

## *CONFERENCE CONDUCTORS AND CLINICIANS*

### **Dr. Katy Ambrose**

Katy Ambrose is the Visiting Assistant Professor of Horn at the University of Iowa (beginning August 2021), solo horn of the New Orchestra of Washington, and fourth horn in the Delaware Symphony Orchestra. From 2015-2021, she was Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia and principal horn in the Charlottesville Symphony. Ambrose has an extensive orchestral background—in addition to holding regional orchestra positions she has substituted with major ensembles including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Hawai'i Symphony, Richmond Symphony, and the Virginia Symphony. She has spent several summers teaching at the Curtis Institute of Music Young Artists Summer Program and the All-State program at the Interlochen Arts Camp. A dedicated chamber musician, she was a founding member of the natural horn quartet Conica, Izula Horns, and Seraph Brass. She served as founding Operations Coordinator for Boulanger Initiative, an organization working toward greater inclusivity in music through performance, education, and commissions by womxn and underrepresented composers. Dr. Ambrose received her Doctor of Musical Arts from Temple University, where she researched the lives and influence of horn players of African descent in America. She received an Artist Diploma from Yale University, Master's from Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and Bachelor's from the University of Michigan.

### **Dr. Wendy Barden**

Wendy Barden has retired from Osseo Area Schools in Minnesota after 36 years in the district. She began her career teaching instrumental and general music at the junior high level, and then served 21 years as K-12 Music Coordinator. Her teaching experience spans elementary through college levels in instrumental and general music classrooms. She was a Yamaha National Mentor Teacher, 1992 Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) Band Educator of the Year, and 2013 Yale Distinguished Music Educator. Barden is a member of Phi Beta Mu, and in 2014, she was inducted into the MMEA Hall of Fame. Dr. Barden is an active author and clinician. She has presented workshops for music educators across the United States and Canada. In retirement, she is teaching the International Baccalaureate music class at Park Center High School, and working with music educators and school districts across the country. Barden holds B.S. and M.A. degrees in music education from the University of Minnesota. Her Ph.D., also from the University of Minnesota, is in music with emphasis in music education and musicology. She has pursued additional study in teaching and learning, assessment, and student engagement.

### **Shawn Bell**

Trombonist Shawn Bell's playing has been called "soulful" and "captivatingly quirky." While Jazz has been the driving force behind Bell's training and education, he has earned a reputation as a dynamic journeyman, always ready to play the gig at hand. This commitment to making music not bound by the doctrine of a single style has given Bell a unique voice as a musician, composer, and educator. In addition to his work as a performer,

Shawn is also a sought-after educator. He currently holds a teaching artist position with Omaha Performing Arts in the organization's Jazz Academy. This program seeks to improve the quality of Jazz education offered in the region by sponsoring in-school clinics, music educator workshops, and an honors ensemble for middle school Jazz students. Outside of the Jazz realm, Shawn maintains an active private teaching studio and is a frequent clinician at schools and festivals throughout Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa. As a trombonist, Shawn's second release as a leader, Trio, features a departure from traditional Jazz formats and song structures. Instead, Bell draws on covers by R&B and Rock artists alongside original material that grooves. Shawn is a Conn/Selmer artist and performs on Bach trombones.

### **Dr. Christopher Brandt**

Christopher Brandt serves as Director of Bands at Graceland University in Lamoni, IA where he directs the symphonic band and jazz ensembles. Prior to taking his position at Graceland University Brandt taught high school band in Minnesota and South Dakota and served in the 451st Army Band as a saxophonist and associate conductor with appearances throughout the United States. His articles have appeared in The Instrumentalist and the Music Association Journal and, in 2017 he was selected as National Band Association Young Conductor semi-finalist. As a saxophonist he continues to perform as a soloist and with the Heart of America Winds in Kansas City, MO. Brandt holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Band Conducting from the University of Nebraska; a Master of Music in Conducting from Sam Houston State University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, Performance (saxophone) and Leadership from the University of Jamestown.

### **Dr. Thompson Brandt**

Dr. Thompson Brandt, of Freeport, Illinois, served as a professor and college dean over the course of his forty-six years of experience in higher education. He is the author of a number of published books on the intersection of music and American history and over twenty-five scholarly articles in music education. His prolific conference presentation record has taken him across the United States and in Canada. Dr. Brandt earned degrees from Drake University, the University of Illinois, and the University of Wisconsin. He recently completed a graduate certificate in education law from Indiana University and is currently a candidate for a master's degree from the University of Arizona School of Law.

### **Dr. Michelle Colton, Young Artist**

Dr. Michelle Colton is a versatile percussionist who has performed throughout North America, Asia, Europe, and Central America. She often plays with the Canadian Opera Company, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and is the co-founder of Oregon Percussion. She has performed with NEXUS, Keiko Abe, and Dame Evelyn Glennie. Her debut solo album, Unpredictable Nature includes three original works and two pieces by members of TorQ Percussion Quartet. She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from the University of Toronto and her Bachelor of Music degree from the

University of Iowa under the direction of Dan Moore. Her first percussion instructor was Tom Mackey, principal percussionist of Orchestra Iowa. Dr. Colton was born and raised in Marion, Iowa and participated in the Iowa All-State Band and Orchestra from 1999-2001. Her father (Steve Colton) and grandfather (Luman Colton) were both band directors and past presidents of IBA. As a music educator, she has directed the University of Toronto Steel Pan and Percussion Ensembles, as well as the Iowa Ambassadors of Music percussion section for the European tours in 2012 and 2014. She currently directs the University of Toronto Percussion Preparatory Department and is also a Steel Pan Instructor at the Royal Conservatory of Music and the Toronto District School Board. Dr. Colton is the president of the Ontario Percussive Arts Society. She has presented her research about movement and gesture in marimba performance at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. She is an artist/endorser of Adams/Pearl Musical Instruments, Dream Cymbals and Gongs, and The Steelpan Store.

### **Dr. Brian Cook**

Brian Cook is the Director of Choral Activities at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, where he directs multiple campus ensembles and teaches courses in conducting. His degrees are from the University of Houston, where he studied under the tutelage of Dr. Betsy Cook Weber and Dr. Jeb Mueller, and Brigham Young University–Idaho. Prior to arriving at Briar Cliff, Mr. Cook was fortunate to assist Houston's top choral organizations, including the Houston Symphony Chorus and the 2020 Grammy® Award-winning Houston Chamber Choir. He also helped prepare the University of Houston Concert Chorale for three European competitions, an appearance for the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO), and several local masterworks concerts. Additionally, he taught secondary-level choirs for six years both in the Houston area and in his home state of Colorado. His choral associations have taken him to Asia, Europe, South America, and throughout the United States, including a National ACDA appearance in New York City, the Florilège Vocal de Tours in France, the national NCCO in Baton Rouge, the Béla Bartók International Choir Competition in Debrecen, Hungary, and the European Grand Prix for Choral singing in Arezzo, Italy. He is published with Houston-based Alliance Music.

### **Michael Daugherty, Composer**

Multiple GRAMMY® Award-winning composer Michael Daugherty was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1954. He is the son of a dance-band drummer and the oldest of five brothers, all professional musicians. Daugherty has achieved international recognition as one of the ten most performed American composers of concert music, according to the League of American Orchestras. His orchestral music, recorded by Naxos over the last two decades, has received six GRAMMY awards, including Best Contemporary Classical Composition in 2011 and 2017. Daugherty's music has been commissioned and premiered by many of the world's leading orchestras including the Albany Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony (U.K), Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Nashville Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Pacific Symphony, Philharmonia

Orchestra (London), Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, RAI Symphony Orchestra (Milan) and San Francisco Symphony. As a young man, Daugherty studied composition with many of the preeminent composers of the 20th century including Jacob Druckman, Earle Brown, Bernard Rands and Roger Reynolds at Yale (1980-82), Pierre Boulez at IRCAM in Paris (1979-80) and György Ligeti in Hamburg (1982-84). Daugherty was also an assistant to jazz arranger Gil Evans in New York from 1980-82. In 1991, Daugherty joined the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance as Professor of Composition, where he is a mentor to many of today's most talented young composers. He is also a frequent guest of professional orchestras, university wind ensembles, festivals and music conservatories around the world.

### **Dr. Christine Damm**

Dr. Christine Damm is Division Chair of Fine Arts and Communication at Quincy University. She is the Director of the Hawk Express Jazz Band, woodwind instructor, and teaches a variety of music courses. She is the Principal Clarinetist with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra. She is an advocate of new music and has premiered several works for the clarinet. She has appeared as a featured soloist with the Quincy Symphony Orchestra, Quincy University Symphonic Band, and the Quincy Area Clarinet Choir. She has published articles for the *Instrumentalist*, *Illinois Music Educator's Journal*, *The American Music Teacher*, and the *Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education*. She has presented lectures for the Illinois Music Educators All State Convention, Iowa Music Educator's Convention, Quincy University POLIS Lecture Series, and John Wood Community College Lunch and Learn Lecture Series. Damm received her DMA from the University of Missouri - Kansas City, MM from the University of Illinois, and a BA from Quincy University.

### **Mary Lynn Doherty, Ph.D.**

Mary Lynn Doherty is the Coordinator of Music Education at Northern Illinois University, where she teaches choral and general music methods and directs the University Chorus. Dr. Doherty has conducted elementary, middle and high school level ILMEA choirs as well as numerous district and festival choirs in the midwest. She is on the IL Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance Committee, and is the host of the ILCMP Summer Workshop at NIU. Dr. Doherty has been nominated by her students and colleagues for NIU's Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award four times. She is a graduate of Luther College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### **Kevin Droe, Ph.D.**

Kevin Droe, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Music Education at the University of Northern Iowa. He teaches and researches music education and founded the UNI Spectrum Project, a music, movement, drama and art opportunity for children with differing abilities. Since coming to UNI, Kevin started UNI's Modern Bands program, Open Door Music Project, and is the director of AmpCamp, a Summer modern band camp

for ages 9-18.

### **Shelley Droe**

Michelle Droe teaches general music and Chorus to grades K-6 at Lincoln Elementary in Cedar Falls. This marks her 31st year of teaching and she's taught in Colorado, Florida, and Iowa. She graduated with a BA in Music Education from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD and an MM in Horn Performance from the University of Northern Colorado. She has completed 3 levels of training in the Kodaly Method and has two levels for Orff Training, one level of Modern Band and conducts several Honor Choirs around the state of Iowa.

### **Beth Duhon**

Beth Duhon is, to borrow Tracy King's phrase, the K-5 "ambassador of joy" at Morgan Elementary in Rosenberg, TX. This is her fifth year teaching in Lamar Consolidated ISD. She has received over \$14,000 in classroom grants for a keyboard lab, iPads, and music manipulatives in addition to regularly receiving travel grants for music education conferences. In 2021, she presented "Self-Care for the Music Educator: Not Just a Buzzword" for TMEA and the LCISD elementary music teacher cohort. Previously, Ms. Duhon was a successful horn private lesson teacher, clinician, and freelance performer in the West Houston area for over a decade. She also taught elementary music in Williamsburg, VA and middle school general music in Falls Church, VA before moving to Texas. She was an honors recitalist, principal horn in the wind ensemble and orchestra, cum laude and an inductee of Pi Kappa Lambda from Illinois Wesleyan University where she received a B.M.E. At the University of Houston, Ms. Duhon was a teaching assistant in the music history department, summa cum laude and a student of Roger Kaza (St. Louis Symphony) and Nancy Goodearl (Houston Symphony). She received an M.M. in horn performance.

### **Jessica Dunnick**

Jessica Dunnick teaches at Bowman Woods Elementary in the Linn-Mar District in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Jessica has a passion for 'breaking it down' to teach difficult subjects in their simplest form to make learning enjoyable and attainable for students of any age. She received her Undergraduate from the University of Northern Iowa and her Masters in Music Education with an Orff Emphasis from the University of St. Thomas. Jessica also teaches part-time at Coe College, instructing an Arts Integration course to General Education majors each fall.

### **Dr. Peter A. Eklund, Composer**

Pete Eklund, was nominated by the IHSMA as 2019 "National Music Educator of the Year" and an elite national quarterfinalist for the first GRAMMY "National Music Teacher of the Year" (30,000 nominees) and is Hixson-Lied Professor of Conducting, Director of

Choral Activities at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. His concertizing-clinician schedule includes a wide array of professional, orchestral, collegiate, liturgical, festival, and student ensembles. He's conducted choirs in Carnegie Hall (numerous times), Minneapolis's Orchestra Hall, Mozart's Salzburg Cathedral, Paris's Notre Dame, Venice's St. Mark's, Oxford's Christ Church, Washington DC's Kennedy Center and National Cathedral, London's St. Paul's Cathedral, Vienna's St. Stephen's, and other cathedrals-abbeyes in Prague, Strasbourg, Milan, Barcelona, Rouen, Monaco, Normandy, Chartres, Cambridge, Munich, Nurnberg, Reims, Verona, Coventry, Canterbury, and NYC.

He divides his time among three roles: conductor, guest lecturer, and teacher/mentor (with numerous students performing professionally on both US coasts: Broadway, Lincoln Center, TV, and Oscar winning movies – and everywhere in between), and has placed many of his conducting alumni into nationally-prominent positions.

Eklund studied conducting with International Mahler Medal-winner James Dixon, ACDA past-president (and UNL alum) William Hatcher, and scholar-conductor Don Moses. His music is published by Hal Leonard, CollaVoce, Hope, Concordia, MusicSpoke, and Santa Barbara.

### **Elmer Ellefson**

Originally from Viroqua, WI, Mr. Ellefson grew up in a family of music enthusiasts. After completing high school in Saint Ansgar, IA he enrolled in classes at Waldorf College in Forrest City, IA completing an A.A. in Music Education. Furthering his education with a B.A. in Music Education from Dana College in Blair, NE and M.M. in Music Education at University Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE. In his career as a music educator Mr. Ellefson has taught instrumental and vocal music at all levels of K-12 public education. Currently he is the director of Vocal Music at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, IA. Professionally he is a member of the ACDA, NAFME, and has spent several seasons performing with Opera Omaha.

### **Christina Farrell**

Christina Farrell holds an MA in Educational Theatre from NYU and a BFA in Vocal Performance from Carnegie Mellon University. She is a Master Teaching Artist with Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, and conducts professional development for Kennedy Center Education. She was accepted to the Teaching Artist Leadership Lab at Lincoln Center and is on the National Advisory Council for the Teaching Artists Guild. She has led professional development workshops and classroom residencies across the U.S., as well as Singapore, India and Korea. She recently founded Throughline Arts, a resource to connect Iowa artists with schools and communities, and to provide professional support to strengthen artist partnerships across the state.

### **David Fog, Conductor**

David Fog taught high school choral music in Iowa for forty-one years, thirty-four at Emmetsburg High School where he directed six choral groups, and recently returned to

choral music education from retirement to teach at North Union and Bishop Garrigan High Schools. The vocal music program at Emmetsburg was named one of fifty “Outstanding Small School Music Programs” in the United States by the Standards and Repertoire Committee of the American Choral Directors Association. In addition to numerous IHSMA state contest honors, the EHS choral groups have earned overall championships at regional and national festivals in Orlando, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington DC, and Denver during their performance tours. The EHS varsity show choir, “High Voltage” were consistent Class Champions in their competitions and have performed in overall championships many times. The Bishop Garrigan Vocal Jazz Choir was named state champion in 2019 in their first year of vocal jazz competition at the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships. He also has directed all aspects of 22 musicals at EHS, North Union and Bishop Garrigan. Mr. Fog has been a football coach at Emmetsburg since joining the school, and was recently named the Class1A Assistant Coach of the Year in 2010. He continues to be an active ICDA mentor, clinician and adjudicator for show choir festivals and the IHSMA sponsored state contests. He and his wife, Kelley, have been a “team” throughout their careers, co-teaching at Emmetsburg and assisting each other in all musical undertakings. They love to get together with their four children and three grandchildren on weekend gatherings, tailgates and at their home on the lake in Emmetsburg.

### **Steve France**

Like you, music played an important part in life for Steve France growing up. Music provided a sense of identity and accomplishment to him. After going to college for music education and completing a joint music and business degree, he continued his education in Wisconsin at Badger State Repair and completed an apprenticeship in instrument repair and restoration. Steve moved to Utah in 2000 and has shared his love for instrumental music by helping to recruit thousands of students to band and orchestra programs across the state. In 2011 he opened his own store, The Music Store, in St. George, UT to serve the musical community in Southern Utah and received the Utah Service To Music Education Award in 2016. In 2020 he sold his store to focus on Repair Masterclass where he helps student and professional players’ instruments stay in good repair so they too can enjoy the positive impact music has in all of our lives. Steve is married to the the love of his life, Rachel and they have 4 amazing children, a dog and a cat. Aside from work he enjoys trail running and a day skiing on the slopes with his family.

### **Dr. Leigh Ann Garner**

Dr. Leigh Ann Garner is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Prior to her appointment at St. Olaf, she taught elementary classroom and choral music for 23 years. Garner also serves as the Director of the Kodály Institute at the University of St. Thomas. A sought-after clinician, she teaches interactive workshops throughout the U.S. specializing Kodály-inspired pedagogy, curriculum, and assessment. Garner is also the co-author of Music and Movement: a music curriculum for children ages one-five. Her most recent publication, Cultivating Creative Musicians is a resource designed for elementary music teachers. In addition, she is a contributing author

for MacMillan McGraw/Hill music textbook series. Garner holds an EdD from the University of St. Thomas, an MA in Music Education from the University of St. Thomas, and a BA in Vocal Music Education from St. Olaf College.

### **Dr. Jean Gómez**

Originally from Costa Rica, Jean Gómez started teaching at the age of 15 years old, an experience that inspired him to pursue his undergraduate degree in music education at the Free University of Costa Rica. In 2015, he moved to the U.S. to pursue his master's degree in instrumental conducting and viola performance at Truman State University, Missouri, and in 2020, he earned his Doctoral Degree in instrumental conducting with a minor in piano at the University of Georgia. As a conductor, he has had the opportunity to receive masterclasses with Carl St. Clair, Robert Gifford, Mario Lamberto, Vittorio Parisi, Paulo Ferrara, Osmo Vänskä, and Benjamin Zander. Additionally, he won the First Prize in the International Conductors Workshop and Competition 2019, Atlanta, GA. Currently, he holds the position of Assistant Professor and Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Texas Permian Basin, a program focused on music education. This has allowed him to constantly work with music teachers to develop tools and research dedicated to music education. His dexterity as violinist, violist, pianist, and conductor has taken him to perform in Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Italy and the United States.

### **Dr. Jonathan Govias**

A student of Kurt Masur, Marin Alsop and David Zinman, conductor Jonathan Andrew Govias has worked with some of the leading ensembles of the world, including the symphonies of Montréal and Cincinnati, the Tonhalle Orchester of Zurich, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada. He is the Artistic Director of Symphony of Diversity, an initiative that received national media attention for its success in normalizing the presence of female and minority composers and performers in the concert hall. He is also Artistic Director of the Kay Meek Young Orchestras Encounter in Vancouver, a program that brings together multiple university, high school and middle school orchestras from across the region and the continent, for a week of engagement, interaction and performance. As a youth orchestra and music education specialist, he has worked with leading outreach programs in England, Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Israel and South Africa, demonstrating cutting-edge rehearsal techniques and performing. His invited speaking engagements on ensemble direction and music education include: academic institutions such as the University of Western Ontario, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Cape Town University, Liverpool John Moores University, Western Washington University; centres for industry and innovation such Hub Zurich and Hub Vienna; two national symposia on the Arts in Education at London's South Bank Centre; and NAMM and the music education association conferences for the provinces of Alberta and Québec.

### **Dr. Margaret Halinski**

Dr. Margaret Halinski is a Doctor of Audiology at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital in Schenectady, NY where she diagnoses and treats patients who have hearing loss and balance disorders. She earned her Doctor of Audiology degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Her capstone project was entitled “Cochlear Inhibition in Musicians and Non-musicians” for which she received the 2014 SIRCA award from the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She has a Master’s Degree in Music Theory and Multiple Woodwind Performance from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her Bachelor’s Degree in Saxophone Performance and Jazz Studies is from Northwestern University where she earned summa cum laude. She has presented at the American Academy of Audiology Conference, Illinois State University, College of Saint Rose, and Department of Defense Education Activity at West Point, NY. As a proud Illinois native, she has very fond memories of participating in the Illinois Music Educators Association District VII and All-State Bands, earning first chair in the Honors All-State band her junior and senior years of high school.

### **Chris Harper**

Chris Harper is the Band Director at Martha Puckett Middle School in Jesup, Georgia. He earned his music education degrees from Valdosta State University and Troy University. He is active as a consultant, guest conductor, and adjudicator for several marching band contests and festivals throughout the state. During his 20 years as a teacher, bands under his direction have received consistent Superior and Excellent ratings. As a conductor, Mr. Harper intensively studied the psychology of musician motivation from a conductor’s perspective with renowned educator and conductor Dr. Dale Lonis through The Canadian Wind Conductors Development Program located in Manitoba, Canada. Additionally, Mr. Harper is a noted authority on the Saito Conducting Method studying with Wayne Toews and Morihiro Okabe in Saskatchewan, Canada. Mr. Harper holds professional affiliations with the National Association for Music Education, Georgia Music Educators Association, National Band Association, and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators. Mr. Harper has been featured in *The Instrumentalist* magazine for his ideas of ensemble programming, integration of music technology within a wind band program, and practices for recruitment/retention of band students. Mr. Harper’s research interests include building successful band programs in rural areas and the effectiveness of instrument placement within an ensemble.

### **Hannah Hickman, Young Artist**

Hannah Hickman is a saxophonist and music educator based in Kansas City, Missouri. She has been a prizewinner in competitions from the local to international level, including the Yamaha Young Performing Artists Competition, the Pan-American Classical Saxophone Competition in Mexico City, and the University of Minnesota Concerto Competition. She has been invited to perform and present in conferences, symposiums, and masterclasses across the country. As a licensed K-12 educator, Hickman enjoys teaching students of all ages in elementary music classes, private saxophone lessons, and woodwind sectionals. In 2020, she founded KeySpark, an online educational platform

designed to provide accessible resources and collaborative learning opportunities for young saxophonists everywhere. Hickman holds a master's degree in saxophone performance from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in music education and performance from the University of Minnesota. Currently, she is an Artist's Certificate student at the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory, where she studies with Zach Shemon. Her previous teachers are Timothy McAllister, Preston Duncan, and Eugene Rousseau.

### **Dr. Trent A. Hollinger**

Dr. Trent A. Hollinger has been acclaimed as a conductor with a “driving passion to make music at its highest possible levels of accomplishment.” Currently, Dr. Hollinger serves as Director of Bands, Music Department Chair, and Associate Professor at Culver-Stockton College and as conductor of the Quincy Concert Band. He previously served as conductor of the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra. He has been nationally recognized for his conducting (finalist) and for his directing (second place winner) in the American Prize. As a conducting pedagogue, his research has focused on the integration of dance and theater movement philosophies with conducting technique. Dr. Hollinger is active as a clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor throughout the region. Dr. Hollinger is also active as a composer and arranger and as a recitalist, orchestral and chamber artist on saxophone. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University. Additional degrees include Masters of Music Degrees in Classical Saxophone Performance, Composition, and Wind Conducting, as well as, a Bachelor of Science in Music Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Music. He makes his home in Canton, Missouri with his wife, daughters, and son.

### **Courtney Ihnen**

Courtney Ihnen is originally from West Des Moines, Iowa. She graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa with a dual degree in music therapy and K-12 music education. After an AMTA approved music therapy internship, Courtney acquired the credentials Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC), working with children of varying abilities such as: autism, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, mental disorders and behavior disorders. Courtney has been teaching K-5 music education in Des Moines Public Schools since 2012, and received her Master's degree in culturally proficient leadership and learning from Drake University in 2017. She is a past DMPS technology Trailblazer, national Seesaw ambassador and media contact for the Greater Des Moines Orff association. She is a singing board member with the Des Moines Choral Society and the Special Learners chair for IMEA. Also, considered by her vet to be a, “Good tortoise mom” to Minerva “Shelly” Ihnen.

### **Megan Ihnen, Young Artist**

Megan Ihnen is a “new music force of nature.” Her performances thrive on elaborate sound worlds and fully-developed dramatic interpretations. She has been described as "an

expert at engaging and educating audiences in a way that sparks curiosity and radiates a welcome attitude toward new music performance" by Elizabeth Kennedy Bayer, Oh My Ears founder and artistic director. Passionate about performing contemporary chamber music and opera, Megan has worked with individuals and ensembles around the globe including: International Contemporary Ensemble, Fifth House Ensemble, Great Noise Ensemble, Rhymes With Opera, and Synchrony. She is deeply committed to the belief that new music should be accessible in cities and towns of all sizes. She has recently traveled to and performed on SPLICE Festival, Oh My Ears, ÆPEX Contemporary Performance, Detroit New Music "Strange Beautiful Music Marathon", Omaha Under the Radar Festival, Works and Process at the Guggenheim Series, and New Music Gathering.

### **Veronica Jarvis**

Veronica Jarvis is originally from Waverly, Iowa. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa with a degree in K-12 music education. Veronica has been teaching K-5 music education in Des Moines Public Schools since 2012, and received her Master's degree in Culturally Responsive Leadership and Instruction from Drake University in 2017. Veronica has been hosting workshops on Culturally Responsive Teaching in the Music Classroom and Classroom Management to local and out-of-state colleges and is a Teacher-Author on TeachersPayTeachers.

### **Joshua Johnson**

Joshua Johnson attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree with Honors. He currently serves as Assistant Band Director at Traughber Junior High in Oswego School District 308. Previously, Josh served as Director of Bands at North Kirkwood Middle School and Assistant Director of Bands at Kirkwood High School in Kirkwood, Missouri.

### **Kodály Educators of Iowa**

The Kodály Educators of Iowa, an affiliate chapter of the Organization of American Kodály Educators, was founded in 2002 to enrich the quality of life in Iowa through music education as established by Zoltán Kodály. KEI members believe in teaching music literacy using repertoire of unquestioned quality to all children through joyful and authentic musical experiences.

### **Dr. Amy Kotsonis**

Amy Kotsonis is Assistant Professor of Choral Ensembles and Music Education at the University of Northern Iowa, where she conducts UNI Singers and the Women's Chorus. She also teaches conducting and choral methods at UNI, and is the Artistic Director of the Metropolitan Chorale in the Cedar Valley. She has previously served as Assistant Conductor, Director of Workshops, and Satellite School Teacher for the Young People's Chorus of New York City. An active clinician, Dr. Kotsonis has directed choral workshops

and conducted festivals throughout Florida, the Midwest, New England, and New York City. She has presented at state, national and international conferences. Dr. Kotsonis has served as Artistic Director of Soho Voce and Assistant Conductor of the Soharmoniums in NYC, has previously taught in public schools in New York City and Boston, and serves as conductor and instructor at the Summer Youth Music School at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Kotsonis completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education and Choral Conducting at Florida State University, a Master of Arts in Choral Conducting and Music History at the University of New Hampshire, and a Bachelor of Science in Music Education at New York University.

### **Dr. Sonja Kraus**

Dr. Sonja Kraus, a native of Germany, is an internationally acclaimed cellist, teacher, and music scholar, whose concertizing and teaching career has taken her through Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the United States. Currently, Kraus holds the position of Assistant Professor of Cello/Bass at the University of South Dakota and is the cellist in the renowned Rawlins Piano Trio. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of South Dakota, Kraus was the Cello Professor at the Universidad de Especialidades Espiritu Santo as well as the principal cellist of the Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil in Ecuador. Kraus is a sought-out performer, clinician, and instructor of masterclasses throughout the US, Latin America, and Germany with invitations to the Colegio Universitario San Gerónimo de La Habana (Cuba), Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico, Jacobs School of Music – Indiana University (IN), Chapman University (CA), and University of Lincoln (NE). Kraus participated in several music festivals around the world including Habana Clásica, the International Chamber Orchestra of Puerto Rico, and the Fresno Summer Orchestra Academy. As a researcher, Kraus focuses on broadening the cello repertoire by identifying manuscripts and creating editions of unpublished cello works from the classical era, currently focusing on three Cello Concertos by Franz Anton Hoffmeister.

### **Dr. Gerald Kreitzer**

Dr. Kreitzer is Director of Music Activities at Mount Mercy University and Artistic Director of the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale in Cedar Rapids. At Mount Mercy he directs multiple choral ensembles on campus, and organizes the Summer Academy which features an All-State Choral Workshop and offerings for music educators. Dr. Kreitzer was awarded the National Federation State Music Educator of the Year 2016. Dr. Kreitzer is a Past President of the Iowa Music Educators Association, a member of ACDA, MENC, ISTA, and IBA. Dr. Kreitzer was the Musical Director of the Metropolitan Chorale in Cedar Falls/Waterloo, and serves as Chorus Master for Cedar Rapids Opera Theater productions, He was Director of Orchestra at Washington High School in 2012-13. Dr. Kreitzer directs the Chancel Choir of First Congregational Church in Cedar Rapids, and is a frequent guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator. He and his wife Kelley have four wonderful daughters and three amazing grandchildren.

### **Leon Kuehner**

Leon Kuehner has been a music educator for 46 years. He received both his bachelors and masters degree in music education from the University of Northern Iowa. He has been president of the Iowa Bandmasters Association, state chair of the American School Band Directors Association, president of the Iowa High School Music Association and state chair of the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education. In 2012, he was named the national winner of the National Federation of High School Association's Citation for contributions to music education. He has served as Executive Director of the IAAE since July of 2013. He is currently teaching applied music for North Iowa Area Community College, teaching the music student teacher seminar for the University of Iowa and is the director of the Wartburg College Symphonic Band.

### **David Law**

David Law is the retired 7-8th grade band director at Vernon Middle School in Marion, Iowa. He is a National Board Certified Teacher and a member of the Music Educators National Conference, Iowa Music Educators Conference serving as – Past President, Iowa Bandmasters Association - Past President, Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Past President, Association for School Curriculum Development, National Education Association, Iowa State Education Association, and Marion Education Association – Treasurer, and the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education – Chair. In 2004 he was selected as the Educator of the Year from Linn County and in 2011 was selected at the Karl King Distinguished Service Award winner from the Northeast Iowa Bandmasters District. He is the founder and conductor of the Marion Community Bands. In 2015 David was inducted into the Marion Performing Arts Hall of Fame. David has had articles published in a national music education magazine, 14 state music education journals and was a presenter at the National Music Educators Conference in Washington D.C. He is an adjudicator, clinician and guest conductor throughout Iowa. Bands under David's direction have played at the Iowa Bandmasters Conference, the Iowa Music Educators Conference and were twice selected to play for President Reagan. David has taught instrumental music grades 5-12 in all sizes of schools in Iowa. He received his BA in Music Education from William Penn College and his MA in Conducting from Truman State University. In 2003 David received his National Board Certification in Music. David is married to Jill and has a daughter, Stephanie a professor of Physics at the University of Delaware, and a son, William, a genetics professor at Johns Hopkins.

### **Dr. Jami Lercher**

Dr. Jami Lercher is currently Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory. She conducts the BW Treble Choir and teaches courses in choral methods and vocal techniques. Jami spent 14 years in public schools, teaching elementary and secondary music in Atlantic, Iowa and Roseville, Minnesota, and now enjoys visiting NE Ohio music classrooms to observe pre-service educators. As an advocate for affirming diverse musical traditions, she served as the Artistic Director of the South

Florida Jewish Chorale for two seasons. In Spring 2022, Jami will conduct the North Dakota All-State Treble Choir. Jami was born and raised on an Iowa farm, and earned her undergraduate degree in music education at Iowa State University. Through a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, she completed the Master of Music degree from the University of Wales, and was recently awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Miami, Frost School of Music. Jami's research interests include bringing to life the works of marginalized composers, and engaging creativity and critical thinking in the choral rehearsal. Her edition of Aleotti's Surge *Propera Amica Mea* is published by Walton Music.

### **Dr. Aaron Lohmeyer**

Dr. Aaron Lohmeyer is Assistant Professor of Music Education at Winona State University. He received his B.A. Davidson College, M.M. in Saxophone Performance from Florida State University and both his M.Ed and Ph.D. in Music Education from Florida State University. Dr. Lohmeyer has developed his pedagogy and research interests through public school teaching experiences in K-12 general music, 5-12 concert bands, world drumming, class guitar, jazz band, music for special learners and creative composition. These experiences were gathered between Title I schools in Alaska and Florida, both elementary and high school. His interests center around creativity and diverse musical literacies. He has presented at state and national conferences in music education. His publications can be found in *Psychology of Music*, *Orff Echo*, *General Music Today*, and the *Florida Music Director*.

### **Mariachi Reyes del Oeste**

Mariachi Reyes del Oeste is the top mariachi ensemble at Denison High School. The group has performed at the IMEA Conference, IBA Conference, Iowa Culture and Language Conference, "Our Kids" Summer Institute, and has been a guest artist with the Ames Municipal Band, as well as performed at the Alamo in San Antonio. They have been featured in the *Yamaha SupportEd* magazine, the *IBA Magazine*, and *The Iowan* magazine, as well as numerous newspaper publications. In 2012, 2013, and 2018, Mariachi Reyes del Oeste performed with Grammy-nominated artist, Jose Hernandez.

### **Rachel Maxwell**

Rachel Maxwell currently serves as the Director of Bands at Traughber Junior High School and as the Junior High Band Coordinator for SD #308 in Oswego, IL. She has taught music education courses at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago and North Central College in Naperville, IL and has been invited to be a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator at a number of music camps and festivals nationally including the Music for All National Summer Symposium, the NC All-State Middle School Band, ISYM at the Univ. of Illinois, IL State Univ. Junior High Camp and several IMEA District Level Festivals.

### **Matt McLellan**

Matt McLellan has served as the Orchestra Director at Waverly-Shell Rock High School for 5 years.

### **Gabriel Medd, Young Artist**

Gabriel Medd picked up a trumpet for the first time while wandering around his dad's band room in Clinton, Iowa at the age of 3. Now 28, the Iowa City native has played at the Umbria Jazz Festival, Governor's Ball, Lollapalooza, The Blue Note, The Jazz Standard, Iridium, Chicago Jazz Showcase, Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola and Brooklyn Bowl. He has embraced opportunities to blend his ideas and sounds with those of other incredible musicians and regularly performs with High and Mighty Brass Band, Eli "Paperboy" Reed, Michael Blume, Sandra Bernhard and recently collaborated with Lake Street Dive on their Spotify Singles release as an arranger and soloist. In 2011, Gabriel received the award for "Best Undergraduate Jazz Soloist" in Downbeat Magazine's 2011 Student Music Awards and was also included in Wynton Marsalis' list of "The Next Generation of Jazz Greats" that appeared in JET magazine. Gabriel graduated with his bachelor's degree from The Juilliard School in 2014 and his Master's Degree at Juilliard in 2016. In November of 2014, he was selected as a semi-finalist in the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Trumpet Competition. Gabriel now lives in New York City and tours around the world with a busy performance schedule, recently traveling to Australia, Italy, Russia, Spain, France, Belgium, and England in his continued musical journey.

### **Tom Merrill**

With over 20 years of experience as a travel planner and festival organizer and 10 years as a high school music educator in Iowa and Colorado, Tom Merrill possesses a view of performance travel from multiple perspectives. While a band director, his ensembles performed in Washington, D.C. and the Walt Disney Resort in Orlando. He has planned travel for groups participating in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Tournament of Roses Parade, numerous Bands of America championships, and performances at Carnegie Hall. He is currently a Travel Consultant for Bob Rogers Travel, and has previously held positions at Festivals of Music, Manhattan Concert Productions, and New Horizons Tour and Travel. He has a Masters in Conducting and Clarinet Performance from Illinois State University, and has remained an active musician throughout his adult life in church choirs and community wind ensembles. He is a contributing writer to both School Band & Orchestra and Choral Director magazines, as well as a live commentator for wind band webcasts on banddirector.com. He shares his insights on the life-changing effects of performance travel with college music education students several times per year.

### **Cristi Cary Miller**

Cristi Cary Miller is highly regarded across the U.S. as a master teacher, conductor and composer. Since 2010, Ms. Miller has been on the Fine Arts staff of Heritage Hall School in the Oklahoma City area, where she teaches middle school music. Many of her students

have received All-State honors through her leadership, and her choirs have maintained superior ratings at statewide contests. Upon graduation from Oklahoma State University, Ms. Miller began her teaching career at the Grade 7-12 level. In 1989 she was hired by the Putnam City Schools, where she taught elementary music for 21 years and served as co-director of the Putnam City Honor Choir, a highly regarded ensemble that received numerous honors at festivals and competitions. Honors and awards Ms. Miller received from Putnam include Teacher of the Year, the “Excellent Educator” Award, and PTA Teacher of the Year. She was also named an OMEA Exemplary Teacher and elected to the OMEA Hall of Fame. Ms. Miller became a National Board-Certified Teacher in 2008. She has served as Elementary Representative to the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association Board of Directors, as well as Elementary Vice President and President for the Oklahoma Music Educators Association.

### **Dr. Sarah Minette**

Sarah Minette, PhD (BME, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, MAME, University of St. Thomas, and PhD, Arizona State University) is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Music Education at California State University-Stanislaus. Dr. Minette’s public school teaching career includes teaching middle school band, jazz band, marching band, high school guitar, piano, and sound production. In 2018, Dr. Minette was awarded a Music Education Innovator grant from the Give a Note Foundation for her work at South High that focused on providing as many music making opportunities for students as possible. Dr. Minette’s research interests include gender and sexuality in music education, access and equity in music education, and secondary general music education. She has published articles in the journal for Qualitative Research in Music Education and Journal of Popular Music Education. Additionally, Dr. Minette has co-authored chapters in *Narratives and Reflections in Music Education: Listening to Voices Seldom Heard* and *Women's Bands in America: Performing Music and Gender*. Dr. Minette has presented her research at local and national venues, including the National Association for Music Education Research Conference, the Feminist Theory and Music Conference, LGBTQ Studies and Music Education Symposium, the MayDay Colloquium, the International Conference on Narrative Inquiry, the Society for Music Teacher Education Symposium, and the New Directions Conference. Currently, Dr. Minette serves as a co-facilitator for the Cultural Diversity and Social Justice ASPA for the Society for Music Teacher Education. Dr. Minette served as president-elect and secondary general music chair for the Minnesota Music Educators Association and served as the equity chair for the Minnesota Band Directors Association. Additionally, Dr. Minette is in demand as a guest presenter to undergraduate music education classes as well as graduate classes to share her teaching experiences as well as her research.

### **Emily Moler**

Emily Moler is a Ph.D. student and teaching assistant in Music Education at Michigan State University. Prior to her graduate studies, she taught middle school and high school instrumental music for eight years in the Southwest Ohio region. Emily holds Bachelor’s

and Master's degrees in Music Education from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music.

### **Dr. Elizabeth Momand**

A native Mississippian, Elizabeth Blanton Momand, Professor of Music at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, received her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Vocal Performance from Mississippi College. She holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance at The University of Texas at Austin. Momand has performed over a dozen oratorio roles with orchestra, and performs as a recitalist. Momand has received a scholarship to Johannes Gutenberg Universität in Mainz, Germany and a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for travel and study in India. Active in the College Music Society, she has presented her research at regional, national, and international conferences and is President of the South-Central Chapter.

### **Ruben Newell, Conductor**

Mr. Newell earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Iowa State University in 2000. He has taught instrumental music in West Des Moines, Ames, Corning, Atlantic, and is currently the 9-12 instrumental music instructor at Denison High School. In Denison, Mr. Newell's duties include the Monarch Marching Band, Monarch Pep Band, two concert bands, DHS Jazz I and Jazz II, and four mariachi ensembles from grades 8-12, as well as lessons for 9-12 band students. Mr. Newell has served as President of the Southwest Iowa Bandmasters Association, head director for the Southwest Iowa Honor Marching Band, and has been nominated for the Schmitt Music educator of the year and the Iowa Bandmasters Association Karl King Active Award. In 2017, Mr. Newell was named a DeLucia Award winner in Music Education. Mr. Newell currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for SWIBA, as well as President of the Crawford County Arts Council, and Assistant Director of the Southwest Iowa Honor Marching Band. During his tenure in Denison, his bands have consistently placed high at contests and festivals and the mariachi program under his instruction has been recognized as the first formal school mariachi program in the state of Iowa. The top mariachi, Mariachi Reyes del Oeste has gained statewide and national attention in various music education journals.

### **Mike Olander**

Mike Olander, as an Education Manager with MusicFirst, advocates for music programs by encouraging the adoption of technology solutions designed to save time, simplify tasks, and drive student engagement and growth. He has worked for MusicFirst, Wenger Corporation, MakeMusic, Music Prodigy, JAMF Software, and Edmentum leading teacher workshops and training, staff development sessions, and serving as a consultant for schools across the country.

### **Dr. Glenn Pohland**

Dr. Glenn Pohland began teaching at Loras College in 2009, and currently serves as associate professor in the communication and fine arts division. Dr. Pohland conducts the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and chamber groups. He also teaches courses in music education, orchestration, instrumental techniques, music in the movies, and instrumental conducting. Dr. Pohland will become the chair of the Communication and Fine Arts Division in the summer of 2021. Dr. Pohland received his BA in music education from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, his MMEd from the University of Minnesota, and his DMA in instrumental music education and conducting from Arizona State University. Prior to his appointment at Loras, Dr. Pohland taught two years at the University of MN and before that spent 24 years as the director of bands in Glencoe, MN. During his time at Glencoe, Dr. Pohland was the recipient of the superintendent's award for outstanding leadership to the district and was also awarded the ASBDA Stanbury Award for outstanding young band director in the Senior High Division. Dr. Pohland is also the conductor of the Dubuque Youth Wind Ensemble and the New Horizons Band of Dubuque.

### **Caleb Hans Polashek, Young Artist**

Caleb Hans Polashek leads a varied career in central Texas and beyond as an orchestral, chamber, solo performer and composer. Caleb joined the violin section of the Austin Symphony Orchestra in 2012 and earned tenure with the ensemble soon after. He performs with the Artisan String Quartet and regularly appears with the ensemble, most recently in Georgetown, San Antonio, and the annual Mason Chamber Music Festival. Credited by Music Dir. Eric McIntyre as offering "a rare combination of technical wizardry and interpretive adventurousness", Caleb has played the concertos of Brahms, Barber, Khachaturian, and Tchaikovsky as well as other works with orchestra and other large ensembles. Recent performances include the violin solo in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante at the 2019 Mozart Festival Texas. In 2006 Caleb joined the talented studio of renown performer and pedagogue Brian Lewis at the UT Austin, which became the Butler School of Music during his undergrad years. Notable performances included Sarasate's Zigeunerweisen with the University Orchestra and the solos in Strauss's Ein Heldenleben and Til Eulenspiegel as concertmaster of the University of Texas Symphony Orchestra. He earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees while attending BSOM, in 2010 and 2012 respectively. In addition to solo and orchestral studies Caleb also worked with the Miro Quartet on chamber music and was a member of a jazz combo, further honing his musical insights and skills in different genres. Caleb has shared the stage with a variety of alternative groups and performers including Christopher Cross at ACL and Weezer during the SXSW festival. He is featured on acoustic and electric violin on a variety of recordings, recently including the new Conspirare album titled "The Hope of Loving". A native of Ames, Iowa, Caleb started violin at the age of four and a half with teachers utilizing the Suzuki Method. Their guidance with his practice and persistence resulted in admission to the Iowa All-State Orchestra all four years of high school. He was the concertmaster for a special summer session of the orchestra that performed at the Iowa Capitol, and he looks forward to performing in celebration of the long-running organization.

### **Mx. Nicholas Prosini**

Nicholas Prosini (they/them) is a transgender nonbinary 12th year music teacher at NYC public schools. Mx. Prosini teaches K-5 general music, choir, and beginner band. Mx. Prosini is an advocate of trans and gender expansive visibility in K-12 schools for both children and adults. They also organize online support spaces for trans educators around the US. Mx. Prosini is earning a masters' of science in educational leadership at Hunter College.

### **Mx. Ær Queen**

Ær Queen (they/them) is a transgender nonbinary 6th year General Music Teacher in Fairfax County Public Schools in Northern Virginia. They earned their Bachelor of Music at Shenandoah Conservatory and they are currently working on a Masters of Advanced Teaching. Mx. Queen also advocates for inclusive and anti-racist practices in school settings as a part of their K-5 music program, where they also direct a choir and help with the school's musicals.

### **Samantha Robilliard, Conductor**

Samantha Robilliard is a graduate of the University of South Dakota where she received her Bachelor of Music Education. In her sixteen years of teaching she has taught high school vocal music at Webster City, Rock Valley, Johnston, and Pella. Throughout her career all programs under her direction have maintained a reputation for excellence. Her concert choirs have consistently received division I ratings at IHSMA State Large Group Contest and her show choirs have received numerous first place finishes across the Midwest. Choirs under her direction have been invited to perform at the Luther College Dorian Choral Invitational and alongside the top choral ensemble from Iowa State University. In the last six years, 98 of her students have been selected for the Iowa All-State Chorus. Samantha has been a guest conductor for honor choirs, adjudicated numerous festivals throughout Iowa, and is an instructor at the Wartburg All-State Camp. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Jeff, and their children, Halle, Nate and Maddie.

### **Tanya Rosenkranz**

Tanya Rosenkranz is in her 26th year as the music specialist at Indian Creek Elementary in Marion, Iowa where she is also the Music Curriculum Facilitator for the Linn-Mar Schools. She earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and a Masters of Music from the University of Northern Iowa. In addition to directing a third and fourth grade choir at school, Tanya is also the Director of Children's Choirs at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. Her guest appearances as a conductor include: Children's Music Festivals in Shellsburg, Blirstown and Marion, Iowa and regional Fifth and Sixth grade Honor Choirs for the Iowa Choral Directors Association and the South Dakota Music Educators Association. She was very honored to be the guest conductor for the Fifth and Sixth grade Iowa Opus Honor Choir in 2014. For eight years

Tanya was the organizer and host of the East Central ICDA Children's Honor Choir Festival. She has also served as the Repertoire and Standards chair for Children's and Community Youth Choirs for the Iowa Choral Directors Association. Tanya lives in Cedar Rapids with her husband Dan and their eight-year-old daughter.

### **Jake Runestad, Composer**

Jake Runestad is an award-winning and frequently-performed composer of “highly imaginative” (Baltimore Sun) and “stirring and uplifting” (Miami Herald) musical works. Having collaborated with leading ensembles and organizations around the world, Jake has a versatile and prolific career creating works for orchestra, wind band, chorus, chamber ensembles, and opera. His visceral music and charismatic personality have fostered a busy schedule of commissions, residencies, workshops, and speaking engagements, enabling him to be one of the youngest full-time composers in the world. Steeped in a belief that music has the power to initiate positive change, Jake creates musical works that are socially conscious and explore authentic human emotions and experiences. Conductors, performers, and audiences continue to praise his music for its ability to connect with the head and the heart. As a result, he was awarded a 2017 McKnight Fellowship, a 2016 Morton Gould Young Composer Award from the ASCAP Foundation for his extended work “Dreams of the Fallen,” and his works have received awards from the American Composers Forum, ASCAP, the Peabody Conservatory, New Music USA, the Otto Bremmer Foundation, VocalEssence, the Virginia Arts Festival, the National Association for Music Education, the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians, and the American Choral Directors Association. Jake’s “The Peace of Wild Things” won the Nathan Davis Prize for Composition in 2012 and his “I Will Lift Mine Eyes” was voted one of Minnesota Public Radio’s Top 25 Choral Works in 2014. Considered a “choral rockstar” by American Public Media, Jake is one of the most frequently performed and commissioned composers of choral music in the world having “...a particular knack for marrying powerful music to texts that speak to some of the most pressing and moving issues of our time” (Star Tribune). In his relatively short career, he has already worked with leading ensembles such as Grammy-winning Conspirare, Seraphic Fire, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra & Chorus, the Phoenix Chorale, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Pro Coro Canada, the Taipei Philharmonic Choir, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, and many more. Jake’s music is often featured at national and regional conferences of the American Choral Director’s Association (ACDA), Chorus America, Podium (Canada), and the Association of British Choral Directors. Reaching audiences around the world, his compositions have been heard in hundreds of performances from Taiwan to Finland to Argentina to Chicago’s Orchestra Hall, Los Angeles’ Disney Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and New York City’s Carnegie Hall.

### **Christopher J. Russell**

Christopher J. Russell, Ph.D. is the music teacher at Nuevas Fronteras Spanish Immersion Elementary School in St. Paul Park, Minnesota. He has also taught at the high school level, and is considered an expert in the fields of technology in music education and ukulele in music education. He blogs at [technmusic.com](http://technmusic.com) and [ukestuff.info](http://ukestuff.info), and is

co-host of the Music Education Technology Podcast.

### **Sophie Taft**

Sophie Taft teaches orchestra at Harding Middle School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She previously taught K-5 general music at Forest Elementary in Des Plaines, Illinois, and Harbins Elementary in Dacula, Georgia. Sophie spent the 2010-2011 school year in Accra, Ghana, where she taught music and dance at Legon Staff Village Basic School, and studied West and Central African philosophy, drumming, dance, palmwine guitar, and seprewa at the University of Ghana. She holds a BMus in Music Education from Northwestern University and a MMed in Music Education from Vandercook College of Music, as well as Orff Levels 1 and 2. She was a member of the TI:ME Technology Leadership Academy in 2011, and a recipient of the District 62 Lighthouse Award in 2015. Her research interests include inclusive practices for students of all gender expressions and culturally responsive teaching using antiracist frameworks, as well as songwriting, improvisation, and composition in the classroom.

### **Annie Savage**

Annie Savage, recently hailed as a "firecracker educator and entertainer" is an international string clinician and performer of American Roots music. No Depression says of her ability, "just consider Annie Savage something of a fiddle expert". A prize-winning contest fiddler from the age of 8, Annie has performed with a range of artists from Aretha Franklin to Ricky Skaggs. She was a founding member of the band Jeff Scroggins and Colorado, in tandem serving as president of the Colorado Bluegrass Music Association in the Colorado's Front Range and writing one of the first online methods for fiddle playing while founding the Pickin' in the Peaks Family Jam Camp and authoring two books on the topic of improvising over simple chord changes. Her current band, The Savage Hearts, performs fiery stage shows and teaches her method for group improvisation at schools, conferences and festivals. Annie's primary goal is to help bring a pragmatic approach to the development of 21st century string pedagogy so that all students can enjoy a lifetime of music-making with other people. Her motto is "Total World Domination Through Vibrating Wooden Boxes." She is currently serving as the orchestra director at Liberty High School and finishing her PhD at the University of Iowa, where she lives with her husband and three children, Milo, Iris Mae and Oliver Fox.

### **Eric Songer**

Eric Songer has been a music educator at Chaska Middle School West since 1997. He has a Bachelor's in Music Education from UW-Eau Claire and a Masters in Curriculum & Instruction from the University of St. Thomas. Mr. Songer has created a program that includes jazz, rock, country, bluegrass, Mariachi, hip hop, EDM and marching bands as well as songwriting, production and technology opportunities. Mr. Songer teaches privately, composes and arranges music, and performs in a variety of ensembles as a trombonist and guitarist around the Twin Cities area. He is a board member of South Central Minnesota

Band Directors Association (MBDA); was named Minnesota District 112 Teacher of the Year in 2008 and 2021; had published articles in the "Instrumentalist", "Teaching Music" and the "Music Educators Journal"; and has presented at many universities and professional conferences including the NAFME National Conference in 2016 and 2019 and five times at the Association of Popular Music Education National Conference. He was a recipient of the Give A Note Innovation in Music Education Award in 2019. His wife Heidi is also a musician and educator and they teach a couple courses together. They live in Chaska, Minnesota with their kids Caleb and Abby.

### **Jeron Stephens**

Jeron Stephens is the Director of Choral Activities at Melvin H. Kreps Middle School in East Windsor, New Jersey. Mr. Stephens holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a concentration in Voice from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. At Melvin H. Kreps, Mr. Stephens has developed a program with four curricular levels and one extra-curricular choir. Mr. Stephens prioritized the growth and retention of the school's choral program by focusing on engagement and interaction with his students. He began the program with 87 students and now, four years later, proudly displays a participation of over 350 students. Under his direction, his choirs have received superior ratings at festivals and competitions including Music in the Parks and the NJMEA Middle School Choral Festival. An active member of the National Association for Music Education, the American Choral Directors Association and the New Jersey Music Educators Association, Mr. Stephens frequently attends state & regional conferences and professional development clinics to further his growth as a musician, conductor, and educator.

### **Steve Stickney**

Steve Stickney serves as Director of Bands at Mount Mercy University where he teaches applied trumpet, conducts the University Band, jazz band and pep band, and travels the Midwest as a marching, concert and jazz band clinician and guest conductor. A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Steve earned his Bachelor and Master degrees in Music Education from The University of Iowa and has completed over 45 hours of post-graduate work at The University of Iowa, Illinois State University, Seattle Pacific University, and Northwestern University. Steve brings a distinguished 33-years of public high school band experience to Mount Mercy University. High school concert band and jazz ensembles, under his direction at City High School and Linn-Mar High School, have appeared five times as honor bands at the Iowa Bandmasters Conference in Des Moines. Both music departments were also nationally recognized by the GRAMMY Foundation with five GRAMMY Signature School designations. He has served as chairperson for the Southeast Iowa District Jazz and Junior High Large Group Festivals, site chairperson for the SEIBA Concert Band Festival, President of the Iowa Unit of the International Association of Jazz Educators (now JEI), President of the SEIBA, chairperson for the IBA Concert Band Affairs committee, and President of IBA.

### **Lawrence Stoffel**

Lawrence Stoffel is Director of Bands at California State University, Northridge. He teaches courses in conducting and music education. Under his leadership the CSUN Wind Ensemble is highly active and visible throughout the state and nationally providing CSUN students with extraordinary performance opportunities. In recent years the CSUN Wind Ensemble's touring has taken students from Orchestra Hall in Chicago, to the historic Scott Auditorium in Honolulu, to one of California's state prisons. Known for his enthusiasm at rehearsals, concerts, and clinics alike, Dr. Stoffel has most recently conducted all-state bands in Virginia, Texas, and California. He is published and lectures on topics pertinent to the profession — from musical interpretation to band transcriptions, from the use of religious music in the public schools to teaching in urban schools, from copyright law to band discography. He has presented and conducted at The Midwest Clinic on six occasions. For more than a decade he has written and produced annual "Discovery: Music!" concerts — innovative, interactive band concerts that have received international attention. In 2018 Dr. Stoffel received the Hall of Fame Award from the California Music Education Association, and in 2019 was elected membership into the American Bandmasters Association.

### **Dr. Christina Svec, Conductor**

Dr. Christina Svec is Assistant Professor of Music Education at Iowa State University, specializing in elementary and secondary choral music. In addition to her duties at Iowa State, she is Director of Choirs for the Ames Children's Choirs. Her service activities include various board positions for Early Childhood Music & Movement Association, Organization of American Kodaly Educators, and Iowa Music Educators Association. Her research topics include singing voice development, music aptitude, and research methods and has publications in *Psychology of Music*, *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, and *Kodaly Envoy*.

### **Stephanie Tatting Peoples**

For over a decade, Stephanie Tatting Peoples has taught music in Shakopee, MN Public Schools with experience in elementary general music, beginning band, private instrumental lessons, and presenting at music education clinics throughout the Midwest region. She spends her weekends freelancing as a blues/funk/R&B saxophonist in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. She has completed an Orff Schulwerk Certification and an instrumental concentration M.A. from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN and a B.M. from The University of Minnesota.

### **Cheryl Thompson, Conductor**

Cheryl Thompson is currently in her 27th year as a vocal music educator, the last 15 serving as the Atlantic Middle School Choir Director, where she teaches 4th & 5th grade general music, conducts the 6th, 7th, 8th grade Choirs and Show Choir, as well as being

the director of the 7th grade annual musical production. Born and raised in St. Edward, Nebraska, she completed her Bachelor of Music Education from University of Nebraska, Lincoln. As a member of the Iowa Choral Directors Association, she has hosted Southwest Iowa Elementary and Middle Level Honor Choirs, served as the 7-8 Treble OPUS Honor Choir Chair and is Co-founder and host of All Men Sing. She enjoys work as a clinician and adjudicates for choirs, show choirs and private voice work. Thompson is the current Board President of the Corning Opera House Cultural Center, where she teaches voice lessons, Sip & Strum Ukulele class and is an active director of community Madrigal Dinners and summer Youth Musical Productions. She and her husband, Rick, live in Corning, have 3 children and almost 5 grandchildren!

### **Jane Triplett**

Jane Triplett is in her third year of retirement from a 35-year teaching career as a band director in Iowa. She was born and raised in Eldora, Iowa, and attended Iowa State University for her Bachelor of Music Education and American Band College at Southern Oregon University for her Masters in Music Education. Jane has been an adjudicator for the Iowa High School Music Association for 28 years, served as a head All State judge and guest conductor for honor bands across the state of Iowa. She is a member of the Southeast Iowa Bandmasters Association, where she has held offices of president, vice-president, commission committee chair, mentorship chair and Major Landers Scholarship chair. At the state level with Iowa Bandmasters Association, she has held chair positions of Public Relations, Major Landers and Past President. In her spare time, Jane enjoys her position as adjunct professor at University of Iowa, supervising student teachers for Iowa State University, teaching private lessons, working with West Music as an Art Advocate, playing in the Iowa City Community Band and travelling with her family.

### **Carlin Truong**

Carlin Truong is a DMA student at the University of Houston under the tutelage of Dr. Betsy Cook Weber and Dr. Jeb Mueller. Prior to his studies in Texas, he taught at Clovis East High School in California where he directed the choirs and instructed AP Music Theory. In 2020, the Clovis East Choraliers were invited to perform at the California All-State Music Education Conference and Western Division ACDA Conference as well as serve as a demonstration choir for an interest session on Takadimi under Mr. Truong's direction. During his tenure at Clovis East, he was also the co-founder and artistic director of the Central Valley Vocal Project, a men's community chorus in the Fresno area.

### **Shelby Vannordstrand, Young Artist**

Soprano Shelby VanNordstrand has appeared as a soloist with a wide range of ensembles and companies; including Lorin Maazel's Castleton Festival, Opera Omaha, SongFest, New York Lyric Opera Theatre, Omaha Symphony, Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre,

and the Simon Estes Young Artist Program. Past operatic engagements include Gianetta (L'elisir d'amore), Madame Herz (The Impresario), Mrs. Nordstrom (A Little Night Music), Gretel and Dew Fairy (Hansel & Gretel), Paquette and Cunegonde (Candide). She has appeared on many chamber music series recitals and enjoys performing song repertoire and chamber music at home and abroad (Indonesia, Japan, China, and Lithuania). VanNordstrand received a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Iowa State University, and a Master of Music in vocal performance from Michigan State University. VanNordstrand is currently Associate Professor of Voice and Vocal Area Coordinator at University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her students have been named winners of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Auditions at the state, regional, and national levels and winners of the National Opera Association's Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition. As a clinician, she has presented at the National Collegiate Music Society Conference, the National Opera Association Conference, the Central Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference, and other state and regional conferences.

### **Dr. Sarah Van Dusen**

Dr. Sarah Van Dusen has taught general music and band for over ten years in a variety of school settings including a Navajo community school, an industrial community in Indiana, a dual language school in Colorado, and a farming community in California. She earned a Bachelor in Music Education from Indiana University, a Masters in Music Performance from the University of Oregon, and a PhD in Music Education from the University of Colorado-Boulder. She currently works in the music education department at Iowa State University. Her focus is on engaging diverse students with music by exploring connections between the role of music and student experiences.

### **Sarah Van Waardhuizen**

Sarah Van Waardhuizen is a native of Northeast Iowa and serves the Central College faculty as Assistant Professor of Music Education. She teaches music education methods courses including elementary general music methods, secondary music methods, show choir and jazz choir techniques, instrumental music education for vocal music education majors, voice lessons, Central College treble clef choir, and music in time. Van Waardhuizen earned her undergraduate degree from Drake University (B.M.E.), master's degree from The University of Kansas (M.M.E. in choral pedagogy), and her Ph.D. from The University of Iowa. Her research interests include motivation in music education, and autonomy-supportive teaching practices in the music education classroom. Van Waardhuizen is the co-organizer of the All-Iowa Show Choir 2019, an all-state show choir experience for high school students in the state of Iowa. Dr. VW looks forward to serving Iowa Music Educators Association as the incoming Collegiate NAFME Chair.

### **Jim Vowels**

Jim Vowels has served as the Band Director at Waverly-Shell Rock High School for 21 years.

### **Joel Waggoner, Young Artist**

Joel Waggoner is a writer, actor, composer, music director, arranger, multi-instrumentalist, comedian, and one-time game show winner. He was part of the Broadway casts of *School of Rock* and *Be More Chill*, where he went on to play Mr. Heere/Mr. Reyes/Scary Stockboy. He has appeared Off-Broadway in *Southern Comfort* at the Public Theater and will play Ralph in the original cast of the new Ahrens & Flaherty musical *Knoxville* in its upcoming premiere at Asolo Rep. With co-creator Julia Mattison, Joel wrote and performed a selection of original comedic Christmas carols on the popular Instagram handle @adventcarolndar. Joel and Julia's Advent Carolndar was featured on NPR Weekend Edition and Jimmy Kimmel Live! with Ben Platt. Joel's work as a music director and/or vocal arranger includes *Broadway Bounty Hunter* (Off-Broadway at Greenwich House Theatre/Barrington Stage Company) and many productions at Pace University where he served as the Director of Music. Joel has many popular stand alone songs such as "Empathy" and "Nice Guy", and his musical theater composition credits include *Presto Change-o* (book/lyrics by Eric Price) and the upcoming *The Supadupa Kid* (both at Barrington Stage), plus incidental music for the forthcoming play *Hester Street*. He created the one-man show *The Joel Waggoner Experience* (Joe's Pub), sang and played violin on many albums, released the single "Unlikely Warrior, and appeared in the music video for the song "Get Into It...Queen," which he co-wrote. Joel received his MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU and was a Dramatists Guild Fellow. His work has been heard on concert stages all over New York, he is a founding member of the Musical Theatre Factory, and he was the winner of the Season 3 premiere of ABC's *The \$100,000 Pyramid*. Joel was a 4-year All-Stater. 3 years in the Orchestra (32nd Chair 2nd Violin, 2nd Chair 2nd Violin, One Year Choir - Baritone, 6th Chair First Violin).

### **Rebecca Warren**

Rebecca Warren retired in 2020 after serving 40 years as a Band Director. She taught high school band in Alabama for 28 years and middle school band in North Dakota for 12 years. Mrs. Warren served 2 terms on the Board of the Alabama Bandmasters Association and as President-elect. She also served as the President of the Alabama Music Educators Association. She was on the NDMEA Board and President of the ND Phi Beta Mu. She has been an adjudicator, clinician, and conductor in Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, North Dakota, and South Dakota. She has conducted the All-State Band in Alabama and will conduct the South Dakota All-State Band in 2022. She has been invited 3 times to present clinics at the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago. Mrs. Warren's bands have earned superior ratings in all areas of competition. The bands have competed throughout the U.S. and London, England. Memberships include NAFME, NBA, and Phi Beta Mu. She resides on the prairie of North Dakota with her husband John also and band director, and their golden retriever, Bama.

### **Dr. H. Ellie Wolfe**

Dr. H. Ellie Wolfe (formerly Falter) is Assistant Professor of Music Education at Drake

University. Having also taught band, orchestra, and choir, she specializes in general music and early childhood music. In her research, Dr. Wolfe examines the intersections between music education, general early childhood education, and teacher education, seeking to share and adapt best practices across these disciplines as may be most enriching for students and teachers.

### **Stefan Wolf**

Stefan Wolf is a K-5 elementary music specialist in the Anoka-Hennepin school district in Minnesota. His teaching responsibilities include general music as well as an extra curricular percussion ensemble and choir. He is passionate about making the music room a welcoming and affirming place for all students, regardless of background, and one where all students can see themselves as musicians and explore the diversity of the human family through music. He also enjoys bringing these experiences to other current and future music educators through mentoring pre-service teachers and presenting sessions like this one! Stefan received his B.A. in Music and teacher licensure from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. He also holds a M.A. in Differentiated Instruction from Concordia University-St. Paul. He has received training in the Kodaly and Orff methods as well as First Steps in Music.

### **Dr. Jason Worzbyt**

Jason Worzbyt is professor of Bassoon and associate director of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He holds a BS in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Music in wind conducting from the University of North Texas, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in bassoon performance from the University of North Texas. Worzbyt has studied bassoon with Kathleen Reynolds, principal bassoon of the Dallas Opera Orchestra and professor of bassoon at the University of North Texas; Kristen Wolfe Jensen, professor of bassoon at the University of Texas; and David Borst, professor emeritus of bassoon at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His conducting teachers include Jack Stamp, director of band studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Eugene Migliaro Corporon, director of wind studies at the University of North Texas.

### **Dr. Alexandra Zacharella**

A native of New Jersey, Alexandra Zacharella is Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Low Brass at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Zacharella holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in trombone performance from the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music, with minors in conducting, music education and jazz studies; a Master of Music degree in Trombone Performance from The University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Music in Trombone Performance and Music Education from The University of Hartford, The Hartt School. Zacharella is low brass and wind ensemble clinician and has presented clinics and masterclasses around the world. She presented at the 70th and 65th Annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. She has performed at many International Trombone Festivals in, has given numerous presentations, poster sessions and

performances at five International Conferences of the College Music Society and at National and Regional CMS Conferences throughout the United States, at the Music by Women Festival and Arkansas Music Educators Conference. Zacharella is currently the President-Elect of the South-Central Chapter of CMS and is a Bach Artist and a Signature Artist for Warburton Music Products.