



June 3, 2024

## **Team Guam, USA, to hold Press Conference & perform Austria Tour SEND OFF Concert on June 8**

For Immediate Release  
Hagåtña, Guam, USA

On **June 8, 2024**, the **Guam Territorial Band – Official Band of Guam, USA** and the **Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra** will hold a press conference and present their Vienna Tour SEND OFF CONCERT at the Center Court, Micronesia Mall for the enjoyment and benefit of the general public.

This **July 2024**, a delegation of nearly 150 musicians and support personnel are gearing up to represent Guam for the *first time* at the **Summa Cum Laude International Music Festival** in the historic city of Vienna, Austria. Consisting of both the **Guam Territorial Band – Official Band of Guam, USA** and the **Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra**, these music scholars have been putting in hundreds of hours of personal practice and rehearsals for the honor to perform in the old stomping grounds of music greats such as STRAUSS, BEETHOVEN and MOZART.

### **About Vienna, Austria**

Once the seat of power of the Holy Roman Empire, the historic Austrian city of Vienna has been called the world's *most beautiful city* because of its magnificent and beautiful buildings and architecture inspiring artists and scholars from across the globe. Also referred to as "the City of Music," the narrow cobbled stoned streets of this German-speaking city were once the stomping grounds of many great musicians such as Haydn, Mahler, Brahms, Mozart and Beethoven. Vienna was also the home of the infamous scholar/psychologist and the world's first psycho-analyst - Sigmund Freud and which draws in many who are interested in studying the field of psychology.

### **About the Summa Cum Laude Music Festival**

Founded in 2007, the Summa Cum Laude International Music Festival invites choirs, bands and orchestra from around the globe annually to gather in the "City of Music" to share their love of music by performing on the city's two main classical concert venues, the Golden Hall of the Musikverein and the Konzerthaus. The 2024 Festival, playing host to more than 2000 performers from over a dozen countries, will take place July 5-10 and will include at least three (3) performances each by the Guam Territorial Band and the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra. The festival performance schedule can be found here:

<https://www.sclfestival.org/scl-2024/scl-konzerte-2024>

Team Guam cordially invites Guam's diaspora and active military living /stationed in the region to attend these concerts.

## History of GTB

Formed in 1976 originally as the “Governor’s Youth Band” to represent Guam at the Inaugural Parade of the 39<sup>th</sup> US President Jimmy Carter in January 1977, the Band has been an active contributor to Guam’s musical and artistic tapestry. Now recognized as the “Official Band of Guam” The Guam Territorial Band (GTB) has represented Guam internationally at various music festivals in Sydney, Nagoya, New York and as far as the United Kingdom. The Guam Territorial Band is a three-time (2005, 2014, and 2019) Gold Award and Command Performance (top award) of the Australian International Music Festival (current record holder). 2024 marks 48 years since the establishment of the band. Its members – past and present are proud of their musical contributions for the past 4 decades.

## History of TBYO

The Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra (TBYO) is the first project of Guam’s new music non-profit, the Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Incorporated, a locally and federally recognized 501 c 3 founded in June 2017. With a mission to be a leader in music and arts education and to present innovative programming and repertoire choices, the TBYO has surely held up to the GPF’s mission by presenting exciting and memorable concerts locally and abroad. As part of the 2023 Guam presentation of Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast*, TBYO formed the core of the double orchestra for that production. In addition to entertaining Guam’s local audiences and visiting tourists, TBYO has performed abroad in Sydney and Saipan.

## Representing Guam abroad - From Australia to Austria

GTB and TBYO previously travelled together in 2019 representing Guam at the Australian International Music Festival which included performances by each group at the famous Sydney Opera House, Darling Harbour Amphitheater, Angel Place Recital Hall and the new (at the time) concert venue – Chatswood Concourse. Both groups performed well, bringing the first DOUBLE GOLD awards for Guam from that festival. TBYO is excited to travel alongside the GTB again in representing Guam and the United States at the 2024 Summa Cum Laude Music Festival in Vienna, Austria.

***"The opportunity to represent Guam in these historical concert halls adds to the rich history of the Guam Territorial Band and the short, but quickly growing legacy of the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra. Beyond the organizations are all the members past and present, and their dedicated families, who sacrifice to make these opportunities a reality. We look forward to bringing Guam to Europe and leaving a lasting impression."***

**- W. Brandon Aydllett, Team Guam – Head of Delegation.**

## Possible firsts for CHamorus/Micronesians to grace these world stages

Historical records indicate that European music (mainly church music) was introduced to Guam shortly after Magellan's arrival in 1521. Western music continued to influence the music and culture of Guam during the American period first with the establishment of the US Navy Band in Guam after the end of the Spanish-American War in 1898. The early US Navy band members stationed in Guam had European roots with descendants such as the Wusstig's, Palacani's, and Sgambelluri's, to name a few, still living amongst us today.

Although we cannot ascertain for sure if CHamorus or other Micronesians have already performed in Vienna individually, we are certain that the upcoming trip by the GTB and TBYO to Vienna are the *firsts* to be recognized as official groups representing Guam. Among the impressive roster of musicians includes a handful from Guam and Saipan with CHamoru/Micronesian heritage.

*"There's more emotions being had in the news of traveling than I can fathom, music truly is a rollercoaster of experiences. I pray that the world will see Guam on that day when we play on the world stage."*

- Nathaniel Dafrad, CHamoru/Yapese, drummer from Astumbo, Dededo

## Paving the musical way and passing the torch

Retired US Navy physician, Dr. Jerry Castro, born and raised CHamoru son of Guam who was educated in our public schools is an alumnus of the Guam Territorial Band. He started learning to play the drums at Agueda Johnston Middle School and continued playing throughout high school at George Washington High School where he was encouraged to join the "Governor's band." Although he never got to travel abroad with the Band, Castro was integral in perpetuating live music performances at local parties, by establishing several *pala-pala* style bands. Castro, who now runs his private practice in Tamuning - **Guam ENT**, credits music for always being part of his life journey and is part of his successes as a physician, husband, and father. His sons, Sebastian and Xander have both excelled in music while students at Harvest Christian Academy.

Sharing his excitement, **Xander Castro**, a rising junior playing in both groups shares his thoughts about the upcoming tour:

*"I feel so excited and honored to be able to represent Guam in Vienna. As a CHamoru, I believe that it is very important for us to be represented in music. It is really exciting that my involvement in GTB and TBYO gives me an opportunity to represent our amazing island. I have loved every second of preparing for this trip and I'm looking forward to these upcoming performances!"*

- Xander Castro, Class of 2026, Harvest Christian Academy

The residents of Guam and her guests can hear both the Guam Territorial Band and the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra in concert at their Austria Tour Send Off Concert on June 8 at the Micronesia Mall. Musicians from both groups enthusiastically invite everyone to experience this presentation which includes the musical selections both groups will perform abroad.

**IF YOU GO:**

**GTB & TBYO PRESS CONFERENCE & SEND OFF CONCERT**

**Date:** Saturday, June 8, 2024

**Time:** 5:30pm – **PRESS CONFERENCE**

6:30pm – **SEND OFF CONCERT**

**Place:** Center Court, Micronesia Mall

**Press Conference Panelist:**

1. **William Brandon Aydlett** – Team Guam Head of Delegation/Tour Director
2. **Jessica Pangelinan** – Chief Band Master – Guam Territorial Band (GTB)
3. **Dante Carino** – President, GTB Youth Council
4. **Micah Edusma** – Representative, GTB Musicians' Council
5. **Elizabeth Mamczarz** - Concertmaster, Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra (TBYO)
6. **Shiyori Shibahata** – Orchestra Manager, TBYO
7. **Jayvee Elomina** – Assistant Vice President/Chief of Staff – Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Incorporated.

**Photo credits:** Headshots courtesy of the individuals indicated.

**TBYO Group Photo:** photo courtesy of the Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Incorporated; Beau Ledesma, photographer.

**GTB Group Photo:** photo courtesy of Kim Edusma, photographer.

**FOR INTERVIEWS AND OTHER TV/RADIO APPEARANCES:** Please contact Mr. Isaiah Aguon, GPF Director of Communications: [isaiahaguon@guamphilharmonic.org](mailto:isaiahaguon@guamphilharmonic.org)

\*\*\*\*\* END OF RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

**William Brandon Aydlett (timpani/percussion)**

Team Guam – Head of Delegation/Tour Director

William Brandon Aydlett, originally from North Carolina, USA, has resided on Guam for 14 years as a meteorologist with the US National Weather Service and now serves as the Science and Operations Officer at the Guam NWS office. Since arriving on Guam in 2010, Brandon has been involved in Guam's musical community. Soon after arriving on Guam, he joined both the Guam Symphony and the Guam Territorial Band. In his years with the Guam Territorial Band, he has performed on trumpet and timpani, and then in 2015, took over as regional bandmaster and conductor of the Guam Territorial Band, Central Region. He led the Guam Band to a gold award at Carnegie Hall, New York City, in 2017, and then, with a team of directors, led the Band to a gold award in Sydney, Australia, in 2019. In 2023, Brandon accepted the monumental task of overseeing and facilitating Team Guam to attend the 2024 Summa Cum Laude Music Festival in Vienna, Austria. Outside of work and band, Brandon and his wife, Shirley, stay busy with their growing 6-year-old Liam, and keeping active in the Guam running community while trying to make the most of every moment enjoying the great Guam outdoors.

## **Jessica Pangelinan**

Chief Band Master

Guam Territorial Band – Official Band of Guam, USA

Jessica Pangelinan is both a high school music teacher and conductor for the Guam Territorial Band. Born in California but raised in Guam, she grew interest in music from an early age. In 2009, she explored her love of music by joining the Guam Territorial Band (GTB). She expanded her musical capabilities performing in the Pride of the Pacific Marching Alliance for Saipan's Independence Day Parade in 2010 and returning home to march in Guam's Liberation Day Parade. While in the Guam Territorial Band, she was able to travel to various locations to share the talents of our island. Among these included Carnegie Hall, New York in 2012 and the Sydney Opera House, Australia in both 2014 and 2019.

While studying music at the University of Guam, Jessica actively honed her conducting skills and seized numerous opportunities as a conductor. Her dedication led to her appointment as the Assistant Band Master (ASM) of the Central Region of GTB. Following her graduation in 2019, Jessica made history as the youngest and first CHamoru woman Chief Band Master of the Guam Territorial Band. Seeking to elevate her musical expertise and contribute to her nation, Jessica recently accomplished Advanced Individual Training at the United States Army School of Music.

**Dante Carino (flute)**

President – Youth Council

Guam Territorial Band – Official Band of Guam, USA

Dante Carino is a musician born and raised on the island of Guam and a recent graduate of John F. Kennedy High School. Dante started on piano but found his passion for playing the flute at 7 when his parents gifted him his very own flute in Christmas of 2013. He began taking private flute lessons with Doug Chan in February 2014. He entered middle school playing the flute for the L.P. Untalan Middle School Concert Band. Wanting more of a musical challenge, his director, Joanne Matanane, recommended he join the Guam Territorial Band through its Band Academy program, officially becoming a member in April 2018. A year later, he joined the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra and was active from April 2019 to May 2023. In his final year of high school, he was the Secretary of the John F. Kennedy High School Bands Club and Band Captain for the John F. Kennedy High School Concert Band. He currently sits on the Guam Territorial Band Board of Trustees as Youth Council President. Dante will be attending the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, Illinois this upcoming fall semester majoring in Music Education (K-12). He hopes to return to Guam to become a band director in the Guam Department of Education System.

**Micah Edusma (clarinet)**

Musician's Council Member

Guam Territorial Band – Official Band of Guam, USA

Principal Clarinet – Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra

Micah Edusma was born and raised here on the island of Guam. He first began playing the ukulele with his father at the age of 6 and has always been interested in making music. The 19-year-old began his formal musical education as a student at Untalan Middle School under the tutelage of Joanne Matanane. While attending UMS he performed in the Guam Honor Bands and became a member of the Guam Territorial Band. He later attended Okkodo High School where he studied under Max Ronquillo and Jessica Pangelinan. He had the privilege of representing Guam in the Australian International Music Festival as a member of the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra and the Guam Territorial Band where both groups were ranked gold and gave the Command Performance for the festival. Micah is a sophomore at the University of Guam studying Secondary Education emphasizing in Music and Fine Arts. He aspires to become a band instructor and continue to develop the talents of future local musicians.



**Elizabeth Mamczarz (violin)**

Concertmaster

Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra

Elizabeth Mamczarz is a recent graduate of and National Merit Semifinalist at Harvest Christian Academy. She has been a member of TBYO since its inception. Previously, she was a youth representative on TBYO's Steering Committee but relinquished the role when she became concertmaster. Representing TBYO, Elizabeth has played in multiple quartets and weddings. She also played in the Beauty and the Beast pit orchestra and was named its orchestra manager. Elizabeth has won multiple solo violin competitions, most recently placing 1st in the senior division of the Guam Young Artist Competition. Her proudest moment with her instrument was her solo performance at Carnegie Hall in December of 2021, when she was only 15. In the summer and early fall of 2023, she served as a string instructor for TBYO Jr., a program that developed a few of the students that will be performing solos today. She is appreciative of all the opportunities Guam Philharmonic has provided to strengthen her musical background.

**Jayvee Elomina (trombone)**

Assistant Vice President/Chief of Staff  
Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Incorporated

Steering Committee Member, Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra

Euphonium - Guam Territorial Band

Jayvee Elomina is currently a Civil Engineering Major at the University of Guam, but his journey for pursuing his passion for the fine arts began in 2014. He attended Santa Barbara Catholic School, the place that sparked his desire for music. He starred in various musicals such as Shrek the Musical Jr. (Donkey), Annie Jr. (Rooster Hannigan), and T.I.M.E. Machine (The Antagonist). As he transitioned into high school, he learned how to play trumpet under the guidance of Maximo Ronquillo Jr., a decision that would come to have a huge impact on his life. Throughout his time in high school, he played with the Okkodo High School Concert Band who secured a Gold Award at the 2018 and 2019 Tumon Bay Music Festival. After joining the Tri-M Music Honor Society, he decided to go above and beyond music in his school alone. He joined the Guam Territorial Band, the official band of Guam, and the award-winning Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra (TBYO), making music with people who share the same goal: keeping the love for music alive on the island. Yearning to do more in the community, he began to pledge his time to work with a local non-profit organization, The Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Incorporated, that devotes their time to become a leader in music and arts education for youth and adults throughout Guam and Micronesia and to present innovative programming and repertoire choices that showcase both local and internationally acclaimed artists. Striving to support this mission until all in Guam can express themselves freely.

He now serves as the organization's Chief of Staff and Assistant Vice President, working alongside the rest of his staff members: Azelet Lopez, Joseph Ngowakl, Nathaniel Dafrad, Rin Bejerana, and Isaiah Aguon. Often working events that aim towards bringing the gift of music to the community such as the Tumon Bay Music Festival, St. Cecilia Music Gala, TBYO Season Finale, TBYO Jr. Music Camp, and more. Jayvee will be travelling with TBYO and GTB, playing Trombone and Euphonium to support each group as they perform alongside thousands of other musicians performing at the 2024 Summa Cum Laude Music Festival this July. As the trip comes near, he often thinks back to a quote that kicked off his journey many years ago, "why fit in when you were born to stand out?!" This mentality has encouraged him to go beyond what is expected of him and continue to strive to be a better version of himself. The same sentiment can be shared with his TBYO and GTB, it is a high honor that these groups will be able to perform in the elegant concert halls in a country that holds so much of the World's music history. They will be going to share with the world only a piece of the talent and experience that the beautiful Island of Guam has to offer.

**Shiyori Shibahata (violin)**

Orchestra Manager

Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra

Shiyori Shibahata is the orchestra manager for the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra. She is a rising senior attending Harvest Christian Academy, and she has been playing the violin for 8 years with her love of listening and playing music. She has been a part of TBYO for the past two years. She volunteered for the Tumon Bay Music Festival for the past two years, and she was a part of the Little String Star in TBMF 2024. Shiyori is also a part of her school's orchestra and symphony, as well as being a member of the Tri M honor society. She had a fun time being a part of the pit orchestra and meeting new people in the musical Broadway, Beauty and the Beast last autumn. In TBYO, she enjoys getting to work with talented musicians around the island and managing the organization with great leaders.

During the school year, she excels in her academics as well as cross country and track and field, running long distances. Shiyori is also a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society, and she is also a part of the STEM club and Biology club. She was also a part of the photography club, where she showed interest in the art of photography. Shiyori is also a part of the National Speech and Debate Association and won first place in the Duo category on Guam, and she'll be going to Iowa this summer to compete for nationals. Shiyori volunteered for the Red Cross at the time of Typhoon Mawar, and she has put in significant work going around the island to help the community in need. She enjoys going on dives with her family and going bowling once in a while in her free time.

### **Dr. Jerry Castro**

Guam Territorial Band alumnus and proud parent

Dr. Jerry Castro is a proud CHamoru who was born and raised in Guam and was educated in our public schools. Since his middle school days at Agueda Johnston Middle School, Jerry has been drawn to the drums which he continued learning at George Washington High School. His love for music allowed him to be a member of the Guam Territorial Band and several other local *pala-pala* style bands. A proud Triton, Jerry graduated from the University of Guam with a BA in Biology and began his journey to a profession in the medical field. He is a proud US Navy veteran having served 21 years at various prominent posts in the US Navy and Marine Corps medical system culminating at the rank of Commander (O-5). Specializing in the area of otolaryngology (ENT surgeon), Dr. Castro now runs his own local practice - Guam ENT in Tamuning.

### **Xander Castro (electric and upright bass)**

Currently a sophomore at Harvest Christian Academy, Xander plays in both the school's Band and Symphony. He is also a member of the Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra, Guam Territorial Band, and the University of Guam Jazz Band. His journey with the bass guitar began two and a half years ago. Xander is very grateful for being able to play with these wonderful groups.

### **Nathaniel Dafrad (percussion)**

Principal Percussionist – Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra

Starting his musical journey in freshman year of high school was not exactly the earliest start to some, but it is just enough to change a life. Nathaniel Dafrad is a Tri-M Music Honor Society alumnus who studied as a percussionist under Max Ronquillo Jr. for two years, and then proceeded to self-study. He obtained knowledge from every performance he participated in, from the GATE Theatre Production's Cinderella to the Guam Territorial Band's anniversary concerts. He took to the stage and rose to new heights well within his high school career, beginning with his first off-island tour to Saipan back in 2018 while representing Okkodo High School in multiple band exchanges, and extending to his first introduction to the Australian International Music Festival back in 2019. Both groups he participated in received gold awards and an encore performance. Nathaniel, a CHamoru/Yapese from Astumbo, Dededo aims to share the joy and wondrous journey of music by aiding in any musical project arising about the island.

**Guam Territorial Band – Official Band of Guam, USA**  
Jessica Pangelinan, Chief Band Master

**FLUTE**

Justin Lee  
Isabella Perez  
Ava Rios  
Mcbella Park  
Dante Carino  
Joy Gregson

**OBOE**

Amanda Bateman

**BASSOON**

Joseph JB Pangelinan

**CLARINET**

Micah Edusma  
Atsuko Eck  
Malia Edusma  
Nami Fiedler

**BASS CLARINET**

Ian Wusstig

**ALTO SAX**

Jayven Botha  
Rozelle Ragat

**TENOR SAX**

Tomoya Tisdale

**BARI SAX**

Anthony Carino

**TRUMPET**

Rin Bejerana  
Azelet Lopez  
Ross Miller  
Landon Aydlett  
Wayne James  
Shangrong Jiang  
Nathaniel Cepeda  
Jad Lee Thompson

**FRENCH HORN**

Joseph Ngowakl  
Kangsan Yoon

**EUPHONIUM**

Jayvee Elomina

**TUBA**

Kwame Nyame  
Theodore Parker

**BASS GUITAR**

Xander Castro

**PERCUSSION**

Nathaniel Dafrad  
Brandon Aydlett  
Brielle Lee  
Kai Spence  
Tristan Alvarez  
Helen Chen

**Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra**  
Maximo Ronquillo, Jr., Interim Resident Conductor

**VIOLIN**

Elizabeth Mamczarz, concertmaster  
Vinicia Kim, principal 2nd  
Chantel Cabrias  
Kate Ishida  
Sophia Jang  
Caleb Kim  
Clara Kim  
Jayon Lee  
Noey Lee  
Sean Lee  
Shiyori Shibahata  
Clara Teller  
Jariah Tiong  
Jamie Xu  
Justine Xu  
Claire Yi

**VIOLA**

Seohee Min, principal  
Marissa Ko,  
Yelin Byeon  
Ruah Choi  
Zoe Leung

**CELLO**

Seth Lu, principal  
Jace Baik  
Alfred Joshua Morales  
Daniel Ohno  
Jayaniah Tiong  
Kailee Wong

**FLUTE**

Mcbella Park, principal  
Chaewon Han  
Siena Kim  
Justin Lee  
Isabella Perez

**OBOE**

Amanda Bateman, principal  
Elijah Dixon

**BASSOON**

Joseph JB Pangelinan, principal  
Natalie Hutto  
Zed Leung

**CLARINET**

Micah Edusma, principal  
JiHoo Cha  
David Hoh  
Finley Horne

**TRUMPET**

Azelet Lopez, brass section leader  
Tasi Kim

**FRENCH HORN**

Kansan Yoon, principal  
Rin Bejerana  
Donggeon Lee  
Joseph Ngowakl

**TROMBONE**

Jayvee Elomina  
Shangrong Jiang

**String Bass**

Xander Castro, principal  
Samuel Guo

**PERCUSSION**

Nathaniel Dafrad, principal  
Tristan Alvarez  
Kavan Gutierrez  
Felix Horne  
Kai Spence  
Vincent Zacarias

**PIANO**

Hannah Sto Nino