

2025

MENTORING CONFERENCE - NAFME-C WORKSHOP - TRI-M SUMMIT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

MENTORING THE FUTURE

No Roads
Needed,

Just
Music.

MMEA
MISSOURI
MUSIC
TEACHING
ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION: NAFME-C 11:30 AM; MENTORING 12:15 PM

MENTORING & NAFME-C SESSIONS: 12:25-5:30 PM

DINNER BREAK

MENTORING & NAFME-C SESSIONS: 7:00-9:00 PM

MONDAY EVENT SCHEDULE

MENTORING & NAFME-C SESSIONS: 8:00 AM - 12:15 PM

REGISTRATION: TRI-M 8:00 AM

TRI-M SUMMIT SESSIONS 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

TRI-M LUNCH

TRI-M SUMMIT SESSIONS 1:00 - 3:30 PM

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE MENTORING

Sunday 1:00-1:30 pm

Compass Rose

Don't Question Your Life Choices Just Yet

Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair

Embarrassing moments? Epic fails? We've all been there. Join us for a hilarious group therapy disguised as PD. You'll find that all of us, from newbies to master teachers, have had these moments and survived them.

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

Sunday 1:30-2:00 pm

Compass Rose

Everything's Fine. Probably. IDK

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 begin to question whether this is the career they wanted after all. Find reassurance that this is normal for everyone and that you are not alone.

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

Sunday 2:00-3:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Common Questions Answered in Compass Rose

Band	Kyle Donnelly, Chris Sacco, Chelsea Silvermintz
Choir	Jodi Kratzer, Patrick Dell, Sarah Cook, Aaron Neff
Elementary	René Spencer, Vicky Scott, Sheila Baer
K-12	Chris Sprague, Elizabeth Betts
Orchestra	Daniel Henderson

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

Sunday 3:45-4:15 pm

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

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE MENTORING

Sunday 3:45-4:15 pm

Island

Elementary Breakout Session

René Spencer, Vicky Scott, Sheila Baer

These breakout sessions by discipline will give you the chance to ask your questions of our experienced mentors and hear advice from teachers early in their careers.

Standards MTS: 1.1; 1.4; 4.1; 3.1; 9.1

Sunday 4:30-5:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Common Questions Answered

Band (Parasol II)	Instrument Repair Clinic/MSHSAA Sight-Reading Clinic
Choir (C. R.)	MSHSAA/MMEA Mentor Sight-Singing Clinics
Elementary (Island)	Play Parties and More!
K-12 (Cedar Cove)	Tech That Works!
Orchestra (Port)	Common Questions Answered - Orchestra

Presiding Standards MMEA Mentors
MTS: 9.1; 8.2; 8.3

JB's Boathouse Deck

DINNER Break

5:45-6:30 pm

Sunday 6:45-8:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

Common Questions Answered

Band (Parasol II)	Kyle Donnelly, Chris Sacco, Chelsea Silvermintz
Choir (C. R.)	Jodi Kratzer, Sarah Cook, Patrick Dell, Aaron Neff
Elementary (Island)	René Spencer, Vicky Scott, Sheila Baer
K-12 (Cedar Cove)	Chris Sprague, Elizabeth Betts
Orchestra (Port)	Daniel Henderson

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

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE MENTORING

Sunday 8:15-9:00 pm

Compass Rose

Ask Me About...

All Mentors and Mentees

This session is designed to share practical and successful ideas with each other. Bring your best tips and let's learn from each other!

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

LICENSE TO CHILL

SOCIAL NETWORKING
9:00-10:00 PM

MONDAY SCHEDULE MENTORING

Starting your teaching journey comes with excitement—and a lot of questions.

This informal, open

Q&A clinic is

designed specifically for new teachers who want real talk, practical tips, and honest advice.

COMPASS ROSE
7:45 - 8:45 AM

Bagels and Basics

Whether you're wondering about classroom management, parent communication, lesson planning, or just surviving the first month, bring your questions.

No question is too small or too big.

Monday 9:00-9:30 am

Compass Rose

Harmonizing Together: Because Music Isn't a Solo Act

Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Coordinator

In this session we'll share stories, laughs, and lessons from your music education journey. Connect with peers, future colleagues, and fellow music educators in training.

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

This session is for
Mentoring
NAFME-C &
Tri-M

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MONDAY SCHEDULE MENTORING

Monday 9:45-11:15 am

Various

Common Questions Answered

Band (Coral Reef)	Kyle Donnelly, Chris Sacco, Chelsea Silvermintz
Choir (Compass R)	Jodi Kratzer, Sarah Cook, Patrick Dell, Aaron Neff
Elementary (Island)	René Spencer, Vicky Scott, Sheila Baer
K-12 (Cedar Cove)	Chris Sprague, Elizabeth Betts
Orchestra (Port)	Daniel Henderson

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

Monday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Compass Rose

Ask Us Anything

All Mentors and Mentees

Nothing is off the table! This is your opportunity to ask anything that comes to mind.

Presiding MMEA Mentors
Standards MTS: 1.1; 1.4; 4.1; 3.1; 9.1

Use a device
to ask
anonymously!

Monday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

Compass Rose

Closing Remarks/Conference Wrap-Up

Chris Sprague, MMEA Mentoring Chair, Chris Sacco, MMEA President

Presiding MMEA Mentors
Standards MTS: 9.1; 8.2; 8.3

Have a GREAT year!

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

NAfME-C

Sunday 12:25-1:10 pm

74/75

Band Olympians: Building Skills, Strength, and Spirit!

Jamie Heil, Kearney School District

The first two years of band set the tone—literally and figuratively—for everything that follows. This session will explore practical curriculum strategies and motivational techniques to help young students thrive, stay engaged, and build a lifelong love for music.

Presiding Cash McElhany, MO NAfME-C President

Sunday 1:15-2:00 pm

74/75

Making Sense of MSHSAA

James Melton, Associate Executive Director, MSHSAA

The Missouri State High School Activities Association or MSHSAA governs numerous aspects of music in our state from solo and ensemble to large group festival. This session is designed to give preservice teachers the inside scoop on what they need to know going into their first year teaching.

Presiding Maddie Fenimore, MO NAfME-C VP of Programming

Sunday 2:00-3:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Common Questions Answered in Compass Rose

Band	Kyle Donnelly, Chris Sacco, Chelsea Silvermintz
Choir	Jodi Kratzer, Patrick Dell, Sarah Cook, Aaron Neff
Elementary	René Spencer, Vicky Scott, Sheila Baer
K-12	Chris Sprague, Elizabeth Betts
Orchestra	Daniel Henderson

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

Sunday 3:45-4:30 pm

74/75

Chamber Music: Making Every Band Student Better

Dorothy Glick Maglione, William Jewell College

Every band director struggles to get all students from first chair to last to be significant contributors to the program, take responsibility for their own parts, and make organic musical choices. Chamber music can be a valuable part of educating developing musicians that when implemented throughout the school year in the band classroom offers the opportunity for students to foster non-verbal communication, develop listening skills, build intonation accuracy, and encourage part independence.

Presiding Mariah Anderson, MO NAfME-C VP of Membership

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

NAFME-C

Sunday 5:00-5:45 pm

74/75

Camp to Curriculum

Zac Stelzer, Liberty Public Schools

What does a purple tomato, a moose named Fred, and milk from Wisconsin all have in common? They're camp songs! These songs and group activities are treasure troves for engaging students of all ages and are perfect for building community in your ensemble. This session will be filled with easy-to-teach songs, ridiculous games, and insights on building relationships with students who are new to the music classroom!

Presiding Hayley O'Keefe, MO NAFME-C Secretary

NAfME-C Dinner

6:00-6:45 pm Nautical Wheeler

Gluten Free Options



Sunday 7:00-7:20 pm

74/75

Report from the Collegiate Advocacy Summit in Washington DC

Elizabeth Dean, NAFME-C Past President

Hear from our MO NAFME-C past and present Exec Board about attending CLAS in Washington DC.

Presiding Dorothy Glick Maglione, MMEA NAFME-C Advisor

NAfME-C SOCIAL EVENT

meet at the fireplace
in the lobby at 7:30 pm

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MONDAY SCHEDULE

NAFME-C

Monday 8:00-8:45 am

74/75

Navigating the First Years of Teaching

Christina Volger, Winnetonka High School

Classroom and behavior management can be some of the biggest areas for growth in new and developing teachers. This session will offer tips and tricks on how to navigate the first few years successfully.

Presiding Payten Davis, MO NAFME-C Webmaster

Monday 9:00-9:30 am

Compass Rose

Harmonizing Together: Because Music Isn't a Solo Act

Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Coordinator

In this session we'll share stories, laughs, and lessons from your music education journey. Connect with peers, future colleagues, and fellow music educators in training.

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

Monday 9:45-11:15 am

Various

Common Questions Answered

Band (Coral Reef)	Kyle Donnelly, Chris Sacco, Chelsea Silvermintz
Choir (Compass R)	Jodi Kratzer, Sarah Cook, Patrick Dell, Aaron Neff
Elementary (Island)	René Spencer, Vicky Scott, Sheila Baer
K-12 (Cedar Cove)	Chris Sprague, Elizabeth Betts
Orchestra (Port)	Daniel Henderson

Presiding Standards MMEA Mentors
MTS: 9.1; 8.2; 8.3

Have a GREAT year!

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MONDAY SCHEDULE

TRI-M SUMMIT

Monday 9:00-9:30 am

Compass Rose

Harmonizing Together: Because Music Isn't a Solo Act

Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Coordinator

In this session we'll share stories, laughs, and lessons from your music education journey. Connect with peers, future colleagues, and fellow music educators in training.

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

Monday 10:00-11:00 am

Parasol 1

Mindfulness in the Choral Classroom

Tabitha Tracy, Glendale High School

Mindfulness is being fully present and engaged in the moment without judgement. This practice can bring community and a safe learning environment for students of all ages. In this session we will explore the correlation of mindfulness practices to the development of singing technique, while engaging in hands-on mindfulness exercises that you can use to start the school year strong!

Presiding Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

Monday 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Parasol 1

Busy But Balanced: Time Management for Student Leaders

Maddie Fenimore, Hayley O'Keefe

Leadership doesn't mean doing everything; it means doing the right things well. In this practical session, you will learn time and energy management tools that help student musicians stay focused and avoid burnout. Walk away with your own "Ideal Week" plan and smart habits that you can use tomorrow.. *Maddie Fenimore is serving as the Missouri NAfME-C Vice President of Membership. She is currently a student at Northwest Missouri State studying Music Education and plays clarinet and flute. Hayley O'Keefe is serving as the Missouri NAfME-C Secretary. She is currently a student at William Jewell College studying Music Education and voice is her primary instrument.*

Presiding Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

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MONDAY SCHEDULE

TRI-M SUMMIT



Monday 1:00-2:00 pm

Parasol 1

CORNicopia of Conducting: More Than Just Waving Your Arms

Dr. Nathan Cornelius, Kickapoo High School

In this interactive workshop, students will explore conducting skills, learn about what conducting gestures mean, and how they can apply that knowledge in their ensembles for enhanced performance experiences.

Presiding Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

Monday 2:00-3:00 pm

Parasol 1

Advocacy: #BuildingaBetterFuture

Dr. Cynthia Williams-Phelps, Dr. Melissa Cooper, MAAE

Join us for a hands-on, high-energy workshop designed to empower you to become a confident advocate for the arts! Through interactive activities like creating social media content, writing postcards to legislators, and practicing conversation starters, you'll learn how to use your voice to support arts education in your community. Discover how to connect with decision-makers, use hashtags to amplify your message, and invite others to events like SMarts 2026. Whether you're new to advocacy or already passionate about the cause, this workshop will give you the tools to speak up for what matters—music education and the arts in our schools!

Presiding Sarah Sacco, MMEA Tri-M Chair

Have a GREAT year!

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SHEILA BAER

MMEA EQUITY CHAIR

Sheila Baer has been teaching in the Union R-XI School District for 23 years. She has a Masters in Music Education from UCM with a Kodály certification. She has also completed her Levels I & II in ORFF from Webster University as well as World Drumming I in St. Louis. Currently Sheila teaches Pre K-5th grade general music, and directs a 4th-5th grade choir. Currently she is the mentoring vp for East Central District #7. She is a member of the St.Louis Symphony Educational Task Force which works to bring musicians into the schools as well as providing professional development for teachers in the area.

Sheila is a member of NafME/MMEA, SLAKE and OAKE.



ELIZABETH BETTS

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.



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SARAH COOK

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 West Central MMEA as the Secretary/Treasurer, and enjoys mentoring and speaking to new music teachers.



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Dr. Melissa A. Cooper serves as MAAE's Director of Public Policy, including Advocacy, Legislative Watch Team, Awards and Contests, SMarts and Fine Arts Education Day. From Northwest Oklahoma State University- she received her Bachelors of Music Education (BME), from Southeast Missouri State University - Masters of Arts, and her Ed.D in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, from the University of Missouri - Columbia. Melissa is a retired PK-12 General Music, Band and Choir teacher, having taught 30 years in Oklahoma and Missouri. She currently teaches private piano, and will be teaching part-time general music and choir in the private sector, as well as serving as a co-mentor for the Southeast Missouri Music Educators Association.

Melissa has been married to Kevin S. Cooper since 1991, and is the mother to Katrina, Kathlyn, and Keegan. She enjoys gardening, reading, and attending all kinds of art venues and events. melissa.cooper@moaee.org



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PATRICK DELL

FORT ZUMWALT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Patrick Dell 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 Erbkönig. He has also earned all of the three gold star cups at the 200cc difficulty level in Mario Kart 8.



KYLE DONNELLY

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Kyle Donnelly is currently the Assistant Band Director at West Middle School in Columbia, 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. He has served as a mentor through MMEA since 2014 & has presented multiple clinics at the MMEA conference & the MBA 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 & and is a National Board Certified Teacher.



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JAMIE HEIL

KEARNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jamie Heil is in her twentieth year of teaching, joining the band staff of the Kearney, MO School District in 2008. Her current teaching responsibilities include the Kearney High School marching and symphonic band, and the sixth and seventh grade woodwind classes at Kearney Middle School.



Jamie attended Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, earning her Bachelor of Arts in Music degree in 2005, and completing her Master of Arts in Education Degree in 2006. In 2014, Jamie achieved National Board Certification. She is active as a clinician and adjudicator, and is a member of NAFME, MMEA, MBA, and Phi Kappa Phi. Mrs. Heil is currently serving as Treasurer for Northwest District #1 of MMEA. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Jamie has taught private clarinet and performed throughout the Kansas City area for many years, performing most recently as a full-time member of the Cameron Municipal Band. She resides in Kearney, Missouri, with her husband, Chris, and 14 year-old daughter, Allie.

DANIEL HENDERSON

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 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 MMEA 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.

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JODI KRATZER

FORT ZUMWALT SCHOOLS



Jodi Kratzer teaches vocal music at Fort Zumwalt North Middle School. She is the current Choral MMEA Vice President 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 MCDA 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.

DOROTHY GLICK MAGLIONE

WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE

As one of the first recipients of the Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowship, Maglione holds a Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of Kansas, with specializations in nineteenth-century French flute music and immigrant music and musicians of the twentieth century. She also earned her Master of Music in both Flute Performance and Musicology at KU and her Bachelor of Music in Music Education at East Carolina University.

Her current research examines the intersection of immigration and music, offering an analysis of the aspects of race, ethnicity, gender, class, and religion evident in early twentieth-century concerts that occurred on Ellis Island for detained individuals. She is the author of "Bernstein's 'Omnibus' Series" in *Leonard Bernstein: In Context*, edited by Elizabeth A. Wells (Cambridge University Press, 2024) and "Singing at Ellis Island" in the *Oxford Handbook of Community Singing*, edited by Esther Morgan-Ellis and Kay Norton (Oxford University Press, 2024). Maglione was a finalist for the Society for American Music Wiley Housewright Dissertation Award and the University of Kansas Argersinger Dissertation Award.



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JAMES MELTON

MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL
ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
(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

AARON NEFF

ARCADIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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.

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Dr. Cynthia Williams Phelps serves as MAAE's Director of Professional Learning, as well as an Arts Integration Specialist. She holds a PhD in Music Education, with an emphasis in learning, teaching, and curriculum, from the University of Missouri, an MME in Music Education from Georgia State University, and a BA in Music Education from College of the Ozarks. Dr. Phelps enjoys presenting workshops at arts education conferences and administrative conferences across the state. She is a University Supervisor for MSU and a music teacher educator. Dr. Phelps has published in the Missouri School Music Magazine, Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education, and the Journal of Research in Music Education.

Her research interests include reflective music teaching, teacher leadership in music education, and arts integration. She and her husband live in Republic, MO.



cynthia.phelps@moaae.org

CHRIS SACCO

MMEA PRESIDENT

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.

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.



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SARAH SACCO

AVA SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mrs. Sarah Sacco has been the Director of Bands at Ava High School since 2008. Mrs. Sacco attended MSU for her Bachelor's in Music Education and completed her Master's Degree in Secondary Ed. 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 MMEA Tri-M Music Honor Society Chair, past president of the South Central MEA, 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 MSHSAA and the Missouri Small School Band Directors Association. Mrs. Sacco's professional affiliations and memberships include MMEA, NAFME, MBA, Phi Beta Mu (International Bandmasters Fraternity), and Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity.

VICKY SCOTT

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. 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.

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CHELSEA SILVERMINTZ

MMEA
PRESIDENT-ELECT

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 NAFME, MMEA, MBA, Phi Beta Mu, Sigma Alpha Iota, and the 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. 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.



RENÉ SPENCER

ADJUNCT: MSSU

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 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.



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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 MMEA in 2014, and multiple years of "straight 1" performances at the MSHSAA All-State Large Ensemble Festival.

Chris is currently serving as the MMEA Mentoring Chair. 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. 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.



ZACHARY STELZER

LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Zachary Stelzer is an active music educator and professional choral singer in the Kansas City area. After receiving his undergraduate degree in Vocal Music Education from William Jewell College in 2017, Zac accepted his first teaching position at Reed Academy Middle School in Springfield.

During that time he became involved with the Springfield Chamber Choir, Show-Me Statesmen Barbershop Chapter, and the Missouri State University Gospel Choir. In 2021, Zac co-founded the Springfield Shanty Choir, a local ensemble that teaches sea songs and supports local businesses in the community. Zac received his Masters in Choral Conducting from Missouri State University in 2022 before moving back to Kansas City where he is now the choir director at Discovery Middle School. When not directing, Zac sings with the Missouri Choral Artists and William Jewell's professional choir, Cardinalis.



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TABITHA TRACY

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tabitha Tracy is a native of Southwest Missouri. She was born and raised in Reeds Spring, but has lived in Springfield since moving here in 2010 to begin her college career.



During her time at Missouri State University, Tabitha traveled and performed with the University Chorale under the direction of Dr. Guy Webb. She graduated in the Fall of 2014 with a Bachelor's in Vocal Music Education. Since graduating, Tabitha served as an Elementary Music Educator for three years, and has spent the last eight years directing the High School Choir program at Glendale in Springfield, Missouri. Tabitha continues to perform as an alto for various local project choirs and is in her second year of a Master's in Choral Education at Kansas State University. Outside of the classroom, Tabitha enjoys being a mother to her three-year-old daughter and spending time with her family.

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