

Meet our 2017 Conductors

NAfME All-Northwest Band

Ray E. Cramer was a member of the Indiana University School of Music faculty from 1969 through 2005. Under his leadership as director of bands, the Indiana University Wind Ensemble earned an international reputation for outstanding musical performances. Cramer is a past national president of the College Band Directors National Association and the American Bandmasters Association and is the current president of the Midwest Clinic, an international band and orchestra convention.

NAfME All-Northwest Jazz Band

Michael Dease is a Grammy award-winning trombonist who has played with many of today's foremost jazz orchestras, including Christian McBride, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band, and many jazz quintets and sextets. Dease currently teaches jazz trombone at Michigan State University, and has taught many master classes and residencies in the US and abroad. Dease has earned awards from organizations including ASCAP and New York Youth Symphony, and as a high-school student won All-State honors in both tenor saxophone and trombone.

NAfME All-Northwest Jazz Choir

Christine Heferich Guter is the Director of Vocal Jazz at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach and directs the university's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble. She is active nationally as a guest conductor, lecturer, adjudicator, and clinician and is on the board of the California Music Educators Association and American Choral Directors Association. She is sought after as a clinician and adjudicator for jazz festivals and workshops throughout the United States and Canada.

NAfME All-Northwest Mixed Choir

Anton Eugene Armstrong is the conductor of the St. Olaf Choir and Professor of Music at St. Olaf College of Northfield, Minnesota. He has frequently conducted ensembles and appeared before regional, national, and international gatherings including the American Choral Directors Association, International Federation of Choral Music, Organization of American Kodaly Educators, and the Orff-Schulwerk Association. Armstrong has conducted the Oregon Bach Festival Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy since 1998, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Boychoir School and the Board of Chorus America. In 2006, Armstrong received the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching from Baylor University.

NAfME All-Northwest Wind Symphony

Gary P. Gilroy is Professor of Music and Director of Bands at California State University, Fresno. He is an ASCAP-award winning composer, musician and educator, and has served as a guest conductor and adjudicator in 39 states and throughout Canada. Gilroy has served on the board of the California Band Directors Association for fourteen years and is also a Past President of the Fresno Madera Counties Music Educators Association.

NAfME All-Northwest Treble Choir

Betsy Cook Weber is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Houston's Moores School of Music. She teaches a full load of coursework at the undergraduate and graduate levels, oversees the large and varied choral area at the Moores School, and is also active internationally as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer. Before coming to the University of Houston, Weber taught vocal music, K-12, in the public schools.

NAfME All-Northwest Orchestra

Gerard Schwarz serves as Music Director of the All-Star Orchestra and the Eastern Music Festival. Schwarz recently completed his 26th and final season as Seattle Symphony Music Director and now serves as its Conductor Laureate. His previous positions as Music Director include New York's Mostly Mozart Festival, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the New York Chamber Symphony. Maestr Schwarz is a member of the Washington Music educators Association Hall of Fame.

WMEA All-State Concert Band

Carolyn A. Barber is Professor of Music and Director of Bands in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Glenn Korff School of Music. She maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor throughout the United States and Canada. She is a member of Phi Beta Mu Honorary Bandmasters Fraternity, state chair and a member of the College Band Directors National Association Research Committee, Nebraska Music Educators Association College/University Affairs chair, chair of the Nebraska Council for Music Teacher Education, and immediate past president of the Big Ten Band Directors Association.

WMEA All-State Symphonic Choir

Lynn M. Brinckmeyer is Professor of Music, Associate Director for the School of Music and Director of Choral Music Education at Texas State University. During 2006-2008 she served as President for The National Association for Music Education (formerly MENC), and has also served as President for the Northwest Division of MENC, Music Educators Journal Editorial Board, and Washington Music Educators Association General Music Curriculum Chair. She has conducted all state choirs and honor choirs, lectured, presented master classes and performed in forty-nine states in the United States and sixteen different countries, including China, Brazil, South Africa and Cuba.

WMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra

Vince Lee is the Associate Conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Since 2012, Lee has served on the cover conducting staff of the Philadelphia Orchestra and as the conductor of the AZLO Orchestra (NYC). In 2013, he joined the Union City Orchestra (NJ) as its Music Director. From 2008-2011, Lee served as the assistant conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the Cincinnati May Festival. In 2007, he made his Carnegie Hall debut with the New York Youth Symphony. As a guest conductor, he has appeared with numerous ensembles including the Toledo Symphony, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the Aspen Music Festival and the Cincinnati Ballet. As a champion of modern compositions, he has premiered more than 200 works to date.

WMEA Junior All-State Baker Band

Larry Gookin is Distinguished Professor and Emeritus Professor of Music at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, WA. He served for 34 years as Director of Bands before retiring from CWU in 2015. Prior to teaching at Central, Professor Gookin taught band for ten years in Montana and Oregon public schools. Larry is a member of the WMEA Hall of Fame and was recently inducted into the Northwest Bandmasters Association.

WMEA Junior All-State Mixed Choir

Kirk Marcy is Director of Choral Activities at Edmonds Community College, where he conducts the Symphonic Choir and Soundsation, the internationally acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble. His duties also include teaching Music Fundamentals, Jazz History and Vocal Jazz Solo Singing classes. An active writer and arranger of vocal jazz music, Kirk has music published through the UNC Jazz Press and Sound Music Publications. In January 1994 he served as guest conductor for the Arizona All-State Jazz Choir, and is in great demand as a clinician/ adjudicator at jazz festivals everywhere. Kirk is a member of the WMEA Hall of Fame.

WMEA Junior All-State Orchestra

WMEA Junior All-State Orchestra

Dan Wing teaches orchestra at Shorewood High School and Einstein Middle School in the Shorewood School District. His orchestras and students have won many state and regional awards and have toured extensively, performing twice at Carnegie Hall. He served as president of the Washington String Teachers Association, and was elected to the WMEA Executive Board for several terms, most recently as President. He is a member of the Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame.

WMEA Junior All-State Rainier Band

Ron Gerhardstein is Assistant Professor of Music Education where he conducts the University Concert Band, teaches music education courses and supervises student teachers. From 2005– 2014, Dr. Gerhardstein was the director of bands at West Valley High School in Yakima, WA. While at West Valley, his bands were frequently honored with awards of excellence in all areas of instrumental music performance (concert band, jazz band, and marching band). In 2014 he was honored as the WIAA/WMEA Music Educator of the Year.

WMEA Junior All-State Treble Choir

Don Clausen was honored to serve on the Washington Music Educators Association board for 10 consecutive years, first as Choral Curriculum Officer, then as President-Elect, President, and Past President. Don has received many honors and awards, including North Olympic Region Outstanding Music Educator, and Port Angeles High School Teacher of the Year. He has taught choral and general music at all levels for 32 years, and has been an All-State honor group manager. Don is a member of WMEA Hall of Fame.

WMEA Junior All-State Youth Choir

Kris Mason founded the Seattle Children's Chorus in 1989. Under Kris' leadership, the organization has grown from one small neighborhood choir to a recognized and respected choral arts program, offering six choral levels to young musicians between the ages of three and eighteen. Along with her work as Artistic Director, Kris conducts *Arioso* and *Intermezzo*, the upper- level and intermediate level treble choirs. In 2012 she was presented with Washington's American Choral Directors Association Leadership and Service Award.