

## 2020 CIVIC MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**GUY KAMMERER**, Director of Bands, Wauwatosa West High School



Guy Kammerer is currently Director of Bands at Wauwatosa West High School in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Before Wauwatosa, he taught in Waukesha, Greenfield and Marion High School in Southern Illinois where his ensembles earned consistent recognition as being among the finest musical groups in his home state of Illinois. He is in demand as an adjudicator and clinician of marching band, concert band and jazz band events. He has appeared as featured soloist at high school and college jazz festivals and is former principal trumpet with the highly regarded Knightwind Ensemble. He has also performed as principal trumpet under the baton of conducting legends Dr. William Revelli, W. Francis McBeth and John Paynter. Also a sought-after freelance trumpet player, Guy has performed on Eric Benet's Grammy nominated recording "Lost in Time," and recorded a Hal Leonard collection of wedding songs for solo trumpet. Musical performance has taken him to numerous venues throughout the continental United States, Hawaii, Europe, the Bahamas, Australia and China. Most recently, Guy organized a hurricane relief project for struggling schools in Puerto Rico. Forming partnerships throughout the musical community in Southern Wisconsin, the Wauwatosa West Band was able to collect and provide more than \$100,000 worth of instruments, uniforms, print music, equipment, and accessories for Puerto Rican music students. The effort culminated in travelling to Puerto Rico to share these gifts through cultural exchanges and shared musical performances with Puerto Rican music students from disadvantaged schools and with the San Juan Conservatory of Music Jazz Ensemble. Guy is past President of the Illinois Music Educators Association District VI and served on the IMEA State Board of Directors for three years. He also served as District VI Jazz Chairman for five years and has been involved in a variety of music education committees. Guy earned his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music in Trumpet Performance at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where he studied with Dr. Robert Allison.

## EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

**DR. MARTIN LEXMOND**, Superintendent, West Allis-West Milwaukee School District



Dr. Martin Lexmond has been the Superintendent of the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District, the 12<sup>th</sup> largest and among the most culturally diverse public school districts in Wisconsin. In this position since 2015, Marty successfully resolved a significant financial challenge and moved the district from one with three failing schools and only one high performing school to a district with no failing schools and five high performing schools. This work is guided by a very focused strategic plan, an equity mindset, and a commitment to Deeper Learning. Marty began his career in education as a Social Studies teacher in the Milwaukee Public Schools at North Division and Vincent High Schools. Marty moved on to eventually serve as

an Administrator and then Assistant Principal at Vincent High School before becoming Director of High School Redesign followed by the Director of School Innovation for the Milwaukee Public Schools. Marty's career as a superintendent began as High School Principal and Superintendent in Kohler. During his tenure, he gained valuable experience in school administration. In his second year, the high school had the highest ACT composite score in the state and was later named a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Marty returned to the Milwaukee area to serve three years as the Superintendent of the Shorewood School District before his current position in WAWM. Marty has served as a Trustee of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System, a Board Member of the West Allis Library, an Executive Member of the Southeastern Wisconsin Schools Alliance (SWSA) and as an Education Cabinet Member of the Combined Giving-United Way Giving Campaign. He currently sits on the board for Building to Learn, an early apprenticeship program for the construction trades. Originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Marty earned a Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from UW-Milwaukee and a Doctorate from Cardinal Stritch University. In his spare time Marty enjoys biking and home improvement projects.

## 2020 MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ACE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**SARA FEIDER**, Teacher, Parkside School for the Arts, Milwaukee Public Schools



Sara Feider began her teaching career in the Milwaukee Public Schools in 1998. Her love of teaching through the arts was accelerated in 2000 when she and her 5th grade class participated in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's ACE Program in which they created a Rainforest Musical. This led to the creation of an opera creation program that exists to this day. Together with the assistance of ACE, Skylight Opera Theater and her musical director, Nathan Wesselowski, Sara and her 6<sup>th</sup> grade students research cultures and history, then create stories and turn them into song and a full 30 minute on-stage opera production. Over the past 17 years, Sara's classes with Nathan have created operas from wide ranging topics. Thanks to recent support and funding from ACE, the Milwaukee Opera Theater, and Bob Balderson, their opera creation continues. Sara strongly believes that students learn best when they are immersed in student-led projects that motivate them to work toward their highest achievement levels. She has also been involved with artsHUBMke, a partnership between MPS, Cardinal Stritch University, and Arts at Large. For the last 30 years she has spent summers teaching a variety of sports and art classes with the Shorewood Recreation Department. Through Global Links, a global educator program, Sara has had the opportunity to teach in London, England and Brisbane, Australia. Sara holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Elementary Education at the University of St. Thomas and earned her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on the Arts from Lesley University. Sara would like to thank her teachers, especially Jayne Perkins, her elementary school music teacher from Lake Bluff School for providing her enriching arts experiences as a child and for her continued support as a teacher.

## CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

**SARAH WEHMEIER DE APARICIO**, Band Director, Les Paul Middle School, Waukesha School District



Sarah Wehmeier de Aparicio began her teaching career in the Wauwatosa School District, but she has called the School District of Waukesha her professional home for 22 of her 23 years. During her tenure in Waukesha, Sarah has taught at many of the elementary schools, all three traditional middle school, and South High School. For the past ten years, Sarah has taught at Les Paul Middle School. The students at Les Paul are enthusiastic about the variety of musical opportunities available to them. Nearly one hundred students stay after school at least one night a week to participate in one of the two jazz bands or the Woodwind Ensemble. Nearly all of the second and third year players choose to participate in solo and ensemble, earning an average of 200 gold medals a year. The School District of Waukesha is a diverse learning community and in an effort to increase the number of students that feel that band is a place for everyone, Sarah learned to speak Spanish, in part by attending school in Antigua, Guatemala. Sarah has done graduate level fieldwork teaching music and performing in Russell, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia; and Siena, Italy. Sarah spent the 2003-04 school year teaching music in Finland as a Fulbright recipient. Sarah is an active member at Ascension Lutheran Church where she plays piano and leads music for Latino ministry. Through her church, Sarah is also deeply involved with programs in El Salvador and Tanzania. In the summers, she performs on horn with the Waukesha Civic Band. Sarah and her husband Edwin are the parents to daughters Marta and Luisa. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Music from UW-Whitewater, a Masters in Educational Leadership from Marian University, and she is a thesis short of a Masters in Education from Alverno College.

### CHORAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

**ERNEST BRUSUBARDIS III**, Director of Choirs & Music Department Coordinator, Hartford Union High School



Ernest Brusubardis III is the Director of Choirs and Music Department Coordinator at Hartford Union High School. Ernie conducts two choirs at HUHS, Concert Choir and Chorale, as well as teaches private and group vocal lessons, and Beginning Piano. Under his leadership the HUHS Concert Choir has collaborated with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, Festival City Symphony, Wisconsin Philharmonic, Hartland Community Band, and various colleges and universities including Ripon, Carroll, and UW-Milwaukee, as well as providing choral music at the annual Carols Concert and Midnight Mass at Holy Hill. Ernie served as the Artistic Director of the Waukesha Choral Union for 7 years. He is also President of the American Latvian Choir Association and conducts in Latvian choral music festivals around the world as well as the Brusubardas-Dzimitene Latvian Choir. He is a sought-after collaborative pianist and guest conductor, often assisting with community theatre productions throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. In collaboration with Michael Koscinski, Ernie composed the music for *A Christmas Carol* performed annually in the Milwaukee area since 2002. Ernie is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association of Music Educators. He is a graduate of UW-Milwaukee with a

Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and a Master's Degree in Music Education with an emphasis in choral conducting. He resides in Dousman and enjoys making music with his wife Indra and their six children.

## GENERAL MUSIC INSTRUCTION

**RICHARD TOBIAS**, Music Teacher, Pleasant View & Robinwood Elementary Schools, Franklin Public Schools



Richard Tobias has been a music educator in the Franklin Public Schools since 2004 and teaches general music at Pleasant View Elementary School and Robinwood Elementary School. Throughout his career, Richard has taught general music, choir, guitar and piano classes for both the Franklin and Maple Dale-Indian Hill districts. Richard is proud to be a music educator in the Milwaukee community where he regularly brings students to Milwaukee Ballet performances, Milwaukee Symphony Youth and Music for Me concerts, as well as participating in Link Up, Carnegie Hall's Weill Institute program that works in partnership with the MSO. As an educator, Richard is passionate about sharing diverse music from the rich cultural traditions of our country as well as traditional music from around the world. He was a selected participant in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program based in Tokyo where he studied Japanese culture and education. He also received a Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program award to study the natural and cultural history of South Africa. Richard received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and his Master of Arts in Education with an emphasis in Educational Technology from Marian University. He also holds a BA in Journalism and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## STUDIO MUSIC INSTRUCTION

**CAROL WALDVOGEL**, North Shore Suzuki Strings of Milwaukee



Carol Waldvogel is the director/founder of North Shore Suzuki Strings in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Carol was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of Wisconsin and is a former member of the board of directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. Before moving to Milwaukee, Carol taught orchestra, grades 4-12, in the Bloomington, Illinois school district for 11 years. A guest clinician at many Suzuki workshops and Suzuki summer institutes throughout the United States and Mexico, Carol studied with Dr. Suzuki in Matsumoto, Japan in 1983. Her Master's degree work was with William Starr, a renowned Suzuki pedagogue, who was instrumental in introducing the Suzuki method in the United States. She has received extensive Suzuki training includes courses with Marge Aber, Gilda Barston, Tonya Carey, Rhonda Cole, Teri Einfeldt, John Kendal, Kay Collier-(Sloane) McLaughlin, William and Doris Preucil, and Almita Vamos. She is registered for violin, viola and cello with the Suzuki Association of the Americas. While working in Mexico, Carol was awarded the Maestra Award from El Departamento de Arte y Cultura in Ciudad de Mexico in December of 2003. Carol received the Byron Hester Outstanding Faculty Award in 2004 in Colorado and was the recipient of the Suzuki Chair award in 2009 in Wisconsin. In 2016, the Suzuki Association of Wisconsin honored Carol with the Sensei Teaching Award for "Leadership and Caring." Her professional memberships include Suzuki Association of the Americas, Suzuki Association of

Wisconsin, American String Teachers Association and National Federation of Music Clubs. Carol holds a MME with an emphasis on the Suzuki method, from the University of Colorado and a BME from Illinois State University.

## **YOUTH MUSIC INSTRUCTION**

**JULIE MAURER**, Music Teacher, St. John Paul II Catholic School, Director of Music, Trinity Lutheran Church



Julie Maurer has a diverse professional background. She has taught choral and general music at the kindergarten through 12th grade level, and voice through the collegiate level. She currently teaches studio voice and piano, general music at St. John Paul II Catholic School, and serves as director of music at Trinity Lutheran Church. In addition, Julie is also Director of Artistic Development for La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy, a summer intensive training program for performing artists moving from college to career. She also founded and directed the South Shore Youth Opera Ensemble, an opera advocacy group, 2002-14. A mezzo-soprano, Julie earned her Bachelor of Music specializing in vocal, choral and general music from St. Norbert College. Post baccalaureate, she received the majority of her vocal training with acclaimed soprano, Brygida Bziukiewicz-Kulig. Julie has performed locally and internationally with the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, Great Lakes Opera, Heritage Chorale of Milwaukee, and La Musica Lirica, and has both taught and directed for the Milwaukee Children's Choir. The power of music and its life-changing impact mean the world to Julie and she has made it her life's work to share this great treasure through the art of education. It is with deepest gratitude, humility and honor that she accepts this Certificate of Excellence in recognition of her work.

## **EMERGING EDUCATOR**

**RACHAEL STEIN**, Band Director, Grafton High School and Kennedy Elementary



Rachael is in her first year of teaching in Grafton and is the High School Band Director and leads the 5<sup>th</sup> grade band at Kennedy Elementary School. She is working diligently to build up the program's numbers. The high school program has a Concert Band, a non-audition beginning band, and Symphonic Band, an audition-based advanced level ensemble. Both ensembles together make up the marching band. Rachael graduated from UW-Madison with a bachelor's degree in Music Education. She is an accomplished trumpet player and was a proud member of the legendary UW Marching Band.