



Yours, Mine, & Ours

**Fall Workshops
featuring**

Mentoring Conference

NafME-C Workshop

Tri-M Summit



**September 15-16, 2024
Tan-Tar-A Conference Center**

Session Descriptions - Mentoring

Sunday 12:25-1:10 pm **Compass Rose**

The Greatest Profession

Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair

After a month in the classroom reality has set in that this career is HARD. The overwhelming weight of lesson planning, classroom management, and the many other things you weren't prepared for cause many young teachers to begin questioning whether this is the career they wanted after all. In this session you will be reminded that this truly is the greatest profession.

Presiding Standards Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair
MTS: 9.1; 8.2; 8.3

Sunday 3:45-4:15 pm **Compass Rose**

Give Them What They Want

Aaron Money, Liberty Public Schools

Told from an administrator's point of view, this session is a discussion of what administrators are looking for in your program and in their building.

Presiding Standards Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair
State: FA 1, 5 Goals: 1.10, 2.4, 2.5 National: MU:Pr5.1/5.3 MTS: 1.1, 3.1

Sunday 8:15-9:00 pm **Compass Rose**

Finding the Teacher Within

Hailee Kaestner, New Bloomfield R-II SD, Kalleigh Saiz, Lebanon SD

This session is presented by teachers that are very early in their careers. All educators move through some normal and very common stages of professional development. It's important to recognize and understand these stages while on our professional path.

Presiding Standards Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair
MTS: 1.2; 1.3; 8.1; 9.1

Monday 8:00-8:45 am **Compass Rose**

MSHSAA Update

James Melton, Associate Director, MSHSAA

This session will help new teachers navigate the rules and regulations of the MSHSAA Music Festivals.

Presiding Standards Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair
MTS: 1.1; 1.4; 4.1; 3.1; 9.1

Monday 11:30 am-12:15 pm **Compass Rose**

Finding Joy! Self Care for Music Educators

All Mentors

This session is designed to help young teachers find a balance between their work and personal lives to increase their longevity in the teaching profession.

Presiding Standards Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair
MTS: 9.1; 8.2; 8.3

Session Descriptions - NafME-C

Sunday 12:25-1:10 pm **74/75**

Being a Career Music Educator: Beyond the Performance

Dr. Debbie Brown, Northwest Missouri State University

Being a music educator is a commitment that goes beyond expertise in your musical area. Hear and discuss what "music educator" really means to a school and its community.

Presiding Elizabeth Dean, MO NAFME-C President

Sunday 1:15-2:00 pm **74/75**

Landing the Job You Want

Aaron Money, Liberty Public Schools

In this collaborative session we will discuss the dos, don'ts, and everything in between on how to land the music job you dream of.

Presiding Nick Stover, MO NAFME-C Secretary

Sunday 3:45-4:30 pm **74/75**

**Defining and Understanding Marching Band
Caption Sheets and Judging Practices**

Chris Church, Missouri State University

This clinic will dive right into defining the captions judged at marching band festivals and how judges approach their judging and critique. This clinic will also explain the written verbiage utilized on the front and back of the sheet as it pertains to the various "boxes" where the rating and ranking takes place. Understanding the "what" and "how" of the various captions is paramount to the modern day marching band director.

Presiding Margaret Schaffer, MO NAFME-CVP of Membership

Sunday 5:00-5:45 pm **74/75**

Sing and Play from Seniors to K

Bethany Main, Olathe SD, Jazz Rucker, North KC SD

This session is designed to show how alignment from K-12th grade is not only possible, but highly needed. As we build musicians we need to be mindful that our focus should be on the humans we are educating. The need for play doesn't end after 5th grade. The need for quality doesn't start at high school. Sing and play along with us as we highlight the processes of an aligned K-12 system.

Presiding Taylor Owens, MO NAFME-C Webmaster

Monday 8:00-8:45 am **74/75**

**Building Effective Instruction: How to Plan and
Execute Your Musical Goals**

Dr. Luke Johnson, MidAermica Nazarene University

You've excelled in top-tier high school and collegiate programs, and maybe even played professional gigs, so you understand what it takes to perform at a high level. But as a teacher, how do you translate that experience into effective instruction for your ensemble? How do you turn your musical vision into actionable rehearsal strategies and manage time effectively? This clinic offers a structured approach to help you organize your time and efforts. You have the musical expertise, but without self-management, how can you truly be effective?

Presiding Nathan Waggoner, MO NAFME-CVP of Programming

Session Descriptions - Tri-M

Monday 10:00-11:00 am **Parasol 1**

Preparing Your Program for the Adjudication Process

Chris Church, Missouri State University

Session presenter will share information for all disciplines on ways to successfully prepare ensembles for different types of adjudication including district and state contests.

Presiding Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

Monday 11:00 am-12:00 pm **Parasol 1**

Instrument Repair

AJ Lee, Benen Canape, Ernie Williamson Music

Representatives from Ernie Williamson Music Repair Shop will give a look into the life of an instrument repair technician, give helpful tips for maintaining instruments, and how you could use this in your future in music.

Presiding Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

Monday 1:00-2:00 pm **Parasol 1**

Stronger Together

Phyllis Pasley, Executive Director, MAAE

In this interactive workshop, students will improve communication skills, learn about arts advocacy, legislative issues and public policy, and the work of the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education to strengthen arts education in Missouri.

Presiding Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

Monday 2:00-3:00 pm **Parasol 1**

Team Building

Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

Music is a team sport; just like any other team, you must learn how to work together to achieve greatness. Building cooperation, trust, and cohesion takes a little extra effort. In this session, we will learn various activities you can take back to your music teams to develop a greater musical connection with all team members!

Presiding Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

Presenter Bios

Elizabeth Betts, Instrumental Music, Fayette School District

Elizabeth Betts is currently in her fourth year as Director of Bands for the Fayette School District in Fayette, Missouri. She has taught the past 15 years in small, Missouri schools- many of them spent teaching PreK-12 Music. She has been involved with the MMEA mentoring program for six years, and is a member of MMEA, NafME, and MBA. Elizabeth resides in Fayette, Missouri with her husband and two children.

Dr. Debbie Brown, Music Education, Northwest Missouri State University

As a native Kansas Citian, Dr. Brown (she/her) has taught prek-12 general and choral music in three states, plus collegiate music education and general music education classes in Kansas, Indiana, and Missouri at four different higher-ed institutions. With a bachelor's degree from Baker University, a master's from U.M.K.C., and a Ph.D. in music education (emphasis curriculum) from the University of Kansas, her interests include general music curriculum innovation, music listening, Orff-Schulwerk, and educational psychology. Since 2017, she has been teaching at Northwest Missouri State University and is currently Associate Professor of Music Education and Associate Chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

Benen Canape, Ernie Williamson Music

Benen is a luthier and general wind technician at Ernie Williamson. He grew up in Ava, Missouri, and received many honors while playing in marching, concert, and jazz band. During his senior year of high school, he was introduced to repair at the first-ever Tri-M Summit in 2016 and pursued it as a career at Western Iowa Tech. Comm. College. Once graduated from WITCC with an Associates of Applied Science in Band Instrument Repair, he was employed by Springfield Music during the summer of 2019. By 2024, he has become a highly skilled general technician, and has been the main orchestral technician since 2020. He has pursued continuing education at NAPBIRT and Learning Trade Secrets clinics with peers in the respective industries. Benen is located in Springfield, Missouri, with his wife Madalyn. He likes restoring antique tools and playing bluegrass, country, and western on guitar.

Chris Church, Instrumental Music, Missouri State University

Chris Church is currently in his 5th year on staff with the Pride Band Program at Missouri State University. He is a 43-year Veteran Band Director, having served 32 years as the Director of Bands & Fine Arts Department Chairman in Willard, Missouri and 6 years teaching in the Springdale Har-Ber Band Program, Arkansas. His marching and jazz bands consistently placed at or near the top in all festivals attended and he has also worked as a drill designer for numerous band programs throughout the Midwest. His Wind Symphony earned State Level Honor I Ratings at Concert Assessment for 32 consecutive years. Chris, taught all brass classes at both schools, primarily serving as the Euphonium, Trombone, and Tuba Specialist. He has over 26 years of experience working within Drum Corps International, spending 14 seasons with the World Champion Phantom Regiment Drum & Bugle Corps from Rockford, Illinois serving on the Marching/Visual Staff, Visual Caption Head, and drill writer. He is currently serving as a Visual Judge for Drum Corps International (DCI). He has judged in 4 Winter Indoor Circuits judging color guard, percussion, and Winds. He is a graduate of the Marching Roundtable Judges Academy and is a certified solo/ensemble and concert band judge in Missouri and Arkansas. Chris, also was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, and taught in Tokyo and Kanazawa City, Japan.

Sarah Cook, Vocal Music, Lafayette County C-1

Sarah Cook is in her 21st year teaching vocal music at Lafayette County C-1 School District in Higginsville, Missouri, where she teaches grades 6-12. Mrs. Cook studied at the University of Central Missouri where she completed both a Bachelors in Music Education with a vocal emphasis and a Master of Arts in Music Education with a conducting emphasis. She serves as pianist for Central Christian Church in Higginsville. In 2017, she received the MCDA Outstanding Director Award for West Central Missouri, and in 2021, she was chosen as the Lafayette County C-1 District Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Cook serves the WCMMEA as the Secretary/Treasurer, and enjoys mentoring and speaking to new music teachers.

Presenter Bios

Patrick Dell, Vocal Music, Ft. Zumwalt West High School

Patrick teaches choir at Ft. Zumwalt West High School, where he, his students, and his coworkers, enjoy a wonderful sense of community. Previously, he taught grades 4-12 in the Hermann School District, where his choirs performed twice at the Missouri Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. Patrick has led the vocal track of the MMEA mentoring program since its inception, and continues to contribute professionally through yearly presentations and the authoring of sight reading practice and assessment materials for various organizations and schools. As a pianist, Patrick has performed as an accompanist and a soloist throughout the country and abroad, for various universities, conferences, tours, and organizations. He remains in demand as an accompanist for high school and collegiate soloists and ensembles, and enjoys pinch-hitting for anybody singing Erkkönig. He has also earned all of the three gold star cups at the 200cc difficulty level in Mario Kart 8.

Kyle Donnelly, Instrumental Music, West Middle School

Kyle Donnelly is currently the Assistant Band Director at West Middle School in Columbia, MO, where he teaches beginning & intermediate brass & percussion classes and co-directs the 8th grade band. Additionally, he assists with the Hickman High School Marching Band. Prior to this position, he served as the Assistant Band Director in Boonville, MO for 8 years, where he taught grades 5-12 band classes, and the Band Director/Music Teacher in Pilot Grove, MO for 1 year, where he taught all K-12 music classes. He has served as a mentor through MMEA since 2014 & has presented multiple clinics at the Missouri Music Educators Association conference & the Missouri Bandmasters Association Summer Convention. He holds undergraduate degrees in music & business from the University of Missouri & a master's in music education from Central Methodist University. He currently resides in Columbia with his wife, Melanie, and their daughters Karis (7) and Gwen (3). He holds professional memberships in NAFME, MBA, and the International Tuba Euphonium Association. He serves as the coordinator for Columbia's annual Tuba Christmas performance & is a National Board Certified Teacher.

Daniel Henderson, Instrumental Music, Clayton School District

Daniel Henderson began his cello studies at the age of 10 in his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. He received his Bachelor's degree in cello performance from the HARID Conservatory of music where he studied with Johanne Perron. He received his Master of Music degree in cello performance from the University of Florida where he studied with Mark Tanner. Mr. Henderson was twice the recipient of the Cello Fellowship Award for the Banff Centre for the Arts in Alberta, Canada. During his time in Banff, Daniel studied with legendary cellist Aldo Parisot. Mr. Henderson currently serves as the Director of Orchestras for the School District of Clayton. This school year marks the third time the Clayton High School Symphonic Orchestra has been invited to perform at the Missouri Music Educators In-Service Workshop/Conference under Mr. Henderson's direction. Prior to teaching in Clayton, Mr. Henderson taught secondary orchestra in the Fairfax County, Parkway, and Pattonville School districts. Mr. Henderson is also an active free-lance musician in St. Louis, MO, where he lives with his wife Katie (an elementary strings teacher in the Parkway district) and his two violin-playing daughters.

Dr. Luke Johnson, Music Education, Mid America Nazarene University

Dr. Luke D. Johnson (he/him) currently serves as the Department Chair, Director of Bands and Music Education and Tenured Professor of Music at MidAmerica Nazarene University. A frequent guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Johnson is also a freelance trumpet player in the Kansas City area. He is a proponent of new music, having been involved in commissions and premieres of several new pieces including composers Peter Meechan, Jack Stamp, James Moberly, Daniel McIntosh, Nick Omiccioli, Aaron Perrine, Kevin Walczyk, and Joni Greene. Through his leadership, the MNU Concert Band has performed at the state KMEA conference and commissioned several original works. Past experience includes teaching ten years in the public schools of Kansas, working with young music educators as a mentor and teacher, and performing and teaching trumpet in the Kansas City metro area. Dr. Johnson completed the Bachelor's degree in Music Education at MidAmerica Nazarene University in 2003, the Master of Music degree with an emphasis in Band Conducting from Kansas State University in 2008, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting from the University of Kansas in 2015 where he studied conducting with Dr. Paul W. Popiel.

Presenter Bios

Hailee Kaestner, Vocal/Instrumental Music, New Bloomfield R-III

Hailee Kaestner begins her fifth year teaching at New Bloomfield R-III. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Missouri State University, she started her career running the High School and Beginner Band Program at New Bloomfield. Since then, she started two Vocal Ensembles, a Jazz Program, Intermediate Band, and a Color Guard. By her third year, she was awarded the 2023 David B. Goodwin Outstanding Young Music Educator. Prior to this, she earned the MBA Young Bandmasters Grant in 2021 and was featured several times in the "Mo' Better Band" Podcast hosted by Donovan Bankhead during her first year. As well as being director of the MS/HS Music Program at New Bloomfield, she also has served on the District's Mentor Committee and on the Principal Advisory Committee.

Jodi Kratzer, Vocal Music, Fort Zumwalt North Middle School

Jodi Kratzer teaches vocal music at Fort Zumwalt North Middle School. She is the current Choral Vice President for the Missouri Music Educators Association and has previously served as the Middle School Choir Vice President for St. Louis Metro District 8. She holds a degree in Vocal Music Education from Concordia University Chicago, has earned her Level II Certification from the CME Institute for Choral Teacher Education, and received Outstanding District Director awards from the Missouri Choral Directors Association in 2018 and 2022. She also worked as the Vocal Music Director for the City of O'Fallon's teen summer musical in 2017 and as Choir Manager for The St. Louis Children's Choirs from 2009-2014. She is an active member of ACDA and NAFME.

AJ Lee, Ernie Williamson Music

AJ Lee is an experienced band instrument repair technician who specializes in brass instrument repair for Ernie Williamson Music. Growing up in Raymore, MO, band has always had a special place on his life. After being a four year member in the marching, concert, and jazz bands, AJ decided to pursue music further in life and enrolled at Pittsburg State University. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Music, AJ then decided to pursue instrument repair as a career. In the fall of 2015, AJ was hired as an apprentice at Springfield Music and by May 2016 was promoted to the position of Brass Specialist. AJ holds membership in the National Association of Professional Band Instrument Repair Technicians (NAPBIRT) and has received advanced training through the organization. AJ currently resides in Springfield, MO, with his wife Ariele, two dogs, three cats, and pet chinchilla.

Dr. Dorothy Glick Maglione, Instrumental Music, William Jewell College

Dr. Dorothy Glick Maglione (she/her) is the Associate Director of Bands at William Jewell College where she teaches in the music history and music education sequences. Maglione is the advisor for both the Jewell Chapter of NAFME-C and the State Advisor for Missouri NAFME-C.

Bethany Main, General Music, Olathe School District

Bethany Main (she/her) is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Conservatory of Music and Dance, where she received her Master and Bachelor of Music Education. She teaches general music in Kansas City. She also directs the 6th-9th grade choir, Intermezzo, with the Youth Chorus of Kansas City. In addition to teaching, Bethany is a composer and author. She has written her first children's book titled, "Our First Day of Music," featuring an original song. Her piece, "Becoming You," was selected for the JW Pepper's Editor's Choice distinction, as was her piece, "Be Who You Are," written in collaboration with Ryan Main.

James Melton, Associate Executive Director, MSHSAA

James Melton is an Associate Executive Director with MSHSAA. He began serving in this role in July of 2023. James provides support in the areas of eligibility, by-law interpretation, and transfers. In addition, he serves as the director of Music Activities and the sport of Tennis. Before coming to MSHSAA, James was a vocal music educator and arts administrator for 23 years with Columbia Public Schools. A lifelong advocate for arts education, a vocalist, and Missourian (a Spoofhound through and through), James is proud to be able to support and serve every music educator and student through participation in competitive and evaluative music experiences. Contact him at the MSHSAA Office - 573-875-4880 or james@mshsaa.org

Presenter Bios

Aaron Money, Liberty Public Schools

Aaron Money is in his 15th year of being the Director of Fine Arts for Liberty Public School District. Prior to his work in Liberty, he was a vocal music director in Blue Springs, Odessa and Waukegan (IL) school districts.

Aaron Neff, Vocal Music, Arcadia Valley High School

Aaron Neff is the music teacher at Arcadia Valley High School. Aaron received his degrees from Mineral Area College and at Central Methodist University. He is currently working on his Master's degree from Central Methodist University. As an advocate for music education, Aaron has played a pivotal role in organizing school concerts and community events for his students.

Phyllis Pasley, Executive Director, Missouri Alliance for Arts Education

Phyllis Pasley is Executive Director of the Missouri Alliance for Arts Education. After retiring from her role as an elementary music specialist and lead resource teacher from Pattonville School District in 2019, Pasley accepted leadership of the Alliance, a non-profit service organization which engages in efforts to support, promote and advocate for the arts to strengthen arts education in Missouri. She has learned much in her journey from classroom to non-profit organizational leadership, particularly in the areas of networking, professional learning support, arts integration, funding, and arts advocacy. Married to Tom Pasley since 1985, Phyllis remains active as a performer and musician. The couple lives in Maryland Heights, MO.

Jazz Rucker, Vocal Music, Staley High School

Jazz Rucker is the Director of Choirs at Staley High School and previously served in various music roles, including as Director of Vocal Arts at Muriel Williams Battle High School. He was awarded the Missouri Choral Directors Association "Prelude Award" and expresses gratitude to his wife, Tara, and their children, Brynlynn and Berkley, for their support.

Christopher J. Sacco, Instrumental Music, Logan-Rogersville

Chris Sacco is currently the Director of Bands for the Logan-Rogersville School District, where he instructs all High School Band activities, as well as 6th-8th grade brass students. Prior to Logan-Rogersville, he spent 16 years at Ava, where he served as the Associate Director of Bands and co-directed with his wife Sarah. During his tenure at Ava his Concert and Jazz Bands received superior ratings and top placements every year at various festivals. The High School Symphonic Band attained 15 consecutive superior ratings at their State Assessment. Mr. Sacco's applied students consistently received superior ratings at both the District and State level. The overall program more than doubled in size and success since Chris and his wife arrived in 2008. They have had students perform in the District Bands, State Band, Missouri Lions Band, Macy's Great American Marching Band, Army All-American Marching Band, the Citrus Bowl, and the Bands of America Marching Band.

Chris is a two-time recipient of the National Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Award as well as the Loyalty Day Award by the VFW. He is also a recipient of the John East "Spirit of Orpheus" Mentor Award for his work with young music educators throughout the South Central region of the state. His professional affiliations and memberships include MMEA, NAFME, MBA, MOAJE, and Phi Beta Mu. Chris currently serves as the MMEA President. He has also served as the MMEA Jazz VP, the SCMMEA Band VP, and the Event Coordinator for the South Central Conference Honor Band. He is also an active MSHSAA adjudicator.

Chris currently holds an Associate of Arts degree from Jefferson College, a Bachelor of Music Education from Missouri State University, and a Masters in Secondary Education from Drury University. Outside of music education, Chris enlisted in the Missouri Air National Guard in March of 2000, where he completed an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. While serving 12 years in the 131st Civil Engineering Squadron, he was active during Operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom, where serving in various locations throughout the Middle East.

Presenter Bios

Sarah Sacco, Instrumental Music, Ava High School

Mrs. Sarah Sacco has been the Director of Bands at Ava High School since 2008. Mrs. Sacco attended Missouri State University for her Bachelor's in Music Education and completed her Master's Degree in Secondary Education Curriculum Instruction at Drury University. While in college she served as the Missouri Collegiate Music Educators President at Missouri State and as the Southwestern Regional CMENC President. Sarah currently serves as the Tri-M Music Honor Society Chair for the Missouri Music Educators Association, past president of the South Central District of the Missouri Music Educators Association, and the Missouri Bandmasters President-Elect. As the Tri-M chair, she organized the first-ever Missouri Tri-M Summit in 2016, which is an annual event for high school music students. Sarah is also an active certified adjudicator with the Missouri State High School Activities Association and the Missouri Small School Band Directors Association. Mrs. Sacco's professional affiliations and memberships include MMEA (Missouri Music Educators Association), NAfME (National Association for Music Education), MBA (Missouri Bandmasters Association), Phi Beta Mu (International Bandmasters Fraternity), and Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity.

Vicky Scott, Kodály/Teacher Education, Missouri State University

Vicky Scott is a Senior Instructor of Music Education at Missouri State University. In addition to teaching Music Education Methods courses, her professional duties also include supervising student teachers, advising music education students, and serving as faculty advisor to NAfME-C and Student MCDA. She is program director and instructor of The Kodaly Institute of the Ozarks at Missouri State University, which offers intensive training in the Kodaly Methodology for PK-12 music teachers.

Prior to her full time position at Missouri State, Vicky enjoyed a thirty year career teaching elementary vocal music in the Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, MO. She served on curriculum development and review committees multiple times and also served as professional learning clinician for the Springfield Schools elementary vocal music faculty.

Vicky earned her Bachelors in Elementary Education and Music in 1986 and Masters in Secondary Music Education in 1989. In 2009, she earned her Kodaly Certification, a culmination of successful completion of three levels of Kodaly Methodology training. She has served as guest clinician for elementary honor choirs in the Springfield area. Vicky has provided professional learning presentations for MMEA, MCDA, SCMMEA, Kodaly of the Ozarks, university student organizations, and school music faculty.

Vicky served two terms as Elementary Vice President of the South Central Missouri Music Educators Association, multiple terms on the Executive Board of the Springfield National Education Association, one term as Repertoire and Resource Chair for University Youth and Student Activities of the Missouri Choral Directors Association, and President of Kodaly of the Ozarks.

Chelsea Silvermintz, Instrumental Music, Lindbergh School District

Chelsea Silvermintz, a band director in the Lindbergh School District, teaches high school students in Freshman Band, Concert Band, Woodwind Choir, the Spirit of St. Louis Marching Band, and the musical pit orchestra. Under her direction, the Freshman Band has earned exemplary ratings for 15 consecutive years. Additionally, Chelsea teaches beginning clarinet while working closely with all woodwind students at Lindbergh's two middle schools.

Chelsea served as MMEA Band Vice-President from 2020-2022. She also served the St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association District #5 as High School Concert Band Vice-President, President, and currently serves as Past-President. She holds membership in the National Association for Music Education, Missouri Music Educators Association, Missouri Bandmasters Association, Phi Beta Mu, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Missouri Women Band Directors Association.

Chelsea received a Bachelor of Music from The University of Texas at Austin in 2007 and began her teaching career in Hondo, Texas. Following her relocation to St. Louis, and concurrent to her work at Lindbergh, Chelsea earned a Master of Music and the Kurt Engbreton Music Education Award from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2014. A five-year member of the Texas Longhorn Band, Chelsea studied trumpet with Ray Sasaki, marched with the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps in 2004, participated in the 2005 National Trumpet Competition, and served on the brass staff of the Racine Scouts in 2008. From 2009 to 2016, Chelsea performed with the St. Louis Brass Band.

Chelsea is a lifelong learner and deeply appreciative of the wealth of knowledge shared by her friends and colleagues, both here in Missouri and across the country. She lives in Chesterfield with her two boys and husband Ben, who is the choir director at Parkway Central High School. As MMEA President-Elect, Chelsea looks forward to serving Missouri's music students and educators.

Presenter Bios

Kalleigh Hickory-Saiz, Instrumental Music, Lebanon School District

Kalleigh Hickory-Saiz was born and raised in Springfield, MO. Her mother, a math teacher who taught for 33 years, and her father, a youth pastor, are the main reasons she decided to go into education. She has always desired to pursue a path that profoundly impacts the lives of others. Saiz graduated from MSU for music education - Go Bears - where she also met her wonderful husband and fellow music educator, Michael Saiz. Her primary instrument is trombone and she enjoys playing for the Springfield Little Theater, Missouri Philharmonic Orchestra, the MSU Trombone Choir, and other local ensembles. Saiz taught her first two years at Spokane Middle School/Spokane High School - Go Owls! She had a 17 person marching band that competed in multiple field show competitions under the motto, "Small, But Mighty!" Her first semester teaching she was technically a student teacher, and she survived thanks to the guidance and mentorship of current and retired teachers. MMEA mentors and her mentors at Spokane ensured her success and her personal well being, and she hopes she can do the same for other new teachers. She is now starting her first year in the Lebanon school district - Go Yellow Jackets - where her husband also teaches. She is really excited for year three of teaching!

René Spencer, Kodály/Teacher Ed, Missouri Southern State University

René Spencer taught music to Missouri public school students for 31 years (Miller R-II and Mt. Vernon R-V) and is currently an adjunct instructor at Missouri Southern State University and an instructor for the Kodaly Institute of the Ozarks at Missouri State University. Her teaching assignments have ranged from secondary vocal and instrumental music (including show choir), elementary and intermediate level music, to teaching at the university level. Currently, she teaches elementary music courses, music theory, and applied flute at MSSU. René has served as clinician throughout the state of Missouri and Arkansas, conducted numerous honor choirs and has served as Elementary Vice President for MMEA, founding president of the Kodaly of the Ozarks chapter of OAKE and as a member of the MMEA mentoring team.

René earned her BME in music education from Southwest Baptist University, her masters in instrumental music education from Missouri State University, Orff Level 1 certification from Missouri State University, and Kodaly certification (levels one through four) from the University of Central Missouri. She lives on a farm in Southwest Missouri with her husband, has three adult daughters (and one son-in-law), and three gorgeous grandsons.

Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair

After a thirty-year career in music education, Chris Sprague retired in June of 2022. The last twenty-seven years were spent at Bradleyville, a small rural school in southwest Missouri serving 220 students in grades K-12. Her teaching assignments included Band 6-12, K-8 General Music and Vocal Music 9-12. During her tenure at Bradleyville her bands received numerous accolades, including selection to perform at the Missouri Music Educators Association Conference in 2014, six invitations to perform at the NAIA Division II Basketball Tournament, four invitations to perform at the MSHSAA All-State Basketball Tournament, and multiple years of "straight 1" performances at the MSHSAA All-State Large Ensemble Festival.

Chris is currently serving as the Mentoring Chair of the Missouri Music Educators Association. From 2020-2022 she served as MMEA President, and from 2018-2020 she served as the MMEA Band Vice President. She has also been actively involved in the MMEA Mentoring Program for new teachers since its inception. In 2019 she was honored to receive the Missouri State University Outstanding Alumni Award. In 2014, Chris was humbled to receive the John East "Spirit of Orpheus" Mentor Award, an award voted on and presented by the directors of the South Central Missouri Music Educators Association district honoring a mentor teacher in the district. She is an active clinician, adjudicator, and mentor. Her hobbies include fishing with her husband Matt and gardening, and she has been an avid fan of the Kansas City Chiefs for forty-six years.

NAfME-C Facilitators and MO NAfME-C Executive Board:

- Maddy Ables - Webster University Chapter President
- Casey Brooks - Central Methodist University Chapter President
- Elizabeth Dean - Truman State University Chapter President, MO NAfME-C President
- Melody Maroney - Lindenwood University Chapter President
- Taylor Owens - UM-C Chapter President, MO NAfME-C Webmaster
- Margaret Schaffer - SEMO Chapter President, MO NAfME-C VP of Membership
- Rylee Spencer - University of Central Missouri Chapter President
- Nick Stover - MO NAfME-C Secretary
- Ali Thatcher - William Jewell College Chapter President
- Nathan Waggoner - MO NAfME-C VP of Programming
- Lillian Winston - former MO NAfME-C VP of Programming



Elizabeth Betts



Kyle Donnelly



D. Glick Maglione



Jazz Rucker



René Spencer



Debbie Brown



Daniel Henderson



Bethany Main



Chris Sacco



Chris Sprague



Benen Canape



Luke Johnson



James Melton



Sarah Sacco



Chris Church



Hailee Kaestner



Aaron Money



Kalleigh Saiz



Sarah Cook



Jodi Kratzer



Aaron Neff



Vicky Scott



Patrick Dell



AJ Lee



Phyllis Pasley



Chelsea Silvermintz

Thanks to our Exhibitors:

Jordan Essentials
Midwest Sheet Music
Missouri Alliance for Arts Education

Thanks to our Sponsors:

Two Mentors/Presenters
Willie Grega
One Mentor/Presenter
Kurt Bauche
Marvin Manning

Mentoring Conference Sponsor
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