



NSSBE

National Society of Steel Band Educators

Greetings! On behalf of the [National Society of Steel Band Educators](#), we want to thank you for attending the 2024 NSSBE Conference. This is our 7th annual conference, and we are thrilled that you will be a part of it.

Our 2024 NSSBE Conference will be held in Austin, Texas at [McCallum High School and Fine Arts Academy](#). The headlining concerts feature the Inside Out Steelband with the McCallum HS Knights of Steel, featuring Carolyn Trowbridge and Gerion Drummerville Williams, Gary Gibson with Gerion Drummerville Williams, Carolyn Trowbridge and Friends, and the San Jacinto College Central Steel Band. The conference presenters include Gerion Drummerville Williams, Larkspur Percussion Duo, CJ Menge, and Gary Gibson. The full conference schedule is below, and we have also included below a few important notes about the weekend that will help you prepare for the experience.

All the conference activities – including the Friday Evening and Saturday sessions, vendor booths, and the finale concert – will occur in the McCallum Arts Center Theater and the fine arts wing of the main building at [McCallum High School](#): 5600 Sunshine Dr. Austin, TX 78756.

Attendee Information:

Austin Bergstrom Airport (AUS) is 14 miles (20-25 minute drive) from McCallum High School, and 13 miles from the [Courtyard Marriott Austin- University Area](#).

McCallum High School is 2 miles (6 minutes) from the conference hotel.

Taxi service or ride share service (Lyft, Uber) are the best options to travel from the Austin airport to the conference hotel and McCallum High School, and from the conference hotel to McCallum HS. There are rental cars at the airport, but you will likely not need a car to get around once you arrive in Austin. Everything at NSSBE will happen in between McCallum HS and the conference hotel. There are a number of restaurant options in this area of Austin.

Upon arrival at the McCallum Arts Center Theater (see attached campus map), proceed to the check-in/ registration table to pick your lanyard, grab some NSSBE swag, and scan the QR code for the conference program (on your lanyard.) The session locations are in the program, and a map of the campus is attached if you need it for reference.

Throughout the conference, we encourage you to visit the vendors (**Boxfish Music Publishing, Wendeln Music Works, Barracuda Steel Drums, and CB Panworks**) in the McCallum Arts Center Main Theater lobby.

Detailed Schedule (all times CST):

Friday, February 23rd

- 5:30pm **Check-in** McCallum Arts Center Theater Lobby
- 7:00pm **Session 1: Host Night Concert** Inside Out Steelband with McCallum HS Knights of Steel featuring Gerion Drummerville Williams and Carolyn Trowbridge. Director: CJ Menge. *McCallum Arts Center Main Theater*

Saturday, February 24th

- 8:00 am **Check-in & Registration /Vendor Time.** Coffee and Light Breakfast provided. *McCallum Arts Center Main Theater Lobby*
- 8:35 am **President's Welcome:** Dr. Chris Tanner. *Band Hall*
- 8:40 am **Vendor Spotlight-** Barracuda Steel Drums. *Band Hall*
- 8:45 am **Session 2: Engine Room Workshop: Basics and Current Trends.** Presenter: Gerion Drummerville Williams. *Band Hall*
- 9:45 am Break
- 9:55 am **Vendor Spotlight-** Wendeln Music Works. *Choir Room.*
- 10:00am **Session 3: Solo and Chamber Repertoire for Steelpan.** Presenter: Larkspur Percussion Duo (Lauren Molloy & Louis Raymond-Kolker). *Choir Room*
- 11:00am Break
- 11:10am **Vendor Spotlight-** Boxfish Music Publishing. *Main Theater*
- 11:15 am **Session 4: Steelband Rehearsal Techniques - From Zero to Performance.** Presenter: CJ Menge. *Main Theater*
- 12:15 pm Lunch on your own (restaurant options listed below)
- 1:30pm Vendor Time
- 2:10pm **Vendor Spotlight** - CB Panworks. *Band Hall*
- 2:15pm **Session 5: Padding the Program: Maximizing Arrangements with Economic Variation.** Presenter: Gary Gibson. *Band Hall*
- 3:15 Break
- 3:30 pm **Session 6: San Jacinto College Central Steel Band.** Presenter: Michael Mizma. *Main Theater*
- 4:15pm Break/ Vendor Time
- 5:00pm Dinner on your own (restaurant options listed below)
- 7:30pm **Session 7: Finale Concert: Gary Gibson and Friends in Concert,** featuring Gerion Drummerville Williams, Carolyn Trowbridge, Obe Quarless, Benjamin Irom (piano), and Glenn Rexach (bass)

Evening social event and hang will take place in the lobby bar of the conference hotel following each concert. Any change to this will be communicated in advance.

Dining Options:

There are several lunch options within walking distance of McCallum High School.

One block to the east you will find the following options:

Titaya's Thai Cuisine:

<http://titayasthaicuisine.com/index.html>

Dan's Hamburgers (a longtime Austin burger place):

<https://www.dans-hamburgers.com/dans.php#welcome>

Tex-Mex Food Trailer (at the corner of Stark and North Lamar)

Fast Food Options:

KFC

McDonalds

One block to the west you will find:

Bird Bird Biscuit:

<https://www.birdbirdbiscuit.com>

Cheko's Mexican Restaurant:

<https://gotchekos.com/full-menu/>

Three options that are nearby via car/ride share:

Stiles Switch BBQ:

<https://austin.stilesswitchbbq.com>

Pinthouse Pizza- Burnet Road location:

<https://pinthouse.com/burnet/location-hours>

Upper Crust Bakery:

<https://www.uppercrustbakery.com>

We look forward to seeing you in Austin! If you have questions, please contact us at mgreer@dorchester2.k12.sc.us.

Sincerely,

NSSBE 2024 Conference Planning Committee

Mike, Kayleen, Obe, and CJ