The WMEA Music Educator of the Year award is given every two years with the exception of the WIAA/WMEA Music Educator of the Year Award. Bruce Walker was selected in 2021. Only one award is given on the odd numbered or northwest years. The WIAA/WMEA Educator of the Year award has criteria that the recipient has had significant influence on high school music students statewide. On the even numbered years there are four categories: Elementary awarded to Kelly McFadden, Middle Level awarded to Sarah A. Berlund, High School Awarded to Peter Briggs who is also the winner of the WIAA/WMEA award and University awarded to Patricia Bourne.

The Section process starts at the summer meetings, State Assembly where region presidents provide nominations to the Awards Committee who collects the nominations, meets and makes selections in each category. The recipients receive a $500 honorarium along with their award.
Music Educators of the Year

**Kelly McFadden** is in her 18th year of teaching Elementary music, and knows for sure that this is the best job ever! She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from Central Washington University (CWU) in 2004 and her Master’s Degree in Theatre Production in 2010, also from CWU. She started her career in Othello at Lutacaga Elementary and has been at Vista Elementary in Kennewick since 2007. Her classes are full of energy with lots of dancing and other movement activities. She focuses on music literacy and using students’ forever instrument – the voice. She loves to let her students shine by providing multiple performance opportunities each year, and particularly enjoys teaching her 5th Grade Orchestra. She hopes her students continue to enjoy music in some form when they move on from Elementary school, whether it be in ensembles, as part of their community, or for their own fulfillment. Her husband, Kurtis, and daughters Willow and Emberlyn are at the heart of her success and continued joy in her career.

**Sarah A. Berglund** teaches 6th-12th grade orchestra at Carmichael Middle School and Richland High School, in Richland, WA. Ms. Berglund has been with the Richland School District for 15 years after graduating from Eastern Oregon University with her Bachelor’s of Music, in 2008. She obtained her Master’s degree in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University, in 2010, and a professional certification in 2017.

Ms. Berglund’s ensembles have performed at New York’s Lincoln Center and traveled to Hawaii where they performed at various locations, including Pearl Harbor. Additionally, her ensembles have participated in local and collegiate festivals receiving consistent superior ratings and remarks; even being invited to perform at the Prague Spring International Music Festival in Prague, Czech Republic. Ms. Berglund frequently collaborates with local ensembles and artists to create unique opportunities for her students to perform and strengthen their skills alongside building strong community relationships. They have worked with the Mid-Columbia Ballet, Symphony, and Mastersingers and have performed with touring groups Mark and Maggie O’Connor and Barrage.

Ms. Berglund has held many leadership positions including the Richland School Districts K-12 Music Department Head, Destination Imagination Facilitator, and the Carmichael’s National Junior Honor Society’s chapter advisor. She is also currently the president elect for the Columbia Basin Music Educators Association. Through this leadership she has been able to lead professional development sessions for her school district on a wide range of technology and music topics. She has also organized and facilitated multiple regional festivals and educational music tours around the area, specifically to elementary schools. Ms. Berglund’s Music Mentor program is one of the student opportunities she is most proud of. This program is where high school students are paired with middle school string players for after school lessons.

**Bruce Walker 2021 NFHS and WMEA Music Educator of the Year** currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, WA, Music Director for the Yakima Youth Symphony, and Principal Guest/Assistant Conductor and Conductor of the A# Players Orchestra for the Oregon East Symphony. Duties at CBC include teaching second year music theory and aural skills, music appreciation, and conductor of the Columbia Basin College Orchestra. During the summer months, Mr. Walker 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 on the podium, he can be found enjoying time outside around a BBQ pit and smoker sampling new culinary creations or shopping for and admiring argyle socks.

**Peter Briggs** has taught in Title I schools for the past 18 years, including band, choir, orchestra, drumline, piano and music technology. He earned his Bachelor’s at CWU in 2004, his National Board in 2010 and a Master’s from the American Band College in 2013. While working in Tacoma, Peter honed his philosophy of teaching, emphasizing Trust Psychology, Growth Pedagogy and using differentiated portfolios to develop musicians. Peter founded SoundEd, with which he presents at schools and conferences across the country. His work reimagines systems of music education while prioritizing equity, access and diversity. Peter’s drumline has won awards and been featured in such notable performances as an NFL Half-time show. He received the Outstanding Alumnus award from CWU’s School of Education in 2017, WMEA’s Educator of the Year for Commencement Bay in 2019 and was a national finalist for Music Center’s “Inside the Music Classroom: Instructional Techniques for the Non-Select Children’s Chorus”. Peter founded SoundEd, with which he presents at schools and conferences across the country. His work reimagines systems of music education while prioritizing equity, access and diversity. Peter’s drumline has won awards and been featured in such notable performances as an NFL Half-time show. He received the Outstanding Alumnus award from CWU’s School of Education in 2017, WMEA’s Educator of the Year for Commencement Bay in 2019 and was a national finalist for Music Center’s “Inside the Music Classroom: Instructional Techniques for the Non-Select Children’s Chorus”. Peter was selected as the “Washington Music Educator of the Year” (Elementary designee) and is an inductee of the Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame. She was awarded the “Distinguished Service” award from the Northwest Music Educators Association and received the “Excellence in Teaching” award from Western Washington University.

**Patricia Bourne** is a veteran music educator, having taught all grades, P through graduate level, in four states. Currently, Bourne is Coordinator of Music Education at Western Washington University, in Bellingham. Patty maintains an active schedule as workshop clinician, presenting to pre-service, novice, and experienced music educators on a variety of topics throughout the country. A native of Kentucky, Bourne received degrees from Murray State University (Murray, KY), the University of Oklahoma (Norman, OK), and Arizona State University. Patty is Executive Director for Music Workshops, LLC, responsible for the organization of the World Music Drumming professional development workshops. She is the author of two texts: “Inside the Music Classroom: Teaching the Art with Heart” and “Inside the Elementary Chorus: Instructional Techniques for the Non-Select Children’s Chorus”. Patty was selected as the “Washington Music Educator of the Year” (Elementary designee) and is an inductee of the Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame. She was awarded the “Distinguished Service” award from the Northwest Music Educators Association and received the “Excellence in Teaching” award from Western Washington University.