

Welcome!

PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY

Percussion Ensemble Competition and Festival

**The University of Tennessee
Percussion Festival
March 8, 2025**



Contact

The University of Tennessee Percussion Festival

Thank you for registering your ensemble for the 2025 University of Tennessee Percussion Festival, sponsored by the Percussive Arts Society! Our goal is to provide you and your students with a fantastic day of percussion experiences. This packet should provide you with the necessary information you should need for the event, but please feel free to reach out with any additional questions/clarifications.

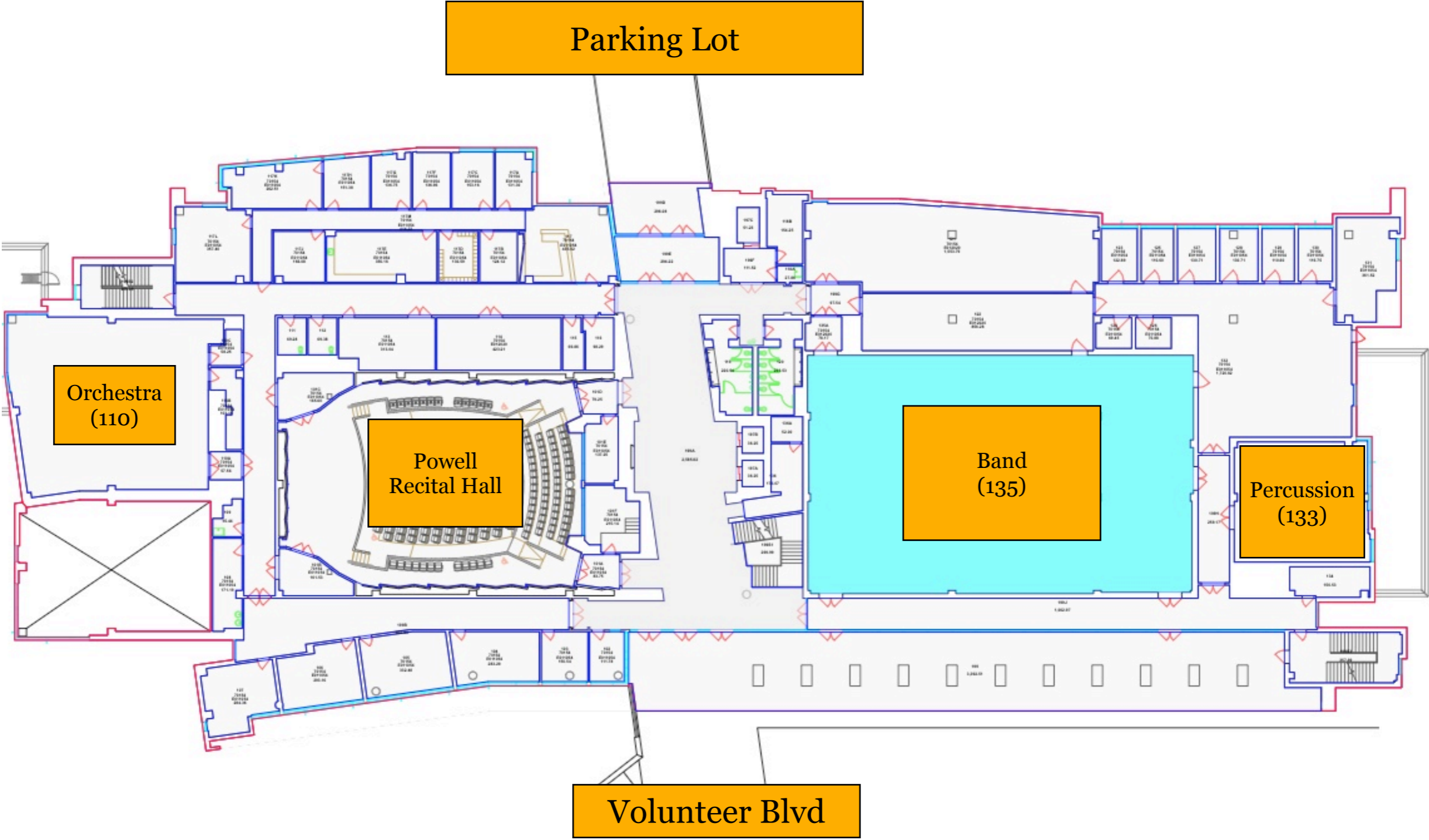
Host Contact Information

Dr. Andrew Bliss
abliss1@utk.edu

Kevin Zetina
kzetina@utk.edu



**Location: Natalie L. Haslam Music Center
1741 Volunteer Blvd, Knoxville, TN 37996**



Arrival

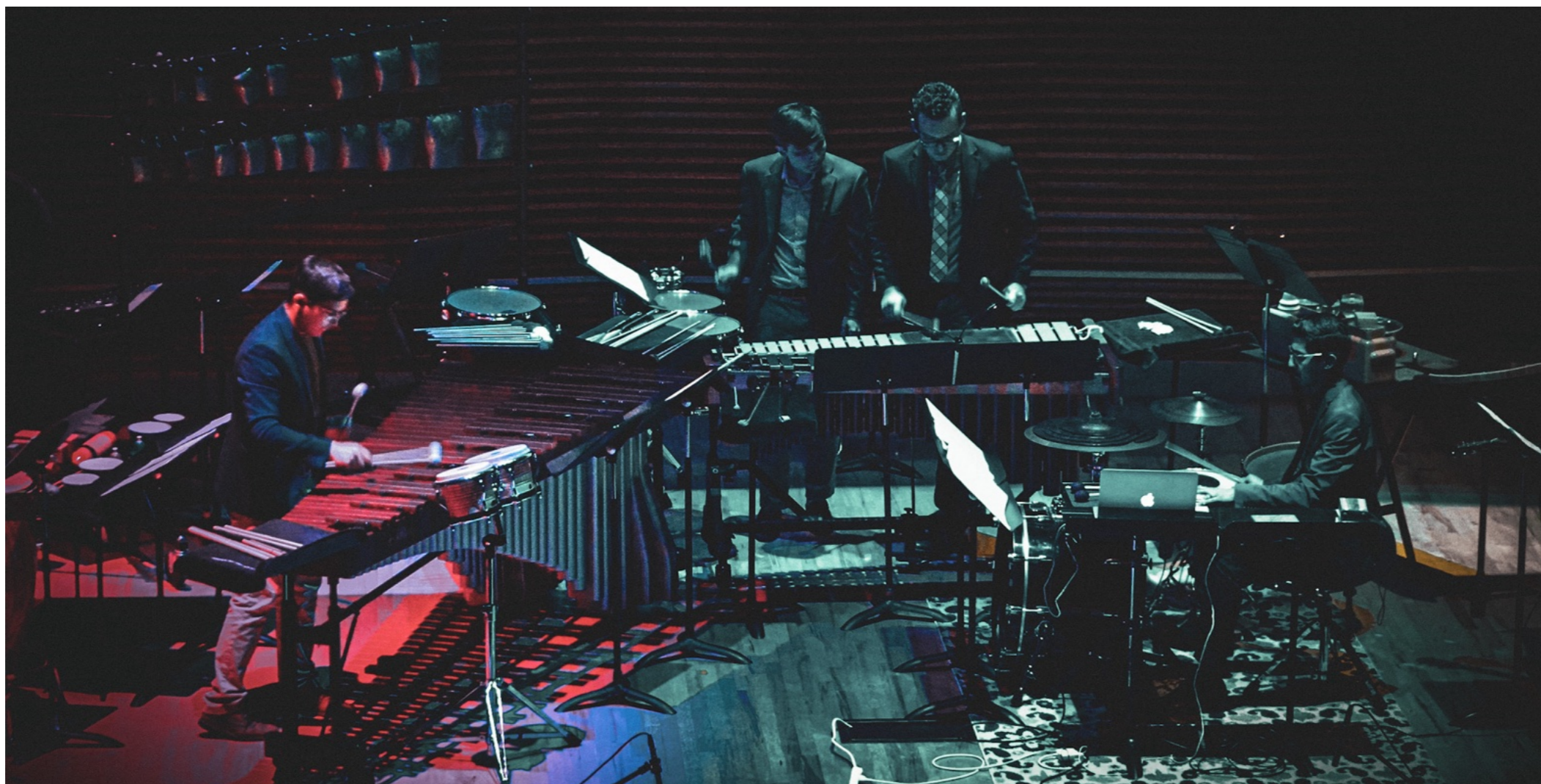
Parking will be free and available in the S23 parking lot just North of the Natalie L. Haslam Music Center (shown above). There is also additional parking on the other side of Volunteer Boulevard via the Volunteer Blvd. parking garage. The best way to bring gear in is through the front doors that face the parking lot (S23). The following maps can help you navigate campus to find the music building and other amenities.

[Campus Map](#)

[Interactive Map](#)

Registration will begin at 8 AM in the lobby of the Music Center. The registration fee you paid to PAS everything (except food!) for the day. There is no additional charge for parents, supporters, or other students to attend the even with your group.

Our crew will also be able to assist with any gear load-in/load-out should you need it.



Provided Instruments

We don't want you to have to bring a lot of gear! These instruments will be available for all groups and we can potentially provide any additional gear not listed here if you let us know in advance. You are certainly welcome to bring your own gear but we are happy to provide it as we are able. Regardless, please let us know what instruments you plan to bring and what instruments of ours you plan to use.

Keyboards

5 low C (5.0) marimbas
2 low A (4.3) marimbas
5 vibraphones
1 set of chimes
3 glockenspiels
2 xylophones
1 set of crotales (2 octaves)
1 grand piano

Drums

3 concert bass drums
4 concert snare drums
2 sets of six concert toms
(graduated sizes)
4 congas
2 set of bongos
1 drumset

Metals

6 suspended cymbals
4 sets of crash cymbals
2 china cymbals
1 ride cymbal
3 tam-tams
Almglocken
Thai gongs

Miscellaneous

Music stands
Trap tables
Hardware
Additional instruments as requested



Performance/judging



Hector Gil

Hector Gil is a percussion education consultant and percussion curriculum designer for various secondary programs throughout the U.S. most recently, he served as Director of Percussion at Vista Ridge High School and Henry Middle School from 2008 to 2024, where his students achieved numerous national accolades that include being named The TMEA Invited Percussion Ensemble Winner (2023 - Vista Ridge), The TMEA Honor Band Winner (2024, 2018, 2014, 2010 - Henry MS), The Percussive Arts Society International Percussion Ensemble Competition Winner (2018 - Vista Ridge), The Percussive Arts Society International Percussion Ensemble Competition Winner (2014 - Henry MS), The Black Swamp Percussion Ensemble Showcase Winner (2017, 2022, 2024 - Vista Ridge), The Texas 6A UIL State Marching Band Champion (2018 - Vista Ridge), The Midwest International Clinic Performer (2014 - Vista Ridge), Midwest International Clinic Performer (2022, 2016, 2012, 2010 - Henry MS), The Bands of America Grand National Championship Finalist (2021 - Vista Ridge), numerous finalist performances at UIL State and BOA Championships,

Hector attended Texas A&M University – Commerce where he received his Bachelor of Music Education degree in 2001. He marched the Bluecoats Drum and Bugle Corps in 1997 and 1998 as a member of the snareline. He was also a member of the 2000 Percussive Arts Society International Percussion Ensemble Competition winning collegiate ensemble with the Texas A&M University – Commerce Percussion Ensemble. He has been extremely fortunate to study from some incredible teachers that include Carlos Gil, Dr. Brian West, Bobby Francis, Bill Bachman, Dr. James Yakas, and Matt Savage.

Hector began his teaching career as the Director of Percussion at United High School in Laredo, TX (2002-2005), then moved to Fort Worth to be the Drumline Instructor for the Texas Christian University “Horned Frog” Marching Band (2005-2007), then as the Director of Percussion at Vista Ridge High School (2008-2024). In 2022, he served as the Percussion Caption Head for the Bluecoats 50th Anniversary Drum Corps.

In addition to his consulting duties, Hector is an avid percussion arranger and adjudicator for various high schools across the country. His professional affiliations include The Percussive Arts Society, Texas Music Educators Association, the Texas Bandmasters Association, and he is a proud artist with Innovative Percussion and Sabian Cymbals.

Performance/judging



Eric Willie

Described as “unstoppable,” Eric Willie has a varied career as a percussion soloist, orchestral player, and teacher. His solo performances have occurred throughout the United States, Russia, Brasil, and Colombia, in addition to music festivals throughout the United States. A long-time educator, Eric has appeared at the Percussive Arts Society’s International Convention (PASIC), the Midwest Clinic, as well as several days of percussion and music educator conventions.

Currently a section percussionist with the Winston-Salem Symphony, Eric additionally performs as an extra performer with the New Hampshire Music Festival and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. Most recently as a Fulbright Scholar, Eric studied the Maracatu Nações in Recife, Pernambuco Brasil, and served as a Regency Professor at the Universidade Federal do Pernambuco for contemporary percussion studies.

Within the Percussive Arts Society (PAS), Eric was elected to the PAS Board of Advisors in 2021, and previously served as Chair of the PAS International Percussion Ensemble Committee. His percussion ensembles have been named winners of the 2015 and 2021 PAS International Percussion Ensemble Competitions. Currently, Eric serves as Professor of Percussion Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he was awarded the UNC Board of Governors Teaching Award in 2024.

He has published chapters and articles in GIA Publications, Percussive Notes, and the Instrumentalist; and his compositions appear in the catalogs of Musicon, Oxand Lamb, Row-Loff, and TapSpace. Eric is proud to serve as an artist endorser for Tama/Bergerault, Zildjian, Remo, Innovative Percussion, and Black Swamp.

Amenities

Food Options

On Campus

- Chic-Fil-A
- Subway
- Chipotle

Short Walk/Drive from Campus

- Mellow Mushroom
- Sunspot
- Fieldhouse Social

Short Drive from Campus

- Market Square
- Old City
- Gay Street
- Old Sevier

Coffee

- Capybara Coffee
- Golden Roast
- K Brew

