



The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association announces their 2016 Band and Orchestra Teachers of the Year

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 16 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. The 1200 member association of school band and orchestra directors then elects one director in each division at the MSBOA State Meeting in January.

The selected Teachers of the Year are honored at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival held on the campus of Western Michigan University, May 12, 13, and 14, 2016. Each director selects one piece of music to conduct with either the MSBOA/MYAF Honors Band or MSBOA/MYAF Honors Orchestra.

The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association proudly recognizes **Thomas Clair** from the Kingsley Public Schools and **Anne Thompson** from the Forrest Hills Public Schools as their 2016 Teachers of the Year.

Each director has a long record of excellence in instrumental music education in addition to many years of service to both the District units of the MSBOA and the State Executive Board.



THOMAS CLAIR is in his thirty-eighth year of teaching and received both his Bachelor of Music Education and Master's degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University. He was a saxophone student of Patricia Nixon. He has directed all bands at Kingsley Area Schools since the fall of 1988. Before settling in Kingsley he taught instrumental music for ten years at Cass City and Harbor Beach schools. His duties have included; beginning band, sixth grade band, middle school concert and jazz bands, high school marching, concert, jazz, pep, music theory/technology classes, and theatrical music productions. His jazz and concert bands have earned numerous awards including consistent first division ratings at district, regional and state MSBOA festivals and invitations and honors including an invitation for his high school band to perform at the 2002 Midwestern Conference in Ann Arbor. He was voted "Outstanding Educator" for 2000 by the Grand Traverse Area Chamber of Commerce and "Teacher of the Year" in 1995 by the Kingsley Chamber of Commerce. He was a finalist for MSBOA "State

Instrumental Music Teacher" for 2003, 2007 and 2015. He is past president of MSBOA District Two, past chairman for Music Technology in Michigan and presently serves as treasurer for District Two. In his spare time, he enjoys adjudicating Solo & Ensemble, Band & Orchestra and Jazz festivals for the MSBOA, guest conducting, directed at Camp Bernstein for the Blue Lake Music Camp and loves woodworking. He is a member of American School Band Director Association (ASBDA), Past Master for Manton Masonic Lodge #347 F&AM, Past Patron for the Order of the Eastern Stars and a proud member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. With his loving and dedicated wife of thirty-eight years Nicoli, they raised two sons, Benjamin (Katharine) and Daniel (Delle) and are proud grandparents to Amelia "Mia" Sue Clair and Adrienne Melody Clair.



ANNE THOMPSON is in her 19th year teaching, and her 9th year at Forest Hills Eastern. She is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds a Bachelor's degree in Cello Performance and Music Education from Western Michigan University, as well as a Master's degree in Cello Performance from the University of Notre Dame. Anne began her career in Kentwood Public Schools before joining Forest Hills Public Schools. Her orchestras consistently received Division 1 ratings at MSBOA festivals and she has had two of her high school symphony orchestras selected to perform at the MMC – the East Kentwood Symphony Orchestra in 2002 in Ann Arbor and the Forest Hills Eastern Symphony Orchestra in 2015 in Grand Rapids. Anne was nominated as Teacher of the Year for MASTA in 2015 and won District 10 Orchestra Teacher of the Year for MSBOA in 2015.

In both Kentwood and Forest Hills, Anne's students have received many honors over her nearly two decades of teaching, including selection into multiple All-State and Youth Arts orchestras. Anne is also in demand as a sectional coach, leading sectionals with various local youth orchestras, as well as regional and state orchestra events. Anne is also a sought-after private cello instructor, and has maintained a thriving private studio since her arrival in Grand Rapids.

In addition to teaching 6th-12th grades, Anne continues to serve as an Adjunct Professor of Music Education at Grand Valley State University, where she has taught the string techniques course since 2008. Anne has also served as Assistant Director of the MASTA Elementary String Camp, Secretary of MSBOA District 10 Executive Board, and is currently is the Music Education representative. She has performed as a cellist with the Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, South Bend, and West Michigan Symphony Orchestras. During many weekends throughout the year, she can be found performing with the Signature String Quartet.

Beyond her education, beyond her accomplishments and the honors bestowed upon her students, Anne's greatest accomplishment is the sense of community she, her students, and her students' parents have created at Forest Hills Eastern. Anne values every member of that community and is grateful for their support.

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