

# *The Louisiana Musician*

*Journal of the Louisiana Music Educators Association*



**ROBIN M. HOCHKEPPEL**  
**HALL OF FAME 2024**

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## From the Editor's desk Carolyn Herrington



Attending the LMEA State Marching Championships in Lake Charles in early November was super exciting! I was privileged to be Tony McCardle's side kick at the Tuesday competition. As we checked in with each station – I witnessed so many great memories in the making – I caught myself thinking not only about my recent teaching days ... deeper than that, I was also thinking about my days in high school marching band. Everything was SO important – every detail of our uniform – every person that was in our band – we were all equally important. We were all working together to do our very best for a greater cause. I could still hear my band director in my ear – anything worth having must be earned – we are only as strong as our weakest member ... many hands make the workload light! It was the capturing of this energy – only obtained in making music, that made me want to teach. I wanted so badly to give students an opportunity to be part of something bigger than themselves. In life, you will win and lose many things, but you will never lose the feeling of oneness that comes from striving for musical perfection with your peers.



**Congratulations to all the participants in the inaugural State Marching Championships!**

### *Rest by Pat Deaville*

*Many goals and objectives exist inside our minds.  
We focus, obsess, drive, and push. Yet over time, do find.*

*We must create a balance to pass all of life's tests.  
Standards and hard work are needed, but we must also rest.*

*There does arrive a moment when work defeats your cause.  
You must accept there is a point when you will need to pause.*

*It's vital to gain control over our racing minds.  
Sustain success by stepping back. Change pace. Relax. Unwind.*



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**2024  
2025**

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**Dec. 7**

**Feb. 8**

**String Day**

**Mar. 8**

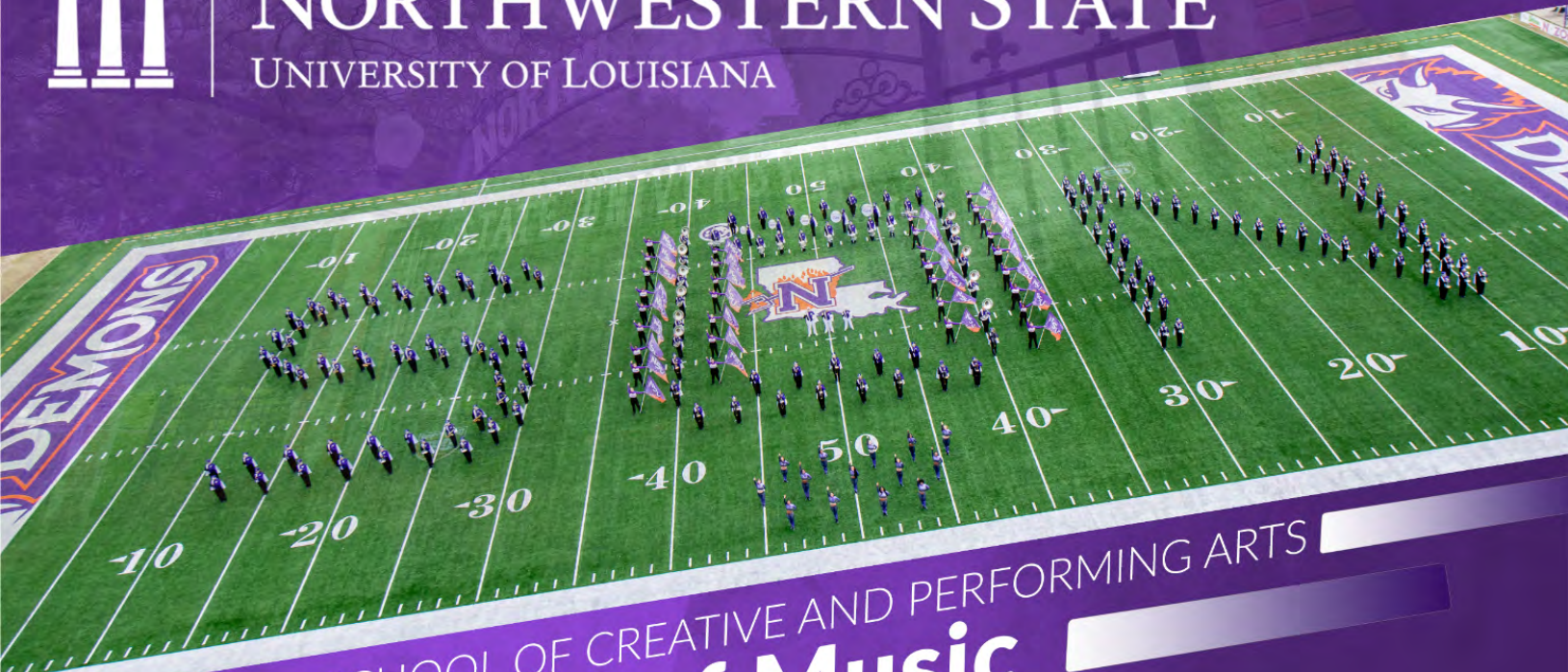
**Mar. 22**

**Angelle Hall**



# NORTHWESTERN STATE

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA



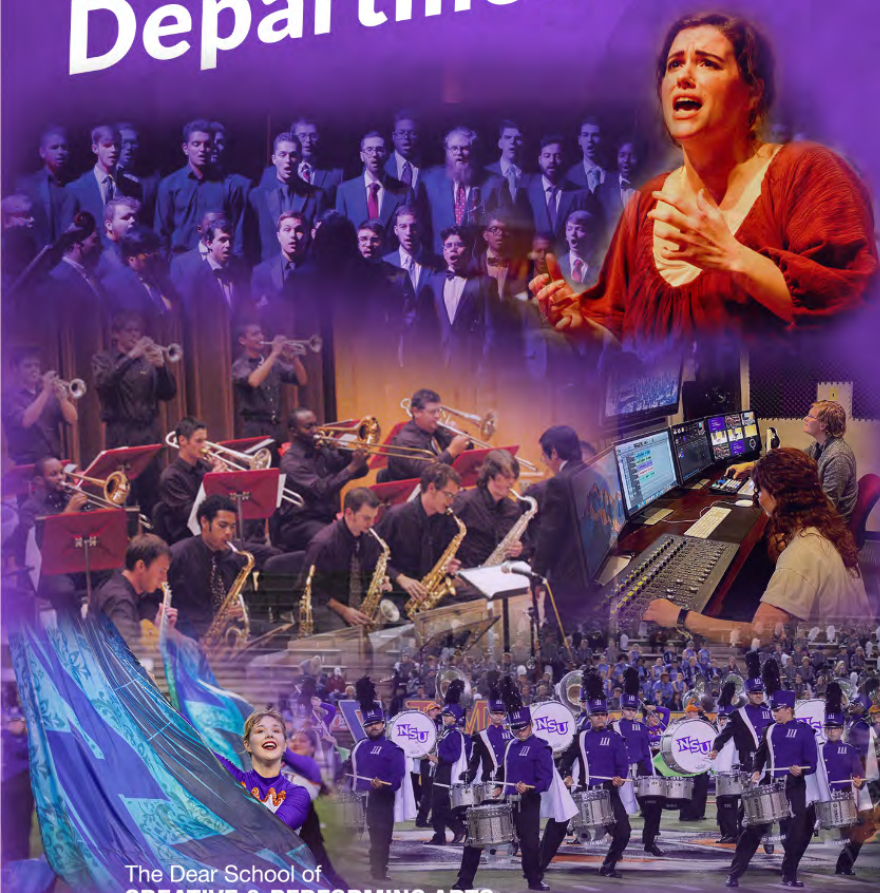
DEAR SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

## Department of Music

### 2024 Fall Events

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Sept. 19   | University Jazz Orchestra                       |
| Sept. 24   | Natchitoches-Northwestern<br>Symphony Orchestra |
| Sept. 27   | NSU Percussion Ensemble                         |
| Oct. 1     | NSU Wind Symphony                               |
| Oct. 27    | NSU Choirs- Chamber, Orpheus, & Lyrica          |
| Nov. 4     | University Jazz Orchestra                       |
| Nov. 3     | Cane River Singers                              |
| Nov. 15-16 | NSU Opera Theater- "Die Fledermaus"             |

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## From the President *Lee Hicks*



Hello Colleagues,

Happy Holidays! I hope this school year is going wonderfully for each of you. It's hard to believe that we're less than two months away from our Annual Professional Development Conference, set for January 16-19, 2025, in the vibrant city of New Orleans — truly one of the most musical cities in the world!

A tremendous amount of effort has gone into planning this conference, and we are committed to providing an unforgettable experience for all attendees and All-State students. LMEA is evolving more now than it has in many years, showcasing our ability to adapt and create new opportunities for our members.

Recently, we faced a challenge with the loss of one of Louisiana's largest marching band festivals due to facility reconstruction. In response, many of our members called for a state-level marching festival sponsored by LMEA. We listened and we accomplished this remarkable feat in just over six months! This not only highlights our dedication but also demonstrates that LMEA is listening and working tirelessly to shape the organization that you desire.

I want to take a moment to reach out specifically to our vocal, orchestra, and elementary educators. What can we do together to make LMEA work better for YOU? What opportunities can we provide that would enhance your classrooms and support your programs?

For too long, there has been a perception that LMEA predominantly focuses on the band division. While I understand why some may feel this way, please know that we are actively working to change that perception and earn your trust. Our board of directors is firmly committed to ensuring that ALL members feel represented and valued within our organization.

This journey will require time, hard work, and strong commitment from every member of LMEA as we continue moving forward on this positive path. So, how can you get involved? The first step is to attend your LMEA district meetings. Communication is key; we can only address issues if we know about them. Your district directors are there to listen.

Speaking of our district directors, they are your line of communication with the board. They are volunteers who do so much more than you know behind the scenes. They work so hard to represent you by giving countless hours organizing schedules, dealing with finances, handling auditions, and communicating to the board on your behalf to benefit you and your students. Let's not forget that, on top of all of that, they are also running their own programs and teaching every day at their own schools. I cannot tell you how thankful I am to work with such an amazing group of people who are so committed to music education that they sacrifice so much of themselves for the benefit of others. It is simply remarkable!

I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for everyone involved in the Inaugural State Marching Band Championships held at McNeese State University in early November.

The turnout was nothing short of incredible, with 62 bands participating—setting a state record for a marching competition—and several thousand parents, family members, and friends in attendance. The amount of work put into this event was truly miraculous; especially considering it all came together in just over six months.

We could not have achieved such success without the unwavering support from McNeese State University and the Calcasieu Parish School System. A special shout-out must go to Mr. Tony McCardle and his remarkable team from Calcasieu Parish Schools. They were true superheroes, dedicating their time and effort while representing

# *Reports from Executive Board*

LMEA by managing ticket sales, t-shirt sales, and so much more. Our organization was blessed to have them there with us!

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to McNeese State University President, Dr. Wade Rouse and his wife Angela, whose legendary commitment helped us bring this vision to life. Additionally, many thanks to Dr. Michael Buckles, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Mrs. Laura Bowers of the MSU Foundation, Dr. Lonnie Benoit, Head of the MSU Music Department, Dr. Timothy Pardue, MSU Director of Bands, Dr. Davaron Edwards, MSU Assistant Director of Bands, the Pride of McNeese Marching Band members who performed with enthusiasm each day, the countless McNeese music students who volunteered their time, and the McNeese State University Athletic Department for their invaluable assistance, in particular Mr. Matt Fontenot and Mr. Kevin Gray. Special thanks also goes to Mr. John Bridges of KPLC TV in Lake Charles for being our announcer throughout the event.

Words cannot fully convey how invaluable our own Jim Trant was in managing nearly every aspect of this amazing festival. His extensive knowledge of running events and his unwavering commitment to making this happen were nothing short of super-human. The countless meetings he held with our executive director, Scotty Walker, and others to coordinate classifications and schedules, develop the judges' score sheets, and so much more truly made a difference. I genuinely don't think "THANK YOU" is enough—this event could not have been accomplished without Jim's dedication. And, on a side note, Jim's wife Angela has now raised the bar for how to announce "Shout-Outs" at a marching festival. She was spectacular! Thank You, Angela!

Additionally, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our LMEA Board members who volunteered their time and energy during the event. Special thanks to Scotty Walker, Sharon McNamara-Horne, Carolyn Herrington, Jessica Fain-Blanchard, Aleisa Hudlow, Billy Hochkeppel, Aaron Theall, Tony McCardle, Jim Trant, Michelle DesLattes, and Ryan Benoit for being there for our organization. Also, thank you to some special friends of LMEA, Mr. Patrick Deaville, Mr. Craig Millet, Mr. Neil Simon, Mr. Glynn Dagenhart, Mr. Tra Latham, and Ms. Janet Gilpin. Your willingness to step up and handle whatever needed attention was crucial, and it highlighted what a solid team effort we have here.

The collective efforts made by all of those mentioned above, and more, made this event not only possible but an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Looking ahead, we are excited about what the future holds for this remarkable addition to the LMEA calendar and will continue to work to develop more opportunities like this one for all of our divisions and members.

Now, the LMEA Conference 2025 will be upon us before we know it, and I cannot wait to see all of you there! We will celebrate our organization's growth together as we continue taking LMEA to new heights. We are changing! We are listening! We are adapting! Most importantly, we are here to serve YOU—our valued members—to ensure that LMEA evolves into the organization you've always desired.

Let's embark on this exciting journey together! Join us in New Orleans for an unforgettable experience! See you in NOLA!



THANK YOU PREMIER EXHIBITORS  
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# Reports from Executive Board

## From the President-Elect *Jessica Fain-Blanchard*



Louisiana Music Educators,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits as we head into the end of the first half of the school year. As I reflect on the first semester, I am filled with excitement and gratitude for the incredible work you are doing in your classrooms and communities.


One of the most inspiring highlights of the fall was seeing so many students participating in both the middle school and high school All-State auditions. Those students worked tirelessly to showcase their hard work which is nothing short of amazing, and it serves as a testament to the hard work and commitment of both students and educators across Louisiana. I am thrilled to know that we have so many young musicians in our state who are ready to showcase their abilities and contribute to the rich musical legacy we've built in Louisiana.

Speaking of showcasing talent, I want to remind you all to [register](#) for the upcoming LMEA Conference that will take place in New Orleans in January. This year's conference will feature over 100 clinics designed to inspire, inform, and energize us all as music educators. You'll have the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from across the state, attend outstanding performances, and immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of New Orleans. Whether you are looking to gain new insights into teaching practices, explore cutting-edge techniques, or simply connect with fellow music educators, the LMEA Conference is an event you won't want to miss.

Another exciting development this fall was the inaugural State Marching Championships. For three days, we were treated to some of the most exceptional marching band programs Louisiana has to offer. It was magnificent to witness the final product of all of the hard work that went into these performances. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the participants, directors, and volunteers who made this event such a success. Your hard work and passion for music education continue to make a difference in the lives of our students.

As we move into the second semester, let us remember the importance of what we do as music educators. The first semester has been filled with growth, both for our students and for ourselves as teachers. We are shaping the future of music in Louisiana, fostering not only the next generation of musicians but also the next generation of adults who will keep music alive in our world. Our influence extends far beyond the classroom, and the work we do today will echo for years to come.

Thank you for your continued dedication to music education. I look forward to seeing you at the LMEA Conference and celebrating the remarkable work we're all doing in our schools and communities. Together, we are making a lasting impact, and I am honored to serve alongside you in this important work.



**Election for  
District Director**

[FORM LINK](#)

**Deadline: December 31**

**Submit nominations online**

The image shows a map of Louisiana divided into nine numbered districts (I-IX) for an election. The districts are color-coded: I (yellow), II (orange), III (blue), IV (purple), V (light blue), VI (red), VII (brown), VIII (light green), and IX (dark green). The map is set against a dark blue background with a large white arrow pointing right.

"This is so AMAZING! What an impact you had on my students and program! I am so grateful! I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful time we had with you as the guest artist."

—Rachel Thorson, Band Director, Northrop High School (Indiana)

"Congratulations on the Midwest Clinic Medal of Honor. *Bien merecido!*

You are a foundational rock in jazz education. Your work, dedication, consistency, and love have already paid forward exponentially and will do so forever." —John Santos, 7-time Grammy-nominated percussionist, U.S. Artists Fontanals Fellow, and former SFJAZZ Resident Artistic Director

"Antonio had an encouraging word for all around—including me, when I was in need of both education in the big band art and encouragement in my display of it.... He can be in my band whenever he wants."

—Phil Collins.

"Oh man, this piece is totally hip! I love all three movements! Thanks so much for writing a well thought-out, stylistic piece that can serve as an educational vehicle."

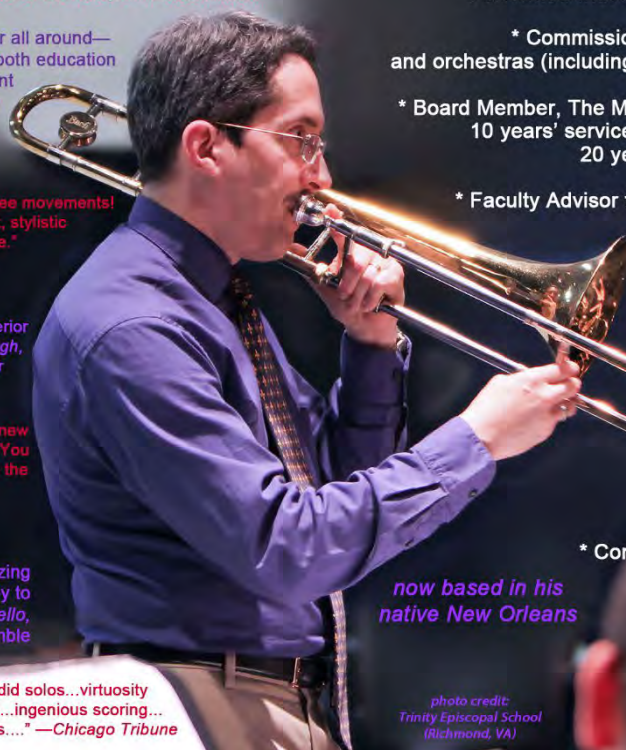
—Nathan Dishman, Professor of Trombone, University of Iowa

"The ILMEA Jazz Choir students received a superior exposé into the art of vocal jazz." —Jim Yarbrough, Past Chair, ILMEA Honors Jazz Choir

"Your approach to creating the sound, feel, technique, and blend of a big band has set a new and extremely high standard for our future.... You act as consummate professional and provide the perfect model of thoughtful and meaningful educational practice." —Craig Roselieb, then Jazz Division President, ILMEA

"Thank you so much for writing NJE an amazing piece. The band LOVED it.... It was also a joy to conduct and get to premiere!" —Dave Rivello, Director, Eastman New Jazz Ensemble

"Splendid solos...virtuosity and musicianship...ingenious scoring...shrewd arrangements...." —Chicago Tribune



now based in his native New Orleans

photo credit: Trinity Episcopal School (Richmond, VA)

# Antonio J. García

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\* Guest artist as a Conn Selmer clinician, trombonist, and scat-singer.

\* Performed with Fitzgerald, Brubeck, Shearing, Torné, Eckstine, Bellson, Collins.

\* Commissioned by instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles, wind ensembles and orchestras (including Orpheus Chamber Orchestra), indie film directors, state MEAs.

\* Board Member, The Midwest Clinic; former Advisory Board Member, Brubeck Institute; 10 years' service as Editor, *International Association for Jazz Education Journal*; 20 years as Jazz Editor, *International Trombone Association Journal*.

\* Faculty Advisor to *Down Beat* Collegiate Award-winners in Original Composition, Extended Composition, Jazz Arranging, and Studio Recording; plus Outstanding Performance, Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist.

\* Author, *Jazz Improvisation: Practical Approaches to Grading*; *Cutting the Changes: Jazz Improvisation via Key Centers*.

\* The only Director of all Illinois All-State Honors Jazz groups: Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, and Jazz Ensemble.

\* Research Faculty Member, University of KwaZulu-Natal; Professor Emeritus and former Director of Jazz Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University.

\* Tenured at VCU, Northwestern, Northern Illinois University.

\* Conn Selmer Institute Hall of Fame, Midwest Clinic Medal of Honor.

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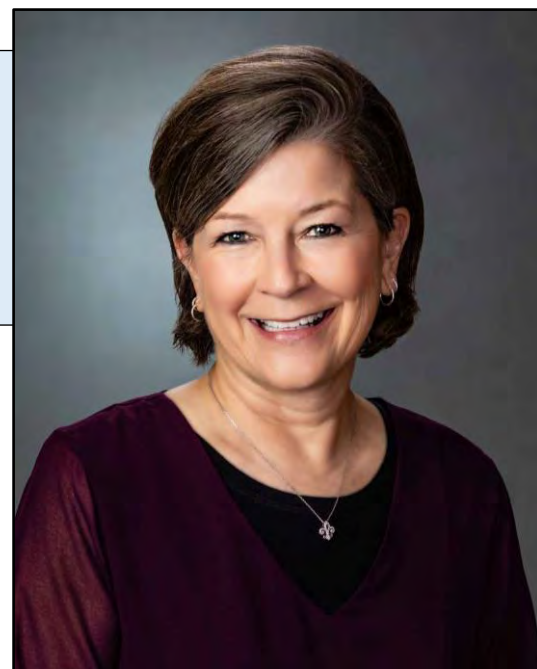
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***Robin M. Hochkeppel***  
***Louisiana Music Educators Association***  
***HALL OF FAME***  
**Induction January 19, 2025**



Robin M. Hochkeppel recently retired after teaching for 30 years at all levels, kindergarten through college, in the areas of instrumental music, elementary music, general music, jazz and collegiate studio instruction. Her most recent employment was with the Acadiana Renaissance Charter Academy in Youngsville, Louisiana, where she taught 6th-8th grade band as well as K-5 music. Previously, Ms. Hochkeppel was the band director at Edgar Martin Middle School, where over 400 students were in the band program; assistant band director at Lafayette High School; band director at South Wayne Junior High in Indianapolis, Indiana; adjunct instructor of bassoon and oboe at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and adjunct faculty at Butler University. She has maintained a private woodwind studio for over 40 years.

Throughout her teaching career, Ms. Hochkeppel's concert and jazz bands consistently received superior ratings at Louisiana District and State Assessments as well as various music festivals in and out of state. Her school and private students have regularly been selected for District and State Honor Bands, and many have gone on to become private instructors, band directors, and professional musicians.

Ms. Hochkeppel attended Eastern Washington University, Butler University where she received the Bachelor of Music in Education degree, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where she graduated with honors and received the Master of Music degree with an emphasis in woodwind performance. She has studied with Wendall Jones, William Ludwig, William Hochkeppel, Charles Rader, Rosemary Lang, Art Riedel, and Andrea Lowey.

Ms. Hochkeppel has been guest clinician for numerous area honor bands, judged for district festivals, and presented clinics at the LBA and LMEA state conventions. She co-authored *The LMEA Handbook for New Instrumental Music Directors* as well as the *Lafayette Parish Instrumental Music Scope and Sequence/Curriculum Guide*. She was a reviewer for the National Core Arts Standards and was on the LDOE State Music Curriculum Guide and Lesson Plan Committee. Most recently, she contributed an article to the LMEA Louisiana Musician entitled, "Practical Tips For Making Your Bassoon Players Better," and authored the chapter "Pedagogies for Teaching Bassoon" in the comprehensive textbook entitled *Teaching Instrumental Music: Contemporary Perspectives and Pedagogies*, by Brian Powell, Kristen Pellegrino and Quincy Hilliard. (Editors)

Ms. Hochkeppel was named "Band Director of the Year" by Phi Beta Mu, was twice awarded "Bandmaster of the Year" by the Louisiana Bandmasters Association and is an LEF and United Way "Teacher of the Year" nominee. She has been awarded the "Shining Star Award" at ARCA and has been "Staff Member of the Month" multiple times. She has served as president, All-Star Coordinator, and member at large for the Louisiana Bandmasters Association, as well as secretary for the Southwest Louisiana Band Directors Association.

Additionally, Ms. Hochkeppel is a freelance musician and has performed with groups such as the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, the Acadian Wind Symphony, Chorale Acadienne, the Skyliners Big Band, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Spokane Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Hochkeppel is a charter member of the Louisiana Music Adjudicators Association and is a member of NAFME, LMEA, SLBDA, Phi Beta Mu, Sigma Alpha Iota, Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi.

***Andy Pizzo***  
***Louisiana Association of Jazz Educators***  
***HALL OF FAME***  
**Induction January 19, 2025**

Andy Pizzo, who resides in Baton Rouge, LA, is “a trombonist of all styles”. He is currently the leader/trombonist for his own jazz/funk/rock group “*The Andy Pizzo Project*”; trombonist and featured soloist/founding member of the funk/soul band “PHAT HAT”; and a free-lance trombonist throughout Louisiana and the Gulf South. Not just a professional trombonist, Andy Pizzo is also a professional music educator and middle school administrator. He received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from L.S.U. – Baton Rouge in the spring of 1999, earned his Master of Education Degree in Educational Leadership from L.S.U. – Shreveport in the spring of 2019, and has taught in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System for the past 25 years. From 2005- 2021, he was the Director of Bands for the award-winning Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet School Band Program in Baton Rouge, LA. His concert and jazz bands consistently received superior ratings at the local/district, state, and national levels. He taught all levels of band: beginner, intermediate, advanced, and jazz. He also worked with the physically and mentally challenged “community based” students at his school. Since July 2021, he has been the Assistant Principal at Westdale Middle School in Baton Rouge.



Andy has accumulated several awards and important musical positions in his time as a band director. Andy is a Past – President of the Louisiana Association for Jazz Education. He was the LMEA Jazz Division Chairman and Coordinator of the Louisiana All State Jazz Ensemble from 2006 - 2012. In 2009, Andy received the Yale University Distinguished Music Educator Award. In November 2010, the Getzen Co., maker and manufacturer of professional trombones, awarded Andy by making him one of their national trombone artist representatives. In January 2014, Andy was selected as “Teacher of the Year” for Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet School. Furthermore, he was selected by a panel of educators as the East Baton Rouge Parish Public School System “Middle School Teacher of the Year” for the 2014 - 2015 school year. In 2017, the Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet School Jazz Ensemble was awarded by the Foundation for Music Education’s “Mark of Excellence” National Jazz Honors Project as a National Award Winner. Andy Pizzo was also selected to represent Louisiana in the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual “50 Directors Who Make a Difference” December 2019 issue of School Band and Orchestra Magazine. Throughout Louisiana, he has also served as a guest honor band clinician for Middle School and High School Honor Concert Bands and Honor Jazz Ensembles.

He has had the opportunity to perform with many great musicians and groups such as The Harry James Orchestra led by Fred Radke; The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra led by Bill Toole; Martha and the Vandellas featuring Martha Reeves; Bill Watrous, Wycliffe Gordon and Tom “Bones” Malone, legendary jazz trombonists; Earl Turner, Las Vegas show entertainer; The Rat Pack Show, official national Rat Pack tribute touring show; Lena Prima, daughter of the famed trumpeter and vocalist, Louis Prima; Poncho Sanchez, Latin jazz recording artist; Christopher Riddle, son of the big band leader, Nelson Riddle, who’s orchestra backed up the great jazz singer Frank Sinatra; The Northwestern State University Jazz Orchestra; The Nicholls State University Jazz Ensemble; The Bill Causey Jazz Orchestra; The John Mahoney Big Band; and many more.

Andy Pizzo is an outstanding music educator, administrator, and an established trombonist who aspires to continuously reach excellence in his own playing, his teaching, and whatever else that he puts his name and energies toward.

## Distinguished Legacy Award

Beginning in 2022, LMEA will announce recipients of the **Distinguished Legacy Award**. This award recognizes lifetime achievement. It is reserved for LMEA members with thirty or more years of distinguished service in support of the mission and goals of the Louisiana Music Educator Association. These goals include elevating character, advancing professional interest, and otherwise promoting the cause of music education in the State of Louisiana. No more than two LMEA members may be recognized within a calendar year.



### *Carolyn Herrington* *Distinguished Legacy Award 2025*

Carolyn Herrington has given an immense part of her life to serving LMEA over the last 40 years. In the final analysis, each and every position and duty she fulfilled for LMEA was done for the right reason in an exemplary manner. Many have done much over the past eight decades, but Mrs. Herrington was a “cut above.” She became a significant difference maker who helped shape music education in Louisiana, not just for a moment but for our complete history.

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska an “Air-Force brat”, Carolyn Herrington’s family settled in Mississippi, where she attended D’Iberville High School, on the Gulf Coast. She was an All-State saxophone player for 2 years and high school drum major. Her senior year in high school she was featured at the Greenwood Mississippi Music Festival playing “Harlem Nocturne” - accompanied by her high school band. The band director of the University of Southern Mississippi was in the audience that day and offered her a full scholarship – and so began her musical journey. She received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1981.

She began her teaching career in 1982 at East Side Upper Elementary, teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade band. From there, she moved across town to DeRidder Junior High in 1986. Under her direction DeRidder Junior High earned their first sweepstakes for concert band in the history of the school. In 1991 she began a 26-year span as the director of bands at DeRidder High School – retiring in 2017, as the Director of DeRidder City Schools. Mrs. Herrington taught all 35 years of her career in one community.

During her tenure at DeRidder High School, the band traveled from coast to coast, marching in Washington D.C. in the National Cherry Blossom parade, playing concerts in the Smokey Mountain Music Festival in Gatlinburg, several performances at Disney in Orlando, as well as performing in Winter Park Colorado – taking top honors across the country. It was important to her to let music be the vehicle for travel – and to be an ambassador for quality music and music education representing the state of Louisiana. It was equally important for her students to perform and give back to the community – for civic groups, nursing homes – community events. Music has the unique ability to bridge generational gaps, creating a shared experience that promotes understanding and growth between young and old.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Herrington has been very active in the leadership of the Louisiana Music Educators Association, serving for 30 years. She served two terms as State Jazz Division Chairman, four terms as LMEA District V Director, Band Division Chairman and two terms as LMEA President. She is the second person in

recent history of LMEA to serve two terms as President. In 2013 she served eight years as Public Relations Chairman through 2021. In 2020 Mrs. Herrington became the Interim Editor for “The Louisiana Musician” and is presently the Editor for our state’s official magazine.

In addition to memberships in MENC, LMEA, LBA and Four States Band Masters, she served as President and Secretary of the Louisiana chapter of Phi Beta Mu. She was a staff member of the Louisiana All-Star Marching Band for 22 years and served this 500-piece marching band as its conductor in 2003.

Mrs. Herrington was selected as Teacher of the Year by her school and parish. In 1989 she was selected as District V Band Director of the Year. In 1995 and 2000, she was selected as the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Band Director of the Year. In 2002, she was selected as Louisiana’s representative in School Band and Orchestra “50 Directors Who Make a Difference. Also, in 2002, she was selected by the Louisiana Bandmasters Association as Bandmaster of the Year. She was the first band director in the state of Louisiana to earn National Board Certification. In 2014, Mrs. Herrington was inducted into the LMEA Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Herrington is married to James Herrington, retired Beauregard Parish Personnel Director, teacher and coach. She has two sons, Brett, a nurse practitioner, and Timothy an Automation/AI Engineer. She has one very special grandson – James Alexander Herrington.



## ***Sharon McNamara-Horne Distinguished Legacy Award 2025***

Before retiring in 2017, Sharon McNamara-Horne taught music in St. Tammany Parish for 26 years. In 1977, she began her teaching career as an itinerant elementary music teacher and the choir director at Abita Springs Jr. High and Lee Road Jr. High (K-9). After her children were born, Sharon left the teaching profession for 13 years to be a mom and to run the family music store. However, by 1995, she realized how much she missed teaching and returned to public school music, more devoted than ever!

Sharon returned to classroom music at Tchefuncte Middle School, where she also had two 75-member elementary choirs and worked with Orff classroom ensembles. Before long, she was offered a position at Mandeville High teaching Talented Music, a college-prep elective. Her band, choir, and string students consistently earned superiors at Solo and Small Ensemble Assessments, and many were selected to District and All-State Honor Ensembles. While at MHS, she also served as accompanist for the choirs, worked closely with the band director, frequently conducted a selection on band concerts, and assisted in preparing vocalists and instrumentalists for the school musicals.

In 2007, Sharon transferred to Fontainebleau Jr. High in Mandeville to become the choir director and piano teacher. During the ten years she was there, her students consistently earned superiors at Solo and Small Ensemble Assessments, sweepstakes at District Large Ensemble Assessments and, as the program developed, sweepstakes at State Large Ensemble Assessments. Sharon believed that all students, even those with academic challenges, could learn to read music with an appropriate level of proficiency and she reinforced that philosophy by having *all* students participate in handbell ensembles each fall. She wanted her students to experience both independence and success, knowing this would carry over into her choirs. In addition to school and LMEA performances, Sharon

# Awards

provided opportunities for community performance - entertainment before a School Board meeting, performing for feeder schools or a nursing home, or singing the Star-Spangled Banner at New Orleans Pelicans games. At FJHS, Sharon was also the music director for annual school musicals and frequently worked with music methods students and student teachers from Southeastern Louisiana University. In March 2012, Mrs. Mac (as her students called her) was the St. Tammany PTA Educator of Distinction and a recipient of the Louisiana PTA Educator of Distinction Award. The following year, she was the FJHS Teacher of the Year. However, she feels most honored knowing that a number of her MHS and FJHS students went on to major in music and either teach or perform professionally.

An active member of the Louisiana Music Educators Association, Sharon has served on the Board of Directors since 2006, first as a District Director, then as President, and currently as Webmaster. She is proud of her role in transitioning to a responsive website that would allow for online registration and payments for LMEA events. Recently, she has volunteered to help transition to a new accounting system, to put together the conference program, and to assist in updating forms and procedures. Prior to serving as an elected board member, Sharon served as her District's Orchestra Chair, co-chaired vocal events, and for 16 years served as her district's webmaster. She frequently serves as an adjudicator for large ensemble assessments throughout the state, has served as a solo and small ensemble adjudicator, and enjoys opportunities to critique choirs in preparation for assessments.

In addition to her teaching career, Sharon enjoyed 26 years as choir director at First United Methodist, Covington where she worked with the adult choir, children's Choirchime ensembles, was substitute organist, and worked with special projects for children, adults, and seniors. She currently is the accompanist for Hammond High Magnet School's choirs.

Sharon received her BME and MEd from Southeastern Louisiana University and an MM from Loyola University. Her professional memberships include the LMEA, NafME, Louisiana Music Adjudicators Association, ACDA, and Delta Omicron. She and her husband, William, love spending time with their children's families, which include nine "perfect" grandchildren! In her "spare" time, she enjoys traveling, crafts, and making and decorating themed birthday cakes for grandchildren – the latest being a unicorn cake.

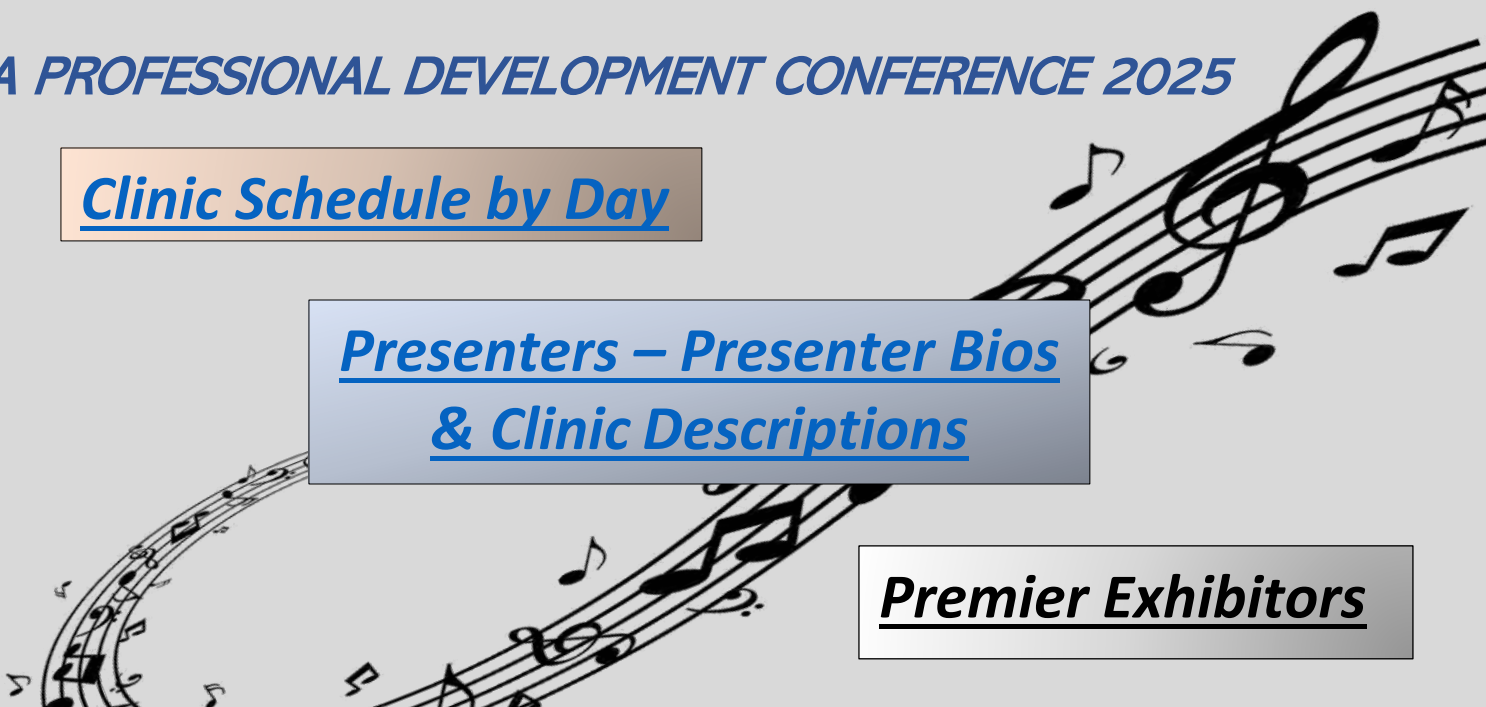
In a world that focuses on academic success and student scores, Sharon's goal was always to provide opportunities for *all* her students to experience success at the highest level through music, including those who struggled academically and had seldom experienced success. Her greatest hope for her students was that they would all internalize the line from her favorite song, "Over the Rainbow": "Why then, oh why can't I!" and believe that "they can!"

## LMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2025

[Clinic Schedule by Day](#)

[Presenters – Presenter Bios  
& Clinic Descriptions](#)

[Premier Exhibitors](#)



# Featured Performances

**Thursday 7:00 PM  
Grand Ballroom**

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA, LAFAYETTE

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE**  
WITH THE



**NEW YORK VOICES**

THURSDAY 01/16/25 LOUISIANA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
CONFERENCE 2025  
Hilton New Orleans Riverside

17 JANUARY, 2025

NORTHWESTERN STATE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA



Natchitoches Northwestern Symphony Orchestra

**NATCHITOCHESE NORTHWESTERN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**



DR. DOUGLAS BAKENHAUS

LMEA CONFERENCE

**Friday 11:30 AM - Grand Ballroom**

17 JANUARY, 2025

THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW ORLEANS

University of  
New Orleans  
Chorale

**GRAND SALON  
1:00 - 2:00PM**

LMEA CONFERENCE

**Friday 1:00 PM - Grand Salon**

Louisiana State University  
Wind Ensemble & A Cappella Choir




Damon Talley, Conductor

Alissa Rowe, Conductor

New Orleans' Own  
Queen of Clarinet,  
Doreen Ketchens

with special guests

Two-Time Grammy Award-Winning  
Soprano, Songwriter & Actress  
Hala Plitman





Internationally  
Renowned  
composer,  
Frank Ticheli

Louisiana Music  
Educators Association  
Conference 2025

LSU  
January 17, 2025  
Hilton New Orleans Riverside

**Friday 7:00 PM - Grand Ballroom**

LOUISIANA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS

The Southern University  
Wind Ensemble



Dr. Kedric Taylor,  
Conductor

LMEA CONFERENCE 2025 | HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE

JANUARY 18, 2025

**Saturday 7:00 PM - Grand Ballroom**

# ***Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession: Transformation in the Music Teacher Preparation Program***

*Edward R. McClellan, PhD*

Throughout the fall of 2020, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) held a series of online town hall meetings during which its members from across the United States could attend and speak up regarding the issues and concerns of equity in our profession. Out of these town hall meetings, the concept of the Music Teacher Profession Initiative (MTPI) was launched (NAfME, 2023, p. 9).

The Music Teacher Profession Initiative (MTPI) was formed in 2021 by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME, 2023) to identify barriers to equity in music teacher recruitment, education, and retention. The project was executed with the perspective of widening the path to the profession by cultivating and strengthening more inclusive and equitable processes in recruiting, teaching, and nurturing a robust music teacher workforce. *A Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession*, released in June 2023, describes the task force's process, outcomes, and recommendations for action (MTPI, 2024; NAfME, 2023). While the initial task was to illuminate these specific issues, it became clear that the work should be a continuing and systematic focus for the MTPI Advisory Committee 2024 (NAfME, 2023).

Current curricula offerings in the music teacher education program focus on the needs of past generations, preserving a rich history of the past, yet not reflecting the music of today or the ways in which musicianship may differ from community to community. Abramo and Bernard (2020) stated, "Schools of music requirements and values insert themselves into these local values, disrupting the potential of creating a more urban and more ethnically and culturally diverse music education workforce" (pp. 21-22). Therefore, there is a need to bring up to date and broaden the preparation of music educators in a wide array of teaching competencies.

Music teacher educators must prioritize what it means to be a well-prepared music teacher today, including greater emphasis on creativity, cultural competency and relevance, community accountability, and multiple means of engagement with music. The curriculum should reflect these priorities; music teacher educators must educate their colleagues regarding these priorities and the best path to their attainment. In already-packed music teacher degree program curricula, the solution for reform is not additive, but integrative. Based on concept and skills prioritization, best paths to attainment will likely look quite different from many contemporary programs. A more cohesive, holistic approach will benefit preservice teachers. As concepts of music theories, movement, performance, history, and pedagogy are considered, fractured and compartmentalized experiences should give way to those that are more comprehensive, with greater focus on transferable skills and knowledge with expectations of higher-order thinking (NAfME, 2023, p. 29). This design is embraced in the College Music Society Manifesto in their plea to all university music faculty to reconceive music study (Transforming Music Study, 2016). These changes are necessary if music teacher preparation programs are to become and remain culturally relevant to PK–12 communities.

Currently, I have a chapter, *Transformation in the Music Teacher Preparation Program*, in the book, *Stories of Change in Music Teacher Education: Recruiting, Training, and Supporting New Teachers* for publication by GIA Publications, that proposes changes to the preparation of music teacher educators in the university music education program. The chapter will share the aforementioned conditions in present music teacher preparation programs and reasons for needed changes in structure, focus, and range of teaching competencies. Discussion of a more integrative curriculum will include the importance of educating colleagues in other departments regarding more cohesive, holistic crossover among coursework (e.g., music theory, history, orchestration, conducting) with more integrated connections of creativity and cultural competence.

There is value in having conversations that focus on the possibility of offering a wider range of musical course offerings for diverse music traditions and backgrounds. The curriculum should broaden musicianship skills through a multitude of musics that creates greater cultural awareness, competence, and responsiveness. Opportunities to assimilate concepts of music theories, movement, performance, history, and pedagogy will be explored through softening silos in the school of music organization. It is important to facilitate more

comprehensive musical experiences that engage preservice music teachers in creativity, cultural competency and relevance, and multiple means of engagement with music. Preservice music teachers training must include learning fundamental theories of learning music, multiple forms of pedagogy and various ways students learn music, and experiential learning of teaching and pedagogy that is culturally relevant to PK-12 learning communities. Including teaching laboratories in the music teacher education program are central to preparing preservice music teachers for today’s music classroom

### References


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### The Future of Music Education

<https://bit.ly/NAEMTPI>



	BEFORE THE DEGREE PROGRAM	DURING THE DEGREE PROGRAM	DURING THE FIRST 5 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL LIFE
Challenge	Inequitable distribution of funding, physical resources, and human resources	Persistent inequities in how students are recruited, auditioned, and enrolled	Low teacher pay and professional expenses (student loan debt, certification, etc.)
Solution	Federal policymakers should increase funding for Titles I and IV-A of the Every Student Succeeds Act to ensure students have equitable access to a well-rounded education that includes music.	Higher education should expand audition/interview requirements to be more inclusive of diverse ways of being musical and demonstrating musical knowledge.	Federal, state, and local policymakers should position salaries, raises, bonus structures, tax credits, and other financial incentives to entice new music teachers into the field.
Challenge	Participation, transportation, and private instruction expenses	Lack of alignment between university program content and professional expectations in PK12 instruction	Isolation stemming from geography or being the only music teacher in a building
Solution	School districts should offer free or highly subsidized rental programs and private lessons for students from low-income families.	Higher education should revise music education curriculum to be more culturally sustaining, equitable, and reflective of the needs of schools and communities.	State and national music education organizations should promote the institution of affinity groups to serve as safe spaces in which educators' identities are reflected and open and honest discourse is fostered.
Challenge	Limited curricular offerings		Lack of funding and time for meaningful professional development and mentoring.
Solution	Music educators should create new courses that engage a wider array of students.		State and national music education organizations should prioritize programs, professional development and conferences for new-career music educators.

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**Edward McClellan, PhD** is the Rita O. Huntsinger Distinguished Professor of Music, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Music Education at Loyola University New Orleans. Dr. McClellan has over thirty years of experience from the elementary to undergraduate and graduate levels. His public-school experience includes fulfilling responsibilities as elementary band teacher, middle school choral director, high school director of bands, orchestra director, director of jazz studies, chairman of fine arts, and university band, wind ensemble, and chamber winds. During his tenure, McClellan’s bands and orchestras consistently received “Superior” ratings at district, state, and national adjudication festivals.

Dr. McClellan is a member of the Editorial Boards for the *International Journal of Music Education*, *Action, Criticism, and Theory for Music Education*, and *Music Educators Journal*. He has published research in the *Action, Criticism, and Theory for Music Education*, *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, *Contributions to Music Education*, *Visions of Research in Music Education*, and *Music Educators Journal*. Dr. McClellan is member of the Steering Committee of the International

Society for Sociology of the Music Education, Louisiana State Chair of the Society of Research in Music Education, Louisiana State Chair of the Society of Music Teacher Education, and Louisiana Music Educators Association Collegiate Division Chair of the National Association for Music Education. He is also former Chair of the Social Sciences and Perception and Cognition Special Research Interest Groups, and Chair-Elect of the Instructional Strategies SRIG for the National Association for Music Education. Recently, Dr. McClellan released his book *The Psychology of Teaching and Learning Music*, published by Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group in June 2023. Dr. McClellan continues to be active as a clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator in Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

## Band Division Chair *Billy Hochkeppel*



Congratulations to all of the students who were selected to be in the 2025 LMEA All-State Bands, especially all of the middle school students who will be part of the inaugural Middle School All-State Ensemble! Also, thank you to all of the district directors, teachers, judges, and anyone else who played a role in the audition process. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the audition process or wish to contribute in the future, please feel free to reach out. We are always trying to improve, and your input is valuable to us!

I am extremely excited to welcome three incredible clinicians to conduct our ensembles. The inaugural Middle School Ensemble will be under the direction of Angela Woo. Mrs. Woo is the Director of Instrumental Music at John Adams Middle School in California and the Music Director of the Pacific Youth Concert Band. Amanda Drinkwater will lead the high school Concert Band. Mrs. Drinkwater was the Director of Bands at Marcus High School in Texas and currently serves as the Director of Fine Arts of the Lewisville Independent School District in the Dallas, Texas area. Conducting our high school Symphonic Band will be Dr. Dennis Llinas. Dr. Llinas is currently the Director of Bands at the University of Oregon. We still claim him as our own because he does have a bit of Louisiana blood since he was previously the Associate Director of Bands and Director of The Golden Band from Tigerland at LSU. We are very lucky and thankful to have Dr. Llinas step in to conduct the symphonic band after learning about the tragic passing of Dr. Robert Carnochan. Our condolences go out to Dr. Carnochan's family for their loss.

At this time, all high school participants should be registered and have booked their hotel accommodations. If you need assistance, please reach out to your District Directors. You can also find all of this information at [lmeamusic.org](http://lmeamusic.org)

Middle School Directors: First, let me say CONGRATULATIONS! It has been a dream of LMEA to have a middle school All-State Ensemble for some time now and we are so excited for this dream to come true. Thank you for trusting LMEA and encouraging your students to try out! At this time, your students should be registering for the event online using the online form under the Middle School All-State Tab. Registration closes on December 6th. Scroll down to the bottom for more conference and event information such as the required forms, rehearsal schedule, and hotel map.

If you have a student that is participating in any of the All-State groups, I will be sending out digital copies of the all-state music in a google folder. This is to allow students to practice and learn their parts before arriving for the event. Please encourage them to practice as that will make their experience all the better. I am working to get this music sent out by December 1st. Digital folders will be sent to District Directors who will then send it out to the directors of participating students.

I encourage everyone to mark their calendars for the upcoming LMEA conference this year and make sure to attend the exceptional All-State Ensemble Concerts. I also welcome you to visit the rehearsals and learn from our outstanding All-State Band Clinicians.

Lastly, I hope to see you all at our annual Band Division Meeting at the LMEA Conference. Please bring any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions for us to discuss!

*Mindset separates the best from the rest.*

# Reports from Division Chairs

## Vocal Division Chair

### Stephen Galiano



Congratulations to the students who were selected to participate in one of the distinguished 2025 LMEA All-State Honor Choirs! Congratulations also go out to all of the teachers who helped prepare their students and to all the district directors and recording technicians who recorded all of the auditions. A shout out to all of the adjudicators for judging all of the auditions as well. A big thank you to Jim Trant, our Auditions Chairman. This is a very tedious and time-consuming project and he, as always, has risen to the occasion.

The octavos for the Treble and Mixed choirs have been mailed out to all district directors. District directors will distribute the packets to all of the teachers in their district who have students in one of the all-state choirs. Teachers are asked to take time to help prepare their students as they learn all of the repertoire for their respective choir. Music should be hole-punched, placed in a pristine solid black 3-ring binder and all measures numbered. They should keep a pencil in their folder at all times. Students are **expected** to arrive in New Orleans and have their music prepared and ready for polishing for the very first rehearsal with their clinicians. Any student who is observed not knowing their music will be asked to leave and forfeit their place in the choir.

Please refer to the specific choir's schedule for on-site check-in and registration for choirs at the Hilton Riverside Hotel in New Orleans. A chaperone **must** be present to sign-in each student. We will have a QR code available for chaperones to register their students. We will require the chaperone's cell number, lodging hotel name, and each student's cell number. Be prepared to supply all of this information at sign-in.

There are many opportunities for you to attend very exciting and informational sessions and presentations during the LMEA conference. If you have a student selected to one of the choirs, please remember it is required for you to register for the conference. You are also invited to drop in to the rehearsal rooms whenever you want to watch and hear the clinicians work with all of our students.

#### **2025 ALL-STATE MIXED CHOIR CLINICIAN: Dr. Lynne Gackle**

- Insanae et vanae curae by Haydn (SATB)
- The Ground by Ola Gjeilo (SATB)
- Arise, My Beloved by Rosephanye Powell (SATB)
- Zieguenerleben by Schumann (SATB)
- All Things New by Elaine Hagenberg (SATB)
- Way Over In Beulah Lan' by Stacey Gibbs (SATB)

#### **2025 ALL-STATE TREBLE CHOIR CLINICIAN: Dr. Jessica Nápoles**

- Awake the Trumpet's Lofty Sound by Handel/arr. John Cramer (SSA)
- In the Sweet By and By by Joseph Webster/arr. Hall (SSAA)
- Plena by Diana Sáez (SSA)
- Mantra by Tim Takach (SSA)
- I Need You to Survive by David Rollo Dilworth (SSA)
- Holy Is the Lord by Jeffery Ames (SSAA)

#### **2025 ALL-STATE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR CLINICIAN: Dr. Jamie Hillman**

- I Dream a World/Andre Thomas (SATB)
- Aurora Borealis/Amy F. Bernon (SATB)
- Praise His Holy Name!/Keith Hampton (SATB)
- Quiet Sea/Melissa Keylock (SAB)
- She Sings/Amy Feldman Bernon (SATB)

# Reports from Division Chairs

I wish all of you a happy upcoming holiday season and hope you all get some time to relax and rejuvenate in preparation for the Spring semester. It's hard work, but the payoff is priceless.

## Jazz Division Chair

### **Doug Stone**

Accompanying the emotions of joy and renewal I am feeling as we approach a new year, are the emotions of anticipation and excitement I am feeling about the 2025 LMEA Conference in the Crescent City, New Orleans - the birthplace of the music I have devoted my life to playing and teaching. All of our 2024-2025 Louisiana All State musicians are in for a truly amazing conference experience this year, however, the jazz musicians will have the added bonus of learning about and playing their music in the city where Louis Armstrong learned and played! Please attend a jazz rehearsal, workshop, or performance and take a minute to consider the musical meaning and magnitude of our 2025 LMEA conference in New Orleans as you do.



The LMEA High School All State Jazz Ensemble will be led by the director of the University of North Florida School of Music, jazz educator, composer, arranger, and trombonist, Dr. Clarence Hines. The inaugural LMEA Middle School All State Jazz Ensemble will be guided by the skillful jazz educator Bobby Keating, music director at Gulliver Preparatory in Miami, Florida. Jazz workshops for educators and students will be presented by Hines, Keating, Tony Garcia (Virginia Commonwealth University), Jerry Tolson (University of Louisville), and Michael Christiansen (University of Utah) - an impressive cast of jazz musicians and educators. I plan to savor every moment of the rehearsals, workshops, and performances I attend, just as I plan to savor some of the great New Orleans cuisine that I will enjoy during conference weekend!

The LMEA Jazz Division is so grateful for the work of the Louisiana Association for Jazz Educators (LAJE), which partners with us every step of the way during the conference and throughout the year. LAJE has been especially helpful this year in working with the Jazz Division to create the best possible middle school jazz experience - from reviewing audition materials, to suggesting a wonderful clinician, from setting up chairs, to passing out t-shirts, and everything in between!

Now, let's drive down, or fly down, to New Orleans - that city, so pretty, historic scenes. We'll learn and play way down yonder, and after the conference is over, we will truly know what it means to miss New Orleans! However, the learning and growth we and our students will experience during the 2025 LMEA conference will enrich the musical lives of all of us who teach and play music in the great state of Louisiana, and carry us forward into 2025 and beyond!

# CELEBRATING MUSIC EDUCATION LMEA 2025 CONFERENCE

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# Reports from Division Chairs

## Orchestra Division Chair

**Katrice LaCour**

Greetings from Natchitoches my fellow music educators. What an exciting time to be involved in music education in our state. I'm pleased to announce this year's Middle School All-State Conductor is Dr. Robert Gillespie and our High School Conductor is Dr Douglas Droste.



**Bob Gillespie** is Ohio State University Professor Emeritus of string education/string pedagogy. Under Dr. Gillespie's leadership, Ohio State University received the 2015 Institutional String Education Award as the premier string education university in the country. Dr. Gillespie is a past national President of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is a frequent guest conductor of All-State, region, and festival orchestras, having appeared in 49 states, Canada, Asia, and throughout Europe. He is co-author of the Hal Leonard string method book series, *Essential Elements for Strings*, the leading string instrument teaching series in the US with sales of over eleven million copies. Also, he is co-author of the college text *Strategies for Teaching Strings: Building A Successful School Orchestra Program*, the *String Clinics to Go* DVD series, the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra* texts for GIA publications, and the new method series, *Rockin' Strings* for Hal Leonard. In summers, well over 1,600 teachers have attended the annual summer OSU String Teacher Workshop, the largest string/orchestra teacher-training workshop in America. In Columbus, he conducts the Columbus Symphony Chamber Strings Youth Orchestra. In 2020, Dr. Gillespie received the Paul Rolland Lifetime Achievement Award from the American String Teachers Association for significant contribution to the field of string teacher education and string pedagogy.

In 2022, he received the University of Michigan School of Music alumni Hall of Fame Award in recognition of his distinguished career in music education. In December 2023 he will receive the Medal of Honor from the Midwest Clinic for distinct services to instrumental music education and continuing influence on the development and improvement of bands and orchestras in America.

Maestro Gillespie will select from the following repertoire for our concert:

Allegro in D for Strings by Vivaldi/Steven Frackenhohl

Arlington Sketches by Elliot Del Borgo

Lullaby to the Moon by Brian Balmages

Fiddle Dance from Folk Tune and Fiddle Dance by Percy Fletcher

Fire in the Forge by Ted Allen



**Conductor Douglas Droste** is recognized as possessing "obvious joy" for making music and a "sure sense of timing" when on the podium. Those under his baton routinely acknowledge his in-depth interpretations, keen sense of communication, and personable ability to empower musicians.

Droste's guest conducting appearances include the INSO-Lviv Symphony Orchestra (Ukraine), and the orchestras of Kansas City, Indianapolis, Columbus, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Midland-Odessa, Fox Valley (IL), Chappaqua (NY), and the Amarillo Virtuosi. Equally at home in the pit, he has conducted over 30 productions of opera, ballet, and musical theatre. Droste has also led eclectic shows with artists such as Black Violin, Ben Folds, The Flaming Lips, Pink Martini, Michael Cavanaugh, Time for Three, Christian Howes, and Disney's All-American College Orchestra Alumni, among others. He previously served as Artistic



# Reports from Division Chairs

Director of the Muncie Symphony Orchestra, where he was praised for dynamic performances, innovative programming, and his rapport with musicians and community.

A dedicated teacher, Droste is Director of Orchestral Studies at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music, where he conducts the Baldwin Wallace Symphony Orchestra and teaches conducting. He regularly programs traditional repertoire, works by underrepresented composers, as well as new music by the composers of today. He also seeks unique collaborations and projects, such as Ron McCurdy's Langston Hughes Project, sensory friendly concerts for children with special needs, and a recording with Tony Award winner Sutton Foster, "Take Me to the World," on the Ghostlight label.

As an advocate of music education, Droste has conducted numerous all-state orchestras, as well as the Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House, Let Music Live Festival at the Vienna Musikverein and Rodolfinum in Prague, Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute, French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts, and an upcoming engagement with the Music for All Honor Orchestra of America. He is also active as a clinician and adjudicator, including Festival Disney, ASTA's National Orchestra Festival, MCP at Carnegie Hall, and the Music for All National Festival. Droste is a Yamaha Artist and Master Educator.

A talented violinist, Droste has performed with the orchestras of Canton, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Nashville, and the Lancaster Festival, among others. He is also skilled on viola, trumpet, and as a tenor. Droste holds degrees from The Ohio State University and Texas Tech University.

Maestro Droste has selected the following repertoire for our concert:

Lightspeed by Kevin Day

Jupiter from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst

Academic Festival Overture by Johannes Brahms

Danzon No. 2 by Arturo Marquez

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support over the past eleven years. Please make sure that all forms are turned in at a timely manner. If you have questions or concerns, please email me. The schedule for High School and Middle School can be found on the L.M.E.A. website. See you in New Orleans!

## NAfME Collegiate Division Chair

**Edward McClellan, PhD**

As we move into the current school year, the collaboration, cooperation, and partnerships among our members remains key to our success as a profession. The study of music stimulates the creative

mind and is a valuable part of every child's education. By helping build essential skills, imagination, and self-esteem, music and the arts fuel achievement in all academic areas leading to infinite possibilities for our students as future leaders and innovators.

As LMEA Collegiate Chair, Louisiana State Chair of the *Society of Research in Music Education* (SRME), and Louisiana State Chair of the *Society of Music Teacher Education* (SMTE) for the LMEA Board, I share the following information.

### Join the Louisiana Collegiate Music Education Member Network

Collegiate students are encouraged to complete the following registration to get on the Louisiana Collegiate Member Network. This information will be used to connect College Music Education Students with other music education students at other Universities across Louisiana. The network will be active in connecting Collegiate



# Reports from Division Chairs

NAfME Chapters and establishing communication among music education students and faculty. Please use this QR Code to get started:



## **The NAfME Collegiate Sessions January 16-19, 2025**

Collegiate members are welcome to attend all professional development sessions and all-state rehearsals and performances throughout the conference. The LMEA NAfME Collegiate Sessions are a collaborative effort among the Louisiana Music Educators Association, university faculty, K-12 music educators, and retired music teachers to focus on the needs of undergraduate music education majors and beginning music teachers. The **2024 NAfME COLLEGIATE SESSIONS** provides a variety of professional development sessions for college students, and beginning and veteran music teachers. Please see this

### ***A Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession***

The Music Teacher Profession Initiative (MTPI) was formed in 2021 by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME, 2023) to identify barriers to equity in music teacher recruitment, education, and retention. The project was executed with the perspective of widening the path to the profession by cultivating and strengthening more inclusive and equitable processes in recruiting, teaching, and nurturing a robust music teacher workforce. ***A Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession***, released in June 2023, describes the task force's process, outcomes, and recommendations for action (MTPI, 2024; NAfME, 2023). While the initial task was to illuminate these specific issues, it became clear that the work should be a continuing and systematic focus for the MTPI Advisory Committee 2024 (NAfME, 2023).

**Please see more about *Transformations of Music Teacher Education* in my article, *A Blueprint for Strengthening the Music Teacher Profession: Transformation in the Music Teacher Preparation Program*, in this edition of *The Louisiana Musician*.**

### **Pre-Registration Rates**

Collegiate Music Education Summit Participants should take advantage of conference pre-registration rates in planning to take part in this event. LMEA Conference "Pre-registration" for Collegiate Members is \$30; Pre-registration forms are available on the LMEA website.

<https://www.lmeamusic.org/conference-registration-collegiate-and-retired/>

### **Special General Networking Session for All Collegiate Members**

**Collegiate members from all college/university music education programs across Louisiana are invited to meet their peers and colleagues from other universities at this general meeting session on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. @ 1:00 pm.** Collegiate members will participate in this informational and networking session. Share Best Practices of Leadership, Communication, & Networking among your peers and colleagues in the music education field.

### **Graduate Student Research Showcase**

The **Graduate Student Research Showcase** will feature 20-minute presentations by Masters and Doctoral (PhD) students from Louisiana colleges and universities currently writing their theses or dissertations. Presentation can be on works in progress or research near completion. Each candidate will make a 15-minute presentation followed by approximately 5-minutes of Q & A from the audience.

# Reports from Division Chairs

## Annual Music Teacher Education Breakfast

Music Education Faculty at colleges and universities across Louisiana are invited to attend this informal BYO breakfast banquet and meeting as part of the LMEA Conference. This social gathering of Music Teacher Educators is an opportunity to connect with other professionals, develop collegiality, exchange ideas, share in common practices, and examine ways to enhance music teacher training programs in Louisiana.

## Research Presentation Session

The Louisiana Music Educators Association is pleased to announce a call for research reports for presentation at a Research Poster Session at the LMEA Conference. University faculty, graduate students, and classroom music educators are invited to submit proposals for presentation during this session. Authors whose reports are selected will present their research during a research poster session in which interested music educators can learn about the research and discuss applications to music teaching and learning with the authors. Posters will be placed for viewing during the conference with formal presentation by authors.

## In Closing

In closing, I look forward to a great year! I look forward to working together, being proactive and resilient, and exploring avenues for innovation during these extraordinary times! Please feel free to contact me should I be of assistance to you!

## Elementary Division Chair

**Keith James**

*“Life seems to go on without effort when I am filled with music.”*  
— George Eliot

Hello all! Greetings from elementary music! As we wind down the year, all eyes are focused on the convention in January in our new host city, New Orleans. There have been a record number of elementary session proposals and we will be hosting as many as can fit the schedule. Topics include process, management, literacy, engagement, songwriting, movement, and more. Our featured clinician is Rob Amchin!



**Dr. Rob Amchin** is Emeritus Professor of Music Education at the University of Louisville (KY). He studied Orff pedagogy worldwide and has presented workshops nationally and internationally for over 40 years. He is a published author of books related to Orff Schulwerk and general music, and he is the level I, II and III pedagogy and Master Class teacher at many summer programs around the country. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the American Orff Schulwerk Association. He will be presenting Friday and Saturday. His sessions will be about discoveries using instruments, developing a school concert/performance, movement-based activities and children's literature. I am so excited to be a part of it. I hope you have bought your registration and reserved your rooms because it's filling up fast. See you there!

**Session 1—Discoveries using Orff Instruments and Classroom Instruments**

**Session 2—Developing a School Performance/Concert**

**Session 3—Musical Discoveries using Movement-based Activities (it's more than just doing folk dances!)**

**Session 4—Children's Literature in the General Music Classroom**

# Reports from Division Chairs

## Public Relations Chair

### Joshua Stearman

It's finally here! After years, we'll finally begin our new chapter in January at the first New Orleans conference!

I know a lot has changed with LMEA over the past 5 years or so, and some of it has seemed like it was fast, maybe even rushed to some people. Early in the life of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg had an internal motto of "Move fast and break things" to push change and to not be afraid to make some mistakes along the way. I bring this up only to say that *this conference move did not happen fast*. We certainly did not "move fast and break things" with this conference. There has been a core group with Lee Hicks, Jessica Fain, Denise Howell, and myself working on this conference for over four years now. What began as some conversations that went a little further than the usual lamenting about what we wish the conference could be eventually morphed into a site visit at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in 2020—the first site visit the hotel hosted after COVID! Since then, we have gone over contracts, projections, budgets, more site visits—and by now I have the floor plan of the hotel's event space burned into my memory! The amount of meticulous detail that has been thought through with this new conference has been incredible, and it makes sense that a group of music educators are the ones leading the effort. We are fully prepared to welcome our largest conference, including over 1000 of Louisiana's best students, and provide them with a world-class experience. Will there be some growing pains or hiccups? Probably, but nothing we can't handle!



The new exhibit hall will be better located than in Baton Rouge, placed amongst the middle of most of the action: near clinic spaces, rehearsal rooms, and meeting spaces. With all divisions at the conference at the same time, the exhibit hall will be buzzing with choir directors, orchestra directors, elementary teachers, all-state students, band directors, parents...it'll be the place to be! We are welcoming many new vendors, colleges, and universities, and we hope everyone will find something that'll help make their jobs a little easier! Be on the lookout for our vendors, *especially our new vendors*, as we showcase them across our social media channels over the coming weeks!

## Guitar Ensemble

### Dr. Greg Robin, Committee Chair

*The guitar division is excited to perform and rehearse in  
New Orleans this year!*

Our clinician, **Dr. Chad Ibison**, has captivated audiences across North America and abroad through



his imaginative musical interpretations and charismatic stage presence. Hailed through critical acclaim, Chad has been described as "very versatile in terms of contrast and range of expression" (Classical Guitar Canada) with "masterful phrasing combined with technical precision" (ClassicalGuitar.org). Along with his critical acclaim, Ibison has accumulated ten first place awards among his eighteen top prize wins at international guitar competitions including The Guitar Foundation of America, JoAnn Falletta Concerto Competition and Boston's New England Conservatory Guitarfest. He participates regularly at guitar festivals as a performer, teacher and judge. Chad resides in Austin and is currently the Assistant Professor at Austin Community College and maintains a private studio in Hyde Park. We have a large group of guitarists excited to perform and study under his baton!



## Handbell Ensemble

**Greig Ashurst, Committee Chair**



### ***Ringling in a New Era: The 2025 Louisiana Music Education Association All-State Handbell Ensemble***

The Louisiana Music Education Association (LMEA) is thrilled to announce the inaugural Louisiana All-State Handbell Ensemble, a groundbreaking event that will bring new life to LMEA as it moves its state in-service to New Orleans. This ensemble marks a significant milestone, being only the second of its kind in the United States, highlighting the unique art form of handbell ringing in schools.

This extraordinary initiative has been a labor of love for the dedicated planning committee connecting the Handbell Musicians of America organization with the Louisiana Music Educators Association. The mission of the Louisiana All-State Handbell Ensemble is to provide an enriching educational and musical experience for handbell musicians in Louisiana. Unlike the traditional music ensembles of band, choir, and orchestra, handbells offer a unique alternative ensemble experience. Handbells not only enhance musical skills but also foster collaboration and a sense of belonging among students like no other ensemble can. This is because, in a handbell ensemble, all of the musicians in the ensemble have to collaborate to play one instrument.

The goal of this event is to provide a high-level musical experience that educates and inspires young handbell musicians. Additionally, this experience aims to encourage students to strive to achieve excellence, with the personal achievement of performing in an all-state ensemble, and to advocate for the addition of handbell ensembles in school curricula as a lifetime musical and service opportunity.

A hearty congratulations to all the talented students who earned a spot in this pioneering ensemble. Your hard work, dedication, and passion for music have not gone unnoticed. You are making history and setting a precedent for alternative music ensembles in Louisiana. These young musicians will begin rehearsal on Thursday, January 16th, at 4:00 PM at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. For the next two days, they will rehearse together and work to create a concert to perform on Saturday, January 18, at 11:30 AM.

This year, the ensemble will be conducted by Greig Ashurst, President of Handbell Musicians of America. Mr. Ashurst brings over 30 years of experience in music education, conducting, and more. He has been a pivotal figure in promoting handbell and handchime music throughout the world. Additionally, he currently serves as a band director in Lafayette, LA, where he infuses handbell and handchime playing into the instrumental music curriculum.

The 2025 Louisiana All-State Handbell Ensemble has a fantastic repertoire this year. Some of the selections include *Reverberations* by Sallie Lloyd, *Andante Maestoso—chorale* from “Jupiter” arranged by Kevin McChesney, *Jamaican Holiday* by Greig Ashurst, and more. This event is set to be a fun, educational, and inspiring experience where students can not only showcase their talents but also connect with fellow musicians and educators.

As we embark on this new chapter, we look forward to seeing the continued growth and support for handbell music in Louisiana and beyond. This ensemble is more than just a performance—it's the beginning of a new wave for music education and music accessibility and inclusion for students in Louisiana.

*Happiness is an inside job!*

# **LMEA CONFERENCE**

# **VENDORS**

# **2025**

ACADIANA INSTRUMENT REPAIR LLC  
ARTISTICALLY YOURS BY: KIM HEBERT  
BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY  
DEMOULIN BROTHERS & COMPANY  
ENSEMBLE INNOVATIONS  
FEAT TRAVEL  
FRUHAUF UNIFORMS  
HAWAII STATE TOURS  
J.W. PEPPER

JUST ORLANDO YOUTH TOURS  
LAFAYETTE MUSIC COMPANY  
LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION FOR JAZZ EDUCATION  
LOUISIANA MISSISSIPPI COLORGUARD & PERCUSSION CIRCUIT  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS  
MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY  
MUSIC & ARTS  
MUSICIANS ABROAD  
NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY  
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
SNAP! MOBILE  
SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY  
SWEETWATER  
TRULY HORRIBLE THINGS  
U.S. ARMY BANDS  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
US AIR FORCE BANDS  
VERTICAL RAISE  
WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY  
WORLD'S FINEST CHOCOLATE

**HILTON RIVERSIDE HOTEL . NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

**JANUARY 16-19, 2025**

**REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 5TH FOR THE EARLY BIRD PRICE!!!**



## *Outstanding Young Music Educator Award*

**Ethan Archer**  
**University Laboratory School**  
**Baton Rouge**

Ethan Archer currently serves as one of the Band Directors at Louisiana State University Laboratory School (ULS) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In this role, he directs the 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade bands, teaches Music IB, co-teaches 5th-grade music, assists with the high school band, and co-sponsors the Tri-M Honors Music Society. He is also pursuing a Master's in Educational Leadership at Louisiana State University.

Ethan is the Director of the Louisiana Junior Youth Orchestra (LJYO), a community-based honors ensemble that provides middle school string, wind, and percussion players from the Greater Baton Rouge area with opportunities to explore advanced musical repertoire. As Co-Founder of the District IV Young Directors Initiative, he is committed to supporting and connecting new and early-career music educators, fostering collaboration and professional growth in the area.

During his tenure at ULS, Ethan has guided his middle school ensemble to earn the middle school's first Sweepstakes award at LMEA's District IV Large Ensemble Assessment. His students have excelled and participated in auditions for All-Parish, All-District, All-State, and LSU Stately Oaks Honor Bands. Ethan has spent multiple summers at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, where he has worked with young musicians to nurture their artistic and personal growth as a member of the camp life staff.

A proud alumnus of the Walker High School Band, Ethan studied under Jeff Seighman and Eddie Hirst. He earned his Bachelor's in Music Education (BME) from Louisiana State University, completed his student teaching at Zachary High School under Jason Venable and Donny Alexander, and was a member of the Louisiana Stars Drum and Bugle Corps during the 2019 and 2020 seasons. He is an active member of the Louisiana Music Educators Association (LMEA), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and the District IV Band Directors Association. Through the constant support of his family, friends, and the ULS community Ethan remains passionate about mentoring young musicians and inspiring excellence in music education across Louisiana.



## *Outstanding Young Music Educator Award*

**Elizabeth Langley**  
**Covington High School**  
**Covington**

Elizabeth Langley serves as the Director of Vocal Activities and Choir Director at Covington High School and the Music Director for the Covington Louisiana Actors

Playhouse System. She graduated summa cum laude from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Bachelor in Vocal Music Education in 2020. Elizabeth is a former Studio Artist and scholarship recipient with Opera in the Ozarks and has performed in Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and France while on scholarship during college. During her time at Southeastern, she received several awards and honors, including the Vice President's Award of Excellence and the Green S Award. She is a current member of LMEA and ACDA and is a former Delta Omicron president and Phi Mu alumna and song leader. In 2017, Elizabeth was awarded 1st place for "Best Bach Performance" and 2nd place for "Artist of the Year" in the international Great Composer's Competition.

This is Elizabeth's fifth year teaching in St. Tammany Parish, where she has consistently been rated as a highly effective educator. She recently taught choir and piano at Creekside Jr. High School, where she piloted a handbell program, was head of Black History Month Programs, and was awarded a grant to fund guitars for her students. Some of her favorite performed roles and solos include Anne Page (The Merry Wives of Windsor), Rose Maybud (Ruddigore), Ersilia Drei (Works of Mercy), Rosie (Cabaret), and Soprano Soloist (Coronation Mass, K. 317). Elizabeth is grateful to the LMEA board for this recognition, as well as her fiancé, family, friends, colleagues, and students for their support.



## ***Outstanding Young Music Educator Award***

***Charles Longino  
Riser Middle School  
West Monroe***

Born and raised in West Monroe, Louisiana, Charles Longino has dedicated his life to inspiring young musicians and fostering a love of music in his community. A graduate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe with a bachelor's degree in

Music Education, Charles now teaches at Riser Middle School, the same school he attended as a child. Over the past three years, he has built a thriving band program, growing participation to include a third of the school's students and achieving consistent Superior ratings at Festival.

Charles credits his success to the unwavering support system around him, including his family, colleagues, and community. He acknowledges that none of his accomplishments would have been possible without their encouragement, collaboration, and belief in his vision. While his primary instrument is trombone, Charles has embraced the challenge of teaching all instruments, immersing himself fully in the needs of his students.

As a proud father of two wonderful boys, Charles finds balance and inspiration in his family life. He considers his recognition as an Outstanding Young Music Educator not just a personal achievement, but a reflection of the collective effort and love poured into the Riser Middle School band program and the lives of the students it serves.

***The greatest sign of success for a teacher ... is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist."***  
***Maria Montessori***



## ***Outstanding Young Music Educator Award***

***Antonio Suarez  
Denham Springs High School  
Baton Rouge***

Antonio "Tony" Suarez obtained his Bachelor's Degree at Florida State University. His time at FSU was marked by a commitment to excellence and a deepening understanding of the art, theory, and science of music.

Upon earning his degree, Tony took on the role of Director of Bands at Tioga High School in Ball, LA, leaving an indelible mark on the school's music program. Now, he brings his wealth of experience and enthusiasm to Denham Springs High School, where he joyfully serves as the Assistant Director of Bands.

Tony's musical journey is a testament to his unwavering dedication to music education and his ability to inspire students to reach new heights. As he continues to contribute his expertise to the vibrant musical community of bands in Livingston Parish, Tony Suarez remains a dynamic force in shaping the next generation of musicians at Denham Springs High School.



## ***Outstanding Young Music Educator Award***

***Andrew Usie  
Sulphur High School  
Sulphur***

Andrew Usie, a native of Orange, TX, is an Associate Director of Bands at Sulphur High School in Sulphur, LA. He conducts the Symphonic Band and the Lab B Jazz Band and assists with the renowned Golden Tornado Marching Band. Usie earned his Bachelor of Music degree from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. Beyond his work in the classroom, he is an active trombonist in Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas, performing with ensembles such as the Lake Charles Symphony, the Calcasieu British Brass Band, the Southeast Texas Winds and Percussion, and various churches in the region.

**"The true beauty of music is that it connects people. It carries a message, and we, the musicians, are the messengers."**

*— Roy Ayers*

# *Reports from Associate Organizations*

## **LAJE President Michael Brothers**



LMEA members and conference attendees,

We are very excited about the upcoming conference in New Orleans and the Louisiana Association for Jazz Education (LAJE) will once again offer several jazz related events during the conference, including the LAJE Reading Band and jazz jam session on Saturday evening, January 18. I also encourage you to attend both the high school All-State Jazz Ensemble and our inaugural middle school All-State Jazz Ensemble performances on Sunday, January 19.

Also, please stop by our conference booth and attend the LAJE general meeting (date and time TBD once the published schedule is released).

On Thursday, January 16, prior to the New York Voices performance with the University of Louisiana Lafayette Jazz Ensemble, we will recognize our Hall of Fame recipient, Andy Pizzo, and our Outstanding Jazz Educators from the following districts:



**District 1 – Clifton Liner  
West Ouachita High School**



**District II– Cynthia Brennan  
Buckeye High School**



**District III – Cody LeBouef  
Acadiana High School**



**District IV – Donny Alexander  
Zachary High School**



**District V – Kyle Cook  
Maplewood Middle School**



**District VII – Kelsie Sampey  
Lockport Middle School**

# Reports from Associate Organizations



District VIII – Chris Hand  
Benton High School



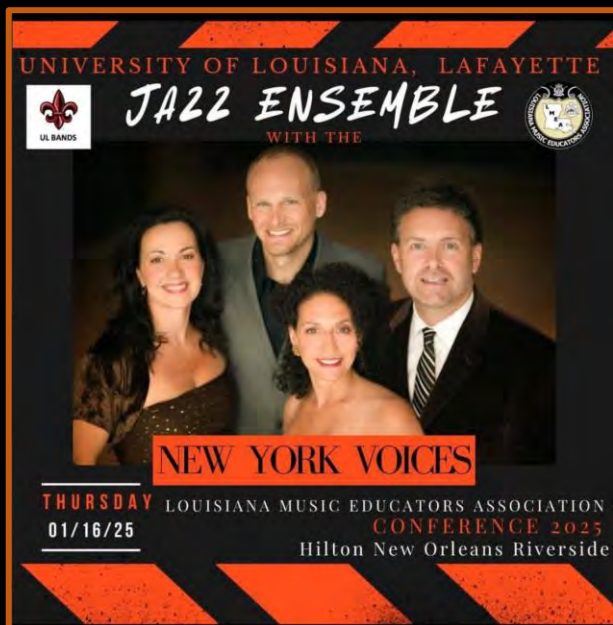
District IX – Aaron Miller  
Fontainebleau High School

*Please take a moment  
to congratulate these  
outstanding jazz  
educators!*

Jazz festival season is just around the corner! The dates for next year's festivals are as follows:

- **Fortier-Gerbrecht Jazz Invitational**  
March 11, 2025  
Manship Theatre, Baton Rouge, LA
- **Loyola University Jazz Festival**  
March 14 – 15, 2025  
Loyola University, New Orleans, LA
- **Bill Evans Jazz Festival / LAJE State Jazz Festival**  
April 9 – 12, 2025  
Columbia Theatre, Hammond, LA  
<https://sites.google.com/selu.edu/michaelbrothers/bill-evans-jazz-festival/2025-information>
- **ULM Jazz Clinic**  
April 12, 2025  
University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, LA

We hope to see you and your ensembles at one or more of these great festivals. I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference!



*Thursday Night*

*7:00 pm*

*Grand Ballroom*

# Reports from Associate Organizations

## LA-ASTA President *Dr. David Saccardi*



Dear Louisiana ASTA Members,

I hope your school year are progressing nicely and you have the opportunity to make lovely music with your students. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in New Orleans in January. There are some wonderful string clinics being offered that I hope to see you at. In addition to our annual clinics with our All-State orchestra directors, **Michael Francis Smith** will be talking about engagement and retention strategies in beginning classrooms. **Annie Young-Bridges** will have a wonderful presentation about how to start off your middle school string students. **Elizabeth Rosinbum** will be talking all about practice strategies. I will also be presenting on a number of subjects, including how to leverage peer teaching in your classrooms, applications of artificial intelligence in music teaching and learning, and applying findings from the psychology of music teaching and learning to improve your practice and your students' performance. I hope to see you there.

I'm also thrilled to report that in the last two years, we've seen a marked increase in ASTA membership state-wide. We have more professional members than ever before, and our collegiate membership is up considerably as well thanks to a new student ASTA chapter at LSU. We hope to continue increasing our membership ranks as the years pass.

I look forward to connecting with many of you at the LMEA conference in January, and I hope you'll also consider joining me at the national ASTA conference in Atlanta this coming March. See you in New Orleans!



## LBA President *Amy Kutz*



Dear Musicians,

The Louisiana Bandmasters Association (LBA) wishes you a successful school year! We're excited to announce important information about our upcoming annual events.

### Annual Business Meeting

Mark your calendars for the LBA annual business meeting on **Friday, January 17th, at 1:00 PM**. This meeting provides an opportunity to:

- Meet the newly elected board members:
  - Evan McCormick, Benton High School: High School Coordinator
  - Roland Smith, Pickering High School: Middle School Coordinator
  - Ryan Bourque, Tioga Junior High: Recording Secretar
- Participate in the voting process for new members at large
  - If you are interested in becoming a member at large and did not already inquire please reach out to Amy Kutz; [akutz@caddoschools.org](mailto:akutz@caddoschools.org)

### Renew Your Membership or Join LBA

Become an active member of the LBA and enjoy the benefits of professional development, networking opportunities, and access to valuable resources.

# Reports from Associate Organizations



## How to Join:

- Visit our website: [labandmasters.com](http://labandmasters.com)
- Complete the online membership form
- Choose your preferred payment method: Secure online link or check
- Mail checks payable to Amy Kutz to:  
1916 Pluto Drive Bossier City, LA 71112
- This year we are excited to offer a clinic during the camp for band directors!


## LBA All Star Camp 2025

The LBA is thrilled to return to ULL for the LBA All Star Camp from **June 1st to 3rd, 2025.**

- **HS Blast and Jazz (June 1st & 2nd):**
  - Blast Clinicians:
    - Trevor Bailey (NSU) - Associate Director of Bands/Director of Athletic Bands
    - Dr. Oliver Molina (NSU) - Assistant Professor of Music- Percussion and Assistant Director of Bands
  - Jazz Band Clinician: Jana Roberson (Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders)
- **Middle School Band (June 2nd & 3rd):**
  - Concert Band Clinician: Aleisa Hudlow (Natchitoches Magnet School)
  - Symphonic Band Clinician: TBA
  - Wind Ensemble Clinician: Carol Brittin Chambers (Composer)

Stay tuned for further details about the schedule and registration process. We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events!

Sincerely,  
The Louisiana Bandmasters Association



## LMEA Virtual Assessment

### *State Solo and Small Ensemble*

LMEA is proud to present a virtual recital featuring some of the finest high school and middle school instrumentalists and vocalists in Louisiana. This event has expanded to include both solo and small ensemble performances.

We are so proud of our music students. Take advantage of this opportunity to showcase their talents!

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION\*\*](#)

## LALF

**Ginny Medina-Hamilton**



We are preparing for our first ever STATE HILL DAY and we need YOUR help! If you are interested in speaking with elected officials, performing with a small ensemble, or helping to organize logistics, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/e4fsuwYvRPu9YoLG6>. We need all the help we can get. We will work to finalize the plans at our Hill Day session on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at the LMEA Conference!

Our advocacy session offerings have grown for this upcoming conference. In addition to our Hill Day meeting, Colette Bulber will be offering a session called "Let's Get Cookin' with STEAM" that addresses the importance of the ARTS in STEAM. David Saccardi is presenting "This is your Brain on Music: Findings from Research in Psychology to Improve Your Teaching and Your Students' Performance." Finally, LMEA will present the basics on advocacy at the teacher level.

Every month, I have the honor of representing LMEA at the NAFME Advocacy Leadership Force meetings with all the music education associations. I have learned so much about the challenges and successes other states have experienced on their advocacy journey. Jazzmone Sutton with NAFME has been instrumental in connecting state advocacy chairs to best share information and provide us with actionable information for our own advocacy path here in Louisiana. I hope to share this learning with you and our state.

I often tell my students, if we don't support each other, who will? I think the same applies to us as a membership. We are stronger together, and a force to provide and protect music education for all. I look forward to seeing you all at LMEA and hopefully, working with you for Hill Day and all future endeavors!

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

**James Square**

### Greetings, Colleagues!

Are we there yet? You know...Thanksgiving Break? I have not historically been one who counts down the days until whatever. However, things do change over time, and TIME moves forward nonetheless (for the sake of argument, take DST out of the conversation for now!) In respect to changes, allow me to share some thoughts from the vantage point of DEI Council Chair. Also, take heed to selected verses, hymns, and philosophical statements relevant to CHANGE, if I may share.



"Time is filled with swift transitions; none on Earth unmoved can stand..." My family recently lost my father, the Patriarch of Hamatoula. As a tireless advocate of youth development and school music programs, Daddy always had a personal stake in our musical pursuits, as he and our mother raised 2 trained church music ministers, 2 band directors, a top-notch flag corps member, several artistically/musically inclined and trained grandchildren and extended family members. I will miss his "inquiry" as to what is the LMEA Zoom Meeting about at this time? How many of what ethnic group is/participated in the meetings/auditions/concerts, etc.? And without the lexicon of current jargon/buzzwords, in his own way, J.D. Square, even in his final weeks, understood that representation, participation, acknowledgement, acceptance, and more matters for the betterment of our human condition. It is

# Committee Reports

my hope that all of you, my friends, have had, have now, and/or will have the support, love, and advocacy of such an incredible role model as I did with my Dad.

Our work as a Council (certainly not a one-person brain trust) fluctuated in size and activity over the past several years, beginning as “DEI...what’s that about?” through “Wow...there are many new faces from new places in LMEA!” to “What’s in it for me?” bringing us to “Is DEI still relevant to LMEA?” The last query of relevancy is one that I exclaim YES! with the new initiatives in Curriculum Pathways of Louisiana Roots/Indigenous genres, the expansion of All-State/All-District Honor Ensembles, a move to an unified, all-inclusive professional development conference, the inauguration of State Marching Championship event, the quest to transform the adjudication/assessment of performing groups, the mentoring of new music educators, and dialogue and action-steps to reach the “other 80%” whose humanity can be enriched by the universal power of music! A resounding YES that DEI continue to grow and serve our organization and all stakeholders in respect to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, BELONGINGNESS, and ACCESSIBILITY! Thank you to our executive leadership teams for your retrospection, inspection, and projection of the significance of LMEA. **Robert F. “Bobby” Kennedy, 1960’s icon said these words: ‘Some men see things as they are, and say why. I dream of things that never were, and say why not.’**

Looking ahead to the 2025 LMEA Conference in New Orleans, we are in for a treat! Some nay-sayers have offered, “but it will be different...not the same.” As a seasoned (often weary) “special needs” parent, I beg to shout “Different, Not LESS!” I say the same in reference to the NOLA experience! Keynote speaker? Dr. Tim!! All Divisions under one roof, jam-packed into a dynamic schedule? Fasten your seatbelts! More to see at the exhibit hall? Find time to visit the vendors. Kids in Honor Ensembles with world-class clinicians and amazing concerts? Find your seat in the Hall! It’s a “be there, or be square” situation. WAIT... I am SQUARE! And I hope to see you there! Plenty of DEI related sessions await your attendance. Let’s keep growing LMEA. In closing, find some time to listen and be inspired by Elaine Hagenberg’s “Measure Me Sky!”...a powerful choral statement for the soul!

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## ***Tom D. Wafer Outstanding Administrator Award***

To recognize and honor outstanding school principals, assistant principals, superintendents, and/or assistant or associate superintendents who demonstrate support for and commitment to high-quality arts education programs in their schools. The influence of such administrators is a major factor in improving music education in school systems across the state.



### ***Tom D. Wafer Outstanding Administrator Award***

***Jennifer Burris, Principal  
Benton Intermediate School  
Benton***

**Mrs. Jennifer Burris**, a dedicated school leader with 24 years of experience in education, has devoted her career to fostering excellence in both academics and extracurricular activities. With a deep appreciation for music, influenced by her daughter's involvement in band throughout her school career and her husband's role as a band director, she has championed the importance of music education throughout her tenure. As Principal of Benton Intermediate School, Mrs. Burris has worked closely with her band directors to expand the school's band program to its largest size in the school's history. Under her leadership, the program continues to thrive.



### ***Tom D. Wafer Outstanding Administrator Award***

***Carolyn Favre, Vice President Principal  
St. Mary's Dominican High School  
New Orleans***

**Mrs. Favre** has served at St. Mary's Dominican High School for 43 years. During these years, she has served as teacher, class level coordinator, volleyball coach, softball coach, athletic director, dean of students, and for the last 16 years, as principal. Serving in different capacities at Dominican has made her more keenly aware of the importance of providing many opportunities for students to develop their unique gifts, to feel a sense of belonging, and to enrich the student's formation and academic preparation. These insights were particularly important when our school developed St. Mary's Dominican High School's STREAM™ initiative about ten years ago. STREAM™, an

acronym for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math. Although all students benefit from exposure to all areas of study, particular students will uniquely develop their gifts in specific areas more than others. This is Dominican's unique way of integrating important academic areas as students develop attributes we envision for a graduate when completing a Dominican education.

A recent example that Mrs. Favre embraces opportunities to promote the arts occurred when music students presented the idea to have a "mini jazz fest" on the school campus during a long lunch period in conjunction with the first week of the New Orleans Jazz Fest. With the performance of the Dominican's jazz band, the school community also enjoys special foods served at the New Orleans Jazz Fest. The school community gathers on the lawn to enjoy great music and good food. It has become an opportunity to highlight the outstanding student music talent and enjoyable community event.

## Barbara C. Butler Award of Excellence – Choral



### Purpose of the Barbara C. Butler Award of Excellence

This award recognizes quality high school and middle school choral music programs serving historically disadvantaged student populations.

### Meet Barbara C. Butler

Barbara Conrad Butler was inducted into the LMEA Hall of Fame in 1997. She taught vocal music in the Bogalusa City Schools for forty years. Her ensembles consistently earned the highest ratings at district and state festivals, now referred to as assessments. She also had a significant number of students selected to the LMEA All-State Choir each year.

LMEA adopted this award in January, 2021 to honor outstanding work in historically disadvantaged music programs.



## *Barbara C. Butler Award of Excellence*

### **Elizabeth Robbins**

### **Hammond High Magnet School Hammond**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Robbins** is in her sixth year as the Choir and Piano teacher at Hammond High Magnet School. She graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with a bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education and is a soprano vocalist, pianist, and guitarist. Although she is an American citizen, she grew up as a missionary in several European countries throughout her whole life. It

has enabled her to better understand students of many different backgrounds and has provided her with the inspiration to teach in new, exciting ways.

## Robert L. Wilhite Award of Excellence – Instrumental

This award recognizes quality high school and middle school instrumental music programs serving historically disadvantaged student populations.



### *Robert L. Wilhite Award of Excellence*

**John Havard**  
**Pine Prairie High School &**  
**Bayou Chicot Elementary School**  
**Pine Prairie**

**John Havard** received his Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Mr. Havard is currently the director of bands at Pine Prairie High School and Bayou Chicot Elementary School where he has been teaching for 7 years. During his employment in Evangeline Parish, Mr. Havard has had students selected into the District III Middle School, High School Honor Bands, and All-State Bands. Mr. Havard also started the Pine Prairie Marching Band that now competes around the state.

Pine Prairie High School and Bayou Chicot Elementary Bands have received the sweepstakes award at the District III Concert Assessment the past two years and are active participants in the Louisiana Concert Band Invitational. In 2021, John received the LMEA Outstanding Young Music Educator Award. His performer experience includes the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble, as well as marching in Drum Corps International with The Troopers (2012) and The Madison Scouts (2013 - 2014).

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## LMEA Standard of Excellence Award

The LMEA Standard of Excellence Award was adopted in October 2019. Due to the unprecedented restrictions affecting bands during the pandemic, this award will go into effect in the 2021-22 school year. This award recognizes the results of quality teaching and superior performances in Louisiana high school and middle school instrumental/vocal music programs. Middle School Instrumental Ensembles can submit on EVEN numbered years. High School Instrumental Ensembles can submit on ODD numbered years.



### *Standard of Excellence Award*

**Jude Gaspard**  
**L J Alleman Middle School**  
**Lafayette**

**Jude Gaspard** is in his fifth year as the band director at LJ Alleman Middle School in Lafayette, La. He teaches 6th-8th grade and leads a highly successful and respected band program. The LJ Alleman Band Program is known for producing excellent musicians and performing at a very mature level. Previously, Mr. Gaspard was the band director at Erath Middle School for two years. Prior to that he taught for fifteen years at North Vermilion High School where he directed the marching, concert, and jazz bands and also assisted with the middle school bands.

During his time at NVHS, the band doubled in size and received many accolades including several Class A and Small Class Championships at the Louisiana Showcase of Marching Bands. The North Vermilion High School Symphonic Band also performed twice at the Loyola University Concert Band Invitational. Mr. Gaspard's bands receive consistent superior ratings and high marks at the district and state levels. He serves as a guest clinician and adjudicator throughout the state.

Mr. Gaspard earned a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and completed a master's degree in educational leadership from the American College of Education. He is an active church musician, serving as music director and organist at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Broussard, La. Mr. Gaspard is currently president of the Southwest Louisiana Band Directors' Association and is also a member of the Louisiana Music Educators' Association, National Association for Music Education, and Phi Beta Mu. Mr. Gaspard received the Phi Beta Mu Bandmaster of the Year Award for the state of Louisiana in 2016.

He and his wife, Angela, are proud parents of five beautiful children: Colleen, Adam, Amalie, Corinne, and Anthony.



January 16-19, 2025

Hilton New Orleans Riverside



## *Standard of Excellence Award*

**Ronnie Gleason**  
**Lafayette High School**  
**Lafayette**

**Ronnie Gleason** is in his 32nd year of teaching instrumental music and serves as the Director of Bands at Lafayette High School in Lafayette, Louisiana. He earned his bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1993. This year marks his 15th year at Lafayette

High School and his second as the Director of Bands.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Gleason's bands have consistently achieved superior ratings in marching, concert, and jazz festivals at local, state, and national levels. Notable performances include multiple appearances at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In 2013, the Lafayette High School band, under his direction, received an invitation and performed at the National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. Gleason has collaborated with various ensembles over the years, including the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra, Acadian Wind Symphony, and the Skyliners Big Band. His professional affiliations are extensive and include Phi Beta Mu, the National Association for Music Education, the Louisiana Music Educators Association (where he served as Band Division Chairman from 2020 to 2024), the Southwest Louisiana Band Directors Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.



## *Standard of Excellence Award*

**Katrice LaCour**  
**NSU Elementary/Middle Lab School**  
**Natchitoches**

**Katrice LaCour** was born March 13, 1966, in Chicago Illinois. His teaching career covers twenty years in Natchitoches Parish. He earned his bachelor's degree in music education in 1991 from Grambling State University. His major

instrument is the double bass with a minor in trumpet.

His first position after obtaining his degree was Orchestra and Band Director at Campiti /Lakeview Jr/Sr High School in 1991/92 school year. In 1996 he left the teaching profession and toured professionally for Entertainment America for 15 years. Katrice was a guest entertainer for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines touring the Eastern and

# Awards

Western Caribbean, Mexican Riviera, Hawaii, and Alaska. In between cruises he entertained military troops performing USO and MWR tours in the United States and South Korea. He returned to teaching in 2009 as Orchestra Director of the N.S.U. Elementary and Middle Lab School.

Throughout his teaching career, LaCour remained active as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician of numerous Honor Orchestras and Festivals. His ensembles have participated in numerous L.M.E.A. and National Festivals since 1991. Additionally, on numerous occasions he was a recipient of the Mayor's Award in Natchitoches Louisiana for his community service with the orchestra.

He currently is the Orchestra Director for the Northwestern State University Elementary/Middle Laboratory schools in Natchitoches Louisiana. In 2017 his middle school orchestra won Gold in the high school division at Festival Disney followed by a Performance at Carnegie Hall in 2019. That same year the Orchestra performed for Louisiana Governor John Bell Edwards. In May 2023 Mr. LaCour and the NSUM Orchestra were recognized by the Louisiana State Legislature with Resolution No. 35 and No.36 for Exceptional Accomplishments. That same year the N.S.U. Middle School Orchestra won Best in Class and Gold overall at Festival Disney.

The State of Louisiana participated in its third Rose Bowl Parade and Mr. LaCour was selected to represent music educators as a float rider in 2024. He is currently the Orchestra Division chairman for L.M.E.A. and has held that position for the past 10 years. Katrice LaCour was inducted into the Louisiana Music Educators Hall of Fame in 2023.

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# *State Marching Champions*

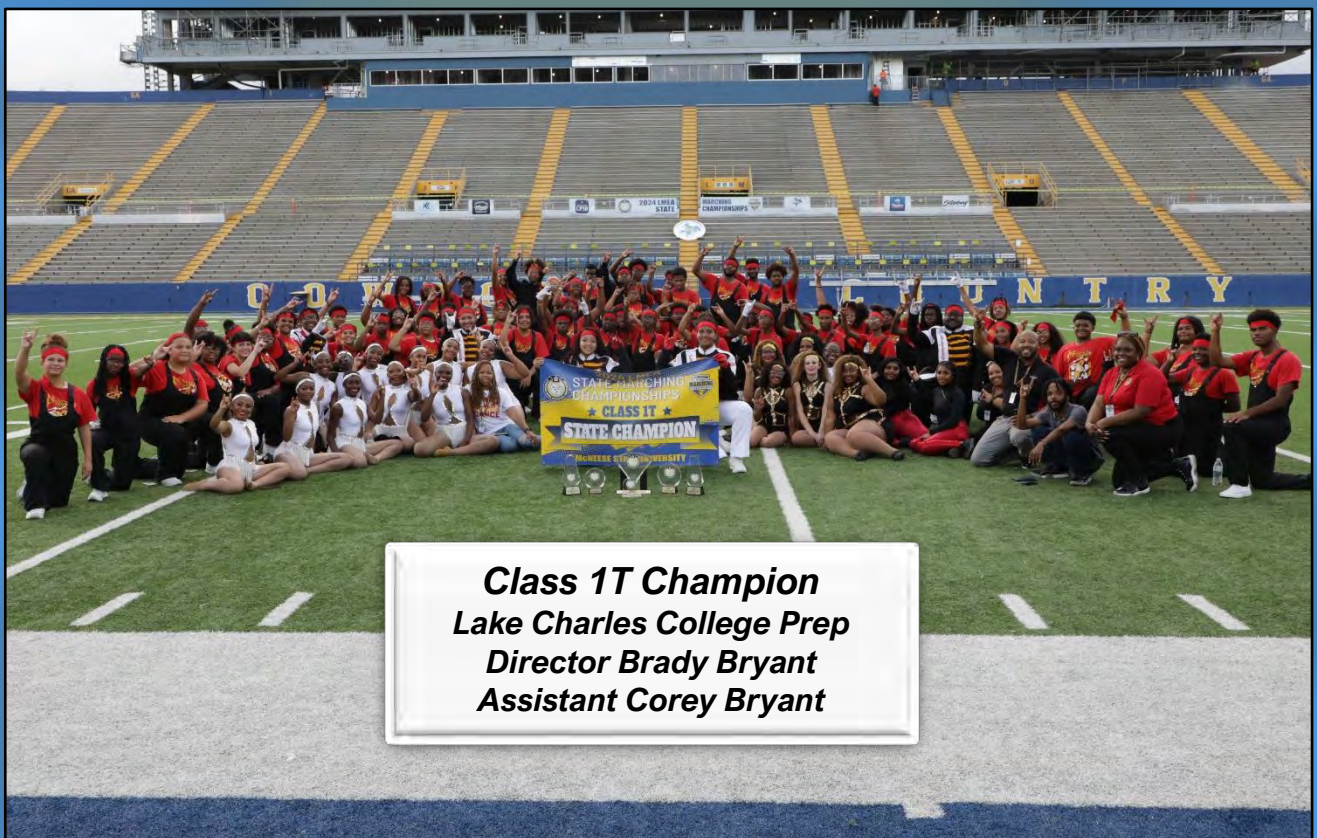


***Class 1C Champion  
KINDER HIGH SCHOOL  
Director Jordan Moore***

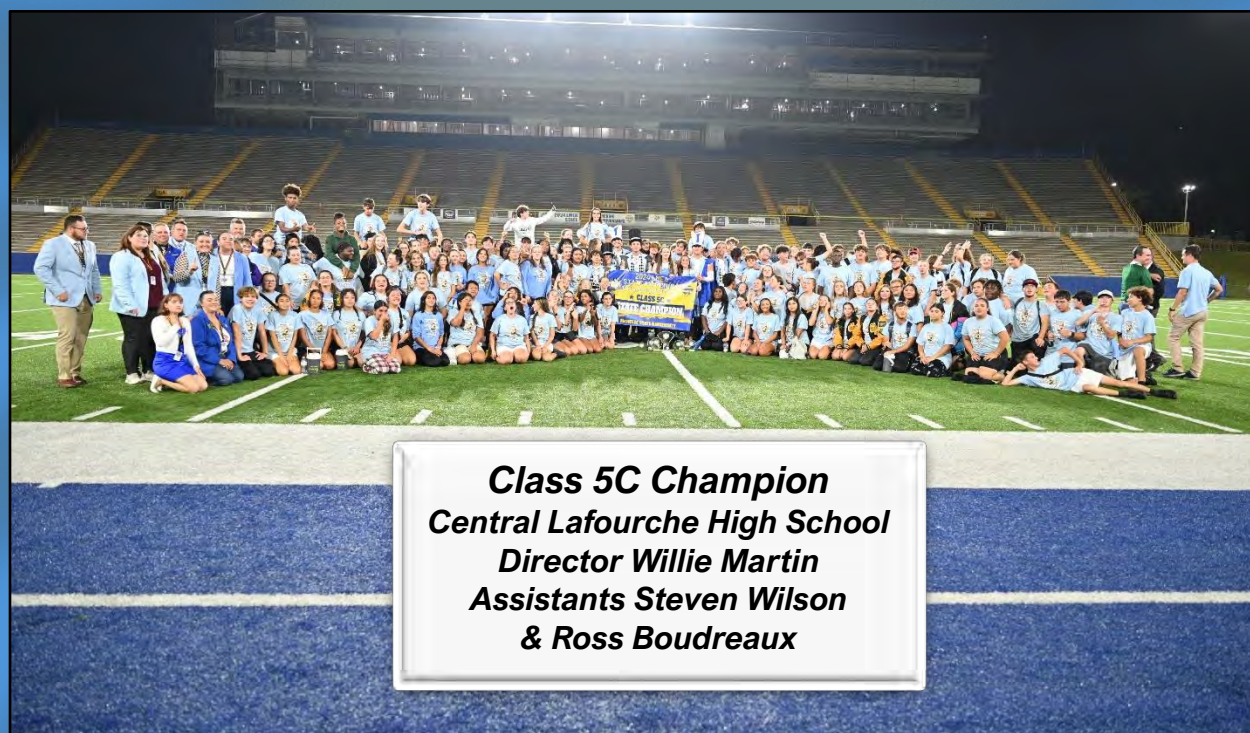


***Class 2C Champion  
Pine Prairie High School  
Director John Havard  
Assistant Taylor Naquin***

# *State Marching Champions*



# *State Marching Champions*



Special thanks to McNeese State University Bands and their outstanding staff. Many thanks as well to all those who made this dream a reality.

# STATE MARCHING CHAMPIONSHIPS





The designer is John Metoyer. He is the Commercial Arts instructor for the Calcasieu Parish School Board Career and Technical Education Department. Students in his classes modeled patches after his design as this is part of their curriculum.

Fun Facts about the patch:

2 nods to McNeese State University:

- Blue and Gold colors
- McNeese font frame is hinted

2 nods to Louisiana

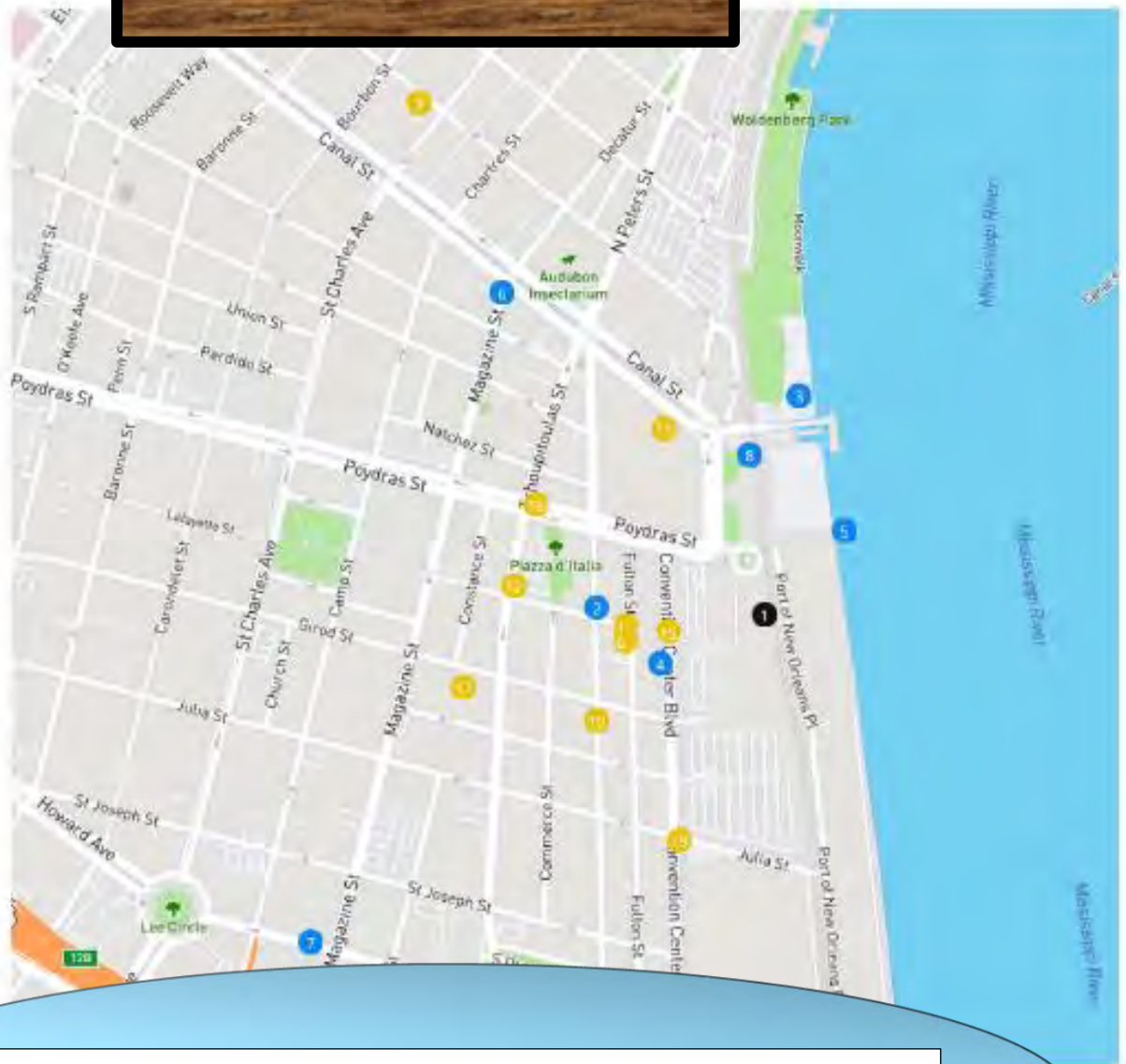
- State of Louisiana in the bell of the horn
- Music to “You are My Sunshine” on the staff

Thank you John Metoyer

## New Orleans & Company LINK

### 2025 LMEA Professional Development Conference Hotel

- 1 Hilton New Orleans Riverside
- Attractions
  - 2 American Italian Cultural Center
  - 3 Aquarium/Insectarium
  - 4 Fulton Alley
  - 5 Paddlewheel on the Crescent
  - 6 Sazerac House
  - 7 The National WWII Museum
  - 8 Vue Orleans Museum
- Restaurants
  - 9 Acme Oyster House
  - 10 Brikette
  - 11 Cochon Restaurant
  - 12 Compère Lapin
  - 13 Emeril's Brasserie
  - 14 Ernest Cade
  - 15 Grand Isle Restaurant
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**TOTAL including Shipping \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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The LSU School of Music offers one of the nation's most comprehensive music programs and serves as a cultural arts center for the state of Louisiana. The LSU Department of Bands is a storied component of the LSU School of Music. We strive to present high quality performances and experiences while fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and diversity through music, supporting the growth of students, the experience of audience members, the community, and the overall support of the university.



Our internationally recognized faculty is committed to the art of teaching and preparing our students for a rewarding career in the arts. We offer a variety of concentrations in both music performance and music education, while providing all students a wealth of performance opportunities including small and large ensembles, dramatic productions and individual recitals.



At Northwestern State University of Louisiana, we are dedicated to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and student-centered environment that equips individuals to excel in a dynamic and changing world. The Department of Music in the School of Creative and Performing Arts reflects this mission by empowering students to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for professional, social, and personal success and is fully accredited by NASM to offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Music.



The Department of Music at Southeastern Louisiana University provides a vibrant community for aspiring musicians. You'll learn from nationally recognized faculty, perform in both large and small ensembles, and have countless opportunities to grow as a musician. With programs in music education, performance, and jazz studies, we prepare students for exciting careers on stage, in the classroom, and beyond. Join us and be part of a legacy of excellence in music that spans decades!



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