

MSBOA Bulletin

2017 Teacher of the Year Issue

Each year MSBOA recognizes a Teacher of the Year for Band and a Teacher of the Year for Orchestra. The process begins in the Spring with each of the MSBOA Districts able to nominate a candidate in each classification. The Executive Board reviews all of the candidates and selects up to three in each area to submit to the entire active membership. In this Bulletin are statements about each candidate and the ballot for active members to select their choice in each category.

MSBOA congratulates each of these fine instrumental music educators for their nomination to this honor.

BAND NOMINEES:



MATT LUDWIG has 23 years of teaching experience has served as Director of Bands at Marquette Senior High School for the past 21 years. His degrees include a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Michigan and Master's and Doctoral degrees in Wind Conducting from Northwestern University. Prior to teaching in Marquette, Dr. Ludwig served as Assistant Director of Bands at Northwestern University where he was Lecturer of Conducting, Assistant Director of the "Wildcat" Marching Band and Director of the Symphonic Band. Recently, he has served as an adjunct instructor at Northern Michigan University, where he has taught music appreciation courses to non-music majors and has been involved mentoring new music teachers. Dr. Ludwig has served as a guest conductor for the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, and he recently conducted the world premiere of Thomas LaVoy's "A Child's Requiem," which involved over 200 professional, student and University musicians. Dr. Ludwig has also served as the City Band Director in Libertyville, IL and Marquette, MI and as a guest conductor of the Northshore Concert Band in Wilmette, IL.

Dr. Ludwig's high school students and ensembles have earned consistent, superior ratings with both the concert and jazz genres, and solo and ensemble festivals. The various MSHS Concert and Jazz ensembles have performed in many, various venues. The MSHS Jazz Ensemble has been recognized as a "best band" in several different festivals in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Individually, many of Dr. Ludwig's students have gone on to become music majors, and continue to play and contribute to college music programs throughout the country.

As a member of MSBOA, Dr. Ludwig has held many positions at both the district and state level over the years, including President of District 14, Vice-president of Honors Band and Band and Orchestra – District 14, Chair of the UP Committee, and Site Chair for the State Solo and Ensemble Festival. He maintains an active schedule as an adjudicator and clinician and continues to work in many different districts throughout Michigan. In his spare time, he is husband to Linda, dad to high school daughters Anne, Karen, and Megan, is an avid mountain biker, and serves as the Course Marshall for the Marquette Marathon.



MARK STICE is in his 18th year of teaching and his 10th year at Okemos High School. A graduate of Lakeshore High School in Stevensville, MI, he first studied clarinet with Band Director Lori VonKoenig. After graduating from WMU in 1998, Stice began his teaching career in Eaton Rapids. Stice earned a Masters Degree in Music Education from VanderCook College of Music in 2004 and was also recognized as a “Rising Star” in 2001 by the MENC in Michigan.

Stice has also shared his talents with many groups. Marching experiences include playing contra bass bugle in the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps the summer of 1995 and the World Champion summer of 1996. Since then, he has spent many summers working with high school marching bands as both a woodwind specialist and marching technician. He was on the visual staff with the 1999 Phantom Legion Drum and Bugle Corps and served as visual caption head and program coordinator for the 2001 World Champions Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mr. Stice is also an active adjudicator for MSBOA, ISSMA, and MCBA. A member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity for Men, Stice served as Province Governor for Michigan and Northern Ohio. Stice also is a member of ASBDA.

Mr. Stice has been an active member of MSBOA since 1998 beginning his career. At Eaton Rapids the bands and students consistently received First Division ratings and the Jazz Band was invited to perform at the Detroit International Jazz Festival twice representing MSBOA.

After accepting his position at Okemos High School, Stice continued his involvement with MSBOA as Jazz Festival Chair for District 8, hosted State Solo and Ensemble, hosted District Band and Orchestra Festival, is Chair of the MSBOA Conducting Symposium, a MSBOA Representative on the MMC Planning Committee, and an adjudicator for Band and Orchestra Festival. On occasion, Stice has been asked to assist with various MSBOA panels and projects. Most recently, Stice coordinated the 10th Anniversary Collage Concert at the 2015 MMC. Stice has been named MSBOA District 8 Teacher of the Year twice.

Under his direction at Okemos starting in 2006, the bands continue to receive superior ratings at festivals, premier new literature, commissioned 2 works for wind ensemble, performed over seas, performed at the 2011 MMC, and at the 2013 WMU Spring Conference on Wind and Percussion Music. Numerous students from Okemos and Eaton Rapids have continued their musical careers after graduation. Several have or are currently in collegiate marching bands, collegiate bands and orchestras, drum and bugle corps, educators in and out of Michigan, and recording artists.



MICHAEL TOLRUD is in his 25th year of teaching and is the band director at Owosso Middle School where he has taught for the last 18 years. Currently at OMS, there are 5 ensembles consisting of over 250 students including a Jazz Ensemble that he began which has since been integrated into the regular curriculum day. Mike is also the department chair for the district.

Mike earned his Bachelor’s Degree from Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota where he attended as a Berggren Scholar. His teaching has been influenced by many master teachers including Mr. Lon Sweet, Mr. Dennis Dafoe, Dr. Jamal Rossi, Dr. Matthew James and Dr. Alan LaFave. Following his studies at NSU, Mike taught for 1 year in Nebraska and then 5 years in South Dakota before coming to Owosso.

His OMS Bands regularly attend both Solo & Ensemble and Band & Orchestra festivals. The 8th grade band has consecutively received a Superior rating at District Band & Orchestra Festival for all of his 18 years while at OMS. Mike was selected to conduct the District 5 Junior High All-Star Band and has been an MSBOA adjudicator for both Solo & Ensemble and Marching Band Festivals for the past 8 years.

In addition to his teaching duties at Owosso, Mike has held MSBOA district positions of Vice President of Workers and Marching Band Chair for District V. Mike was also the MSBOA State Chair for the Music Education Committee for three years. He has also hosted, or has assisted in hosting, multiple Band & Orchestra, Solo & Ensemble and Marching Band Festivals.

Mike attributes his success in teaching to the outstanding and hard-working students in the Owosso Band Program, an extremely supportive administration and to the past and current band directors consisting of retired directors, Monte Sheedlo, Thomas Newton, and Carl Knipe along with his current team of Jillian Schlegel and Jordan Sterk. Of course, success would not be possible without his main support system consisting of his kind and loving wife Carol of 26 years along with their two daughters Abigail and Elizabeth.

ORCHESTRA NOMINEES:



TIMOTHY KROHN serves as the Director of Orchestras for Ann Arbor Huron High School, where he conducts the Symphony, Concert, and Philharmonia Orchestras, advises the Chamber Orchestra, and this year, teaches group piano. In previous years he has assisted with the programs at Clague and Scarlett Middle Schools and at Logan Elementary School.

Mr. Krohn has continued the rich history of musical excellence of the Ann Arbor Huron Orchestra Program and has lead the orchestras throughout the state and region. This year, the Huron Symphony Orchestra will perform at the 70th Annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL. Last year, the Symphony Orchestra collaborated with the Huron Symphony Band for a special joint performance at the Michigan Music Conference. In 2015, the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras were invited for an eleven-day, five-concert hall tour in China, beginning in Beijing and ending in Shanghai. In 2013, the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras were invited to play at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center as part of the National School Orchestra Championships Festival performing Hindemith's Symphonic Metamorphosis and Copland's Appalachian Spring. Later that fall, the Orchestra traveled to Valparaiso (IN) to participate in the Great Lakes Invitational Music

Festival. In 2012, the Symphony Orchestra was invited to premiere a multi-disciplinary piece composed for orchestra, choir, theater, and dance, commissioned for the 50th Anniversary of the MYAF.

Over the years, Mr. Krohn has developed strong relationships between the Huron Orchestra Program and both the University Musical Society and University of Michigan School of Music. Recent guest artists and workshops include: Apollo's Fire, Martha Graham Ballet Company, The New York Philharmonic, Lincoln Trio, Elias String Quartet, Kenneth Kiesler, Michael Haithcock, and Christopher Lees.

Mr. Krohn serves on several committees that benefit the Huron community including the A2IB Diploma Program Music Course Creation team and A2IB Middle Years Program Music Curriculum Creation team. Mr Krohn has also served as the Faculty Advisor for the Youth Impact Club and the Young Musicians Mentors Alliance Club.

Mr. Krohn has also served the broader Michigan musical community in various ways as the Music Director and Conductor of the Mason Symphony (MI) for 5 seasons, Director of Music at Lord of Light Lutheran Church for 12 years and Musical Director of the Arbor Brass Choir (MI) for 4. Mr. Krohn has taught on the faculties of the Michigan All-State Program at Interlochen, the Rudolf Steiner High School in Ann Arbor, and Saline High School, and enjoys working with musicians of all ages as a guest teacher and conductor.

Mr. Krohn currently serves as the District 12 representative for the MSBOA strings committee and on the MASTA board as assistant to the Chamber Music Festival at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Krohn holds his performance, education and conducting degrees from the University of Michigan. Mr. Krohn resides in Ann Arbor with his wonderfully supportive wife Kelly and daughter Libby.



BURKE LOKEY is the Orchestra Director for St. Joseph High School in St. Joseph, MI. Under his leadership the Orchestras have earned top ratings at Michigan School Band and Orchestra Festivals, performed in Festivals in California and Illinois, and in 2012 the SJHS Chamber Orchestra received 3rd place at the ASTA National Orchestra Festival. In 2014, Burke was appointed as the Director of the Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra and in 2016 he led a collaborative performance of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana". He is also the Education Director for the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra where he has started a string program at the Boys and Girls Club in Benton Harbor, MI, and has organized master classes with such artists as Rachel Barton-Pine and Christopher O'Reilly. In addition to his duties with the orchestras, Burke is also the head wrestling coach for Upton Middle School.

Before coming to St. Joseph he taught instrumental music in New York City and Rockland County, NY. He helped build a thriving string program in Nyack, NY that has been recognized on a State and National level. During that time he arranged music for, and conducted ensembles that were showcased at such venues as the Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall and New York State Music Association Conferences. Burke has an extensive background in Music Education having received a BA in Music and String

Pedagogy from Arizona State University (101) and a MA in Music Education from Columbia University (108). He has led workshops and presentations on the use of Music Technology for education and Music Advocacy in the community. Burke shares his love of music with his wife, Becky and two young sons, Ryan and Evan. He also enjoys cooking, sports, reading, and traveling.



SCOTT WOLF began his string teaching career with the Bloomfield Hills School District to teach orchestra at East Hills Middle School in 1995. One year later he was asked to help start the music program at the Bloomfield Hills International Academy. He is now very excited to be a part of the Bloomfield Hills High School Music Department.

As a musician, Mr. Wolf strives to have students stretch into levels of music performance that go beyond competency into artistry. This takes a keen awareness of pedagogy to move students progressively into more and more complex areas of study. However, every great teacher needs to know that flexibility is the key to mastery. Every student acquires information at a different rate. A great teacher is able to work with all students to assist them on the rigorous path to success. As an educator, it is also important to know that change is inevitable, and flexibility within the school community helps to develop a more agile staff when it comes to introducing new curriculum or the implementation of new ideas.

Mr. Wolf sets a rigorous path of action in his orchestras. He has very high expectations for his students in the ability to communicate musical ideas. Mr. Wolf takes pride in all students and understands that all musicians enter with a different level of accomplishment and having the flexibility to work through those obstacles (or accomplishments) assists in these goals.

Mr. Wolf studied Music Education and Mathematics at Central Michigan University where he studied viola under Stanley Chepaitis and Seunghee Lee. Mr. Wolf has also studied at numerous college and universities and had the pleasure of studying viola with Cynthia Kempf, Jon Wilcox and Susan Brennis. He is sought after as a guest clinician and guest conductor for local symphonies and school orchestras. He currently serves as an Adjudicator for the MSBOA and is on the state committee for music selection for orchestras. He is a member of the American String Teachers Association.

Mr. Wolf has a masters in Educational Leadership from Oakland University. Mr. Wolf enjoys taking classes, cooking, golf, conducting, performing, MSU football and traveling with his wife Leigh.

Only eligible **MSBOA Active Members** may cast a ballot for the 2017 Teachers of the Year for Band & Orchestra.

Active Members can find the article and ballot on the website (www.msboa.org)> Members Only > Teachers Of The Year .