Home Football Games and 5 Tickets to All State Championship Competitions (*when applicable for the season*)



10 Season-themed T-shirts: All Band & Guard members will display a Season-themed T-shirt with the Business Logo



Marching Band & Guard Social Media Sponsorship Recognition



Full Page Ad with Sponsorship Recognition: Home Show Competition Ad Book (Distributed digitally to all spectators and Hardcopy for Sponsor(s))

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Bronze Sponsorship Package: \$5,000



5 Season-themed T-shirts: All Band & Guard members will display Season-themed T-shirts with the Business Logo



Marching Band & Guard Social Media Sponsorship Recognition



Full Page Ad with Sponsorship Recognition: Home Show Competition Ad Book (Distributed digitally to all spectators)

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