

Media Kit for **Forte**

a WKAR original

5:30pm Saturdays on WKAR-HD Oct. 4-Nov. 8, 2014

Michigan high school musicians prepare for elite competition

EAST LANSING, MI; SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 -- WKAR Network is pleased to announce the debut of **Forte**, a new original series coming to mid-Michigan television in October.

Forte premieres Saturday, Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m., with the Owosso High School Symphony Band. Episodes that follow feature band and orchestra high school groups from Charlotte, Lowell, Holly, Williamston and Carson City-Crystal.

There are six 30-minute episodes in this pilot season of this new series from WKAR. Below, please find information about the series, the full premiere schedule, episode descriptions, links to photos and other resources you can use to share information about this new TV series with your community.

About Forte

From the rigor of the rehearsal room, to the bright lights of the stage, Forte presents heartwarming stories of Michigan high school band and orchestra programs as students prepare for competition at State Festival. Forte is hosted by WKAR's Peter Whorf.

"With Forte, the reality show approach is coupled with traditional in-studio performance to create a unique program that attracts young and old viewers alike," says Gary Reid, WKAR director of broadcasting. WKAR embedded a camera crew with the students, so viewers get an inside look as these talented musicians prepare for the yearly statewide Band and Orchestra Festival. "Their stories are compelling and add depth and dimension to the lives of high school musicians," says Reid.

Watch Forte Online and On-Demand

Each episode of **Forte** is available after the debut broadcast for on-demand viewing in the PBS App on Roku, Xbox 360, Apple TV, Amazon Fire, iPad/iPhone and in the PBS Video player at video.wkar.org.

Website: wkar.org/programs/forte

Photos: www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/sets/72157647902303431

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Broadcast Schedule: Forte

Subject to change. Check local listings for repeats.

Ep. #101

Owosso High School Symphony Band

5:30 p.m. Saturday 10/4/14 on WKAR-HD

Ep. #102

Charlotte High School Symphony Band

5:30 p.m. Saturday 10/11/14 on WKAR-HD

Ep. #103

Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra

5:30 p.m. Saturday 10/18/14 on WKAR-HD

Ep. #104

Holly High School Symphony Band

5:30 p.m. Saturday 10/25/18 on WKAR-HD

Ep. #105

Williamston High School Band

5:30 p.m. Saturday 11/01/14 on WKAR-HD

Ep. #106

Carson City-Crystal High School Band

5:30 p.m. Saturday 11/08/14 on WKAR-HD

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COMMUNITY SUPPORTED MEDIA



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Episodes

Ep. #101

Owosso High School Symphony Band

first air: 5:30 p.m. Saturday 10/4/14 on WKAR-HD

Short description:

Student musicians led by retiring director Carl Knipe compete at State Festival featuring the best of the best.

Full description:

Owosso High School Symphony Band students send off their retiring band director with a thrilling performance as they compete for top honors at the annual State Festival of the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association.

Director of Bands Carl Knipe leads his students in competition at the AA level with “the best of the best” in his fortieth and final year at Owosso Public Schools.

“He’s passionate and he loves the band and he does everything he can to keep us kids at our very best,” says Livi Pritchett, trumpet senior.

“Mr. Knipe is a great director and he drives you and helps you to be the best you can be,” agrees David Hoffa, tuba senior.

Includes full preview performances of “Black Horse Troop” by John Philip Sousa and “Mutanza” by James Curnow, recorded in WKAR Studio A at Michigan State University. Hosted by WKAR’s Peter Whorf.

Photos

Director Carl Knipe and Owosso High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15324250165/>

Livi Pritchett, trumpet senior. Owosso High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15137700897/>

David Hoffa, tuba senior. Owosso High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15137700777/>

Carl Knipe, director of bands. Owosso High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

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Ep. #102

Charlotte High School Symphony Band

First air: 5:30 p.m. Saturday 10/11/14 on WKAR-HD

Short description:

Charlotte High School Symphony Band students strive to maintain a ninety-year legacy of excellence.

Full description:

Charlotte High School Symphony Band student musicians strive to maintain a ninety-year legacy of excellence in this mid-Michigan community where band is bigger than football is in Texas.

“Being in a Charlotte band, you have a reputation to uphold, and we're aware of that. So we do feel the pressure. It's something that's very important to us,” says Ben, percussion senior. He and Kirstin, french horn junior, are among the latest in an “unending chain of musicians” that stretches back to 1924. “There is really a connection from the past generations of band members, to the band members of today,” says Kirstin.

Today's students prepare to compete for top honors at the annual State Festival of the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association under the direction of Jerry Rose, in his fourth year as director of bands for Charlotte Public Schools.

Includes full preview performances of “The Gallant Seventh” by John Philip Sousa, “William Byrd Suite” by Gordon Jacob and “Symphonic Dance No. 3” by Clifton Williams, recorded in WKAR Studio A at Michigan State University. Hosted by WKAR's Peter Whorf.

Photos

Director Jerry Rose and Charlotte High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15301201266/>

Jerry Rose, director of bands. Charlotte High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15137495589/>

Ben Vasquez, percussion senior. Charlotte High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15137701397/>

Kirstin Anderson, French horn junior. Charlotte High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15137495569/>

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Ep. #103

Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra

First air: 5:30 p.m. Saturday 10/18/14 on WKAR-HD

Short description:

From a music program only ten years old, today's students in Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra compete for top honors at State Festival.

Full description:

The Lowell Area Schools orchestra program has grown from handful of students ten years ago to nearly 300 today. Experience the thrill along with Symphonic Orchestra students and director Wendy Tenny as they compete for top honors at the State Festival of the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association.

"When I walk out onto stage I'm thinking that I better play everything right," says Charlotte, a senior who plays the violin. "I've got to get that run or that trill correctly. I have to do everything that I possibly can to sound the best that I possibly can."

"The excellence of the program draws people in," says violin player Daniele, a senior who remembers when the program was just beginning to grow. "There were two classes when I was in sixth grade, and now we have two full high school orchestras," she says.

"I try to inspire [the students] not just in music, but to have a passion for everything they do in life, to perform their best *best*, to perform well," says Wendy Tenny, who heads up the orchestra program for the school district in western Michigan. "And I'm hoping that will carry them through college and their careers and their family life."

Includes full preview performances of "The Spanish Dance," by Dimitri Shostakovich, "Ase's Death," by Edvard Grieg and "The Capriol Suite," by Peter Warlock, recorded in WKAR Studio A at Michigan State University. Hosted by WKAR's Peter Whorf.

Photos:

Director Wendy Tenny and Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15137701117/>

Wendy Tenny, director. Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15321085791/>

Charlotte Hayden, violin senior. Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15137494879/>

Danielle Starkey, violin senior. Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15301200506/>

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Ep. #104

Holly High School Symphony Band

First air: 5:30 p.m. Saturday 10/25/18 on WKAR-HD

Short Description:

An ex-marine in his first year as band director leads Holly High School as they compete for top honors at the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association's annual festival.

Full description and photos: coming soon

Ep. #105

Williamston High School Band

First air: 5:30 p.m. Saturday 11/01/14 on WKAR-HD

Short Description:

The first female band director in school history leads Williamston High School as they compete for top honors at the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association's annual festival.

Full description and photos: coming soon

Ep. #106

Carson City-Crystal High School Band

First air: 5:30 p.m. Saturday 11/08/14 on WKAR-HD

Short Description:

Featured musical soloists lead Carson City-Crystal High School Band as they compete for top honors at the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association's annual festival.

Full description and photos: coming soon

The WKAR Network is part of Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences. The WKAR Network provides mid-Michigan and the global community with award-winning original programming and the best from PBS and NPR via television channels WKAR-HD, WKAR World and WKAR Create; and radio broadcasts at 90.5 FM, AM 870 and WKAR Radio Reading Service. At WKAR.org and video.wkar.org, the network offers live audio streaming, plus local news features, TV original full episodes and the best from NPR and PBS on-demand. The WKAR Network provides additional community outreach with WKAR Ready to Learn Service and PBS LearningMedia.

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