

WMEA 2018 Honor Group conductor bios

Wind Ensemble: Joseph Missal is Director of Bands and Professor of Conducting at Oklahoma State University, where he conducts the Wind Ensemble, guides all aspects of the OSU Band Program, directs the graduate conducting program, teaches undergraduate conducting, and serves as Coordinator for Wind and Percussion Studies. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Instrumental Music Education from Michigan State University, a Master of Music in Wind Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the University of Colorado.

Dr. Missal has appeared as a guest conductor throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, and Israel. He is a past President of the Southwest Division of the College Band Directors National Association and the Big Twelve Band Directors Association. Dr. Missal has also served as a guest conductor for the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, the International Trombone Association, and the United States Army Field Band. Dr. Missal is an elected member of the American Bandmasters Association.

Concert Band: Gillian MacKay is Professor of Music of the University of Toronto, where she conducts the Wind Ensemble and teaches conducting. Gillian has an active professional career as a conductor, adjudicator, clinician and trumpeter. She has conducted honor ensembles throughout Canada and the United States, and is Associate Conductor of the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra. Dr. MacKay has adjudicated Canadian band festivals at local, provincial, and national levels in Canada. She has conducted honor bands and judged competitions in the US, Singapore, Thailand, and Korea. Gillian holds degrees and diplomas from the University of Lethbridge, McGill University, the University of Calgary, and Northwestern University.

Wind Symphony: Emily A. Moss is Director of Bands and Director of Instrumental Music Education for the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at California State University, Los Angeles. Her duties include direction of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, teaching undergraduate and graduate conducting, and instruction in instrumental music education methods. Originally from Seattle, Dr. Moss earned her Bachelors' degrees in music and music education at the University of Washington, studying conducting with Timothy Salzman and bassoon performance with Arthur Grossman. She taught middle school band and private bassoon lessons in Chandler, AZ and Seattle, WA for six years where her bands received honors and awards from regional and state festivals. She earned her Master's degree in Wind Conducting and the Doctor of Arts in Music Education and Bassoon Performance at the University of Northern Colorado.

As a conductor and clinician, Dr. Moss has been invited to guest conduct at middle schools, high schools and universities in Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Texas and California and regularly gives band clinics throughout Southern California. She is also an accomplished bassoonist. Dr. Moss is passionate about music education and effective teaching, actively involved in exploring and finding ways to improve student learning. Her professional memberships include College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), National Association for Music Educators (NAfME), California Band Directors Association (CBDA), National Band Association (NBA), and the National Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi.

Chamber Orchestra: Larry Livingston is currently Chair of the Conducting Department of the USC Flora L. Thornton School of Music, a distinguished conductor, educator, and administrator, and a highly respected motivational speaker. He is the founding Music Director of the Illinois Chamber Orchestra, Mr. Livingston has led the Houston Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Green Umbrellas Series, the American Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Young Musicians Foundation Orchestra, the USC Thornton Chamber and Symphony Orchestras in Los Angeles, and the USC Thornton Contemporary Music Ensemble in Berlin.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Mr. Livingston studied conducting with Laurence Livingston, Elizabeth Green, William Revelli, Rafael Druian, and Herbert Zipper. He also did doctoral studies at the University of California, San Diego. Mr. Livingston served as Vice President and Music Director of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where he was also Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra and, subsequently, became Dean of the Shepherd School of Music and Elma Schneider Professor at Rice University in Houston. From 1986 until 2002, Mr. Livingston was Dean of the USC Flora L. Thornton School of Music.

Mr. Livingston frequently appears with professional, festival, collegiate, and all-state wind ensembles, bands and orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. He served as a conductor in the University of Michigan All-State Program at Interlochen, has been the Conductor of the Festival Orchestra at Idyllwild Arts since 1989, and is the Music Director of Music for All's National Honors Orchestra.

Mr. Livingston has served as clinician and guest conductor at the College Band Directors National Conference and led All-State Ensembles across the United States including Texas on eleven occasions. From 2013 through 2018, Maestro Livingston conducts All-State Bands or Orchestras of Arizona, Kentucky, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico, Washington, Michigan, and Texas.

Symphony Orchestra: Jeffery Meyer began his musical studies as a pianist, and continued on to study composition and conducting. Since 2002 he has been the Artistic Director of the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in St. Petersburg, Russia. He has appeared with orchestras in the United States and abroad, including the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra, Sichuan Symphony and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Xalapa. In recent concert seasons, he has been seen conducting, performing as piano soloist and chamber musician, as well as conducting from the keyboard in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Norway and throughout Eastern and Southeastern Asia.

Passionate about working with young musicians and music education, Meyer is Director of Orchestras at Arizona State University, and is an active adjudicator, guest clinician, and masterclass teacher. Prior to his appointment at ASU, he was Director of Orchestras at Ithaca College for over a decade. He has judged competitions throughout the United States, as well as at the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival. He has given masterclasses throughout the United States as well as Canada and Asia, and recently led conducting masterclasses at the Central Conservatory in Beijing, China, Tianjin Conservatory, the Jacobs School at Indiana University, the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna and the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia. He has served on the faculties of the Icicle Creek Music Center, Rocky Ridge Music Center, Dorian Keyboard Festival, Opusfest Chamber Music Festival

(Philippines), Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Marrowstone Music Festival, and the LSM Academy and Festival.

Symphonic Choir: Rollo A. Dilworth is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities and Music Education at the North Park University School of Music in Chicago. He also serves as director of the Music Institute of Chicago Children's Choir. A frequent presenter at local, state, regional and national conferences, Dilworth has conducted 43 all-state choirs at various levels (elementary, middle school, high school), and has conducted 6 regional honor choirs and 4 national honor choirs (ADCA, OAKE and NafME). He most recently appeared as guest conductor for international choral festivals and master classes in Australia, Canada, Taiwan, Ireland, and China. Dilworth has conducted all-state choirs in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Arizona and Massachusetts, and honor choirs for the Central and Southwest regions of the American Choral Directors Association. International festival and clinic invitations include Canada, Singapore, Austria and France.

Dilworth is currently National Board Chair for Chorus America. He is an active life member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). He also holds memberships with several other organizations, including the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). In 2017, he received the Temple University Faculty Award for Research and Creative Achievement. He holds a B.S in Music Education from Case Western Reserve University, M.E. degree in Secondary Education from University of Missouri-St. Louis and a DMA in Conducting Performance from Northwestern University.

Treble Choir: Ryan W. Holder is currently in his eighth year as the Associate Director of Choral Studies at Northern Arizona University, where he directs the Women's Chorale, Northern Voices and High Altitude vocal jazz ensembles, teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting and choral methods, supervises choral student teachers, and serves as the adviser for the NAU student chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. In addition, he is the coordinator of the annual Jazz/Madrigal festival, which brings in over 75 high schools and 140 choirs every year.

Dr. Holder has given lectures and presentations at local, state, and regional ACDA and NAfME conventions, including the 2009 ACDA National Convention in Oklahoma City. His vocal jazz ensembles have also been invited to perform throughout the Southwest, including performances at state and regional ACDA conferences, and was one of only three vocal jazz ensembles selected to perform at the 2012 Jazz Educators Network Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Holder received his DMA degree from the University of Miami in addition to bachelors and masters degrees from Southern Oregon University and University of Northern Colorado, respectively. Dr. Holder currently serves as the Arizona State ACDA R & S Chair for College and University as well as the ACDA National Committee on Educational Technology.

Jazz Band: Jay Ashby is Associate Professor of Jazz Arranging at Oberlin Conservatory and adjunct faculty at Duquesne University, where he maintains private studios in trombone and percussion. Ashby holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in trombone performance from Ithaca College and Master of Music in composition from Duquesne University. Ashby conducts master classes, residencies and clinics worldwide, including annual events in Germany, Brazil, and Russia.

A five-time Grammy Award-winning producer, Ashby has performed, toured, and recorded with some of the most renowned jazz artists in the industry for over 25 years. As a member of Dizzy Gillespie's United Nation Orchestra and Dizzy's Alumni All-Star Big Band, Ashby forged long lasting musical relationships with jazz greats including Jon Faddis, Monty Alexander, James Moody, Jimmy Heath, Randy Brecker, Slide Hampton, and Bennie Green, among many others.

Through his association with trumpet master Claudio Roditi, Ashby developed a strong affinity for Brazilian Jazz, which led to a 10-year stint as soloist with Astrud Gilberto, and arrangements, tours, and recordings with numerous Brazilian artists including Tania Maria, Kenia, Ivan Lins, Trio Da Paz, and the fathers of Bossa Nova Joao Gilberto and Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Jazz Choir: Kim Nazarian has been harmonizing all over the world with New York Voices (NYV) for the past 25 years, and is a magna cum laude graduate of Ithaca College. In 2012 Ms. Nazarian was recognized as one of the top 50 most influential Armenian artists, and inducted into her High School's Hall of Fame. Along with the many recordings Kim has made with NYV, she is proud to be one of the featured voices on Bobby McFerrin's "VOCABuLarieS" CD. Another recent professional highlight is Ms. Nazarian's collaboration with the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and the Manchester Craftman's Guild on a concert tour dedicated to the late, great Ella Fitzgerald. Kim also enjoys being part of a special program called "Vocalese," (created by visionary producer, Larry Rosen), which integrates NYV with Manhattan Transfer, and Jon Hendricks.

Ms. Nazarian also specializes in teaching vocal technique and the art of ensemble singing. For the past 3 years she has represented the USA as a judge for the International A Cappella Competition in Graz, Austria. She continues her long-standing position as an Artist in Residence at Bowling Green State University (host of the annual BGSU/NYV Vocal Jazz Camp). Kim has conducted the New York and Arizona All State Jazz Choirs, and many all area and district jazz choirs in the US. Her highly acclaimed workshops have been presented at JEN and many state MEA conferences.

Junior Rainier Band: Danh Pham is Assistant Professor of Music, Conductor of the WSU Symphony Orchestra, and Director of Bands at Washington State University. In addition to directing the WSU Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Ensemble, he conducts the WSU Opera and Musical Theatre, and teaches Instrumental Conducting and Symphonic Literature courses. Originally from Honolulu, Hawaii, he received his degrees from DePauw University, Indiana University, and the University of Oklahoma. His conducting mentors include Ray Cramer, Stephen Pratt, and William Wakefield. Prior to his appointment at Washington State University, Dr. Pham held similar posts at McMurry University, Western Oregon University, Salem-Keizer Public Schools, and the Beaverton (OR) School District.

Dr. Pham has conducted professional and honor groups throughout the Pacific Northwest, American Southwest, Texas, and Hawaii. He has conducted the Palouse Chamber Players, the Pan-Pacific Ensemble, and the Palouse Brass Ensemble. In 2018, he makes his debut with the Coeur D'Alene Symphony Orchestra (USA) and the Hubei Symphony Orchestra (Central China). His own groups have appeared at the Western International Band Clinic, the MENC Biennial Northwest Conference, the Oregon Music Educators Association State Conference, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Southwest Convention.

Dr. Pham has appeared as a guest conductor and clinician for international ensembles including the Wuhan Conservatory of Music and Huazhong University in Central China, the Guang Xi Symphony

Orchestra (Nanning, China), the National Ballet and Opera Orchestra in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Saigon Wind Ensemble, and the National Academy of Music in Northern Vietnam.

Dr. Pham serves on the Collegiate Advisory Board for the Western International Band Clinic, where he has conducted their Intercollegiate Honor Band on three occasions. Dr. Pham serves as a contributing Research Associate for the Teaching Music Through Performance in Band series released by GIA Publications, and has presented at the Washington Music Educators State Conference. He has also served as Producer and Editor for solo compact disc recordings that have been released by Albany and Emeritus Records.

Junior Baker Band: Scott Barnes is the Manager for Visual and Performing Arts in the Edmonds School District, just north of Seattle, Washington. Previously, he taught high school band for seventeen years in both Oregon and Washington, and was the Associate Principal at the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics. He was also Associate Conductor of the Shoreline Community College band for seven years. Scott holds a BMUS from Western Washington University and a MMUS from the University of Oregon, with majors in Music Education and Horn Performance. He also holds his Administrative Certificate from Washington State University. Scott is currently the Immediate Past-President of the Washington Music Educators Association and has served on the WMEA Board for the past nine years as President, President-Elect, Vice President and Administrative Curriculum officer. He has also served as regional President, Treasurer and curriculum officer for SKMEA and LCRMEA in Washington State. Under his leadership, the Edmonds School District has been recognized by the NAMM Foundation ten times as a "Best Community for Music Education."

Junior Orchestra: Bruce Walker Bruce Walker is an Associate Professor of Music at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, WA, Music Director for the Yakima Youth Symphony in Yakima, WA, and Principal Guest/Assistant Conductor and Conductor of the A# Players Orchestra for the Oregon East Symphony in Pendleton, OR. Duties at CBC include teaching second year music theory and aural skills, music appreciation, and conducting the Columbia Basin College Orchestra. During the summer months, Mr. Walker is on faculty for numerous workshops and institutes throughout the Northwest including the Walla Walla Suzuki Institute and Montana Suzuki Institute. In addition, he works as a faculty member with the Youth Excellence on Stage Academy in collaboration with American Voices, a US non-government, non-profit, cultural exchange organization. Through this organization, he has conducted, traveled, and taught cello in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Mr. Walker earned Bachelor of Music degrees in Music Education and Cello Performance from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and a Master of Music degree from Central Washington University focusing on Orchestral Conducting and Cello Performance. When not in the classroom, on the podium working with ensembles, or teaching cello lessons, he can be found hiking and traveling around the Pacific Northwest, enjoying time outside around a BBQ pit and smoker sampling new culinary creations, or shopping for and admiring argyle socks.

Junior Mixed Choir: George Guenther George Guenther is the Director of Choral Music at Puyallup High School in Puyallup, Washington. Guenther has over 25 years of public school choral music teaching experience in the Northwest. He has directed church and community choir programs here in Washington as well as on the East Coast and in the Midwest United States. He earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and a Bachelor of Music from Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. He enjoys an eclectic mix of choral styles from music of the renaissance

to contemporary compositions and jazz. Originally from Wisconsin, he played electric guitar as a teenager in rock and roll bands with a special affinity for the Blues, the music Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin! He went on to study guitar for three years at the Wisconsin College-Conservatory in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he studied jazz guitar and discovered the world of classical music - especially symphonic compositions and orchestration. After his conservatory studies, Guenther served in the US Air Force and worked on fighter jet electronic systems. The call back to music was strong though and after the Air Force, he enrolled at Berklee College of Music in Boston. It was Boston where he discovered choral music and has never looked back! He currently enjoys being on the other side of the music stand as a chorus member with the Tacoma Symphony Voices. He is the choir director for the Washington Ambassadors of Music which will sing choral music in seven European countries this summer. George Guenther currently lives in Puyallup, Washington with his wife Carol. They have four children.

Junior Treble Choir: Giselle Wyers is the Donald E. Petersen Associate Endowed Professor of Choral Music at the University of Washington, where she conducts the University Chorale and teaches courses in choral conducting and voice. Under her direction, University Chorale has enjoyed high profile performances for the President of Latvia as well as the Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden. The chorus tours regularly; recent trips have taken them to San Francisco as well as Estonia, Finland and Latvia. They have collaborated in performances with Seattle Symphony Spring and Holiday POPS (2015), National Medalist of the Arts Ann Hamilton, British singer-songwriter Imogen Heap, the national touring company of It Gets Better, and Sapience Dance Collective.

As a guest conductor, Wyers has led high school honor choirs and all-state choruses in New York (Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center), Georgia, Connecticut, Nebraska, Texas, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, and Vancouver, Canada. She has conducted semi-professional ensembles across the United States and in Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia, and Sweden.

Wyers holds a D.M.A. in conducting from the University of Arizona, where she studied with Maurice Skones, and minored in historical musicology with John Brobeck. She earned a master's degree from Westminster Choir College, where she founded the Greater Princeton Youth Chamber Orchestra, and a bachelor's degree from UC Santa Cruz, where she founded the San Lorenzo Valley Community Chorus and Orchestra.

Junior Youth Choir: Judy Hafso holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Pacific Lutheran University and since 2004, has taught K-5 music and directed the Lower School choir at Saint George's School. Currently, she serves SAYC as director of the Piccolini choir. She is also past-president of the Inland Empire Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (a professional organization of educators dedicated to the creative music and movement approach developed by Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman). Prior to moving to Spokane, Judy worked as a certified Recreation Therapist, developed intergenerational programs with school districts and long term care facilities, and practiced music therapy with groups and individuals. She is a published composer and is active as a guest conductor and clinician.