

Colorado Music Educator

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CMEA
Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 2025

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Cultivating Excellence

Conference Issue

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Re-energize your teaching and develop relationships

CASEY CROPP
CMEA PRESIDENT



Look for opportunities to gain other perspectives from peers and other resources, including retired folk



One day in late May of 2013, I turned in my keys and collected a few boxes from my office at Rocky Mountain High School. Turning to a friend and fellow teacher, we hugged without being able to say thank you or goodbye through our combined emotions. Leaving for the final “official” time was very difficult and left a powerful impression on me after 33 years – My entire adult life...

I reflect on that day often. My career was fulfilling, strenuous, challenging, enjoyable – I cherish all the memories and relationships created through the years! I learned so much from my students. I learned even more from observing my peers. The best learning took place when receiving criticism at festivals. I treasure two specific

memories, both of which came in different years at area and state festivals. Please allow me a moment to explain.

During a particularly difficult year of trying to develop an ensemble that just never seemed to perform up to their potential we were selected to perform at CMEA. The year before, we had a tremendous group and submitted an audition. We had an acceptable performance at the Broadmoor and were attempting to make state at the regional festival. Our performance at the regional level fell short and I was deeply disappointed. I had really worked hard with this ensemble, and they never progressed the whole year. One of the clinicians approached me after our performance and encouraged me, saying

that he could see the effort and, in some years, with some ensembles you had to take a step backward before you could move forward again. I really appreciated his kind words. In another year our ensemble was performing at the state festival. We performed a challenging program, and I was extremely proud of their efforts. At many band festivals in Colorado after your performance there is a clinic where one of the clinicians spends the next session going over aspects from your performance. In this instance, our clinician was a well-known university professor – well respected, great reputation, a tremendous educator! He began with congratulations on a fine performance and then proceeded to tear us apart in great detail! All the time he was examining our performance, he was wearing a BIG smile. He gave the impression that every critique we needed to address and improve on was truly doable. I’ve never been so happy to be corrected so strongly than that experience!!

Those two clinicians, both at the end of their careers - either retired or retiring very soon, were phenomenally impactful on my philosophy and teaching techniques from that point on.

Recently, a wonderfully talented and

experienced teacher was on a video meeting with a group of us, planning an upcoming event. He made a side comment that struck me powerfully! I don’t recall exactly what he said, but the context I’ll share will be accurate. His statement was directed to give the impression that once a music teacher is at the end of their career, or fully retired, they become “non-relevant” to many younger educators. He was referring to the idea that younger teachers tend to look to online solutions to their classroom issues. No longer is it the norm to reach out and value experience and knowledge to help develop teaching techniques and strategies. Technology has become the mentor solution that many younger teachers access.

I do understand the concern over feeling judged by another individual and being scrutinized for your teaching. I had many of those same feelings! However, my perspective changed drastically when having my bands in festival situations early on at Rocky Mountain. Not only did I find clinicians who understood what my bands were lacking, but they were more than gracious in their comments and interactions with myself and my students! It became easier and more frequent that I found myself engaging with many more

experienced teachers and educators from all levels. The more ideas they shared, the more information I had to help my ensembles develop and thrive. In truth, I believe that everything that I had to offer to my ensembles actually was an idea “stolen” from any one of those experts that shared their ideas so freely with me. I can’t say that anything that I continue to rely on when working with ensembles currently is my original idea!

I’d encourage each one of you to look for opportunities to gain other perspectives from peers and other resources, including retired folk! I guarantee you’ll benefit in being given a perspective that might be new to you or remind you of a technique that you used a while back to benefit your groups!!

One last plug for joining your fellow music educators at the upcoming CMEA Conference. This could be the event that re-energizes your teaching and helps to develop a relationship with someone who will make you a better music teacher! I challenge you to give it a try! And let me know how it turns out. I’d love to hear from you...

Until CMEA...

Casey

Vocal Council News

ALYSSA MILLER
VOCAL MUSIC COUNCIL CHAIR



The 2025 CMEA Conference is just around the corner, and we are thrilled to share some of the incredible opportunities awaiting you. From engaging sessions to inspiring performances, this year's conference promises to be an unforgettable experience.

Featured Sessions

- **Planning and Executing the Choral Vacation** - presented by Julie Yu - Thursday, January 30, 6:30–8:00 PM – West Ballroom
 - Discover how to plan memorable choir trips that combine team-building, musical growth, and unforgettable experiences. Julie

Yu shares practical steps from budgeting to balancing fun with performance.

- **Work Hard and Play in the Snow: Recruitment and Retention in the Secondary Music Classroom** - presented by Abby Martinez and Wes Sparkes - Thursday, January 30, 12:00–12:50 PM – West Ballroom
 - Abby Martinez and Wes Sparkes share how they have built and sustained middle school choir programs with over 300 students each. Learn proven strategies for scheduling, connecting with students, and keeping programs thriving.

The Power of Parental Involvement and Community Engagement in Choral Programs

- **Jazz Depot: Tools to Help Build Your Own Vocal Jazz Program!** - presented by Rikelle Berry and Angela Reeder - Friday, January 31, 1:00–1:50 PM – Colorado Ballroom
 - Bring vocal jazz to your classroom! Rikelle Berry offers practical tools for auditions, repertoire, scat techniques, and building confidence to launch your own program.
- **From Classroom to Chorus: Building on the K-5 Foundation** - presented by Susan Brumfield - Friday, January 31, 12:00–12:50 PM – Main Ballroom
 - Susan Brumfield shares activities that bridge the gap from elementary music to choral settings. Learn how to use literacy, improvisation, and inner hearing to help young singers transition successfully.
- **Coordinating Vocal Colors in Treble Chorus** - presented by Philip Silvey - Saturday, February 1, 9:00–9:50 AM – Main Ballroom
 - Philip Silvey explores how to teach singers to coordinate their unique timbres to create a cohesive and harmonious treble chorus ensemble sound.

Conference Highlights

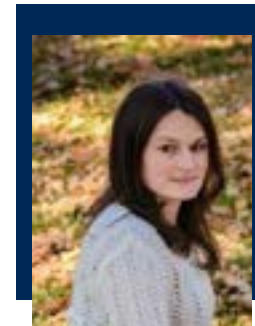
- **Honor Ensembles:** Experience performances by 13 outstanding vocal music ensembles throughout the conference.
 - Fountain Middle School - Concert Choir - Aubrey Huey
 - Falcon High School - Mixed Select Choir - Bethany Meyer
 - Coal Ridge High School - Varsity Choir - Abby Schuelke
 - Rocky Mountain High School - Low Beaux - John Friskney
 - Swallows Charter Academy - Mixed Chorus - Michelle White
 - Arvada West High School - Company West - Taylor Rodgers
 - Rock Canyon High School - Canyon Echos - Julia Dale
 - NoCo Singers - Bryan Kettlewell
 - Adams State University - Chamber Choir - Beth Robinson
 - Metropolitan State University - MSU Denver Chorale - MB Krueger
 - Erie High School - 5130 - Thalia Burd
 - Cheyenne Mountain High School - Shadows Chorale - Dawn Wisdom

- Fairview High School - Excalibur - Talise Chandler
- **Choral Reading Sessions:** The Vocal Music Council is proud to offer a variety of reading sessions, including SATB Mixed Reading Session, Contemporary A Cappella for Traditional Choirs, TB Reading Session, and a Pop & Show Choir Reading Session. These are just a few of the many diverse and exciting opportunities available to help you expand your repertoire and inspire your choirs. Don't miss the chance to discover pieces that will elevate your performances!
- **Early Registration:** Take advantage of "Early Registration" now through December 23, 2024! CMEA members can register online to secure discounted rates.

Wishing you a blessed holiday season filled with joy, peace, and music. May the 2025 CMEA Clinic/Conference bring inspiration and harmony to your classrooms and choirs.

General Music Council News

KALINDA THEOBOLD
GENERAL MUSIC COUNCIL CHAIR



The General Music Council members are thrilled to share with our fellow general music educators that we have a fantastic line-up of local and national clinicians for our upcoming Colorado Music Educators' Association Conference 2025! Our opening session on Wednesday night of the conference will be presented by our West Music sponsored clinicians, **Sandy Lantz and Gretchen Wahlberg**. They will be kicking off the conference with an

incredible blacklight experience!

Mary Claxton, sponsored by Music Will, will be returning to the CMEA conference this year! Music Will is a renowned organization specializing in a modern approach to music education in our schools. Mary will be leading many amazing sessions including songwriting through A.I., movement in popular music, and a new session using ukulele. We will also be hosting another Modern Band 101 workshop on Wednesday,

We are thrilled to share with you the fantastic line-up of local and national clinicians at the upcoming conference!

so make sure you plan ahead if you would like to participate. More information will be coming soon!

John Jacobson will be joining us again this year to present new song material and musical shows. **ROCKE** will be returning with a wonderful presentation on the importance of manipulatives in the music classroom, complete with a Make-and-take session. The Rocky Mountain Orff chapter will be sponsoring **David Row** as their guest clinician this year! He has some amazing sessions planned for Friday that you won't want to miss!

We also have **Andy Beck** joining us with fresh reading sessions from

Alfred Publishing. Join us on Saturday for their sessions entitled, "Kids Chorals All Year Long" and "Bloom: Children's Choir Music to Grow On." These will both be choral reading sessions complete with reading packets!

Finally, the GMC is pleased to announce that we will have **three performances** this year! We will have two choirs joining us on Friday afternoon, and we have a ukulele ensemble performing on Thursday afternoon.

This is a conference that you won't want to miss and one that you will never forget. I hope to see each and every one of you at CMEA 2025!



Instrumental

Council News

TIM LIBBY
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COUNCIL CHAIR



Perhaps the most important feature of this conference is YOU!



The Instrumental Music Council has a fantastic lineup for the clinic/conference in January. The conference promises to be an invaluable opportunity for all music educators to learn, collaborate, and grow.

We are excited to announce **three Wednesday evening sessions**. At 5:30pm Peter Boonshaft will present a clinic titled “How We Teach Is As Important As What We Teach: Ways to energize your rehearsals” and at 7:30pm there will be a performance by the critically acclaimed Colorado Wind Ensemble under the direction

of David Kish. Also, at 5:30pm Colorado ASTA will present a rehearsal lab featuring Gail Barnes and the Erie High School Orchestra. These sessions will be truly inspiring so plan to include Wednesday evening as part of your conference!

Our Instrumental Council headlining presenters this year are Peter Boonshaft, Gail Barnes and David Starnes. Headline topics will include “24 Ways To Improve Every Class or Rehearsal Through Inspired Teaching: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something

Blue!”, “Warm-up and Ensemble Development Exercises that Work!”, “Musicianship in the Middle: Nurturing the Musician Inside Our Students” and “The Colors of Sound - Show Me the Music!” among others. Don’t miss the opportunity to learn from these outstanding educators and performers!

Throughout the conference we have clinics being presented by many of our Colorado colleagues and friends. We have sessions focused on equity and inclusion, specific instrument tips and techniques, concert programming, and more. You will find sessions specifically designed for jazz ensemble, marching band, orchestra, conducting, literature selection, and pedagogy. The schedule this year is packed with clinics as well as dedicated time to visit the exhibits!

We have a great lineup of performing ensembles:

- **Steel Pan Band** – Western Colorado University
- **Saxophone Ensemble and Trombone Ensemble** – University of Colorado at Boulder
- **Orchestras** – Timnath Middle School, Erie Middle School, Ft. Collins High School, Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association, Evergreen High School
- **Concert Bands** – The Classical Academy Junior High School, Altona Middle School, Rocky Ford Jr./Sr. High School, The Classical Academy High School, Loveland High School, Horizon High School
- **Jazz Bands** – Rocky Mountain High School, Cheyenne Mountain High School, Windsor Charter Academy Collegiate En-

sembles – Colorado Mesa University String Orchestra, University of Colorado at Boulder

- **Symphony Orchestra** – University of Northern Colorado Wind Ensemble

Perhaps the most important feature of this conference is YOU! Don’t underestimate the impact you have on your fellow music educators - you don’t have to be presenting a clinic or conducting an ensemble to change someone’s perspective or give them a new idea to revitalize their year. This conference is for you and about you. The time we share in fellowship with each other is priceless. Plan to attend the ASTA, ASBDA, or CBA general meetings. Share a meal with a friend you haven’t seen in months. Take this time to re-engage, re-energize, and re-ignite your passion for music and teaching at this year’s clinic/conference. We’re looking forward to seeing you at the Broadmoor!

College/ University Council News

MARTINA MIRANDA
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY MUSIC COUNCIL CHAIR



We have something of interest to all levels of education. The College/University Council is not JUST for pre-service teachers!

Warmest greetings from the council! I'm very excited to share our plans for the upcoming 2025 Conference at the Broadmoor.

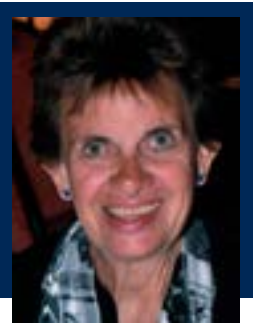
A few highlights from our sessions include: Gerard Morris (Director of Band at the University of Puget Sound) presenting on the role of artist-educators in creating learning communities in ensembles; Matthew Schlomer (Director of Bands at the University of Wyoming) will discuss unlocking the mysteries of complex rhythms; and five co-sponsored sessions on Evolutionary Conducting (E.B.

Krueger), A.I. Tools for the Music Classroom (Seth Pendergast), It's AcaMazing-working with contemporary A Cappella groups (Dawn Wisdom), and Bringing Choice Into the Elementary Music classroom (Yolanda Calderón), and A Rural Music Teacher (Katie Oglesby). Additional sessions will explore feedback and assessment, Spanish integration, the job search process, Improvisation, practice strategies, and increasing student participation.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 Clinic-Conference this coming January!

Tri-M News

MICHELLE EWER
TRI-M CHAIR



Tri-M Music Honor Society is about leadership, community service, and performance.

Greetings from Tri-M,

Happy 2025! How is it possible that it is already January? Living in Colorado, January means it is time for CMEA. The conference is one week later this year, so please plan accordingly. **Wednesday, January 29th is Tri-M day.** Early registration has closed; however, you can still register at \$40 per student until

January 14th. Go to <https://cmeaonline.org/tri-m/> Our lineup for the 29th is amazing. Peter Boonshaft is our keynote. His session is titled "If You Don't Know, I Can't Tell You." Peter will inspire us with his words, wisdom, and humor. I am so excited to hear him. Students will be able to select their own schedule selecting from 18 different sessions. Composing, Conducting, Practice Strategies, Wellness, College Applications,

Military Positions, Life after High School, Adopt a Tri-M member, Jazz Grooves, Vocal, String and Low Brass Pedagogy are just a few of the choices to be made. We have even divided the dance/movement sessions into Middle School and High School so that both groups can learn at their own level. You can see a full list of sessions and description at <https://cmeaonline.org/tri-m/>

Tri-M Music Honor Society is about leadership, community service, and performance. By having a Tri-M Chapter at your school, you provide the opportunity for students to develop leadership skills

and find a common place where they belong. **There is not a requirement to have a NAFME Tri-M Membership to attend Tri-M Day.** A NAFME membership provides opportunities for scholarships and National Recognition, but you are still welcome to attend Tri-M Day without a NAFME membership.

A long-lasting tradition at Tri-M Day is that we end our day in performance. Please bring your instrument and a folding music stand. **Arrange your transportation to arrive by 8:30 am and leave around 4:00 pm.** You are also welcome to stay the evening and attend the Wednesday evening sessions

between 5:30-9:00. There will be something for everyone.

I look forward to seeing you at Tri-M Day 2025. Please reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Michelle Ewer
Colorado Tri-M Chair
TriMChairCMEA@cmeaonline.org

Retired Membership News

KIRK VOGEL
RETIRED MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Retired members will preside over the new “Music in General” sessions

Vocal, Instrumental and University. There are nine sessions that fit into this new category and retired members are going to preside over each session! Each of the “Music in General” sessions will be held in Colorado Hall F. Come and see these wonderful sessions listed below and say hi to some of your retired members presiding at each session. Here is the schedule of “Music in General” sessions and the presenters for each session.

Friday January 31, 2025

- 9:00-9:50 “World Music” as the Basis of Your Curriculum-Thalea Stokes
- 10:00-10:50 Reflections on CMEA: What the Archives Can Teach Us-Angela Schendel Keedy
- 11:00-11:50 What to Expect When You’re NOT Expecting: Advice for Teaching in Unfamiliar Demographics-Harrison Pfeifer

I hope to see all of you at the Lake Terrace Dining Room for the Retired Luncheon on Friday January 31st at 1:30PM. We can share all the great things happening in our lives and all the wonderful things happening in the Colorado music scene. Please remember that you needed to register for the conference by December 23 to receive your ticket for the luncheon, but you can connect with your friends and colleagues at other times during the conference if you missed this deadline.

Thursday January 30, 2025

- 10:00-10:50 Exploring DEI and Antiracist Practice in the Music Classroom: What are we already doing and ways to level up-Janeka Taylor and Dave Balestrini
- 2:00-2:50 Creating a Climate for Learning-Martha Gabel
- 3:00-3:50 Back to School Basics-Stacy Werner

Saturday February 1, 2025

- 9:00-9:50 What’s Your Niche? Tips for building a successful performing arts program in a K-12 setting-Jennifer Last
- 10:00-10:50 Classroom Management for All-Ann Harding
- 11:00-11:50 “Los Palos” - The Folkloric Music of the Dominican Republic-Socrates García and Wanda Vásquez García

From the Road (and sometimes the podium),

Kirk Vogel
CMEA Retired Membership Chair
retiredmembershipcmea@cmeaonline.org

Greetings Retired CMEA Membership!

I hope you are already looking forward to the annual CMEA Conference at the Broadmoor in January. How many have you attended, 30, 40, 50, 60? My number is 43 attended conferences and I know I always look forward to seeing people from across the state that I might only see at this once-a-year conference. This year’s theme is

Cultivating Excellence: Appreciate, Inspire, Support, and Guide. I hope you have had an opportunity to inspire, support, guide and appreciate membership in the classroom throughout the fall.

The CMEA Conference is featuring a new group of clinics called “Music in General” that will apply to all the CMEA Councils – General Music,

Membership News

TREY TAFOYA
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Whether you're a veteran teacher or just beginning your career, this year's CMEA Clinic/Conference is an investment into your professional journey and the future of music education.

The Colorado Music Educators Association Clinic and Conference, taking place at The Broadmoor from January 29 to February 1, 2025, is more than just an annual professional development event—it is an opportunity to elevate our profession. As music educators, we face significant challenges that demand both individual and collective action. This year's conference promises to provide tools, resources, and inspiration to help us elevate music education in the great state of Colorado.

Music education today faces many challenges. Challenges like teacher retention, equitable access to music education, and adapting to the diverse needs of our students weighs heavily on our profession. In 2021, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) formed the Music Teacher Profession Initiative (MTPI) to identify barriers to equity in music teacher recruitment, education, and retention. From this collaboration, they released A Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession, which outlined barriers

across every stage of music teacher—from music teacher preparation programs to the first years in the classroom. The Blueprint's call to action is clear: if we wish to strengthen our profession, we must address systemic inequities, promote cultural responsiveness, and prioritize teacher well-being.

The CMEA Clinic/Conference is our event and platform to engage with each other to address our priorities to strengthen our profession of music education. The clinic promises to offer a wealth of professional development sessions, clinics, and performances that will help attendees to broaden their pedagogical philosophies, approaches to teaching, and inspire new and innovative strategies to (in the words of NAfME), “widen the path to the profession.”

For educators early in their careers, the conference will provide an invaluable support system. One of the major challenges identified in the NAfME Blueprint was the isolation that teachers face, which can often lead to burnout. The CMEA Clinic/Conference bridges this gap by fostering a community built on connection, collaboration, and camaraderie. From networking opportunities with colleagues to mentoring from experienced professionals, you will be sure to gain both professional knowledge and a sense of belonging.

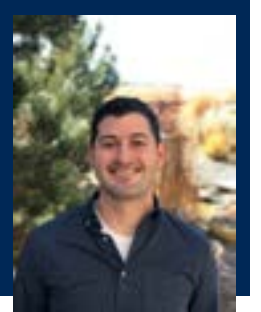
The Broadmoor's iconic setting creates the perfect environment for inspiration and reflection. For me, it evokes the creative spirit of composers like Beethoven or Brahms, who found renewal and creative inspiration while in nature. Just as

they were drawn to the beauty of the mountains and natural landscape to recharge and create, so too can we draw inspiration from this majestic setting. Join us as we gather together to celebrate our shared commitment to music education.

Whether you are a veteran teacher or just beginning your career, this year's CMEA Clinic/Conference is an investment into your professional journey and the future of music education. Mark your calendars, register, and join us in Colorado Springs this January!

Technology News

SEAN HEDDING
TECHNOLOGY CHAIR



I hope you're having a smooth school year, that your performances are going well, and that your students have been finding success in their individual music endeavors such as honor group auditions. I've found myself reflecting on my personal experiences as a band student and my own instruction practices a lot lately. Admittedly, these reflections were instigated by changes to the All State Honor Band audition process this school year. As I was recording a student with a condenser microphone running through a USB interface to my computer that was running video recording software that allowed my students and I

to record, watch, and edit their audition videos quickly and easily I remember thinking, "Wow, this has really changed from how I did my honor band recordings in high school." I made a quick comment about the setup we were using to one of my students and he replied, "I use a similar setup when I stream my video game playing on Twitch." What was a relatively big change to go from audio only to video for the band directing community, was literally just another day for our students. They have these "setups" in their bedrooms. This is the technological world they live in.

It really got me thinking: How much has band class changed since I was

Have we changed enough to keep up with our students?

a band student in the 90s? How much has my teaching changed in the last 17 years? How much have kids changed? Have I changed enough to keep up with them?

No, really. How much have we changed our instructional practices to teach our music students in the 2024-2025 school year? While I'm far from advocating for throwing out decades (centuries?) of tradition and best practices because you found a new tuning app on your phone, I can't help but wonder if some of our pedagogy can be updated. Just tossing out some ideas-

- Performance Assessments - have you tried using one of the automated tools like Smart Music or Sight Reading Factory?
- If you teach 6-12 (students most likely to have their own phones)
 - Have you asked your students to download tuners and metronomes?
 - My students play much better in tune after they started checking themselves before class starts. (This obviously doesn't

replace teaching them how to listen and adjust to each other...)

- Have you asked your students to record themselves and critique their own and each other's playing?
- Do you send email after email with important information that no one seems to read, have you tried using the Band App (not just for Bands and it's free!!) or Remind to send push notifications to your parents?
- If people can live with Dunkin' Donuts sending them a daily notification about grabbing an iced coffee, your parents probably won't mind a notification about this Wednesday's concert report time and uniform expectations.
- We started using the Band App this year for my Marching Band and Show Choir and it has been an absolute game changer for communication, scheduling, and collecting fees that go to my Booster organization (not school/instructional fees).

- Parents are paying fees through the Band App using ApplePay (or similar). No more collecting checks or cash, and the vast majority of families are paying their fees in the first day or two.

At the end of the day, Band is Band; Choir is Choir; Orchestra is Orchestra; Orff is Orff. How much can/should Band class change? But that doesn't mean there's no room for innovation or exploration. While I'm sure that we can't answer every question at a single CMEA conference about kids being on their phones too much or which metronome app we should download, I do think the next great idea to change your teaching might be presented at our conference, discovered in the exhibit hall, or shared by a colleague. If you're doing something innovative, I hope you'll consider sharing your knowledge with us! It's never too early to think about presenting at a future conference, CMEA or otherwise.

I wish you the best in trying something new!

Exhibits

RICK SHAW
EXHIBITS MANAGER



Your Exhibits for the 2025 Convention Are Coming Together
As the 2025 Convention starts to take shape, so is the exhibitor list for Bartolin Hall. We are so excited to welcome back many of our exhibit staples that have provided

so much support to CMEA over the years. We are also thrilled to welcome many new booths to the exhibit experience including Disney Imagination Campus, Bravo Vail!, Jazz Everyone, and more. There will certainly be something for everyone!

There is something for everyone!

Please plan to visit the exhibits on multiple occasions to visit with as many exhibitors as possible. Your councils have built time into your schedule for this, and we look forward to seeing you.

Exhibit hours in the Bartolin Hall will be Thursday from 12:00 to 6:30 with the Exhibitor Reception beginning at 5:00, Friday from 9:00 to 5:00, and Saturday from 9:00 to 12:00.

See you in January!
Rick Shaw, Exhibit Manager

Research Sessions!



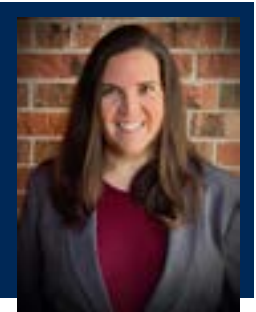
Hello!

The 2025 Colorado Music Educators' Association Conference will feature two research sessions on Friday and Saturday morning. I invite you to join us at one or both to hear a variety of research topics from graduate students and faculty representing CU Boulder, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State University, and the University of Northern Colorado.

Friday's presentations include:

- *A Longitudinal Study of Early Field Experiences in Music Education* by Garrett Graves
- *A Status Study of Secondary Music Education in Colorado* by Dr. Carla Aguilar and Dr. Krissie Weimer
- *Faculty Perceptions Towards Popular Music Curricula in Music Education Degree Programs in Colorado* by Christy Go.

KRISSIE WEIMER
CMEA RESEARCH CHAIR



We are always seeking research submissions for the CMEA Journal!

Saturday's presentations include:

- *Assessment in Teacher Certification: The Status of Policies in the United States* by Dr. Carla Aguilar
- *A Survey of Colorado Teachers' Curricular and Extracurricular Activities* by Paul Haarala
- *Colorado School Music Teachers and Their Job Expectations: An Update* by Dr. Lindsay Fulcher
- *More Than Windows and Mirrors: Using Culturally Responsive Teaching in Conjunction with Project Based Learning* by Victoria DiMarzio

Additionally, we are always seeking research submissions for the CMEA Journal! We invite all researchers to submit a manuscript for publication consideration in the Fall, Winter, and Spring issues of the CMEA online journal. **We welcome submissions of various topics and methodologies, including literature reviews and action research.** This is a nice publication opportunity for junior faculty and graduate students. Please see previous journals for examples of work published: <https://cmeaonline.org/publications/>. **Manuscripts should be emailed directly to both Krissie Weimer and Margie Camp at: kristina.weimer@unco.edu and CommunicationsCMEA@cmea-online.org.**

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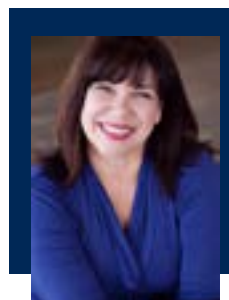
Directors



Wesley Broadnax

Dr. Wesley Broadnax is Associate Professor of Music & Director of Bands at the University of Northern Colorado. He conducts the wind ensemble, chamber winds, and guides all aspects of the graduate wind conducting program. He has conducted several All-State & Honor Bands nationally, having conducted wind orchestras throughout Canada, Europe, & South America. Dr. Broadnax is a strong advocate for new music, DEI initiatives, and serves as a regular clinician/adjudicator for various wind band and orchestra festivals. In addition, he is actively involved with commissioning projects, and he has won the praises of several composers with performances (and in some cases, premiere performances) of their works, including Joseph Schwantner, David Maslanka, Michael Weinstein, Dana Wil-

son, Jere Hutcheson, Chen Yi, Paul Barsom, Lawrence Singer, Joel Puckett, Nicholas Vasallo, Stephen Rush, Angelo Sormani, Raphael Fusco, Drew Michael McWeeney, Eric Sessler, Mauricio Charbonnier, Aaron McMichael, and Kevin Poelking. He is a member of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA), Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity, Association of Concert Bands (ACB), and he is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, Phi Mu Alpha & Pi Kappa Lambda organizations.



Susan Brumfield

Dr. Susan Brumfield is Professor of Music Education at Texas Tech University. She is an internationally recognized author, composer and Kodaly specialist;

recent publications include the First, We Sing! Series of Kodály-inspired teaching materials, Hot Peas and Barley-O: Children's Songs and Games from Scotland, Over the Garden Wall: Children's Songs and Games from England and most recently, Jean Ritchie's Kentucky Mother Goose, both published by Hal Leonard. She also has an extensive catalog of choral publications. Her areas of expertise include methodology, folk music research and performance, and choral music for treble voices. She is a native of South Louisiana.



Thalia Burd

Thalia Burd has been teaching music in Colorado since 2008 and has enjoyed being the

Choral Director at Erie High School since January, 2020. Originally from Loveland, CO, she graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance and Theater. She then continued her education at Colorado State University, earning a Master's degree in Music Education and Conducting. Prior to teaching at Erie, Mrs. Burd taught general music at Sacred Heart of Jesus School and choir and theater at Holy Family High School,

where she also served as the Arts Director and Department Chair. Mrs. Burd has an extensive theater background and enjoys assisting with vocal music direction for the musicals at EHS. In 2016, she had the privilege of working with renowned theater professionals in London, England at the Globe Theater, where she attended a Continuing Education program called "Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance." She has also been a recipient of the music educator scholarship at Harmony University (Barbershop Harmony Society) two times. An active member of NAFME and ADCA, Mrs. Burd frequently attends state and regional conferences and professional development clinics. Mrs. Burd served as a Northern Site Governor for the Colorado All State Choir Board for seven years. She is a recipient of the CU Boulder Outstanding Colorado Educator award and was a finalist for SVVSD Teacher of the Year in 2022. In her free time, she enjoys singing with Noco Singers, traveling, reading, and spending time with her amazing husband, Simon, and her daughter, Zuzu.



Talise Chandler

Talise Chandler is in her twelfth year as a music educator and her third as Director

of Vocal Music at Fairview High School where she directs three traditional choirs (Voices of the Knight, Enchantment, & Festival), two jazz choirs (Age of Guinevere & Excalibur), vocal-directs the musical, and co-directs the POPS show. She is a member of NAFME, ACDA, and JEN. Under her direction, her choirs have earned superior ratings at various local festivals including MSU and UNC/Greeley; and in January 2024, Age of Guinevere and Excalibur performed for clinics at the JENerations Jazz Festival at the Jazz Education Network Conference in New Orleans. Talise discovered her love of choral music and jazz as a student at Fairview under the direction of Ron Revier and Jim Keller. Her first memory of CMEA was in 1992 when she performed as a singer and accompanist with Fairview's Festival choir in the beautiful Main Ballroom of the Broadmoor. The choir closed the set with Kirby Shaw's arrangement of "Ain't That Good News". As a special surprise for the audience, Ron Revier made arrangements for Kirby Shaw (who was in attendance as a presenter at CMEA) to join the choir for the

Concert Directors

scat solo and to close out the tune which brought the house down! Inspired by experiences such as this, Talise went on to pursue her career in music. She holds a BM in Piano Performance and BME from the University of Northern Colorado where she sang under the direction of Galen Darrough and Howard Skinner. She taught at Nevin Platt Middle School in Boulder followed by several years directing a community choir and teaching private lessons at home while raising her four children. Over the past eight years, she re-entered the profession and taught at the APEX Program in SVVSD and at Holy Family High School in Broomfield. She is deeply grateful to have been led and mentored “home” to Fairview by Janice Vlachos three years ago and is absolutely humbled and thrilled to be making her first CMEA appearance as a director. To be doing so with Excalibur, a group with a long legacy of which she is an alumna, makes the honor even more special. She would like to thank her husband, children, and amazing family for all their love; her directors, mentors, and colleagues for their undying support; and the students of Excalibur for being hard-working, talented musicians, and all-around adorable, wonderful humans.



Dana Clanin

Dana Clanin earned a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado and a

Master of Music Education from the University of Colorado - Boulder. During her time at CU - Boulder, Ms. Clanin served as a full-time teaching assistant in the music education department. Her extensive teaching career includes roles as a band director at Peyton Middle/Senior High (Peyton, CO), Scott Carpenter Middle School (Denver), and since 2004, she has been dedicated to teaching band and jazz band at Altona Middle School in Longmont. Ms. Clanin's jazz and concert ensembles consistently achieve superior ratings at festivals. Notable accolades include Altona's Eighth Grade Band and Jazz Band performing at the CMEA convention in Colorado Springs in 2011 and 2018 respectively, and both ensembles were selected for 2025. Ms. Clanin has also served as a guest conductor for esteemed programs such as the Holyoke Honor Band, Western Slope CBA Select Band, CU Summer Music Academy, Eastern Colorado Honor Band, Westminster Schools Band Festival, and the Collegiate Peaks Honor Jazz Band. Active within her professional community, Ms.

Clanin is a member of CBA, NAFME, Phi Beta Mu, ASBDA, and Altona Middle School's Leadership Team. Additionally, she is NFHS certified and enjoys adjudicating concert and jazz band festivals, as well as solo and ensemble events. Beyond music, Ms. Clanin finds joy in hiking, yoga, board games, paddle boarding, and reading. She treasures spending quality time with her friends, her partner Julien, and her two sons, Evan and Mitchell.



Dawn Clement

Pianist, vocalist, and composer Dawn Clement is a joyful and formidable force in the

landscape of modern creative music. For over two decades, Clement has served as both a torchbearer of the jazz tradition and as a trailblazer in fresh sonic explorations. “In all this world of jazz, there are very few individual voices, no matter what the instrument, but Dawn has come up with a voice that's unique...” says legendary jazz trombonist Julian Priester.

Clement's original music is an expansive collection that features her distinctive musical voice in a variety of genres, styles, and settings. Her six albums as a leader

showcase her impressive range from master of the jazz piano trio style, to avant garde improviser, to an expressive songwriter and vocalist effortlessly incorporating indie and alternative influences. Downbeat says, “The revelation is Dawn Clement's piano, always ready with the lyricism or structure the moment needs.” Her most recent release, *Islands*, was created in collaboration with producer, keyboardist, and guitarist Jon Solo, and features thoughtful collaborations with a range of all-star guests, including trumpeter Shane Endsley, saxophonist Skerik, and drummer Allison Miller.

Clement shines as a collaborator and is highly in demand as a touring and recording artist. She has previously performed with jazz luminaries including Jane Ira Bloom, Ron Miles, Matt Wilson, Rene Marie, and Julian Priester. Dawn recorded with sāje on their GRAMMY-nominated debut album, and has toured with the ensemble in the U.S. and Japan. She is also a member of Esthesis Quartet, a group founded in 2021 with flutist Elsa Nilsson, drummer Tina Raymond, and bassist Emma Dayhuff. The band's self-titled debut release in 2022 quickly led to featured performances at Winter Jazz Fest and the Jazz Education Network Conference in 2023, and a sophomore release of their album *Time Zones* in March 2023.

Integral in Clement's relationship

Celebrating Dedication to Musical Excellence

with music is her role as an educator and mentor. She currently serves as Associate Professor and Area Coordinator of the Jazz and American Improvised Music Department at Metropolitan State University of Denver. In addition, Clement is a sought-after guest artist and clinician for jazz festivals, all-state band programs, and jazz camps around the country. She has previously appeared as an artist educator at Port Townsend Jazz Workshop, Reno Jazz Fest, Stanford Jazz Workshop, Jazz Camp West, Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, and the UNC Jazz Festival.

Dawn holds a Bachelor of Music from Cornish College of the Arts and a Masters of Fine Arts in Music Composition from Vermont College of the Arts. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, she now lives in Denver, Colorado, and maintains strong ties to both the Seattle and Denver music communities. Dawn maintains a rigorous teaching and performing schedule while balancing the ever-fluctuating dance of parenting, composing, and supporting her local art scene.



Jonathan Colson

Jonathan Colson is in his 9th year of teaching and has served as Director of Music in Rocky

Ford his whole teaching career. At Rocky Ford, he teaches marching band, concert band, jazz band, concert choir, music appreciation, music theory, and a special education music and movement class. Colson completed his undergraduate degrees at Adams State University in Music Education, Music Composition, and Music Performance for Trumpet. He also completed his Masters in Music Education with an emphasis in Composition in May 2022 from Adams State University. His passion is in literature and small school music programs. He has presented multiple clinics on both subjects at CMEA and the CBA Convention. His top ensemble, the Meloneer Concert Band, has established a tradition of showing what small school music programs can do around Colorado. In 2021, his Meloneer Concert Band was selected to perform at the CMEA Conference. Colson lives in La Junta, Colorado where he enjoys creating music within the community, writing drill for marching band, and writing music for marching band. In 2023, Colson was inducted into the American School Band Direc-

Concert Directors

Elevating Performance, Inspiring Hearts

tor's Association, and currently he serves as the District 4 Instrumental Representative for CMEA.



Brian Crim

Originally from Grand Junction, Colorado, Brian Crim has taught instrumental music and

performed professionally in the Front Range for 20 years. He attended the University of Northern Colorado, where he received both a Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance and a Master's Degree in Music Education, he also has a Master's Degree in Leadership in Educational Organizations from CU Denver. Currently, he serves as the director of orchestra and mariachi at Skyline High School in Longmont. His mariachi ensembles have performed across the Front Range and have worked to be stewards of mariachi education in their district and region. Notable collaborative performances & accomplishments include; Metro State Mariachi Festival, CO-ALAS graduation, Festival del Sol at Chautauqua, Dia de Muertos main-stage City of Longmont, Out-Boulder, Los Coyotes de Uvalde High School workshop, first-ever CHSAA Mariachi Festival hosts and more.



Danielle Crisman

Danielle Crisman has taught instrumental music in Colorado since 1998. She began

in teaching grades 4-8 orchestra in Adams School District 50 and has also taught in the Thompson School District and St. Vrain Valley School District. After discovering how exciting it is to help middle school students grow, that has remained her focus. She is currently the orchestra director at Erie Middle School. She teaches 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Orchestra, the Erie Pops Orchestra (a group that only performs popular music), Piano, and Guitar. While Mrs. Crisman joined the staff at Erie Middle School in 2014, she first came to the St. Vrain Valley School District in 2001. Mrs. Crisman studied music education at the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Wyoming in Laramie. She has performed as a bassist in the Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra, the Longmont Symphony Orchestra, the Boulder Philharmonic, and the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra. Mrs. Crisman enjoys conducting and adjudicating in the wider community. She is the Music Director for All Saints Episcopal Church in Loveland, CO. She was the founding conductor

of the High Plains String Orchestra (UW String Project), the Youth Orchestra of the Rockies String Orchestra, and the Longmont Youth Orchestra String Ensemble.



Tim Dailey

Currently in his eighth year as Head Director of Bands at Horizon High School, Mr. Tim Dailey is

dedicated to enhancing student lives through music education and pursuing excellence. Prioritizing a comprehensive experience, the Horizon Band Program has expanded to include three big band-style jazz ensembles, three large concert bands, an active pep band, a pit orchestra, and the 130-member Marching Hawks. Mr. Dailey has enjoyed numerous performance opportunities across the U.S. and looks forward to his first international trip to Ireland with the band in March 2025. Mr. Dailey earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2014 and his Master of Music Technology from Southern Utah University in 2023. He is a member of the Colorado Bandmasters Association, the National Association for Music Educators, and the American

School Band Directors Association. Over the past 11 years, Mr. Dailey's concert bands and jazz ensembles have consistently received superior ratings. He promotes a growth mindset and emphasizes the joy of making music together, fostering strong student connections and a vibrant musical community. Beyond his role at Horizon, Mr. Dailey performs throughout the Denver-Metro area, competes nationally with the Colorado Brass, and is an accomplished freelance trumpet and French horn player.



Julia Dale

Julia Dale is the Director of Vocal Music at Rock Canyon High School, where she conducts the

Tenor/Bass Choir, Treble Choir, Echos, Formations, and Jag Choirs, teaches A.P. Music Theory, and vocal directs the school musical each year. She is also the advisor for the Rock Canyon chapter of the Tri-M Music Honors Society. In addition to her teaching load, Ms. Dale is the department chair and serves as Colorado ACDA's President-Elect. Under Ms. Dale's direction, RCHS choirs have received the highest ratings at CHSAA competitions and been invited to perform at CMEA three times. Her students are

frequently accepted to the Colorado All-State Choirs. Prior to joining the Rock Canyon faculty in 2009, Ms. Dale was the Director of Choirs at Palmyra-Macedon High School from 2004-2007. She then studied at Westminster Choir College where she served as the graduate assistant conductor to the Westminster Chapel and Symphonic Choirs, which performed frequently with the New York Philharmonic and other world renowned orchestras. Additionally, she was a member of the Westminster Choir, Westminster Kantorei, and Westminster Symphonic Choir where she performed under esteemed conductors such as Kurt Masur, Ton Koopman, Pierre Boulez, Neemi Jarvi, and David Robertson. Ms. Dale is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, where she received a B.M. in Music Education with a vocal emphasis. She earned an M.M. in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College of Rider University. Ms. Dale has been an Apple Award nominee every year since she arrived at Rock Canyon and was honored to be Rock Canyon's Apple Award recipient in 2011. She has previously served as the Colorado All State Jazz Choir Co-Chair, Treble Choir R&R Chair for Colorado ACDA, and on the CHSAA Music Advisory Committee. Ms. Dale resides in Highlands Ranch with her handsome husband, Ben, and amazing children, Charlie and Ellie. When not teaching, Ms. Dale can be

found cheering on her kids at their various sports, in a yoga studio, baking or on an elliptical machine.



Logan Doddridge

Logan Doddridge is one of two band directors at Rocky Mountain High School

in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he has taught for three years. With twelve years of teaching experience, he previously served as the band director at Eaton High School. At Rocky Mountain, Logan directs the "Summit Winds," co-teaches the Symphonic Band, and oversees jazz bands and percussion ensembles. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master's degree from the American Band College. In addition to his teaching, Logan performs as a professional percussionist and drum set player in Northern Colorado. Outside of work, he enjoys time with his wife, Sarah, and their two dogs.

Concert Directors

Inspiring Through Leadership and Music



Jamie Dyere

Jamie Dyer has been a collaborative pianist and vocal jazz instructor with the Long Beach

Unified School District for 15 years. She is a published arranger, with over one hundred charts written in a variety of styles, ranging from straight ahead swing to funk, pop, and everything in the middle. She also performs professionally as a singer and pianist around the Long Beach area. Jamie is honored to be a part of this year's festival and is looking forward to working with these amazingly talented students!

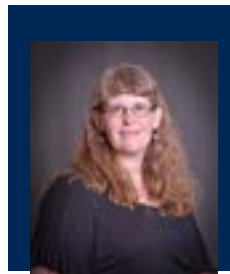


Anthony Ebert

Mr. Anthony Ebert earned his B.A. in Music from Northwestern College (Orange City, IA) in 2008.

While at Northwestern, Anthony performed in a number of ensembles on horn and toured internationally with the Symphonic Band as a featured soloist. Anthony is a 2012 graduate of The American Band College of Sam Houston State University where he earned his M.M. in Conducting. Mr. Ebert

has taught 7-12 band at TCA since 2011. The 8th Grade Concert band under his direction performed at CMEA in 2017. Anthony also plays Solo Tenor Horn with the nationally-acclaimed Pikes Peak Brass Band. He is a member of NAFME, CBA, and Phi Beta Mu.



Shari Frazee

Shari Frazee has spent twenty of her twenty-three years as a music educator at Windsor Char-

ter Academy schools in Windsor, Colorado. She started the band program at the K-8 school her first year there with seven eager students. Her position evolved as the school expanded so that today she teaches the high school instrumental ensembles, music electives, and various AIMS Community College music courses at Windsor Charter Academy Early College High School. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Bassoon Performance and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Frazee also earned a Master of Music in Bassoon Performance from the same institution in 2004. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband Nick and their two sons.



Kyle Freesen

Kyle Freesen currently serves as the Director of Bands and Music Department Chair at Loveland

High School in Loveland, Colorado where he teaches the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble I, Chamber Music, and the Crimson Regiment Marching Band. Mr. Freesen holds degrees from Wright State University (Master of Music, Wind Conducting) and Western Illinois University (Bachelor of Music, Music Education). His large ensembles have performed 11 times at the Colorado Bandmasters Association (CBA) State Concert Band Festival and 2 times at the Dallas Wind Band Invitational. This will be their 3rd CMEA Honor Performing Group Appearance. The Crimson Regiment has earned 4 Bands of America (BOA) Regional Class Champion titles, 11 CBA State Championship Medals, and 3 CBA State 4A Titles during his time at Loveland High School. Prior to Loveland, Mr. Freesen was the Director of Athletic Bands and a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Wright State University, was on staff for the Centerville Jazz Band, and directed band programs in the Schuyler-Industry and El Paso-Gridley School districts in Illinois.

Freeseen is an active music educator who has presented at multiple state conferences. He has been a guest speaker in many music education courses and for CNAFME chapters in Colorado. Freeseen has been a member of the National Association for Music Education, Golden Key, Phi Kappa Phi, the American School Band Directors Association, and the Colorado Bandmasters Association. He lives in Loveland with his wife and son.

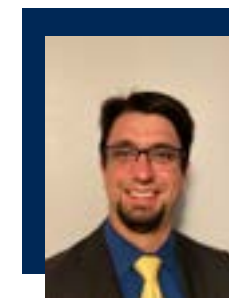


John Friskney

John Friskney is a second year teacher at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins where he

teaches Choir, Music Theory and Technical Musical Theatre. He is a proud alumnus of Colorado State University where he graduated summa cum laude and received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education in 2023. While attending Colorado State University, he had the unique opportunity of directing their award-winning competitive a cappella group, Mainstreet A Cappella. Despite being a second year teacher, John has been completely enthralled by choral music for over a decade and is an active member of NAFME, CMEA, ACDA, and CoACDA. John has found his

roots in the professional choral community of Northern Colorado and has managed to maintain an active performing career alongside his teaching career. He currently sings with Laudamus Chamber Chorale, NOCO Singers, and the Sanctuary Choir at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins. When he is not teaching or singing, he can be found spending time with his friends and family, golfing, skiing and working on his cars. This is John's first CMEA appearance and he is honored to share the stage with the fine Tenors and Basses of Low Beaux. This will also be Low Beaux CMEA debut!



Cory Goshorn

Cory Goshorn is the instrumental music director at Evergreen High School, a position he has held for

5 years. With 12 years of teaching experience, Cory has significantly contributed to the growth and success of his students. He holds bachelor's degrees in music from the University of Northern Colorado and Metropolitan State University of Denver and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Music Education from Adams State University. At Evergreen High School, Cory has led the marching band to the

state finals in both 2022 and 2023. His dedication and support also helped the Evergreen High School Winter Percussion Ensemble win the 2024 state championship. Recognized for his exceptional teaching abilities, Cory received the Jeffco Talented Teacher Award in 2023 and the Jeffco Value Awards for exemplary performance in 2020, 2022, and 2024. In addition to these accolades, Cory was a quarter-finalist for the GRAMMY Music Educator Award in 2020 and a semi-finalist for the Music and Arts Music Educator Award, demonstrating his commitment to excellence in music education on a national scale. A proud Colorado native, Cory resides in Golden with his wife and three children. Outside the classroom, he enjoys mountain biking and golfing, pursuing these activities with the same passion he brings to his professional endeavors.



John Hermanson

John Hermanson is in his 12th year as the Director of Orchestras at Fort Col-

lins High School and 19th year of teaching. His program consists of four orchestras auditioned by level and Pit Orchestra and AP Music

Concert Directors

Theory. Mr. Hermanson's ensembles consistently receive superior ratings at state festivals and have a long history of invitations to perform at state festivals, national festivals, and abroad. In March of 2024 and 2020, the FCHS Symphony Orchestra performed with 7 other orchestras from around the USA at the Music for All Festival in Indianapolis, IN. In May of 2023 the FCHS Music Department toured Europe, attending seven professional performances in London and Paris. In March of 2018 the FCHS Music Department toured Australia with 215 people, performing in Sydney and Brisbane. In January of 2016, 2018, and 2022 FCHS Orchestras performed at the CMEA. In March of 2015 the FCHS Music Department toured Europe, performing in Salzburg, Vienna, and Prague. Many students audition and are accepted to Colorado All State Orchestra and the Western States Honor Orchestra Festival on an annual basis. Creating the best possible orchestra experience for students is Mr. Hermanson's highest priority. Originally from Rapid City, SD, Mr. Hermanson moved to Colorado in 2001. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education, a Bachelor of Music Performance, a Master of Conducting, and a Master of Education degree, all from Colorado State University. Mr. Hermanson is past chair of Colorado All State Orchestra and Chair of the Colorado ASTA Large Group Orchestra Festival.

He has served on the CMEA Instrumental Music Council and many other education committees. Prior to FCHS, Mr. Hermanson taught at Summit High School and Conifer High School. He resides in Fort Collins with his wife, Anna.



Aubrey Huey

Aubrey Huey was born and raised in Colorado and is in her 21st year of teaching vocal music in

the Fountain-Fort Carson School District in Fountain. Prior to teaching in Fountain, Aubrey taught general music for three years in Pueblo District 60 and served on the General Music Council for the Colorado Music Educators Association. During her tenure at Fountain Middle School, she has co-directed the district honor choir, designed curriculum, served in numerous leadership roles, and was Fountain Middle School's employee of the year in 2017-2018. Aubrey's choirs have consistently earned superior ratings in performance and sight reading at numerous festivals throughout the region and several of her students have been selected for the Colorado Middle All State Choirs. Aubrey holds a Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis in K-12



Victor C. Johnson

Victor C. Johnson, a native of Dallas, Texas, is the School Choral Editor for SING!,

the educational publishing division of Choristers Guild. A prolific composer and arranger, he has over 350 choral works, vocal solo books, and keyboard collections currently in print. Mr. Johnson attended the University of Texas at Arlington where he majored in music education with a concentration in organ. While attending UTA, he served as student conductor of the university's choral ensembles and opera workshop accompanist. From 2000-2018, he was the choral director at the Ft. Worth Academy of Fine Arts (FWAFA). At FWAFA, Victor directed the Academy Singers, Academy Men's Choir and was Artistic Director of the Singing Girls of Texas and Children's Choir of Texas. Victor is in demand as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician for music educators and students throughout the United States. He has conducted All-State and Regional Honor choirs in Texas, California, Georgia, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Oregon, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Nevada, and Kentucky. His own choirs have performed at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in 2011 and 2014 as

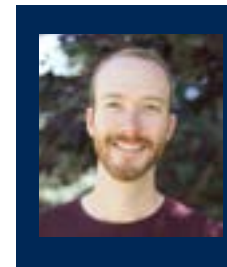
well as the American Choral Directors Association- Southwestern Division conference in March, 2016. Victor currently serves as Minister of Worship and Arts at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, a position he has held since 2007.



Jerilyn Jorgensen

Much of Juilliard-trained violinist Jeri Jorgensen's career was spent as first violinist of the

award-winning DaVinci Quartet, so when the opportunity presented itself to move into conducting, it was a natural fit. She directs the Colorado College Chamber Orchestra, the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Chamber Orchestra, and the Festival Orchestra of the Manitou Chamber Music Festival. Jeri is highly motivated to introduce young musicians to both new repertoire and historically informed performance practice, inspired by her research and work recording the complete Beethoven sonatas for violin and piano with her sonata partner, New York-based pianist Cullan Bryant. Jeri has studied conducting with Carl Topilow and Wes Kenney, and has attended conducting programs in Cleveland, Cambridge, England, and at CSU Fort Collins.



Ben Justis

Ben Justis is an assistant Professor of Music at Western Colorado University where he teaches music

technology, percussion, music theory, composition, and coordinates the Music Industry program and recording studio. His original compositions have been performed by the Portland Percussion Group, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, the United States Air Force Band, and he served as Artist-in-Residence at Denali National Park, Homestead National Monument of America, and Glacier National Park. He is represented by ASCAP and published through Tapspace, North Star Music, and EARTHGRAZER STUDIOS. Ben is a sought-after arranger for many mediums, including marching arts, brass bands, and steel bands. An active soloist and section player, Ben has performed at the Aspen Summer Music Festival, Bravo! Vail, with the United States Air Force Band, and with the acclaimed Colorado State University Percussion Ensemble. Ben is also a producer at Quigley Records on the Western Colorado University campus and works with local, independent artists. At any given point you might find him skiing, stargazing, camping, cooking, or, most likely, making music in his hometown of

Gunnison, Colorado. He produces the YouTube channel Percussion Methods, a growing video repository of percussive education.



Cathy Keller

Cathy Keller is in her sixteenth year at Prairie Ridge Elementary School in the St.

Vrain Valley

School District. There, she serves as the general music teacher and conductor of the Soaring Singers, a before-school choir of forty 4th and 5th-grade students. She also serves as the conductor of the third grade Beginning Choir as well as the director of the Soaring Sounds tone chimes ensemble and other musical extra-curricular activities. Prior to her position at PRES, Mrs. Keller taught at Erwin Middle School in Loveland, Fossil Ridge High School and Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School in Fort Collins, and Thimmig Elementary School in Brighton. Mrs. Keller and the Soaring Singers have been invited a second time to perform at CMEA in January 2025, the first being in 2015. In 2017, Mrs. Keller co-presented a session at CMEA entitled "Tried and True: Our Choral Favorites" with her fellow general music council members. She and her colleagues from Niwot

Concert Directors

Elementary and Longmont Estates Elementary also began collaborating to develop and prepare viable lesson plans and materials for the autism spectrum disorder programs at their respective schools. She and her colleagues presented their work at the CMEA Conference in 2018. Following their presentation, they shared their work again at the University of Colorado NAFME student chapter meeting in early spring. She served on the General Music Council for CMEA for eight years, four as the District 3 representative, and most recently as the Chair and Chair-Elect of the GMC and on the Board of Directors for CMEA. Mrs. Keller has two children with my husband, Travis Keller: Matthew (14) and Emma (11). She has been married for 18 years. She enjoys traveling, swimming, camping, hiking, attending Broncos and Rockies games, and any outdoor activities with her family. She loves exercising daily and caring for her mental and physical health. She loves attending Travis' and Matthew's marching band activities in the fall to cheer on the Fairview Marching Knights!



Bryan Kettlewell

Bryan Kettlewell is currently the Director of Choral Music at Thompson Valley

High School (TVHS) in Loveland, CO where he leads five different ensembles and has thrice been nominated for Teacher of the Year in his school district. Bryan and his wife Dana have a five year old son named Theo and are expecting their second child in November. Bryan is the co-founder of NOCO Singers and enjoys making music and collaborating with these fabulous musicians. In his spare time, Bryan enjoys being in the mountains as much as possible, especially with his family and his dogs, Eliza and Penny.



David Kish

Dr. David Kish is Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Metropolitan State University

of Denver where he conducts the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and teaches conducting and music education courses. In 2015, David

was appointed Conductor and Musical Director of the Colorado Wind Ensemble. He has twice served as a Faculty Fellow in the Center for Innovation at MSU Denver, is a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Band Research, and curator of the J.L. Gerardi Band Research Center. David is a recipient of the Faculty Senate Teaching Excellence Award at MSU Denver and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In 2019, he was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association (ABA) where he serves on the Board of Directors for the ABA Foundation. David has taught instrumental music at all educational levels, including a position as Associate Director of Bands and Franklin Fellow at the University of Georgia. His writings on wind literature, conducting pedagogy, and music education have been published in The Instrumentalist Magazine, Journal of Band Research, Music Educators Journal, and six volumes of the popular resource texts, Teaching Music Through Performance in Band. He is the author of Brass Methods: an Essential Resource for Educators, Conductors and Students, four volumes of Guides to Band Masterworks, Practicing with Purpose which received the 2018 "Best Music Education Book" from School Band & Orchestra Magazine and Visualizing Music which was recently released by GIA Publications. Dr. Kish earned the Doctor

of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees in Instrumental Conducting and Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania. He has presented sessions at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the National Association of Music Education Conference, and various state music education conferences. He was Conductor-in-Residence at Capital Normal University in Beijing, China, and maintains an active schedule as guest conductor, clinician, and lecturer throughout the United States. Dr. Kish can be reached at: dkish@msudenver.edu



Brian Krinke

BRIAN KRINKE teaches violin and viola at Colorado Mesa University, as well as conducting the

CMU Orchestra and teaching composition. He performs regularly as Concertmaster of the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, and has performed as violin soloist throughout the country, including concerto performances with the Minnesota Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and the Boca Raton Symphony. In addi-

tion to his work as a violinist, he has an extensive background as a pianist and composer. As a pianist Mr. Krinke has won international prizes in the Stravinsky Award International Competition, and the Young Keyboard Artists Association International Competition. As collaborative pianist he has toured Central America, performing for the President of Nicaragua and giving a chamber concert in the Teatro Nacional in San Jose, Costa Rica. Mr. Krinke's compositions have been performed in venues in New York City, including Merkin Hall and St. Paul's Chapel, as well as at Princeton University, Colorado Mesa University and on the Blue Sage Concert Series. His works have been performed by principals of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Minnesota Orchestra. Mr. Krinke studied composition at the University of Minnesota with Paul Fetler.



MB Krueger

Professor MB Krueger is the Director of Choral Activities at Metropolitan State University, where

she directs the Chorale, University Treble Choir, and University Basso Choir, and teaches Basic and Advanced Conducting. She earned her bachelor's degree at Michigan

Fostering a Love for Lifelong Music

State University, where she was a National Merit Scholar, and her master's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. MB served ten years on the board of the Colorado Chapter of American Choral Directors Association, and has been a regular presenter at various clinics and conferences through CoACDA and CMEA. She is also active as a clinician for high school honor choirs and choral festivals. MB is a member of St. Martin's Chamber Choir and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Choir, and has also sung professionally with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the Santa Fe Opera, the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, and others.



Gary Lewis

Gary Lewis is the Director of Orchestral Studies and Professor of Music in the College of Music at the

University of Colorado at Boulder. He is also Music Director and Conductor of the West Texas Symphony Orchestra. At CU Boulder Mr. Lewis conducts the University Symphony Orchestra and oversees the entire orchestra program. He also leads the graduate program in orchestral conducting including both the master's and doctoral level. As a strong advocate of music educa-

Concert Directors

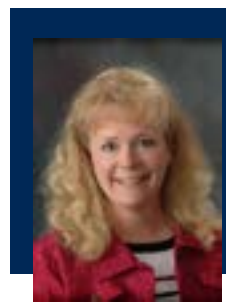
tion, Mr. Lewis has presented many in-service workshops for public school educators and numerous presentations at state and regional music education association conferences. In addition, he has conducted All-State Orchestras and Bands in over 25 states including Texas, Illinois, New York, Minnesota, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, New Jersey, Michigan, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Nevada, Wyoming, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and South Carolina along with the American String Teachers Association National Honor Orchestra and the Honor Orchestra of America. In 2010 Mr. Lewis became the founding Artistic Director of the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras and continues to serve as conductor of the Symphony Orchestra. Prior to his appointment at Colorado, Lewis served on the faculties of Texas Tech University, The Ohio State University, The University of Michigan, and Abilene Christian University. He is equally at home with professional, university, and youth ensembles. In addition to his regular posts, he has appeared with the Colorado Symphony, the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sichuan Philharmonic Orchestra, the Colorado Music Festival, Ballet Lubbock, the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, the Quad Cities Symphony Orchestra, the New Symphony Orchestra (Sofia, Bulgaria), and the Western Plains Opera Theater. Mr. Lewis is a Yamaha Master Educator.



Amy Magruder

Amy Magruder is an Elementary Music Specialist for Grades K-5 at Resurrection

Christian School in Loveland Colorado. She also directs the Bella Voce Select Choir, which is an auditioned choir of students in grades Four and Five. The choir has approximately 30 members, and was selected to perform at the 2019 Colorado Music Educators Annual Conference at the Broadmoor hotel in Colorado Springs. They have also performed at the 2018 UNC Jazz Festival, where they received Superior ratings. They have made several performances for the Colorado Rockies and the Colorado Eagles Pre-game activities, Choir Day, and singing of the National Anthem. Prior to her tenure at Resurrection Christian, she was an Elementary Music Specialist at Dayspring Christian Academy in Greeley Colorado. Ms. Magruder holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music from the University of Northern Colorado, and is proficient in Horn Performance and Voice and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Colorado Christian University.



Genice Matzke

Genice Matzke is the Director of Bands at Cheyenne Mountain High School in Colorado

Springs, CO, overseeing three concert bands, the jazz band program, pep band, drumline, and various small ensembles. Mrs. Matzke earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Missouri-St Louis and a Master's of Music Education degree from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), where she was a graduate teaching assistant in the Music Education Department under Dr. Elza Daugherty. As an educator, Mrs. Matzke has taught in St. Louis, MO, and Salida, Grand Junction, Monument, and Colorado Springs, CO. Her bands have received superior ratings in both concert and jazz performance at every school she has taught at. While at Grand Junction High School, her Jazz Ensemble I performed twice at the Colorado Music Educator Clinic/Conference as well as the Essentially Ellington Jazz Workshop in Snowmass, CO. In 2001, Mrs. Matzke was named the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" by the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Matzke's bands continued to thrive at Creekside Middle School in the Lewis-Palmer

School District. In 2003, her eighth grade jazz band performed at the Colorado Music Educator's Clinic/Conference and in 2005 the eighth grade Symphonic Band did the same. In the eleven years that Mrs. Matzke was at Liberty High School, the program grew from 90 total students to over 250 total students and more than 150 in marching band. The Marching Band went from 21st to a State Championship in 2016. The Wind Ensemble performed at CMEA in 2012 and 2016 and then at the prestigious Bands of America National Concert Band Festival in 2015 and 2017. Mrs. Matzke was selected as the 2014 John Asbury Secondary Teacher of the Year for Academy District 20 and in 2015 was given a Citation of Excellence by the National Band Association. Now "on the Mountain", Mrs. Matzke continues to strive for excellence. Under her direction, the Cheyenne Mountain program has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Dallas Winds Invitational Festival, CBA Regionals and State Festival, and in 2022 at CMEA with the Symphonic Band. Mrs. Matzke is a member of NAFME, CMEA, CBA, and Phi Beta Mu. She resides in Colorado Springs with her husband, Rex, an incredible musician and jazz educator. She is very proud of her two daughters, Jacie, who teaches K-5 general music at Explorer Elementary in D20, and Kateri, who teaches general music at Bellevue Elementary in the Cherry Creek School District.

Directing with Passion and Purpose



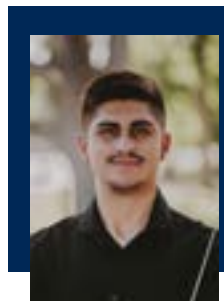
Darmon Meader

Recognized in both the jazz vocal and instrumental worlds, Darmon Meader

is a highly respected vocalist, arranger and saxophonist. Darmon has achieved international recognition as the founder, musical director, chief arranger, composer, producer, saxophonist, and vocalist with New York Voices. As a member of New York Voices, he has released numerous recordings on the GRP, RCA/Victor, Concord and MCGJazz labels. In 2013, NYV released two new CDs: New York Voices, Live with the WDR Big Band Cologne and their long awaited Christmas CD, Let it Snow, both of which feature Darmon's extensive arranging skills. In 2008, Darmon released his much anticipated debut solo CD, And So Am I, and in 2023 he released his long awaited follow up, "Losing My Mind." These solo projects are collections of jazz standards and original works, which reflects his varied interests and skills as a singer, saxophonist, writer and arranger. With New York Voices, Darmon has collaborated with a variety of artists including Ray Brown, Mark Murphy, Bernadette Peters, Ivan Lins, Bob Dorough, Don Sebesky, Nancy Wilson, Ann Hampton Callaway, Jim Hall,

Paquito D'Rivera and the Count Basie Orchestra. He has toured internationally, performing at such renowned venues as Carnegie Hall, North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreal Jazz Festival and Blue Note Jazz Clubs (New York and Japan). In addition to Darmon's New York Voices touring and recording commitments, he is increasingly busy as a soloist, sideman, studio musician and composer. Darmon continues to be actively involved in music education, working as a clinician and guest artist at both the high school and university levels. Darmon has been the guest conductor for numerous All-State Jazz Ensembles and has made artist-in-residence appearances at various schools, including Northwestern University, University of Louisville, University of Miami, Humber College, Columbia College, University of Georgia and University of North Texas. Darmon has also taught at numerous domestic and international music workshops including the Inzigkoven Vocal Jazz Workshop in Germany, various IAJE Teacher's Training Institutes, the Western Michigan University Vocal Jazz Camp, the Vocal Pop & Jazz Days workshop in the Netherlands, the Tritone Jazz Fantasy Camp and the NYV Vocal Jazz Camps. Many of Darmon's choral, vocal jazz, and instrumental arrangements are available through the following publishers: Carl Fischer Music, Shawnee Press, Hal Leonard, Alfred Music, Belwin Mills and UNC JazzPress.

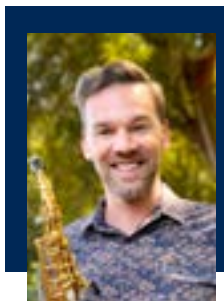
Concert Directors



Drew Mendizabal

Andrew (Drew) Mendizabal is in his fourth year teaching orchestra. He helped open

Timnath Middle-High School in the fall of 2022. As the Orchestra Director, Mr. Mendizabal teaches 6th through 12th grade over six sections of orchestra. These include two sections of beginning orchestra and two upper-level middle and high school orchestras. Additionally, Mr. Mendizabal is a director with the Northern Colorado Youth Orchestras and works with the Fort Collins Symphony as their Apprentice Conductor. Mr. Mendizabal is from Las Vegas, Nevada. He studied clarinet and conducting at the University of Nevada, Reno and received his Bachelor of Music Education in 2019. Upon graduating, he moved to Fort Collins to pursue a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting at Colorado State University. During his time at CSU, he worked closely with Wes Kenney and Leslie Stewart as the graduate assistant for the CSU Symphony and Concert Orchestra. Mr. Mendizabal is eager to build a thriving orchestra program at TMHS and hopes to provide various string opportunities for all students. He currently resides in Fort Collins with his 5-year old lab mix, Rocky.



Nathan Mertens

US-based saxophonist, Nathan Mertens (he/him) currently serves as Assistant Profes-

sor of Saxophone at the University of Colorado Boulder. As an active soloist and chamber musician, he has performed in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Bolivia, the United Kingdom, and throughout the United States. He has performed as a soloist with ensembles including the Busan Philharmonic Orchestra, Austin Saxophone Ensemble, Hastings Symphony Orchestra, and has played within the San Antonio Symphony, Boulder Philharmonic, Fort Collins Symphony, and the Omaha Symphony. Previously, Mertens was on faculty at the University of Arkansas, Baylor University, and Hastings College, in addition to being a regular guest clinician at universities and high schools throughout the US. Mertens studied at The University of Texas at Austin - Butler School of Music, Hastings College, and Kunitachi College of Music, with Stephen Page, Debra Rhodes, and Masato Kumoi, respectively. Mertens found his artistic voice with Yamaha saxophones, D'Addario reeds, and Rousseau mouthpieces, and he is now an endorsed artist for these brands.



Bethany Meyer

Bethany Meyer is the head choir director and performing arts chair at Falcon High

School in Peyton, CO. She enjoys "talking shop" with other choir directors, especially in the areas of program logistics and growth/retention. Published with Colla Voce Music and Hal Leonard, she has also written several commissions for choirs across the state of Colorado. She has been fortunate enough to visit with and clinic middle school and high school choirs throughout southern Colorado, including choirs from Colorado Springs, Salida, and Pueblo.



Andraya Perron

Andraya teaches choir, piano and musical theatre at Fort Collins High School. Originally from Minnesota, she graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead Minnesota with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Music Education. While at Concordia, she was assistant conductor of the Concor-

dia Choir under the direction of Dr. Rene Clausen. Andraya is the Combined League Honor Choir chair and co-founder of NOCO Singers.

dia Choir under the direction of Dr. Rene Clausen. Andraya is the Combined League Honor Choir chair and co-founder of NOCO Singers.



Beth Robison

Beth Robison has been a choral music educator for over thirty years. She has taught at Adams State

University for sixteen years and was one of the founding members of their ETHOS: Exploring Equity through Music initiative. During that time, she has conducted numerous honor choirs throughout the region, including the Colorado Middle All-State Choir last February. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance and Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from Ohio University, and earned her DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Kansas. Between her undergraduate and graduate degrees, Beth sang professionally in the New York City metropolitan area, appearing at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and other major concert venues, touring nationally and internationally premiering works by American composers.



Taylor Rodgers

Taylor Rodgers, a native of Oklahoma, is the Director of Choral Activities at Arvada West

High School in the Jeffco School District. He currently teaches six curricular ensemble classes. Under his direction, the Arvada West High School choirs have been selected to perform for the Southwest American Choral Directors Association Conference with Ola Gjeilo (2024) and alongside VOCES8 in London at Cadogan Hall (2024). Company West has recently been selected to perform for the Colorado Music Educators Association Conference in Colorado Springs (2025). Prior to his time working in Colorado, Taylor taught in Dunwoody, Georgia for 7 years. In that time, he served as the choral chair for GMEA's District IV as well as for DeKalb County. Taylor has been an active member in music education advocacy, serving both the Georgia Music Educators Association as well as the Jeffco Strategic Plan for the Arts committee. This year, he will start his four-year service as a Metro Governor on the Colorado All-State Choir Board. Taylor holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Central Oklahoma. He is a member of the American Choral Directors

Association (ACDA), the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME), and the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA). He is certified by the AP CollegeBoard to teach AP Music Theory, and he regularly collaborates as a pianist.



David Ruminski

David Ruminski is currently one of three directors at The Classical Academy in Colorado

Springs, Colorado. He is entering his third year at The Classical Academy where he teaches 7th and 8th grade band. He is also the assistant director for the high school symphonic band, marching band, jazz bands, and percussion ensemble. During his time at TCA, both the 7th grade and 8th grade bands received superior ratings at the Colorado Bandmaster's Association Middle School Concert Band Festival. The high school percussion ensemble has also received superior ratings from the Academy District 20 Solo and Ensemble Festival. Before his position at The Classical Academy, Mr. Ruminski taught K-5 general music at Rockrimmon Elementary School for three years.

Mr. Ruminski received his bachelor's in music education from the Univer-

Concert Directors

Encouraging Excellence in Every Measure

sity of Northern Colorado where he studied under Dr. John Adler and assistant principal trumpet of the Colorado Symphony, Philip Hem-bree. He has performed in many groups including the Pikes Peak Brass Band, Colorado Swing Band, University of Northern Colorado Jazz Bands, Symphonic Band, The Pride of the Rockies Marching Band, and even performed with the studio trumpet ensemble at the National Trumpet Convention. Mr. Ruminski has also performed in Grand Mesa Publisher recordings with the University Symphonic Band under Dr. Richard Mayne. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in music education from the American Band College through Central Washington University.

David's mentors in music education include Dan Bell, Jack Yonce, Phil Olivas, Mike Mozingo, Dr. Richard Mayne, Dr. Kenneth Singleton, Christina Schwartz-Soper, and Anthony Ebert. He is a member of the Colorado Band Master's Association, Colorado Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education.

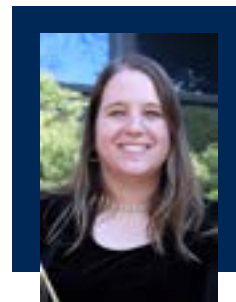
When not teaching, David enjoys being with his wife, Emily, and daughter Aubree. He also enjoys watching the Denver Broncos, skiing, and working out.



Abby Schuelke

Abby is the Music Director at Coal Ridge High School where she teaches the choral,

instrumental, and general music programs. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire in December of 2019 with a Bachelor's of Music Education. When the COVID shutdown occurred shortly after graduation, Abby and her now husband, Jacob, packed up their cars and cats and moved to the western slope. Since starting her career 5 years ago, Abby has served as a three-time clinician for the Jazz Aspen Street Horns, a multi-level arranger and composer, and most recently, a percussion accompanist for the Colorado All-State Choirs. The CRHS Varsity Choir, inspired by their 1st place win at the Music in the Parks Festival in Utah, is honored to represent their school and district at this prestigious CMEA performance.



Christina Schwartz Soper

Christina has lived and worked in the state of Colorado for the last 21 years.

Though she comes from Maryland and is a proud University of Maryland "Terrapin", she is proud to call Colorado her second home. Educationally, Christina began her collegiate career at Shenandoah University (then Conservatory) and then transferred to the University of Maryland at College Park where she completed her BA in Music Education. While in Maryland, she performed horn with the university wind ensemble, orchestra, a woodwind and brass quintet as well as area orchestras like the Prince George's Philharmonic. Currently she is the second horn with the Colorado Springs area Chamber Orchestra of the Springs and principal horn of the Rocky Mountain Wind Symphony. Ms. Soper is in her 21st year of teaching band at The Classical Academy. Over that duration the program has seen many achievements and successes. The junior high and high school ensembles have been recognized with many excellent and superior ratings, and the high school wind ensemble has been invited to perform at the State Concert Band festival several times. Aside from

her son Christian, a pride Ms. Soper holds is seeing the growth the students and student musicians in the TCA program as they hold each other to higher and higher standards. This has occurred over the years, with the assistance of fellow directors Anthony Ebert and David Ruminski, previous directors: Kevin Whitelaw, Cody Jackson, Paul Jacobson, Amber Niskern and Randall Scheer, the students' parents and families, the wonderful clinicians who grace our rehearsal spaces, the private teachers of those fortunate to have them, and our supportive band community, school community, and administration. Music takes and is deserving of a supportive village and the instrumental program at The Classical Academy can boast of one. For this, Christina is very grateful.



Sarah Smith

The highlight of Sarah Smith's 17-year teaching career is her current assignment as the music

teacher for South Mesa Elementary School in Pueblo School District 70. She loves teaching the joy of music and fundamentals to Kindergarten through 5th-grade students. She created a successful Wildcat Ukulele Choir seven years ago from

the ground up. Her students have had the opportunity to perform the national anthem for the past two years at the Colorado Rockies Choir Day and for Colorado State University Pueblo's basketball games. In addition, she directs multiple musicals throughout the school year and runs South Mesa's student council and gifted and talented programs. Sarah received her bachelor's degree from Colorado State University-Pueblo with endorsements in both music and elementary education and holds two master's degrees from Western Governors University. Outside of teaching Sarah enjoys spending time with her husband, Jim, son Brendon, and daughter Raegan.



Shilo Stroman

Shilo Stroman is a musical chameleon determined to fit into any musical situation sup-

ported by his wide range of musical talent, a laid back attitude and a desire to push himself artistically. His thirst for performing began at the age of 5 when his parents purchased a toy Drumset. Armed with his dad's record collection, an empty basement and chopsticks as drumsticks, the journey began. He continues on this path

with a diverse schedule of performing, composing and teaching.

A versatile performer, Mr. Stroman's credits range from playing triangle in symphony orchestras, electric bass in salsa bands, drums in funk bands and flower pots in chamber groups. Performing Stroman originals, Red Hot Chili Pepper covers and the occasional country tune, Shilo's contemporary jazz quartet, Square Peg, released their first recording, Searching in 2013. In 2006, he commissioned and performed the world premiere of Sticks and Stones variations for drumset and wind ensemble by Jim Bonney. Shilo can also be heard on various Jazz and singer/songwriter recordings. In 2017, he commissioned and performed the premier of Scala Enigmatica for vibraphone and symphonic band by James David.

As an educator, Shilo is an instructor of Percussion and Jazz at Colorado State University where he teaches lessons, percussion ensemble, Jazz Ensemble II, Jazz History and methods courses. Mr. Stroman is also very active in the marching arts and was recently the Artistic Director/Front Ensemble Arranger for The Battalion Drum and Bugle Corps from Salt Lake, UT. He also arranges/composes for several WGI groups and high schools around the country.

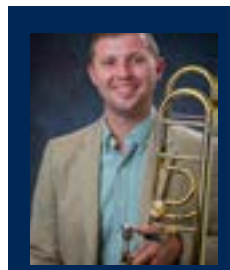
Shilo's love of travel and sharing his passion for music education has led him to presenting clinics, adjudicating festivals and judging com-

Concert Directors

Celebrating the Journey of Music Making

petitions. He has presented clinics at several Percussive Arts Society Days of Percussion, State Music education conferences, middle schools, high schools and colleges throughout the western United States. In November 2014, he presented at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. He has adjudicated at the UNC/Greeley Jazz Festival, The Kinser Jazz Festival as well as many smaller Jazz festivals. He also regularly judges throughout the western United States for marching band and indoor percussion competitions.

Shilo is a Yamaha Performing Artist and a proud endorser of Promark, Evans, and Sabian products.



Sterling Tanner

Performer, educator, and clinician Dr. Sterling Tanner currently serves as the Assistant

Professor of Trombone at the University of Colorado Boulder. An S.E. Shires Performing Artist, Sterling Tanner has appeared as a soloist throughout the United States and abroad, including performances in Hong Kong and Valencia, Spain. Sterling Tanner was named the winner of the 2016 and 2018 Amer-

ican Trombone Workshop Division III Bass Trombone Solo Competition and the 2015 Southeastern Trombone Symposium S.E. Shires Solo Competition. Sterling Tanner frequently performs with the Boulder Philharmonic, Boulder Chamber Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony, and Opera Colorado. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Sterling Tanner earned his bachelor's in music education from Columbus State University. He holds MM and DMA degrees in trombone performance from the University of Texas at Austin.



Tyler Thomas

Dr. Tyler Thomas has held teaching positions at the middle and high school level in his home state

of New York, and has most recently served as co-director of The School for Music Vocations in Creston, Iowa. While at SMV, he directed the pop ensemble, singer-songwriter ensemble, and two of the vocal jazz ensembles, taught applied lessons in jazz voice and songwriting, and a wide array of courses including those in music theory, ear training, performance psychology, studio recording, production, and music

business. An accomplished jazz vocalist and songwriter, Dr. Thomas understudied for Kurt Elling in the world premier of Rich DeRosa's Life in Poetry and Music, and his own original song cycle A Song of Once Upon a Time was hailed by Roger Emerson as "stunning." Dr. Thomas is a past co-chair of the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships, has worked with high school jazz choirs as a clinician and adjudicator across Iowa, and has served as a guest conductor for honors mixed choirs and vocal jazz ensembles in Pennsylvania and New York. He holds a B.M. in Music Education from SUNY Potsdam, and both an M.M. and D.M.A. in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas.



Michelle White

Michelle White is currently the 6-12 music and choir director at Swallows

Charter Academy in Pueblo West, Colorado. She graduated with a BA from Adams State University in 2015, and her Masters in Music Education and Kodály levels at Colorado State University in 2019. In addition to teaching at SCA, she has served on the Colorado Middle School All State board

since 2017 and is currently the senior Co-Chair. Music education is extremely important to Michelle as she believes that music can help our students find community, build life skills, and have fun.



Dawn Wisdom

Ms. Dawn Wisdom-Dawn Wisdom has been teaching music for 36 years,

29 of them as vocal music director at Cheyenne Mountain High School. Her first teaching years were in NE, which is also where she earned her BA in K-12 Vocal and Instrumental Music at University of Nebraska-Kearney. She serves as the Chair of Vocal/ General music for the Colorado Springs District 12 schools and directs five choral ensembles at CMHS. Dawn has served on the leadership boards of the CO Music Educators Association, the CO ACDA, and the national AEA board. Dawn has been a clinician, guest conductor and adjudicator in several states, most recently conducting a regional Honor Choir in Wyoming. Wisdom was selected as the 2019 ABE Performing Arts Teacher of the Year, the 2011 Pikes Peak Choral Educator of the Year and the 2001 CMHS Teacher of the

Year. The Cheyenne Mountain High School choirs have traveled to state, national and regional festivals earning consistent superior ratings under her direction. Ms. Wisdom's choirs have opened for several professional groups and have enjoyed performing special concerts in the community and across the USA. Under Wisdom's direction, CMHS ensembles have performed at CMEA multiple times. Ms. Wisdom has hosted the CHSAA Show Choir Festival and CHSAA Jazz & A Cappella Festival at her school for many years, and hosts Aca on the Mountain- an biannual a cappella festival for HS and collegiate groups. Ms. Wisdom's a cappella group Crimson & Slate is a nationally recognized ensemble. They have appeared in the ICHSA National Finals 8 times, the AEA National Championship, and NCHSA National Final.

Conference Presenters

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Presenters



Amy Abbot

Amy is in her 27th year of teaching elementary music, with 24 years in St. Vrain Valley School district.

She has a bachelors in Music Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder and masters of Music Education with a Kodály emphasis from Colorado State University. She has Kodály certifications from Portland State University and Colorado State University, studying under Jill Trinko, Susan Brumfield, Vicki Loebell, Sean Döibler, Sue Leithold-Bowcock, Gabor Viragh and Ann Eisen. Amy has presented at OAKE conferences, CMEA Conferences, Oregon Arts Alliance State Conference, OAKE chapters AKTS, CAKE, KEGA, KET, KEWT, KMEK, LUCKE, MTAKE, NCAKE, NPKC, OKE PKSOR, ROCKE, SWOKE,

TRIKE, and professional development at Amarillo ISD, Bakersfield MEA, Fort Bend ISD and St. Vrain Valley School Districts. She has taught Kodály Level 2 pedagogy, folksong and analysis at CSU.

She served on the ROCKE board for over 7 years as President, Secretary and Member-at-Large. She co-chaired the OAKE 2020 National Conference. She teaches general music at Red Hawk elementary in Erie and her 4/5 choir puts on a spring musical. She loves spending time with her husband, son and daughter, cross stitching, blogging (<http://www.music-laabbott.com>) and creating for her TpT store: Music a la Abbott.



Carla Aguilar

Carla E. Aguilar, Ph.D, is a professor and the Coordinator of Music Education at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her research interests include policy related to music education, access to music education, student-centered learning, and contemporary practices in music education. She has presented research at the International Society of Music Education, National Association for Music Education (USA), and the Society for Music Teacher Education (USA).

Returning to Colorado, he was band director at Glenwood Springs High School (1976-79) and band director at Central High School in Grand Junction (1979-94) when he was named assistant principal for Grand Mesa Middle School for two years before taking over as music coordinator for the district.

It is Ambrosier's music expertise that has him on center stage here tonight. Ambrosier is one of the architects of the CHSAA Music Adjudication process where large group and solo and ensemble contestants are measured in an educationally objective manner, rather than a traditional subjective format.

Ambrosier has been responsible for developing the educational process for the adjudicators and helps in assigning the adjudicators to the CHSAA large group festivals.

Priscilla Arasaki holds a Master's degree in Music Education from the University of Colorado Boulder and a bachelor's degree in Music Studies from the University of Texas at Austin.



Priscilla Arasaki

As a violinist, she has studied with Strelsa Burks, Eugene Gratoich, and Harumi Rhodes, and has received teacher training certification through the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Currently, Priscilla is the Orchestra and Mariachi director at Sunset Middle School in the St. Vrain Valley School District. She began her teaching career in Austin, Texas, later moving to Colorado where she developed an interest in mariachi. Priscilla established a mariachi program at Skyline High School and has since expanded mariachi ensembles throughout the district. Additionally, she is a member of Las Dahlias, an all-female mariachi group that has performed with the Colorado Symphony and at Governor Polis' Inaugural Blue Sneaker Ball, promoting mariachi music across the Front Range

Jenny received her Bachelors of Music Therapy from Utah State University, and her Master of Music with a Kodály Certificate from Colorado State University. Jenny has served in multiple capacities on the board for ROCKE, the Regional Organization of Colorado Kodály Educators. In addition to teaching school, Jenny works for Young Voices of Colorado developing their First Voices program. She maintains a private piano on

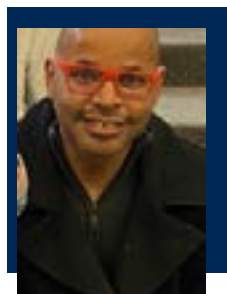


Jenny Authier

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Presenters

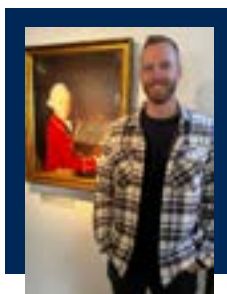


Roy Bailey

Roy Bailey is a Colorado-based educator and musician. Roy's career has been

replete with opportunities to develop and inspire many upcoming musicians. As an educator, Roy has taught and/or led jazz bands, concert bands, percussion ensembles, modern band groups, private lessons on various instruments: drums/percussion, keyboard, bass and saxophone. Roy recently began two community projects: DJ Concepts and Lifted Voices (spoken word/poetry through music). In addition to teaching, Roy presents workshops for elementary schools, colleges and community events. He has presented for the Colorado Music Educators Association, The Good Teaching Conference (California), Texas State Teacher Association, Colorado Department of Education, Adams State University, Nebraska Music Educators Association, Modern Band Summit-to name a few. Among Roy's comprehensive improvisation curriculum, topics that are often requested include: exploring state standards in modern music, culturally responsiveness to music and SEL outlets to music. Roy has also had the opportunity to perform with a vari-

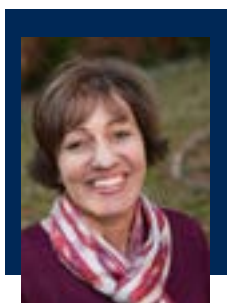
ety of musicians/genres. Currently, Roy is working on his 2nd music methods book: A Neo Soul Songbook Too. This work was inspired and tested by his amazing students.



Dave Balestrini

Dave Balestrini graduated from Nazareth University with a degree in Music Education. He has

been a music educator in Denver and Aurora Colorado for the past 10 years. He has worked with K-8 general music, band, orchestra and occasionally choir. He primarily focuses on teaching instrumental music in the middle school general music class setting.



Gail Barnes

Barnes is professor of Music Education and Director of the USC String Project. She received her

BM and MM from the University of Michigan and her PhD from the Ohio State University. Barnes teaches courses in stringed instrument methods and orchestra literature

Barnes's research interests revolve around community and school orchestra programs, with a particular focus on ensuring equitable access to music education for underserved youth. Her research has shed light on the positive impact of parental involvement and a supportive home environment on students' musical development. Furthermore, she has shared her expertise and research findings at conferences across the United States and abroad, delivering insightful presentations in countries such as Australia, Italy, China, Greece, Scotland, and Brazil.

She is a co-author of Measures of Success for String Orchestra (published by The FJH Music Company), a method book for young string players. She is the founder of a forum for string and orchestra teachers on Facebook that has over 11000 members.

Dr. Barnes continues to work with student-aged musicians in her role as Director of the USC String Project. In addition, she has conducted All-State Orchestras in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Michigan. She was the head adjudicator at the 2022 Victoria School Orchestra Festival (Melbourne, Australia).



Andy Beck

Andy Beck received a bachelor's degree in music education from Ithaca College and a master's

degree in music education from Northwest Missouri State University. Andy currently is the Director of Choral Publications at Alfred Music.



Laura Beese

Laura Beese is in her sixteenth year of teaching general music and currently teaches K-5

music at Shepardson Elementary in Fort Collins, Colorado. She earned her B.M. degree in Music Education from the University of Oklahoma and her M.M. in Music Education with Kodály emphasis from Colorado State University. She received her Orff-Schulwerk Certification through Arizona State University and completed Modern Band training through the Colorado chapter of Music Will. She was honored as the Fort Collins Rotary Club Teacher of the Month in May of 2023 and loves leading Rock Bands and a Choir at Shepardson.

Show Your Appreciation for Our Presenters

Her graduate research project on the link between communal music making and prosocial skills in children earned her the award for Highest Achievement in Scholarship and Research for the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance at the CSU graduate showcase in 2017. Laura has presented workshops on SEL in the Music Room and on infusing modern music into the general music classroom. She currently serves as the ROCKE President.

Laura enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, running, and cycling.

Dana Wilson, and Jenni Brandon. This series continued through 2024 with a performance and surround studio recording of Jerod Impich-chaachaaha' Tate's Ghost of the White Deer. In July 2024, she performed Joan Tower's Red Maple on the mainstage concerto concert at the International Double Reed Society global conference.

Cayla's debut album, Double or Nothing (2018), consists of premiere recordings for solo and duo bassoon, and her second project, a collection of new compositions titled American Bassoon Voices released in 2023.



Cayla Bellamy

Dr. Cayla Bellamy is a performer, collaborator, and pedagogue dedicated to advancing

the music field through redefining standard practices in the bassoon studio and chamber ensemble settings. She currently serves as Associate Professor of Bassoon and Director of the New Music Ensemble at Colorado State University.

As a bassoonist and advocate for living composers, Cayla began a performance series in 2019 to present modern concerti by Joan Tower, Libby Larsen, James Stephenson, Mathieu Lussier,



Daniel Berard

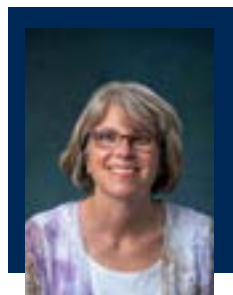
Mr. Daniel Berard is a 30-year veteran educator, conductor, and clinician with a wide range

of experience with students of all levels, from beginning to professional musicians, and a commitment to developing individual musicianship, musical literacy, and leadership skills. Mr. Berard retired from public education in 2024, and continues his commitment to music education and music educators through an active clinic and mentoring schedule. Mr. Berard is 1 of 17 directors nation-wide to be named a Yamaha Master Educator,

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is active as a clinician, adjudicator and conductor, and has presented at numerous clinics and conventions across the country, including the prestigious Midwest Clinic in 2019. Mr. Berard has received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence, and was named one of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference” by School Band & Orchestra Magazine.



Margaret Berg

Margaret Berg, Professor of Music Education and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

at the University of Colorado, has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in music education and string pedagogy. Margaret has published articles in various journals including Music Educators Journal, American String Teacher, Journal of Research in Music Education, Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education, Psychology of Music, Journal of Music Teacher Education and Music Education Research). She has also contributed to the Teaching Music Through Performance series. She has presented at the CMEA Clinic Conference and at several national conferences including ASTA, NafME, and SMTE. Margaret has served

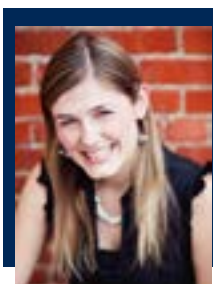
the National ASTA Executive Board and was awarded the ASTA String Researcher Award. studio and plays the viola with the Aurora Symphony.



Rikelle Berry

Mrs. Berry School in the Fall of 2016. She taught choir and drama and put on four successful

afterschool shows! She made the move to Mead High School in the fall of 2018, and has been there ever since! Since being at Mead, Mrs. Berry has grown her program to include 130 students and 6 choirs. She added her districts first Advanced Treble Jazz Group, Aurora Blues. As well as having a strong choir program, Mrs. Berry is also the director of Mead’s musicals. She has directed Drowsy Chaperone, Beauty and The Beast, Sound of Music, Seussical, Curtains, and most recently Cinderella. Mrs. Berry loves teaching music and appreciates her students hard work and dedication to her program!

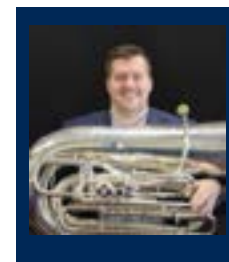


Meredith Blecha-Wells

Praised for her “beautifully full and lyrically strong tone” by Gramophone

Magazine, Meredith Blecha-Wells is a sought-after performer and instructor. She has played throughout much of the United States, as well as Europe, Australia, South America, and Asia. Currently based in Colorado, Dr. Blecha-Wells recently joined the faculty at Colorado State University. A passionate pedagogue, Dr. Blecha-Wells is committed to raising the efficiency and joy in learning. Her students have gone on to remarkable programs including the Juilliard School, the New England Conservatory, the Eastman School of Music, Rice University, the University of Michigan, the Manhattan School of Music, the San Francisco Conservatory, Northwestern University, Indiana University, the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, among others. Additionally, her students have won several competitions including the Classics Alive Artists, Enkor International Competition, American Protégé Competition, Ad Astra String Competition, MTNA, Hyeckha String Competition, among others. Dr. Blecha-Wells students have also been selected to participate in prestigious festivals including the National Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra 2, Brevard Music Festival, Eastern Music Festival, Green Mountain Music Festival, and several others. Dr. Blecha-Wells received a bachelor’s and master’s degree in Cello Performance from Indiana University, studying under Janos Starker and Helga Winold. She also holds a Doctor of Musical

Arts in Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, where she served as the teaching assistant to Distinguished Professor Alan Harris. Additional studies include festival participation at the Taos School of Music, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival.



Christopher Bloom

Dr. Christopher Bloom comes to CSU from Florida State University and recently

completed his D.M.A. in Tuba Performance. While at FSU, he taught undergraduate tuba majors, coached chamber music, and conducted the undergraduate tuba/euphonium ensemble. As a soloist, Dr. Bloom has performed recitals at the International Tuba and Euphonium Conference and The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own” Tuba and Euphonium Workshop. He won prizes at the prestigious Leonard Falcone Solo Artist Tuba Competition, The International Tuba and Euphonium Conference Arnold Jacobs Mock Orchestral Audition Competition, and the Southeast Regional Tuba and Euphonium Conference Solo Artist Tuba Competition. As

an orchestral musician, he is principal tubist with the Baton Rouge Symphony and frequently collaborates with regional orchestras in Florida, including the Tallahassee and Panama City Symphonies. An advocate of chamber music, he is a co-founder of the Capital City Brass Quintet and Honseo Tuba/Euphonium Quartet. He regularly performs recitals at conferences and universities across the U.S.



Peter Boonshaft

Called one of the most exciting and exhilarating voices in music education

today, Peter Loel Boonshaft has been invited to speak and conduct in every state in the United States and around the world. Honored by the National Association for Music Education and Music For All as the first recipient of the “George M. Parks Award for Leadership in Music Education,” Dr. Boonshaft is Director of Education for Jupiter Band Instruments, and his weekly “Boonshaft’s Blog” for music educators continues to inspire teachers everywhere. He has received official proclamations from the Governors of five states and a Certificate of Appreciation from former President Ronald Reagan, as well as perform-

ing for former President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush, former President Bill Clinton, and for Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He has been awarded membership in Pi Kappa Lambda and Alpha Chi, as well as twice receiving the University of Hartford Regent’s Award and that University’s Outstanding Music Educator Award. His honors also include being selected three times as a National Endowment for the Arts “Artist in Residence,” three times awarded Honorary Life Membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society, receiving the Al G. Wright Award of Distinction from the Women Band Directors International, and being selected for the Center for Scholarly Research and Academic Excellence at Hofstra University, where he is Professor Emeritus of Music.

Extremely active as a guest conductor, clinician and speaker for conferences, festivals, concerts and workshops nationally and internationally, he has guest conducted the NafME (The National Association for Music Education) National High School Honors Band, NafME All-Eastern Band, NafME All-Northwest Band, NafME All-Eastern Directors Band, Goldman Memorial Band, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band, U.S. Marine Band New Orleans, Western International Band Clinic, Prague Castle Guard/Czech Police Symphonic Band, U.S.

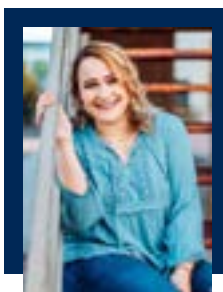
Boost Your Skills

Session

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Department of Defense Dependents Schools: Europe Honors Music Fest Band, and the Association of Concert Bands National Conference Band. In addition, he has served as a clinician for the American String Teachers Association National Orchestra Festival, is an adjudicator and clinician for the Music For All/Bands of America National Concert Band Festival, and serves as Chief Adjudicator for the Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival. He has served as a speaker for the Canadian Music Educators Association National Convention, NAFME National Conference, American Band College, Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, Music For All/Bands and Orchestras of America Symposium, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, Samuel Barber Institute for Music Educators, Music Education Center of America, EARCOS Conferences in China and Thailand, Singapore Ministry of Education Band Conference, KIPP National School Summit, NESA Council of Overseas Schools Conferences in Thailand and the Philippines, and as keynote speaker for the RPMDA, NAFME Northwest Division Conference, NAFME Southern Division Conference, European Music Educators Convention, National Convention of the American String Teachers Association, National

Convention of the American School Band Directors Association, ACDA Western Division Conference, East Asia Regional Council of Schools, Maryborough Music Conference of Australia, International Music Education Summit, National Conference of the Organization of American Kodály Educators, The Sydney (Australia) Music Education Conference, and numerous international, national, state and regional music education conferences.



Parker Borszich

Parker Borszich is a currently the CNAfME president. She is finishing up her

last year at Western Colorado University where she serves as the local NAFME president and will be receiving her degree in Music Education in May of 2025.



Wesley Broadnax

Dr. Wesley Broadnax is Associate Professor of Music & Director of Bands at the

University of Northern Colorado. He conducts the wind ensemble, chamber winds, and guides all aspects of the graduate wind conducting program. He has conducted several All-State & Honor Bands nationally, having conducted wind orchestras throughout Canada, Europe, & South America. Dr. Broadnax is a strong advocate for new music, DEI initiatives, and serves as a regular clinician/adjudicator for various wind band and orchestra festivals. In addition, he is actively involved with commissioning projects, and he has won the praises of several composers with performances (and in some cases, premiere performances) of their works, including Joseph Schwantner, David Maslanka, Michael Weinstein, Dana Wilson, Jere Hutcheson, Chen Yi, Paul Barsom, Lawrence Singer, Joel Puckett, Nicholas Vasallo, Stephen Rush, Angelo Sormani, Raphael Fusco, Drew Michael McWeeney, Eric Sessler, Mauricio Charbonnier, Aaron McMichael, and Kevin Poelking. He is a member of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), Colorado Music Educa-

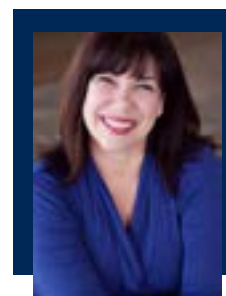
tors Association (CMEA), Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity, Association of Concert Bands (ACB), and he is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, Phi Mu Alpha & Pi Kappa Lambda organizations.



Julia Brochey Taylor

Julia Brochey Taylor is a music and GT educator and performing musician of

over 20 years who teaches students of all ages privately and within the music classroom. As an educator and arts advocate, her primary focus includes gifted/2e learners within the arts.



Susan Brumfield

Dr. Susan Brumfield is Professor of Music Education at Texas Tech

University. She is an internationally recognized author, composer and Kodaly specialist; recent publications include the First, We

Sing! Series of Kodály-inspired teaching materials, Hot Peas and Barley-O: Children's Songs and Games from Scotland, Over the Garden Wall: Children's Songs and Games from England and most recently, Jean Ritchie's Kentucky Mother Goose, both published by Hal Leonard. She also has an extensive catalog of choral publications. Her areas of expertise include methodology, folk music research and performance, and choral music for treble voices. She is a native of South Louisiana.



Jennifer Bruton

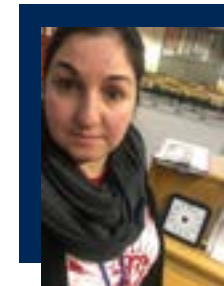
Dr. Jennifer Bruton is the Director of Choral Activities at Colorado State

University Pueblo. Her choirs have performed at the state collegiate festival, CMEA, and alongside the Pueblo Choral Society and Soli Deo Gloria of Colorado Springs. The choirs also present concerts regularly in the Pueblo community.

Dr. Bruton's career has included serving as a church music director, performing as a vocalist, and conducting choirs, musical theatre productions, and operas. With degrees in Music Marketing, Vocal

Performance and Pedagogy, and Conducting, her versatility has her in demand as a conductor, voice teacher, performer, and consultant. Dr. Bruton has sung with the San Antonio Symphony, at the Festival of the Aegean, and as a featured performer at FestivalSouth and the Natchez Festival of Music.

Dr. Bruton has produced, directed conducted, and performed in numerous musicals and operas. Her conducting credits include "Kiss Me Kate," "Assassins," "The Mikado," "The Magic Flute," and "Don Giovanni." Her directing credits include "The King and I," "Smokey Joe's Café," "Hairspray," and "SpongeBob the Musical." Her former students teach and perform around the world, including in the cast of "MJ the Musical," the touring company of "Hamilton," and at universities across the country.



Yolanda Calderón

Yolanda Calderón has been teaching General Music in Aurora, Colorado for

13 years. Miss Calderón holds a BM/BME from Metropolitan State University of Denver. She is currently teaching at Arkansas Elementary.

Explore New Ideas

Sessions

Presenters

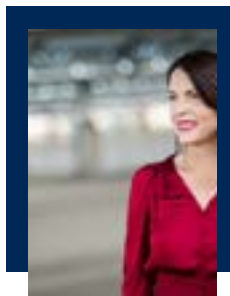
Fuel for Music Educators



Rhonda Cameron

Since graduating from CU Boulder with her Bachelors in Music Education

in 2010, Rhonda Cameron has dedicated herself to nurturing the musical talents of K-12 students. She has gained experience in a wide range of music classrooms, having taught choir, band, orchestra, guitar, percussion ensembles, and general music. She has also taught in a variety of settings, from rural Del Norte to suburban Colorado Springs, and currently serves in District 49 at Odyssey Elementary School. In this time, she has also had the opportunity to serve as a guest clinician at Bennett High School and Kit Carson High School. When she's not immersed in the world of music education, Rhonda enjoys running, cycling, trivia, and spending time with her daughters.



Clelyn Chapin

Dr. Clelyn Chapin serves as the Associate Director of Choirs at University of

Northern Colorado where she leads choral ensembles and teaches future music educators. In addition to her work at UNC, Dr. Chapin conducts the Denver Women's Chorus, a 170-voice treble choir founded for members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community with a focus on social justice programming. As a clinician and presenter throughout the country, she focuses on a combination of rehearsal practices and leadership strategies that promote artistic singing and community building within ensembles. Before beginning at UNC, Dr. Chapin spent 14 years teaching and conducting secondary, collegiate, and community ensembles in Texas, Colorado, and Michigan.



Mary Claxton

Mary Claxton has spent her professional life at the joyful intersection of music performance, teaching, and advocacy. She now serves as the Director of Teaching and Learning for Music Will, creating culturally responsive materials for students and teachers. Among her projects is the Music Will Academy platform, which brings unprecedented access and se-

quenced learning to music teachers worldwide. She continues to perform often on drums, vocals and ukulele - working hard to further her skills and continue the conversation with her community and students about the role music plays in reflecting and changing our world.



Matthew Coronado

Mathew Coronado is the director of vocal music at Central High School in Grand Junction, Colorado, where he leads six vocal ensembles and teaches Music Appreciation. His choirs have earned top honors at regional festivals and have performed at the state-level CMEA Conference as an honor group. He also serves as the music director for CHS's musical theater productions. With a rich background that includes directing choirs and musicals at Gunnison Middle and High School, Mathew has a deep passion for music education and performance. He has performed with various Western Slope regional choirs and as a tenor soloist in notable works such as Handel's "Messiah" and Bach's "Christmas Oratorio". A native of Wyoming, Mathew holds degrees in Music Education and Choral Conduct-

ing. Outside of music, he enjoys recreating outdoors and spending time with his partner Maxwell and their dogs, Atticus and Obi.



Catherine Correa

Music teacher and violinist with a special interest in early childhood music

education. In 2008, attended the Special Course "Advanced Studies in Music and Dance Education" at the Orff Institute. In 2017, participated in the "San Francisco Orff Internship Program" organized by The San Francisco International Orff Course and The San Francisco School and represented Acolorff at the "International Orff-Schulwerk Forum" in Salzburg, Austria.

She has conducted Orff training courses in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico, and the United States. In 2017, was invited by the Virginia Tech String Project, to work with the beginning and intermediate string orchestra, using Orff-Schulwerk as an enriching tool for traditional orchestral training. In 2016, earned her master's degree in music with an emphasis on violin from EAFIT

University, where she also completed her undergraduate studies.

In 2022, Catherine completed the "Equity in Brain Health" Certification program at the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) affiliated with the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and Atlantic Fellows. As a result, she currently leads a multigenerational artistic intervention project based on the Orff-Schulwerk approach with hereditary early-onset Alzheimer's disease patients and their families, in Medellin-Colombia.



Casey Cropp

Mr. Cropp began his teaching career in 1980 and retired in 2013. He has continued to

help programs across Colorado with clinics and guest conducting appearances. In the spring of 2004, he was awarded a Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholarship to study Music and Education in Japan. He was honored to receive the National Band Association Citation of Excellence in May 2013 and was selected to the Colorado Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame in 2016. Mr. Cropp is a member of Phi

Beta Mu, the Association of Concert Bands, the Colorado Bandmasters Association, and the Colorado Music Educators Association, and is currently on the Board of the Colorado Bandmasters Association, serving as the Colorado All-State Band Chair. In February 2024, Mr. Cropp began his term as the President of the Colorado Music Educators Association.



Stanley Curtis

Dr. Stanley Curtis has developed a career as a trumpeter, composer, and early music specialist.

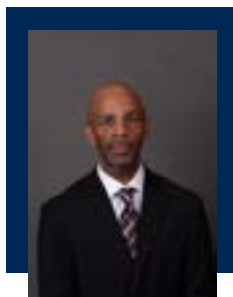
After studying at the University of Alabama, the Cleveland Institute of Music, and in the Netherlands on a Fulbright Scholarship, he received his Doctor of Music from Indiana University in 2005. After a 20-year career in the U.S. Navy Band, he accepted a tenure-track offer in 2019 as assistant professor of trumpet at Colorado State University. He has composed award-winning solo and chamber works featuring the trumpet. Stanley performs as principal trumpet of the Fort Collins Symphony and is a member of the CSU Faculty Brass Quintet. In the U.S. Navy Band, he performed hundreds of Washington, D.C. concerts, toured nationally and internationally with

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Unlock Insights

the Concert/Ceremonial Band, was a leader of the U.S. Navy Band Brass Quartet, and performed Taps at Arlington National Cemetery. He served as assistant principal trumpet in the Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia (in Spain) from 1994-1997 and as principal trumpet with the Evansville Philharmonic from 1991-1994. Dr. Curtis has taught at the University of Evansville, the Music School of the Orquesta Sinfónica, Catholic University of America, and George Mason University. He chaired the Historic Trumpet Division of the National Trumpet Competition from 2004-2009. He has led clinics at University of Montevallo, the National Trumpet Competition, Cleveland State University, the Maryland Early Brass Festival, Indiana University, University of Alabama, and Murray State University. He has written articles for the International Trumpet Guild Journal and the Historic Brass Society Newsletter.



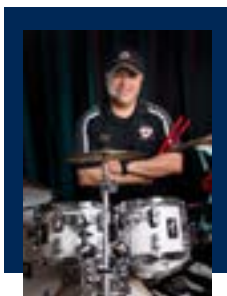
Rashaan Davis

Rashaan's journey spans 28 years of dedicated service, transitioning from a passionate classroom teacher

to a dynamic campus administrator and, currently, a state administrator. During his teaching tenure, he championed students' pursuit of excellence, while as an administrator, he innovatively empowered educators to redefine their impact on students.

His vision of fostering brave spaces in classrooms and ensuring equal access across all educational realms propelled him to his current role as Assistant Commissioner at the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA).

In this capacity, he leads various domains including Esports, Speech and Debate, Student Leadership, Sportsmanship, Middle Schools, Music, and the esteemed CHSAA Hall of Fame, embodying his unwavering commitment to enriching student experiences beyond traditional academics.



Henrique De Almeida

Professor De Almeida holds a master's degree in music performance from

The University of Southern Mississippi. He is also a grad-

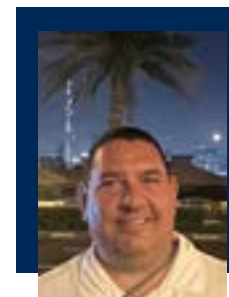
uate of The Berklee College of Music in Jazz Composition. He is the leader of his own jazz fusion group, The Truth Project Band.

In 2017, Henrique became the music director and president of the international online school TheDrumSetCoach.com. In the spring of 2020 he and his wife Erika De Almeida opened a music school in Palmer Lake, Colorado, USA, The Drum Set Coach Academy.

Henrique worked, toured, and recorded with some of the top musician in the world including some of the biggest name in Rock, Jazz, Pop/Rock, and Latin styles. For more details about Henrique and complete bio visit TheDrumSetCoach.com

An accomplished author and published clinician, Henrique's educational products are often ranked high in Modern Drummer Magazine, most recent 4.5 star - Double Bass Integration for The Jazz Fusion Drummer on Berklee press. His books are an integral part of the Berklee College of Music curriculum and are currently available through the top publishing companies such as Berklee Press, Hal Leonard, Carl Fischer, Amazon.com, Drummeo-Canada and Hudson Music.

For information regarding studying with Henrique, and for a complete list of music educational products visit: TheDrumSetCoach.com



Todd Dicamillo

Todd Dicamillo is in his 29th year of teaching and 9th year of teaching at

Doherty High School. He has been a guest clinician for numerous schools in Colorado and adjudicates for CHSAA Large Group and Solo/Ensemble festivals. Todd has served 14 years on the CMEA Vocal Music Council as well as the CHSAA Music Committee. He served as a choral director at Calvary Worship Center and is proud to be a choral director in the state of Colorado.



Victoria DiMarzio

Victoria DiMarzio is a dedicated music educator with a Bachelor of Music Educa-

tion from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master of Music from the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley. Since 2014, they have been teaching middle school band and orchestra, where they inspire young musicians to develop their skills and foster a

lifelong appreciation for music. At this conference, Victoria will share insights from research on integrating culturally responsive education with project-based learning, highlighting effective strategies and real-world applications that empower both educators and students. Their research focuses on leveraging culturally responsive practices to create inclusive and engaging learning environments for all students. Victoria aims to enhance student experiences and promote a deeper understanding of diverse musical traditions.



James Divine

There once was a little boy whose mom told him he could be anything he wanted...a

policeman, a doctor, a lawyer, even the President of the United States. He exceeded all her expectations and became a music teacher!

He married his HS sweetheart and is now a grown man with 4 kids and 10 grandkids, loves eating pizza, mountain biking and spending time with his family. His shoe size is nine and a half (more on that in a moment).

This all grown up little boy teaches middle school band, but still finds time to perform, record and do some motivational speaking.

Now for the boring, adult stuff...

James earned a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's College in Maine. He received his music education from the Army School of Music, graduating from the basic, intermediate, and advanced courses over a span of ten years and serving in Virginia, Japan and Colorado. He retired from the Colorado National Guard in 2006. He earned his teaching license from Western Colorado University and completed a master's in music education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

James is in his 26th year of teaching and has had the privilege of growing a band program to 3x its original size at three schools he has served. At his current school, he has started a band program from scratch. He is a member of the American School Band Directors Association.

James' life-long goal continues to be to act his shoe size, not his age. Find out more about James at www.jamesdivine.net.

Sessions

Presenters



Jennifer Drake

Inspired by the power of music to connect people, ideas and communities, Jennifer

Drake is a conductor, violist, teacher, clinician, and camp director. One of the most enthusiastic musicians you will ever meet, Jennifer is known for her versatility, humor, and energy. Jennifer is the Music Director of the Serenata Orchestra and the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestras She has been a guest conductor for the Idaho State Civic Symphony and Opera Idaho. Jennifer is the principal violist for the Boise Baroque Orchestra, as well as a section violist for the Boise Philharmonic. Jennifer is the founder of Idaho Viola Camp. She is also the co-artistic director for the Idaho Orchestra Institute. Both camps provide students with unique outdoor experiences, in addition to high quality musical engagement.

Jennifer is a highly sought after teacher and clinician. As a clinician, she is known for her infectious energy and ability to engage with ensembles of all levels. Recent All State orchestras conducted include Texas, Alabama, Nevada, Indiana, South Carolina and Minnesota. She has also done MEA clinics in Minne-

sota, Oregon, Texas, Montana, and Idaho. She has also been a featured clinician for Music for All and The Midwest Clinic.



Amanda Draper

Amanda R. Draper is an Assistant Professor of Music Education

at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and the 2022-2023 Gretscht Fellow in Children's Music with the Fred Rogers Institute. Her academic interests include investigating musical experiences for

diverse learners with a focus on music and autism research, Disability Studies in music, and teacher preparation for special music education. Dr. Draper has presented regionally, nationally, and internationally and has articles published in the Journal of Research in Music Education, Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education, and Music Educators Journal. A general music specialist, she previously taught elementary and middle school general music for 10 years, most recently for

Chicago Public Schools. Dr. Draper holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Coe College in Cedar Rapids IA and a master's degree and PhD in music education from Northwestern University.



Jamie Dyer

Jamie Dyer has been a collaborative pianist and vocal jazz instructor with the Long Beach Unified School

District for 15 years. She is a published arranger, with over one hundred charts written in a variety of styles, ranging from straight ahead swing to funk, pop, and everything in the middle. She also performs professionally as a singer and pianist around the Long Beach area. Jamie is honored to be a part of this year's festival and is looking forward to working with these amazingly talented students.



Melissa Ellenberger

Melissa Ellenberger is the band director at Timberview Middle School in Colorado

Springs. She earned her bachelors' degrees (BFA, BS Ed) from the University of Connecticut and masters in Music Education from Boston University. Prior to moving to Colorado, she taught middle and high school band in Watertown, Connecticut. Mrs. Ellenberger is a National Board Certified Teacher, 2015 Teacher of the Year in District 49, and was a semi-finalist as Music Educator of the Year from Music and Arts in 2017. She believes that music and band are for everyone.



Erik Erlandson

Dr. Erik Erlandson is a baritone from Minnesota. He is a Lecturer of Voice at the University of Wyoming.

He is passionate about teaching students about the voice, encouraging efficient production with an emphasis on health and longevity.

Dr. Erlandson received his Doctor-

Join the Conversation

ate of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Colorado Boulder in Boulder, Colorado. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, and a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Michelle Ewer

Michelle Ewer has been a professional educator for 45 years. Her career began in Westminster District

50 teaching elementary and middle school strings. She taught band in Jefferson County Public Schools for five years and was a strings specialist for 27 years. A member of ASTA and CMEA, she has had groups perform for CMEA conferences as well as student performances at numerous state and local festivals, always receiving high ratings. She is often asked to present at CMEA and CASTA conferences and has served as president for both organizations. In 2014, she was inducted into the Colorado Music Educators Hall of Fame.

Ms. Ewer is the State Chair for TRI-M Music Honor Society as well as coordinator for CMEA-TRI M sessions,

which include over 750 students from across the state of Colorado. In 2017, Mrs. Ewer became a part time faculty member at CU Boulder School of Music where she coordinates placements for student teachers and is support staff to mentors and mentees. She holds monthly seminars for her students, focusing on what skills they will need to enter the work force.

Michelle has been a conductor with the Front Range Youth Symphony for the past 12 years conducting the entry level group. Her love for teaching strings helps the students prepare for the upper groups in the Symphony.

Ms. Ewer retired in 2016 and taught part time at Ralston Valley HS for three years and is still coaching at Columbine HS, Horizon HS, Deer Creek MS, and Creighton MS. She earned her Bachelor of Music Education from The University of Northern Colorado, and her master's in educational Administration from The University of Phoenix.



Tim Feerst

A native of Northern Virginia, Dr. Tim Feerst is Director of Percussion Studies at the University of Northern Colorado. Prior faculty

of Northern Colorado. Prior faculty

Sessions

Presenters

Transform Your Teaching

appointments include the University of Texas Permian Basin, the University of Texas at Tyler, Trinity Valley Community College, the University of Utah, and North Central Texas College. He holds degrees from the University of North Texas, the University of Texas at Austin, and George Mason University.

Dr. Feerst has performed with ensembles including the Cheyenne Symphony, the Greeley Philharmonic, The Dallas Winds, the Dallas Symphony Chorus, the West Texas Symphony, Voces8, and the American Festival Pops Orchestra. Dr. Feerst has recording credits with Erica Lane, The Southern Music Company, The Dallas Winds, Ryan Anthony and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and the North Texas Wind Symphony.

Dr. Feerst has presented at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, the Colorado Music Educators Association, Texas Music Educators Association Conference, the National Conference on Percussion Pedagogy. He is also active in the Percussive Arts universities across the country.

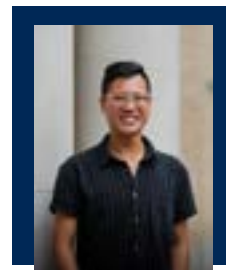


Sean Flanigan

Dr. Sean Flanigan is the Director of Music Entrepreneurship

Studies at Colorado Mesa University where he teaches low brass, jazz and music business. He has performed throughout the United States and internationally as a trombone soloist, conductor and teacher in the classical, jazz and commercial genres; presented solo recitals and clinics in South America at the National Conservatory in Caracas, Venezuela; featured guest artist (along with the Empire Brass and Jacques Mauger of the Paris Conservatory) at El Sistema's Ibero-American Brass Festival in Barquisimeto, Venezuela; invited numerous times to return to Venezuela to perform, conduct and teach for El Sistema, their world-famous orchestral training system; backed artists such as Dizzy Gillespie, Jimmy Heath, Clark Terry, Urbie Green, the Temptations, Johnny Mathis, Jack Jones; recorded for television, radio and commercial CDs; performed for numerous touring Broadway

shows. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas, where he held a Doctoral Conducting Fellowship, studying with Eugene Migliaro Corporon. He holds Master of Music in Trombone Performance and Bachelor of Science in Music Education degrees from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign where he studied with Robert Gray. As a performing artist for Conn-Selmer, Inc., he performs on Bach 16M and Conn 88H SGX trombones exclusively.



John Friskney

John Friskney is a second year teacher at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins where he teaches

Choir, Music Theory and Technical Musical Theatre. He is a proud alumnus of Colorado State University where he graduated summa cum laude and received his Bachelor of Music in Music Education in 2023. While attending Colorado State University, he had the unique opportunity of directing their award-winning competitive a cappella group, Mainstreet A Cappella.

Despite being a second year teacher, John has been completely enthralled by choral music for over a decade and is an active member of NAFME, CMEA, ACDA,

and CoACDA. John has found his roots in the professional choral community of Northern Colorado and has managed to maintain an active performing career alongside his teaching career. He currently sings with Laudamus Chamber Chorale, NOCO Singers, and the Sanctuary Choir at First United Methodist Church in Fort Collins.

When he is not teaching or singing, he can be found spending time with his friends and family, golfing, skiing and working on his cars. This is John's first CMEA appearance and he is honored to share the stage with the fine Tenors and Basses of Low Beaux. This will also be Low Beaux CMEA debut!



Lindsay Fulcher

Dr. Lindsay J. Fulcher is Associate Professor of String Music Education and Division

Head of Music Education at the University of Northern Colorado. In addition to teaching music education and string pedagogy courses, she conducts the Campus String Orchestra and serves as Director and Lead Teacher of the UNC String Project. She earned her Bachelor of Music Education from Baldwin Wallace University and her Master's and Ph.D. in Music Education from

Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Fulcher taught high school orchestra in North Carolina where her students achieved great musical growth. She is a frequent guest conductor and clinician and has worked with students in Colorado, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. She has presented sessions for teachers at the National ASTA Conference, Colorado ASTA Summer Conference, Music Educators Association Conferences in Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Texas, in addition to a variety of national research presentations. Dr. Fulcher's research interests include female leadership in music, string method books, string pedagogy, string repertoire, and technology-use in ensembles and music classrooms.



Martha Gabel

Martha Gabel has been a music educator for 33 years, teaching elementary General Music, directing

children's choirs, and is currently the District Fine Arts Coordinator for the Olathe Public Schools. Located on the southwest corner of the Kansas City metropolitan area, the Olathe school district serves over 30,000 students in 5 high schools, 10 middle schools, 36 elementary schools, and 2 early childhood

centers. In her position, Martha provides support and leadership for all Fine Arts programs, working with a staff of approximately 200 arts educators in the areas of band, choir, orchestra, general music, visual art, theatre, forensics, and debate.

As a presenter at state and national conferences, Martha has provided professional development for practicing and pre-service teachers on a variety of topics including music standards, curriculum design, assessment, classroom management, engagement strategies, and leadership. She has served on numerous state writing committees and training cadres, most recently leading the revision of the Kansas State Music Standards.

Martha holds a BME from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, an MLA – Education, and an MS in School Leadership, both from the Baker University School of Graduate and Professional Studies. She has served the Kansas Music Educators Association as the State Elementary Chair, is a past KMEA President, and is currently serving as the Southwestern Division representative on the NAFME Council of Music Program Leaders.

Martha and her husband Chris live in Olathe, Kansas, and have two daughters; Hannah, a music educator for the Wichita Public Schools, and Sarah, an interior designer in the Kansas City area.

Sessions

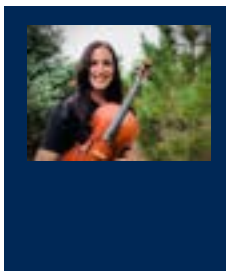
Presenters



Socrates Garcia

Dr. Garcia is a Dominican-American award-winning composer/recording engineer and author, arranger, producer, bandleader, guitarist, and educator. He currently is a Professor of Music/Director of Music Technology at the Jazz Studies Program of the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Garcia's recording and performing credits include the multiple Grammy-winning album *Yo Por Ti* by Olga Tañón, Milly Quezada's *Tesoros de mi Tierra* (14th on Billboard's Tropical Song charts), national and international performances with the Socrates Garcia Latin Jazz Orchestra and UNC's Compass Jazz Orchestra, among many others. As a touring musician, he has performed all-over Latin America and the Caribbean and presented jazz composition/music technology clinics and workshops, nationally and internationally. These include presentations and/or performances at CMEA, TMEA, Jazz Education Network, FABSS, numerous national and international universities and conservatories, and Music Will Modern Band Summit, among others. He co-authored the award-winning bilingual children's book "From Across the Street," a story about the Dominican Folkloric Music "Los Palos." His latest album, *Back Home* (MAMA Records)

is a symbiotic combination of Afro-Dominican and Afro-Caribbean genres within the aesthetic of contemporary orchestral jazz. An award-winning album, it has received numerous accolades by critics and jazz fans alike, both nationally and internationally.



Lindsay Genadeck

Lindsay (she/her) is currently the Community Education Coordinator

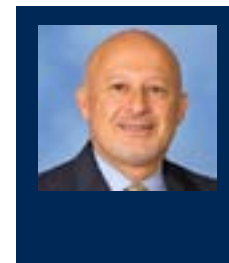
for the Colorado Symphony Association and continues to teach violin and viola lessons from her private studio. She previously directed orchestras at Westminster and Mapleton Public Schools and was the String Teaching Artist at El Sistema Colorado.

Active in music education, Lindsay is the President of the Colorado chapter of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) and serves as the Vice-Chair for the National ASTA Private Studio Committee. She has presented at the Colorado ASTA, Colorado Music Educators Association and National ASTA conferences and served as a mentor for new teachers

through the National ASTA mentor program. Lindsay is passionate about connecting the adult community to music education and performance. She is the Co-Founder of the Bratsche Bunch, an online community connecting adult violists throughout the world with workshops and virtual fieldtrips, is the Assistant Director of the Denver Adult String Camp (DASC) and is published in the ASTA Journal for her work on adult learners.

Lindsay was the recipient of the Mapleton Public School's Teacher of the Year award in 2015 and the Colorado ASTA's Exemplary Middle School Teacher award in 2012.

Lindsay can be seen performing on her viola throughout Colorado, most recently with Stratus Chamber Orchestra, Arapahoe Philharmonic and the Evergreen Chamber Orchestra and has collaborated with the Flobots and Khemmis. When not performing music, Lindsay enjoys spending time with her family: hiking, camping, skiing, gardening and baking. She is also a proud advocate of Palisade peaches, as those are from her hometown!



Rick Ghinelli

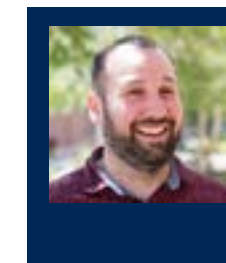
Rick Ghinelli graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Music Education and began

his career in the Spring Independent School District (Houston, Texas) as a middle school band director. During that time, his bands earned a number of awards on both the local and state levels, and he was named Teacher of the Year for his school. Mr. Ghinelli later earned his Masters of Administration from Sam Houston State University, and he continued his career in Spring ISD as an elementary assistant principal, a middle school assistant principal, and a middle school principal. In 2000, he assumed the role of Director of Performing and Visual Arts for the district, a position he held until his retirement in 2013. While serving in this position, fine arts programs in Spring ISD gained notoriety for their excellent work and were frequent recipients of the highest honors at the local, state, and national levels of competition. Following his retirement from Spring ISD, Mr. Ghinelli began working as the Director of Music Administration Outreach and Educational Support Manager, Southwest Region, in the Division of Education for Conn Selmer, Inc.

Mr. Ghinelli has been active in many aspects of music education

throughout his career, including serving as president of the Texas Music Administrators Conference. He has done presentations and staff development sessions for a number of conferences, universities, and school districts across Texas and the nation, including the Texas Music Educators Association convention, the National Association for Music Education National Conference, the National School Board Association National Conference, and the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. In 2014, Mr. Ghinelli was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus in Music Education from the Moores School of Music at the University of Houston, and in 2019 he was honored with the Lifetime Administrator Achievement Award from the Texas Bandmasters Association. Most recently he received the 2022 Keynote Award from the Foundation For Music Education.

Currently he serves as the Regional Director- West, for CutTime.



Edgar Girtain

Edgar Fikes Girtain IV is an American composer. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Music

Education from Rutgers University, where he also obtained a Master's degree in Music Theory and Com-

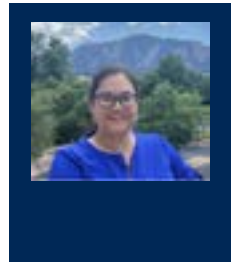
Find Your Next Idea

position. In 2023, he completed his Doctorate on scholarship at the State University of New York (SUNY) Buffalo under David Felder. His compositions have been performed and commissioned across Western Europe, the Americas, Asia, and the Middle East. Between 2012 and 2019, Dr. Girtain taught general, vocal, and instrumental music at K-12 schools throughout New Jersey and the Región de Los Lagos, Chile. He has worked as the organist at the Lutheran Church of Puerto Montt, conducted choirs, founded the Southern Chilean Composers Forum, and served as the director of the Casa de las Artes at the Universidad Austral de Chile's Puerto Montt Campus from 2019-2024. In Southern Chile, he is recognized for his significant contributions to music education as a performer, arranger, and composer. In 2022, his climate change cantata, "Otro Viento Cantará," premiered at the Teatro del Lago as part of the "Puedes Cantar" program by the Ibáñez Atkinson Foundation, featuring over 300 children from schools in the Los Lagos region. In the same year, he was honored by the municipality of Puerto Montt for his composition, "Una Joya Perdida." His music is published by First String Press, JW Pepper, and is also available through his website.

Sessions

Presenters

Enhance Your Expertise



Christy Go

Christy Go is a current PhD student in music education at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her

research interests include equity and uplifting the voices of Asians and Asian Americans in music education. Prior to her graduate studies, she taught general music, modern band and orchestra for K-8 students in Aurora, CO and English as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching program in Yamagata, Japan. While teaching in Japan, she traveled throughout the Tohoku and Hokkaido regions and participated in preparing for regional festivals with her students and fellow teachers. Upon returning to the states, she facilitated a cultural exchange project with elementary students in Aurora, CO and Yamagata, Japan to teach the Heel and Toe Polka and the Hanagasa Dance virtually and share glimpses into elementary student life between Japan and the United States.



Garrett Graves

Garrett Graves is a Ph.D. student at the University of Colorado Boulder. He has pursued

research interests in teacher attrition, undergraduate field experiences, teacher identity development, and rural education. His research has been presented at the Society for Music Teacher Education Symposium on Music Teacher Education, the Instrumental Music Teacher Educators Colloquium for Teachers of Instrumental Music Methods, the Mayday Group Colloquium, and the Desert Skies Symposium on Research in Music Education. His work at the University of Colorado includes supervising field experiences, teaching, and serving as the graduate director for the Middle School Ensembles program. Prior to working in Colorado, he taught 6th–12th grade band in rural Mississippi. Garrett lives in Fort Collins with his partner, Tess, as well as their rescue animals, Billie and Murphy.



Karen Gregg

Dr. Karen Gregg, Director of Bands at Lyons Middle Senior High School

Karen Gregg has served as the Director of Bands at Lyons Middle Senior High School for the past 23 years. Her responsibilities in-

clude directing the four bands (two middle school bands, High School Concert Band, High School Jazz Band) in addition to teaching The History of Rock and Roll and Beginning Guitar. Since her appointment at Lyons Middle Senior High School, the band program has experienced 400% growth and now includes nearly 50% of the school population.

After graduating from the University of Northern Colorado in 1997 with a Bachelor of Music Performance on Bassoon degree, Karen served as the Principal Bassoonist and Woodwind Director of the Orquesta Sinfonica de Barranquilla in Barranquilla, Colombia. She then attended The Ohio State University where she received the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Bassoon Performance.

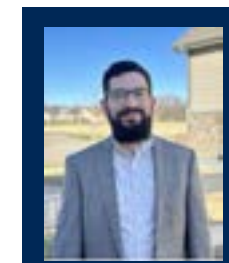


Jennifer Grice

Dr. Jennifer L. Grice is the founder of Command The Field Drum Major & Leadership Camps. She en-

joys teaching high school students how to conduct and leadership skills that will benefit their programs and skills they can use the rest of their lives. She has been drum major of many organizations including her high school in West Virginia, Arizona State University and the University of Louisiana at Monroe,

and Velvet Knights and Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps. Jennifer received her Doctorate in Wind Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado, both her Masters in Oboe Performance and Wind Conducting from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and her Instrumental Music Education degree from Arizona State University.



Paul Haarala

Paul Haarala is pursuing a Master of Music degree in music education at Colorado State University. In

addition to coursework, he serves as a graduate teaching assistant for various undergraduate music education courses. Paul also serves as the practicum coordinator for the Introduction to Music Education course at CSU. Paul's scholarly interests primarily include socialization, symbolic interactionism, identity development, and motivation frameworks.

Prior to attending CSU, Paul was an orchestra teacher in South Carolina for six years. During that time, Paul served as the coordinator for Berkeley County All-County Orchestra auditions, faculty for both the Gateway and Pathway summer camps in Dorchester District 2, assisted with the organization of the Region

4 District Orchestra event, and served as an assistant director for the Stratford High School marching band. While in South Carolina, Paul was an active performer in a variety of settings on both tuba and violin.



Gary Hall

Gary Hall is starting his 51st year of teaching in music education. Current classes include teach-

ing college-level Music Appreciation and working as a sectional coach at Kinard Middle School in Fort Collins, Co. In addition to being in demand as a judge and clinician, Mr. Hall provides private trombone lessons to many students in the Fort Collins area. In recognition of his many years of service to the bands and their student members in Colorado, Mr. Hall was elected by the Colorado Bandmasters Association as their 2005 recipient to the Colorado Bandmasters' Hall of Fame, was awarded the Kappa Chapter of Phi Beta Mu "Outstanding Bandmaster Award" and in 2020 inducted into the Colorado Music Educators Hall of Fame.



Ann Harding

Dr. Ann Harding is the middle school instrumental and choir director at Shaw Heights Middle School

in Westminster, Colorado. She has been teaching in public schools for 17 years, 14 of which have been in Title 1 eligible middle schools. She received her undergraduate degree in music education at University of Colorado at Boulder and earned her master's degree in music education with an emphasis in conducting from Colorado State University. She earned her Doctorate from the University of Florida in Curriculum Teaching and Teacher Education and is very passionate about providing high quality professional learning for teachers. She currently resides in Boulder, Colorado with her wife, two children and welsh springer spaniel puppy.



Laura Harvey

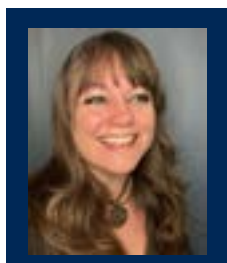
Laura Harvey is the Student Experience Senior Coordinator with the College of Arts & Media at

CU Denver. She works closely with prospective students starting their college journeys in modern music,

Sessions

Presenters

filmmaking, and visual arts. Laura is also responsible for the College of Arts & Media Residential Creative Community and LYNX National Arts & Media Camp programs.

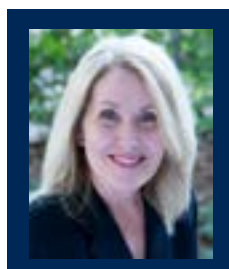


Katrina Hedrick

Katrina Hedrick is passionate about cultivating students' personal artistry in music to live

an active musical life. Her approach integrates responsive and sustaining practices with Elemental Music teaching pedagogies, National Core Arts Standards, Modern Band, and mixed-ensemble rehearsal strategies for small, underserved, secondary music programs. Katrina's 14 years of teaching experience includes grades 6-12 vocal, instrumental and general music programs in small rural and urban Colorado public schools; collegiate and in-service music teacher education and professional development. Katrina's career began with 5 years teaching at her alma mater school on the land of the Southern Ute Tribe in Ignacio, Colorado. After earning her masters, she spent 5 years cultivating a 6-12 music program at Bruce Randolph Schools in central Denver. She now serves as the Director of Education for Colorado Music Bridge and an Adjunct Professor of Music Education and Program

Director of the Spur Music Lab at Colorado State University. She also works as a Supervising University Instructor of Student Teachers for Metro State University, and runs a studio for private music lessons for all ages.



Leila Heil

Leila Heil is Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder where she

serves as Chair of the Music Education Department and teaches undergraduate and graduate music education courses. A former K-12 music teacher, she has served in various leadership capacities in Colorado, Ohio, and Arizona Music Educators Associations as well as Colorado ADCA, and currently serves as President-elect for the Colorado Music Educators Association. She enjoys an active career as a clinician/conductor and has presented workshops and sessions at numerous national and international conferences including the Midwest Clinic, the Society for Music Teacher Education (SMTE) Conference, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Research and Teacher Education Confer-

ence, the NAfME National In-service Conference, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Conference, and the Research in Music Education Conference (RIME). She has also presented at state NAfME and ACDA conferences in Colorado, Arizona, Ohio and Texas. She has authored and co-authored articles for a variety of educational journals including the Music Educators Journal, the Choral Journal, Visions in Music Education Research, Contributions to Music Education, and the Journal of Music, Technology and Education. In 2021, she served as conductor for the Colorado All-State Treble Jazz Choir. Her professional singing experience includes the St. Martins Chamber Choir, the Colorado Bach Ensemble, and the Phoenix Bach Choir (renamed the Phoenix Chorale).



John Jacobson

John Jacobson is the author and composer of many musicals and choral works that have been

performed by millions of children worldwide, as well as educational videos and tapes that have helped music educators excel in their individual teaching arenas.

John has staged hundreds of huge music festival ensembles in

his association with Walt Disney Productions and directed productions featuring thousands of young singers including NBC's national broadcast of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, presidential inaugurations and more.

John is the founder and volunteer president of America Sings! Inc., a non-profit organization that encourages young performers to use their time and talents for community service. As a world-renowned composer, he was also the Senior Contributing Writer for John Jacobson's Music Express Magazine. Currently he is the president and creative content designer for JJ and Me, Inc. which is available through Musicplay Online.



Dirk Johnson

Dr. Dirk Johnson is the Director of Vocal Ensembles and Assistant Professor of Music at Colorado

Mesa University, where he directs the Vocal Arts Ensemble, Vocal Chords Chamber Ensemble, Soprano/Alto Choir, and Tenor/Bass Choir and teaches courses in conducting, choral literature, and choral methods. He also serves as the Artistic Director of the Western Colorado Chorale, based in Grand Junction, Colorado, and formerly served

as Artistic Director of the Messiah Choral Society of Grand Junction, Artistic Director of the Charleston Civic Chorus, Director of Choral Activities and Music Department Chair at West Virginia State University, and Visiting Professor of Conducting at the University of Virginia. His secondary teaching includes serving as Director of Choirs at Timpanogos High School, Pleasant Grove Junior High School, and the Waterford School near Salt Lake City, Utah. He holds a D.M.A. in choral conducting from the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, and master's and bachelor's degrees in choral music education from Brigham Young University.

An active composer and arranger, Dr. Johnson has received commissions from collegiate and community choirs from around the country and regularly writes for ensembles under his direction. He was honored as winner of the 2015 John Ness Beck Foundation Award for composition of traditional sacred choral music and has been published by Walton Music. As a professional choral singer, he sang for two seasons with the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati and for five years with the Tennessee Chamber Chorus and has performed as tenor soloist with the West Virginia Symphony Chorus and on WVSU faculty recitals. Dr. Johnson's scholarly research focuses on folk song and choral arranging. He has presented at the National Collegiate Choral

Sessions That Spark Innovation

Organization Conferences in 2013 and 2017, at multiple West Virginia ACDA Conferences, and at the 2015 National ACDA Conference.



Erik Johnson

Dr. Erik Johnson is an Associate Professor of Music Education and Coordinator of Instrumental Music

Education at Colorado State University where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music education, is the director of the CSU Middle School Outreach Ensemble & Trying-on-Teaching programs, and is an elected member of the CSU Provost Council for Engagement. As a conductor, clinician, presenter, and educational consultant, Erik has worked extensively throughout the United States and internationally in Japan, India, China, Spain, Ireland, Argentina, and the Dominican Republic, Finland, Canada, Australia, Lithuania, and Scotland. Erik is a GRAMMY Scientific Research Award winner and his scholarly writings and research have been published in the Journal of Research in Music Education, Music Educators Journal, Contributions to Music Education, Journal of Education and Training Studies, The Bulletin for the Council of Research in Music Education, and The International Journal of Disabil-

Sessions

Presenters

ity, Development, and Education. His books and scholarly writings are also available through GIA, Oxford University Press, and Routledge.



Victor C. Johnson

Victor C. Johnson, a native of Dallas, Texas, is the School Choral Editor for SING!, the

educational publishing division of Choristers Guild. A prolific composer and arranger, he has over 350 choral works, vocal solo books, and keyboard collections currently in print. Mr. Johnson attended the University of Texas at Arlington where he majored in music education with a concentration in organ. While attending UTA, he served as student conductor of the university's choral ensembles and opera workshop accompanist. From 2000-2018, he was the choral director at the Ft. Worth Academy of Fine Arts (FWAFA). At FWAFA, Victor directed the Academy Singers, Academy Men's Choir and was Artistic Director of the Singing Girls of Texas and Children's Choir of Texas. Victor is in demand as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician for music educators and students throughout the United States. He has conducted All-State and Regional Honor choirs in Texas, California, Georgia, Oklahoma,

Louisiana, Oregon, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Nevada, and Kentucky. His own choirs have performed at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in 2011 and 2014 as well as the American Choral Directors Association- Southwest Division conference in March, 2016. Victor currently serves as Minister of Worship and Arts at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, a position he has held since 2007.

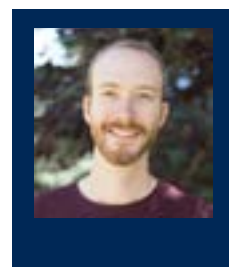


Rebecca Jonas

Rebecca Jonas is an active musician, music educator, therapist,

and mental health educator and advocate. A former orchestra teacher, Rebecca enjoys working as a frequent guest conductor with youth orchestras across Colorado, and regularly works with the Denver Adult String Camp as coach and conductor. Rebecca works to provide mental health support through education, advocacy, and individual and group counseling with Tune In Mental Health, her therapy practice that specializes in supporting artists, musicians, neurodivergent folk, and mem-

bers of the LGBTQIA+ community. Rebecca maintains an active and varied performance career as a freelance cellist, and as singer, songwriter, and cellist with All Through The Night, her Indie-Americana band based out of Denver.



Ben Justis

Ben Justis is an assistant Professor of Music at Western Colorado University where he teaches

music technology, percussion, music theory, composition, and coordinates the Music Industry program and recording studio.

His original compositions have been performed by the Portland Percussion Group, newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, the United States Air Force Band, and he served as Artist-in-Residence at Denali National Park, Homestead National Monument of America, and Glacier National Park. He is represented by ASCAP and published through TapSpace, North Star Music, and EARTHGRAZER STUDIOS. Ben is a sought-after arranger for many mediums, including marching arts, brass bands, and steel bands.

An active soloist and section player, Ben has performed at the Aspen Summer Music Festival, Bravo! Vail,

with the United States Air Force Band, and with the acclaimed Colorado State University Percussion Ensemble. Ben is also a producer at Quigley Records on the Western Colorado University campus and works with local, independent artists.

At any given point you might find him skiing, stargazing, camping, cooking, or, most likely, making music in his hometown of Gunnison, Colorado. He produces the YouTube channel Percussion Methods, a growing video repository of percussive education.



Darin Kamstra

Darin Kamstra, DMA, is a Professor of Music at Colorado Mesa University, Director of Jazz Studies

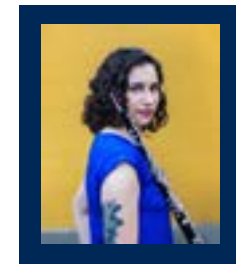
and Percussion, and Head of the Department of Music. Kamstra teaches Percussion Ensemble, Percussion Lessons, Percussion Pedagogy, Electronic Music, and Advanced Music Technology. He believes in fostering students with diverse abilities so that they can adapt to a wide variety of musical opportunities in the future.

Kamstra currently serves as principal timpanist/percussionist of the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, performs on drum set with the

Recharge Your Passion

Grand Junction Rockestra and CMU Faculty Jazz Quintet, and appears frequently as a percussion and jazz clinician and recitalist regionally and nationally. He served as principal timpanist of the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra and has performed with professional orchestras, jazz groups and music theater companies throughout Colorado, Illinois and the Pacific Northwest. He directed the Colorado Mesa University Percussion Ensemble for invitational performances at the 2024 Edeta Arts Percussion Festival in Valencia, Spain, where he was also a featured clinician.

Also an active composer and arranger, Kamstra's works are published by TapSpace, ejazzlines, and Grand Mesa Music Publishers. These works have been featured at regional, national and international conventions and at universities across the United States. Many of these compositions can be viewed on YouTube. He is a contributor to the Percussive Arts Society Online Research Journal and a regional education artist for Pearl/Adams Percussion. When not working on music, Kamstra enjoys getting outdoors, especially mountain biking and skiing.



Galit Kauntiz

Oboist Galit Kauntiz is the Assistant Professor of Oboe at Colorado State University. She is an active

orchestral musician, performs solo and chamber music recitals, and co-hosts the Double Reed Dish podcast. Galit explores themes of culture, and identity through her solo and chamber music recitals. She has been invited to perform at International Double Reed Society conferences in 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2024, and College Music Society conferences in 2016 and 2018. She is dedicated to expanding the canon to include works by underrepresented and displaced composers, and enthusiastically collaborates with composers to commission new works. She, bassoonist Jacqueline Wilson, and pianist Fabio Menchetti recorded the album All Are Welcome in 2022, which features new commissions for oboe and bassoon by Connor Chee, brin solomon, Mason Bynes, and Kate Pukinskis. Galit is also uncovering the legacy of composer Elizabeth Gyiring through performing and recording her works.

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Wes Kenney

Wes Kenney recently finished his 21st season as Music Director of the Fort Collins (Colorado)

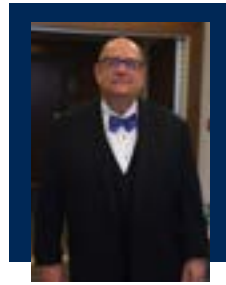
Symphony. In May 2023 he retired after 20 years as Director of Orchestras and Chair of Conducting Studies at Colorado State University. He also retired after 10 years as Music Director of the Denver Young Artist Orchestra. In 2022 he was named a University Distinguished Professor, the highest honor the university can award and has also been given the title of Professor Emeritus. His awards include the 2007 Grand Prize Winner of the Varna (Bulgaria) International Conducting Competition, a 2020 Honored Artist from the American Prize, a winner of the American Prize for excellence in performance of American Music, and the 2020 American Prize winner for best orchestral performance in the Professional Orchestra Division. He was previously the Associate Conductor of the Virginia Symphony and has guest conducted around the globe including the Buffalo Philharmonic, Lviv (Ukraine) Philharmonic, Alabama Symphony, Vidin (Bulgaria) Philharmonic, Vietnam National Symphony, and the Changwon (South Korea) Philharmonic.



Peter Knudson

Peter Knudson has been a touring/local/recording musician

and educator for the past 30 years. He has extensive knowledge with drums and percussion that he gained while studying music education and performance at the University of Mary, working for Colorado Drum & Percussion for 17 years and Boomer Music/Drums West since 2016. His experience has made him a sought out resource along the Front Range musical community for many years. He shares a passion for helping out the schools and loves to fix a problem. On stage you will find him performing with a wide variety of artists, his very own Peter Knudson Quartet as well as hosting drum events such as clinics, Fort Drum and the Foco Rhythm Rally.



William Kohut

William M. Kohut has served in the role of CMEA Executive Director for 25 years. "Bill" was a public-school

music teacher and administrator for 36 years in Colorado. He retired as the Principal of the Denver School of the Arts after 10 years as Principal, in June 2019. Bill served for 19 years as a school principal in the Denver Public Schools. Under his leadership The Denver School of the Arts was recognized as an Exemplary Arts School, and for 8 years under his leadership the Denver School of the Arts received a gold medal award from US News World Report as one of the top high schools in America. Denver School of the Arts was also awarded the Colorado John Irwin Award for Educational Excellence through the Colorado Department of Education for 10 years under his leadership. Bill was awarded the Colorado Music Educators Association "Honored Administrator Award" in 2013, and the Colorado Thespian's "Administrator of the Year" award in 2011. Mr. Kohut has presented at numerous local, state, and national conferences on his work in educational leadership.

Mr. Kohut served as the President of the Arts Schools Network Board of Directors from 2017-2019 and

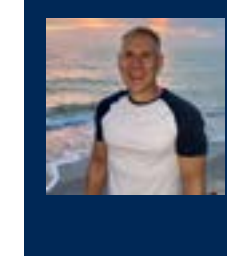
was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Denver Public Schools Retired Employees Foundation. He is also an active arts education/school leadership and management consultant.



MB Krueger

Professor MB Krueger is the Director of Choral Activities at Metropolitan State University, where

she directs the Chorale, University Treble Choir, and University Bass Choir, and teaches Basic and Advanced Conducting. She earned her bachelor's degree at Michigan State University, where she was a National Merit Scholar, and her master's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. MB served ten years on the board of the Colorado Chapter of American Choral Directors Association, and has been a regular presenter at various clinics and conferences through CoACDA and CMEA. She is also active as a clinician for high school honor choirs and choral festivals. MB is a member of St. Martin's Chamber Choir and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Choir, and has also sung professionally with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, the Santa Fe Opera, the Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado, and others.



Dana Landry

Dana Landry is Director of Jazz Studies and Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colo-

rado. Under his leadership, the UNC Jazz Studies Program has garnered over 65 DownBeat Student Music Awards. This includes nine over the last twelve years for UNC Jazz Lab Band I as Graduate College Winner, most recently in 2022. Lab I's most recent CD release, The Romeo and Juliet Project, is a jazz suite based on Shakespeare's most famous play. In April of 2021, the group premiered An Electronic Wonderland, a large work blending big band and electronica, featuring Ingrid Jensen, Camille Thurman, and Rachael Price.

Landry has directed all-state jazz ensembles in California, Texas, Washington, New Mexico, Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. He created curricula at UNC for undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Jazz Studies and Music Business, and designed the curriculum for a Latinx Music degree, which will begin in fall 2023. Prior to joining the faculty at UNC, he was Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University.

Dana is always pursuing the next artistic challenge. He is as at home playing Bebop with a jazz quartet as he is performing Prokofiev with an

orchestra, as comfortable playing duo in a small dive as he is accompanying a diva in a concert hall. He has been performing regularly with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra for the past fourteen years as part of their Classical and Pops series. In the summer of 2021, he performed Maria Schneider's Winter Morning Walks with the great Renée Fleming at the Aspen Music Festival.

Landry has performed throughout the U.S. and in Europe, Australia, and China, and is featured on recordings released by record labels, including Summit, Origin, and Artist Alliance, several of which made it to the top of the Jazz Week U.S. Radio Airplay Chart. His first CD as a leader, Journey Home, featured virtuoso vibist Gary Burton. Landry is a member of 7 on 7, a group featuring Clay Jenkins, Paul McKee, Don Aliquo, Jim White, Steve Kovalcheck, and Erik Applegate. They plan to release their second album in 2023.



Rob Lane

Rob Lane received his Bachelor of Music Composition from Amherst College in 2005 and

his Master of Music Education with a Choral Music focus from Indiana University in 2008. He has conducted and taught ensembles at the

Tools For Educators

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middle and high school levels in both Virginia and Colorado. In addition to teaching traditional choral repertoire, Rob arranged contemporary a cappella music regularly for his ensembles and helped create new a cappella groups at several schools. His student's recordings of his arrangements have received multiple CARA award nominations.

Rob sings with the Littleton based chorus, Voices West, and serves as the Community Outreach Chair on their board. His contemporary a cappella arrangements are published on Sheet Music Direct and Sheet Music Plus and he continues to arrange extensively for groups in Colorado and throughout the United States. Rob has also served as a guest clinician at choral festivals and as a coach at individual schools.

Rob strongly believes that contemporary a cappella can be an important and powerful educational tool for choral groups at many different levels and hopes to continue to support and expand the reach of the genre in Colorado and beyond. repertoire, and technology-use in ensembles and music classrooms.



Sandy Lantz

Sandy Lantz taught elementary music in Ft. Myers, FL for over 35 years. She

co-teaches Orff Level I at Southern Illinois Univ at Edwardsville. Sandy has co-conducted All-State Children's Choruses and Orff Ensembles in Florida and Virginia. She co-authored five publications with Gretchen Wahlberg.



Kevin Larsen

Kevin Larsen is the Director of Bands at Creighton Middle School and

the five Lakewood Articulation elementary schools in Jefferson County Public Schools. Servicing over 250 students, he directs three grade level concert bands, an extracurricular jazz ensemble and the 5th grade area beginning band. The Lakewood Elementary Articulation area prides itself on being the only area in JeffCo Public Schools where every 5th grader is required to participate in either band or orchestra.

Mr. Larsen proudly serves ASBDA as Colorado State Chair and is a member of CBA, CMEA, NAFME and has been a member of the Broomfield Symphony Orchestra since 1996 and principal trumpet since 2008.

Kevin currently resides in Highlands Ranch with his wife Amy and their two sons Connor (9) and Nicholas (8).



Jennifer Last

Growing up in a musical family, Jen knew one thing really well- shows! A voice performance major

turned teacher, she left the industry to pursue her true calling, teaching and leadership. With experience in starting two new schools and transitioning to a 100 year old school, Jen learned how to take her strength of directing student performances to help build successful programs and student outcomes. Jen holds a BM in Voice from Colorado Christian University, a MM in Kodaly from Colorado State University, and a MEd Leadership from Regis University. She is currently the Performing Arts Coordinator and Elementary Music teacher at Denver Christian School.



Tim Lautzenheiser

Keynote Presenter, Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser is a well-known name in the music educa-

tion world as a teacher, clinician, author, composer, consultant, adjudicator, and, above all, a trusted friend to anyone interested in working with young people in developing a desire for excellence. Dr. Lautzenheiser has been a part of the Bands of America family for over 25 years. He served as Executive Director in 1980-82 and has since worked directly with tens of thousands of Bands of America students and directors in leadership and motivational training. His career involves ten years of successful college band directing at Northern Michigan University, the University of Missouri, and New Mexico State University. During this time Tim developed highly acclaimed groups in all areas of the instrumental and vocal field. Following his three years with Bands of America, he created Attitude Concepts for Today, an organization designed to manage the many requests for workshops, seminars, and convention speaking engagements focusing on the area of positive attitude and effective leadership training. He presently holds the Earl Dunn Distinguished Lecturer position at Ball State University. Tim also is the Director of

Enrich Your Classroom

Education for Conn-Selmer, and he serves as the national spokesperson for NAFME's "Make A Difference with Music" program. Tim's books, produced by G.I.A. Publications, The Art of Successful Teaching and The Joy of Inspired Teaching, are best-sellers in the music profession. He is also co-author of Hal Leonard's popular band method, Essential Elements, as well as the creator of the highly-acclaimed Director's Communication Kits. Tim is a graduate of Ball State University and the University of Alabama. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from VanderCook College of Music. Additional awards include the distinguished Sudler Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation, Mr. Holland's Opus Award and the Music Industry Award from the Midwest Clinic Board of Directors.

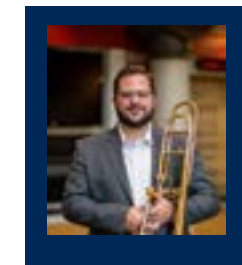


Chad Lemons

Throughout his first fourteen years in music education, Chad Lemons has excelled across all

levels of public schooling. Serving as a middle school choir and band director, high school band director, as well as an elementary general music teacher, Chad has honed his expertise in music instruction across diverse developmental stages.

His multifaceted experience has profoundly influenced his pedagogical philosophy, emphasizing a commitment to creativity and innovation, particularly evident in his recent role as an elementary music educator and highlighted in his 2025 CMEA session.



Drew Leslie

Dr. Drew Leslie, a native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, joined the faculty of Colorado State University School of Music,

Theatre, and Dance in Fall 2019 and currently serves as associate professor of trombone and Undergraduate Coordinator. Prior to CSU, Dr. Leslie was associate professor of trombone at the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University.

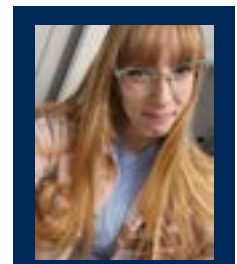
Equally as passionate about music education, Leslie has maintained active private studios in Colorado, Michigan, Texas, Missouri, and North Carolina and has served on the faculty of the CSU Brass Workshop, Tromboot Camp, Cannon Music Camp and the Longhorn Summer Music Camp. In addition, he worked as a teaching assistant at the University of Texas at Austin and was the visiting assistant professor of trombone at the University of Missouri for two years.

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Dr. Leslie received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Trombone Performance from the University of Texas at Austin, his M.M. from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City, and his B.M. from the University of Michigan. Additionally, he spent four summers studying and performing at the Aspen Music Festival and School, including two as a fellowship student. His primary instructors include Nathaniel Brickens, Per Brevig, Michael Powell, David Jackson, H. Dennis Smith, and Jonathan Holtfreter. He is a member of the International Trombone Association, the College Music Society, and the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity.

Drew Leslie is a Conn-Selmer Artist-Clinician and performs on Vincent Bach trombones.



Rachel Lesser

Rachel Lesser is in her 6th year of teaching P-5 General Music in Aurora Public Schools.

She has her Bachelor's in Music Ed and Culturally Linguistic Diversity from MSU Denver. Her Master's Degree is in Trauma Informed Practices from Columbia College, South Carolina. In her spare time she loves reading thrillers, watching firefighter shows,

and hanging out with her nieces, nephews, and her dog, Bluebell.



Megan Lewin

Megan Lewin is the Director of Bands at Westminster High School.

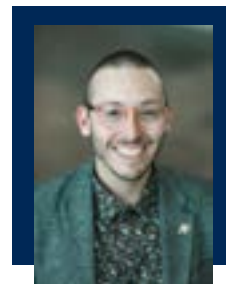
Mrs. Lewin received her Bachelor of Music Education Instrumental Emphasis from The Hartt School in Hartford, Connecticut summa cum laude and Master of Music Education with a Cognate in Conducting from the University of Colorado Boulder. A passionate educator, Mrs. Lewin presents at national and international conferences and hosts practicum music education students from CU Boulder. She is a Clinician for MakeMusic and the Colorado State Chair for Women Band Directors International where she works to support women in the field of band. Community Education Coordinator for the Colorado Symphony Association and continues to teach violin and viola lessons from her private studio. She previously directed orchestras at Westminster and Mapleton Public Schools and was the String Teaching Artist at El Sistema Colorado.



Tim Libby

Tim Libby is in his 24th year as Director of Bands at Cherry Creek High School. Prior

to that he taught at Gateway High School in Aurora for four years. He graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with degrees in music Education and Trumpet Performance. His ensembles have been selected to perform at the CMEA Conference 12 times, the Music For All National Concert Band Festival twice, and his Marching Band is a 17-time CBA State Finalist. In 2013, Mr. Libby was named the Cherry Creek high School Teacher of the Year in 2015 he was recognized by School Band and Orchestra Magazine as one of 50 Directors Who Make A Difference and in 2020 he was named the Colorado Music Educator of the Year by the National Federation of High Schools.



Kyle Liss

Kyle H. J. Liss is a music educator, string pedagogue, pianist, and composer/producer originally from Chicago, IL. He holds a BA in Piano Per-

formance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts, and a Master's in Music Education from The University of Colorado Boulder. He has been teaching since 2013, when he began his career in music education through private piano instruction. He moved to Colorado in 2017, and soon after took the position of Director of Orchestras at Frederick High School. Since then, he has overseen the growth of the string program from two to four orchestras, and has led his auditioned group to Superior ratings at the ASTA Regional and State Festivals. He also teaches Music Technology and Piano, and directs the Pit Orchestra, earning state-level recognition in 2018 with a performance at the Colorado Thespian Conference at the Bellco Theatre. In addition, Kyle has gigged as a professional musician since the age of sixteen; has composed original material across many genres and instrumentations; and toured the U.S. with a band he led for seven years. He blends these diverse personal experiences into a student-focused educational philosophy that both honors the past and looks toward the future.



Dave Lunn

Dave Lunn is in his 25th year of teaching, all of which has been spent at Liberty Common Schools, where

he teaches instrumental music, music theory and music history. Dave created an instrumental music program at the charter school in its first year with a small band of 25 students, which has since grown to include six instrumental ensembles. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Colorado State University, where he studied saxophone with Peter Sommer. In 2018, he was a finalist for Colorado Teacher of the Year. In addition to his work at Liberty, he has also run a program called the Fort Collins Youth Jazz Project for the past 14 years. This is a program for middle and high school students in Northern Colorado to learn the skills of playing and improvising jazz music. He also is frequently called upon as a saxophone and jazz clinician with local middle and high schools, and maintains a private woodwind studio. He keeps an active performing schedule with Northern Colorado bands Funky Business, Salsa Forte Latin Collective, and The Retake, as well as being a member of the Fort Collins Wind Symphony, and performing with his own Jazz quartet. He lives with his wife, Lori, in Fort Collins and

has 3 children. When not teaching or playing music, he is an avid mountain biker and rock climber.



Paul Maley

Paul Maley is in his 14th year of teaching Elementary Music. He currently is in his 4th year at Estes Park Ele-

mentary in Estes Park, Colorado. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree and Orff Certification from the University of Northern Colorado and a Masters in Music and Kodály Certification from Colorado State University. Maley is the Chair Elect for the Colorado Music Educators Association General Music Council. He has led district professional development for multiple Colorado school districts, led masterclasses for multiple Colorado collegiate music education programs, and led a workshop on lesson planning for the ROCKE organization. He has been published in Activate! music magazine and is currently an arranger/performer for hire. You can learn more about Paul on his website, www.paulmaley.com.

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Aaron Marfizo

Aaron Marfizo is a community leader, multi-instrumentalist, producer, song-writer, audio engineer,

and music educator. Aaron is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Product for Colorado Music Bridge, a non-profit organization that aims to bridge access to high quality modern music education for communities in-need while providing sustainable employment opportunities for local artists. He is the author of the Music Atlas curricula series, including the Piano Atlas, Guitar Atlas, Ukulele Atlas, Audio Atlas, and more, providing innovative and accessible resources for teaching fundamental, intermediate, and advanced music theory.



Abby Martinez

Abby Martinez is a teacher, performer, clinician and director from Grand Junction, CO. As a 2006

Boettcher Scholar, she received her Bachelor of Music Education Degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder and TEFL certificate

from ACLE Italia. Abby's true passion lies in directing the Erie Middle School Choir program, where she has been teaching since 2010. There, she conducts nearly 400 students in three "y'all come" grade-level choirs and four varied extracurricular choirs. Martinez believes that every child deserves the space to be their authentic self, and that together we can use music to make a positive change in our small town and larger world.

Mrs. Martinez regularly attends and presents at conferences and clinics, and often appears as a guest clinician and festival adjudicator across Colorado. She also serves on the SVVSD Music Leadership Team and as Chair Emerita for the All State Choir Board, which she helped found in 2011.

A proud "transplant" to Erie, CO, Mrs. Martinez loves to spend time paddle boarding, running, traveling, salsa- and after-dinner-kitchen-dancing, and spending time with her husband, Jeremiah, and two young children, Charlotte and Asher.



Kelsie McCallum

CW2 Kelsie McCallum joined the 101st Army Band in 2010 while pursuing her degree in

Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Upon graduation from UNC in 2013, she started teaching K-5 General Music in Academy District 20 in Colorado Springs, where she has taught for the past ten years. She completed her master's in educational leadership from UCCS in addition to graduating from the United States Army Warrant Officer Candidate School with honors in 2022. Chief McCallum officially assumed command of the 101st Army Band in October 2022 and continues to teach full time music in Colorado Springs.



John McGuire

Dr. John McGuire has an array of performance and teaching experience. He has performed

with orchestras nationwide, notably the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Opera, the Fort Worth Symphony, the New World Symphony in Miami, FL, the Civic Orchestra of

Chicago, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, and the Florida West Coast Symphony. As a soloist, he was awarded the title Yamaha Young Artist, has been a finalist in the American Horn Competition, won regional solo competitions, and appeared as a guest artist at workshops, festivals, and schools across the United States. With world-premiere performances to his credit, John is a passionate proponent of the creation of new solo horn literature and a sought-after contemporary music performer. John previously served as an adjunct instructor of Horn at the University of Alabama, Mississippi State University, Appalachian State University, Texas Women's University, the Music Institute of Chicago, and Florida A&M University. In addition, John maintained a private studio in the Dallas/Fort Worth area public school systems, where he was a clinician and adjudicator. John's former students have moved into successful careers as music educators and have attained positions as orchestral performers in ensembles such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. John received his D.M.A. and B.M. in Music Performance from the University of Alabama, his M.M. in Performance from Florida State University, and a Performer's Certificate from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University in Chicago. His major professors were Charles Skip Snead, William Capps, and Dale Clevenger.



Darmon Meader

Recognized in both the jazz vocal and instrumental worlds, Darmon Meader is a

highly respected vocalist, arranger and saxophonist. Darmon has achieved international recognition as the founder, musical director, chief arranger, composer, producer, saxophonist, and vocalist with New York Voices. As a member of New York Voices, he has released numerous recordings on the GRP, RCA/Victor, Concord and MCGJazz labels. In 2013, NYV released two new CDs: New York Voices, Live with the WDR Big Band Cologne and their long awaited Christmas CD, Let it Snow, both of which feature Darmon's extensive arranging skills. In 2008, Darmon released his much anticipated debut solo CD, And So Am I, and in 2023 he released his long awaited follow up, "Losing My Mind." These solo projects are collections of jazz standards and original works, which reflects his varied interests and skills as a singer, saxophonist, writer and arranger.

With New York Voices, Darmon has collaborated with a variety of artists including Ray Brown, Mark Murphy, Bernadette Peters, Ivan Lins, Bob Dorough, Don Sebesky, Nancy Wilson, Ann Hampton Callaway, Jim Hall, Paquito D'Rivera and

the Count Basie Orchestra. He has toured internationally, performing at such renowned venues as Carnegie Hall, North Sea Jazz Festival, Montreal Jazz Festival and Blue Note Jazz Clubs (New York and Japan). In addition to Darmon's New York Voices touring and recording commitments, he is increasingly busy as a soloist, sideman, studio musician and composer. Darmon continues to be actively involved in music education, working as a clinician and guest artist at both the high school and university levels.

Darmon has been the guest conductor for numerous All-State Jazz Ensembles and has made artist-in-residence appearances at various schools, including Northwestern University, University of Louisville, University of Miami, Humber College, Columbia College, University of Georgia and University of North Texas. Darmon has also taught at numerous domestic and international music workshops including the Inzigkoven Vocal Jazz Workshop in Germany, various IAJE Teacher's Training Institutes, the Western Michigan University Vocal Jazz Camp, the Vocal Pop & Jazz Days workshop in the Netherlands, the Tritone Jazz Fantasy Camp and the NYV Vocal Jazz Camps. Many of Darmon's choral, vocal jazz, and instrumental arrangements are available through the following publishers: Carl Fischer Music, Shawnee Press, Hal Leonard, Alfred Music, Belwin Mills and UNC JazzPress.

Your Path to Better Teaching

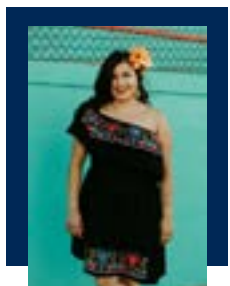
Sessions

Presenters



Bethany Meyer

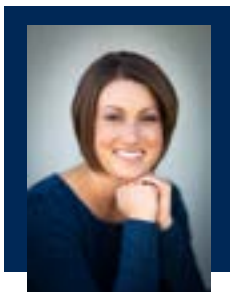
Bethany Meyer is the head choir director and performing arts chair at Falcon High School in Peyton, CO. She enjoys “talking shop” with other choir directors, especially in the areas of program logistics and growth/retention. Published with Colla Voce Music and Hal Leonard, she has also written several commissions for choirs across the state of Colorado. She has been fortunate enough to visit with and clinic middle school and high school choirs throughout southern Colorado, including choirs from Colorado Springs, Salida, and Pueblo.



Marialuis Meza Burgos

Marialuisa Meza-Burgos is a singer, musician, and actor from Colorado. She has spent most of her life performing music from the Mexican tradition known as Mariachi. She is a lead vocalist and vihuela player for the Colorado-based female Mariachi, Las Dahlias. She is also highly engaged in community outreach, serving as a Mariachi workshop facilitator for schools and programs throughout

the Denver Metro and Front range area. Notably, Mari was honored to be a judge for Colorado’s inaugural Mariachi CHSAA event. Mari holds a Bachelor’s degree in Music from MSU Denver and furthered her studies with a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre from Naropa University. Passionate about nurturing the next generation of Mariachi enthusiasts, Mari offers private lessons in Mariachi vocal performance and vihuela playing, aiming to pass on her knowledge and love for this vibrant musical tradition.



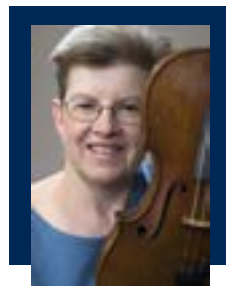
Alyssa Miller

Alyssa A. Miller is the current Vocal Music Council

Chair for the Colorado Music Educators Association. She taught both middle school and high school choir for seven years in Academy District 20. Alyssa holds a Bachelor of Music Education with a vocal emphasis from the University of Wyoming and a Masters in Music Education with an emphasis in choral conducting from University of Colorado Boulder. Alyssa was

honored to receive the Colorado Outstanding Young Music Educator award from CMEA in 2017. She has been a member of ACDA since 2013 and CMEA since 2015.

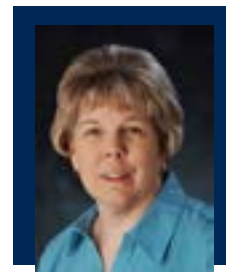
Alyssa is married to her wonderful husband, Ian. They have three beautiful girls, Mackenzie, Riley, and Kelsey and one crazy bird-dog, Laramie. She currently enjoys being a stay-at-home mom and is so thankful for this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pour into her own children.



Margaret Miller

Margaret Miller is Senior Instructor of Viola and Chamber Music at Colorado State University.

She has given concerts and masterclasses throughout the US and has presented at the conferences of the American String Teachers Association, CMEA, CASTA, and WMEA. Besides teaching and coaching, she is very involved with the success of students in both High School and University settings.



Martina Miranda

Martina Miranda is an Associate Professor of Music Education at CU Boulder. Her

teaching responsibilities include elementary music methods for undergraduate and graduate students, supervision of student teachers, and graduate course topics exploring implications of musical development for music teaching and learning experiences. Martina has over 16 years of experience as a Pre-K through 6th grade General Music teacher, and has presented at state, national, and international conferences. She holds Orff and Kodaly certifications.



Gerard Morris

Dr. Gerard Morris joined the University of Puget Sound School of Music faculty in fall 2009,

and currently serves as director of bands and department chair for winds and percussion. In 2016, he was honored as the recipient of the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award, and in 2022 was promoted to the rank of full professor. Morris earned a Bachelor of Arts degree

Elevate Your Approach

in music from Western Michigan University, a Master of Music Education degree from University of Colorado at Boulder, and a Doctor of Music degree in conducting from Northwestern University.

Morris has appeared as conductor, guest clinician, and lecturer at numerous events throughout the United States and abroad, including CBDNA National and Division Conferences, WMEA State Conference, CMEA Bay Section Conference, University of Georgia JanFest, South Dakota Bandmasters Association Conference, and guest artist in residence at American Community School Abu Dhabi and Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Morris’s conducting and teaching are informed by years of professional performing experience as principal euphonium with Boulder Brass Inc. and United States Marine Corps Band, Hawai’i. With these organizations he toured the United States, Australia, and Costa Rica as both an ensemble member and soloist.



Heather Murphy

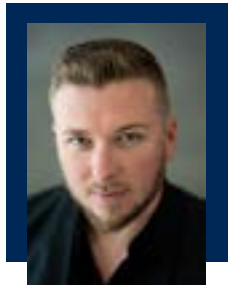
Heather Murphy received a bachelor degree in Music Performance and Music

Education from New Mexico State

University where she graduated With Honors and as Valedictorian of her class in 2002. She graduated with a Master in Music Education and Minor in Performance from the University of Colorado in 2005. In 2009, Mrs. Murphy completed her long-term training in all ten books of Cello Suzuki Method at the University of Denver. She has been teaching cello privately as well as performing professionally since 1996. Mrs. Murphy has also taught at various Suzuki camps in Colorado and collaborated with Denver Talent Education, Boulder Suzuki Strings, and Greater Boulder Youth Orchestra. She began teaching public school orchestra in 2003 with the Boulder Valley School District. Mrs. Murphy currently is the director of orchestras at Centaurus High School and Meadowlark School. Her groups have consistently received high marks at contests, both locally and outside of Colorado. She has also been brought in time and time again to help revive troubled programs with various demographics. In Mrs. Murphy’s spare time, she enjoys playing her cello, yoga, cooking, hiking, and having lots of fun with her family.

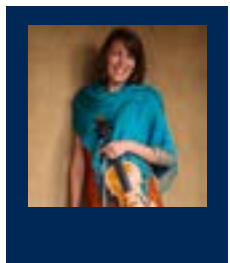
Sessions

Presenters



Brian C. Murray

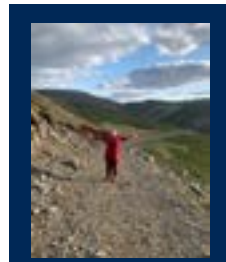
Brian C. Murray is the Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Wyoming. In 2024, the Singing Statesmen offered invited performances for conventions of the Wyoming Music Educators Association and the Northwest American Choral Directors Association. Dr. Murray earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting at the University of North Texas. He remains connected to his alma mater by returning each summer and serving as an associate director of the UNT All-State Choir Camp and a faculty member for the UNT Choral Conducting Symposium.



Sarah Off

Violinist Dr. Sarah Off has established herself as an innovative and passionate performer and educator. Her performances have been described as “receiving rapturous reception” (The Times, London), “brilliant and seamless with great focus” (AZ State Press)

and “intuitively talented” (Bridge Initiative). As a soloist and chamber musician she regularly performs throughout the United States and abroad including recent appearances at Iceland’s Harpa International Music Festival, the Lauderdale House in London, UK, Crested Butte Music Festival in Colorado, Oh My Ears New Music Festival in Arizona, the DiMenna Center in New York City, and as soloist with the Boulder Symphony, the Greeley Philharmonic, and Durango’s Music in the Mountains Chamber Orchestra. Sarah currently serves as Associate Professor of Violin and Music Business and Director of the Center for Art Entrepreneurship at the University of Northern Colorado. As an educator, Sarah works to ensure students enter the field of music as fully equipped, well-rounded, skilled musicians and entrepreneurs. She is an advocate for practicing healthy approaches to the violin and actively incorporates these practices into her studio teaching. Sarah received her BM in Violin Performance from CU Boulder and her MM and DMA in Violin Performance from Arizona State University.



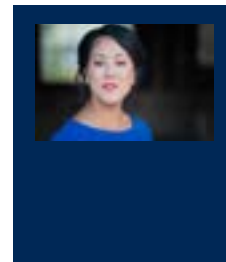
Katie Oglesby

With a strong passion for music education, Katie Oglesby started teaching band and choir in

2019 at Salida Middle School. She graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Music Education and a minor in Spanish. In her time at Salida Middle School, Katie has been proud to continue developing a growing middle school band and choir program. Achievements include reviving the SHS Marching Band, alongside colleague and mentor Andre Wilkins. She has also created, organized, and hosted the Collegiate Peaks Middle School Honor Band which began in the 2022-’23 school year. At the beginning of 2024, Katie started A Rural Music Teacher Podcast with André Wilkins. On this platform they both strive to educate and encourage other rural music teachers through honest and solution-based discourse about the profession.

Katie is thrilled to serve on statewide and local committees that support music and music education, including Colorado Middle School All-State Choir (District 6 Governor since 2020), CMEA Instrumental Council (District 6 representative since 2022), and the Salida Aspen Concerts (board

member since 2021). recorded the album All Are Welcome in 2022, which features new commissions for oboe and bassoon by Connor Chee, Brin Solomon, Mason Bynes, and Kate Pukinskis. Galit is also uncovering the legacy of composer Elizabeth Gyiring through performing and recording her works.



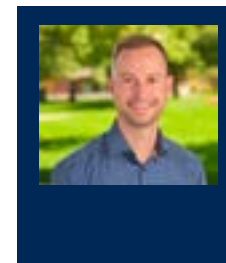
Margaret Ozaki-Graves

Margaret Ozaki Graves, Senior Director of Education and Community Engagement

at Central City Opera, produces education and performance works in service to the community. She is passionate about making operatic spaces more inclusive, accessible, and relevant. “Chiaroscuro: Light in Darkness,” CCO’s first newly-devised educational program in over a decade, won critical, academic, and student praise for its innovative reframing of traditional operatic music to share stories of adolescent mental health challenges, and will be presented at the 2025 National Opera Association (NOA) and National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Conferences. Other recent creative work focuses upon sharing important messages while combining opera and technology. “Metamorphosis,” a response to

Discover Fresh Perspectives

the portrayal of Asian women in the historic operatic repertoire and received a 2022 Address Anti-Asian Racism grant, sponsored by CU Boulder Center for Humanities & the Arts in partnership with CU Advancement, Kaiser Permanente, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJ). Dr. Ozaki Graves holds degrees from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (DMA with cognate in Japanese Aesthetics and Music; MM), Lawrence University (BM), and a Certificate in Diversity & Inclusion (CDI) from Cornell University. A soprano recognized for a “voice that is crystal clear” (Opus Colorado), performance highlights include Lyric Opera of Chicago, LA Opera, Arizona Opera, in Weimar (Germany), and across her home state of Colorado.



Kevin Padworski

Kevin T. Padworski serves as the Director of Vocal Music at Colorado Academy,

Director of Voces Aureas at the University of Denver Lamont School of Music, Artistic Director of The Colorado Chorale, and Chancel Choir Director at Augustana Lutheran Church. Padworski performs extensively, and has been the recipient of numerous honors

and awards declaring mastery in multiple disciplines: conducting, voice, saxophone, and keyboards. Professional appearances include the Aspen Music Festival, Colorado Repertory Singers, Colorado Choral Arts Society, Colorado Symphony, Colorado Symphony Chorus, Cincinnati Youth Choir, Dallas Symphony, DCINY Concerts Orchestra, Mid-America Concert Productions, Denver Brass, Evans Choir, Jubilate Deo Chorale and Orchestra, Lamont Symphony Orchestra, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra, New England Wind Ensemble, Opera Colorado, Stratus Chamber Orchestra, Bravo! Vail Music Festival, American Baptist Churches USA, and numerous collaborative and solo performances.

Padworski holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting and literature from the University of Colorado, and the master and bachelor of music degrees in conducting and music education from the University of Denver and Eastern University. The composition chair for Colorado ACDA, he is an active composer and writes for soloists, instrumental, and choral ensembles with a particular interest in creating robust and engaging orchestrations and accompaniments. Padworski’s music has been performed at local, state, regional, and national ACDA conferences, receiving premieres in venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York City and the Votivkirche in Vienna, and his commissions have received

Sessions

Presenters

accolades including recognition from Americans for the Arts. His works are available through Walton, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Hal Leonard, Pavane, and MusicSpoke.



Kelly Parkes

Originally from Australia, Dr. Parkes' primary research interests are in music and music educa-

tion assessment; measuring musical learning within K-12 settings and the applied studio; teaching readiness, professional dispositions and reflective practices in pre-service teachers; as well as teaching effectiveness and teaching quality. She served as chair of the NAFME Society for Research in Music Education (SRME) Assessment Special Research Interest Group. She also co-chaired the national Model Cornerstone Assessment research project in partnership with NAFME and served on its Music Teacher Evaluation Taskforce. Parkes was elected to the International Trumpet Guild Board of Directors (2015-19) and was awarded the Lowell Mason Fellow award (2018) by NAFME for her leadership in music education. She served on the editorial committee for the Journal for Research in Music Education (2014-2020) and serves on the review boards of the Music

Educators Journal and the Research Studies for Music Education journal, and is a member of the NAFME Society for Research in Music Education's Executive Board. Parkes' co-authored books—"Developing and applying assessments in the music classroom" (2020) and "Applying model cornerstone assessments in K-12 music: A research-supported approach" (2018)—serve as models for classroom music educators and resources for music teacher educators.



Jeff Perry

Jeff is the Director of Bands at Brighton High School and currently serves as

Instructor of Percussion at Aims Community College, in Greeley CO. He has spent the past 24 years teaching band and percussion at the middle school, high school, and college levels in Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, and Kentucky. Jeff served as the Interim Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Northern Colorado—serving as the band director for the "Pride of the Rockies" Marching Band in 2021-2022 and percussion instructor for

the marching band from 2014-2021. He received his MM in percussion performance from Colorado State University with Dr. Eric Hollenbeck.

Jeff's teaching roots date back to his drum line days as a member of the University of North Texas drum line as well as the Sky Ryders, Velvet Knights, and the Madison Scouts drum corps, where his mentors included DCI hall of famers and master teachers Paul Rennick and Tom Float. After aging out, Jeff was a staff member of the Madison Scouts and Carolina Crown drum corps.

In addition to teaching, Jeff continues to perform (when available) with the Aims Faculty Ensemble, Greeley Philharmonic, Fort Collins Symphony, and both the Greeley and Larimer Chorales.



Shelly Peterson

Shelly Peterson is in her 30th year of teaching music and is in her 26th year of teaching gen-

eral music in Cheyenne Mountain School District in Colorado Springs. She has taught all levels of K-12 General Music/Vocal Music in Missouri, Texas, and Colorado, but feels her true calling is in the Elementary Music Classroom. She has co-directed the District Honor Choir and was

honored to receive Educator of the Year in CMSD early in her tenure. Shelly not only loves to try new ways to develop musicians in the classroom, but has a passion for preparing kids to perform and loves to see those "shy kids" thrive on stage and grow by leaps and bounds. Outside of the classroom, Shelly is an active vocalist and plays keyboard for her church. She feels extremely blessed to have been in this field for 30 years and looks forward to retirement and spending more time with her family!



Harrison Pfeifer

Harrison Pfeifer is a Second Year Teacher in Westminster Public Schools. Harrison teach-

es at Tennyson Knolls Preparatory School (K-8) and teaches General Music, Band, and Choir. Harrison Graduated with his BME in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado in 2023. Harrison helped start a Band, Choir, and restore a K-5 General music at TKP in his first year, as well as collaborated with many other music teachers in the WPS school district. Harrison has also had multiple Student Teacher Experiences in St. Vrain School District, and District 6. Harrison also has Brass Teched for High Schools in Adams 12, Jeff Co, and Westminster Public School Districts.

Where Learning and Music Connect



Shauna Pickens

Dr. Shauna Pickens is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at Texas Tech

University where she teaches brass methods, advanced brass methods, technology integration in music instruction, and graduate courses. She earned a BM in trombone performance from Texas Tech University, an MM in trombone performance from Southern Methodist University, and a PhD in Music Education from Texas Tech University. Prior to joining the faculty at Texas Tech, she taught at Concordia College in MN and was a middle school band director in Pflugerville ISD in Texas.



David Pope

David Pope is an Associate Professor of Music Education and Chair of Professional Studies at

Baldwin Wallace University's Conservatory of Music. In addition, he serves as a senior conductor and co-director of Baldwin Wallace Conservatory's String Orchestra Camp.



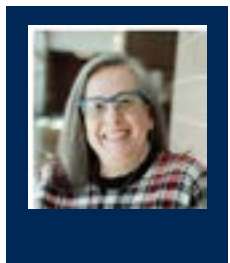
Meaghan Quigley

Ms. Meaghan Quigley, Denver School of the Arts Vocal Director: AFA: Casper College-Vocal

Performance and Music Education, BA: Colorado Mesa University-Music Education, MA: Adams State University-Choral Conducting and Music Education, Boston University-DMA Student; member of NATS, ACDA, CMEA, and NAFME. Meaghan has served as an honor choir clinician, choral adjudicator, faculty for international music programs, DSA Tri-M sponsor, and member of the CHSAA music board. As the Director of Vocal Music at Denver School of the Arts where she has been the Vocal Director for: Chicago, It's A Wonderful Life, The Little Mermaid, and 9-5, which was chosen as a finalist for the International Thespian Convention in 2020. Her ensembles and students receive superior ratings, performed for the 2020 and 2023 Colorado Music Educators Association Conferences, at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, with Barry Manilow and Kristin Chenoweth, the Colorado Symphony Ballet, Denver Women's Chorus and Mirabai, Colorado All-State Choirs, and SWACDA and National ACDA Honor Choirs.

Sessions

Presenters



Angela Reeder

Mrs. Reeder has been playing the piano for almost 50 years, and earned a bachelors degree in

Piano Performance and a masters degree in Music Theory from the University of Arkansas. She has been an accompanist in the St Vrain Valley School District since 2013.

She is in demand as an accompanist, having recently played for the Colorado Middle All-State Choirs, a CMEA Reading Session, and the SVVSD Honor Choirs. She has accompanied numerous musicals, including Seussical, The Music Man, Fiddler on the Roof, and Cinderella. She has performed in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Guatemala, and Mexico.

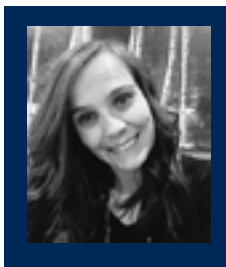


David A. Rickels

David A. Rickels is Associate Professor of Music Education at the University of Colo-

rado Boulder. His diverse teaching background includes a range of settings from kindergarten through

college, including high school concert and marching bands, elementary beginning band and general music, and college music education methods courses. Dr. Rickels has served as the national Chair of the Society for Music Teacher Education (SMTE), and also is a current member of the editorial board of the Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education. His own research has appeared in major journals, in addition to presentations at national and international conferences. Dr. Rickels holds graduate degrees in music education from Arizona State University.



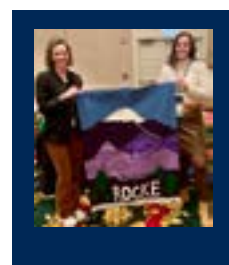
Anna Robinson

Anna Robinson has been a music teacher for 15 years and cur-

rently teaches K-5 General Music and Choir at Padilla Elementary School in Brighton, CO. She previously taught for 10 years in Telluride R-1 School district as preK-3rd General Music Teacher. Anna received her Master's of Music degree from Colorado State University where she also earned her Kodály levels 1-3, and also completed Orff-Schulwerk levels 1-3 at The University of

Northern Colorado. Anna served on the CMEA General Music Council for 4 years as a District 7 representative and now as District 2 rep. She has also served as a board member for the Four Corners chapter of AOSA. Additionally, she is the Secretary for the Regional Organization of Colorado Kodály Educators. Anna also directs the "Prima Voce" ensemble of the Boulder Children's Chorale.

Outside of teaching, Anna has been a company member and vocal director of the Telluride Theatre Company. She has also sung with the Telluride Choral Society, and in a small quartet called "The Jeweltones". Anna also enjoys going to the gym, hiking, skiing, and watching sports.



ROCKE

The Regional Organization of Kodály Educators (ROCKE) has been providing Colorado Music

Teachers with excellent professional development and resources since 1996. Founded by Ginger Littleton and endorsed by OAKE, ROCKE exists to enrich children's music education by promoting the philosophy of Zoltán Kodály. ROCKE is dedicated to promoting music education at the highest level. In addition to providing inspiring and engaging workshops presented

by nationally-recognized excellent teachers, ROCKE also provides Make-and-Take sessions at the annual CMEA Clinic/Conference each year and partners with the Colorado Kodály Institute at Colorado State University each summer to provide training in the Kodály approach.



David Row

David Row loves teaching music to kids! A Nebraska native and Midwesterner at heart, David now

lives and teaches in the Kansas City metro area for the DeSoto Unified School District. He holds a Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of Missouri – Kansas City Conservatory, Orff Schulwerk certification, and has extensive experience with critical thinking in the arts. David is an active clinician and has presented workshops at national, state, and local conventions across the United States and Canada. He is an AOSA-approved Orff Schulwerk teacher educator and teaches Level I Pedagogy each summer in Orlando and St. Louis. On his blog, MakeMomentsMatter.org, and through his podcast David shares ideas about classroom content, management, lesson plans, critical thinking, and more. Catch up with David every week on his "Musical Mondays" LIVE videos on Facebook.



Angela Schendel Keedy

Angela Schendel Keedy serves as the CMEA Historian and Profession-

al Development Coordinator for the National Association of Music Education, impacting music teachers nationwide. An esteemed mentor and clinician, she has presented at various conferences including CBA, the FMEA conference, Music Will conference, Montana Music Educator's Conference, All Northwest Conference, and NAFME National Conferences and Symposiums. Keedy holds degrees in Music Education and Flute Performance from the University of Montana, a Master's in Music from the University of Northern Colorado, and is completing her Doctorate in Music Education at UNC. Ms. Keedy has taught in all areas of music including band, choir, orchestra, jazz, and general music. Her students and ensembles have been featured on NBC Nightly News, been invited to perform at the Beijing Olympics, and collaborated with her students on a National Endowment for the Arts grant project that was performed in New York City to critical acclaim. After her teaching career, Keedy served in several school administrative roles including principal, school founder, and executive director. In her spare time, Ms. Keedy likes to go for

nature walks, garden, watch Marvel movies with her family, and cook.



Matthew Schlomer

Dr. Matthew Schlomer serves as the Director of Bands at the University of

Wyoming where he oversees the band program, conducts the Wind Symphony, and teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting.

Dr. Schlomer is an international artist whose creativity flourishes across many genres. His diverse background as a saxophonist, composer, arranger, dancer, actor, and an award-winning visual artist informs his unique approach to performance and concert programming. He avidly pursues collaborations and has created works with writers, chefs, actors, poets, rap artists, singers, filmmakers, choreographers and visual artists. As an advocate of new music, he regularly commissions and premieres works that explore the intersections of different art forms and promotes underrepresented composers.

Before his appointment at the University of Wyoming, Schlomer was a conductor at the renowned Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. There he founded the Composer's

Key to Professional Growth

Sessions

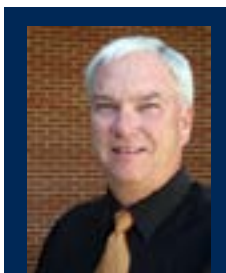
Presenters

Sandbox, a program for composers that fosters experimentation and creativity; and the Sound Garden Project, a chamber music incubation program that reimagines the performers' and audience's experiences with classical music. Past positions have included the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Luther College, Edgewood College, and he has over 12 years experience in public and private schools grades 5-12.



Nichole Seay

Nichole Seay is in her 28th year of teaching general music in Cheyenne Mountain School District in Colorado Springs. During her tenure she has co-directed the district honor choir, designed curriculum and served in numerous leadership roles. In addition to her love of teaching children, she is passionate about training young teachers and has been blessed to have 20 talented music educators work in her classroom. She feels so fortunate to have a job that allows her to play everyday!

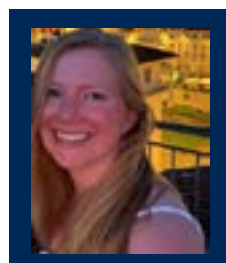


Richard Shaw

Richard Shaw graduated from the University of Colo-

rado, Boulder and has been a music educator for over 35 years. His bands were consistent award winners and were selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Conference on 6 occasions. Under his direction, the marching band at Air Academy High School was state champion 3 times, 12 time regional champions and performed in the Tournament of Roses Parade and the Miami King Orange Parade. Mr. Shaw is a Past-President of the Colorado Music Educators Association. Richard is in the Colorado Bandmasters and CMEA Hall of Fame and received the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster Award, Pikes Peak Music Educators Hall of Fame, Alumnus of the Year, University of Colorado College of Music. He is in constant demand locally and nationally as an adjudicator and clini-

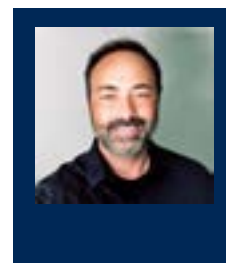
cian. Mr. Shaw currently serves as the Colorado Bandmasters Chairman of Marching Affairs.



Kajsa Shea

Kajsa Shea is a string educator, an explorer of divergent thinking within music education, and expert in embedded advocacy. She believes that the music classroom is a dynamic environment, where students and structures interact and adapt with each other to create opportunities for learning. She also suggests that music education is about enabling students to develop their own expertise rather than passing along that of the teacher. Shea received her Bachelor of Music Education from Lawrence University in 2015 where she studied Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance, improvisation, and education policy with a focus on advocacy. Shea completed her Masters of Music Education from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2023 with a focus on creativity, curriculum design, and instrumental conducting. Shea currently teaches 5-12 strings at Peak to Peak Charter School, a public charter within the Boulder Valley School District, where she serves as their Performing Arts Curriculum Lead.

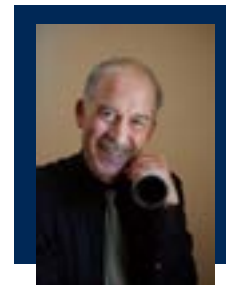
cal growth. She is a frequent guest conductor and clinician and has worked with students in Colorado, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. She has presented sessions for teachers at the National ASTA Conference, Colorado ASTA Summer Conference, Music Educators Association Conferences in Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Texas, in addition to a variety of national research presentations. Dr. Fulcher's research interests include female leadership in music, string method books, string pedagogy, string repertoire, and technology-use in ensembles and music classrooms.



Joel Shifflet

President of Piano Marvel and holds a degree in music from CSU Pueblo. He is a leader in developing transformative music technology for education that has been used by over a million students and teachers to improve their music learning environment. Joel's background includes roles as a choir and band teacher and an experienced professional saxophonist. He is also a respected clinician, sharing his extensive knowledge on integrating technology in music education. Joel's expertise continues to shape and innovate the future of music learning.

Sessions that Shape the Future



Daniel Silver

Daniel Silver is a versatile performer whose performing has garnered international critical acclaim. The

Washington Post praised his "sense of freedom and extraordinary control". Mr. Silver has served as Principal Clarinet of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, one of the youngest performers to win a principal position in a major orchestra at the time. Festival credits include Tanglewood, Aspen, and the Interlochen Arts Camp where he has been a faculty member since 1991. Currently he serves as Full Professor of Clarinet at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Mr. Silver has appeared frequently with the orchestras of Baltimore and Pittsburgh, including Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall concerts with David Zinman and Lorin Maazel. He has also played under Leonard Bernstein, Andre Previn, Douglas Boyd, Seiji Ozawa, Andrew Davis, James Conlon, David Zinman, and Leonard Slatkin. Silver is an acknowledged expert on the subject of effective practice. He has consulted with the late Anders Ericsson as well as top athletic coaches on best practices for athletes and musicians. He has presented clinics on practicing to top sports teams in the country and to the Colorado Professional Golf Association.



Philip Silvey

Philip Silvey is Associate Professor of Music Education at the Eastman School of Music where he

teaches the Treble Chorus, Choral Arranging, and other courses in music education. He has served as clinician and adjudicator in numerous states and directed state honors choruses in Maryland, Virginia, New York, and New Jersey. He has presented interest sessions at national, regional, and state ACDA and NAfME conferences. His writings appear in the Journal of Research in Music Education, Music Educators Journal, and the Choral Journal. Santa Barbara Music, Carl Fischer, Boosey & Hawkes, E.C. Schirmer, and Hal Leonard publish his choral works.



Caleb Smith

Caleb Smith has been teaching elementary music for the last five years. He was at Sanborn Elementary for

two years and at Legacy Elementary in Frederick, Colorado, for the last three years. He currently has a before-school pops choir and drama club. Last year, my school did Peter

Sessions

Presenters

Pan, and he produced Mary Pop-pins with Amy Abbott and helped backstage for Oliver and Matilda.



Wes Sparkes

Wes Sparkes is in his 12th year directing vocal music at Eagleview Arts Integrated Middle School

in Colorado Springs, CO. He attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Colorado College. Wes has performed with the Colorado Springs Chorale, worked with the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, the Colorado ACDA board, been a festival clinician, and is co-founder of the Academy District 20 Honor Choir.

Eagleview Middle School's choral program serves over 300 students through grade-level and enrichment choirs. In rehearsals singers work on vocal technique, musicianship, sight-reading, and connecting to their music. Students utilize sectionals, individual and large group rehearsals, audition feedback, and recording analysis to improve their skills each day. Wes knows that not every student who takes choir will be a professional musician or music educator, however he believes the lessons they learn through their pursuit of music will carry forward throughout their lives.



Michele Starcher

Michele teaches music to elementary students at Thomas

MacLaren School in Colorado Springs. She holds a Master of Music Education Degree with Kodaly Certification from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. She has a Bachelor's of Music Education Degree from the Ohio State University. She has taught elementary music most of her career and her passion is empowering students to be independent musicians.



David Starnes

Mr. David Starnes served as the Director of Orchestras at

Kennesaw Mountain High School in Kennesaw, Georgia from 2020-2023, prior to his retirement from a 34-year career as a music educator. He served as Assistant Professor and Director of Athletic Bands in the School of Music at Western Carolina University (NC)

from 2011-2020 and was the founding Director of Bands at Kennesaw Mountain High School from 2000-2011. He currently serves as the Program Coordinator for The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from Rosemont, Illinois as well as the Director of Music at Acworth United Methodist Church (GA) where he conducts the Chancel Choir and orchestra. During his tenure at Western Carolina University, he was responsible for all aspects of the 500+ member "Pride of the Mountains" Marching Band that performed at the Bands of America Regional Championships in Atlanta (2011) and St. Louis (2018), the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis (2012, 2015) and the 88th and 93rd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City (2014 and 2019). Mr. Starnes is sought out nationally and internationally as an adjudicator, clinician, guest conductor, and creative designer. He served as an Education Consultant at Music for All from 1995-2021. While fulfilling this role, his duties included serving as the Program Director for The Honor Band of America, who appeared in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017, and 2022. Mr. Starnes was inducted into the Bands of America Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2019. nison, Colorado. He produces the YouTube channel Percussion Methods, a growing video repository of percussive education.



Thalea Stokes

Thalea Stokes is a scholarly musician specializing in both double bass performance and

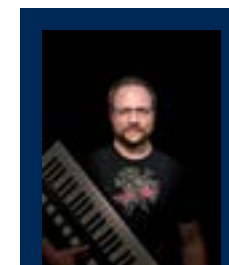
applied ethnomusicology. From her experiences traveling the world as the child of military parents, Thalea has been immersed in multicultural settings from an early age. Throughout her primary and secondary education, Thalea developed a proficiency in classical double bass and deep interest in East Asian music cultural practices.

At the university level, Thalea has pursued an educational path that has reflected her interest in a participatory and scholarly pursuit of music. From Western Michigan University, Thalea earned a Bachelor of Arts in International and Global Studies (with a geographic focus on China), a Bachelor of Music in Double Bass Performance, and an Master of Arts in music (with an area focus on ethnomusicology). Her Master's thesis is a comprehensive ethnography of the unique and diasporic effects of Mongolian music culture in China.

A doctoral candidate in ethnomusicology at the University of Chicago, Thalea's dissertation work examines the Mongolian hip hop communities of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, and

Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China.

Currently, Thalea is the vocal music instructor at Pueblo School for the Arts and Sciences, where she implements ethnomusicology in her daily instruction.



Peter Stoltzman

Pianist and educator Peter John Stoltzman has worked at the highest levels of the

industry in virtually every style—recording contemporary classical music, headlining jazz festivals, making hip hop tracks at Warner Bros, and accompanying songwriters. In 2020, Peter founded Colorado Music Bridge, a nonprofit dedicated to modern music education and teacher development. He has a doctorate in Music and Human Learning from UT Austin, and degrees from Berklee and New England Conservatory. Peter's purpose is to be an access broker—building inclusive structures that support musicians in their careers and spread the joy of teaching, learning, and creating music.



Justine Marie Sullivan

Justine Marie Sullivan is an elemental music and movement educator from Denver, Colo-

rado. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music Education, Performance, and Composition, as well as Orff-Schulwerk Certification. She splits her professional career between instructing in classroom and studio settings ranging from kindergarten through undergraduate music education courses, and in marketing/social media/design projects for local and national music education professional development and advocacy groups.



Janeka Taylor

Janeka is a passionate educator and musician with a diverse background in music education and

performance. She is a proud graduate of DPS, having attended Denver School of the Arts, where she honed her skills, particularly in piano and instrumental music. After completing her high school education, she pursued her Bachelor of Music in Music Education at the University

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Sessions

Presenters

of Puget Sound, where she further developed her pedagogical expertise and musical proficiency.

With an unwavering commitment to music education, Janeka has dedicated the past twelve years to teaching at DSST Green Valley Ranch. Her experience extends beyond the classroom, as she has also worked with students in various educational settings, encouraging a love for music across diverse cultures and age groups.

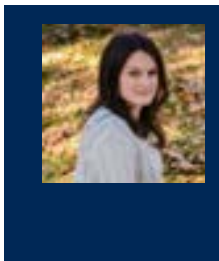
Her versatile musical background allows her to bring a rich and dynamic perspective to her teaching, inspiring students to explore themselves, and the world around them, through different genres and styles of music.



Joseph Taylor

Dr. Joseph Taylor is an Associate Professor at UCCS. His background is in quantitative research

methods with application in STEM and GT education.



Kalinda Theobald

Kalinda Theobald is a music director in Grand Junction, CO where she has lived

her whole life. She is proud to be a part of the leadership team for CMEA. She has served on the General Music Council for two years as the District 7 rep, two years as the chair-elect, and now she is honored to step into the role of chair. She is looking forward to working with her fellow music educators to help continue the incredible legacy of CMEA as an organization.



Tyler Thomas

Dr. Tyler Thomas has held teaching positions at the middle and high school level in his home state

of New York, and has most recently served as co-director of The School for Music Vocations in Creston, Iowa. While at SMV, he directed the pop ensemble, singer-songwriter ensemble, and two of the vocal jazz ensembles, taught applied lessons in jazz voice and songwriting, and a wide array of courses including those in music theory, ear training, performance psychology, studio

recording, production, and music business. An accomplished jazz vocalist and songwriter, Dr. Thomas understudied for Kurt Elling in the world premier of Rich DeRosa's

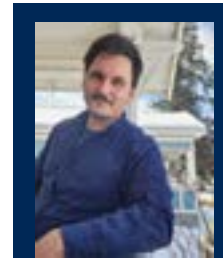
Life in Poetry and Music, and his own original song cycle A Song of Once Upon a Time was hailed by Roger Emerson as "stunning." Dr. Thomas is a past co-chair of the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships, has worked with high school jazz choirs as a clinician and adjudicator across Iowa, and has served as a guest conductor for honors mixed choirs and vocal jazz ensembles in Pennsylvania and New York. He holds a B.M. in Music Education from SUNY Potsdam, and both an M.M. and D.M.A. in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas.



Joseph Toy

JJ Toy graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, TN with a degree in K-12 Music Education. An

avid pianist, he has played around the country as well as internationally. Before joining the Quaver team, JJ taught high school, middle school, and elementary music in Nashville area schools.



Brian Tremper

After graduating from the University of Montana in 2018, Brian Tremper played with

countless groups before coming to Colorado State University's Masters Plus Licensure program. He is an active drummer, songwriter, and educator, and serves as one of the Graduate Teaching Assistants for Music Education at CSU.



Ryan Unangst

Ryan Unangst comes from Romeo Music as an Educational Music Technology Specialist. Having taught elementary

general music, middle school modern bands and digital music production, high school musical theater, and marching band percussion and technology, Ryan has a rare mastery of curriculum and technology integration.



Wanda Vásquez Garcia

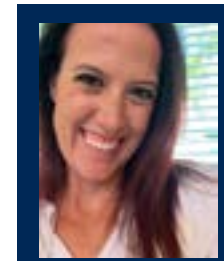
Wanda Vásquez Garcia is a Dominican-American General Music educator, children's choir

director, advocate, award-winning author, and clinician. A native of the Dominican Republic currently living in Colorado, she holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, the first University in the American Continent, and a Master's Degree in Music Education with an emphasis on choral music from the University of Northern Colorado. Currently, she is the general music teacher at Escuela Bilingüe Pioneer, Lafayette Colorado, and a Connected Arts Networks (CAN) Project – NAFME's National Teacher Leader. Wawnda is also a published author of the Bilingual Children's book "From Across the Street," a story about the Dominican Folkloric Music "Los Palos."

She was recently honored with the 2024 Impact Awards, recognizing her teaching excellence in the Boulder Valley School District.

Wanda has presented clinics and reading sessions promoting multicultural music, Dominican folk music, culturally responsive teaching, and music technology in the elementary classroom at Colorado ACDA, CMEA, NAFME Eastern

Division, SWACDA, FABSS, and Music Will Modern Band Summit.



Sarah Volk

After graduating from Colorado Mesa University in 2017, and earning my Master's of Special Edu-

cation in 2020, I have taught every grade from K-12 and settled on Elementary music. After 6 years of teaching I was given the opportunity to start a brand new music program at my current school in which I only teach Kindergarten and first graders. While challenging at times, it is very rewarding and amazing to see young minds expand as they learn about the world through the medium of music.



Kirk Vogel

Kirk Vogel spent his entire music education career involved with Colorado schools including teaching

assignments at Palisade Jr/Sr High School, Bayfield Middle and High School and, for most of his career, Heath Junior High/Heath Middle School in Greeley. During his career he was fortunate enough to be able

Sessions

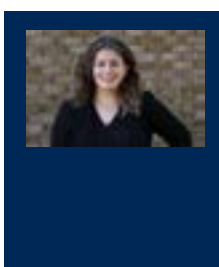
Presenters

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to teach band, orchestra, choir and jazz band. Kirk continues to be active as a composer, guest conductor, educator/clinician and adjudicator.

Mr. Vogel has also had a successful career as a composer of band and orchestra music being published by Alfred Music, Grand Mesa Music, Kjos Music Company and Southern Music (Lauren Keiser Music Publishing). He also distributes music through his own publishing company Wilderness Impressions Music (WI Music). His compositions Kokopelli, Three Waters Mountain, Escalante, and Perseids were the winning entries in the Colorado Music Educators Association Composers Competition in 1993, 1996, 1998, and 2000. His compositions have been performed at state music conventions, the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the National Flute Association Convention and the American School Band Directors Association National Convention. Professional ensembles, community bands and every age group from elementary through college have performed his music. He is a writer member and publisher member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

He resides in Greeley, CO, with his wife, Susan. They have two grown daughters, Erin and Kayley. On his free days he loves to spend time with his family hiking and photographing nature.



Rachel Waddell

With energy, imagination, and a passion for people, American conductor Rachel Waddell proves

an unabashed advocate for the 21st century orchestra. Her leadership across the country demonstrates her innate ability to transform vision into action. Rachel believes by uplifting, celebrating, and reflecting the artistry of our neighbors, orchestras become the creative heartbeat of our communities. Rachel serves as the Director of Orchestras at Colorado State University. Previously she was the Director of Orchestral Activities and Assistant Professor with the Arthur Satz Department of Music at the University of Rochester in New York. Rachel is also a popular clinician and guest conductor and has the privilege of working with AA Festival Orchestra in Helena, Montana, Pikes Peak Honors Orchestra in Colorado Springs, and Texas All State Orchestra Sinfonia, among others. She was also named a quarterfinalist for the 2024 Grammy Music Educators Award.

Rachel maintains a busy profile in the professional and academic worlds. She currently is a Music Director Finalist for the Greater Bridgeport Symphony and has conducted orchestras around the world including the Orchestre

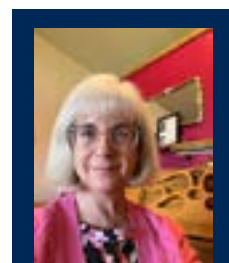
Métropolitain, the Rochester, Las Vegas, and Fort Wayne Philharmonics, the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, and Cleveland's Suburban Symphony.



Gretchen Wahlberg

Gretchen taught elementary music in Ft. Myers, FL for over 35 years. She co-teaches Orff

Level I at Southern Illinois Univ at Edwardsville. Gretchen has co-conducted All-State Children's Chorus and Orff Ensembles in Florida and Virginia. She co-authored five publications with Sandy Lantz.



Kathy Ward

Kathy loves music and sharing it with others. As a child growing up in Maine she shared a lot of music in

a musically active church, home and school system (Bangor, Maine). Her secondary education includes a Bachelor in Sacred Music from Central Bible College, Springfield, MO, Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Maine and Masters

of Music Education with Kodály emphasis from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Her teaching experience includes teaching K-12 general and vocal music in Maine for seven years and general music in Pueblo D70 for 24 years. She has taught private and group piano, private and group voice, and Kindermusik lessons. She has enjoyed many years as a church musician (accompanying and directing a variety of choirs) and as an accompanist for schools, festivals, workshops, churches and most recently Bella Prima Musica, a multi leveled community choir program in Pueblo. She is the former president of the Maine ACDA, served several years on the CMEA General Music Council, and as a "member at large" on the ROCKE board. She represented early childhood music educators on the CDE Music Standards revisions committee of 2020. The blessings of her family include her husband of 39 years, 3 adult children, 2 in laws and her precious grandchildren.



Krissie Weimer

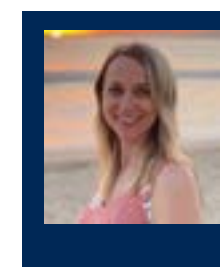
Dr. Kristina (Krissie) Weimer is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at the

University of Northern Colorado. She earned degrees in Music Educa-

tion from West Virginia University (B.S., M.M.) and The Pennsylvania State University (Ph.D.).

Dr. Weimer has over a decade of K-12 experience, teaching instrumental and general music in Maryland and West Virginia. She has numerous state, national, and international conference presentations on topics including sound before sight pedagogy, creativity and improvisation, teacher wellness, recruiting and retaining students, teaching music with autoimmune disease and chronic illness, goal-setting, student practice habits, ungrading, effective modeling strategies, and presence.

Her research focuses mainly on music teacher mentoring and professional development. She has multiple publications in a variety of music education journals. Additionally, she serves as co-facilitator of the Society for Music Teacher Educators (SMTE) Music Teacher Educators ASPA, on the Advisory Committee of the Teaching Music magazine, on the Editorial Board of the Music Educators Journal, and as the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) research chair.



Stacey Werner

Stacy Werner is a music specialist with over 15 years of experience teaching choir,

instrumental ensembles, piano and classroom music. Stacy currently teaches kindergarten to Grade 6 music in Alberta, Canada. Stacy is a valued contributor to Musicplay Online and a frequent guest on Wednesday Webinars. She is also the author of the "Super Simple Music Centers" series published by Themes and Variations.

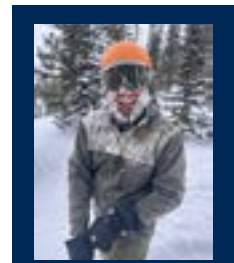
Collaborating closely with her mentor and mother, Denise Gagne, Stacy is dedicated to continuous growth as an educator and creating a vibrant musical learning environment for her students. Stacy has completed training in Orff and Kodaly pedagogy at the University of Kentucky and University of Alberta. Her commitment to excellence is evident in the remarkable student performances she orchestrates, showcasing her dedication to nurturing musical talent within her classroom.

Outside of teaching, Stacy enjoys supporting her children's passions – she can often be found at the rink cheering on her son's hockey games and admiring her daughter's figure skating performances. Additionally, Stacy embraces the outdoors,

Sessions

Presenters

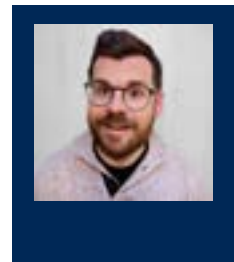
indulging in skiing and hiking adventures in her leisure time.



André Wilkins

André Wilkins has been teaching music in Colorado for the past 15 years. He earned his BA in

music education from Western State College in 2007 and his master's in music education from Adams State University in 2014. He started his career as the middle school and high school band and choir director at Ouray School District. He is now the high music music director for Salida High School. His job description includes Concert Choir, Bands, Guitar Class and Music Theory. André has also directed various community vocal ensembles. He co teacher Katie Oglesby have a podcast together called "A Rural Music Teacher".



Michael Windham

Michael Windham is in his 12th year of teaching and 7th as Director of Bands

and Music Department Chair at Westlake Middle School in Broom-

field, CO. Previously, he was the Secondary Music Coordinator of Adams 12 Five Star Schools, and taught in the Poudre School District and Denver Public Schools.

Mr. Windham champions his students' personal and musical growth, having students consistently accepted into numerous honor groups, including the CU Middle School Honor Band. Westlake's Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble have received superior ratings at state and local festivals.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Windham is an active clinician and presenter in the field of music education, having presented at conferences and has led several professional development sessions in multiple school districts. Michael is also a sought-after saxophonist in the Denver-metro area, performing at venues such as the Bellco Theater and Red Rocks Amphitheater.

Mr. Windham holds a Bachelors of Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado and a Masters of Music Education at the University of Colorado Boulder. He is a member of the NAFME, JEN, CBA, and ASBDA. He currently resides in Lafayette, CO with his wife Rachel.



Dawn Wisdom

Dawn Wisdom has been teaching music for 35 years, 28 of them as vocal music director at Cheyenne

Mountain High School. She serves as the Chair of Vocal/ General music for the Colorado Springs District 12 schools and directs five choral ensembles at CMHS. Dawn has served on the leadership boards of the CO Music Educators Association, the CO ACDA board, and the national AEA board. Dawn has been a clinician, guest conductor and adjudicator in several states, most recently conducting a regional Honor Choir in Wyoming. Ms. Wisdom was selected as the 2019 ABE Performing Arts Teacher of the Year, the 2011 Pikes Peak Choral Educator of the Year and the 2001 CMHS Teacher of the Year.

The Cheyenne Mountain High School choirs have traveled to state, national and regional festivals earning consistent superior ratings under her direction. Ms. Wisdom's choirs have opened for several professional groups and have enjoyed performing special concerts in places like Carnegie Hall in NYC, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Universal Studios, DisneyWorld, Disneyland, Hard Rock Memphis, Graceland, the flight deck of the USS Midway in San Diego, and Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Under Dawn Wisdom's direction, CMHS

ensembles have presented concerts at the Colorado Music Educators Conference, and at special events around the city of Colorado Springs.

Ms. Wisdom has hosted the CHSAA Show Choir Festival and CHSAA Jazz & A Cappella Festival at CMHS for many years, and hosts Aca on the Mountain- an biannual a cappella festival for HS and collegiate groups.

Ms. Wisdom's a cappella group Crimson & Slate is a nationally recognized ensemble. They have appeared in the ICHSA National Finals 8 times, the AEA National Championship, and NCHSA National Final. They have national titles, state championships, and many other accolades affiliated with their name. The group records an album each year that you can find on most streaming platforms, and you can find their music videos on their YouTube channel: @crimsonandslateacappella9200

When she's not at school Ms. Wisdom loves being in the beautiful CO outdoors, spending time with friends and family, and her sweet corgi, Moose.



Nathan Wubbena

Nathan Wubbena received his Bachelor of Music Education from the

Northern Colorado in 2011, and his Master of Music in Music Education with a Conducting Specialization at Colorado State University in 2018. He has conducted ensembles and taught students of all levels - elementary through adults, on both the Front Range and Western Slope of Colorado. Nathan has had extensive experience teaching choral, musical theater, and contemporary genres, and is an accomplished performer in each.

Mr. Wubbena is the Artistic Director of the Boulder Children's Chorale as well as the Longmont Chorale. He is also Board President and founder of Ascent Vocals. Mr. Wubbena has served as a guest clinician and conductor throughout the state of Colorado; he also adjudicates at state festivals. Nathan is currently the R&R chair for SWACDA. In 2015, Nathan received the Outstanding Young Music Educator Award from the Colorado Music Educators Association.

It is Nathan's firm belief that music is for everyone; he works tirelessly to make that a reality for young and old alike, and

then to create an environment where music and collaboration can bring beauty and joy to both those that sing and those that listen.



AJ Wulf

A. J. Wulf has enjoyed a prominent and varied career as a music educator and theatre professional,

with credits for some three dozen productions as music director, conductor, scenic designer and painter, pit musician, and lead/supporting roles. Mr. Wulf serves as director of choirs for Mountain View High

School in Loveland, as Music Director and Principal Conductor for Loveland Opera Theatre, and as Music Director and a board member for the Empire Lyric Players of Denver; he is active across the front range as a conductor, chorister, and clarinetist. Mr. Wulf holds degrees in music from the University of

Northern Colorado and the University of Denver as understudied for Kurt Elling in the world premier of Rich DeRosa's Life in Poetry and Music, and his own original song cycle A Song of Once Upon a Time was hailed by Roger Emerson as "stunning." Dr. Thomas is a past co-chair of the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships, has worked with high school

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jazz choirs as a clinician and adjudicator across Iowa, and has served as a guest conductor for honors mixed choirs and vocal jazz ensembles in Pennsylvania and New York. He holds a B.M. in Music Education from SUNY Potsdam, and both an M.M. and D.M.A. in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas.



Hannah Wunsch Ryan

Dr. Hannah Wunsch Ryan is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral and

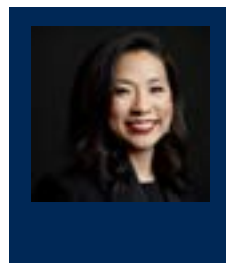
Vocal Activities at the University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVa-Wise) where she directs three choral ensembles and teaches courses in conducting, vocal pedagogy, diction, choral literature, music history, and choral methods.

Her research focuses on two areas: Maddalena Casulana and teaching healthy vocal pedagogy in the choral classroom. Prior to her

appointment at UVa-Wise, Ryan conducted a number of ensembles at the University of Colorado, and was the Artistic Director of multiple community-based ensembles including Cantabile and the Boulder Children's Chorale. Ryan is currently Communications Director of Virginia ACDA, and has been a featured presenter, clinician, and director across the country. Hannah has maintained an active performance career as soprano soloist both in the United States and internationally, with recent performances in Vienna (Austria), Montreal and Quebec City (Quebec), and Guayaquil (Ecuador).

Ryan holds a B.A. in Vocal Performance from Gustavus Adolphus College, and an M.M. in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance/Pedagogy and a D.M.A. in Choral Conducting and Literature from the University of Colorado in Boulder. She lives in Wise,

VA, with her husband, pianist Peter Ryan, and two children.



Julie Yu

Dr. Julie Yu (She/Her/Hers) is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at the Wanda L. Bass

School of Music at Oklahoma City University and the Artistic Director of Canterbury Voices, Oklahoma's premier symphony chorus.

She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Central Oklahoma, a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Oklahoma State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of North Texas. Before joining OCU and Canterbury Voices, she taught at Norman North High School in Oklahoma, San José State University, and Kansas State University.

She has given presentations and conducted, and/or her choirs have performed for state and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, and the European Music Educators Association. She is the past president of the Southwestern Region of the American Choral Directors Association and served as an International Conducting Exchange Fellow to Kenya.

Her favorite area of research and performance is working as a guest clinician/conductor for various honor choirs and professional organizations.



Drew Zaremba

Selmer artist Drew Zaremba enjoys worldwide reputation as an award-winning

writer, a passionate conductor, and fiery performer. He has composed and arranged pieces for the BBC Orchestra, the WDR and NDR Big Bands, the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Dallas and

Memphis Symphony Orchestras, the Metropole Orkest, the Airmen of Note, the Julliard Jazz Orchestra, Wayne Bergeron, Carmen Bradford, Dick Oatts, Randy Brecker, Larry Braggs, Jazz Melbourne, and the Pyramid Jazz Orchestra in Kanazawa, Japan.

Drew is currently the artistic director of the Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra (CJRO) and the regional artistic director of Vail Jazz. Drew joined the faculty of the award-winning University of Northern Colorado (UNC) jazz studies department in 2018 to teach jazz composition.

Drew's recent releases include "Reunion", his premiere big band album, produced by John Clatyon, and released through Outside In records in September 2023. Drew also released a jazz large ensemble EP entitled "My Mind on Quarantine", which features other new modern compositions penned by Drew. Finally, Drew is proud to serve as the artistic director of the Colorado Jazz Repertory Orchestra (CJRO), who recently recorded their third album "Compared to What", featuring funk and soul legend Larry Braggs.

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- <http://music.adams.edu>
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- KVanGieson@adams.edu



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ASBDA believes that the concert band is the focus of an instrumental music curriculum which teaches MUSIC AS ART through band.

- Doug Harris
- harclef@me.com



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- <http://ascendperformingarts.org>
- Jordan Kuzma
- jordan.kuzma@ascendperformingarts.org



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- <http://bravovail.org>
- Aileen Pagan-Rohwer
- arohwer@bravovail.org



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- <http://ccblossomfestival.com>
- Mike Nolan
- mnolan1233@gmail.com



Central City Opera

Central City Opera is the fifth oldest professional opera company in the country and is renowned for exquisite world-class productions, a robust young artist training program, creative education activities and community engagement.

- <https://centralcityopera.org/>
- Daniela Guzman
- dguzman@centralcityopera.org



Colorado Bandmasters Association

The Colorado Bandmasters Association Exists To: Promote comprehensive music education through participation and performance in band.

- <http://coloradobandmasters.org>
- Ed Cannava
- ecan11@msn.com



Colorado Children's Chorale

The Colorado Children's Chorale is committed to investing in the critical role the arts plays in a child's life, growing their skills, experiences and confidence through music education and performance training.

- <http://childrenschorale.org>
- Cheryl Akin
- akin@childrenschorale.org



Colorado Christian University

The School of Music at Colorado Christian University is a place where students, who are serious about developing the talents and gifts that God has given them, come to study and refine their abilities in music and theater.

- <http://www.ccu.edu/music>
- Sarah McLean
- smclean@ccu.edu



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- <http://www.mistyl Dupuis.net>
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- www.coloradomesa.edu/music
- Darin Kamstra
- dkamstra@coloradomesa.edu



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- <https://coloradomusicinstitute.com/>
- Emily Campbell
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- dvanbeveren@coloradosymphony.org



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- bjustis@western.edu

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2008-2009

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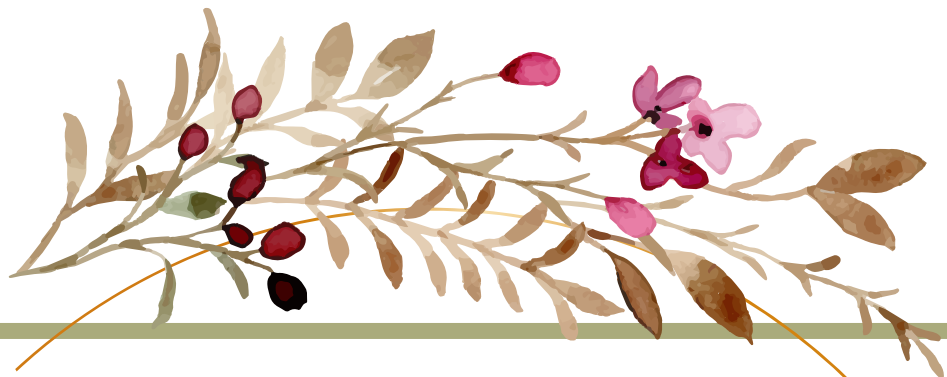
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In Memoriam guidelines

As a community, CMEA publicly honors the passing of current, retired, and past educators that were members of CMEA in our quarterly Colorado Music Educators Journal. If you know of someone who has past and should be recognized you are asked to submit the following information to Margie Camp at communicationscmea@cmeaonline.org.

Following are the guidelines for these notices

- Upon the passing of current, retired, and past educators that were members of CMEA, a notice will be posted in the In Memoriam section of the CMEA Journal in the Fall, Winter, or Spring issue. These notices will include the deceased's First and Last Name, a brief description of where they were employed, positions held on the CMEA board or state assembly, the date of passing if known. You are also asked to include a link to any publicly available information about funeral or memorial arrangements.
- We invite anyone to share news of the passing of a current, retired, and or past educators that were members of CMEA, so that we can honor them. Please send such information to communicationscmea@cmeaonline.org.



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