

UPDATED 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; OCTOBER 22, 2014 -- **Forte**, the new original series from WKAR, enters the second half of its debut season this Saturday featuring the Holly High School Band under the direction of Benjamin Baldwin. The first three episodes, featuring performing groups from Owosso, Charlotte and Lowell, are available for TV streaming and online viewing now.

Forte premiered in early October with the Owosso High School Symphony Band. Episodes still ahead feature band and orchestra high school groups from 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 elite competition. 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 via TV Streaming Devices

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

Forte is supported in part by
Worthington Family Foundation

Website: wkar.org/programs/forte

Photos: [flickr.com/photos/wkar/sets/72157647902303431](https://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

First aired Saturday 10/4/14, available now online

Ep. #102

Charlotte High School Symphony Band

First aired Saturday 10/11/14, available now online

Ep. #103

Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra

First aired Saturday 10/18/14, available now online

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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Episodes

Ep. #101

Owosso High School Symphony Band

first air: 10/4/14 on WKAR-HD

watch now: video.wkar.org/video/2365338073/

Short description:

Student musicians led by retiring director compete at festival featuring best of the best.

Full description:

Owosso High School Symphony Band students send off retiring band director Carl Knipe with a thrilling performance as they compete for top honors at the annual MSBOA State Festival. 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.

Notes & Quotes

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.

Photo

Director Carl Knipe and Owosso High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.
flickr.com/photos/wkar/15324250165/

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Ep. #102

Charlotte High School Symphony Band

First air: 10/11/14

Watch Now: video.wkar.org/video/2365343428/

Short description:

Student musicians strive to maintain a ninety-year legacy of excellence in mid-Michigan.

Full description:

Student musicians strive to maintain a 90-year legacy of excellence in this mid-Michigan community where band is bigger than football is in Texas and where Jerry Rose is in his fourth year as director. 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. Hosted by WKAR’s Peter Whorf.

Notes & Quotes

“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.

Photo

Director Jerry Rose and Charlotte High School Symphony Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.
flickr.com/photos/wkar/15301201266/

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Ep. #103

Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra

First air: 10/18/14

Watch Now: video.wkar.org/video/2365343456/

Short description:

From a music program only ten years old, students compete for top honors at festival.

Full description:

The Lowell Area Schools orchestra program has grown from a handful of students to nearly 300 in just ten years. Thrill along with students and director Wendy Tenny as they compete for top honors at State Festival. Includes preview performances of "The Spanish Dance," by Dimitri Shostakovich, "Ase's Death," by Edvard Grieg and "The Capriol Suite," by Peter Warlock. Hosted by WKAR's Peter Whorf.

Notes & Quotes

"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."

Photo:

Director Wendy Tenny and Lowell High School Symphonic Orchestra on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU. flickr.com/photos/wkar/15137701117/

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Ep. #104

Holly High School Band

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

Short Description:

A former marine in his first year as director prepares students for elite competition.

Full description:

Former marine Benjamin Baldwin began his first year as director with students wondering: will this be band camp or boot camp? Under his inspiring leadership, they make a run for top marks in elite state competition. Includes full preview performances of "The Crosley March," by Henry Fillmore and "Hill Country Holiday," by Robert Sheldon. Hosted by WKAR's Peter Whorf.

Notes & Quotes:

"We found out last summer that he was going to be our band director and we were all terrified," says Leighanne Menard, clarinet senior. "We were thinking drill sergeant."

"You have to make your students believe that they can do great things. You have to make your students believe that they're excellent. And it takes a while for them to buy into that," says Ben Baldwin, director of the Holly High School Band. "Once they believe that they can do absolutely wonderful things, then you can teach them how to do it, because they're buying in. And that's really what I do. I teach them to believe in themselves first, and then I teach them how to be great."

"There's no messing around now. It's now or never," says Taylor Neuenfeldt, percussion senior. "You cannot be serious your whole life, but once you walk on that stage, that's when it's time to do your thing."

Photo

Director Benjamin Baldwin and Holly High School Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

[flickr.com/photos/wkar/15406266789/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/wkar/15406266789/)

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Ep. #105

Williamston High School Band

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

Short Description:

A director's unique approach could be the key to top marks in elite state competition.

Full description:

Director Lynn Kelsey takes a unique approach: there is no 'first chair, second chair' structure in her band. It's about support and excellence for all. Can it take a group to top marks in state competition? Includes preview performances of "North College All Stars," by Henry Fillmore, "American River Songs," by Pierre La Plant and "Joy Revisited," by Frank Ticheli. Hosted by WKAR's Peter Whorf.

Notes & Quotes:

"Instead of having chairs, I just try to build the strengths of all the students," says Lynn Kelsey, band director for Williamston Community Schools. "It's very important for us that every single person is able to play their part to some proficiency, and to really contribute to the overall success of the group."

"I feel more motivated because you know you have to be the best you can be regardless of what chair you are -- because we don't have them," says Emily Schneider, clarinet junior.

"I would definitely say that because we don't have the chair parts, we can each focus on our own parts and try to make ourselves better," agrees Rebecca Manach, trumpet senior.

"We're all in this together, and we all want to do well as a collective group," says Kelsey.

Photo

Director Lynn Kelsey and Williamston High School Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.

flickr.com/photos/wkar/14972142734/

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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: *coming soon*

Photo

Director Chad Parmenter and Carson City-Crystal High School Band on Forte. photo: WKAR-MSU.
flickr.com/photos/wkar/15590226861/

About WKAR

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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