
6-8 Conductors

Sarah Black

Sarah Black is in her 12th year as orchestra director at Lanier Middle School in Sugar Hill, Georgia. Lanier has the largest orchestra program in the state with over 600 students in grades 6-8. The orchestras consistently receive Superior ratings at Large Group Performance Evaluation and orchestra students from Lanier participate in Solo/Ensemble, county-wide youth orchestras, community events and Georgia All-State. Ms. Black holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Appalachian State University and a Master's in Fine Arts Integration from Lesley University. She is the GMEA District 13 Orchestra Chair, Lanier MS department chair, a county mentor for new teachers, has supervised 8 student teachers and has participated and led school-wide committees and staff development/professional learning programs. She has served as Georgia 9-10 All State Orchestra Chair and the Georgia ASTA treasurer. Ms. Black is active as a clinician working with students throughout the Metro-Atlanta area at clinics, workshops and camps and has presented workshops for teachers at the local, state and national levels. She has been nominated for Lanier Teacher of the Year 8 times and has been a finalist the last 3 years. Ms. Black, a violinist, performs with local symphonies and chamber ensembles and maintains a private studio out of her home in Suwanee, Georgia.

Bryan Buffaloe

Bryan Buffaloe lives in Deer Park, TX, a suburb of Houston. He currently teaches orchestra at Clear Lake HS in Houston by NASA. He has had the honor of working with some of the most talented students in the state. His orchestras have performed in Carnegie Hall and consistently places in the top at state and national competitions. Listen to them at their web-site www.lakeorchestra.org. Bryan leads the music at his church. He leads the services and praise and worship. He is also on the State Board of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association and travels a lot doing clinics and judging UIL contests.

Latoya Slocumb

Latoya Slocumb received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she studied violin with Rachel Huang and was a member of the BESK quartet. During the last four years she has performed regularly with the Mount Vernon Orchestra. Mrs. Slocumb has taught in Fairfax County Public Schools for seven years serving as director at Waynewood Elementary School and Carl Sandburg Middle School, and in 2005 she became the orchestra director at the new South County Secondary School. Her advanced orchestras at Carl Sandburg received consistent Superior ratings at District Orchestra Festivals in northern Virginia, Williamsburg, and Hershey, Pennsylvania. In recent years, Mrs. Slocumb has been a guest conductor at the James Madison Spring String Thing, Portsmouth Junior Regional Orchestra, Harrisonburg All-Regional Orchestra, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Middle School Honors Orchestra, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Summer Music Camp. Mrs. Slocumb recently received the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award in her school community. Mrs. Slocumb resides in Springfield, Virginia with her husband Brendan Slocumb, who is also a musician.

Bob Phillips

Bob Phillips, composer, pedagogue, and teacher trainer, is renowned as an innovator in string education. Bob brings a wealth of knowledge and a sense of humor to his clinics, drawn from his 27 years as a public school string teacher in Saline, MI. Bob built a string program with over 700 students that was a national model of excellence in both classical and alternative music. Credited as the "father of fiddling in the schools", he is a leader in the use of alternative styles and an expert in large group pedagogy. One of today's leading educational composers and arrangers, his pieces are performed by thousands of string students each year. Bob is a prolific writer authoring many book series including the groundbreaking Fiddlers Philharmonic and String Explorer. His conducting resume includes professional, all-state, and youth orchestras.

Currently he serves as string editor for Alfred publishing. Bob and his wife, Pam, continue their music education outreach via their presentations at national and state music conferences as well as their leadership roles in the American String Teachers Association.

9-10 Conductors

David Becker

David E. Becker was appointed director of orchestral studies at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music (WI) beginning September 2005. He was director of orchestras and professor of the Graduate Orchestral Conducting Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1984-2005. Maestro Becker and the UW Symphony Orchestra received critical acclaim for their international tours to Central Europe (1998) and Spain (2001). He was the associate conductor of the Madison Symphony (1985-1992) and music director/conductor of the Racine Symphony (WI) (1989-1993). Becker's career as a violist has included the Atlanta, Syracuse, Savannah, Louisville, Memphis, and Madison Symphonies, the Santa Fe and Miami Operas, the Sewanee (TN), Brevard (NC), and Peninsula (WI) Summer Music Festivals, the resident faculty string quartets at the Universities of Miami, Georgia, Memphis State, and Oberlin Conservatory, the Capella Academica Wien (Austria), and the Eduard Melkus String Quartet touring in the U.S. and Europe.

In addition to his active conducting and performing schedule, Becker is widely recognized for his dedication to teaching young musicians which has resulted in guest conducting, orchestral clinics and All-State Honor Orchestras in 36 states.

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the State Board of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association and travels a lot doing clinics and judging UIL contests.

Fred Devyatkin

A native of New York City, **Mr. Devyatkin** began his violin studies at the age of six. Upon admission to the Manhattan School of Music, he began studying with Erick Friedman. While freelancing in the New York metropolitan area, Mr. Devyatkin studied orchestral repertoire with New York Philharmonic Concertmaster, David Nadien. In 1982 Mr. Devyatkin won an audition for the Savannah Symphony, where he was a member of the core orchestra for the next nine years. During this time he continued his studies with William Preucil, now Concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra. In 1992, he became the music director of the "Beaufort Chamber Orchestra," then a community orchestra of about fifteen members with a schedule of three concerts. Under his baton, the Beaufort Orchestra has become one of the best small town orchestras in the country. Today the Beaufort Orchestra presents eight concerts a season with fifty professional and semi-professional musicians.

Ryan Kho

Ryan Kho is the concertmaster of the Augusta Symphony, and has studied with such violin notables as Dorothy Delay, Paul Kantor, Tibor Vaghy, and Thomas Wang. He received a full scholarship to attend the New England Conservatory of Music, and upon graduation Mr. Kho made his New York debut at Carnegie Hall as guest artist with Boston Musica Viva. Since then he has held positions of Concertmaster and Principal Second Violin in professional orchestras in Canada, the United States and Hong Kong. While holding these key positions, he has worked under many world-class conductors including Charles Dutoit, Pierre Boulez, Simon Streatfield, Leon Fleisher, and Klaus Tennstedt. Most recently he was Guest Concertmaster of the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and traveled with them on their first tour of France. Mr. Kho has also held conducting positions with orchestras at Dalhousie University (Canada), Augusta State University and at the Summer Workshop Program of University of Georgia. He has also guest conducted the Georgia Southern University orchestra. Mr. Kho's teaching positions include Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, University of Georgia at Athens, and presently, University of South Carolina in Columbia and at Georgia Southern University, where he is in residence as first violinist of the Magellan String Quartet. Mr. Kho spends his summers in New Hampshire performing with the New Hampshire Music Festival.

Scott Laird

Scott D. Laird, a native of Indiana, PA, earned his B.S. in Music Education and his M.A. in Violin Performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is an Instructor of Music and Fine Arts Coordinator at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics where he directs the orchestra and teaches courses in Recording Technology, Classical Guitar and Piano, and Music History. He is an active string educator, performer, recording artist, and conductor. His orchestras have been recognized at the local, regional, and national level for their superior and musically mature performances. Laird is nationally visible as a Education Specialist for D'Addario Strings, NS Design Violins, and Coda Bows where he is a noted as an authority on string education and electric and MIDI string instruments and their applications in the classroom. He has conducted many high school and middle school orchestra festivals throughout the United States and is in demand as a guest conductor of honors youth orchestras. He is also an active

adjudicator having served as a judge for a variety of orchestra and solo and ensemble festivals throughout the United States as well. He has studied conducting with Mr. William Hudson of the Fairfax, VA Symphony and the University of Maryland.

William R. Scott

Dr. William R. Scott came to Western Kentucky University as the Baker Professor of Music in 2003. He has been noted for his work in orchestral development in both the public school and professional sectors. During his 22-year tenure as Orchestra Coordinator for Spartanburg, South Carolina School District No. 7, the orchestra program became one of the most prestigious in the Nation. Under his direction, the Spartanburg High School Symphony performed for former President George Bush, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and General Norman Schwarzkopf. He initiated and conducted opera programs in the public schools in cooperation with the University of South Carolina Opera Theater. As the administrator and conductor of seven international concert tours, he has conducted concerts in Australia, New Zealand, England, Scotland, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

11-12 Conductors

Octavio Más-Arocas

Octavio Más-Arocas is the newly appointed Conductor of the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra. He is the winner of the prestigious 2008 Robert J. Harth Conducting Prize from the Aspen Music Festival awarded by David Zinman and the 2007 Thelma A. Robinson Award by the Conductors Guild to which he was nominated after participating in the Cabrillo Music Festival Workshop with Marin Alsop. In 2004 he won the Spanish Ministry Conductors Competition and subsequently was named member of the National Youth Orchestra of Spain conduction Staff. Más-Arocas served as Assistant Conductor at the Madrid Royal Opera House, and conducted such ensembles as the Toledo Symphony in Ohio, Kharkov Symphony in Ukrain, Pescara Symphony in Italy, Amsterdam Brass in Netherlands, Rosario Symphony in Argentina, Alcalá de Henares City, Elche City Symphony, Valencia University Pilharmonic, Bowling Green Philharmonia in Ohio, Cabrillo Orchestra Festival in California, the National Youth Orchestras of Spain and Portugal, and conducted at the Aspen, Cabrillo and MidAmeric Music Festivals. In September he will conduct the Spokane Symphony in Washington and last August, Más-Arocas lead for the second time the National Youth Orchestra "Templarios" of Portugal in a national tour. He holds a Diploma in Orchestra conducting from Accademia Musicale Pescarese in Italy, a Master's in Trumpet from the Valencia Conservatory in Spain and pursued Doctoral studies in Orchestra Conducting at Bowling Green University, Ohio with Emily Freeman Brown, where he was the recipient of the Winifred O. Stone Graduate Student Award.

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Louis Bergonzi

Professor of Conducting and Music Education/Strings,
and Conductor of the UI Philharmonia Orchestra

Diploma, Kodály Musical Training Institute, Hartford, CT; Undergraduate Studies in Music Education, Susquehanna University; B.M., cum laude, Boston University; M.M., Music Education, and Ph.D. Music Education, with cognates in Orchestral Conducting and Educational Foundations and Policy Administration, The University of Michigan. Louis Bergonzi was appointed to the University of Illinois faculty in 2005. Prior to that appointment, he was on the faculty of the Eastman School of Music for 16 years, and earlier he held positions in various public school systems in Massachusetts. A frequent presenter at regional, state, national, and international teachers' conferences, Bergonzi's areas of expertise include orchestra rehearsal technique, conducting, and string teaching, particularly in an urban setting. His extensive experience in these areas include acting as director of the Eastman Summer Music Academy for String Teachers (1995-1999); director of the Rochester-Eastman Urban String Project (1997-2005); conductor of numerous all-state honor orchestras; Melbourne, Australia Summer Youth Music (1999-2005); Hong Kong Summer Youth Orchestras (1997); and All-State Intermediate Orchestra at Interlochen (1985-1990).

Robert Culver

Robert Culver is a strings specialist who has been a key figure in the development of school orchestra programs throughout the United States. As one of the most sought-after consultants, clinicians and conductors in the field of music education, Professor Culver has been invited to forty-seven states and twelve countries. He has given sessions at international workshops in Graz, Lausanne, Lyon and Honolulu. His video and manual, *The Master Teacher Profile*, are widely used in school districts and teacher training institutes. As a conductor he has been active in 36 all-state orchestra festivals and in many more regional activities. Countries that have asked for feasibility studies, program evaluations and staff development activities include Australia, Israel, Italy, Switzerland, Canada and many states within the United States. He served on the faculties of the National String Workshop in Madison from 1984 to 1990 and the International String Workshop since 1980. He is a former violist with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Detroit Symphony and the Hughes Quartet of Ohio State University. Prior to joining the faculty, Mr. Culver was string specialist in the Corvallis (Oregon) public schools, orchestra director in the Springfield and Salem (Oregon) public schools, member of the Ohio State University faculty and conductor of youth orchestras in conjunction with the Columbus Symphony. Mr. Culver is past president of the American String Teachers Association, Artistic Director of the Banff Festivals of Youth Orchestras and founder-director of the American String Workshops.

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Kirk E. Smith

Kirk E. Smith begins his 27th year as an educator and conductor. Smith is based in Houston as he grows his own consulting firm, Smith Music Associates. He travels and works as a music education consultant and guest conductor. Previously, he was Head Orchestra Director at Langham Creek High School in Houston, Texas. Langham Creek is a Recognized High School of 3700 students with 3 orchestras and 3 consecutive Grammy Signature Awards. He was most recently from Albany, NY where he was Director of Orchestral Activities at the University at Albany where he conducted the orchestra and the wind ensemble. He was Co-coordinator of Instrumental Music Education and Director of Orchestral Activities during a one year appointment at California State University at Hayward. Smith was Director of Orchestra Activities at Iowa State University from 1989 to 1998. In the fall of 1996 he served as Acting Chair of the Department of Music at Iowa State. In 1994, Smith was on the faculty for the American Symphony Orchestra League Conducting Workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1996, Smith founded the ISU Symphony Orchestra Living Music Project. This project promoted American orchestral music composed since 1990. The purpose was to provide a resource for public school, community, and college orchestras who were looking for new literature. . Mr. Smith earned a BME and a Performance Certificate in clarinet from Shenandoah University, a MA degree in Conducting from the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver, and was a doctoral fellow in conducting at Ball State University. He has advanced studies in conducting at the Aspen Music Festival, the Conductors Guild Summer Institute, the world-renowned Pierre Monteux School for Conductors, and the International Workshop for Conductors in Zlin, Czechoslovakia. Recent engagements include the Des Moines Symphony, the Dayton Philharmonic, the Amarillo Symphony Chamber Orchestra, the Orquesta de Sinfonia Oaxaca (Mexico), as well as an extensive list of public school all state, all region, and all county festivals across the country.