

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# SECONDARY HONOR CONCERT 2025

March 4 7 PM



Good evening, and welcome to the CUSD Secondary Honor Concert.

Whether you are a student, family member or teacher, you played a role in this performance tonight. Performing in this concert is no small feat and cannot be achieved by one person alone. The time, dedication, passion and focus required to earn a spot on this stage says so much about the character of our musicians, and they could not do it without the support of those around them. Enjoy tonight, because it is an achievement for you all.

In CUSD, our goal is to provide world-class education, and that includes all areas of learning and personal growth. Hosting this concert in a world-class venue like Segerstrom is fitting of the high-level instruction and performance all of our programs provide. Making beautiful music requires instruction in musical theory, composition and technique. We are proud to foster the musical passion of our students, who may go on to inspiring careers in music or use it as a hobby to foster other areas of their lives. Music is a cornerstone of the cognitive and social development of students.

Thank you to all of the parents, instructors, students and everyone who contributed to creating this wonderful night. I hope you enjoy the show, and are inspired by the music.

*Dr. Chris Brown*  
*Superintendent, Capistrano Unified School District*

Welcome to our Secondary Honor Concert! Tonight, we showcase the very best of the Capistrano Unified School District! With over 500 student musicians performing, I want to thank all the great students for their hard work, awesome participation, and dedication to music. The life lessons learned from music will carry on throughout their lives and help make them better people. Music is essential to the growth and development of the total student. Music teaches so many human skills including self-worth, teamwork, diligence, sensitivity, and appreciation for beauty. The Capistrano Unified Visual and Performing Arts Department shares in the vision that arts education is for ALL STUDENTS and that ALL STUDENTS are capable of extraordinary things.

As we listen to all the incredible musicians, let us reflect on how this level of performance only comes from a total commitment and effort from each and every individual on stage. Each person plays an essential part in the ensemble and must work together and collaborate as a unified team. With all of the responsibilities and commitments these students contend with on a daily basis, it is amazing and inspiring that they stayed dedicated to make it here to the stage tonight.

Thank you, parents, family, friends, and teachers for being that awesome support team that assisted these students to realize their musical dreams and potential to this point. All of us can be proud that we did our part to help get each of these incredible students onto this world-class stage. Congratulations students for your dedication, commitment, and hard work. You have made it to the BIG STAGE, and each of you are a huge success.

Now, let us sit back, be proud, and appreciate the students and the music of their collaboration!

*Albert Jeung*  
*Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator*



## **Welcome**

Albert Jeung, Master of Ceremonies

### **Middle School Honor Band**

Directed by Kevin Hamilton

*Shackelford Banks (A Tale of Wild Mustangs)* - Jay Bocook

*Lullabye* - Randall D. Standridge

*Tripwire* - JaRod Hall

### **Middle School Honor Orchestra**

Directed by Dan Robbins

*Symphony No. 1 in D Major, Movement II* -

Gustav Mahler, arranged by Sandra Dackow

*Lullaby* - William Hofeldt

*To Tame the Raging Rapids* - Brian Balmages

### **Middle School Honor Choir**

Directed by Greg Ellis, Accompanied by Elena Benefield

*Bonse Aba* - arranged by Victor C. Johnson

*The Wayfaring Stranger* - arranged by Greg Gilpin,

Violinists: Caitlyn Ritchie, Justin Gruita

*Cantate Domino* - Ken Berg

## ***INTERMISSION***

### **High School Honor Choir**

Directed by John Byun

*Unclouded Day (from Heavenly Home)* - J.K. Alwood,

arranged by Shawn Kirchner

*Earth Song* - Frank Ticheli

*O Sifuni Mungu* - words and music by Marty McCall,

David Maddux, Mmunga Mwenebulongo, Asukulu 'Yunu Mukaly,

arranged by David Maddux

### **High School Honor Symphony Orchestra**

Directed by Michael Gerdes

*A Tribute to John Williams* - music by John Williams,

adapted by Paul Lavender

Selections from *Carmen Suite No. 1 and Suite No. 2* - Georges Bizet

## **Finale**

Directed by John Byun

*Music Everywhere* - music by Ryan Murphy, words by S.W. Foster

# MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR BAND

## **Flute**

Lilyanna Andrade  
Dainin Chien  
Sophia Farmakis  
Casey Havertine  
Olivia Lee  
Nathan Nair  
Ann Nelson  
Aryella Orrego  
Nithura Sundar  
Malia Tiengtum  
Evan Xie  
Hayoon Yang

## **Oboe**

Thomas Curtis  
Elisa Smith

## **Bassoon**

Taryn Hasselman

## **Clarinet**

Jaxson Amari  
Max Bachtinov  
Bianca Dela Cruz  
Jennifer Fan  
McKenzie Fenn  
Casey Gillibrand  
Lillie Hanreich  
Luca Hanreich  
Leo Kim  
Logan Lake  
Lily Lander  
Yatharth Mishra  
Caleb Tao  
Evelyn Tran  
Benny Van  
Sam Whitaker

## **Bass Clarinet**

Cyra Farzan  
Jason Ibrahim  
Mayar Namuq

## **Alto Saxophone**

Livia Astrom  
Sadie Avan  
Benjamin Gantes  
Yana Jackson  
Jonathan Jacquemart  
Matteo Kolb

## **Tenor Saxophone**

Aarna Arkalgud  
Evan Austin  
Arman Muradyan

## **Baritone Saxophone**

Dominic Kameroglu

## **Trumpet**

Skanda Ashwin  
Joshua Chickering  
Jacob Faulkner  
Andre Hagopian  
Daniel Hiatt  
Tyler Kerfoot  
Lucas Manlapaz  
Max McKee  
Caleb Medina  
Johnathan Ng  
John Schult  
Nixon Sieling-Squires  
Alli Smith  
Rudy Zúñiga

## **French Horn**

Natalie Cordner  
Sidney Gillibrand  
Athen Huynh  
Abigail Julian  
Madison Kuhlmann  
Vivian Murray  
Noah Samuelson

## **Trombone**

Sutton Brougher  
Hannah Brown  
Annabelle Courtney  
Brysen Kerfoot  
Daniel Miranda

## **Euphonium**

Matthew Anderson  
Casey O'Connor

## **Tuba**

Shawn Lu  
Omar Martinez  
Wallace Peters

## **Percussion**

Caden Nebrida  
Neil Sunny  
Leah Tanaka  
Victoria Vildósola  
Dylan Vovan  
Shilah Yoshimura



# MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ORCHESTRA

## **Violin I**

Lullaby Anderson  
Olivia Bang  
Lillian Chang  
Olivia Chao  
Ryan Chou  
Isabella Copeland  
Chandra Hernandez  
Parker Hull  
Zoey Karr  
Angela Kim  
Timothy Kim  
Tristen Lee  
Kartik Mathur  
Elyse Pieratt  
Zachary Sumrow  
Charlotte Wheaton  
Savanna Zu

## **Violin II**

Emily Chao  
Isla Dalton  
Alaina Dustin  
Robin Gaudio  
Daigo Kihara  
Elijah Kim  
Sean Kim  
Taylor King  
Sophia Lee  
Yuri Lee  
Lucas Lim

Audrey McLeod  
Melica Minapour  
Kiana Mortezaejad  
Miles Park  
Ayden Salgado  
Keira Sorenson  
Ashley Toal  
Zoe Wright

## **Viola**

Aaron Chung  
Mia Corsello  
Henry Dochia  
Rishabh Dutta  
Sophie Grant  
Mina Houshyar  
Catherine Ji  
Zachary Kim  
Jack Morrow  
Nathan Nguyen  
Violet O'Connor  
Quinlan Schubert  
Soryn Tanana  
Maxwell Tse

## **Cello**

Chris Bronola  
Evan Farivar  
Riley Figueroa  
Kyli Flores  
Antonia Fragassi  
Natalie Hue  
Kynan Huynh  
Lucca Kolb  
Athena Liu  
Weston Porter  
Graham Scherer  
Kaveh Shahriari  
Kimiea Shahriari  
Micah Song  
William Tse  
Emma Xing  
Darryl Yang  
Mei Yu

## **Bass**

Ava Burgos  
Jade Chairez  
Alessandra de Sa Pereira  
Scarlett Keller  
Mallory Schwartz

## MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

Aubrey Appell  
Deeksha Arunkumar  
Alexandra Bak  
Spencer Barton  
Avia Bollman  
Airlie Cheetham  
Emery CoBilyard  
Emerson Collier  
Kensie Collier  
Eloise Early  
Brooklynn Edwards  
Piper Evans  
Carmella Ferro  
Ava Field  
Kylee Foster  
Melanie Gil  
Caya Gilbert  
Kira Gordon  
Xiomara Guzman  
Siyi Hao  
Lola Harden  
Sasha Hariharan  
Clayton Harris  
Olivia Hartley  
Nixon Hunt  
Emma Insco  
Avery Irving  
Isla Jauert  
Kaitlyn Jiang  
Alyssa Jones  
Reina Joulain  
Sophia Juarez

Deeksha Kandula  
Duthisree Keerthipati  
Kenna Kooiman  
Vani Krishnan  
Avrielle Krivoy  
Claire Lau  
Evander Lawson  
Ivy Leonard  
Alexandra Lewis  
Parker Lewis  
Beatrix Lovegreen  
Morgan Luke  
Yusuf Masnadi-Shirazi  
Quest Mayfield-Krueger  
Gabby McNaughton  
Lyla Moorhead  
Evy Morales  
Maya Nabi  
Rylee Neth  
Eli Nguyen  
Xaley Odekirk  
Luna Osorio  
Julia Paja  
Ava Panish  
Camden Park  
Grace Parker  
Lili Parker  
Elliot Parks  
Alina Patel  
Bell Pavia  
Kinsley Pierson  
Shreya Praveen

Prairie Riley  
Gaby Ruith  
Anabella Scarpone  
Riley Schlarb  
Ava Schmalle  
Reese Schmidt  
Emma Kate Sheehy  
Lexi Shood  
Shrutika Sivakumar  
Stella Skinner  
Mia Skupinsky  
Elly Sobouti  
Lola Tarango  
Channing Torrianni  
Kylie Tran  
Maritza Trejo de Leon  
Krish Verma  
Danika Vicente  
Noah Wajner  
Emily Wang  
Emily Whaley  
Jasper Wheaton  
Mia Wojcik



# HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

Camila Abarca  
Salonee Agrawal  
Rhys Aida  
Joelle Al Ammar  
Lekha Ananth  
Nathan Anderson  
Alicia Arambarri  
Isabella Arbour  
Karter Arellano  
Bella Arman  
Gabriella Armani  
Nicole Atik  
Zainab Azmi  
Sidney Barter  
Bell Basalla  
McKenzee Bathurst  
Douglas Beaver  
Gwenalyn Beck  
Saydee Becker  
Allesandra Bellacosa  
Maxwell Berger  
Shruti Beta  
Lilah Blackwell  
Dexter Blanco  
Eliza Bourne  
Ellie Bowles  
Michael Boynton  
JD Brenes  
Dylan Bruette-Riordan

Caitlin Cajigal  
Olivia Calkins  
Nadia Camerino  
William Carlson  
Josiah Chapman  
Michaela Chapman  
Sai Chintamaneni  
Evie Chong  
Aaron Chow  
Austin Chow  
Maddy Chu  
Delaney Cicon  
Celeste Cohen  
Alexander Coleman  
Mayah Collins  
Joshua Commisso  
Josie Cook  
Lilia Cota  
Alx Cruz  
Sawyer Damron  
Lilian Darougar  
Benjamin Dart  
Grace DeGroot  
Lila Devine  
Vishnu Dharanikota  
Dixon Douglas  
Asher Dowling  
Thelo du Halgouet  
Luke Dunphy  
Sophia duPont-Moore  
Trent Durley  
Aemelia Durtschi

Addison Engelken  
Owen Engle  
Grace Fenick  
Isabella Fenick  
Ellie Ferguson  
Jackson Foth  
Jewliana Fowler  
Mickey Freeman  
Zach Frost  
Arri Gass  
Moon Gomez  
Jake Goodwyn  
Piper Gubman  
Hitesh Hariharan  
Sadie Hottinger  
Will Hougan  
Stella Humphrey  
Karina Hutchinson  
Ethan Jack  
Abby Jacobs  
Nora Jahromi  
Gabi James  
Zaid Jarrad  
Isaac Jauregui  
Nico Jauregui  
Magnus Johansson  
Crew Jones  
Tray Kamal  
Alison Kellerman  
Alexia Kim  
Sammy Kirchner  
Jack Kirkner  
Hannah Kolenicka  
Nishi Krishna  
Penelope Krueger

# HIGH SCHOOL HONOR CHOIR

Madeline Lai  
Levi Lanting  
Zoey Larwin  
Colin Lau  
Evan Lau  
Kade Laucik  
Camille Lawrence  
Tristan Lawton  
Chris Lefefe  
Mariah Lewis  
Andrew Liebig  
Gabriel Lilley  
Teya Linde  
Drew Little  
Sophie Lowry  
Madyson Macabale  
Jacob Madison  
Lana Maier  
Kiana Marumoto  
Juno Massimei  
Brixie Mathewson  
Kai McArtney  
Konnor McElfish  
Isaiah Medina  
Alison Meisenzahl  
Elijah Mendez  
Alivia Michael  
Delilah Michno  
Audrey Molyneux  
Madison Morton  
Mia Muscarella  
Natalya Nelson  
Ciela Nelson  
Jack Nelson

Annabel Nguyen  
Gwen Nicholas  
Gwendolyn Nishti  
Rowan Noonan  
Kacey O'Brien  
Mars O'Kane  
Isabelle Oldroyd  
Marilyn Ortiz  
Hunter Peterson  
Cameron Pham  
Natalia Piana  
Owen Pothier  
Christian Preusse  
Morgan Pribyl  
Emalia Probert  
Isabella Radmanesh  
Jenna Radwan  
DUILIO Ramirez  
Cassidy Redding  
Alysa Reichner  
Daniel Riberos  
Jacob Richards  
Jordan Robinson  
Lilly Roche  
Chris Rodriguez  
Eliannah Rodriguez  
Avery Roemer  
Sara Ruiz Caceres

Kennedy Samuelson  
Alex Santos  
Robert Sauer  
Ava Schumacher  
Ashkon Shokoo  
Ellie Smallwood  
Mia Smith  
Zachary Smith  
Felicity Stephan  
Taylor Storie  
Jaimee Summers  
Reese Tatton  
Ashlyn Telford  
Odie Thomas  
Marlee Thomas  
Jackson Thurman  
Libby Tracy-Council  
Elizabeth Trippe  
Logan Trojak  
Katie Trustee  
Rockwell Turner  
William Turner  
Nicole Valdez  
Cade Van Weelde  
Aubrey Vaughan  
Anthony Verrengia  
Olivia Viscount  
Chase Walburger  
Brooke Walker  
Hailey Whelan  
Oliver Wilcox  
Charlie Woffinden  
Addison Young



# HIGH SCHOOL SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

## **Violin**

Fahad Abed  
Maddy Barnes  
Katelyn Besmonte  
Aden Chen  
KariAnne Chien  
Ronny Chien  
William Chow  
Kiyann Ghaffari  
Justin Gruita  
Zosia Gruszka  
Nishka Harish  
Mitchell Heal  
Elliot Hong  
Aiden Huang  
Claire Huang  
Milyne Huynh  
Daphne Karr  
Olive Kim  
Millie Lagunas  
Seth Lau  
Caiden Lee  
Ethan Lin  
Lara Marize Ramos  
Samuel Missik  
Saoirse Murray  
Celine Nguyen  
Maxwell Nguyen  
Naomi Nguyen  
Benjamin Park  
Lana Pholkosol  
Isabella Quijano  
Caitlyn Ritchie  
Luna Tanaka  
Ethan Taylor

Tyler Volpe

Jenna Wang

Ryan Waung

Tom Zhang

## **Viola**

Sophia Borazjani

Lucy Contino

Kristin Gettman

Crew Jones

Zoe Lee

Kristyn Martinez

Mika Takeuchi

Camille Winer

## **Cello**

Elika Bazshushtari

Chace Chiu

Evan Chung

Ida Cohl

Sawyer Damron

Cameron Golba

Surina Hue

Valerie Kim

Joshua Nieves

Liam Nordrum

Hannah Oh

Julio Ojeda

Bretado

Hannah Ratanapratum

Isabella Schaller

Kian Shirazi

Analise Tejada

Kevin Thi

Jason Wright

## **Bass**

Sartaj Benipal

Siloé Bouscatie

Josh Calen

Alice Furuyama

Luke Kesoglou

Leisha Manchanda

Alexandria Ng

Emma Phakousonh

Calvin Rydell

Elizabeth Vicker

## **Harp**

Sariah Porter

## **Flute**

Ceren Altintas

Mayah Castillo

Ayush Ganguly

## **Oboe**

Teadora Grimberg

Immanuel Smith

## **Clarinet**

Samuel Lee

Noah Nebrida

Eliza Palmer

Braedan Yamaguchi

## **Bass Clarinet**

Aubrielle Elliott

Danielle Davis

## **Tenor Saxophone**

Christopher Nichols

## **Alto Saxophone**

Brooke Davis

Elias Frey

Lana Moreno

Jaren Pare

## **Baritone Saxophone**

Nicholas Nordby

## **French Horn**

Brandon Berry

Ellie Monahan

Aditya Shirolkar

Julien Zysman

## **Trumpet**

Sam Chirco

Aidan Garcia

Charles Lyon

## **Trombone**

Gavin Bond

Matteo David

Emerson Lichtner

Matthew Ruskin

Kylee Salagubang

Asher Stetson

## **Tuba**

Oswald Maxwell

Joshua Sanchez Permudez

Jack Steele

## **Percussion**

Grayden Donsker

Thomas Healy

Kieran Meador

Cooper Pine



Kevin Hamilton is the director of bands at Wilson High School in Long Beach and founder of the Long Beach Summer Music Academy. He received a bachelor of arts degree from UCLA and a master's of music degree from the American Band College. Mr. Hamilton has 23 years experience teaching band and orchestra at all three levels. Most of his career was spent at Rogers Middle School, where he built his reputation as a passionate, student-centered teacher, whose skills allowed his students to perform beyond their years. He attributes his success to the valuable mentorship of Long Beach teaching legends, Andrew Osman (Poly H.S.), Dr. Gary Scott (LBCC) and Roger Johnson (LBCC), as well as longtime UCLA Band Director, Gordon Henderson. Mr. Hamilton's career achievements include being a two-time recipient of the Long Beach Council PTA's "Teacher of the Year" Award (2007-2008 and 2018-2019), receiving a National Band Association Citation of Excellence (2018), being awarded the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association Gold Award (2022), and receiving a lifetime achievement award from the Rogers Middle School PTA (2023). He has been a National Board Certified Teacher since 2018.



Dan Robbins is in his 32nd year at La Paz Intermediate school in Mission Viejo teaching instrumental music. Mr. Robbins is a graduate of California State University, Fullerton and holds a bachelor's of music degree in trumpet performance and a bachelor's of arts degree in music education. In 2000, Mr. Robbins was honored as the La Paz Intermediate School and Saddleback Valley USD Teacher of the Year. Other accolades include multiple national quarter finalist nominations for the Grammy Music Educator award, Director of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Honor Jazz Ensemble in both 2010 and 2021, and the recipient of the 2024 Orange County Music and Arts award as the outstanding instrumental music educator. Mr. Robbins continues his work with the South Coast Youth Symphony Orchestra as the Associate Conductor and has traveled to Europe as a performer and conductor nine times with this ensemble since 2005.



Greg Ellis has been involved with choral music as a singer, a conductor, an adjudicator and a conference presenter. He is a past president of the Southern California Vocal Association and has been involved in SCVA choral festivals, honor choirs, solo contests and summer music camp for 13 years. He has been given numerous awards during his career from Santa Ana USD, Orange County, the LA Music Center, and the state of California. However, his favorite reward of teaching has been to watch former students being successful in life. After 39 years of public school teaching, A graduate of California State University, Fullerton, Mr. Ellis is enjoying retirement with his wife, Shawna, who is a former CUSD music teacher. Together, they continue to sing in the choir at their church and enjoy attending a variety of concerts, musicals, and festivals.





John Byun earned his bachelor's of music in vocal performance from the University of California, Irvine, and his master's in choral conducting from California State University, Long Beach. Currently, he serves as the Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Riverside City College, where he leads the RCC Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Under his direction, the Chamber Singers earned first-place finishes at the California International Choral Competition (2011), the Eisteddfod Choral Competition in Wales (2009), the Yeosu International Choral Competition in Korea (2013), and the Choral Competition in Spittal, Austria (2015). Mr. Byun's expertise has led him to guest conduct for numerous honor choirs across the United States, including the SCVA Men's Honor Choir, North Carolina All-State Honor Choir, and the Arizona All-State Honor Choir. His passion for choral music extends to collaborations with renowned artists such as Grammy Award-winner Jon Secada, Eric Whitacre, and the Hi-Lo's. Mr. Byun also maintains the John Byun Choral Series with Pavane Publishing, featuring works by composers such as Richard Burchard, Kevin Memley, Stacey Gibbs, and others.



Michael Gerdes, a Minnesota native, is the Director of Orchestral Studies at San Diego State University. Under his leadership, the program has doubled in size, with more ensembles and performances. Gerdes' alumni teach and perform worldwide, from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to the Armenian National Opera. Mr. Gerdes has held positions with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus and the Los Angeles Conducting Institute, and he frequently guest conducts. A champion of contemporary orchestral repertoire, his performances have featured premieres by composers like Vivian Fung, Jocelyn Hagen, and Gabriel DeGuzman. In 2022, Mr. Gerdes received the Richard Levin Orchestra Educator Award. He regularly works with young musicians, having led over 1,000 students at the South Dakota All-State Orchestra and Chorus. He has also conducted honor orchestras across California and youth orchestras internationally, from China to Virginia. Off the podium, Mr. Gerdes serves on the Board of the Musical Merit Foundation and lectures for the La Jolla Music Society. Though he has worked internationally, he is happiest making music in San Diego, where he lives with his wife, Abbie, daughter Cecilia, and dog Wally.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO...**

Our exceptional guest conductors, John Byun, Greg Ellis, Michael Gerdes, Kevin Hamilton, and Dan Robbins, for generously sharing their talent and inspiring our students.

Albert Jeung, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, for his unwavering commitment and tireless efforts in supporting music and arts programs for all CUSD students.

Susan Hill, for her incredible presence and organization as the Honors Concert Coordinator.

Our ensemble lead teachers Keith Hancock, Dean McElroy, Richard Perez, DMA, Ashley Stevens, Rachel Wright, and logistics lead Andy Waldukat, for their dedication in making this incredible opportunity possible for Capistrano Unified students.

Justin Barnes, for being an extraordinary backstage manager and for everything you do to ensure that rehearsals and the show run seamlessly.

Clark Fisher, Director of Performing Arts Center Facilities, for his steadfast support of the CUSD Honor concerts and the district's performing arts programs.

The dedicated professionals at Segerstrom, for their partnership in making this meaningful experience a reality for our students.

Rob Gaul from Brand U, for providing the Honor Concert souvenir wear.

Dr. Michael Gomez, Executive Director, State and Federal Programs, for assisting with concert financial logistics.

Our heartfelt thanks to all Capistrano Unified music educators who inspire and nurture students every day in the classroom.

Middle School Music Educators: Elena Benefield, Amber Block, Kelli Bower, Ashley Bowman, Nancy Enriquez, Jason Ezquerro, Pierre Flores, Ryan Jesch, Jeff McGinnis, Richard Perez, DMA, Valerie Petty, JP Reed, Elena Rodriguez, Don Schultz, Ashley Stevens and Rachel Wright.

High School Music Educators: James Caestecker, Jonathan Chen, Yeon Choi, Natalie Do, Erin Girard, Keith Hancock, Jason Harney, Jason Ma, Dean McElroy, Ray Medina, Tony Soto, Michael Ushino, Alex Ustick and Andy Waldukat.

Thank you to all the parents and guardians for your unwavering support and dedication to your children's musical journey. Your encouragement makes all the difference.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Thank you to the Capistrano Unified Board of Trustees and Administration for continued support of Music Education for all students

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