

CMEA Winter Journal 2022-23

Volume 69 Number 2



Strengthening Connections

January 25-28, 2023



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Winter

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Clinic/Conference 2023

By Cynthia Eversole, CMEA President

I am excited to see everyone in January when we gather to celebrate our profession at the Annual CMEA Clinic/Conference: Strengthening Connections. Coming together means building relationships, re-connecting with colleagues and friends, reflecting, and conversing over challenges and celebrations. It is clear that CMEA has the most talented and passionate membership of any profession as we all walk through the conference hallways.

Our opening session on Thursday morning will include a brief address/state of the organization to the membership and a celebration of our award recipients. It will be followed by a keynote address from Colorado's own Tia Fuller. Tia will be presenting 3 sessions in addition to her keynote address. She will be with our Tri-M students Wednesday morning and 2 sessions with our general membership on Wednesday and Thursday.



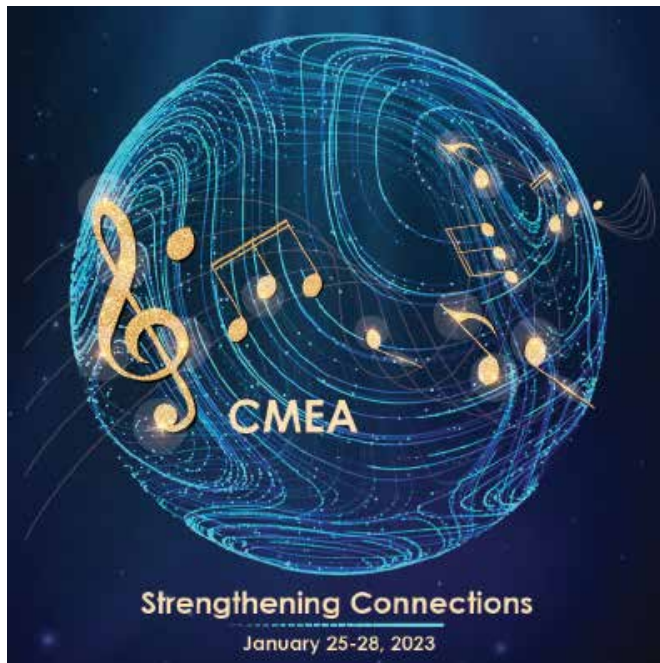
Your board members and representatives have worked diligently to schedule sessions that will inspire and support your professional growth. These sessions include topics of refined pedagogy, performance standards, leadership, motivation, and multiple anchors of relationships in music.

The Clinic/Conference schedule includes identifiers for sessions that address Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA). Please be sure to sneak a couple of these sessions into your schedule when you attend. The online conference schedule will have tags that assist you in targeting your interest with DEIA.

I am incredibly proud and grateful for chairs and chair-elects that have embraced a challenge to work within the new Broadmoor facility resources and schedule. Every attendee will have an opportunity built into the schedule in which they are encouraged to visit the exhibits. Our profession is supported by the pillars of the music industry whether educational or commercial. The music retail and non-profit world is also recovering from the Covid years and we encourage you to renew and strengthen those relationships.

Remember that CMEA is not only a clinic/conference in January but also the professional resource that needs your voice and commitment to provide Colorado students with the best possible music education experience. You can be involved by volunteering to run for our Board/State Assembly and participating in committees that manage various ensembles throughout the state. Your voice is important to us and our success.

Cynthia Eversole
CMEA President



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on without effort
when I am filled
with music.”
~ George Eliot



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Vocal Music News

By Tanner Oharah Vocal Music Council Chair

It's time to strengthen connections,

I so look forward to the conference days where the people I bump into through the halls all understand the types of hardships and joys we carry with the type of work we have given a great amount of our life to. I love the people I work with day in and day out but this group of Colorado music educators coming together as a collective force really gets me excited. I hope that when you look at the CMEA schedule you will see “the thing” you were hoping for but I also hope you see many things that you did not expect. Look for things listed under a tab that you might not identify with. We can only accept a limited number of sessions and so there may be a topic of interest for some vocalists under the instrumental tab etc.



Some highlights from this year's CMEA conference.

1. Because of the teamwork between CMEA and ACDA we are able to bring two headliners again this year!
 - a. [Dale Duncan](#) - middle school choir guru
 - b. [Chris Munce](#) - most widely known from running the choralosophy podcast.
 - c. The accessibility and willingness to further the profession and up the standards and outcomes for all of our singers has astounded me.
2. The fun starts Wednesday night! Both Dale Duncan and Chris Munce will lead rehearsal labs with a local middle school and a local high school ensemble.
3. The fun won't stop! The VMC has loaded up the schedule all the way to the final headliner session on Saturday at noon followed by the All State Jazz Choir concert.
4. Our reading sessions will all be digital. No hard copy packets.
 - a. The digital packets will be available via the Reading Session app or readingsession.com
 - b. About 1 week prior to the conference, we will be sending the conference attendees the instructions and event code to log in to the app and access the titles. You should open and download these files onto your preferred device prior to arriving at CMEA for your best experience.
 - c. We recommend people use a tablet device as the music will obviously appear much smaller on a phone and be more difficult to read (but will still work).
 - d. The music will be available in the app for 30 days after the conference and there will be lists of the titles grouped by reading session on the J.W. Pepper website so attendees can browse and easily purchase titles from the sessions.
5. Performing groups are again encouraged to pull back the curtain and give an “informance” along with the performing. An audience of peers is different from the parents of your singers and while it is an auditioned honor to perform it is also a chance for you to turn around and help us understand how you unlocked the potential in your ensembles.

I'll list some of my hopes for the scheduling choices we have made.

- By scheduling great events through the finale of the conference the people who struggle to get permission or substitutes to leave work will have a great day to attend on Saturday. (Or any day that they are available)

Vocal Music News continued

By Tanner Oharah Vocal Music Council Chair

- By scheduling the rehearsal lab on Wednesday we get a chance to interact with the headliners and each other before having to pick between sessions in the busier part of the schedule
- As I rearranged the schedule multiple times I was always looking for ways that we would be able to strengthen connections including all of the Thursday and Friday night unscheduled events. (Barbershop Tags)
- I hope you feel your investment in NAFME and CMEA was honored in attempts to provide the most “bang for your buck” throughout the conference.

No matter your style of conference going I hope you find something to connect you with the other people near you and especially the people far from you. I’m not sure when you are reading this but I do know the sooner you register the cheaper it is so hop on the website and spend some money!

I look forward to seeing you all soon,
Your two legged chair,

Tanner Oharah

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From the Instrumental Council Chair

By Peter Toews, Instrumental Music Council Chair

The Instrumental Music Council has worked hard to bring you a fantastic lineup for the clinic/conference in January. We have something for everyone from pre-service, to active, to retired members.

Don't forget that the conference begins on Wednesday evening! Our two rehearsal labs will feature Doug Akey with the Palmer Ridge High School Wind Ensemble, and Scott Laird with the Rocky Mountain High School Orchestra. Tia Fuller will also be presenting her session titled "From Beyonce and Beyond: Music Business, Performance, and Leadership"



We have outstanding headliners for this year's conference! Headline topics will include lessons Dr. Richard Mayne learned through his career, a realistic approach to teaching rhythm by Doug Akey, approaching string class and rehearsals from a new perspective with Scott Laird, and sessions on planning effects and ensemble training by Randy Greenwell. You won't want to miss the opportunity to get all you can from these first class educators!

Throughout the conference we have wonderful clinics being presented by many of our Colorado colleagues and friends. We have sessions focussed on equity and inclusion, specific instrument tips and techniques, concert programming, and more. You will find sessions specifically designed for middle schools, jazz ensembles, 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:

- **Orchestras** – Boltz Middle School, Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School, Fairview High School, Lakewood High School, Silver Creek High School
- **Concert Bands** – Ken Caryl Middle School, Lyons Middle School, Timberview Middle School, Cherry Creek High School, Fountain-Fort Carson High School, Liberty Common High School
- **Jazz Bands** – Euclid Middle School, Montrose High School, Pine Creek High School
- **Collegiate Ensembles** – Colorado Christian University Mainstream Jazz Ensemble, Colorado Mesa University Rowdy Brass Band and Wind Symphony, Colorado State University Symphony Orchestra, Fort Lewis College Chamber Orchestra, University of Northern Colorado Jazz Lab Band I, Western Colorado University Symphonic Band

Perhaps the most important feature of this, or any other conference is YOU! You cannot 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'll see you at the Broadmoor!

Let us know how the IMC can support you, and let's Celebrate One Another!

We are ALL CMEA!

Pete Toews

General Music Council News!

By Cathy Keller, 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 2023! Our opening session on Wednesday night of the conference - Jammin' in January with Artie - will be presented none other than Dr. Artie Almeida. Artie will be presenting seven sessions throughout the conference, including "Singing Fun 'n' Games," "Percussion Potpourri," "Bar Hoppin'," and "Moving Towards Mastery in Kid-Friendly Ways."



Joshi Marshall and Sam Heminger, join us thanks in part to the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (RMC-AOSA) for three amazing sessions. Together, they will present on Thursday afternoon and Friday with a focus on jazz and the blues in the elementary setting.

Dr. Rachel Gibson from Westfield State University in Massachusetts will join us at the Conference thanks to a co-sponsorship by the Regional Organization of Colorado Kodály Educators (ROCKE) and the General Music Council. She will present TWO sessions: "Living Traditions - Songs and Singing Games from Guatemala and Nicaragua" and another by the same title from Spain.

The Colorado Elementary All-State Choir returns with guest clinicians Dr. Marla Meek and Dr. Frank Eychaner returning to CMEA! Dr. Meeks will be presenting two fabulous sessions entitled "Movement with Masterworks" as well as "Let's Start at the Very Beginning: The Kodály Sequence for Teaching Melodic Music Reading." CEASC will culminate in the performances by the Vivaldi and Presto Choirs on Saturday afternoon.

Music Will - formerly known as Little Kids Rock - will present an all-day session of the Modern Band 101 class. Please be on the lookout for registration of this class as registered attendees only will be able to receive a grant for instrumentation at their respective school sponsored by Music Will. Music Will's Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Scott Burstein, will teach the class as well as present three sessions:

- Cultural Responsiveness and Student Choice in Music Education
- Social Emotional Learning through Hip Hop
- Next Steps with Ukulele

Several of our local clinicians and master teachers will join us in presenting high-interest sessions for our General Music membership! Dr. Bonnie Jacobi, a professor at the School of Music from Colorado State University, along with CSU students will present on Saturday a session called, "The Sense of Touch: Young Learners for Instruments and Life through Tactile Classroom Activities." Paul Maley from Estes Park will present "Xylophones - All the Cool Kids are Doing it" and "Lesson Structure Creating." A group of Denver Public Schools Music Educators will share on Saturday "Writing Inclusive/Adapted Music Units for Students with Special Needs."

Don't forget to pre-order any desired Orff instruments from West Music to pick up at the Conference. And as always, I look forward to seeing each of you at CMEA and meeting new faces.

Sincerely,
Cathy Keller

College-University Music Council

By Sean Flanigan, College and University Council Chair

Greetings!

We have reached the midpoint of the school year and I hope this message finds you and your families well. In my visits to schools and festivals, I have been very fortunate to have seen many programs finding success this fall. I am constantly impressed by the dedication and creativity of my many music education colleagues from whom I can learn so much. I am sure you are aware of the many ways in which music education is changing, both out of necessity and because of the development of creative teaching ideas. I am excited about these fresh ideas and the way all of you have faced the challenges of the past several years.



This year's Clinic-Conference is an excellent combination of presentations covering performance, wellness, diversity and inclusion, pedagogy, repertoire, early learning and much more! There is something for everyone. CMEA membership has increased significantly and looks to be on a very positive trajectory. Please encourage your colleagues to keep their membership current or to join CMEA now if they are not yet a member. I believe this increase is due to the excitement of Colorado music educators and the dynamic leadership team we have had. I also want to encourage the entire membership to participate not only by voting in the upcoming elections but also consider serving your particular Council as the rep for your District.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve once again as the Chair of the College-University Council. My wonderful colleagues on the Council are deeply committed to effectively preparing the next generation of music educators. I am very excited to have Dr. Martina Miranda of the University of Colorado-Boulder taking over as Council Chair as of February. She will do an excellent job leading our Council in the next two years. I will continue to represent Colorado Mesa University on the Council and look forward to seeing everyone at the 2023 Clinic-Conference this coming January.

Sean Flanigan

Past Presidents of CMEA

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 1946-1948 Katharyn Bauder*
 1948-1950 Gus E. Jackson*
 1950-1952 Mabel Henderson*
 1952-1954 Paul Zahradka*
 1954-1956 Warner L. Imig*
 1956-1958 John T. Roberts+*
 1958-1960 John Held+*
 1960-1962 Byron Syring*
 1962-1964 Charles Meeker*
 1964-1966 Leo Meyer*
 1966-1968 Jo Ann Baird+*
 1968-1970 Dwight Dale *
 1970-1972 James Miller*
 1972-1974 Alex Campbell+*
 1974-1976 Ralph Levy*
 1976-1978 Larry Perkins*
 1978-1980 E'Rena Hockenberry*
 1980-1982 Kevin McCarthy
 1982-1984 Herbert Goodrich

1984-1987 Earl Berglund
 1987-1990 Elza Daugherty+*
 1990-1992 Norma Hess*
 1992-1994 Mike Weiker*
 1994-1996 Willie Hill, Jr.#
 1996-1998 Bette Lunn*
 1998-2000 Frank Montera*
 2000-2002 Michael Kornelsen
 2002-2004 Janet Montgomery*
 2004-2006 Steve Meininger
 2006-2008 Michelle Ewer
 2008-2010 Cindy McCaskill
 2010-2012 Tricia Kidd+
 2012-2014 Richard Shaw
 2014-2016 Mark Hudson
 2016-2018 Raleigh "Butch" Eversole
 2018-2022 Kevin Beaber

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Tri-M News

By Michelle Ewer, CMEA Tri-M Chair

Greetings from Tri-M,

Registration for Tri-M day, is up and live at Cmeaonline.org/tri-m/ We have such an exciting day planned for you on January 25th. Thank you to the following presenters for sharing their expertise with us:

1. Social Emotional Learning through Hip Hop - Scott Burstein
2. Choir, A Crash Course - Andy Beck
3. Dealing with people(Training for youth in relationships)- James Divine
4. Enhance Music Learning with Gamified EdTech - Graeme Winder
5. Bridging the Gap: Connecting Music Students with Musician's Health Resources - Meghan Taylor
6. Teach them how to fail - Nick Hinman
7. Jazz, Improvisation and Mentorship in the Modern Age - Joe Andries/Paul Romaine
8. Picture this: The use of creative imagery to paint a musical picture in rehearsals and help our students achieve musical excellence - Nick Newman
9. Enlightened Breath Support- Stanley Curtis
10. Play it more musically! "Great, how do I do that?" - Drew Leslie
11. Students taking ownership: The power of peer-teaching in the music classroom - Erik Johnson
12. From Beyonce and Beyond: Music Business, Performance and Leadership -Tia Fuller. (Keynote)
13. Multi-Level Mayhem to Mastery -Michael Linert
14. Composition in the Classroom 101- Kevin Padworski
15. The Dynamics of Power in the Ensemble Classroom: Leveraging both Student and Teacher Agency for Collaborative Learning and Performance- Andrew Dutch
16. Ready, Set, Play! Using Choir Games to Teach Your Ensemble - Zachariah Smith/Julia Wirth
17. Fine Arts Fiesta! - Kathryn Ward
18. Applications Auditions, Where to Go, Oh My! - Margaret Miller



Students will have the opportunity to select three sessions from the list in addition to the Keynote. They will be asked to select their top three choices for each session. In the afternoon we will break into sectionals with many of our clinicians helping to prepare us for our final song. Please bring an instrument and music stand. We will have a select number of percussion instruments available. Please help by bringing small instruments and mallets.

Tri-M day is a special interaction with students from across the state sharing their love and passion for music together. Lunch will be on your own. I know for some this may be inconvenient, but it helps keep the overall convention cost reasonable for our students. You may not order off-site food to be delivered to the

Tri-M News, continued
By Michelle Ewer, CMEA Tri-M Chair

Broadmoor. You will have plenty of time to grab lunch and return.

Registration is \$35 per student. Directors must be registered for the convention, or pay the Tri-M day badge at \$100. **Registration closes on January 16th.** No walk-in registrations! Please plan ahead. I look forward to seeing you on January 25th. Come and see what makes our Tri-M day one of the top in the country!!

Sincerely,

Michelle Ewer

Tri-M Registration Deadline - January 16
Don't Let Your Students Miss This!



Technology News

By Michael Paulez, Technology Chair

Greetings, dear colleagues!

I am so very excited for our technology lineup at this year's Colorado Music Educators Association Clinic-Conference at the Broadmoor! We have a slate of options that will stretch your musical and pedagogical expertise and you will leave with many tools and tricks that you can immediately implement in your classroom! Each of our presenters this year is helping us to assist every type of music educator - whether you teach a large ensemble, private lessons, or general music, we have something to nurture your pedagogy!

Graeme Winder is presenting the session Enhance Music Learning with Gamified EdTech where you'll learn to utilize the popular game Keys & Kingdoms to teach musical skills through an online RPG, a sure hit for your younger students! Learning should be fun, and this session will focus on how to introduce students to musical concepts through something they might already know, in an incredibly engaging digital environment!

If you teach a large ensemble music class, you will enjoy Curtis Tredway's session Better Ensembles with Technology You Probably Already Own, where he will guide participants through a 'deep dive' of apps and devices of all learning curves that can improve your ensemble's understanding of music performance. Want to do more with your performing ensembles? Colorado Public Radio's Rebekah Romberg (from the famed "Music Blocks" podcast) and Carla Aguilar will showcase various ways to "open up opportunities for important conversations about storytelling, social-emotional learning and how different cultures express their ideas through sound" in your ensembles in their session Rethinking Music Appreciation for a Comprehensive Music Classroom.

For more systems- and gadget-inspired folks, we have two sessions that will guide you through various tools to teach students of varied skill sets - from those who have never sung or played an instrument in class to those who are ready to record their own four-part arrangements! Seth Pendergast will lead us through Creative Music Making with Technology and how to use Digital Audio Workstations (DAW's - think along the lines of GarageBand) with students of all abilities. This is something that could be used in a general music class to experiment with basic compositional skills, or even more advanced forms of editing and composition. That session perfectly ties into Content Creation in the Classroom, where Ryan Unangst will guide us through the process of and equipment required for audio and video recording in our classrooms so our students can learn to embed their own audio and video into various projects, including systems like a Digital Audio Workstation, to create their own content such as podcasts, vlogs, and recorded music!

Through augmenting your practices with these technology sessions, you can increase your teaching efficacy and hopefully streamline some of your practices. Tech tools should always be used to increase student learning while making our lives easier: Everything presented this year has low learning curves for introductory learners, but deeply rich opportunities for more advanced tech users.

We look forward to seeing you this year!

Yours in Music,
Michael Paulez
CMEA Technology Chair

Membership News

By Andrea L. Meyers, Retired and Active Membership Chair

Dear CMEA Colleagues,
Go share your gift!

The 2023 CMEA Clinic/Conference is a unique time to share the love of our profession. Choose **yes!** to attend this year. The last couple years we faced extraordinary challenges, surviving the worst case teaching scenarios. You preserved and got through it. As professionals and exemplary educators, we continue to advance and create even greater experiences. Our forte is in providing and moving forward with these new challenges and awesome music. By participating in our conference we strengthen as an association to learn, contribute and join in the excitement of our profession.



This year's conference is stylized, offering gems of exceptional opportunities. You may actually provide that special moment for someone and never realize the power of that interaction. Our collective specialty is our advanced awareness in listening and learning. New lessons, ideas, philosophies, a paradigm, a plethora of experiences that ignites and inspires, and mostly to celebrate CMEA!

Here are a few 'Go to' thoughts: *Think before you talk. No one speaks twice until everyone speaks once. Practice slow with fast intentions. Go slow to go fast. Do your best, have fun, expect nothing. Don't let perfect be the enemy of good. Your parents paid for the whole bow, so let's use it. Capeesch?! It's not a test, it's a performance opportunity!* And most importantly, *No great performances are accidents. They arise from hard work in preparation.*

I was recently going through my library and want to suggest: *A Soprano On Her Head: Right-Side-Up Reflections on Life and Other Performances* by Eloise Ristad. I had the pleasure of knowing Eloise when I taught at Fairview H.S. in Boulder. We were preparing Bloch's Concerto Grosso No. 1 with Charles Shadle as the soloist and Miss Ristad his private piano teacher. Check out the chapter on stage fright. Bravo to former student Charles Shadle, MIT Senior Lecturer/Composition and Theory. My appreciation for this experience and her book was one of the most profound and prominent mentoring and brief encounters in my professional career. Also, my continued appreciation to other prominent musicians that helped cultivate my career; Ennio Bolognini, Dr. Douglas Moore, Jurgeon deLemos, Yolanda Hager, Rollie Roberts, Bill Bastein, Vince LaGuardia, Murray Sidlin, Larry Livingston, and of course Dr. Tim Lautheinsizer. Plus, you... my dear colleagues, former students and friends. Take a moment and send an email with your inspirational stories and hero's.

Special thanks to our inspired leadership for preparing an incredible conference. There are billions of moving parts to make this conference happen; providing significant opportunities, sessions, performances, exhibits, motivational speakers, and award recipients. Yes, please come to the presentations and congratulate our new Hall of Fame Inductees, 25-year Award Recipients, Past and Present CMEA leadership, Outstanding Administrator, New Educator, Advocate and more! The significance of these traditions is our power, strength and passion in music education. We have a rich culture that encompasses decades of traditions in Colorado Music Education. We Celebrate Together as a stronger profound organization. Please make time to thank, greet, spend time together and make the magic in our incredible and unified organization. You make a difference - Go share your gift!

See you in January!
Musically yours,

Andrea L. Meyers

CHSAA Update

By Rashaan Davis, CHSAA Assistant Commissioner

As the calendar year is ending, I am excited to share the great things that are going on in the CHSAA office. Over the past few months, we have been working hard to prepare for our upcoming music festival season. The school year started with the hiring of my new assistant, Nikki Jimenez, attending the NFHS' Performing Arts Conference, and just this past week we released the spring festival calendar. With all of this going on, I wanted to take a moment and update you on how we are looking forward to better serving our membership and how members of the CMEA community can better engage with CHSAA throughout the year.

In all that we do, CHSAA looks to provide access and opportunities for all our schools. As I look at how we are doing this with music specifically, it is important to share that we work closely with our Music Advisory Committee to make sure we are providing what this community needs. The CHSAA Music Advisory Committee is made up of the All-State directors, the CMEA President, and multiple district/school-level Music administrators. Together, we build and approve a plan that allows us to meet needs, while also being mindful of equity, purpose, our budget constraints, and many other things. I want to commend this group for helping me to make sure we continue to challenge ourselves in all that we do.

The hard work of this group has led to many changes for the upcoming festival season. I am proud to announce that the committee has approved a raise for site hosts, they have approved an increase in adjudicator pay, and they have given us room to explore opportunities to host mariachi festivals and even drumline (which this one may still be a few years away from full implementation). These changes signify that we are listening to our membership and that we are looking to address concerns. To meet the needs of pay increases, this season we will be using CompetitionSuite as our registration, tabulation/scoring, and commentary platform.

We are also looking to provide opportunities for more schools to take part in our music festivals. To make this happen, we have reached out to member schools in areas of our state that do not always provide a festival experience, asking them to be a host site. We have also started working to publish our music festival calendars earlier than the normal December 1st release date for that upcoming spring season.

Most importantly, I want our music community to know that my door is always open, and I am always available to talk with our membership about opportunities to be our best. I want to continue to share the importance of music in our schools and to let others know the significance of a band, choir, and/or orchestra program in their school. Having these programs elevates the climate and solidifies the culture of a school. Music is important and CHSAA will continue to do all we can to keep it alive in Colorado. I look forward to joining you at the CMEA Conference in January, as we celebrate another great year of music in Colorado.

[Click here for information on the upcoming CHSAA Music Festival season.](#)

CMEA Hall of Fame

1984-1985

*Katharyn Bauder, *Warner Imig, *John C. Kendel
*Hugh McMillen, *Leo Meyer, *John T. Roberts
*Wayman Walker

1985-1986

*JoAnn Baird, *Laurene Edmondson, *Gus Jackson
*Curtis Johnson, *Ralph Levy, *Philomene Liesen

1986-1987

*Margaret Cassario, Byron Gillett, *John Held
*E'Rena Hockenberry, *James Miller

1987-1988

*Phyllis Armstrong, *Alex Campbell, *Dwight Dale
*Eugene Hilligoss, *Lloyd Jensen, *Ed Kehn, *E.E. Mohr

1988-1989

Earl Berglund, *John Cummins, *Mabel Henderson
*Dwight Nofziger, *Randall Spicer, *Mary Villa

1989-1990

Steve Busch

1990-1991

*William F. Funke, *Ralph King

1991-1992

*Charles Byers, *Elza Daugherty, Dan Grace
Robert Hurrell, Kevin McCarthy

1992-1993

*Roger Dexter Fee, Jess Gerardi, John Kincaid
*Larry Perkins, Duane Strachan, Paul "Mickey" Zahradka

1993-1994

Harley Brown, *J. DeForest Cline, Patsy Nix
*L.E. "Dick" Smith, *Byron Syring

1994-1995

*Gregory Bueche, *Fred Fink, *Norma Hess
*Randolph Jones, *Margurite O'Day, *Mike Weiker

1995-1996

*Chuck Cassio, *Violette McCarthy, *Charles Meeker
*William Reeves, Rodney Townley

1996-1997

*John McGregor, *Dorothy McKeag, Glenn Shull

1997-1998

*Patricia Guadnola, Don Shupe, Willie Hill, Jr.

1998-1999

Kenneth Butcher, *Shirley Reed,
*Larry Overton, Robert Zachman

1999-2000

Kenneth G. Evans, *Bette Lunn
Steven McNeal, Howard M. Skinner

2000-2001

*Frank W. Baird, Roxanne Bates
*Larry Wallace, *Otto Werner

2001-2002

*Frank Montera

2002-2003

Donald Kimble, Duane Zanotelli

2003-2004

Charlotte Adams, Michael J. Kornelsen
Richard A. Kusk, James A. Lunn, *Ed Nuccio

2004-2005

Doug Downey, Craig Ketels, Joe Ernie Montoya

2005-2006

Rebecca Anderson, Joseph Brice, James McNeal
David Prichard, *Jerry Teske, *Lynn Whitten
*Evelyn Whitten

2006-2007

Brian Hopwood, *Janet Montgomery, Keith Simpson

2007-2008

Elva Jean Bolin, Susan Day

2008-2009

*Barbara Grenoble, Jim Keller, Steve Meininger
Ron Revier, Cheryl Smith-Bidstrup

2009-2010

Steve Christopher, *Paul Schneider

2010-2011

Linwood Warwick

2011-2012

Ken Anderson, Margie Camp
Dotty Reaves, Peggy Rosenkranz

2012-2013

Dean Bushnell, Mike DeLuca, William Erickson

2013-2014

Michelle Ewer, Cindy McCaskill, Fred Selby, Ken Singleton

2014-2015

Andrea L. Meyers

2015-2016

Nancy Dunkin, WL Whaley

2016-2017

Ed Cannava, Linda Hall, Richard Shaw

2017-2018

Richard Larson, Katharine Mason

2018-2019

Gary Ambrosier, Patricia Kidd

2019-2020

Gary Hall, Kirk Vogel, Jack Yonce

2020-2021

Cameron Law, Anne Paulu

2021-2022

James Austin, Tana Knopf

* Deceased

Performance Assessment Anxiety in Young Music Students

By Gentry Ragsdale, University of Colorado at Boulder PhD Student

Performance Assessment Anxiety in Young Music Students

In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of students experiencing anxiety and other mental health symptoms. While teachers have attempted to respond to such concerns at the classroom level, their efforts are often undercut by larger societal trends related to high stakes testing, preoccupation with grades, and pandemic-induced trauma. This anxiety trend is displayed in all areas of education, including music. An analysis of overarching themes follows, as well as potential ameliorations.

Personal Experience

I started teaching in 2009 at a private Montessori academy in Arlington, Texas, then transitioned to a Title 1 school in East Texas for many years. It appeared that my band students had music experiences similar to my own—come to band, make some music, occasionally take a playing test, take their instrument home, repeat. While I have made changes in my teaching over the years, I would not characterize the changes as drastic. However, I am considering how best to adapt to the fact that my young students demonstrate much less resilience these days. Formerly, a chair test was just something one did on Fridays and was not viewed as a big deal. Students were supportive of each other, and most students would make a funny or self-deprecating comment if something awkward happened, but quickly move on. In the last few years of my teaching, the mention of a chair test would elicit complaints, not just from one student, but the whole group. Or the class would work themselves into a tizzy with dramatic gasps and noises of discontent. During the actual playing assessments themselves, it felt like at least one student per testing day would cry, hyperventilate, need to leave the room to collect themselves, or “need to go to the nurse.” Apparently, this can sometimes be an “escapist” behavior (explained to me by said nurse, who mentioned that some students are pretending to be sick to get out of activities they would prefer not to do). Over time, I have observed that students perform much more poorly by themselves than when they perform with the class as a group. What is causing this change how students manage expectations associated with a performance assessment?

Anxiety in Education

The roots of anxiety appear to be based in a tendency to appraise evaluation situations as threatening (Spielberger & Vagg, 1995). These testing concerns and aversions become more prominent around the late elementary-early or middle school age and include a feeling of heightened sensitivity to evaluative judgment and self-esteem (Blakemore & Mills, 2014) as well as a pervasive sense of worry (Whitaker Sena, Lowe, & Lee, 2007). There are many cognitive theories related to cognition used to explain these behaviors, but there is not a general consensus or recommendation for recognizing and dealing with these problems. One aspect of anxiety that is agreed upon is the need for early interventions to reduce the fear of failure and other anxiety of young children (Putwain & Symes, 2018).

According to the latest CDC studies, almost 10% of children aged 3-17 years have been diagnosed with anxiety (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2019). This number only represents children who have been diagnosed by a mental health professional. Gender appears to be a factor as well, with female students either self-scoring higher in rates of anxiety in some studies or experiencing higher heart rates when participating in studies that used heart rate monitors (Alexander, 2012; Taborsky, 2007; Thomas & Nettel-

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beck, 2014; Whitaker Sena, Lowe, & Lee, 2007). For adolescents, this gender difference may be explained in part by females' tendency to display greater fear than men when performing in front of others (Thomas & Nettelbeck, 2014). Studies of students from 3rd-12th grade show that "gender, self-esteem, external expectations, and peer presence" (Ryan & Andrews, 2021, p. 54) are the most relevant factors regarding performance anxiety.

In the classroom, testing anxiety can present as students experiencing tension and worry, underperforming, and experiencing difficulty when learning new concepts in class (Whitaker Sena, Lowe, & Lee, 2007). These students often exhibit poor self-efficacy or lack of motivation, experience difficulties in concentration, and have higher rates of grade-level retention, dropping out of school, and generalized anxiety (Whitaker Sena, Lowe, & Lee, 2007). As the number of students experiencing anxiety continues to rise (CDC, 2019), it is important to look for signs and symptoms in music students and work to ameliorate performance assessment issues.

Elements of Anxiety in Music Performance and Education

Physiological Presentations

Performance anxiety is a state that produces physiological arousal and is typically characterized by sweaty palms, heightened adrenaline, more rapid heart rate, higher cortisol levels, shallow breathing, tension, and dry mouth (Boucher & Ryan, 2011; Mio & Brenner, 2022; Ryan & Andrews, 2021; Taborsky, 2007; Whitaker Sena, Lowe, & Lee, 2007). Repeated assessment and/or performance experiences with unfavorable outcomes can lead to a sense of frustration and lowered confidence, which many students battle via medications (Mio & Brenner, 2022).

Psychological/Psychosocial Presentations

Trouble Adapting. Many students experience anxiety when trying to navigate new situations. In a 2022 case study involving students interacting with a new teacher and environment in a summer strings program, Mio and Brenner investigated sources of anxiety for the students. One of the biggest hurdles to overcome was getting to know a new teacher and her expectations. The pacing was fast and was combined with learning a lot of new material in a short amount of time. If students did not feel like they were competent with some aspects of their playing, such as technique, they began to experience anxiety or frustration as a "result of attempting performance prior to habituating new information" (Mio & Brenner, 2022, p. 6). Some students had emotional reactions after certain activities or critiqued themselves with self-deprecating remarks. Mio and Brenner note that much of the discouragement perceived during this summer experience was through students' own negative self-perceptions, not those of the teacher. Most of the negative self-evaluations came from comparing their perceived abilities unfavorably to their peers'. It appears that the less confident an individual is, the more likely a competitive performance environment will produce anxiety and other debilitating effects.

Another example of students experiencing anxiety as a result of change involves the use of technology. Many students report "greater anxiety for computer assessments than for assessment by a teacher" (Henry, 2014, p. 62). These types of programs are usually intended for one-on-one use with a user interface de-

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signed to either teach or assess an assigned learning objective. While programs like SmartMusic have made music educators' assessment attempts more efficient, some students perceive the programs as inaccurate, regardless of the actual level of accuracy evidenced (Henry, 2014). Many authors suggest using a variety of assessments and to introduce all technology programs in such a way that students become well-acclimated with the programs before using them in testing situations (Henry, 2014; Mio & Brenner, 2022).

Mishra (2002) explored the effect of context-dependent memory and how changes in one's testing or performance environment can affect memory, thus increasing anxiety. If something is learned in one environment, it is easier to recall in the same or similar environment. If one attempts to remember something in a different environment, recall diminishes (Mishra, 2002, p. 27). Recall can be affected by the emotional state one is in when learning the information as well. How does this relate to young music students in the classroom? Most young students learn to play an instrument or sing in a group setting. They learn the new material with their peers and in a certain environment. During a performance assessment, however, each student is singled out to play individually. This changes the context from playing in a group (section or ensemble) to performing in front of their peers (a solo), and "higher levels of anxiety are often induced by the addition to the environment of an audience" (Mishra, 2002, p. 29). The students' formerly collective performance is transformed to an individual assessment made public. An audience is one of a large number of factors that can increase the intensity of anxiety levels (Taborsky, 2007), and Mishra notes that the addition of an audience serves to change the physical aspects of the room, even if it is the same classroom used daily (Mishra, 2002, p. 29). Another environmental concern involves the classmates themselves. Many students with lower playing abilities rely on their peers for aural and visual clues (Mishra, 2002, p. 28). When those environmental prompts are no longer present, students tend to perform at a lower level.

Peer Groups. Students tend to compare themselves with their peers, including in performance contexts. Female students often view their music abilities less favorably than male students, most noticeable in mixed ensembles that include males (Alexander, 2012). In a 2006 study, Wehr-Flowers found that female members of secondary and university jazz ensembles experienced significantly more anxiety and issues of confidence than their male counterpoints. Mio and Brenner found that students in their study were highly affected by comparisons with peers; their perceptions were linked to the students' perceived level of success in the program. Taborsky mentioned that during a successive string of performances, each one week apart and increasing in difficulty, the most significant increase in heart rate happened during performances in front of peer-group audience.

Interpretations and Recommendations

Performance assessment anxiety can be summarized as a student's worry, presenting usually both psychologically and physiologically, about their upcoming performance. Most evidence supports that anxiety affects female students more than males, and that most performers in studies exhibited more anxious behaviors and/or higher heart rates when performing in front of peers or an audience. Knowing this information, how can music educators create an environment that better supports anxious students' needs?

Teacher Phrases and Behaviors

Music educators can make a positive impact on their students' mental health. Strategies that help students

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with anxiety are likely beneficial to the rest of the class. The teacher must establish a rapport with students (Lind & McKoy, 2016) and strive to be positive and give praise often for positive behaviors. The educator must show respect for their students, positive body language, and be well prepared (Ryan & Andrews, 2021). Anxiety could already be present when the student enters the classroom, and regardless of age or experience level, the teacher must strive to employ interventions as early in the instruction as possible (Putwain & Symes, 2018). They should be aware of their ability to influence and use that influence to help stop students' worry and judgmental thoughts (Taborsky, 2007). While we must be careful not to be overly enthusiastic and constantly use "good job" as feedback, criticisms can still be delivered in a more gentle and supportive way. "That note was wrong in measure three" is very different than, "Sarah, you played the first two measures beautifully. That first note tripped you up for a sec—did you catch that? Okay great. Let's try that again." When students hear constructive criticism modeled, the hope is that they will learn to not view every mistake as a catastrophic event.

When students are formally assessed, teachers should use the same type of structures and patterns previously established during instruction or through informal assessment. Educators should create structure and routine in the classroom and implement instructional sequences that scaffold information (Alexander, 2012). Tasks should be age-appropriate, and the teacher should ensure that the students' abilities and the task difficulty levels are calibrated correctly (Mishra, 2002). When teaching these tasks, one strategy is to rename things that have a more stressful connotation, such as calling something a "game" instead of an "exercise" (Alexander, 2012). Teachers should also choose appropriate repertoire that can be implemented successfully because it aligns with the students' ability levels (Mio & Brenner, 2022). This may look different for some, as many students are at unusually low levels of ability due to pandemic-related difficulties. Just because students are normally able to play "Minuet in G" by Bach as the spring solo does not mean that Minuet in G is appropriate for the same age level right now. As music teachers navigate the issues, new and old, they should "strive to cultivate a nonjudgmental...environment and mentor, guide, and motivate students to set individualized goals and expectations throughout the learning process" (Mio & Brenner, 2022, p. 8). Creating a relaxed, safe environment for students (Alexander, 2012; Mio & Brenner, 2022; Sternbach & Woody, 2008) is mentioned in much of the literature for both anxiety and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and is of great value in establishing a positive classroom culture.

Scaffolding to Create Positive Performance Assessment Experiences

For young students to feel comfortable in performance assessment situations, teachers must begin instruction at a level of task difficulty that allows for success and slowly build from there. Exposing students to small measures of performance, such as playing one measure of a piece "down the row," and praising students after the experience, can make a large impact on the students' level of comfort (Mishra, 2002). As students become more confident in their playing ability and less concerned with the reaction of their peers, they can build upon their previous successes and create a more solid performance foundation (Sternbach & Woody, 2008). The teacher can facilitate this by encouraging students to perform in front of each other often (Taborsky, 2007). Sometimes it can be helpful to introduce material in small groups of like-minded or same-gender ensembles (Alexander, 2012).

Another area of scaffolding involves the practicing environment itself. Simulating a more authentic performance experience can help reduce anxiety and improve performance quality (Boucher & Ryan, 2011;

Performance Assessment Anxiety in Young Music Students, *continued* By Gentry Ragsdale, University of Colorado at Boulder PhD Student

Taborsky, 2007). Students can visualize their testing environment when practicing, whether it be a band hall that they rehearse in every day or a practice room or performance hall (Mishra, 2002). By visualizing both the space and the peers that will be potentially listening to their assessment, home practice sessions or practice room sessions will be more beneficial and allow them to be more acclimated before testing situations (Henry, 2014). When practicing, students should be encouraged to perform in front of friends and family and slowly build up to larger audiences (Mishra, 2002). Anxious students should not be forced to perform in front of large groups of people (Alexander, 2012); instead, if the student is not able to perform their assessment at the appropriate time, they should be offered an alternative testing situation that does not involve an audience of their peers. Performance anxiety can be lessened by holding dress rehearsals or “dry runs” of the performance, especially for younger students and/or students who have never performed in a certain auditorium or concert hall (Mishra, 2002). The experience of navigating to the performance location, finding where to assemble their instruments, and seeing the chairs set up and how the hall or gymnasium sounds can help settle anxious feelings. Diversifying rehearsal locations is an excellent way to ensure students become more comfortable playing or singing in a new environment (Mishra, 2002). These performance environment elements, combined with clear expectations in the form of an analytic rubric, can help students overcome their performance anxiety and hopefully be able to enjoy more of the music-making process.

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2023 Performing Group Directors



Lee Anderson - *Fairview High School - Chamber Orchestra*

Lee Anderson is the Director of Orchestras at Fairview High School and Southern Hills Middle School in Boulder, CO. A passionate educator, Mr.

Anderson's ensembles have been recognized on the national stage and have earned a reputation of excellence for their consistent, musical performances at state and regional contests, regularly receiving Superior ratings at these events. During his six-year tenure as Orchestra Director in Katy, TX, Mr. Anderson led his orchestras to national prominence with featured performances at the 2019 Music for All National Festival in Indianapolis and were later recognized as a Commended Winner of the 2021 National Mark of Excellence Honors Project. He is also a sought-after guest clinician, most recently conducting the South Central Kansas Music Educators Association (SCMEA) Honor Orchestra. Now in Mr. Anderson's second year at Fairview, the top-ranked Chamber Orchestra made its debut appearance at the Colorado ASTA Large Group Festival in the spring of 2022 and is performing here today at CMEA for the 10th time.

In addition to teaching and conducting, Mr. Anderson keeps an active schedule as a professional violist and chamber musician. He has performed with the Boulder Philharmonic, the New World Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, and the Houston Grand Opera as an orchestral violist, and been invited to participate in festivals around the world, including the Casalmaggiore International Festival in Italy and Le Domaine Forget in Québec.

Mr. Anderson received a Bachelor of Music Education, Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance, and a Master of Music in Viola Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where his principal instructors were Stephen Wyrzynski,

Ed Gazouleas, and Brenda Brenner. When not in the orchestra classroom or on the performance stage, he enjoys hiking, crossword puzzles, and spending time with his wife, Aspen, their dog, Max, and their cat, Clara.



Stoney Black - *Pine Creek High School - Jazz Ensemble*

Stoney Black is currently teaching at Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs; he is the former director of bands at Air Academy High

School from 2003 - 2018. At Pine Creek HS, his duties include co-directing the Eagle Marching Band, assisting with concert bands, and directing the PCHS jazz program, which includes three curricular ensembles, an extra-curricular combo, and a MS school jazz outreach program.

Stoney Black received a Bachelor of Arts in Percussion Performance from Adams State College in 1994 and continued his study of percussion at the University of Northern Colorado. In 1998, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Metropolitan State College in Denver, and he completed his Master of Arts in conducting from the American Band College at Southern Oregon University in 2007.

Mr. Black has served on the CBA Marching Band Committee for over 10 years; he served on the CBA executive board as vice president from 2005 – 2009; and he also served on the Bands of America Marching Band Advisory Board from 2015 - 2018. He helped to develop and coordinate the Colorado Springs All-City Jazz Honor Band and continues to assist with this annual honor band each year.

In 2018, Stoney Black was named the Arts Business Education Consortium Winner for Distinguished Performing Arts Teacher. He has received recogni-

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tion from The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony as Teacher of the Year in 2013, received a Merit Scholarship to attend Essentially Ellington Band Director Academy in New York In 2011, and returned in 2013. He was named “Outstanding Young Bandmaster” by Phi Beta Mu in 2006.

His ensembles were selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Conference on five occasions, The North Texas Jazz Festival, The JENerations Jazz Festival in New Orleans, the CBA State Concert Band Festival on multiple occasions, and the AAHS marching band performed in the Rose Parade in 2018.

Marching Bands under his direction have been named as grand champion at over 20 band festivals and have earned ten state championships along with four Bands of America Regional Class Championships. In addition, his jazz bands have been honored and recognized multiple times as “Outstanding Festival Ensemble.”

His former teaching duties include director of bands at Eagleview MS, Pueblo Centennial High School, and Kiowa High School.



Melissa Claeys - Boltz Middle School - Chamber Orchestra

Melissa has been teaching for 19 years and has been the Orchestra Director at Boltz Middle School since 2014.

Prior to this position, her career has spanned all three levels of instrumental music. She has directed groups at the elementary, middle school and high school level. At all levels, her groups have a history of receiving Superior ratings at festivals and achieving prestigious honors and championship awards at both the State and National level. Mrs. Claeys received her Bachelor of Music Education and Performance degrees from Fort Lewis College in Durango, CO in 2003. She

graduated Summa Cum Laude and also received the Educator of the Year Award in Music. In 2008 she received a Master's Degree in Integrated Arts Education from the University of Montana. Earning this degree allowed her to become more educated in other passions of hers as a performing arts educator which includes dance, drama and music collectively. Not only is Mrs. Claeys a music teacher, but she is a dance instructor as well, currently teaching one of the only middle school dance program in Poudre School District at Boltz Middle School. Outside of the orchestra classroom she has also coached Winter Guard and her groups have medaled several times at the State level and have won a State Championship. Currently, she is also the choreographer for the Boltz Middle School Musical Theater program. Aside from teaching music, Melissa Claeys' other passions revolve around being a wife to her husband Jason, and mom to her three children Emmalene, Annaliese, and Remington. As a family, they enjoy spending time outside on their boat up at Horsetooth Reservoir, scuba diving and just living life to the fullest—together.



Brian Crim - Skyline High School - Mariachi Halcones

Originally from Grand Junction, Colorado, Brian Crim has been teaching instrumental music and performing professionally in the Front Range for 11 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. Currently, he is furthering his education by working towards his second Master's Degree, this time in Educational Leadership. Brian is very excited to be a part of the music department at Skyline, and is looking forward to continually developing outstanding performance opportunities for his students.

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Mark Dorn - *Colorado Christian University Mainstream Jazz Ensemble*

Mark Dorn is professor of music at CCU, where he serves as coordinator of instrumental music, conducts the Sym-

phonic Band, directs the Mainstream jazz ensemble, and performs regularly on trumpet. Additionally, he teaches private trumpet, conducting, and jazz improvisation lessons, and supervises senior music majors in their senior thesis projects. In over twenty years of touring with CCU ensembles, he has presented band and jazz concerts in more than 60 cities in 15 states. In 2003, Dorn was named Faculty Member of the Year at Colorado Christian University, an honor given by the student body and in 2010 he was awarded the Faculty Teaching Excellence award as chosen by fellow professors. Dorn holds memberships in the National Association for Music Education, the International Trumpet Guild, the Jazz Education Network, the College Band Directors National Association, and the Colorado Bandmasters Association. In 2020, Dorn was initiated into Phi Beta Mu, the International Bandmasters Fraternity.

He is an active freelance trumpet artist, respected music educator, and a clinician in both the jazz and symphonic band world, with regular guest conducting and directing of honor bands and jazz bands. From 1996 through 2016, he served each summer as producer of the acclaimed show troupe, the "KIDS from Wisconsin" the official musical ambassadors for his home state of Wisconsin.

Beyond the musical and performance aspects of his career, Dorn has a strong interest in the mentoring and leadership development of young performers and students. Bringing a strong foundation of spiritual formation to his work with people, he maintains a small counseling practice and personally mentors a handful of students and alumni each year. Dorn

holds a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance and the Bachelor in Music Education from Indiana University, as well as a Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling from Colorado Christian University. He is also a published writer. Dorn has 4 adult children and 9 grandchildren, and lives in Morrison, Colorado with his wife Jill.



Matthew J. Doty - *Palisade High School - Chamber Singers*

Matthew J. Doty, now in his twenty-seventh year as a Colorado music educator, is currently the Director of Choral Music Activities at Palisade

High School in Palisade, Colorado, and has built its choral music program over the last twelve years. Prior to this, he was the Director of Choral Music Activities at Bookcliff Middle School (Grand Junction), Highlands Ranch High School (Highlands Ranch), and Grand Junction High School, and served on the vocal music faculty at Colorado Mesa University. Mr. Doty served twice as the Chair of the Vocal Music Council for the Colorado Music Educators Association and as Chair-Elect, Secretary, and District #7 Representative during his fifteen-year tenure for CMEA. Several of his choirs have either performed or received an invitation to perform at the annual CMEA Clinic/Conference. He also represents the Western Slope as one of the Western Governors for the Colorado All-State Choir Governing Board and is a vocal judge for the Colorado High School Activities Association Large Group Choral Festivals. An advocate for music literacy within the choral classroom, Mr. Doty has presented sessions on methods and processes of rhythmic and melodic sight-reading for CMEA.

Mr. Doty earned his Master of Arts Degree in Music Education with a Choral Concentration from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music - Vocal Perfor-

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mance and Music Theatre from Mesa State College (Colorado Mesa University – Grand Junction, Colorado). He completed graduate studies in music education from Colorado State University and theatre from Western Illinois University.



Courtney Dowling - Silver Creek High School - Symphonic Orchestra

Courtney Dowling is in her ninth year of teaching orchestra and this is her third year at Silver Creek High School in Longmont. Prior to working at Silver Creek, Courtney was the

orchestra director at Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins. She is a Colorado native, a cellist, and a product of the public school music programs here in this state. Courtney earned her Bachelor's Degree in Cello Performance from the Queens College Aaron Copland School of Music and her Master's in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado. She is currently serving as the Chair of Colorado All-State Orchestra for a second year. Courtney lives with her husband, dog, and new baby daughter in Longmont. In her free time, other than playing cello, Courtney loves to cook, mountain bike, and snowboard. Her favorite things about teaching music are the students, of course! Specifically, she loves how unique each of her students is and cherishes getting to know their quirks and other passions. What makes her tick as a teacher is the incredible musical growth she gets to witness when her students really get after the nitty gritty and the personal growth that results from this process.



Darin Drown - Grandview High School - Grandview Chamber Singers

Darin Drown is in his 18th year teaching choir at Grandview High School in Aurora, CO in the Cherry Creek School District, and 30th year of teaching. His choirs have consistently received the highest ratings at festivals around the United States and have been featured performers at the Colorado Music Educator's convention several times. In addition, Darin directed the 120-man Sound of the Rockies barbershop chorus to 7 medalist performances in international competition in the Barbershop Harmony Society, reaching as high as 3rd place. Darin has traveled all over the world coaching men's and women's acapella quartets and choruses. He also sings in Storm Front, the 2010 International Champion barbershop quartet. He has been named Teacher of the Year in two different schools over his career, as well as a District Teacher of the Year. He took over directing responsibilities for the Velvet Hills Show Chorus in Colorado Springs for the past three years.



Philip Drozda - Overland High School - Cecilian Singers

Phil Drozda is proud to have been a public school music educator for the past sixteen years, and is presently the Director of Choirs at Overland High School in the Cherry Creek School District. In his current role, he conducts five choirs at a diverse, comprehensive high school in Aurora, CO.

He holds a Master of Music degree in music education from the University of Northern Colorado and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Prior to his ap-

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pointment at Overland, he was the choir director at Prairie Middle School from 2011-2019. Though he now primarily works with high school singers, Mr. Drozda is a middle school teacher at heart and his years working with middle schoolers and seeing them do incredible things remains the foundation of his teaching philosophy.

Mr. Drozda is one of the founding Co-Chairs of the Colorado Middle All-State Choir and continues to act as the audition specialist for CMASC. He is an active clinician throughout Colorado, and he has served on the board of Colorado ACDA in various roles. He is passionate about working to make choir more equitable, inclusive, and accessible to all singers and all communities, and about inspiring his singers to create beauty and a sense of family in their choirs. He resides in Denver with his fiancée, their son and a dog named Scout.



Peter Eldridge - All-State Jazz Choir - Mixed Choir Director

For years Peter Eldridge has remained at the forefront of both the singer-songwriter and jazz realms as a vocalist, pianist, composer, and arranger. He has

five critically acclaimed albums under his belt so far: Fool No More, Stranger in Town, Decorum, Mad Heaven and Disappearing Day, which was released in July 2016 on Sunnyside Records and called “an out and out masterpiece” by allaboutjazz. Disappearing Day made many ‘best of the year’ lists, including Downbeat, Jazziz, and NPR. Recently Peter and iconic jazz pianist and composer Kenny Werner joined forces on the studio project Somewhere, a collection of lush ballads for voice, string orchestra and jazz trio. The album, a combination of original compositions and timeless classics garnered rave reviews and plans are in the works to tour the project in the next year. Peter and bassist Matt Aronoff make up the duo Foolish Hearts, which has toured extensively and recorded an album entitled ‘New

Definition’. One of Peter’s other current endeavors is his first full-fledged musical with the working title ‘The Woman in Question’ (co-written with Chicago playwright Cheryl Coons) about the life, loves, and art of Austrian painter Gustav Klimt.

Eldridge is also a founding member of acclaimed vocal group, New York Voices. The group continues to tour internationally and has performed in some of the world’s preeminent venues and festivals, including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and the Kennedy Center. NYV has been involved in two Grammy-winning projects with Paquito D’Rivera and the Count Basie Orchestra. New York Voices released its first studio album in a decade (under its own name) entitled *Reminiscing in Tempo* in 2019.

In addition, Peter is also a member of the vocal group MOSS, alongside Kate McGarry, Theo Bleckmann, Lauren Kinhan and Luciana Souza (and now vocalist Jo Lawry). Some of Peter’s notable and eclectic collaborations include Becca Stevens, Bobby McFerrin, Fred Hersch, Chanticleer, the late Michael Brecker, David Byrne, Jonatha Brooke, Kurt Elling, the New West Guitar Trio, Jane Monheit, the Swingles, Anat Cohen, Rosana Eckert, Sara Gazarek, Betty Buckley, Janis Siegel, Paula Cole, Boston’s Coro Allegro and the late Jon Hendricks and Mark Murphy. Peter’s music is featured in Zach Galifianakis’ recorded stand-up performance ‘Live at the Purple Onion’, and his original songs have been covered by artists such as Nancy Wilson, Paquito D’Rivera, and Jane Monheit. Peter was commissioned by the Boston choral group Coro Allegro to write a piece for its 25th anniversary (to be nobody, with text by e e cummings), and many of his original songs are available for vocal groups, arranged by such notables as Rosana Eckert and Kerry Marsh, among others. Finally, Peter was head of the Manhattan School of Music’s jazz voice department for eighteen years and is now Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music in Boston. He is regularly in demand for workshops and masterclasses both domestically and internationally, in topics ranging from songwriting and song reinvention, to interpretation and phras-

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ing. Peter also has what he refers to as a 'twelve step program' in vocal improvisation, and has happily conducted many an All-State Vocal Jazz group.



***Melissa Ellenberger -
Timberview Middle School
- Band***

Melissa Ellenberger is the band director at Timberview Middle School. She received her Bachelors' degrees (BFA, BS Ed) from the University of Connecticut, and Masters in Music

Education from Boston University. She studied bassoon under Ronald Haroutunian and conducting with Dr. Jeffrey Renshaw. She taught middle and high school band in Watertown, Connecticut before moving to Colorado in 2008. Mrs. Ellenberger is a National Board Certified Teacher, 2015 Teacher of the Year in School District 49, and was a semi-finalist in the Music and Arts Music Educator of the Year in 2017. She believes that music and band is for everyone.

Melissa Ellenberger lives in Colorado Springs with her husband Reed, daughter Katie, and dogs Buster and Gracie. She enjoys photography, hiking, biking, and skiing.

Emily Gregory joined Timberview Middle School this year after moving to Colorado in 2021. A clarinet player primarily, she graduated with her Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Louisville in Louisville, KY. She is married to a trombone player turned solidier which has allowed her to teach across the country in Minnesota, Hawaii, and Alabama.



***Melissa Elser -
The Vanguard School -
Chamber Singers***

Melissa Elser is in her thirteenth year as the junior high and high school choral conductor at The Vanguard School. She holds a master's degree in Choral Conduct-

ing from Michigan State University and a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Drake University. This is her sixth year serving as a Southern Governor on the Colorado All State Board and her fourth year serving as the High School Mixed Choir R&R Chair for Colorado ACDA.

During her time at Vanguard, the high school choral ensembles have consistently had students accepted into the Colorado All State Choir, earned division I ratings at large group contests, and have appeared at the CMEA Conference in 2017 and 2018. Melissa was the recipient of High School Teacher of the Year for The Vanguard School for the 2017-2018 school year.

When not in the classroom, Melissa loves sharing her life with her husband, Bryce and their son, Maverick.



***Elizabeth Evans -
Nederland High School -
Loquations***

Elizabeth Evans grew up in Boulder, Colorado and attended schools in the Boulder Valley School District. She has a Bachelor of Music Education

degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Masters in Music Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder with an emphasis on choral and instrumental conducting. Elizabeth started teaching at Nederland Middle Senior High

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School in 1985. She currently teaches 6th Grade Choir, 7th and 8th Grade Choir, High School Festival Choir, Middle Level Band, High School Band, Introduction to Theater, Film Literature and The Loquations High School Select Choir. She is the NMSHS Theater Director for the Fall Plays and the Music and Artistic Director for the Spring Musical. Elizabeth won the Teacher's Impact on Education Award in 2020. She has been a finalist for the Colorado Opera Teacher of the Year Award, a finalist for the Colorado Theatre Teacher of the Year, and a member of the National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers Award. Nederland Middle Senior High School earned the Grammy Signature School Enterprise Award and has earned Grammy Signature School status for 16 years. The Music Department also has earned the NAMM Support Music Merit Award for Outstanding Music Education for 4 years. Elizabeth has been married for 37 years and they have three amazing children.



Frank Eychaner - Elementary School All-State Choir

Dr. Frank F. Eychaner is an internationally recognized conductor, teacher and clinician. He is Professor of Music, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities, Music Department Chair, and holds the Kathlyn Cospier Dunagan Professor in the Humanities at the University of Texas Permian Basin. He has conducted honor choirs across the US, in Cuba, Korea and Mexico. Eychaner is the author of 'Foundations of Conducting Technique' published with GIA. He has presented over 120 interest sessions at conventions and conferences around the world. In 2020 Eychaner became the Artistic Director of Vocalterra International. Vocalterra, headquartered in Central Mexico, is committed to choral music education and creating artistic opportunities for people across the Americas.



Jasmine Faulkner - Polaris Expeditionary Learning School - Polaris ELS Song- writers

Jasmine Faulkner is a music teacher at Polaris Expeditionary Learning School in Fort Collins, Colorado where she teaches K-12 Modern Band. She began teaching music in 2002 and has taught in a variety of settings including an international school in Berlin, Germany.

Jasmine received her undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois and her Master's Degree in Music Education with a Kodály Emphasis at Silver Lake College where she studied with Sister Lorna Zemke and Dr. John Feierabend. She is also trained in modern band by Music Will.

Jasmine is a 2022 quarter-finalist for the Grammy Music Educator Award and contributing author for *The Modern Band Handbook: Practical Perspectives and Lessons for Music Educators* by Oxford University Press. She is currently polishing a K-12 curriculum for the full-inclusion modern band classroom. Jasmine's future ambitions include supporting teachers to decolonize their music classrooms by helping them design their curriculum around the musical interests and cultures of their students.



Dave Filsinger - All-State Jazz Choir - Tenor/Bass Choir

I am grateful for this opportunity to work with the Colorado All-State Men's Jazz Choir

- Taught 35 years in Australia, Colorado, and Arizona.
- Helped create and chair Colorado All-State Jazz Choir.
- Former Colorado ACDA Vocal Jazz chair.

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- Hosted CHSAA Vocal Jazz Festival for several years.
- Colorado Springs Arts Consortium Distinguished Arts Teacher.
- Air Academy Distinguished Faculty.
- Air Academy Auditorium Dedication (Dave Filsinger Hall)
- CHSAA Hall of Fame.
- Nebraska Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.
- Phi Theta Kappa's College Mentor Award.
- Clinician for several AZ All-State Jazz Clinic Choirs.
- Composed/arranged music for over 100 high schools, colleges, universities, music festivals, and professional music groups and musicians. Music published with UNC Jazz Press, Fil-Harmonic Music, and Sheet Music Plus.
- I still arrange music and perform. (Including a four-year stint as cruise ships music entertainer.)
- I just completed writing a humorous book about my wonderful wife, Pattie.
- I still believe all people can sing. And should.
- I remain hopeful for our students and pray for the world they will inherit.



Ryan Garrison - Denver School of the Arts - Chorale

Dr. Ryan Garrison is in his fourth year as Director of Vocal Music at the Denver School of the Arts. He currently conducts the DSA Treble Choir (6th-7th grades) and

Chorale (advanced high school). Prior to returning to Colorado, he was a choral director at the Arizona School for the Arts (ASA) in Phoenix, and Artistic Director of the Children's Chorus of San Antonio, Texas (CCSA).

In Arizona, Dr. Garrison was a 13-year singing

member with the professional choral ensemble, The Phoenix Chorale, under the artistic vision of renowned conductor, Charles Bruffy. He is credited on four albums, garnering six Recording Academy Grammy® nominations and two Grammy® wins, most recently, Best Choral Performance in 2016.

As Artistic Director with CCSA, Garrison oversaw the artistic development for eight ensembles, an early music program for infants and parents, and conducted the advanced flagship groups of the organization. He was instrumental in developing a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of San Antonio, providing a tuition-free choral experience to San Antonio's underserved communities. In 2018, Garrison also initiated the first city-wide choral festival for male voices, attracting over 400 singers in performance.

Garrison has been active as a guest clinician/conductor, leading honor choirs in Wyoming, Arizona, Texas, and Colorado, most recently *conducting the* Wyoming ACDA All-State Children's Choir. Garrison has presented on topics of early vocal development ('The Changing Male Voice, with UK choral researcher and consultant, Martin Ashley) at TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association), and on rehearsal technique (Pacing and Movement) at CMEA (Colorado) and WMEA/ACDA (Wyoming).

Garrison has his DMA (Choral Conducting; 2013) and MM (Choral Music Education; 2006), both from Arizona State University, and a BM (Music Education; 2001) from the University of Wyoming. He currently sings with Denver-based choir Kantorei, and is on the boards for the Colorado All-State Choir (regional governor-metro) and Southwest Liederkrantz.

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Gregory Gentry - *University of Colorado - Boulder - University Choir and CU Chamber Singers*

Gregory Gentry is Director of Choral Studies at the University of Colorado-Boulder where he administers doctoral, masters and undergraduate choral conducting programs at the CU College of Music. His new book, *In Search of Inspiration: Interviews with Notable Choral Conductors* (2021), is published by GIA Publications.

Dr. Gentry is founding Chorus Master of the new Boulder Philharmonic Chorus working alongside conductor Michael Buttermann and the Boulder Philharmonic, to present the world premiere of *Ozymandias* by composer Drew Heminger (2022). A skilled interpreter of new works, Gentry conducted the world premiere of *Reflections on a Mexican Garden* by Colorado composer Kevin Padworski at Carnegie Hall in April 2018. Gentry is the former Phoenix Symphony Chorus Master (collaborating with conductor Michael Christie), where he prepared many major choral/orchestral masterworks, including Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* (2012), North American premiere of *In Principio* by Arvo Pärt (2011), *On the Transmigration of Souls* (2010) and *Nixon in China* (2009) by John Adams, the world premiere of Mark Grey's *Enemy Slayer: A Navajo Oratorio* (2008) with an English/Navajo libretto, and the Arizona premiere of Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* in collaboration with Dawn Upshaw and Kelley O'Connor (2008). Gentry also made his Phoenix Symphony conducting debut in 2009 to sold-out audiences with Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*.

In addition to conducting All-State Choirs, Gentry's collegiate choirs have performed at conferences for the American Choral Directors Association, National Collegiate Choral Organization, Music Educators National Conference, Colorado Music Educators

Association, Arizona Music Educators Association, Society for American Music and College Music Society. At CU Boulder, he has prepared collaborative performances with the Boulder Philharmonic, Colorado Music Festival, Boulder Bach Festival, and conducted Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* with combined CU choirs and CU symphony (220+ singers and instrumentalists) at historic Macky Auditorium.

As a music editor, the Gregory Gentry Choral Series (Fred Bock Publishers) is distributed by Hal Leonard Corporation and features reviving select choral octavi from the former Golden and National Music catalogues, including significant works by Cecil Effinger, George Lynn, Wray Lundquist and Roy Harris. He takes professional delight in having founded Southwest Liederkrantz in 2006, an intimate symposium for select choral professionals, where Kirke Mechum, Morten Lauridsen, Jaakko Mänttjärvi, Vance George, Dale Warland, Dennis Keene, Duain Wolfe, Maria Guinand, Eph Ehly, Joshua Habermann, Sharon Paul and Gary Packwood have, to date, been invited to share their knowledge, wisdom, humor, and varying inspirations.



Karen Gregg - *Lyons Middle School - 7th/8th Grade Concert Band*

Karen Gregg has served as the Director of Bands at Lyons Middle Senior High School for the past 21 years. Her responsibilities include 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

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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.

While at UNC, Karen was awarded the “Outstanding Student in K-12 Music Education” and at Ohio State received the “Outstanding Graduate Music Student” Award. She was recognized as a 9News “Teacher Who Cares” in February 2007, and in 2018 was the recipient of the ‘Encore Award’, a recognition given to just 6 educators in the St. Vrain Valley School District. In 2010, the Lyons High School Concert Band was invited to perform at the CMEA Conference, and the Lyons Jazz Band performed at the same conference in 2018. Karen was honored with a “Citation of Excellence” from the National Band Association in 2014. In December 2019, she presented a session on how to re-score existing music for small bands with her mentor Kirk Vogel at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities in Lyons, Karen has served on the All-State Band Steering Committee, the CHSAA Music Advisory Board, and is currently the President-Elect of the Colorado Bandmasters Association. She is also a member of CBDNA, Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Beta Mu and the American School Band Director Association. While not busy with her job at Lyons, Karen Gregg is married to Shawn (an elementary school physical education teacher) and a mother to two awesome children (Quin, 18 and Carter, 14). The family loves to be outside together, whether it be swimming, hiking, traveling, riding bikes, paddleboarding, snowshoeing, gardening or relaxing on the patio.



Leanne Griffey - Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School - Symphony Orchestra

For 13 years, Leanne Griffey has had the privilege of being the Orchestra Director at Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School in Poudre School Dis-

trict, Fort Collins, with at least 150 students in her program each year. Under Mrs. Griffey’s direction, Kinard Middle School Orchestras have consistently earned Superior ratings at festivals, earned participation in the CASTA State Orchestra festival, performed at CMEA, and recently placed third at the National Orchestra Festival in Atlanta, GA in March 2022. Prior to becoming a Kinard Mustang, Leanne taught an additional three years in PSD as well as in Greeley, CO and Williamsburg, VA schools.

Leanne is a proud alumna of Poudre School District and still benefits from the mentorship of her junior high and high school Orchestra teachers, Michael Schaefer and Steve McNeal. Leanne strives to practice what she teaches and so has served as the Concertmaster of the Greeley Chamber Orchestra for the last 15 years, has served as Guest Concertmaster of the Health & Wellness Orchestra, and has performed with many ensembles including the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, Cheyenne Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Richmond (VA) Symphony, and the Williamsburg (VA) Symphonia. In the rare moments she is not teaching or playing music, Leanne enjoys hiking, biking, trail running, and especially downhill skiing. She and her husband, Kevin, try to keep up with their teenage daughter as she flies down the double-black-diamond runs!

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Mari Hawke-McDermott
- Widefield High School -
Varsity Women's Choir

Mikey Hawke-McDermott, Director of Choirs at Widefield High School, is in her 31st

year of teaching choral music. She is a native Texan, having taught in the Aldine Independent School District, and the Woodlands, Houston. She has also taught in Las Vegas, Clark County Schools, Aurora Public Schools, and Harrison SD2. During her career, her choirs have been chosen to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention, and at the Colorado Music Educators Association Convention. She is a resident of Monument where she is a member and part of the choir at Monument Community Presbyterian Church.



Jeff Hemingson -
Woodland Park High
School - Choir

Jeff was born in Colorado Springs, CO and found an immediate connection and passion for music. Growing up, he enjoyed singing to the radio

and playing the French Horn in band. He studied music with an emphasis in vocal performance from Western State Colorado University, and went on to the University of Denver where he earned his Masters of Music in vocal performance.

Jeff began his teaching career in Norwood, CO, where he taught K-12 general music, band, choir, and pep band. After two years, he left Norwood for Leadville to teach K-4 general music for two years. He then moved to Meeker, CO, where he taught 6-12 band and high school choir.

Jeff moved back home to Woodland Park, CO in 2018 to take time off from teaching. He worked at the Broadmoor for a couple of years before being

hired in Woodland Park, CO as the Band and Choir Director at Woodland Park High School.

Jeff met his wife last year, and they were married over the summer. She is also a teacher, and her kids are active in music programs at the high school and college level. They have had a monumental summer of life changes, and are looking forward to continuing to grow together as a family.



Jonathan Hinkle -
Colorado Mesa University
Wind Symphony and
Rowdy Brass Band

Jonathan Hinkle joined the music faculty at Colorado Mesa University in 2012 as the first director of athletic

bands, which included the responsibility of starting and directing the university's first marching band, the Maverick Stampede. In only a few seasons, this group grew to include 155 members and is now also housed in their very own rehearsal facility (turf field, storage/meeting room, and observation tower) known as the Stampede Center. In 2016, he also formed the Rowdy Brass Band, a small 21st Century ensemble performing both on and off campus and for professional engagements. Both groups are now in high demand throughout Colorado. In 2021, Hinkle was invited to become Director of Bands, which includes leading CMU's Wind Symphony and overseeing the complete band program. He also teaches courses in music education and applied trumpet, growing enrollment in both of these additional programs. He maintains an active schedule as a band clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States. Before moving west, he was an active music educator, band director and trumpeter in the Southeastern United States. This experience included five years as a high school band and orchestra director at Sebastian River High School (Sebastian, FL) and Melbourne High School (Melbourne, FL), leading marching bands, concert bands, jazz en-

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sembles and string orchestras to state and national recognition, including performances at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic (Chicago, IL) and the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival (Indianapolis, IN). He returned to the Florida State University College of Music for the Master of Music Education degree earning a University Fellowship for his work starting and directing the first jazz big-band specifically for music education majors, Seminole Swing Machine. Encouraged to continue his graduate work, he later earned the PhD in music education under the mentorship of Dr. Clifford Madsen. At FSU, Hinkle was responsible for teaching and leading various music courses as a graduate student and later as an adjunct faculty. As both an undergraduate and graduate student, he served as principal and lead trumpet with many of the university's top performing ensembles including the Wind Orchestra under the direction of Richard Clary and Jazz Ensemble I, under the direction of Leon Anderson, giving world premiere performances with both groups on national stages. Hinkle's professional performing experience also includes being a lead trumpeter at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida, as the principal trumpeter with Orchestra Mia in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as a member of the Colorado Mesa University Faculty Jazz Quintet, and in a variety of freelance appointments.



Andrew Holcombe -
Euclid Middle School -
Jazz Band

Andrew Holcombe is in his 11th year of teaching and currently teaches band and guitar at Euclid Middle School in Littleton Public Schools. Under his direction the Euclid Band Program received the CBA "Exemplary Band Award" for the 21-22 school year, and the jazz band was selected to perform at CMEA in 2023.

Before his time at Euclid, Andrew taught band at Creighton Middle and the Lakewood Area Elementary Schools (grades 5-8) in Jefferson County, and started his teaching career at University Schools in Greeley teaching band to grades 6-12. He received both his Bachelors (2012) and Masters (2016) Degrees from the University of Northern Colorado.

Andrew received the Phi Beta Mu "Outstanding Young Bandmaster" award in 2019, has presented at both the CBA and CMEA annual conferences, and currently serves on the CBA Concert Band Committee and as the CMEA District 1 Instrumental Music Representative. In his free time Andrew loves spending time with his wife and daughters (and their two cats), as well as cycling, playing music, hiking, seeing live performances and playing games.



Jeff Horenstein - All-State
Jazz Choir -
Treble Choir Director

Jeff Horenstein believes in the power of music to foster empathy and bring people together. After studying with some of the Northwest's most recognized names in choral music and vocal jazz, Jeff earned his

Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Central Washington University. In 2002, he began teaching choral music at Fort Vancouver High School in Vancouver, Washington. Then, in 2006 Jeff completed his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Central Washington University.

Jeff is the director of choirs and music department chair at Meadowdale High School in Lynnwood, Washington. At Meadowdale, Jeff's students have placed first at both the regional and state Solo & Ensemble contests as well as the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival at the University of Idaho, Vocal Summit in Powell River, BC, Jazz Unlimited Festival at Columbia Basin College, Pacific Vocal Jazz Festi-

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val at Bellevue College and Northwest Vocal Jazz Festival at Mount Hood Community College. Jeff's choirs were also selected to perform at the 2008, 2012, and 2022 WMEA State Conferences, the 2009 and 2020 MENC Northwest Division Conferences, and the 2012 and 2022 ACDA Northwest Division Conferences. Under Jeff's direction, Meadowdale's Impressions jazz choir were selected as Outstanding performers in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2019, and winners of a 2020 Downbeat Magazine Student Music Award.

An avid arranger of vocal jazz and choral music, Jeff is published through Anchor Music Publications. Jeff works as a clinician and adjudicator at choral and jazz festivals throughout the region and is a founder of the contemporary vocal ensemble, Groove For Thought, winners of the 2005 National Harmony Sweepstakes Competition and the 2006 Contemporary A cappella Recording Award for Best Jazz Song, and presenters at the 2007 American Choral Directors Association National Convention, 2008 Polyfolia World Choral Symposium in France, and the 2009 EuropaCantat in the Netherlands. In 2010, Jeff and Groove For Thought appeared on NBC's The Sing Off. In 2019, Jeff was acknowledged as a Country Music Association Music Teacher of Excellence.

Jeff lives in Mukilteo, Washington with his wife Maren, son Henry, and daughter Ingrid.



Rebecca Hubbard -
Dunstan Middle School -
Reflections

Rebecca Hubbard has been teaching performing arts for twenty three years. Rebecca studied music education at Ithaca School of Music, learning from directors such as Lawrence Doeblner and Janet Galvan. She performed in the Vocal Jazz ensemble under the direction of Michael Kreuger,

and she has had a deep love of jazz ever since. She received her Master of Music Education at Northwestern University, focusing on vocal education and jazz studies.

Rebecca started her choral career in Connecticut where she was honored with the Peer Award and named Teacher of the Year for her district in 2009. She moved to Colorado in 2010 to bring her family together and has been teaching at Dunstan Middle School ever since. There she turned a dwindling choir program into a thriving program with well over 200 students. She also spearheaded the theater program, building it from an after school activity to a flourishing, full time class load. Rebecca is a mentor teacher and has won awards for her integrity, collaboration, and priority for valuing others. In addition, she proudly serves on the Jefferson County Middle School Music Advocacy Board.

Rebecca has professionally sung in a variety of churches in both Connecticut and Colorado. She musically directed the youth choirs at Mile Hi Church in Lakewood as well as summer theater students at the Arvada Center. Currently, she is the soprano section leader at Bethany Lutheran Church and sings in the professional choir Voces Cordis. She also sings in an acoustic pop duo and a garage band.

When teaching, Rebecca believes there is no better tool than developing honest connections with her students. She teaches with passion, transparency, and humor. When she is not teaching, she enjoys oil painting, gardening, and spoiling her three dogs.



Krista Hwang -
Prospect Ridge Academy -
Miner Chorus

Krista Hwang is the Vocal Music director at Prospect Ridge Academy, a K-12 Charter school in Broomfield, CO. Krista graduated with a Bache-

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lor of Arts in Education with a Music Specialization from Concordia University, Chicago. She received her Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in the Creative Arts from Lesley University. She earned her level 3 Kodaly Certification from Colorado State University. Krista has been teaching for 23 years, and this is her 10th year at Prospect Ridge Academy.



Julie Kuhlman - Cedar Ridge Elementary School - Coyote Choir

Julie is in her 4th year as the K-5 Music Specialist at Cedar Ridge Elementary School in Pueblo School District 70,

where she directs the CRE Coyote Choir, the CRE Ukulele club, and the Pueblo West Beginning Band program. In addition, Julie directs the Summer Music Theater Intensive program, which performs at Pueblo West High School in July. She also plays flute and serves as lead vocalist in the Pueblo Municipal Band. During her 20 years in education, she has held positions as an elementary general music teacher and administrator. Julie holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Kansas, and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Adams State University.



Katherine Jetter - Fort Lewis College - Chamber Orchestra

After receiving both the Bachelor of Music degree in Cello Performance and the Bachelor

of Arts degree in Applied Mathematics from East Carolina University, Katherine Jetter earned the Master of Music and in 2003 the Doctor of Music degree in Cello Performance from Florida State University. Dr. Jetter did her primary musical training with Selma Gokcen, Andrew Luchansky, and

Lubomir Georgiev. She has performed in master classes of Janos Starker, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Channing Robbins, and Stephen Doane.

Dr. Jetter's chamber and solo experiences include performances with the International Cello Festival Master Classes in Kronberg, Germany, the Killington Chamber Music Festival, the Alfred Chamber Music Institute, the Florida State New Music Festival, the Red Shoe Trio (Fort Lewis Faculty Trio), the Alexander Murray Recital Series, and the Tischhauser-Shelly Ensemble. She was the cellist for the Camellia String Quartet for two years during which time the ensemble placed in the finals of the Carmel Chamber Music Competition.

In the position of principal cellist she has played in the San Juan Symphony, the Florida State Symphony Orchestra, and the Showcase Chamber Ensemble. Other orchestras Dr. Jetter has been a member of include the Tallahassee Symphony, the New Carolina Sinfonia, the Tar River Orchestra, the National Opera Company Orchestra, the Music in the Mountains Festival Orchestra, and the Santa Fe Symphony.

Currently, Dr. Jetter resides in Durango, Colorado. She is Associate Professor of Cello and Music Theory at Fort Lewis College. In addition to her duties at the college she actively teaches in the Four Corners area through private lessons at Katzin Music and the Conservatory Music in the Mountains. Organizing an area honor's chamber orchestra festival, hosting in-service days for area string teachers, and sponsoring guest clinicians such as the Raphael Trio, the Eroica Trio, the Trio con Brio, and Crystal Plohman have been other means of educational outreach for enriching the community by Dr. Jetter. Her performance schedule is filled with solo recitals, Red Shoe Piano Trio recitals, the San Juan Symphony, the Durango Bach Festival and Chamber Music Festival, the Soundscapes Chamber Festival, and the national touring Tischhauser-Shelly Ensemble. She has recorded rock albums with Formula 151 and Greg Doyles and will soon be recording with Lisa Blue.

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She was the secretary of the Colorado ASTA with NSOA chapter for six years and is an active clinician in Colorado and New Mexico. During the summer of 2003 Dr. Jetter presented a clinic on cello pedagogy at the CASTA conference and in 2004 she presented a session on “Versatile Cellists” at the National Studio Teachers Forum. In February 2005 she led another session on cello pedagogy and shifting at the National ASTA Conference in Reno. During her sabbatical in 2006 Dr. Jetter performed and presented master classes at University of New Mexico, Meredith College, East Carolina University, UNC-Greensboro, Salem College, and Williams College. She has done extensive research on contemporary techniques in string literature and cello pedagogy and actively continues this research.



Dirk Johnson - Colorado Mesa University - Vocal Arts Ensemble

Dr. Dirk Johnson serves as the Director of Vocal Ensembles and Interim Instructor of Music at Colorado Mesa University, where he directs the Vocal Arts Ensemble, Vocal Chords, Soprano/Alto Chorus,

and Tenor/Bass Chorus and teaches courses in conducting, choral literature, and choral methods. He formerly served as Artistic Director of the Charleston Civic Chorus, Director of Choral Activities and Music Department Chair at West Virginia State University, Visiting Professor of Conducting at the University of Virginia, and was 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. 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 American folk song and choral arranging. He has presented at the National Collegiate Choral Organization Conferences in 2013 and 2017, at multiple West Virginia ACDA Conferences, and at the 2015 National ACDA Conference.



Brett Keating - Western Colorado University - Symphonic Band

As a performer Brett Keating has appeared as a featured soloist with orchestra, brass

bands, and wind bands in the U.S and Europe, including Switzerland, Italy, Germany, and the UK. His playing has been recognized at national and international competitions including: The Fischhoff International & Plowman Chamber Music Competitions, Swiss National and North American Brass Band Championships. Brett performs in the award-winning Fountain City Brass Band and has recorded with the Gramercy Brass Orchestra. nominal duo, an experimental project with tubist Tom Curry, merges brass performance with electro-acoustic practices through their original compositions, improvisations, adaptations, thievery, and loads of wires. nominal has performed throughout the U.S. and in Canada and was recently featured in the 2021 Virtual Tuba Euphonium Conference. Their debut EP, s.i.p_1 was released in 2020. Nominalduo.wordpress.com

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Brett Keating serves as Director of Bands and Brass at Western Colorado University. In this role he directs the Symphonic Band, Brass Ensemble, and Varsity Band. He teaches applied brass lessons and music education courses in conducting and brass methods. Additionally, Brett is the director of the Colorado Brass Band.

Prior to his appointment at WCU, Brett was Director of Athletic Bands at Carroll University. Additionally, he served as Interim Instructor of euphonium and tuba and on the Athletic Band Staff at the University of Kansas. Brett held simultaneous Graduate Teaching Assistantships with the wind conducting and the tuba/euphonium studios while earning his DMA in tuba/euphonium performance, an MM in wind band conducting, and a cognate in electro-acoustic composition at KU. Brett also holds an MM in performance and interpretation of classical & contemporary music from the Hochschule Luzern-Musik, where he lived in beautiful Lucerne, Switzerland for three years. He earned an Artist's Certificate in low brass performance, as well as a BA in performance from the University of Wisconsin.



Wes Kenney - Colorado State University Symphony Orchestra

Wes Kenney was recently named a 2020 Honored Artist by The American Prize. He is now in his nineteenth year as professor of music and

director of orchestras at Colorado State University where he conducts the CSU Symphony and Chamber Orchestra as well as CSU Opera productions and teaches graduate conducting. Mr. Kenney has led the orchestra to many new milestones, including first ever at CSU performances of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring, Mahler symphonies No. 1 and 5, two Strauss tone poems, the Bartok Concerto for Orchestra, and the Bruckner Symphony No. 5. In 2014 he was named music director of the Denver Young

Artists Orchestra—the premiere youth orchestra in the state of Colorado—and has taken that orchestra on two tours through Italy, France, Austria, Czech Republic, and Spain. He has also led them in two well-received concerts at Carnegie Hall. With Mr. Kenney on the podium, DYAO has won multiple prizes for its performances and presentation of contemporary music.

Mr. Kenney is also currently in his 19th season as music director of the fully professional Fort Collins Symphony. The Fort Collins Symphony recently won the 2020 American Prize in Orchestral Performance in the professional division for its 2019 performance of the Shostakovich Symphony No. 9. Also notable, this past year the FCS was the only orchestra in the country to play a live concert on July 4, 2020. From 2004-2020 he served in the additional post of music director of Opera Fort Collins, helping that organization establish a full season of three productions a year. Mr. Kenney was named the 2009 Outstanding Teacher by the Colorado American String Teachers Association. He was also awarded the Grand Prize in the summer 2007 Varna (Bulgaria) International Conducting Competition. He traveled back to Bulgaria in 2008 for concerts in Vidin and to conduct La Traviata in Stara Zagora.

Mr. Kenney is a frequent guest conductor of professional and educational ensembles. Recent appearances include the Lviv (Ukraine) Philharmonic, Changwon (South Korea) Philharmonic, Vietnamese National Symphony Orchestra (Hanoi), Colorado Symphony, Colorado Music Festival, Lafayette Symphony (Indiana), and the Acadiana Symphony (Louisiana). He has conducted Minnesota All-State, New Mexico All-State, Virginia All-State, Alabama All-State, and New Hampshire All-State Orchestra. He has given orchestra clinics in all corners of Colorado and is sought after for sessions at the Colorado Music Educators Association Conference. Mr. Kenney is a former president of the Conductors Guild and serves currently on their advisory board.

Mr. Kenney is also in demand as a conducting peda-

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gogue. He has taught alongside Jorge Mester in a Conductors Guild sponsored workshop at CSU and Larry Livingston at CMEA. He has been a guest lecturer at the Conductor's Institute held at Bard College in upstate New York, teaching alongside founder (and the late) Harold Farberman and American Symphony Orchestra Music Director Leon Botstein. He is also one of the founders of the CSU Summer Master's Degree program in conducting, designed to allow Music Educators the opportunity to earn a graduate degree while furthering their conducting studies and remaining in their current position.

Education: San Francisco State University, University of Southern California, Conductors Institute, Hochschule fur Musik and Darstellende Kunst (Vienna).



Dana Landry - University of Northern Colorado Jazz Lab Band 1

Dana Landry is Director of Jazz Studies and Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado, where he

directs UNC Jazz Lab Band I and teaches jazz piano. He also serves as the Artistic Director of the UNC/Greeley Jazz Festival and Director of UNC Jazz Press. Prior to joining the faculty at UNC, Landry was the Director of Jazz Studies at Middle Tennessee State University.

Under Landry's leadership, UNC Jazz Lab Band I has been recognized by DownBeat Magazine seven of the last nine years, most recently in 2013 as "Best College Big Band." Lab I was selected to perform at the Jazz Education Network Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in January of 2013 and toured the country of Romania during the summer of 2010. They have been invited to China in May of 2014 for a two-week tour, which will take them to five different cities where they will perform at some of the country's major music venues.

Landry has performed with Milt Jackson, Bob Brookmeyer, Bela Fleck, Dick Oatts, Ingrid Jensen, Jeff Coffin, Eddie Daniels, Don Aliquo, Rufus Reid, Clay Jenkins, Bob Mintzer, Slide Hampton, Branford Marsalis, and others. He has appeared throughout the U.S. and in Europe and Australia, and can be heard frequently in a quartet with Steve Kovalcheck, Erik Applegate, and Jim White. Dana also co-leads the Colorado Jazz Orchestra and performs frequently with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra in both masterworks and pops concerts.

His first release as a leader, *Journey Home*, was nominated for a Grammy Award. The CD, which features vibist Gary Burton, received critical acclaim and reached #20 on the Jazz Week radio airplay chart. A CD tribute to Memphis musicians, titled *Memphis Skyline* and featuring bassist Erik Applegate and drummer Jim White, will be released in 2014. Landry can also be heard on a number of recordings as a sideman, the most recent being *Stand Up Eight*, which is the debut album for Steve Owen released by OA2 Records.

Landry spearheaded the implementation of the Bachelor of Music, Master of Music, and Doctor of Arts degree programs in Jazz Studies at UNC.



Tim Libby - Cherry Creek High School - Wind Ensemble

Tim Libby is in his 23rd 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 and the Music For All National Concert Band Festival twice, and his Marching Band is a 15-time CBA State Finalist. In 2013, Mr. Libby was named the Cherry Creek High

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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. Mr. Libby is an active clinician and adjudicator. He has enjoyed the opportunity to work with all levels of students from Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Washington and Wyoming, as well as in China and the Middle East. He has served as Interim Director of the Lamont Wind Ensemble at the University of Denver and was the Principal Conductor at the Lebanese Band Association for the Promotion of Music (LeBAM) International Summer Band Camp held in Beirut, Lebanon. As a freelance trumpet player, Mr. Libby's experience includes performances with Arturo Sandoval, Clark Terry, Milt Hinton, Bobby Shew, Bill Watrous, Dave Brubeck, Big Head Todd and the Monsters, Earth Wind & Fire, The Four Tops and many others.



Sheridan Loyd - Montrose High School - Advanced Jazz Band

Sheridan Monroe Loyd is the Director of Bands at Montrose High School on Colorado's Western Slope, where she teaches two concert bands, two jazz bands, and the "Pride of Montrose" Marching Band. The MHS Advanced Jazz Band was named the "Outstanding High School Jazz Band" at the 2022 Fort Lewis Jazz Festival, earning straight superior ratings, an "Outstanding Soloist" award, and the honor of opening for the Fort Lewis Jazz Band during their evening concert, featuring Stefon Harris. Her jazz students consistently have strong representation in the CBA Western Slope Honor Jazz Bands. Ms. Loyd's concert bands have routinely received superior and excellent ratings at CBA and CHSAA Large Group Festivals.

From 2014 to 2018, Ms. Loyd was the Director of

Bands for the Estes Park School District, where she taught the 5th-12th grade bands, jazz band, and marching band. The Estes Park Marching Band won the Colorado Bandmasters Association 1A State Marching Band Competition in 2015, 2016, and 2017. In 2017, the EPHS jazz band performed alongside the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra at the famous Dazzle jazz club in Denver. Ms. Loyd was selected by her fellow teachers as the Estes Park School District Teacher of the Year in 2018. She has a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from Colorado State University and a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Clarinet Performance from Miami University (Ohio).

Ms. Loyd's musical career has included several international, national and regional performances. In 2019, she conducted the world premiere of Kevin Poelking's *By the Hands that Reach Us* and the American premiere of James M. David's *Zephyrus*, both with the Colorado State University Wind Symphony. She also served as a conductor and tour manager for the Prague Multicultural Music Project Wind Ensemble's tour to Prague the same year. In 2013, she conducted the Miami University Wind Ensemble in Darius Milhaud's *La Creation du Monde*. Ms. Loyd served as a conductor for the Estes Park Village Band and Jazz Big Band, in addition to performing on clarinet and tenor saxophone. As a clarinetist, Ms. Loyd has performed internationally in Argentina and at major venues across the United States including Carnegie Hall (New York City) and Boettcher Hall (Denver). She has performed with the Boulder Philharmonic, Colorado Wind Ensemble, and the Aurora Symphony Orchestra. As a soloist, she won Miami University's Concerto Competition in 2013, performing the American premiere of Ondřej Kučala's *Clarinetino* with the Miami University Symphony Orchestra.

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Dave Lunn - *Liberty Common High School - Concert Band*

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. This is his first performance at CMEA with an ensemble from Liberty. 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 DEKtette, 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.



Chris Maunu - *Arvada West High School - Varsity Tenor/Bass Chorus*

Chris Maunu is a conductor, educator, and composer based in the Denver-Metro area. His day job is as Director of Choral

Activities at Arvada West High School. A passionate teacher, Mr. Maunu is a 4-time Finalist GRAMMY® Music Educator of the Year Award. He was also winner of the 2019 and 2020 CMA® National Music Teacher of Excellence Award. Since starting his career at Arvada West in 2006, the department has become one of the premiere high school choir programs in the United States. Choirs under Maunu's direction have performed at 13 national, regional, and state ACDA and CMEA conferences. They were also winners of the American Prize® in Choral Performance and the Ernst Bacon Award for the performance of American Music. His students were invited by audition to perform in the Champions Competition of the 11th World Choir Games in Belgium and earned the Gold Diploma at the 2020 Rimini International Choral Competition in Italy.

Mr. Maunu was named the Colorado Community Media Best of the Best Teacher. He also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Northern State University where he delivered the 2018 Commencement Address. Chris was a recipient of a Commendation from the 71st House of Representatives for his work as a music educator. He is also a proponent of sharing his students' work. Solo performance videos of Maunu's high school choirs have received significant attention in music circles, receiving well over a million hits on YouTube and other media outlets.

Chris has enjoyed serving as a guest clinician for all state and honor choirs, including the National Festival Chorus in Carnegie Hall, the MAP Chorus and Orchestra in Hawaii, the SDMEA All-State Elementary Honor Choir in South Dakota, and many others. He is also an accomplished composer, and his award winning compositions have been performed by choirs across the world. An active member of NAFME, CMEA, and ACDA, Chris served several years as the Tenor/Bass and High School Chair for Colorado ACDA and is a past member of the CMEA Vocal Music Council. Maunu is a contributing author to "A Choral Conductor's Companion" textbook, published by Meredith Music and distributed

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by GIA. He has had numerous articles published by the Choral Journal and other publications. He is in demand as a lecturer, having delivered many presentations conferences across the United States.

Mr. Maunu has spent the last 7 years as co-founder and artistic director of Colorado's Anima Chamber Ensemble, a 16-voice professional ensemble. Chris holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Northern State University. When not on the podium, Chris enjoys sharing his life with his beautiful wife Aleisha, their beautiful son Bodhi and new daughter Astraea, and their pets, Paavo and Ligeti.



Darla Meek - Elementary School All-State Choir Director

Darla Meek serves as Lecturer and Music Education Coordinator at Texas A&M University-Commerce, teaching undergraduate and graduate music classes and supervising student teachers.

Darla earned the Bachelor of Music Education from Dallas Baptist University and the Master of Music at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She is presently working toward the Doctorate of Education in Supervision, Curriculum and Instruction. Certified in both Kodály and Orff Schulwerk, Darla is as a teacher trainer for the American Orff Schulwerk Association in both Movement and Level I Pedagogy for Orff Levels courses.

Darla has served as assistant conductor for the Mesquite Children's Chorus and the Children's Chorus of Collin County and as Children's Choir Coordinator for three churches in the Dallas area. She enjoys conducting elementary honor and festival choirs.

Darla has published children's choir curricula for Lifeway Christian Resources and for Celebrating Grace, Inc. She is the author of three books for

elementary music specialists, *Journey Around the Globe with Recorder!* and *Flight 2: Another Journey Around the Globe with Recorder!* published by Sweet Pipes, Inc., and *All Things Bright and Beautiful* published by Chorister's Guild. She presents professional development sessions for teachers at the district, regional, state, and national levels.

Darla is a member of several professional organizations in addition to AOSA, including the Organization of American Kodály Educators, the Kodály Educators of Texas, the Texas Choral Directors Association, the Texas Music Educators Association, the Dalcroze Society of America, the College Music Society, and the National Association for Music Education. She is a past President of the North Texas Chapter of AOSA.

Darla teaches an Orff Schulwerk class for children at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. She is married and has two children.



Bryce Melaragno - Lakewood High School - Chamber String Orchestra

Bryce Melaragno is the Band and Orchestra Director at Lakewood High School where he teaches three orchestras, two concert bands, and the marching band. Prior to teaching at Lakewood, he taught at Creighton Middle School and the surrounding elementary schools. Melaragno has had three ensembles selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Association – the 2015 Symphonic Band from Creighton Middle School, and the 2018 and 2023 Lakewood Chamber Orchestra. Under Melaragno's direction, the Lakewood Bengal Regiment has been a 5-time CBA State Finalist and the Wind Symphony has been selected to perform at the CBA State Concert Band Festival multiple times. The Lakewood Pit Orchestra was nominated for a Bobby G Award for their performance in *Young Frankenstein*.

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Mr. Melaragno serves on multiple committees in Jeffco, including the High School Music Advisory Team. He also coordinates the Jeffco Honor Orchestra. In 2014, Melaragno received the first Outstanding Young Music Educator Award from the Colorado Music Educators Association. Melaragno has also received the Jeffco Values Award three times for Exemplary Performance, a faculty nominated award presented by Jeffco Public Schools. Mr. Melaragno has served on the Board of the Colorado Bandmasters Association as Metro Area Representative, and currently sits on the CBA Marching Committee.

Melaragno earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Metropolitan State College of Denver and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado. Mr. Melaragno is a member of the Colorado Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, Colorado Bandmasters Association, American String Teachers Association, and Phi Beta Mu.



Erica Nottingham - Aspen High School - Belle Voci

Erica Nottingham is currently the Director of Choral and Vocal Music at Aspen High School & Middle School. She teaches IB Music SL/HL; Music Theory; Songwriting; Rock

n' Roll; Adaptive Music; and serves as the musical director for all Aspen High School productions. Erica is the Department Chairperson for the Fine & Performing Arts. Additionally, Erica participates in many community organizations in the Roaring Fork Valley, including musical directing for Theatre Aspen Education programming, Aspen Community Theatre, singing with St. Mary's of Aspen, and teaching private voice lessons.

A music educator for 18 years, Ms. Nottingham has taught Choir, Music and Theater between Cherry Creek School District - Greenwood Village, CO; Northport School District - Northport, NY; and

Aspen School District - Aspen, CO. Erica also has spent 10 summers as a Musical Theater director at the USDAN Center for Creative & Performing Arts on Long Island, NY.

Ms. Nottingham holds a Bachelor's Degree in Voice Performance and Theater from Indiana University School of Music at Bloomington, and a Masters in Music Education - Choral Music and Voice Performance from University of Colorado at Boulder.

Belle Voci, Italian for "beautiful voices", originated at Aspen High School during the 2020-2021 school year. An extension of Aspen Voices (grades 8-11), Belle Voci serves as the elite choral ensemble for Aspen School District. Belle Voci performs multiple concerts at Aspen School District and numerous holiday events in downtown Aspen, and participates in festivals and honor choirs. In 2021, two members of Belle Voci were selected to the Colorado All-State Choir - a notable first for Aspen High School. In March of 2022, Belle Voci performed the National Anthem at the Denver Nuggets game and participated in CHSAA Large Group ensemble festival, receiving I-Superior ratings from all judges, and in sight-reading.

This is Ms. Nottingham's second appearance at CMEA. She directed the Campus Middle School 8th Grade Choir, Cherry Creek School District in 2007.



Meghan Quigley - Denver School of the Arts - Voci in Crescendo

Casper College-Vocal Performance and Music Education, BA: Colorado Mesa University-Music Education, MA: Adams State University-

Choral Conducting and Music Education; member of NATS, ACDA, CMEA, and NAFME. Meghan has served as an honor choir clinician, choral adjudicator, faculty for international music programs, and member of CHSAA music board. Her ensembles

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and students have received superior ratings, performed for the 2020 Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, Manhattan Concert Productions at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, with Barry Manilow, Kristin Chenoweth, the Colorado Symphony Ballet, Colorado All-State Choirs, and SWACDA Honor Choirs.

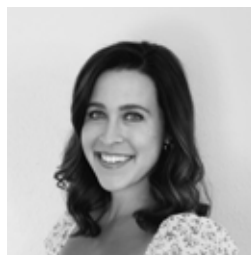


Joshua Race -
*Fountain-Fort Carson
High School -
Wind Ensemble*

Joshua Race is in his fifth year as Director of Bands at Fountain-Fort Carson High School and his thirteenth year of teaching overall. His teaching duties at FFCHS include the Trojan Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Class & Jazz Bands. Prior to becoming the Director of Bands at FFCHS, Josh taught at Canon City High School, Pueblo County High School, and La Junta High School respectively.

Since his time at FFCHS, the band program has expanded from two concert bands and one jazz band to four concert bands, two jazz bands, and a jazz combo. The Trojan Marching Band has grown from 60 members in 2018 to over 130 members in the fall of 2022.

Josh is a graduate of Florence High School, earned his Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado, and Master of Arts in Music Education from Adams State University. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA), American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA), Phi Beta Mu, the Colorado Bandmasters Association (CBA), and serves on the CBA Board as the Southern Region Representative.



Anna Saks -
*Discovery Canyon Campus
Middle School - Choir*

Anna Saks received her Bachelors of Music in Piano and Music Education with a vocal minor from the University of Northern Colorado, where she studied under Dr. Lei Weng. She is enjoying her sixth year teaching Choir and String Orchestra at Discovery Canyon Campus Middle School in Colorado Springs. She has been a member of CMEA since 2015 and is currently serving on the Vocal Music Council as the District 5 Representative.

Playing piano since she was five, violin since middle school, and singing for as long as she can remember, Anna greatly enjoys accompanying, playing and singing for local choral and instrumental ensembles, as well as weddings and special events. When she has time, she likes adventures in the mountains, traveling, and performing in musical theater productions around town.



Pat Sheehy -
*Eagle Valley High School -
Chamber Wind Ensemble*

Born and raised in Colorado, Pat graduated from Estes Park High School in 1983. He received his Music Education Degree from Colorado State University in 1988. Pat began his teaching career at Eagle Valley Middle School in Eagle Colorado. After 8 years he moved to Eagle Valley High School where he has been ever since. He's taught for 34 years in the same district on the Western Slope of Colorado. He and his wife Debbie still live in Eagle where they raised their three daughters. He's now also a proud grandpa.

As a director he's participated yearly in Solo & Ensemble and Large Group Music Festivals. His stu-

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dents have participated in Middle and High School Honor Bands, High School Honor Jazz Band, Western Slope Honor Choir, CCD Select Choir, as well as numerous All State Band, All State Jazz Band, and All State Choir Festivals. Every other year his band students travel to Disneyland for a band clinic and performance at a Children's Hospital. On his last trip to California the Eagle Valley High School Band performed at Disneyland and Universal Studios. Pat has also taken choir students to NYC twice for vocal training and even a performance in Carnegie Hall. Pat is honored to showcase his students today.



Richard Silvers - Fort Lewis College Chamber Orchestra

Dr. Silvers began his musical studies as a child in west Los Angeles, where he quickly entered the pre-college program at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in downtown Los Angeles while studying with Lorenz Gamma. There he ended up holding the concertmaster chair for his senior year of high school in the Colburn Chamber Orchestra, after which he entered the Herb Alpert School of Music at the University of California, Los Angeles to earn his Bachelor of Music in violin performance studying under the tutelage of professors Guillaume Sutre and Movses Pogossian, and graduated at the top of his class holding ranks of Summa Cum Laude and Chancellor's Marshall. While at UCLA, he won the concertmaster audition for the UCLA Philharmonia, the school's flagship orchestra. As well, he was selected to attend the Incontri in Terra di Siena festival in Montepulciano, Italy along with the UCLA string faculty for a series of chamber music concerts, including works such as Arnold Schoenberg's *Verklarte Nacht*. In addition, Dr. Silvers has attended various orchestral music summer festivals, including the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York, where he held the concertmaster position. He then attended the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where he achieved Master

of Music studying with Professor Mark Kaplan. While pursuing his MM, Dr. Silvers was a member of several regional orchestras, and was a member of the Indiana University Chamber and Philharmonic orchestras, the two highest level ensembles at the school, and had the honor of performing Scheherazade as concertmaster with the IU Philharmonic. He then attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison Mead Witter School of Music where he earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in violin as a student of professor Soh-Hyun Park Altino as a University Fellow and musicology teaching assistant.

His DMA Research Project, *Edward Elgar's Violin Concerto: Collaborative Composition and Performance Practice*, explores critical research surrounding the neglected gem of the early 20th century in the violin repertory. While in Madison, Dr. Silvers performed regularly with the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, and was the winner of the 2018-19 UW-Madison Concerto Competition, performed Antonin Dvorak's Violin Concerto in A minor with the UW Symphony Orchestra. As well, he was a finalist in the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Fellowship Competition in Montgomery, Alabama in 2019. A regular performer in masterclasses around the country, he has performed for a plethora of artists and composers, including Irina Muresanu, David Kim, Renaud Capuçon, Blaise Magniere, Jacques Israelievitch, Arnold Steinhardt, Almita Vamos, the Aviv String Quartet, the Pacifica Quartet, the Leipzig String Quartet, and John Williams. Dr. Silvers' professional engagements have included concerts throughout the United States, including such venues as Carnegie Hall in New York, the Walt Disney Concert Hall and Royce Hall of Los Angeles, and Madison's Overture Center. Outside of the United States, he has also performed in Italy and Switzerland.

Dr. Silvers not only enjoys performing as a violinist, but finds joy in teaching both violin and musical academics, including musicology and music theory,

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and has been a teacher at the Blue Lake Summer Music Camp in Blue Lake, Michigan, as well as violin faculty at the Arboretum Music School in Waukegan, Wisconsin. Dr. Silvers currently serves on the faculty at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado as a Visiting Instructor of Music Theory and Upper Strings.



Wes Sparkes - *Eagleview Middle School - Treble Concert Choir*

Wes Sparkes is in his tenth year directing vocal music at Eagleview Middle School. He teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choir, music directs the

school musical, and runs enrichment choirs during and after school. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 2010 and attended Colorado College to pursue his Master of Arts in Teaching in 2012. Previously he has performed with the Colorado Springs Chorale, worked with the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, served on the board of Colorado ACDA, been a guest clinician at festivals, and is co-founder of the District 20 Honor Choir.

Wes knows that not every student who takes choir will end up being a professional musician or music educator, however he believes that the lessons they learn through their pursuit of music will carry forward in each of their lives no matter what path they choose to take.



Janis Stockhouse - All-State Jazz Band Director

Janis Stockhouse recently retired after 42 years as Director of Bands at Bloomington High School North in

Bloomington, Indiana. However, in Fall of 2022 she has been rehired to teach the jazz ensembles and AP Music Theory until a replacement is found! She

received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music where she studied trumpet with William Adam and Louis Davidson.

During her tenure at Bloomington High School North, the Advanced Jazz Ensemble performed at the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in 1982, 1987, 2008, and 2018. Her jazz bands and Combos also were invited to perform at the IAJE and JEN annual conventions on 7 occasions. In 2002, the jazz ensemble and top concert band toured Europe for two weeks of concerts culminating with performances at the North Sea Jazz Festival and the Mid-Europe Music Clinic. The Cougar Marching Band has appeared in the Tournament of Roses Parade as well as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Bloomington North's Symphonic Band qualified for the ISSMA State Concert Finals 33 out of 35 years with two state championships and 30 top eight finishes.

In "retirement" she plays trumpet in the Southern Indiana Wind Ensemble while also serving as board president and Assistant Conductor, she directs The Bloomington Jazz Orchestra, and she serves as librarian and plays trombone in the Bloomington Community Band.

Ms. Stockhouse is a member and past president of the Indiana Bandmasters Association, a member of IMEA/NAFME, a member of Phi Beta Mu, a member of JEN, and was a board member for IAJE. She was named the 1997 Outstanding Music Educator of the year by IMEA, the 2005 Educator of the year by the Bloomington Area Arts Council, was recipient of the 2007 Al Cobine Award, and was presented with the 2007 Outstanding Bandmaster Award by Phi Beta Mu, Gamma Chapter. In 2015 she was presented with the John LaPorta Outstanding Jazz Educator Award, and in 2016 the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation named her the David Baker Indiana Jazz Educator of the year. She has co-authored a book entitled JAZZWOMEN; Conversations with 21 Musicians, published by Indiana University Press in

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2004. This past December 2021 she was presented with the Medal of Honor Award at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago and in March 2022 she was inducted in the Indiana Bandmasters Hall of Fame.



Elizabeth Swanson -
*University of Colorado -
Boulder - University Choir
and CU Chamber Singers*

Dr. Elizabeth Swanson is the Associate Director of Choral

Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she is the conductor of the University Choir and CU Treble Chorus, teaches courses in conducting, and serves on master's and doctoral committees.

Dr. Swanson is an active guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the United States with recent events in Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Minnesota, and New York City. She is currently serving in her second term as NCCO's Vice President on the Executive Board and also serves as the R&R Chair for Colleges and Universities for Southwestern ACDA and Colorado ACDA. Her degrees are from Northwestern University (D. Mus. Conducting), Ithaca College (MM Conducting), and St. Olaf College (BME).



Cathy Wahl - *Ken Caryl
Middle School - Symphonic
Band*

Cathy Wahl has poured her heart into Instrumental Music for 34 years. For the past

15 years, she has proudly served as the Band and Orchestra Director at Ken Caryl Middle School in Jefferson County Public Schools. The Ken Caryl Symphonic Band has been selected as a 2023 CMEA Honor Performing Group as well as receiving the CBA Exemplary Band Award this past year. When she began at KCMS, the entire program housed 70

students total. Presently, there are over 250 students partaking in her instrumental courses. In addition to leading her students to consistent Superior Ratings at festivals in the state of Colorado, the Ken Caryl Band has one of the highest numbers of Jefferson County Honor Band members each year. Ms. Wahl is currently serving as the American School Band Directors Association National Treasurer. Ms. Wahl has also served ASBDA as the Region One Representative and State Chair. Her other music affiliates include: Phi Beta Mu, CMEA, CBA, Who's Who in American Teachers, and is a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow. In 2020, Ms. Wahl received the Denver Metro Area Schomp Honda Teacher of the Year Award, granting her \$5,000 for 17 new school-owned instruments. She continues her love of playing instruments in the Regis University Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Ed Cannava. Before coming to Colorado, Ms. Wahl taught at Woodland Junior High in Fayetteville, AR for 18 years. Respectively, she holds degrees of a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Music from the University of Arkansas. Ms. Wahl has one son, Landen DeLozier who resides in Fayetteville, AR.



Rochelle Walter - *Castle
View High School - Saber 8*

Rochelle Walter received her Master's Degree in Music Theatre Performance from New

York University and her Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance/Education from Indiana University. She started teaching music, dance, and theatre in the Cherry Creek School District in 1994 and was best known for the Smoky Hill Pop Shows and the Cherry Creek School District 50th Celebration entertainment. Rochelle is in her 9th year at Castle View High School where she teaches choir, theatre, and dance and directs the musicals. This is Rochelle's seventh group to perform at CMEA, her third from Castle View. She is humbled to have received the 2018 Apple Award and thrilled to have received the 2018 Bobby G Award for best musical direction and

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the 2019 Bobby G Award for best director and overall production. Rochelle's other passion is performing. Regional equity credits include: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *West Side Story*, *A Chorus Line*, *Singin' In the Rain*, *Victor Victoria*, *Gypsy*, *Anything Goes*, *Annie*, *Putting It Together*, *The Buddy Holly Story*, and *Evita*. She is a member of ACDA, CMEA, COACDA, NAFME, and AEA. Rochelle is thrilled to be working for such a supportive administration and surrounded by a team of coworkers who love to collaborate. She is grateful for her amazing and supportive family.



Kimberly Watkins -
*Altona Middle School -
Show Choir*

Kim Watkins completed dual master's degrees in music education and vocal performance at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her professional experience includes twenty-eight years of secondary choral teaching in Colorado and in North Carolina public school systems. During her graduate studies at the University of Colorado, Mrs. Watkins advanced as a finalist in voice competitions sponsored by the Denver Lyric Opera Guild and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Additionally, she appeared as Madame Lidoine in *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and as Gianetta in *L'Elisir d'Amore*. She also served as conductor of the University Women's Choir and as an instructor for various music education courses. Mrs. Watkins is the Founding Director of The Boulder Children's Chorale, which launched in 2010. In 2013 and in 2016, Mrs. Watkins was selected as an Encore Award Finalist by the St. Vrain Valley Education Foundation. In 2014, Mrs. Watkins received The Saint Vrain Valley Superintendent's Excellence in Education award.



Greg Yasinitsky - *All-State
Jazz Band Director*

Gregory W. Yasinitsky, composer and saxophonist, is winner of the American Prize for Orchestral Composition, and is a recipient of grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Commission Project, Artist Trust and ASCAP. He served as the composer and conductor of the JEN All Stars Big Band, which included some of the most acclaimed musicians in the world, and has written music especially for David Sanborn, Sean Jones, Clark Terry, Jeff Coffin, Dave Liebman and the USAF "Airmen of Note" big band. Yasinitsky has hundreds of published musical works which are performed in over 40 countries world-wide, and his compositions and saxophone playing are featured on over 50 recordings. Yasinitsky has performed with Randy Brecker, Marcus Printup, Tom Harrell, Ed Calle, Alex Acuna, Kirk Whalum, Claudio Roditi, Conrad Herwig, Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Louis Bellson, Stan Getz, Lionel Hampton, Lou Rawls, Manhattan Transfer, and many others. Yasinitsky is a member of the Washington State Music Educators Hall of Fame and is an emeritus professor at Washington State University, where he taught jazz studies, saxophone and composition for 40 years, received the WSU Eminent Faculty Award, the Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award for Research, Scholarship and Arts, and the Distinguished Faculty Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. Yasinitsky is a Yamaha performing artist and a JodyJazz Artist.

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Carla Aguilar

Carla E. Aguilar is a professor and the Coordinator of Music Education at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Carla earned her Ph.D. in music education from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She also earned a Master's degree from the Jacobs School and a Bachelor's degree from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, both in Music Education. Her current teaching duties include undergraduate courses in music education including Foundations of Music Education, Teaching General Music, Teaching Secondary Music and The Inclusive Music Classroom. In addition, she observes student teachers in music and works with music students in their field experience placements. Carla is also the faculty advisor for the collegiate chapter of the National Association for Music Education at MSU Denver.

Her research interests include policy related to music education, access to music education, culturally responsive teaching, student-centered learning, and arts integration. She has presented her research at the American Educational Researchers Association, the National Association for Music Education's Biennial Conference, the International Society for Music Education, and the Society for Music Teacher Education.



William Aikens

Bill Aikens, joined the music faculty at Colorado Mesa University in 2016. He earned his Doctor in Musical Arts degree in oboe performance at Arizona State University in December 2014, where he studied with Martin Schuring.

Aikens performed with ensembles throughout

the state of Arizona, including guest appearances with the Phoenix Symphony, the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, the Arizona Bach Festival, the Paradise Winds and the Mill Avenue Chamber Players. He served as an adjunct professor at Estrella Mountain Community College and was the band director at the Desert Marigold School in south Phoenix, Arizona.

A native of Pittsburgh, Aikens earned his bachelor's in music education at Duquesne University and his master's in performance at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. His teachers included Dr. Mark Ostoich, Scott Bell, Jim Gorton, Dwight Parry, Christopher Philpotts and Lon Bussell. Following his master's degree, he held the position of principal oboist of the Great Falls Symphony Orchestra and was a member of the Chinook Winds Quintet in Great Falls, Montana for three years. During this time, he performed numerous concerts for students grades K-12 with the Chinook Winds Quintet and maintained his own private teaching studio.



Doug Akey

Douglas Akey began his musical training in the public schools of Elmhurst, Illinois. He attended Arizona State University earning a Bachelor

of Music degree in Instrumental Music (1979) and a Master of Music in Solo Performance (1985). He was a well-respected middle level band director in the Phoenix area for 42 years until his retirement in 2021. During the last fourteen years of his career, in addition to teaching band, he designed and taught three non-performance courses (Notation and Theory, Arranging and Composition, Music History and Literature) in a music technology lab.

As a composer, Douglas has forty-five published works for band, thirty-eight written on commission. He often serves as a clinician having directed many junior and senior high school honor bands, as well

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as presenting sessions for music educators throughout the United States.

Mr. Akey served as principal horn of the Tempe Symphony Orchestra for thirty-three years, and began his tenure as Music Director of the orchestra in 2010.



Artie Almeida

Dr. Artie Almeida has 38 years of teaching experience and was the music instructor at Bear Lake Elementary in Orlando FL, where she taught 1200 K-5 students. Her dynamic performing groups have performed for AOSA,

NAfME, FMEA, Walt Disney World, and on the NBC Today Show.

Artie's accolades include Florida Music Educator of the Year, International Educator 2006: Cambridge UK Biographical Society, School Level Teacher of the Year 6 times, Seminole County Teacher of the Year, and University of Central Florida Alumni of the Decade. Artie is included in the publications *Who's Who in American Education*, and *Great Minds of the 21st Century*.

Artie was an adjunct professor of music education at the University of Central Florida for 34 years, the saxophone instructor at Valencia State College, the music and movement instructor at Seminole State College and a saxophone performer and teacher. Additionally, she performs early music with *Ars Antiqua* and the *Halifax Consort*.

Artie teaches symposia throughout the world and her 30 publications celebrate innovative delivery systems for K-5 music instruction.



Gary Ambrosier

Gary Ambrosier is currently the president of the Colorado Music Adjudicator Association. Gary was instrumental in organizing and laid the ground work for this Association over 25 years ago. While doing this duty, he was the band director at Central High School in Grand Junction Colorado, then assistant

principal at Mt. Garfield and ending his teaching career as Music Supervisor for School District 51. Gary received his BA in Music Education at Colorado State University and Master's at Michigan State University. Gary taught K through 12 in Bayfield Colorado, Elementary band in Rudyard Michigan, and Glenwood Springs Then Central High School teaching AP music theory, Jazz Bands, Marching, Concert and Symphonic bands and swimming. Every Thursday night for 14 years Gary directed the Centennial band, all volunteer group in Grand Junction. In addition to teaching for District 51, Gary taught trumpet, marching band techniques and even Water Safety for Colorado Mesa University off and on for 20 years.

Working with honor bands and students continues to be a passion of his through the participation in CMEA, serving on the board for several years as well as Instrument Chair. He was also the president for one year for the Colorado Bandmasters Association and Jazz Chairman for 5 years. Gary received the Colorado High School Activity Association Distinguish Service Awards in 2010, Colorado Band Master Hall of Fame in 2011 and the Colorado High School Activity Association Hall of Fame in 2013 and National Federation of State High School Associations Teacher of the year in 2013.

In addition to music Gary teaches CPR/1st aide and AED classes for American Heart. He really enjoys the outdoors especially in Alaska where his son is a principal in Ninilchik AK and owns a commercial

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fishing Boar His beloved Wife Annemieke of 53 years, joins him in Alaska where she usually catches the first and biggest fish.



Joe Anderies

Joe Anderies attended Colorado Mesa, North Texas State University, and Metropolitan

State University of Colorado with degrees in Flute Performance and Music Education. He obtained his masters degree at the University of Colorado in Music Education and Saxophone.

After teaching in Douglas County schools, Joe completed a successful three year teaching stint at the Alexander Dawson School in Lafayette.

Joe's past performances and recording work includes the group IMAGES and collaborations with Rob Mullins, Ron Miles, Chuck Lamb, Eric Gunnison, Kenwood Dennard, Shunzo Ohno, Bennie Maupin, Larry Coryell, Paul Romaine, and Nestor Torres. Joe continues to lead groups and produce jazz concerts around the state.

During his teaching years Joe worked with hundreds of elementary/MS students developing the "Music Beyond Borders" curriculum that featured an overlay of technology assisted jazz instruction, call and response improvisation, and professional mentors. Joe has continued to develop these concepts with his involvement in CCJA as well as the Jazztopia camp in Grand Junction.

Joe has served on the board of El Sistema Colorado, was the Colorado president of an international jazz education organization (IAJE), and currently serves on the board of Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts.



James Austin

James Austin is Professor of Music Education at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music education and directs doctoral dissertations. At the

CU-Boulder College of Music, he served 10 years as music education chair, 13 years as associate dean for undergraduate studies, and one year as interim dean. In 2004, he was awarded the Richard Bern Trego Faculty Fellowship by the College of Music, in 2015 he received an Excellence in Leadership and Service Award from the Faculty Assembly at CU-Boulder, and in 2019 he was recognized by the American Educational Research Association for distinguished contributions to music education research. Dr. Austin's research on student motivation, learning assessment, and teacher education has been published in two book chapters and major research journals, and presented at conferences within the U.S., Canada, Australia, England, Scotland, and Austria. Most recently he served on the Society for Music Teacher Education's executive board, and as editor of the Journal of Music Teacher Education. He was inducted into the Colorado Music Educators Association Hall of Fame in 2021. In May 2023, he will be retiring after 42 years as a secondary school music teacher and music teacher educator.



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.

A prolific composer and arranger, he has over 450 popular choral works, vocal resources, and chil-

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dren's musicals currently in print, including the highly regarded method books *Sing at First Sight*, *Foundations in Choral Sight Singing and Vocalize!* 45 Vocal Warm-Ups That Teach Technique. Andy is in demand as a guest conductor, choreographer, adjudicator, and clinician for educators and students throughout the United States and beyond.



Cayla Bellamy

Dr. Cayla Bellamy currently serves as Assistant Professor of Bassoon at Colorado State University, where she teaches applied bassoon, chamber music, and instrumental and

virtual pedagogy, in addition to directing the New Music Ensemble. As a bassoonist and advocate for new music, she most recently embarked on a performance series presenting modern concerti by Joan Tower, Libby Larsen, James Stephenson, and Mathieu Lussier. Her debut album, *Double or Nothing* (2018), consists of premiere recordings for solo and duo bassoon and is available through the Mark Masters label on iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify. Recordings from this album earned her first honorable mention in the American Prize 2020 Ernst Bacon Prize for the Performance of American Music, and she is currently recording her second project, a collection of new compositions for bassoon titled *American Bassoon Voices*.

Cayla holds a Doctor of Music degree in Bassoon Performance and Literature from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, in addition to Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Music Education and Bassoon Performance from the University of Georgia, where she was distinguished as a National Presser Scholar. In addition to professional affiliations with the National Association for Music Education, College Music Society, and National Association of Wind and Percussion Instructors, she currently serves on the staff of the International Double Reed Society as Communications Coor-

dinator. Offstage, Cayla is an amateur endurance athlete with academic research focusing on coaching methodologies, burnout, and the intersections of artistic and athletic training. Find her online at www.caylabellamy.com.



Stephen Benham

Stephen Benham is Professor of Music Education at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA). He has degrees from the Uni-

versity of Minnesota, the University of Michigan, and the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Benham is an internationally-acclaimed clinician, speaker, consultant, and conductor with expertise in pedagogy, curriculum, assessment, teacher training, and new program development. His work has been featured in numerous international research seminars and conferences including ASTA, NAFME, and Society for Ethnomusicology, among many others. Dr. Benham is the author of *Yes You Can! A Survival Guide for Teaching Strings Teaching Strings*, co-author of *Sound Innovations: Creative Warm-ups—Exercises for Intonation, Rhythm, Bowing, and Creativity*, and lead author of the *ASTA String Curriculum: Standards, Goals, Learning Sequences for Essential Skills and Knowledge in K–12 String Programs*. He has also written several articles and chapters for scholarly publications, including handbooks and encyclopedias published by Oxford University Press and SAGE publications. Dr. Benham is an active consultant in the development of new music programs in communities without current string programs across the US, in addition to providing expertise to music education projects in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. He is an internationally-recognized leader having served in board positions with major non-profit associations and organizations, including president of the American String Teachers Association.

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Wesley Broadnax

Wesley J. Broadnax serves as Associate Professor of Music/Director of Bands at the University of Northern Colorado (Greeley, CO), where he conducts the Wind Ensemble, Chamber Winds, and guides all aspects of the wind band and graduate wind conducting programs.

Prior to his appointment at UNC, he held similar appointments at Drexel University, University of Delaware, California State University-East Bay, and Michigan State University. He is also Assistant Conductor of the Newark Symphony Orchestra (Delaware). A native of Texas, Dr. Broadnax received his bachelor's degree in music education from Stephen F. Austin State University and taught for several years in the Texas Public Schools. He received both the master's and doctoral degrees in Wind Conducting from Michigan State University. While at Michigan State University, he was a regular performer on bass trombone and euphonium, where he was a member of the West Shore Symphony, Greater Lansing Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony, Jackson Symphony, Kalamazoo Symphony, and Midland Symphony, in addition to various chamber ensembles that included both the West Shore Symphony Brass Trio and Capitol Brass Quartet in Lansing. In California, he performed as bass trombonist with the Silicon Valley Symphony and Mission Chamber Orchestra. His conducting teachers include John L. Whitwell and Frank L. Battisti; his bass trombone/euphonium teachers have included Nathaniel Brickens, Curtis R. Olson, Philip Sinder, J. Mark Thompson, and William Young. Dr. Broadnax maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator. He has conducted several All-State and honor bands both nationally and internationally, and he is a strong advocate of new music, having won the praises of several composers, including Joseph Schwantner, David Maslanka, Michael Weinstein, Dana Wilson, Jere Hutcheson, Paul

Barsom, Davide Zannoni, Lawrence Singer, Joel Puckett, Nicholas Vasallo, Stephen Rush, Marko Bajzer, Angelo Sormani, Raphael Fusco, Drew Michael McWeeney, and Eric Sessler. He participated in the Pierre Boulez Symposium on 20th Century Contemporary Music at Carnegie Hall in New York City, the focal work being the composer's *Le Marteau Sans Matre*, with members of Ensemble Intercontemporain. In the summer of 2002, Dr. Broadnax completed a four-week residency as a conducting fellow at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, where he co-conducted the Young Artists Wind Ensemble and Chamber Music Program with master teacher Frank L. Battisti. Scholarship & Research activities include presentations for the Conductors Guild National Conference (Chicago), Delaware Music Educators Association (Smyrna, DE), Schwantner Music Festival (Newark, DE), and published articles on a variety of topics related to music education—including *Ensemble Intonation: Five Strategies for Long-Term Improvement for the School Band & Orchestra Magazine (SBO)*, and *Community Bands: Their Value in American Society for the Association of Concert Bands Journal (ACA)*. He continues guest conducting engagements throughout Italy each summer, as part of the International Music Project (IMP), and has recently presented concerts in both Italy and Spain during Winter 2019. In addition, he has served as a guest panelist and speaker on issues related to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) within the arts, and is a committee member regarding this work with the Colorado Music Educators Association Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Access (CMEA-DEIA). Dr. Broadnax holds professional membership with the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), International Music Project (IMP), Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA), International Trombone Association (ITA), Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia, and he is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, Phi Mu Alpha and Pi Kappa Lambda organizations.

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Scott Burstein

Dr. Scott Burstein is the National Director of Teaching and Learning for the non-profit Little Kids Rock. His duties include managing Little Kids Rock's musical content, curriculum, and professional development. He previously taught 12 years of public high school in Los Angeles, with subjects ranging from Marching Band to AP Music Theory. Scott studied music at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Eastman School of Music, and received his DMA in Music Education at the University of Southern California. While primarily a guitarist, he has performed on a variety of instruments in the fields of classical music and jazz.



Keith Bushman

Keith Bushman currently teaches K-5 general music at Elk Creek Elementary in New Castle, CO for the Garfield RE-2 School District and is also the current District 8 CMEA General Music Council Representative. He is in his 7th year in this position where he is also serving as the Gifted and Talented Lead for his building and loving every minute of it. Since graduating from Colorado State University in 2004, with his Bachelor of Arts degree, he taught band and choir for grades 5-12 in the towns of Norwood, Nucla, and Naturita. Mr. Bushman then taught elementary music for First Southern Christian School, in Tucson, AZ for grades 3-6. In Tucson, Mr. Bushman also performed the duties of marching band coach for Santa Rita High School. From 2006-20016, he taught band, choir, and performing arts for Riverside Middle School in New Castle, CO. Since arriving in the Garfield RE-2 School District, Mr. Bushman has served as an assistant coach for 7th grade girls and boys basketball and assistant/head coach for 7th and

8th grade girls volleyball. Mr. Bushman also started a drama program and directed the school plays for 4 years. He has had the pleasure of performing with the local symphony, Symphony in the Valley, when performing *Carmina Burana* and in several productions with a local theatre company, Divine Family Theatre. When not teaching or coaching in the schools, he enjoys reading, running/biking along the Colorado River, and hiking/exploring the great Colorado outdoors with his beautiful wife Rebekah, and three wonderful kids Cassara, Syreah, and Onyx.



Clelyn Chapin

Dr. Clelyn Chapin serves as the Associate Director of Choirs at University of Northern Colorado. In addition to her work as a professor, Clelyn serves the Artistic Director for the Denver Women's Chorus, a 140-voice choir focused on social justice. Before beginning at UNC, Clelyn spent 14 years teaching and conducting secondary, collegiate, and community ensembles in Texas, Colorado, and Michigan. Her choirs have been invited to perform at state conferences and she frequently serves as an adjudicator and clinician for choral festivals. She completed her doctorate in Choral Conducting at Michigan State University where she studied with Dr. David Rayl and Dr. Sandra Snow, and graduated with a Masters in Music Education from University of Northern Colorado.



Adam Chitta

Mr. Adam Chitta in his 12th year as an assistant band director at Wood Middle School in the North East Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas. Throughout his time at Wood Middle School,

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he has been teaching the beginner brass classes, co-teaching the advanced ensembles, along with assisting the orchestra program. Mr. Chitta seeks to raise awareness of teaching the deaf and hard-of-hearing students in the music education classrooms, plus strategies on how to best assist any colleagues in the workforce who may also be deaf and hard-of-hearing. He has been wearing behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids since he was seven years old. Mr. Chitta has presented at the Cambridge University Press Accessibility Champions Virtual Talk on the topic of assisting the deaf and hard-of-hearing through their music education journey. His upcoming panel discussions include the ALPSP (Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers) Virtual University Press Redux Conference on the topic of digital accessibility. Mr. Chitta has received his Masters in Music Education from Texas State University and his Bachelors in Music Education from Sam Houston State University. Professional affiliations include the Texas Music Educators Association and the Texas Bandmasters Association.



Ruth Ann Coy

Mrs. Ruth Ann Coy has been teaching orchestra for a decade. She has a degree in violin performance and music education with an emphasis in instrumental music from Metropolitan State University. She currently teaches sixth through eighth grade orchestra

at Drake Middle School in Jefferson County Public Schools. She has taught orchestra to fifth through eighth grade students for ten years. Her first nine years of teaching orchestra were within Title 1 school, traveling and teaching in up to nine different schools within a week in the Denver Metro Area. She is currently a first violinist with the Stratus Chamber Orchestra in the Denver Metro Area. When she is not teaching, she loves to cook, snowboard, and play board games.



Stanley Curtis

Stanley Curtis has developed a multi-faceted career as trumpeter, teacher and early-music performer. 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 degree

from Indiana University in 2005. He has taught at George Mason University and served as Historic Trumpet Division chair of the National Trumpet Competition. Having retired from a 20-year career in the U.S. Navy Band in Washington, D.C., he was appointed to the position of Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Colorado State University in 2018. In 2020 he was elected Vice President/President-elect of the Historic Brass Society. Stanley blogs on his Trumpet Journey website.



Joan Davies

Joan arrived in Casper, WY on Christmas Eve, 1983 after being hired as an instructor for the Casper Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps after traveling around the US and Canada teaching various drum corps for 11 years. Casper has

remained her home ever since. Prior to settling in Wyoming, she received her B.S. from West Chester University in PA. Joan taught in the public school in for 34 years (in PA, IL, TX and WY) in elementary through high school, general music, band and choir. Her 22 years of teaching in Casper were devoted to elementary education for the Natrona County School District #1 where she was Co-chair of the Elementary Music Department for 2 years and voted as the Music Teacher of the Year for the State of Wyoming. She was looked for ways to enrich her students through music. She offered before and after

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school enrichments, which included Drumming Ensembles, Drumming Circles, Adult Drumming, Orff Ensembles, Recorder Club, Choir, Beginning Guitar, and Uke Club. Her elementary drummers, The UBUNTU Drummers from Oregon Trail performed Wyoming All State Principals Workshops, the WMEA/All State Professional Convention in Gillette, WY, the Regional MENC Conference in Spokane, WA, and the National AOSA Conference in Denver. Joan earned her Masters of Arts in Teaching from Grand Canyon University, received her Orff Level I training at UNLV, World Music Drumming Levels I, II, and III through Will Schmidt's World Music Drumming, participated in the Art of Drumming workshops by Arthur Hull, and completed the Teaching Guitar Workshop Levels I and II from master teachers Glenn McCarthy and Ed Prasse. Joan's retirement from public school teaching began in June of 2018. She is in her 4th year of teaching preschool music at Giggles and Wiggles PreSchool in Casper, president of the Casper Civic Chorale, member of the Wyoming Choral Arts Ensemble, plays guitar and electric bass in her church band and has been seen on stage performing in plays and musicals with Casper College, Stage III and Casper Theatre Company. Joan is the proud mom of 2 adult daughters, Sam and Stephanie. She recently took 18 months off from the business to care for her first grandchild, Quinton (aka "Q") providing full time Grandma Daycare. Now she's back balancing the joy of bringing music to children and their teachers and the joy of family life.



Heleya deBarrow

Heleya de Barros is a born and raised Seattleite and SPS graduate (FQ!). She is an actor, teaching artist, and arts education advocate whose work focuses on how to use theatre skills across disciplines. Heleya has served as faculty at The

New School for Drama and has taught with such

organizations as Lincoln Center Theater, McCarter Theater Center, New York Theatre Workshop, The Center for Arts Education, People's Theatre Project, Young Audiences New York, The Geffen Playhouse, The Los Angeles Music Center, The Orange County Performing Arts Center, Crossroads School for Arts and Sciences, Will & Company, CRE Outreach, and 24th Street Theatre. She is the Director of Arts Education at Arts Corps which seeks to revolutionize arts education by igniting the creative power of young people through culturally engaging learning experiences. She also serves as Co Executive Director of The Teaching Artists Guild working to raise the visibility and growth of artists who teach. She is a board member of the Franklin High School Alumni Association and Foundation, serves on the Highline College Community Advisory Committee, and the KING FM Arts Education Council. As an actor Heleya earned her Actor's Equity card touring TYA shows to schools and communities. Currently Heleya acts as a performer and researcher with the Verbatim Performance Lab using theatre to examine and uncover unconscious bias. In addition to her arts education experience Heleya is also a long time soccer player and coach working with such organizations as Skyhawks Sports and Super Soccer Stars. @Heleya_deBarros



Henrique DeAlmeida

Henrique De Almeida Professor at The Berklee College of Music. Music Director – The Drum Set Coach Academy & TheDrumSetCoach.Com. Professor De Almeida holds a master's degree in Music Performance from The University of Southern Mississippi. He

is also a graduate of The Berklee College of Music in Jazz Composition. He is the leader of his own groups The Agora Jazz Trio, and the Jazz Fusion super group, The Truth Project Band. Henrique endorses Humes & Berg drum cases. He is a clinician

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for The Berklee College of Music, Sonor Drums, LP Percussion, Vic Firth Sticks, Zildjian cymbals, Evans drumheads, and Earthworks Microphones. As 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). 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 and online schools such as Drumeo-Canada. In 2017, Henrique became the music director and president of the online school TheDrumSetCoach.com and in January 2020, he opened his own music school in Palmer Lake Colorado, USA - The Drum Set Coach Academy. Henrique is in high demand as a teacher, producer/composer, and a sought-after artist. He has been approached by shows such as ABC's - "Dancing with The Stars" and other enterprises. He is constantly delivering highly-praised products to the music industry and designing courses for the Berklee Percussion Department. Henrique works with some of the biggest names in the TV industry, such as HBO and the commercial enterprises, to include writing original music for TV campaign with companies such as Victoria's Secret and the Australian David Jones Department stores. He also recorded and toured nationally and internationally with the acclaimed USAFA (United States Air Force Academy) Falconaires Contemporary Jazz Big Band, and The USAFA rock band Blue Steel. Henrique has also performed several times at the prestigious Carnegie Hall. He writes articles for Modern Drummer Magazine and has appeared on other publications such as the cover of Drumhead magazine with legendary drummer Steve Gadd. Henrique performs at music conferences such as PASIC (Percussive Arts Society International Convention), JEN (Jazz Educators Network), and numerous Jazz Festivals around the world. Henrique has performed for The President of the United States, Vice President, and Secretary of Defense. He has performed with an enormous range of artists:

David Ellefson (Megadeth), Victor Wooten from Bela Fleck & The Flecktones, Steve Hunt (Allan Holdsworth), Dave Samuels from Spyro Gyra, Jerry Bergonzi, Gloria Estefan, Nat Adderley, Bill Cosby, Antonio Hart, Christopher Holiday, Donny McCaslin, Chris Speed, Dave Valentin, Scotty Barnhart, Tiger Okoshi, Larry Coryell, Jeff Berlin, Nelson Rangel, Jeff Narell, Ira Sullivan, Victor Mendonza, Danilo Perez, Phil Wilson, Baron Brown, Matt Garrison, Bill Summers, Hilton Ruiz, Betty Carter, Nando Lauria (Pat Metheny Group). He has also performed with Brazilian pop stars Alceu Valença, Gilberto Gill, Raul De Souza, Luiz Gonzaga, Luciana Souza, and Hermeto Paschoal and jazz masters Brian Lynch, Ronnie Matthews, David Williams, Katy Webster, and Oscar Kortaia among others. For information regarding studying with Henrique, and a complete list of music educational products visit: TheDrumSetCoach.com



Lesley Dennis

Lesley Dennis taught elementary music for 9 years in Florida and Texas and is currently a Training Specialist for QuaverEd. She earned her BA in Music from Bethune-Cookman University and is past conductor and chair of the Volusia All-County Elementary Music Showcase. Dennis is a life member of Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority, Inc.



James Divine

There once was a little boy named Jimmy whose mom told him he could be anything he wanted...a policeman, a doctor, a lawyer, even the President of the United States. I exceeded all her expectations and became a music teacher!

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I'm now a grown man with four kids (I married my high school sweetheart) and six grandkids. I love eating pizza, mountain biking, spending time with family, and long walks in the mountains holding hands (sorry, I reserve that for only one person, and it's not you). My shoe size is 9.5 but please don't send me any shoes....I'll tell you more about that in a minute.

I teach middle school music at a Title I school, still finding time to speak, write, and podcast.

Now for the boring, adult stuff...

I earned a bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's College in Maine and received my music education from the Army School of Music, graduating from the basic, intermediate, and advanced courses over a span of ten years, serving in Virginia, Japan and Colorado. I retired from the Colorado National Guard in 2006. I earned a teaching license from Western State University in Colorado and completed a master's in music education at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. I believe in the value of life-long learning! I just don't like standardized testing.

Member of the following:

Colorado Music Educator's Association
American School Band Directors Association
Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy.

My life-long goal continues to be to ACT MY SHOE SIZE, NOT MY AGE



Matthew Dockendorf

Matthew Dockendorf is Associate Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Colorado Boulder where he conducts the Symphonic Band, directs the "Golden Buffalo" Marching

Band, and teaches courses in music education and conducting.

Prior to his appointment at CU Boulder, Dockendorf studied at Michigan State University where he wrote drill and arranged music for the Spartan Marching Band and Spartan Brass. He served as conductor of the Campus Band and guest conducted the Wind Symphony, Symphony Band, and Concert Band.

Dockendorf has guest conducted high school and middle school bands in Colorado, Georgia, Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina, and has presented clinics at various state music conferences and the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. Currently, his transcriptions of Paul Hindemith's Symphony in E-flat for Concert Band and Silvestre Revueltas' Troka for Wind Ensemble are under consideration for publication.

Dockendorf holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from Michigan State University under Kevin L. Sedatole; a Master of Music in Conducting from The Ohio State University under Russel Mikkelsen; and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Minnesota where he studied and performed under Craig Kirchhoff, Jerry Luckhardt, and Timothy Diem.



Dale Duncan

Dale Duncan taught public school for a total of 30 years in North Carolina, New Jersey and Georgia. During his career as a public school educator, his students con-

sistently received Superior Ratings at the state Large Group Performance events in both performance and in sight reading, and created and performed "live" song and dance musical revue events each spring in addition to many other choral performances over the years. Dale is also known by the choral music educator community worldwide as the creator of the S-Cubed Sight Singing Program for Beginners. During his career, Dale was honored as "Life Changer of the Year" by the National Life Group for

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his work and was also honored as a “Grammy Music Educator Semi-Finalist”. One of Dale’s most important life’s missions is to help middle school chorus teachers. Known by his peers as “Mr. D”, Dale has a blog and a large social media presence aimed at helping middle school chorus teachers thrive as they teach this age group. Now that Dale has retired from public education, he is teaching on the online platform “Outschool”, conducting Honors Chorus/Allstate events, teaching teachers at conventions and adjudicating choral performance events whenever he is invited!



Andrew Dutch

Mr. Andrew Dutch lives and works in Fort Collins, Colorado. He graduated from Thornton High School in 2017 and Colorado State University in 2021 with his Bachelor’s

Degree in Music Education. He is currently in his second year of teaching at Fort Collins High School serving as the Associate Director of Bands where he conducts -- alongside Mr. David D. Miles -- the Intermediate Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Pep Band; as well as teaches Music Theory and Composition and History of Rock and Roll.

Prior to beginning at FCHS, Andrew has served as the Head Drum Major for the CSU Marching Band; President of the CSU Chapter of CNAfME; a staff member for the CSU Drum Major and Leadership Institute; a counselor for the Colorado Honor Band Summer Camp; a teacher at the Seattle MusicWorks Jazz Camp; and an instructor with the Seattle Saxophone Institute.

His educational mentors and inspirations include Colorado State University’s Dr. Erik Johnson; Central Washington University’s Dr. T André Feagin; and Seattle Saxophonist/Composer Neil Welch. Andrew would like to acknowledge and thank his students as well as his colleagues and mentors at FCHS: Mr. David D. Miles, Mr. John G. Hermanson,

and Mrs. Kaitlin Miles.



Peter Eldredge

For years Peter Eldridge has remained at the forefront of both the singer-songwriter and jazz realms as a vocalist, pianist, composer, and arranger. He has five critically acclaimed albums under his belt so far: Fool No More, Stranger in Town, Decorum, Mad Heaven

and Disappearing Day, which was released in July 2016 on Sunnyside Records and called “an out and out masterpiece” by allaboutjazz. Disappearing Day made many ‘best of the year’ lists, including Downbeat, Jazziz, and NPR. Recently Peter and iconic jazz pianist and composer Kenny Werner joined forces on the studio project Somewhere, a collection of lush ballads for voice, string orchestra and jazz trio. The album, a combination of original compositions and timeless classics garnered rave reviews and plans are in the works to tour the project in the next year. Peter and bassist Matt Aronoff make up the duo Foolish Hearts, which has toured extensively and recorded an album entitled ‘New Definition’. One of Peter’s other current endeavors is his first full-fledged musical with the working title ‘The Woman in Question’ (co-written with Chicago playwright Cheryl Coons) about the life, loves, and art of Austrian painter Gustav Klimt.

Eldridge is also a founding member of acclaimed vocal group, New York Voices. The group continues to tour internationally and has performed in some of the world’s preeminent venues and festivals, including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and the Kennedy Center. NYV has been involved in two Grammy-winning projects with Paquito D’Rivera and the Count Basie Orchestra. New York Voices released its first studio album in a decade (under its own name) entitled Reminiscing in Tempo in 2019.

In addition, Peter is also a member of the vocal

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group MOSS, alongside Kate McGarry, Theo Bleckmann, Lauren Kinhan and Luciana Souza (and now vocalist Jo Lawry). Some of Peter's notable and eclectic collaborations include Becca Stevens, Bobby McFerrin, Fred Hersch, Chanticleer, the late Michael Brecker, David Byrne, Jonatha Brooke, Kurt Elling, the New West Guitar Trio, Jane Monheit, the Swingles, Anat Cohen, Rosana Eckert, Sara Gazarek, Betty Buckley, Janis Siegel, Paula Cole, Boston's Coro Allegro and the late Jon Hendricks and Mark Murphy. Peter's music is featured in Zach Galifianakis' recorded stand-up performance 'Live at the Purple Onion', and his original songs have been covered by artists such as Nancy Wilson, Paquito D'Rivera, and Jane Monheit. Peter was commissioned by the Boston choral group Coro Allegro to write a piece for its 25th anniversary (to be nobody, with text by e e cummings), and many of his original songs are available for vocal groups, arranged by such notables as Rosana Eckert and Kerry Marsh, among others. Finally, Peter was head of the Manhattan School of Music's jazz voice department for eighteen years and is now Professor of Voice at Berklee College of Music in Boston. He is regularly in demand for workshops and masterclasses both domestically and internationally, in topics ranging from songwriting and song reinvention, to interpretation and phrasing. Peter also has what he refers to as a 'twelve step program' in vocal improvisation, and has happily conducted many an All-State Vocal Jazz group.



Kristopher Emanuel

Kris Emanuel has been a Music Educator over the past decade, serving K-12 communities across Colorado. He is currently in his 8th year as a General Music Teacher and 6th at Indian Peaks Elementary with St. Vrain Valley Schools in Longmont. He is also host of "The Learning Pack Podcast."

He believes that it is important to utilize the music space to help students find enjoyment in music,

learn music literacy skills, and realize ways in which music can function in their personal lives. He lives with his husband Joe and their fluffy cat Leslie.



Edward Ercilla

Mr. Ercilla is an educator of 18 years of experience who currently serves as the Director of Instrumental Music at Doral Academy Preparatory in Miami, Florida. His current teaching responsibilities include Band, Orchestra, Guitar, and Music Theory. He also serves as instructor at Doral College where he teaches Music Appreciation. Being born deaf has provided Mr. Ercilla with a difficult journey and experience as a student of the "traditional music education" setting, which ignited the drive to become a resource for all students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The end goal is to present opportunities to equip fellow educators with the tools needed to provide an equitable music education experience for all students with disabilities. Mr. Ercilla has presented various clinics and PD sessions as it relates to Special Learners at the local, state, and national levels. Mr. Ercilla has received both this Bachelors and Masters in Music Education from Florida State University. Professional affiliations include the Florida Music Educators Association, the Florida Band Association, and Florida Orchestra Association.



Cynthia Eversole

Cynthia Eversole is in her 27th year of teaching elementary music in Colorado public schools and currently teaches at Lewis-Palmer Elementary. As a native of the Pikes Peak Region, Cynthia has participated as an active musician in various community ensembles on clarinet and piano while also maintaining a private clarinet studio.

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She holds a degree from the University of Northern Colorado with an emphasis in instrumental music and has completed Orff-Schulwerk Levels I & II.

Prior to her position at Lewis-Palmer Elementary, Cynthia taught at Bates Elementary in Colorado Springs. She has held positions in CMEA, including Chair of the General Music Council and now CMEA President. Also active in the Rocky Mountain Chapter of AOSA, Cynthia has assisted with various committees including mentor/mentee & board nominations. In 2013, Cynthia was Chair of Student Performances for the National AOSA Conference in Denver where over 1,000 students participated. Cynthia is most proud of the collaborative work she has done with the CMEA DEIA Task Force since the summer of 2020.

Cynthia resides in Monument where she and her husband (also a music teacher) are fully vested in the Lewis-Palmer School District as homeowners, teachers, students, and parents. She is extremely proud of each of her 17-year-old twins that have established themselves as accomplished musicians in their own right.



Michelle Ewer

Michelle Ewer is a music educator who has taught for 40 years in Jefferson County and Westminster Public Schools. She currently serves as Music Lecturer with The

University of Colorado Boulder, teaching Seminar for Student Teachers as well as being a University Supervisor.

She has mentored new teachers in Jefferson County for over 10 years and helped guide them through the spring of 2020 when everything went online.

Michelle currently teaches the freshman orchestra at Ralston Valley HS along with being a string coach

at several schools. She is the director of the Front Range Youth Symphony Academy strings as well as the chair of Tri-M Music Honor Society for CMEA. Michelle is a past president of CMEA, CASTA and was inducted into the CMEA Hall of Fame 2014.



Frank Eychaner

Dr. Frank F. Eychaner is an internationally recognized conductor, teacher and clinician. He is Professor of Music, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities, Music Department

Chair, and holds the Kathlyn Cosper Dunagan Professor in the Humanities at the University of Texas Permian Basin. He has conducted honor choirs across the US, in Cuba, Korea and Mexico. Eychaner is the author of 'Foundations of Conducting Technique' published with GIA. He has presented over 120 interest sessions at conventions and conferences around the world. In 2020 Eychaner became the Artistic Director of Vocalterra International. Vocalterra, headquartered in Central Mexico, is committed to choral music education and creating artistic opportunities for people across the Americas.

Sean Flanigan



A sought-after trombone soloist, conductor and teacher in the classical, jazz and commercial genres throughout the United States and abroad, Sean Flanigan is the Director of Music Entrepreneurship Studies at Colorado Mesa University.

He has presented solo recitals, guest conducting appearances and clinics at the National Conservatory in Caracas, Venezuela and as featured guest artist at El Sistema's Ibero-American Brass Festival in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. He has been invited numerous times to return to Venezuela to work for El Sistema, their world-famous orches-

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tral training system. He has performed with numerous symphonic and opera orchestras, backed such artists as Dizzy Gillespie, Jimmy Heath, Clark Terry, Urbie Green, the Temptations, recorded for television, radio, and commercial CDs and has performed for numerous touring Broadway shows. Dr. Flanigan has many years of public-school teaching experience, most notably at the middle school level. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas where he was a Doctoral Conducting Fellow studying with Eugene Migliaro Corporon. He also holds Master of Music in Trombone Performance and Bachelor of Science in Music Education degrees from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign.



Dylan Ford

Mr. Dylan Ford is the director of instrumental music at Dakota Ridge High School where he oversees all aspects of the DRHS band and orchestra program. This is Mr. Ford's sixth year at Dakota Ridge High School. Previously,

Mr. Ford was the Director of Bands at Central High School in Grand Junction, CO for four years.

Mr. Ford is a Colorado native, and an alumnus of the University of Northern Colorado (Greeley, CO) where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. While at UNC, Mr. Ford was a versatile student and musician, and performed as a trombonist in many ensembles, including: symphonic band, wind ensemble, symphony orchestra, lab II jazz ensemble, trombone choir, and the undergraduate brass quintet. He also played in the pit orchestra for numerous UNC productions as well as the professional theatre company "The Little Theatre of the Rockies". In addition to these performing responsibilities, Mr. Ford was the drum major for the "Pride of the Rockies" marching band for three years. Mr. Ford was also a

member of the Santa Clara Vanguard, a world class drum and bugle corps from Santa Clara, CA.

Mr. Ford also served the School of Performing/Visual Arts as the UNC CNAFME President, a member of the Student Advisory Board for the School of Performing/Visual Arts, and was the student representative to the UNC/Greeley Arts Advisory Board.

Professionally, Mr. Ford has attended and conducted at the UNC Conducting Symposium, and has been on staff with the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps and Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps. Mr. Ford is a member of the Colorado Bandmasters Association (CBA Marching Committee Member, CBA Concert Band Committee Member), Colorado Music Educators' Association, American School Band Director's Association (Colorado Treasurer), Phi Beta Mu (International School Bandmaster Fraternity), American String Teacher Association, and the National Association for Music Education.



Lindsay Fulcher

Dr. Lindsay J. Fulcher is Assistant Professor of String Music Education at the University of Northern Colorado. In addition to teaching music education courses, she conducts

the Campus String Orchestra and serves as Director and Master 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 earned high ratings at local, national, and international festivals. She is a frequent guest conductor and clinician and has worked with festivals in Colorado, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. She has presented sessions for teachers at the National ASTA Conference, the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Conference, and the

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Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, in addition to a variety of national research presentations.



Tia Fuller

When Grammy-nominated Mack Avenue recording artist, composer, and bandleader Tia Fuller picks up her saxophone, something amazing happens.

Blending technical brilliance, melodic creativity, and the performing precision drawn from both her academic and stage experience, Fuller is a force to be reckoned with in the worlds of jazz, pop, R&B, and more. Currently, Fuller balances the worlds of performance and education, fulfilling a demanding schedule as both a busy touring and recording artist and a full-time professor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Fuller's resume makes her uniquely qualified for these roles. The Denver, Colorado native graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, and summa cum laude with a Master's degree in Jazz Pedagogy and Performance from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Already established as a leading jazz musician, Fuller was selected to be a member of the all-female band touring with Grammy-winning pop star Beyoncé. Performing as part of the I AM ... Sasha Fierce and Beyoncé Experience World Tour on stages across the globe, Fuller also became a featured soloist on the Beyoncé Experience DVD (Me, Myself and I), I AM Yours I DVD (Wynn Theatre) and also appeared on number of major television shows, including Today Show, Good Morning America, The Oprah Winfrey Show, BET Awards, American Music Awards, Grammy Awards and as a featured soloist with Beyoncé for President Obama at the White House.

An accomplished solo artist in her own right, Fuller has recorded five full-length projects with her quartet. Her most recent album, *Diamond Cut*, received a Grammy nomination in the Best Instrumental Jazz category; produced by three-time Grammy

Award winner Terri Lyne Carrington, the album also features two superb rhythm sections, both of which contain some of jazz world's brightest luminaries – bassist Dave Holland and Jack DeJohnette, then bassist James Genus and drummer Bill Stewart. Adding texture and harmonic support of several compositions are guitarist Adam Rogers and organist Sam Yahel. Additionally, Carrington contributes to two tracks with percussion.

Fuller debuted in 2005 with her self-produced set, *Pillar of Strength* (Wambui); her sophomore release, *Healing Space* (2007/Mack Avenue), is an offering of “melodic medicine” and healing agents. Her third CD, *Decisive Steps*, also for the Mack Avenue label, received the number one JazzWeek rating for two weeks straight, landed at number three in JET magazine's top jazz CDs listing, and was nominated for Best Jazz album by JazzWeek. And in 2012, she released her fourth album, *Angelic Warrior*, which received praise from The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and numerous jazz publications. The saxophonist's quartet has performed in countries and jazz fests around the world, including Angola, Croatia, South Africa, The Netherlands, Italy, Scotland, and the United States, just to name a few. Fuller can also be seen touring regularly with several bands. She has appeared with Terri Lyne Carrington to perform her Grammy-winning *Mosaic Project* and *Money Jungle: Provocative in Blue*; served as assistant musical director for Esperanza Spalding's Radio Music Society tour; and recorded and toured with Dianne Reeves for her Grammy-winning *Beautiful Life* album. She has also performed with such luminaries as the Ralph Peterson Septet, Rufus Reid Quintet, Wycliff Gordan Septet, T.S. Monk Sextet, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, the Nancy Wilson Jazz Orchestra, the Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra, Chaka Khan, Ledisi, Kelly Rowland, Jay-Z, Jill Scott, Patti LaBelle, Sheila E, Valerie Simpson, Dionne Warwick, Janelle Monáe, Patrice Rushen, Erykah Badu, and the late Aretha Franklin, Nancy Wilson, and Geri Allen.

Fuller has also expanded her media presence as a

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model and essayist. In early 2019, she appeared in a cutting-edge “Rhythm in Blues” advertising campaign for national women’s retailer J.Jill. Her life-size image has been featured in more than 270 J.Jill display windows nationwide. In addition, Fuller will be featured in an exclusive Vanity Fair magazine shoot, celebrating women in jazz. Furthermore, Fuller has shared her experiences as a performer, educator, and first-time Grammy nominee as a female jazz musician via a timely opinion piece, on sexism in jazz for NBCNews.com, a feature story in the Associated Press and live interviews on such outlets as TV One’s Sister Circle. The dynamic saxophonist has also graced the cover of Downbeat Magazine, JazzTimes Magazine, Saxophone Today, Jazzed, and Jazz Education Journal.

In addition, she has received numerous awards and marks of distinction including, winning JazzTimes Jazz Critics Poll for best alto saxophonist (2018), and Downbeat Critic’s Poll-Rising Star two years in a row in the categories of Soprano Sax in 2014 and Alto Sax and Flute in 2013. In 2018, Fuller was honored with the Benny Golson Award from Howard University; received the Distinguished Alumnae Award as the commencement speaker at the University of Colorado at Boulder; and was appointed as the 2018 Artist-in-Residence at the Monterey Jazz Festival in Monterey, CA.

As a Professor at Berklee College of Music, Fuller shares her expertise with more than 70 students per week. She leads the college’s Rainbow Big Band and All-Stars, the Esperanza Ensemble, repertoire class, jazz improvisation, two jazz combos, and the Christian McBride Ensemble. In addition, she produces and directs groundbreaking large production ensembles focusing on the works of major pop innovators Beyoncé, Bruno Mars, Ariana Grande, and Micki Miller. Innovated by Fuller to provide more contemporary, real-world experiences for students, these ensembles are cross-collaborations with other college departments and duplicate an “A-list” tour production incorporating musicians, choreography, strings, dancers, video, and lighting.

As an artist, performer, and teacher, Fuller feels that she is fulfilling her purpose here on this earth, which is to “serve as a light for others.”



Aaron Gardner

Aaron Garner did his graduate studies in piano performance and pedagogy at UNC and is currently CEO of Piano Marvel. Aaron entertains audiences worldwide with topics of teaching online, group-teaching, student motivation, sight-reading, technique and composition.



Lindsay Genadek

Lindsay Genadek received her Bachelors of Music Performance in 2007 from the University of Northern Colorado and her Bachelors of Music Education degree from Colorado Mesa University in 2010. She received her Masters of Education Administration at Argosy University in 2018. Lindsay has taught private violin and viola lessons for 17 years and has 9 years experience teaching orchestra at the public school level, most recently as the Orchestra Director at Ranum Middle School in the Westminster Public School District. Prior to this position, she was the Orchestra Director at Mapleton Public Schools and taught at El Sistema Colorado as the String Teaching Artist.

Lindsay is currently on the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) Private Studio Committee, has been a mentor for the ASTA new teacher program and has served as the Secretary of the Colorado American String Teachers Association. She was the recipient of the Mapleton Public School’s Teacher of the Year Award in 2015 and was given the Colorado American String Teachers Association’s Exemplary Middle School and Junior High School Teacher Award in 2012. Lindsay performed with the Boulder Symphony Orchestra as principal viola,

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the Denver Philharmonic where she played both section violist and principal violist, Stratus Chamber Orchestra and the Boulder Philharmonic as a substitute violist and the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra. She performed as guest lead violist with the alternative hip-hop/rock band The Flobots and was a guest artist on the recent album of local band, Khemmis. She is also a member of a new, upcoming folk/bluegrass band.



Rachel Gibson

Dr. Rachel Gibson is a Professor of Music, coordinator of music education, and an active local, national, and international clinician. Her book ¡Canta Conmigo! Songs and Singing Games from Guatemala and Nicaragua (Oxford

University Press, 2021) is a comprehensive teaching resource that includes songs and singing games she learned while living in Central America. As a Fulbright Global Scholar (2021), she taught and researched at Universidad de Málaga in Spain and travelled throughout the country learning children's songs from local musicians. Dr. Gibson is president of Kodály Educators of Southern New England (KESNE), member-at-large for Connecticut American Orff-Schulwerk Association (CTAOSA), serves on the Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE) National Board of Directors. She is also on summer faculty at the University of Montevallo Kodály Institute in Alabama (UMKI) and West Texas Kodály Initiative (WTKI). Prior to her current position, she taught K-6 general and choral music for 15 years in New York, Connecticut, and Washington State and maintained a piano studio where she taught lessons to children and adults.



Greg Gilpin

Greg Gilpin is a celebrated ASCAP award-winning choral composer and arranger and a highly respected choral conductor. He is known throughout the United States leading performances at New York

City's iconic Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center as well as Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee. His international appearances include the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia, Royal Festival Hall in London, England and Harpa Concert Hall in Reykjavik, Iceland. Mr. Gilpin is also a producer and musician in the recording industry and is Director of Educational Choral Publications for Shawnee Press, a distinguished choral publisher.

In 2020, Mr. Gilpin's "pandemic pivot" took him down an additional career path by becoming certified as a financial coach and a certified Boss Organizer, creating his own professional organizing business, Maestro Organizing. This work has led to appearances on Fox and NBC network affiliates. Mr. Gilpin can also be seen on the hit TV show "Hoarders", alongside Dorothy Breining, renowned producer and organizer.

In 2021, Mr. Gilpin wrote the score for the award-winning short film, "Rosie's Rescue" and was awarded "Best Score" for this same movie. He also teamed up with well-known opera singer, Angela Brown, and created the world premiere of a thrilling new arrangement of "What Child is This?", debuted by Ms. Brown and the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir. The music world is coming back to life and Mr. Gilpin is excited to be teaching, composing, conducting and organizing! He is a proud member of ACDA, NAFME, SAG-AFTRA, and is a Life Loyal Member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

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Samuel Gray

Samuel Gray serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant while pursuing a Master of Music Education degree from Colorado State University, studying with Erik Johnson and Seth Pendergast. Samuel

also serves as the Assistant Director of Colorado State's Middle School Outreach Ensembles. Outside of graduate school, Samuel serves as the Director of Music/Organist at First United Presbyterian Church in Loveland, Colorado. Previously, he was the Middle School Choir Teacher at Duluth Edison Charter Schools in Duluth, Minnesota. He directed the NorthStar Singers and taught emerging music classes, and 5th - 8th Grade Choirs. In 2015, Samuel completed his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. He studied conducting with Matthew Olson and Richard Robbins, voice with Vicki Fingalson, and Organ with Norma Stevlingson. While attending, he served as a student conductor, section leader, and president of the UW-Superior ACDA chapter. He was also an active recitalist with the Arrowhead AGO chapter. Samuel was previously an active member of the Twin Ports Choral Project for 6 years, recently performing as a soloist in the fall 2019 Midwest premiere of *Considering Matthew Shepard*. Samuel also co-founded with his wife, Elizabeth, the Superior Lutheran Choir of Superior, Wisconsin.



Randy Greenwell

Randy Greenwell has been an Educational Support Manager with Conn-Selmer since January 2017. He is the former Director of Bands and Performing Arts Department Chair, of the nationally recognized Lawrence Central High School Performing Arts Department, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Under his direction, the Lawrence Central High

School Marching Band was an eighteen-time Bands of America Grand National Finalist and a two-time Grand National Champion. The Lawrence Central High School Marching Band was a "2001 Sudler Shield" award recipient and a four-time Class A Indiana State Champion. They participated in prestigious national events such as the Tournament of Roses and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades.

His wind ensembles were consistent state finalists, being named ISSM

A Concert Band State Champion on five separate occasions. In addition, the LC Jazz Ensembles were awarded honor band status at several jazz festivals throughout his tenure at Lawrence Central.

Randy was named a "Distinguished Citizen of Indianapolis" in 2001. He was inducted into the "Music for All/Bands of America Hall of Fame" as well as the "Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame" in 2018. He actively judges for DCI, WGI, and Bands of America, guest conducts honor bands, and does clinics on a variety of music education topics across the country. Randy continues to serve as music arranger and program coordinator for several competitive bands around the country and is part of the clinician team for the Conn-Selmer Institute Marching Arts Workshop.

In 2019, The Greenwood Community Band, for which he serves as Music Director, performed at the opening session of the Conn-Selmer Institute. Randy is still an active trumpet player in Indianapolis, performing exclusively on Vincent Bach Stradivarius instruments.



Sam Heminger

Sam Heminger is a teacher and musician currently living in his hometown of San Francisco. He received his Orff Schulwerk Levels training at the San Francisco Orff course

in 2012. He began teaching music at Synergy School

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in 2010 where he has worked towards revealing the deep connection between Orff and Jazz. In addition to his various jazz gigs, he is the bassist of the local band “The Pentatonics,” founded by Doug Goodkin and focused on introducing jazz to children through the powerful vehicle of Orff. In addition to his work as a musician, Sam teaches workshops locally and around the country with his colleague, Joshi Marshall.



Adrian Herrera

He started playing the piano when he was five years old at the “Casa de la Cultura Ricardo Nieto” in Palmira, Valle del Cauca. In 1988 after finishing high school, he entered the “Antonio María Valencia” Conservatory, where

he developed a career in classical piano. There, he had the opportunity to study with teachers such as Luis Carlos Figueroa (MM Conservatorio Nacional de Paris), Svetlana Korjenko (MM Conservatorio Rimsky Korsakov de Leningrad), Alexander Korjenko (MM Conservatorio Rimsky-Korsakov) and Lucía Dolores Mora (MM La Habana Conservatory). During these years he played several recitals and concerts, among which the First Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in C Major by Ludwig Van Beethoven in 1996 stands out, with the Symphony Orchestra of the Conservatory. At the age of fifteen he had the opportunity to hear for the first time the Jazz album called “Kind of Blue” by Miles Davis, which introduced him to this fantastic world of improvisation. He continued his classical piano studies combining them with jazz piano lessons until 1997, when he obtained the title of Master in Classical Piano.

In 1999, he traveled to the United States to study at the Musicians Institute MI, where he had the opportunity to study with teachers such as Carl Schroeder (Sarah Vaughan’s pianist), Kevin King (Chaka Kan), Cheche Alara (Cristina Aguilera), and Steve Wein-

gart (Dave Weckl). He attended several master clinics with artists such as Patrice Rushen, Mike Stern, Herbie Hancock, David Possi, and Derek Sherinian. In 2000, he was awarded with honors the titles of Professional and Journeyman Keyboard Player. In 2000 he returned to the country and became a teacher at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and the INCCA University, being in charge of subjects such as jazz harmony, jazz ensembles, jazz keyboard and jazz piano. Since then he continued giving concerts at different Jazz festivals and clubs specialized in this music with different formats and artists such as: Trío Trípode Jazz, the Quinteto Los Narváez, and Camaleón Cuarteto. He has had vast experience with other styles such as rock and pop. She has been a member of the band of major pop artists such as Ilona (twice Grammy nominees 2004 and 2007) and Julio Nava. between 2006 and 2009 he is associated with El colectivo, a project directed by colombian piano master Jaime Henao taking different courses related with contemporary and popular music. In 2009 he was awarded with a Fulbright-Ministry of Culture scholarship to do a Master’s in Jazz Performance in the United States, where he studied at one of the best music schools called Aaron Copland School of Music attached to the Queens College of the City University of New York obtaining the degree of Master of Arts in Jazz Performance in 2011. There he studied with world renowned teachers in jazz such as Antonio Hart, Michael Mossman, Howard Brosky, Jeb Patton David Berkman, and Bruce Barth.

Finally, thanks to a Teaching assistantship awarded by the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in 2013, he has the opportunity to study at this prestigious university (ranked 10 internationally among the Faculties of Music) to obtain his Doctor of Musical Arts in Jazz Performance (DMA), title that was awarded in December 2017, where he has had the opportunity to study and play with renowned teachers such as Chip Stephens, Larry Gray, Ron Bridgewater, Joel Spencer, Chip Mc Neil, and Tito Carillo.

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In the field of performance, he has played with numerous Colombian Jazz artists such as Tico Arnedo, Pedro Acosta, Víctor Bastidas, Lucho Guevara, Alejandro Fernández, Julián Gómez, Mendoza Kike Mendoza, Ricardo Narváez, and Richard Narváez as well as with international artists such as Ronald Carter, Antonio Hart, Mark Groos, David Bennet, Joel Spencer, Chip Mc Neill, Larry Gray, Tito Carrillo, Jim Pisano, Bobbie Shew, Dave Pietro, among others. He has played in numerous jazz festivals in Colombia and the United States, among which, the “VII Cartagena International Jazz Festival (Festival Voces del Jazz y del Caribe 2019)” stands out, where he was the winner as best group with “Adrian Herrera Jazz quintet”, and winner of best composition Category, Concerts at the Jorge Eliecer Gaitán Theater within the framework of the Jazz al Parque 2007, 2009 and 2013 festival, Sevillaz 2008, Julio Mario Santo Domingo Theater 2011, Fernando Sor School 2011, 2012 and 2013 and Adrian Herrera Quintet live in Chicago (2016). These concerts have been alternated with numerous recording sessions and Jam sessions in the United States and Colombia. ‘Ofrenda’ It is his first album recorded in 2012 with an independent label which has obtained good recognition from music critics and the media. Actually, he is an assistant professor of piano and commercial Keyboard at Colorado Mesa University.



Nick Hinman

Mr. Nick Hinman has taught in Colorado for 14 years (9 years at Thunder Ridge Middle School) and 5 years at Chaparral High School). He has taught band (marching,

concert, jazz, pep), pit orchestra, class piano, music appreciation, and music theory and AP Music Theory. He has performed with the Blue Knights, Phantom Regiment, Colorado Wind Ensemble, and Broomfield Symphony.

He is a current graduate student at CSU, studying

wind conducting with Dr. Rebecca Phillips. He attended CU-Boulder for his undergraduate, and received Bachelors degrees in Music Education and Trumpet Performance. He has a Masters of Music Education from the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, IL. Mr. Hinman is a member of CMEA, NafME, CBA, and ASBDA.



Andrew Holcombe

Andrew Holcombe in entering into his 11th year of teaching and currently teaches band at guitar at Euclid Middle School in Littleton Public Schools. Before his time at Euclid, Andrew taught band for four years at Creighton Middle and

the Lakewood Area Elementary Schools (grades 5-8) in Jefferson County, and started his teaching career with four years at University Schools in Greeley teaching band to grades 6-12. He received both his Bachelors (2012) and Masters (2016) Degrees from the University of Northern Colorado.

Andrew received the Phi Beta Mu “Outstanding Young Bandmaster” award in 2019, and in 2021 he was elected to be the CMEA District 1 Instrumental Music Representative. Andrew is also currently on the CBA Concert Band Committee. In his free time Andrew loves spending time with his wife and daughters (and their two cats), as well as cycling, playing music, hiking, seeing live performances and playing games.



Lauren Hunt

Lauren Hunt is Assistant Professor of Horn at Utah State University, where she has worked since August 2019. Winner of the International Horn Competition of America in 2013, she has recently appeared at music festivals from coast to coast, includ-

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ing the Marlboro, Spoleto, and Artosphere Festivals. A passionate chamber musician, Dr. Hunt can be heard on a recently-released album of Beethoven's chamber works for winds on the Naxos label. Dr. Hunt has given masterclasses at a number of colleges, including the Yale School of Music, Columbus State University, Western Illinois University, Boise State University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, James Madison University, University of Virginia, and the National Conservatory of Colombia. She has been a visiting guest artist at "El Sistema"-style programs in Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico. Dr. Hunt has presented at conferences ranging from the International Horn Symposium to the Utah State Music Education Conference. She has been teaching privately since the age of 13 and has worked with students from age 2 to senior citizens. Prior to her current position, Dr. Hunt taught at Illinois State University. In 2021, she became the ninth horn player in the world to be trained in using the Suzuki method to teach horn. Dr. Hunt holds a Bachelor's from the New England Conservatory, a Master's from the Yale School of Music, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Georgia, where she was a Presidential Fellow. Her principal teachers include Ted Thayer, Jean Martin-Williams, Richard Mackey, and William Purvis.



Josh Jackson

Josh Jackson directs all vocal ensembles and teaches AP Music Theory at Chatfield Senior High School. Josh is also the Producer/Vocal Music Director of Chatfield's annual spring musical and he is the Assistant Director and one of the co-founders of Elus Vocal

Ensemble (formally the Denver Pro Chorale.)



Bonnie Jacobi

Dr. Bonnie Jacobi is Associate Professor of Music Education at Colorado State University, where she serves as an Elementary Music Specialist and directs the Colorado Kodály Institute. Dr. Jacobi is a Master Teaching Artist within the American Eurhythmics Society and an Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Historical Research in Music Education. She is an active clinician and has published articles on multiple topics pertaining to elementary music education.



Elisa Janson Jones

Elisa Janson Jones is the Senior Product Manager for all things digital at Conn-Selmer, writer and producer of the Music Ed Mentor Podcast, founder of Music Educators Creating Online Learning Facebook Group, and former conductor of her local community band.



Erik Johnson

Dr. Erik Johnson is an Associate Professor of Music Education at Colorado State University. He is a GRAMMY Scientific Research Award winner, and recipient of the CSU Distinction in Community Outreach Award and the CSU Distinction in Engaged Scholarship Award for his work in teacher education. He holds a master's degree in Wind Conducting and a Ph.D in Music Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

As a teacher, Erik has received three school board

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commendations, two 9-News Teacher Who Cares Awards, and a Colorado Teacher of the Year Award sponsored by the Walmart Foundation. As a conductor, clinician, and presenter, Erik has worked throughout the United States and in Japan, India, China, Spain, Ireland, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Finland, Canada, Australia, Lithuania, and Scotland. Erik is a conductor and founding member of the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras.

His research is published in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Music Educators Journal*, *Contributions to Music Education*, *The Bulletin for the Council of Research in Music Education*, *The International Journal of Disability, Development, and Education*, and *The Journal of Education and Training Studies*. His books and book chapters are available through GIA, Oxford University Press, Indiana University Press, and Rowman & Littlefield.



Cathy Keller

Cathy Keller is in her 14th year at Prairie Ridge Elementary School in the St. Vrain Valley School District. There, she serves as the general music teacher, conductor of the Soaring Singers, a before-school

choir of forty-five 4th and 5th grade students. She also serves as the conductor of the third grade Beginning Choir. Prior to her position at P.R.E.S, she 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 Henderson.

Cathy and the Soaring Singers were invited to perform at CMEA in 2015. She also presented a session entitled, "Tried and True: A Reading Session" with Jon Hutchison at CMEA in 2016 and another session, "Music for Special Learners" along with her colleagues from Niwot Elementary School and Longmont Estates Elementary School at CMEA in 2018. Cathy and her SVVSD colleagues also present-

ed this session at the University of Colorado NAFME student chapter meeting.

Cathy has two children with her husband, Travis Keller: Matthew and Emma. She enjoys camping, hiking, attending Broncos games and any outdoor activities with her family. She loves taking her kids to all of Travis' marching band activities in the fall to cheer on the Fairview Marching Knights!



Stephanie Kelln

Stephanie Kelln has been teaching elementary general music since 2001. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and her Orff-Schulwerk Levels at the University

of Northern Colorado. In 2018, she completed a Master's Degree in Educational Child Psychology from UNC. Stephanie served in multiple positions on the board of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Orff Schulwerk Association (RMC-AOSA) from 2004 to 2014. In addition to classroom teaching, she has led many professional development opportunities for music educators both in person and online. Stephanie currently teaches K-5 music at Billie Martinez Elementary in Greeley, CO.



Sean Kemp

Sean Kemp is a veteran music educator whose twenty-two year career has included band, orchestra, and choir at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. He has

earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from the University of Colorado Boulder, and is proud to be part of the staff of Flagstaff Academy which is one of four schools currently recognized as a Trailblazer School To Watch by the Colorado Association of Middle-Level Education. Mr. Kemp was honored as Flagstaff Academy's Teacher

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of the Year by the St. Vrain Valley Schools Education Foundation in 2019 and again in 2021, a significant achievement in a year when elective classes were entirely asynchronous due to COVID. Additionally, he served as the Wind Ensemble Director within the Longmont Youth Symphony organization from 2014-2019.



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.



Madison Kubala

My name is Madison Kubala, and I am a fourth year Music Education student at Colorado State University. I am a violinist in the CSU Symphony, studying with Dr. Ron Francois. I am thrilled to be presenting at CMEA this year, and I can’t wait to learn more about elementary teaching through this experience!



Scott Laird

Recognized string pedagogue and conductor, Scott Laird, serves on the faculty of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where he is Fine Arts Chair and Instructor of Music. Noted for his innovative approach to ensemble development and musicianship, Laird is a frequent conductor of honor orchestras and is a sought-after conference presenter. He regularly performs on acoustic and electric violin and is known for his abilities in both the classical and improvisatory arena. Laird was the recipient of the 2022 ASTA President’s Award for Outstanding Service, 2019 UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award, 2017 ASTA Elizabeth A. H. Green Award, and North Carolina Symphony’s 2016 Maxine Swalin Award. He has served on the National Boards of the American String Teachers Association and El Sistema USA. He has served as President of the NC Chapter of ASTA, Chair of the NCMEA Orchestra Section and maintains a presence as a national leader in string education. He earned his B.S. in Music Education and his M.A. in Violin Performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he studied violin with Prof. Delight Malitsky. He earned his National Board Certification in 2004 and recertified in 2013. His blog, “Thoughts of a String Educator,” enjoys broad readership in the music education community. In addition, Laird serves as a sponsored artist and educational specialist for D’Addario

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Bowed Strings, Coda Bows, Conn Selmer, and NS Design Electric Violins.



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.

A Colorado native from Broomfield, Mr. Larsen attended the University of Colorado Boulder where in 2007 he earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree. In 2013, Mr. Larsen received his Master of Music degree with an Education and Conducting Emphasis from Colorado State University.

Beginning his career in 2007 as the Instrumental Music Director at Alameda International High School in Jefferson County Public Schools, Mr. Larsen tripled the band and orchestra program enrollment during his five-year tenure. Under his administration, the Alameda Winter Percussion Ensemble became state champions in "PSCA" class in 2011. He was honored with the Jeffco Values Award for Exemplary Performance that same year. Mr. Larsen joined the Highlands Ranch High School Performing Arts Department in 2012 as Director of Bands. Under his direction, the HRHS Falcon Regiment doubled in size and received its highest scores in ten years. The Falcon Regiment performed at CBA State 4A Semifinals in 2015 and 2016. As co-director, the HRHS Full Orchestra was selected to perform during the annual Colorado Music Educators Association state conference in January 2017.

Mr. Larsen proudly serves ASBDA as Colorado State Chair and is a member of KKΨ 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).



Chad Lemons

Chad Lemons holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, and a Master's Degree

in Music Education with emphasis in instrumental conducting from Colorado State University. He began teaching in SVVSD in 2010 and is currently a music educator at Mead High School.

During his time teaching at Longs Peak Middle School, Mr. Lemons launched a junior chapter of the Tri-M National Music Honor Society which included a service project to purchase musical instruments for three elementary school music programs. The LPMS Jazz Band attended the Skyline Jazz Festival annually and consistently scored superior ratings.

Mr. Lemons developed and launched a new course for the St. Vrain Valley School District known as the Unified Percussion Ensemble. The UPE is a performance-based ensemble for students with special needs. Pairing performing students with mentors from the band program, the ensemble performs a variety of music in various settings. The growth of the program has inspired the creation of similar ensembles at multiple schools around northern Colorado.

Mr. Lemons advocates for the advancement of music education in our schools and has helped Mead High School receive grant funding annually and continues to develop support through business partnerships. Under his direction, the MHS Band program has earned Superior ratings at the Cañon

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City Music Festival and Greeley Marching Invitational. The band has earned Excellent ratings at the Colorado Bandmasters Association Concert Band Northern Regional and Greeley Jazz Festival.

As a judge and advocate for the advancement of music education, Mr. Lemons has adjudicated the Wyoming High School Activities Association Marching Band Festival in Casper WY, Poudre School District Solo & Ensemble Festival in Fort Collins, CO, and the High Plains School Solo & Ensemble Festival in Loveland, CO.

Chad Lemons is a member of the Colorado Music Educators Association, Colorado Bandmasters Association, National Association for Music Education, Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Beta Mu, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.



Drew Leslie

Dr. Drew Leslie joined the faculty of the Colorado State University School of Music, Theatre and Dance in the fall of 2019 and is currently the Associate Professor of Trombone. He has broad experience

as a professional trombonist and music educator, performing and teaching throughout the world in a number of different settings. Recent performance highlights include the Colorado Symphony, Hawaii Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Eugene Symphony, performances at the International Trombone Festival and the American Trombone Workshop, and recitals in Oregon, Kentucky, Virginia, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, Ohio, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina. Additional performance highlights include the Santo Domingo Festival Orchestra of the Dominican Republic, Jungfrau Music Festival (Switzerland), Mid-Europe Festival (Austria), Wiltz Open-Air Festival (Luxembourg), and Festival Veranos de la Villa (Spain). Equally as passionate about music education, Leslie has presented numerous masterclasses at universities across

the country and served on the faculty of the Cannon Summer Music Camp. Dr. Leslie received his D.M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, his M.M. from the Manhattan School of Music, and his B.M. from the University of Michigan. His primary instructors include Nathaniel Brickens, Per Brevig, Michael Powell, David Jackson, H. Dennis Smith, and Jonathan Holtfreter.



Rachel Lesser

Rachel Lesser is a Colorado Native who graduated from and now teaches in Aurora Public Schools. She teaches General Music, Choir, Theater, and Student Council. She also

dabbles as the school mascot. She has a Bachelor's in Music Education and Cultural Linguistic Diversity from MSU Denver, and a Master's in Trauma Informed Education from Columbia College, South Carolina.



Beth Letendre

Beth Letendre earned her Bachelor of Music Education from Valparaiso University in Indiana in 2004, followed by a teaching assistantship at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where she earned

her Masters of Music Education with emphasis in Suzuki Pedagogy. Ms. Letendre has been teaching young string students in Colorado since 2006, first as the Suzuki Violin instructor at Centennial Academy of Fine Arts in Littleton, then general music, band and orchestra at Westminster Elementary School, and since 2013 she has directed the elementary orchestras of the Wheat Ridge articulation area in Jeffco Public Schools. She and her colleagues have grown the program there to enroll nearly 70% of 5th grade students in band and orchestra. In 2018 she began teaching orchestra at Everitt Middle School as

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well and now directs the 5th-8th grade orchestras in Wheat Ridge.

Beth is also an active violinist with the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra since 2006, performing in Munich and a dozen different cities in China. She also serves as the cantor and choir director for Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheat Ridge. Beth lives with her husband Dan, son Luke, and cats Doc and Molly in Arvada, CO.



Megan Lewin

Megan Lewin is the Director of Bands at Westminster High School where she conducts the WHS Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble,

Jazz Laboratory, Marching Band, Pit Orchestra, and oversees the Athletic Bands.

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 maintains an active private flute studio, acts as Woodwind Tech for local marching bands, and presents at national and international conferences. She is also the Colorado State Chair for Women Band Directors International and Band Chair for the Adams County Honor Festival. She is delighted to work with the amazing students, staff, and community at Westminster High School and loves every day with her Westy family!

Mrs. Lewin's professional affiliations include the Colorado Bandmasters Association, the Colorado Music Education Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Band Association, the Colorado Flute Association, the National Flute Association, and Sigma Alpha Iota.



John Lindsey

American tenor John Robert Lindsey has been praised for his "clarion tone" and "blazing tenor" by Opera News. Over the past 10 years he has performed leading opera roles at the national and international levels, and has frequently appeared on the concert stage with regional orchestras around the United States. In 2019 he joined the faculty of his alma mater, Colorado State University, where he teaches Applied Voice, Lyric Diction, Style and Performance Practice, and Opera History.



Michael Linert

Michael Linert enjoys a varied musical career as a cellist, singer, educator, and composer. Known for his engaging, impassioned performances as well as his inspiring, organized, and rigorous teaching approach, he seeks to create a world fully enriched by music, providing accessible and varied opportunities for all who seek music in their lives.

As an educator, Michael currently serves as the director of orchestras and mariachi at Westminster High School in Colorado where he has been awarded Teacher of the Year Award from Westminster High School, the Fred Award for Customer Service by Westminster Public Schools, and the Exemplary High School Teacher Award from the American String Teachers Association. Michael has also been a judge for the ASTA Certificate Advancement Program, TASHCO Young Artists Festival, Hoosier String Auditions, and the National Federation of Music Clubs. He has guest lectured at the American String Teachers Association National Conference, the Colorado Music Educators Association, Florida State University, University of Colorado Boulder, and Indiana University and has done consulting work with the Aspen Music Festival and School and with music educators wishing to enhance their

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orchestra, mariachi, performing arts departments.

For more information and additional teaching resources, please visit www.michaellinert.com.



Brio Lynam

Brio (he/they) teaches band, choir, orchestra, and music theory at CIVA Charter school in Colorado Springs. They started their career in the

August of 2020; a baptism by fire into the world of teaching. In the summers he is involved in LGBT+ advocacy, including acting as a diversity and inclusion consultant with the local GSCO camp. He has an undergraduate degree in K-12 Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado.



Paul Maley

Paul Maley is in his 13th year teaching general music and is currently at Estes Park El-

ementary in Estes Park. Maley holds a Bachelor in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado where he also completed his 3 levels of Orff Schulwerk. He received his Master of Music degree, 3 levels of Kodály, and partial Dalcroze certification from Colorado State University. Maley has written focus area articles for *Activate* music magazine and is currently working on a lesson book that utilizes the use of xylophones in the music classroom. Paul is a husband, father of 3, and performer with multiple groups around the front range of Colorado. Maley is most well known for his former percussion ensemble, The Grandview Groove, that has played the CMEA conference twice, CASB conference, and put out multiple music videos on youtube. The Groove has also been asked to perform with international soul-rocker, Michael Franti. As well as shout outs from Grammy Award winning group, the Avett Brothers. Now, Paul runs the Bobcat Beats Instrumental Ensemble and Mountain Echoes Choir in Estes Park. For more about

Paul, his teaching, and professional playing career, visit paulmaley.com.



Joshi Marshall

Joshi is a professional Jazz musician, composer and educator. He received his Level III Orff Certification from the San Francisco School and is currently the Orff Schulwerk teacher at Presidio Hill School in San Francisco for grades Pre K-8. He has taught children

from preschool through eighth grade, and regularly teaches Orff Schulwerk workshops for educators such as the AOSA national conference, and for parents and children. He is a founding member of The Pentatonics, a band of professional Jazz musicians and educators who make Jazz music accessible to kids and adults with multiple strategies for audience participation, who work regularly at the SF Jazz Center as a part of their family Jazz program. In the summer months Joshi directs a music camp for kids and in 2014 and 2015 helped teach Level one recorder at the San Francisco International Orff Course in Carmel, California. Joshi has toured the world as a professional musician, recorded on numerous albums, and performs regularly with his Jazz ensemble, The Joshi Marshall Project.



Amy Martinson

Amy Martinson is the Music Instructional Curriculum Specialist of Denver Public Schools. Her focus is providing equitable music education to all students regardless of individual characteristics or life circumstances. Equitable music education goes beyond access and representation to

including and empowering all voices and experi-

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ences in the world of music.



Katharine Mason

Katharine Mason, PhD has enjoyed a career combining performing, public school teaching and private lesson teaching for the past 45 years.

She holds a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction/Pedagogy from the University of Wisconsin, a Masters Degree in Viola Performance from the University of Illinois and Bachelor's Degrees in Performance and Music Education from Murray State University. Recently retired from the Boulder Valley School District, she has built string and orchestra programs in several schools in Colorado and the midwest. Her dedication to professional service is exemplified by 8 years as Colorado All State Orchestra Coordinator, terms as Colorado ASTA President and as Member at Large on the National Board of ASTA, and 11 years on the Board of the Colorado Music Educators Association, as well as serving on numerous professional committees. Dr. Mason was inducted in the CMEA Hall of Fame in 2018, holds the Colorado ASTA Lifetime Service to String Teaching Award and was selected to receive the Boulder Daily Camera's "Best Teacher in Boulder" award. She continues to maintain a large violin and viola studio in Boulder County and serves as guest conductor/clinician throughout Colorado and the US.



Richard Mayne

Richard Mayne is Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) in Greeley, Colorado where he conducted the Sym-

phonic Band, taught conducting, supervised student teachers, directed the marching band, and taught other music education courses as needed. Along with his curricular responsibilities, he produced

seven CD recordings (each featuring all of the UNC bands), as well as the annual promotional recording for the Grand Mesa Music publishing company for the past 25 years. In addition, he was coordinator/host of the annual UNC Conducting Symposium, which featured the UNC Symphonic Band as the clinic ensemble. He was co-administrator for the Colorado All-State Bands Festival for 27 years.

Dr. Mayne served as music director/conductor of the Fort Collins Wind Symphony for six years prior to moving to Arizona. He served for five years as the music director/conductor of the Colorado (British) Brass Band Workshop in Gunnison, Colorado. He also served for five years as the music director/conductor of the Denver Orion Winds Double Woodwind Quintet, an ensemble focused on performing chamber winds masterworks.

Dr. Mayne is an active guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, China, and Lebanon. He has served as the conductor in residence for two semesters at the Musashino Academia Musicae in Tokyo Japan. He is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association (ABA) and served on its Board of Directors. In 2013 he was inducted into the Colorado Bandmasters Hall of Fame as an honorary member. Dr. Mayne is a supporter of traditional wind band repertoire while also encouraging current composers and new music. He has served on the National Band Association – Revelli Composition Contest selection committee, the American Bandmasters Association - Ostwald Composition Contest Selection committee, and on the Grand Mesa Music selection committee for 25 years.

Dr. Mayne completed his Ph.D. in Music Education at The Ohio State University (OSU), where he studied conducting with Craig Kirchoff and Richard Blatti. He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music Education from Arizona State University, studying conducting with Richard Strange and Robert C. Fleming, trombone with Gail Wilson, and was mentored in his student teaching

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by Bill Richardson. Dr. Mayne taught public school in Arizona at the high school level for eleven years, nine of those being at Dobson High School in Mesa, Arizona. While teaching public school, he served as President of the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association. He also played trombone in the Tempe Symphony Orchestra for ten years during his time in Arizona.



Jeffrey McCray

Jeffrey McCray is the bassoon instructor at Colorado State University Pueblo. He is also an instructor in bassoon and music theory at Metropolitan

State University of Denver. In addition, he is Principal Bassoon of the Lincoln (NE) Symphony Orchestra and he is a member of the bassoon section of the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. He has performed extensively as a guest with the Omaha Symphony, the Kansas City Symphony, and the Minnesota Orchestra. Dr. McCray served for 13 years on the faculty of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he attained the rank of Associate Professor and was a member of the Moran Woodwind Quintet, Trio 402, and Bassoons Across Nebraska. He has also held teaching positions at Baylor University, Western Michigan University, Albion College, and the University of Michigan-Flint. His primary bassoon teachers were Robert Barris, Bernard Garfield, and Michael Kroth, and he holds degrees from Northwestern University, Temple University, and Michigan State University.

Dr. McCray is an active performer and clinician, having performed or presented at numerous conferences of music professionals such as the International Double Reed Society, the College Music Society, the International Clarinet Association, the International Horn Society, the Nebraska Music Educators Association, and the Colorado Music Educators Association. He has taught masterclasses and performed recitals at many prestigious schools

of music, including Baylor University, Colorado State University, the Crane School of Music (SUNY-Potsdam), Michigan State University, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, University of Michigan, University of North Texas, University of Northern Colorado, University of Oklahoma, and the Instituto Nacional de Música in Costa Rica.



Jennifer McIntyre

Jennifer McIntyre has worked in education for two decades. She has taught in Colorado

and in Indiana and has worked at the elementary and middle school levels. She has been a bookseller for 15 years, but children's literature has been her passion for her entire life. Jennifer is the owner of Once Upon a Mind, an independent bookseller located in Highlands Ranch, CO.



Brook Mead

Brook Mead has been a music director for over twenty years in Pueblo County. He currently teaches at the Arts Academy at Pueblo County high School where he directs three choirs, guitar class, and rock band.

Mr. Mead has also directed the Pueblo Children's Chorale and

is a member of The Martini Shot which has been a popular original and variety band in Southern Colorado since 2001.



Darla Meek

Darla Meek serves as Lecturer and Music Education Coordinator at Texas A&M University-Commerce, teaching undergraduate and graduate music classes and supervising student teachers.

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Darla earned the Bachelor of Music Education from Dallas Baptist University and the Master of Music at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She is presently working toward the Doctorate of Education in Supervision, Curriculum and Instruction. Certified in both Kodály and Orff Schulwerk, Darla is as a teacher trainer for the American Orff Schulwerk Association in both Movement and Level I Pedagogy for Orff Levels courses.

Darla has served as assistant conductor for the Mesquite Children's Chorus and the Children's Chorus of Collin County and as Children's Choir Coordinator for three churches in the Dallas area. She enjoys conducting elementary honor and festival choirs.

Darla has published children's choir curricula for Lifeway Christian Resources and for Celebrating Grace, Inc. She is the author of three books for elementary music specialists, *Journey Around the Globe with Recorder!* and *Flight 2: Another Journey Around the Globe with Recorder!* published by Sweet Pipes, Inc., and *All Things Bright and Beautiful* published by Chorister's Guild. She presents professional development sessions for teachers at the district, regional, state, and national levels.

Darla is a member of several professional organizations in addition to AOSA, including the Organization of American Kodály Educators, the Kodály Educators of Texas, the Texas Choral Directors Association, the Texas Music Educators Association, the Dalcroze Society of America, the College Music Society, and the National Association for Music Education. She is a past President of the North Texas Chapter of AOSA.

Darla teaches an Orff Schulwerk class for children at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. She is married and has two children.



Larry Meerdink

Larry Meerdink has had a notable 30+ year career conducting middle school, high school, university, community, children's, and church choirs in the Denver metro area. Most notably, he was the Director of Choirs at Horizon High

School in Thornton, and Westminster High School in Westminster. He was also the Artistic director and conductor of the Denver Turnverein Choirs for 12 years.

He received his Bachelor of Music Education from the Metropolitan State University in Denver and his Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from Lesley University in Cambridge Massachusetts. He has held many leadership positions including Performing Arts Department Chair and Superintendent's Leadership Council with Westminster Schools, Colorado ACDA Board Member, and several Chair positions in ACDA including Men's Choral Literature Chair and music selection committees.

An enthusiastic and gifted educator, Larry has a proven history of excellence with his choirs and has a particular aptitude for connecting with students and bringing out the best in them. Reflecting on his career, he is proudest of the relationships and community he has been able to foster in the choirs under his direction.



Kaitlin Miles

Kaitlin Miles is in her sixteenth year of teaching vocal music, all of which have been spent with the wonderful students at Fort Collins High

School. Originally from Fort Collins, Kaitlin received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley,

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graduating magna cum laude in the spring of 2007 and is currently working on her Masters of Education and Human Resource Studies from Colorado State University. Her choirs consistently receive Superior ratings at festivals and numerous students in the FCHS choral department are selected annually for the Colorado All-State Choirs. In addition to her duties at Fort Collins High School, Kaitlin serves as the Administrative Assistant for Colorado All State Choir. She resides in Fort Collins with her husband, Shane, adorable sons, Landon & Sawyer, and lots of family.



Margaret Miller

Margaret Miller is Senior Instructor of Viola and Chamber Music and Coordinator of the Graduate Quartet Program at Colorado State University. She performs throughout the West and has been a clinician at CMEA, WMEA and Colorado ASTA.



Kirstin Miller

Kirstin Miller teaches orchestra in Jefferson County at Bear Creek High School, Carmody Middle School, and seven surrounding elementary schools. Originally from New York, she received her bachelor's degree in Music Education from the

Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam. She moved to Colorado in 2006 to pursue a masters degree in Music Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder, as well as begin her orchestra teaching career in Jeffco. Kirstin is the co-founder and co-conductor of the Jeffco Community Orchestra, which meets in the summer and provides adults an opportunity to play in a non-auditioned string orchestra. She serves on

the Colorado ASTA board as a Denver Metro Rep. Outside of teaching and making music, Kirstin enjoys spending time with family and friends, dance fitness, and running.



Sarah Minette

Sarah Minette, PhD (BME, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, MAME, University of St. Thomas, and PhD, Arizona State University) is Assistant Professor and Coordinator

of Music Education at California State University-Stanislaus. Prior to coming to California she taught public school in Minnesota and served as adjunct faculty at the University of St. Thomas. Dr. Minette's public school teaching career includes teaching middle school band, jazz band, marching band, high school guitar, piano, and sound production. In 2018, Dr. Minette was awarded a Music Education Innovator grant from the Give a Note Foundation for her work at South High that focuses on providing as many music making opportunities for students as possible.

Dr. Minette's research interests include gender and sexuality in music education, access and equity in music education, and secondary general music education. She has published articles in the journal for Qualitative Research in Music Education and Journal of Popular Music Education. Additionally, Dr. Minette has co-authored chapters in *Narratives and Reflections in Music Education: Listening to Voices Seldom Heard* and *Women's Bands in America: Performing Music and Gender*.



Miranda Martina

Martina Miranda is an Associate Professor of Music Education at CU Boulder. Her teaching responsibilities include elementary music methods for undergraduate

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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.



Patrick Moore

Patrick Moore is an international clinician. He is a versatile percussionist with experience in many areas of percussion, from concert to

marching to world. He has performed at various state Day of Percussion events, and presented clinics at music education conferences. Dr. Moore has done special performances with Jeff Queen, Robert W. Smith, The United States Army and Field Band, and at the International Society of Music Education in Beijing China. Dr. Moore has worked many summer music camps and adjudicated many marching contests and state and solo and ensemble festivals. Dr. Moore earned his Doctorate in Education from Abilene Christian University, a Master in Music from Texas Tech University, where he arranged and instructed for the percussion section of the Texas Tech Drumline and Steel Drum Band, and a Bachelor in Music from the University of Arkansas. Patrick's percussion teachers include Dr. Lisa Rogers, Mr. Alan Shinn, and Mr. Chalon Ragsdale. Currently, Dr. Moore is the Director of Bands at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. At SC State Dr. Moore directs the Athletic Bands, teaches percussion lessons and oversees all of university bands. Patrick is an education endorser of Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, and Majestic percussion.



Chris Munce

Chris Munce is an accomplished choral performer, conductor, educator, clinician and arts administrator. As a performer/conductor he is a member of Kantorei KC, as well as its founder and Artistic Director. Under Mr. Munce's direction, Kantorei has recorded and published three albums, and has been an invited featured performer at National and State ACDA conventions as well as the National American Guild of Organists convention. At Lee's Summit High, Mr. Munce has lead his choirs to performances at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, the Missouri Music Educators Convention, Alice Tulley Hall at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and on a Masterclass with the multiple Grammy Award winning vocal group Chanticleer. Most recently, his school district awarded him with its "Excellence in Teaching" award for 2019.

Media reviews of his directed recordings with Kantorei KC include praise from the KC Star for "Music and Sweet Poetry" for its "lush and full bodied sound...gorgeous singing." The Observer (London) called "To Bethlehem" one of the best Choral albums of the year and "the most interesting festive album." He has also performed with the Simon Carrington Chamber Singers, and the Grammy Winning Kansas City Chorale. Chris was fortunate to be a part of the Chorale's Grammy Nominated album, "Rheinberger: Sacred Choral Works."

Chris received a Bachelor's of Music Education and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance. His graduate research focus was the performance practice of early Baroque choral singing in the French and Italian styles. Chris has studied with Eph Eely, Charles Robinson, Ryan Board, William Dehning, Peter Bagley and Jerry McCoy. He also served as adjunct faculty at the Conservatory teaching choral arranging, and at Blue River Community College as a professor of voice. He has been an active private voice instructor since 1999. Last year Chris

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launched the Choralosophy Podcast which has quickly become a top rated Fine Arts Podcast reaching the top 25 on the iTunes charts in the US. Chris is married to Beth, a soprano and voice teacher. They live in Lee's Summit, Missouri with their two children, Clara (14) and Colin (10).

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Brian C. Murray

Dr. Brian C. Murray is the Director of Choral Activities, Vocal Arts Area Coordinator, and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Wyoming. At UW he conducts the Collegiate Chorale and the Singing Statesmen and teaches courses in choral conducting.

Dr. Murray received a Bachelor of Music degree in choral music education from the University of North Texas, a Master of Music Education degree from the Florida State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from the University of North Texas.



Andrea Meyers

Veteran Cellist and Music Educator Andrea Meyers has enjoyed an exceptional career. She has been recognized by the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) with a 2015 induction into that organization's Hall of Fame. Her

career highlights include leadership roles as a Past-

President of the Colorado Chapter of the American String Teachers Association, receiving the "Lifetime Service Award" and "Outstanding String Teacher." National ASTA participation includes multiple leadership roles, including Membership Chair and Member-at-Large. Ms. Meyers is a recipient of the CMEA 25-Year Award and the National ASTA Chapter Leader Award. She enjoys and continues to work as an adjudicator for the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) Orchestra.

Ms. Meyers loves performing with Parker Symphony Orchestra, Littleton Symphony and the Lone Tree Orchestras. Within CMEA, she serves on the Advisory board as the Active & Retired Membership Chair, as well as Secretary of the University of Denver Lamont Society Council. Her experience spans decades as a professional music educator in the Boulder Valley, Douglas County and multiple school districts, as an orchestra director, cellist, conductor, adjudicator, clinician and music advocate.

Highly sought as a guest conductor, Ms. Meyers has conducted the National Repertory Orchestra, the University of Colorado/Boulder Summer Music Academy Middle School Orchestra (2012), and the CASTA Middle School String Camp. Additionally, she conducted the Honors Chamber Orchestra Festival at Fort Lewis College, and numerous festivals and honor orchestras throughout Colorado. Beyond her home state, she has conducted the Alabama All-State Orchestra and the Florida All-State Orchestra. She is truly inspired and enjoys conducting these various orchestra for their unique personalities, creativity and musicianship.

A Colorado native and graduate of George Washington High School, Ms. Meyers earned her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Northern Colorado and received her Master of Arts from the University of Colorado at Denver. Another special career distinction includes recognition as a "Music Education" Grammy quarterfinalist. She currently plays on a Neuner-Hornsteiner cello, but is on the lookout for a new cello with which to

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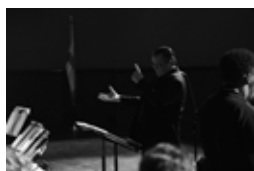
partner. Her special interests include traveling, reading, working out, spending time with friends, family, freelance 'gigging' and special events as a member of the Denver Musicians' Union.



Pattie Nelson

Pattie Nelson is recently retired from Jefferson County Schools. During her 30+ year teaching career she taught all levels of orchestra and band students, spending most of her tenure as an elementary

string specialist. Her most influential time was in the Arvada West and Ralston Valley area of Jefferson County where she taught with the philosophy of educating lifelong musicians. Growing up as a band director's daughter, she began her love of music as a violinist, adding trombone in high school. She continued her love of music by pursuing music education at the University of Colorado earning both bachelor and master's degrees. She returned to CU in 2021 as a guest professor for undergraduate music educators, teaching the string methods class. Her expertise in orchestra and her experience with band formed the broad base for her successful teaching career. She has adjudicated, consulted, and hosted clinics statewide and loves listening and enhancing students' music making experiences. She continues to follow her music teaching passion by directing the Jeffco Community Band since 1984 and established the Jeffco Summer Orchestra in 2012.



Andrew Nevala

Director of Jazz Studies at Jacksonville State University, Dr. Andy Nevala directs the

Downbeat Award Winning Jazz Ensemble I (2015), Jazz Ensemble IV, the Latin Ensemble, oversees the Jazz Combo program, and produces the annual Jazz Festival (in its 12th year), As Director of Jazz Studies, he has overseen the JSU Jazz program more than

double in size during his time at JSU, with performances in the community, at regional and international festivals, and Middle and High Schools in the Southeast region. He has also established a Minor in Jazz Studies at JSU, and a degree in Jazz Performance. Having studied under Dr. Dr. Gene Aitken, Dr. John Davis, Chip Stephens, Art Lande and Pat Bianci, Dr. Nevala holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, a Master of Music degree from the University of Northern Colorado, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Boise State University.



Nick Newman

Nick Newman is a second year Doctoral student in Conducting at the University of Northern Colorado. He received his Masters of Music in Choral Conducting at San

Diego State University, where he sang in SDSU's Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, and University Chorus while serving as assistant director of all three choirs during his master's program. Prior to starting graduate school in San Diego, Nick served as director of choirs at Challenger School while also teaching music theory and music history. Nick received his B.M. in Music Education at Willamette University, studying under Dr. Wallace Long. While singing with Willamette Singer's, Willamette's vocal jazz ensemble, he served as tenor section leader for the group's 2016 album Green Garden, which was named Best Undergraduate Vocal Jazz Ensemble by DownBeat Magazine.



Phuong Nguyen

Phuong Nguyen received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Colorado

State University and learned from such greats as Dr. Charles Lawson, Dr. Gary Moody, and Dr. J. Steven Moore. He also received his Masters of Music in

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Conducting at Colorado State University, studying with Peter Sommer, Wes Kenney, and Dr. J. Steven Moore. While at CSU, Phuong was awarded the David Paul Knight Scholarship for Jazz, the Award of Highest Distinction at the CSU Research and Creativity Symposium, and was a Senior Honors Recital recipient.

Mr. Nguyen is in his 21st year of teaching and has taught at the elementary, middle school, high school, and collegiate levels. He currently teaches concert bands, jazz band, and guitar at Boltz Middle School. He also receives practicum students from CSU in the ED350 program every semester. The Boltz Symphonic Band and Jazz Band have performed at the CMEA convention in 2020 and 2022.

Phuong currently plays saxophone and performs with the Fort Collins Wind Symphony, Twelve Cents for Marvin, Choice City Seven, the Fort Collins Jazz Friends as well as a slew of side projects. With more than 20 years of experience performing in Colorado rock/jazz/ska/reggae bands, he has performed with famous rock bands, Vietnamese pop stars, and has even starred in a few short films!



Bethany Nickel

Bethany Nickel is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. She earned a Ph.D. in music

education from Case Western Reserve University, a master's in music education from the University of Colorado Boulder, and a bachelor's of music education from the University of North Texas. Nickel's teaching experiences include middle and high school band, choir, guitar, and music technology in Colorado, Kansas, and Ecuador.



Loni Obluda

Loni E. Obluda is a Colorado native having grown up in Pueblo, CO where she studied Suzuki Violin with Ms. Ann Pineda-Fuentes for 15 years.

Loni received her Bachelor of Music Education, with an emphasis in String Performance, from the University of Northern Colorado, where she studied violin with Professor Richard Fuchs and graduated with honors. During her undergrad, Mrs. Obluda was hired to teach the inaugural classes of beginning violin, for the non-profit, early childhood organization, "The Union Colony Children's Music Academy," and was also the interim orchestra director at Greeley West High School during the 2007-2008 school year. It was through these two opportunities that Mrs. Obluda began to flourish as an educator in Northern Colorado.

Currently, Mrs. Obluda is in her 14th year of instrumental music instruction at Leshar Middle School in the Poudre School District. While at Leshar, Mrs. Obluda has directed many ensembles that have received Superior Ratings at various regional and state-level festivals. In addition, under her direction, The Leshar Advanced Chamber Orchestra was part of an elite group of ensembles that received an invitation to perform at the 2020 Yamaha "Music For All National Festival" in Indianapolis, IN. Of the seven ensembles selected to perform, the Leshar Advanced Chamber Orchestra was the ONLY Middle School ensemble given this great honor; all of the other groups were high school orchestras. In addition to National recognition, the Advanced Chamber Orchestra performed at last year's 2022 CMEA conference as an Honor Performing Group, which marked their third invitation to be a featured ensemble at CMEA.

Mrs. Obluda is immediate past-president of the Colorado Chapter of ASTA and lives in Fort Collins, Colorado with her husband, Dan. Loni and Dan are

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both proud to be music educators, UNC Alumni, and are even more honored to be a part of the well-established tradition of excellence in music education, in the Poudre School District/ Northern CO Community.



Sarah Off

Violinist Dr. Sarah Off has established herself as an innovative and passionate performer and educator. She currently serves as Assistant Professor of

Violin and Music Business at University of Northern Colorado where she was recently named “Dean’s Fellow of Creative Scholarship and Community Engagement”. As an educator, Sarah aims to provide students with a solid understanding and command of their instrument and musicianship, balanced with expertise in entrepreneurship and business savvy. She believes that creativity, advocacy, business skills and community engagement are vital for the sustainability and progress of the arts in today’s industry.



Tanner Oharah

Tanner Oharah is in his ninth year at Buena Vista Middle and High School as the choir and theater teacher. In his time there he has led his choirs in performances at Carnegie Hall and the Colorado Music Educators Association conference,

taken dozens of middle and high school singers to All-State Choir, and produced seventeen plays and musicals, among providing countless other fine arts experiences for the students in Buena Vista. He has been serving CMEA for 6 years, first as a district representative, then as chair-elect and now as the chair for the vocal music council. He studied under Dr. Frank Eychaner and Steven Taylor at Colorado Christian University where he graduated with honors, receiving a bachelors in music education with a

choral and instrumental emphasis. When not in the classroom or on stage, he can be found gallivanting in the mountains or on the river with his wife and two young children.



Kevin Padworski

Dr. Kevin T. Padworski serves as the Director of Vocal Music at Colorado Academy, the Artistic Director of The Colorado Chorale, and composer

with Hal Leonard, Santa Barbara Music Publishers, and Pavane. 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 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, 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. 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 accolades including recognition from Americans for the Arts.

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Becky Paschke

Becky Paschke is the activities director and assistant principal at Conifer High School. She is the former director of instrumental music at D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School. Under her direction, the

D'Evelyn band earned multiple state championships, was a finalist and won a class championship at Bands of America West Texas regional and performed in the 2021 Presidential Inaugural Parade. Paschke earned the recognition of being in the inaugural class of Yamaha's 40 Under 40 Music Educators. Paschke was inducted into the Blue Knight Hall of Fame in 2022 and she is currently a member of the brass staff. Becky is currently the president of Colorado Bandmasters Association and an active clinician and adjudicator.



Seth Pendergast

Seth Pendergast is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at Colorado State University where he teaches courses in vocal music education, cre-

ativity and technology, graduate music education courses, and choral ensembles. He studies motivation and participation in the music classroom and his most recent scholarship includes publications in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Music Educators Journal*, *Choral Journal*, and *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*. In addition to his work as a teacher/scholar, Seth is an active clinician, conductor, and adjudicator. He completed his Ph.D. in Music Education at the University of Utah in 2018.



Jackie Pennell

Leanne is a proud alumna of Poudre School District and still benefits from the mentorship of her junior high and high school Orchestra teachers, Michael Schaefer and Steve McNeal. Leanne strives to practice what she teaches and so has served as the

Concertmaster of the Greeley Chamber Orchestra for the last 15 years, has served as Guest Concertmaster of the Health & Wellness Orchestra, and has performed with many ensembles including the Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra, Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, Cheyenne Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Richmond (VA) Symphony, and the Williamsburg (VA) Symphonia. In the rare moments she is not teaching or playing music, Leanne enjoys hiking, biking, trail running, and especially downhill skiing. She and her husband, Kevin, try to keep up with their teenage daughter as she flies down the double-black-diamond runs!



Sara Posey

Sara Posey is a local Colorado music educator that teaches in the Adams 12 district. She will be beginning her 5th year of teaching General Music in the 2022-23 school year. Sara received her BA in Music Edu-

cation from the Metropolitan University of Denver in 2018, as well as her Orff level 3 certification in the Summer of 2021 and her Masters Degree in Music Education with an Orff Schulwerk concentration from the university of St. Thomas in the Spring of 2022. Her passion is bringing SEL and Orff together into a more integrated curriculum that focuses on helping students be more socially and emotionally competent for years to come! the 2012 Summer Olympics, festivals in Seattle, San

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Francisco, and New York City. Under Reddan's direction, ensembles competed in the 8th World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia winning a World Championship. He will be making his Carnegie Hall Debut in May 2022.



David A. Rickels

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



Paul Romaine

Paul Romaine has led, recorded, or performed with countless combinations of the Denver area's best players and with internationally acclaimed artists such as Eddie Harris, Benny Golson, James Moody,

Randy Brecker, Jimmy Heath, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Chris Potter, Christian McBride, Roberta Gambarini, Peter Bernstein, Larry Goldings, Houston Person, Charlie Rouse, Eddie Gomez, Bobby Watson, Jack McDuff, Clark Terry, and the Woody Herman Orchestra. Paul plays with numerous groups including Convergence, The Ken Walker Sextet, Big Swing Trio, the Jazz Worms, and Peter Sommer Septet, where he also writes and has recorded critically ac-

claimed CD's.

Paul has served on the music faculty at the University of Colorado at Boulder since 2005, and also taught at MSU Denver. As a clinician he experienced the power of mentoring, and together with his wife Chris, he developed a unique vision for jazz education, and co-founded the non-profit Colorado Conservatory for the Jazz Arts. As the Artistic Director, he has developed unique programs for students of all ages throughout Colorado who play together and study with professional musicians. Paul was honored to receive a Presidential Scholars Program Teacher Recognition Award from the U.S. Department of Education.



Rebekahh Rombert

Rebekah Rombert is a podcast producer in Colorado Public Radio's Audio Innovations Studio, which specializes in podcasting and other creative audio projects. She and Luis

Antonio Perez co-host CPR's music appreciation podcast, "Music Blocks," which is designed for young people to explore the building blocks that make up their favorite sounds across genres, cultures and eras.



Rick Shaw

Richard Shaw (BME 80) is a graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder and served as a music educator for over 35 years. Twenty-four of these years were in the Academy School District in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He taught

16 years of high school and 6 years of middle school in Academy, District 20. His concert bands and jazz bands were consistent award winners and were selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educa-

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tors Conference on 6 occasions. Under his direction, the marching band at Air Academy High School earned state champion honors 3 times, were 12 time regional champions and performed in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade and the King Orange Parade in Miami, FL. Mr. Shaw is a Past-President of the Colorado Music Educators Association and will be assuming the role of Chairman of Marching Affairs with the Colorado Bandmasters Association in 2022. Richard was inducted into the Colorado Bandmasters Hall of Fame in July of 2009. In 2008 Mr. Shaw was awarded the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster Award for his excellence and service to music education and was selected as a member of the Pikes Peak Music Educators Hall of Fame in 2011. In 2014 he was named Alumnus of the Year, University of Colorado College of Music. In 2017 Mr. Shaw was inducted into the Colorado Music Educators Association Hall of Fame and was Colorado's music educator recipient for the National Federation of High Schools Educator of the Year. Rick completed his active career on the administrative team at the Denver School of the Arts. He is in constant demand locally and nationally as an adjudicator and clinician. Rick resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado with his wife Rachelle.



Zachariah Smith

Zachariah Smith is currently the choir director at Rocky Heights Middle School in Lone Tree, Colorado. He recently graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder and has

been teaching and singing ever since. Zachariah currently sings in the tenor section in the Denver based choir Kantorei. He also enjoys hiking and playing the piano.



Westin Sorrel

Westin Sorrel is currently the Director of Choral at Dakota Ridge High School, where he conducts the choirs, teaches IB Music, and is the Vocal Music coach for the annual musical. Since arriving at Dakota Ridge in 2015, the program

has doubled in enrollment. His choirs have earned superior ratings at various festivals, including Metro Choral Celebration and CHSAA. In 2018, his mixed ensemble had the honor of performing at the Colorado Music Educators Association clinic and conference. During the summer of 2015, Mr. Sorrel had the honor of spending two weeks in Italy at the Sarteano Chamber Choral Conducting Workshop where he worked with world renowned conductor, Simon Carrington. When not teaching at Dakota Ridge, Mr. Sorrel serves at the Assistant Conductor and Tenor Section Leader at Bethany Lutheran Church in Denver.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Sorrel keeps an active professional singing career. He regularly sings with The Colorado Bach Ensemble, Anima Chamber Ensemble, and St. Martin's Chamber Choir, with which he has been featured as the tenor soloist on Joseph Jongen's Mass for Organ, Choir, and Brass, Louis Spohr's Mass in C Minor for Double Choir, and Domenico Scarlatti's Stabat Mater. Mr. Sorrel has also performed with Laudamus Chamber Chorale, Alpine Chorale, Canto Deo, Devner Young Artists Orchestra, Kantorei, Aspen Music Festival, and the Colorado Music Festival. Additionally, Mr. Sorrel has performed under the direction of Howard Skinner, and Helmuth Rilling, and Simon Carrington. Mr. Sorrel earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the School of Music at Colorado State University where he studied Vocal Music Education following the Performance Enhancement Track.

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Jayme Taylor

Prior to his appointment at Colorado State University, Dr. Taylor served as assistant professor of music education and conductor of the Wind Ensemble at Carson-Newman University and as assistant director of bands, and assistant

director of athletic bands at the University of South Carolina. He earned degrees from the University of South Carolina (D.M.A.), studying under James K. Copenhaver and Dr. Scott Weiss, and from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (M.M., B.M. in Music Education).

Dr. Taylor is an active clinician and adjudicator of both concert and marching ensembles and is also a prolific drill designer for high school and collegiate marching bands. He has served as a middle and high school band director in East Tennessee and has extensive experience as an instructor and member with several drum and bugle corps including the Bluecoats of Canton, Ohio, Cavaliers of Rosemont, Illinois, and Troopers of Casper, Wyoming.

Dr. Taylor is a member of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), the National Band Association (NBA), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Pi Kappa Lambda, and is an alumnus of Phi Mu Alpha. Dr. Taylor will soon relocate to Fort Collins with his wife Missy and their son Avery.



Meghan Taylor

Meghan Taylor is the Athletic Band Support Specialist at Colorado State University and a Ph.D. candidate in Music with a concentration in Performing Arts Health at the

University of North Texas. As Project Manager for an initiative funded by the NNLM under award

number UG4LM012345, Meghan led a team aimed at preparing music educators in Denton, Texas to incorporate health education into band, choir, and orchestra classrooms. Her dissertation research will expand this project to understand state-wide efforts among music educators to integrate health concepts in secondary music ensembles. Currently, she serves as Chair of the ICA's Health and Wellness Committee. In her free time, Meghan is a certified yoga instructor and teaches fellow musicians at a virtual yoga studio.



David Thornton

David Thornton joined the faculty of the Michigan State University College of Music (MSU) in the fall of 2015 as Assistant Director of Bands. In 2017 he was appointed as the

Associate Director of Bands and the Director of the Spartan Marching Band (SMB). In this role, Thornton is the conductor of the MSU Symphony Band and teaches courses in instrumental conducting, and marching band methods. As the director of the SMB, Dr. Thornton is the principle drill writer and show designer for the 300-member Spartan Marching Band. In addition to his role with the SMB, Dr. Thornton also oversees the Spartan Brass athletic band program that performs at all basketball, volleyball, and hockey events.

Thornton maintains an active schedule with engagements throughout the United States as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. He has presented at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, Michigan Music Conference, and the Florida Music Educators Association Conference. In addition to clinician and performance engagements, his arrangements and transcriptions have been performed by ensembles at Michigan State as well as at national and international events. During his career as a conductor, Thornton has worked with a number of notable composers in the preparation, performance,

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and/or recording of their works for the wind band medium. Recent artistic collaborations include Omar Thomas, Ricardo Lorenz, John Corigliano, Steven Bryant, and Andrew David Perkins. His leadership with the MSU Symphony Band has also been nationally recognized with their invitation to perform at the 2020 North Central Division CBDNA Conference at DePaul University.

Dr. Thornton earned his doctoral and master's degrees in Wind Conducting from Michigan State University and his bachelor's degrees in Clarinet Performance and Music Education from Florida State University. Prior to coming to MSU, Thornton taught in the state of Florida where he was the Assistant Director of Bands at Eau Gallie High School (Melbourne) and most recently the Director of Bands at Leon High School (Tallahassee).

His professional affiliations include the College Band Directors National Association, Michigan Music Educators Association, Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, Phi Mu Alpha, and Kappa Kappa Psi.



Peter Toews

Mr. Toews is Director of Bands and Orchestras at Mountain View High School. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in K-12 Music Education and a Master's Degree in Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado. While at UNC,

Mr. Toews was awarded the Departmental Scholar Award and was selected for membership in Pi Kappa Lambda (the National Music Honor Society) and served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant to Dr. Ken Singleton and Dr. Richard Mayne. He was selected as the 2002-03 Mountain View High School Teacher of the Year, the 2013-14 Thompson Education Foundation Secondary Teacher of the Year, and the 2021-22 Thompson Education Foundation Educator of the Year. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr.

Toews is the chairman of the Performing and Visual Arts Department at Mountain View and is the EC-12 Curriculum Coordinator for the Thompson School District. He currently serves as the Chair for the Instrumental Music Council for the Colorado Music Educators Association Executive Board, and served for 10 years on the executive board for All State Orchestra. He is a member of ASBDA, ASTA, CBA, CMEA, and Phi Beta Mu. He is a member of the Exquisite Brass Quintet and lives in Greeley with his wife Shanna and their twins, Alyson and Michael.



Curtis Tredway

Dr. Curtis Tredway is Associate Professor of Music Education at the University of Texas at El Paso. He teaches undergraduate and graduate classes in music education, and is the director of UTEP's mariachi program.



Ryan Unangst

Ryan Unangst is a Colorado native, and an Educational Music Technology Specialist for Romeo Music. As a kind of 'Jack of all trades' he's taught elementary general music, middle school modern bands, digital music production, and musical theater, and was recently the percussion and electronics technician for a 5A state champion marching band. Having a diverse blend as a teacher, performer, and clinician has given him a unique lens into the application of technology in classroom and ensemble settings, and how it can best serve the development of students and educators alike.

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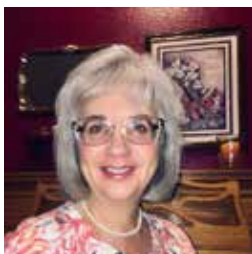
Cartic Vengkatraman

Cartic Vengkatraman is the Audio Director for Keys & Kingdoms. His musical background combined with his technical abilities has filled a key piece for the development of the game. Cartic has over 15 years of technical and creative services with a focus on VR/AR/XR technologies.



Dave Walter

Dave is the Director of Enrollment Management & Summer Programs for the CU Denver College of Arts & Media. He also directs the LYNX National Arts & Media Camps. Dave has held this position for 8 years. Prior to working at CU Denver, Dave worked in student services at Stanford, San Jose State, and the University of Kansas. Dave will moderate a panel of CU Denver faculty and staff.



Kathryn Ward

Kathy enjoys music and sharing it with others. Currently she is the general music teacher at Prairie Winds Elementary School in Pueblo West, CO, as a part of Pueblo County District 70. She has also taught general and vocal music K-12 in Maine. Her musical experiences include many years as a church choir director, Kindermusik teacher, private and group piano and voice lessons, guest choral conductor at elementary, middle and church choir festivals and accompanying. Her educational background includes a Bachelor Of Sacred Music from Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Maine and most recently a Masters of Music (Kodály) from Colorado State

University. While teaching in Maine she served on the State Music Standards creation committee, Maine ACDA President, and presented for the Maine Music Educators Association. In Colorado she has served on the CMEA board as GMC representative and secretary, ROCKE board as member at large and the CDE Music Standards Revision Committee 2021-2022. She has also presented professional development workshops at Pueblo School Districts 60 and 70. Kathy and her husband, Allyn, enjoy their family (3 children and spouses and 2 grandchildren) as well as traveling.



Kim Watkins

Kim Watkins completed dual master's degrees in music education and vocal performance at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her professional experience includes twenty-eight years of secondary choral teaching in Colorado and in North Carolina public school systems. During her graduate studies at the University of Colorado, Mrs. Watkins advanced as a finalist in voice competitions sponsored by the Denver Lyric Opera Guild and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Additionally, she appeared as Madame Lidoine in Dialogues of the Carmelites, and as Gianetta in L'Elisir d'Amore. She also served as conductor of the University Women's Choir and as an instructor for various music education courses. Mrs. Watkins is the Founding Director of The Boulder Children's Chorale, which launched in 2010. In 2013 and in 2016, Mrs. Watkins was selected as an Encore Award Finalist by the St. Vrain Valley Education Foundation. In 2014, Mrs. Watkins received The Saint Vrain Valley Superintendent's Excellence in Education award.

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Krissie Weimer

Dr. Kristina (Krissie) Weimer is an assistant professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, specializing in instrumental music education.

She earned degrees in Music Education from West Virginia University (B.S., M.M.) and The Pennsylvania State University (Ph.D.). Her PK-12 teaching experiences include middle school band and general music, elementary general music, early childhood music, and elementary special education. She has presented at multiple state, national, and international conferences on a variety of topics including sound before sight pedagogies, creativity and improvisation, teacher wellness, recruiting and retaining students, teaching music with autoimmune disease and chronic illness, student practice habits, effective modeling strategies, and presence. Her research focuses on music teacher mentoring and professional development. She has published in *Visions of Research in Music Education*, *General Music Today*, *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, *Contributions to Music Education*, and *Journal of Music Teacher Education*. She is an active member of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA), Instrumental Music Teacher Educators (IMTE), and Society for Music Teacher Educators (SMTE) where she serves as co-facilitator of the Music Teacher Educators: Recruitment, Preparation, and Professional Development Areas of Strategic Planning and Action (ASPA).



Leo Welch

Leo Welch is a Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado. Welch is actively engaged in mindfulness practice. He is a newly appointed executive board member of The Center for Ap-

plied Contemplative Studies, which was created to assist members of the UNC community and beyond in cultivating mindfulness in their personal, professional, and scholarly lives. He has studied meditation and yoga at the Shambhala Mountain Center and has taught positive visualization as a performance enhancement strategy to applied classical guitarists at Marshall University. As a performer, Welch has presented concerts throughout the United States and abroad. His Carnegie Hall debut concert featuring his own arrangements was presented in 2007 at Weill Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall). He has also written articles relating to guitar education and guitar pedagogy that have been featured in the *American String Teacher*.



W L Whaley

W L Whaley is the former Director of Bands at Pomona High School, Arvada, Colorado. He is currently the Executive Director of AdvantEdge Tours LLC and Chief Judge for the Colorado Bandmasters Association. He serves as a clinician, consultant, designer, and adjudicator throughout the United States. He has adjudicated for DCI, WGI, BOA, and numerous state associations.

Mr. Whaley has been selected into the Colorado Music Educators "Hall of Fame, the Colorado Bandmasters Association "Hall of Fame" and Phi Beta Mu "Most Outstanding Band Director.



Gregory Whitmore

Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore is an Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music Education, and conductor of the Symphonic Winds at The California State University Fullerton School of Music. Dr. Whitmore is in his ninth season as Music Director

2023 Conference Session Clinicians

of the Pacific Symphony Youth Wind Ensemble (Irvine, CA). Dr. Whitmore received his bachelor's degree in instrumental music education from The University of Michigan School of Music, Theater and Dance in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. Whitmore received his master's degree in music with an emphasis in wind conducting from California State University Fullerton studying under Dr. Mitchell Fennell. Dr. Whitmore holds a master's degree, and a doctorate in music and music education from Columbia University (Teachers College) in the city of New York. Dr. Whitmore has conducted concert bands extensively throughout Europe and the United States, and his research interests lie in music educator values as operationalized into pedagogy, in addition to investigating the concert band as an artistic medium. Dr. Whitmore has presented research at music education symposia in the United States and abroad.



Nat Wickham

Nat Wickham is a dynamic trombonist who enjoys a career as a classical and jazz solo artist, recording artist, clinician, adjudicator and educator, and performs throughout the United States, Canada, and

Europe. Currently, he is Professor of Music at the University of Northern Colorado.

Wickham's work as a jazz artist encompasses the entire spectrum in the genre. Having been resident jazz trombonist and trombone pedagogue at Jazz en Vercors in France, he has toured France on four occasions, performing in major jazz venues and conducting educational workshops. He is currently lead trombonist and jazz soloist in the Colorado Jazz Orchestra, and is in demand as a jazz trombonist throughout the United States. For six years he was lead trombonist and soloist in the Bob Curnow Big Band and has performed with the Woody Herman Orchestra, Natalie Cole, the Nelson Riddle Orchestra, and numerous other jazz artists.

As a classical artist he performs a wide variety of solo repertoire in recitals and is frequently featured as guest soloist with professional, university and high school orchestras and wind bands. He was the first-ever soloist with the Ensemble Henri Tomasi in Marseille, France for their inaugural concert in 2014. In addition to his solo career, he is principal trombonist with the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, trombonist with the Denver Municipal Band and the Fort Collins Symphony, and has performed with the Colorado Symphony, Colorado Ballet, Rochester Philharmonic, Colorado Music Festival, Spokane Symphony, and Boulder Philharmonic Orchestras, and the Boulder Brass.



Graeme Winder

Graeme Winder is the CEO / Founder of Keys & Kingdoms. With over 20+ years of teaching research and experience,

he has dedicated his life to finding new ways to bring music learning to all students using the power of technology and gaming. Graeme is also the author of the SRM method.



Julia Wirth

Julia Wirth is currently the Director of Vocal Music at Clear Creek Middle School and High School in Evergreen, CO. For the last five years, she

has focused on building proper vocal technique and a passion for singing in her performers. She received her bachelor's degree in Music Education with a choral emphasis from the University of Colorado Boulder and holds her masters from the University of Northern Colorado in Education Curriculum Studies and Instruction. As a teacher she values relationship building, collaboration and respect. She believes in creating student leaders and works to ensure her students become self-sufficient musicians and people. When she isn't in the classroom, she is

2023 Conference Session Clinicians

performing around the metro area and has recently been the featured soprano soloist in Mozart's Requiem, Arnesen's Magnificat and Forrest's Requiem. Ms. Wirth loves spending time in the mountains and hiking with her dogs.



Zoe Zanoft

Zoe Zanoft is a Master of Music Education student at Colorado State University. During her time at CSU, Zoe has worked as a graduate teaching assistant and served CSU CNAfME as the general music representative. This summer, Zoe began pursuing

her Kodály certification, which she plans to finish after graduating this spring.



Allison Zema

Allison Zema is the current Director of Choirs at Lyons Middle Senior High School, where she teaches grades six through twelve. Hailing originally from sunny southern

California, she received her Master of Arts Degree with concentrations in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance from the University of Colorado Boulder in May of 2018. Zema's personal accomplishments include national and international choral tours as a singer and conductor to South Africa, the United Kingdom, Hungary, and Slovakia, where her women's choir received first place in their category at the Bratislava international Youth Music Festival in 2014. In addition to her musical passions, she enjoys swing dancing, photography, and her beautiful cat, Mr. Bingley.

Exhibitor News

By Rick Shaw, Exhibits Chair

Hello Colorado Music Educators and our exhibitor community is extremely excited to have the 2023 conference so close to being here. There are many of our returning companies and organizations as well as a number of people joining us for the first time. Technology continues to be an area we strive to have representation from and we're excited to have several new to CMEA this year.

A huge thank you to our counsels for adding dedicated exhibit time in each of their schedules this year. I encourage every member to plan time to visit the exhibits and spend time with the exhibitors that make a financial and time commitment to supporting you the teacher. If you have a performing group at the conference, we are welcoming students, parents, and guests to visit the exhibits during their conference experience.

We will again be offering the Thursday night Exhibitor Reception from 5:00-6:30. Passed appetizers will be provided as well as a free drink tickets to the first 200 that attend. This is always a fun evening and a relaxed time to visit with many exhibitors.

Check your conference program for exhibit hours and I look forward to seeing everyone pass into the Bartolin Hall for your visit.



Rick Shaw
CMEA Exhibit Chair

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<https://www.adams.edu/academics/undergraduate/music/>



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ASBDA (American School Band Directors Association)

www.asbdaband.org

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Registration - ccblossomfestival.com



Central City Opera Association

www.centralcityopera.org

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Colorado Bandmasters

www.coloradobandmasters.org



Colorado Children's Chorale

www.childschorale.org

Children's performing arts choral group, based in Denver



Colorado Christian University

www.ccu.edu/music

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www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/music

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www.coloradomesa.edu/music

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www.etmcolorado.org

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Festivals of Music/Music in the Parks

www.edprog.com

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For Booking: usarmy.carson.4-id.mbx.band-ops@army.mil

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