

CHRISTOPHER BRANDT



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EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS

Wind Band Conducting
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
May 3, 2019

MASTER OF ARTS

Wind Band Conducting
Sam Houston State University
Aug 8, 2015

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Magna Cum Laude
Music Education, Music
Performance (saxophone),
Leadership (minor)
University of Jamestown
Dec 16, 2010

PRIMARY INSTRUCTORS

CONDUCTING

Dr. Carolyn Barber, Dr. Peter
Eklund, Dr. Benjamin Schneider,
Dr. Aaron McDermid,
Dr. Tyler White

SAXOPHONE

Dr. Benjamin Schneider,
Dr. Bruce Ammann

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY

Director of Bands, Assistant Professor of Music (2019-Present)

- Symphonic Band - Music Director
Oversee all aspects of program including music selection, rehearsal, leadership selection, scheduling, recruiting, and performances.
- Jazz Ensemble - Music Director
Oversee all aspects of program including music selection, rehearsal, leadership selection, scheduling, recruiting, and performances.
- Marching Yellowjackets
Lead ensemble in visual and musical rehearsals, scheduling, performances, and recruitment.
- Music Courses
Music Theory I, II, III, IV, Introduction to Music Technology, Secondary Music Methods, Advanced Instrumental Conducting, Brass Instructional Methods and Pedagogy, Woodwind Instructional Methods and Pedagogy, Applied Woodwind Lessons, Saxophone Ensemble

PERSHING WINDS

Founder and Music Director (2017-2020)

The Pershing Winds is a semi-professional wind ensemble comprised of students from all facets of the Glenn Korff School of Music that aspires to create expressive and meaningful performances of quality literature written for the wind band.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Doctoral Conducting Associate (2016-2019)

Assist principle conductor of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band in administration of students and rehearsals, Associate Director of two university-wide concert ensembles (Campus Band), visual and musical assistant of 300-member Cornhusker Marching Band, lead Big Red Express in rehearsal and performances at NCAA division I basketball, and volleyball. Teach beginning conducting courses and assist in advanced conducting courses teaching basic conducting techniques, transposition fundamentals, score study techniques, and rehearsal techniques.

LINCOLN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Adjunct Faculty (2016-2018)

Assist director Michael Werner by leadings sectionals, private lessons, and other rehearsals throughout the band program.

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Assistant Director of Bands (2015-2016)

Instruct, rehearse, and lead Symphonic band, Concert band, and two Freshman bands in class and in performance. Conduct and rehearse competitive Marching band and pep band.

SIOUX FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION SUMMER YOUTH BAND

Assistant Director (2006, 2007, 2008, 2016)

Assist director, Mr. Robert Carlson, in the preparation of music and equipment, warm-up and rehearsal and performance of students as well as covering parts in performance as needed.

BRAINERD HIGH SCHOOL

Associate Director of Bands (2013-2015)

Instruct, rehearse, and lead Symphonic band, Concert band, and two Freshman bands in class and in performance. Conduct and rehearse fall marching band and pep band.

CROOKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Director of Bands (2011-2013)

Instruct, rehearse, and administer a band program of 350 students. Lead the band students in class and in performance. Director of the High School Band (including Marching and Pep Bands), Jr. High Band, 6th Grade Band, and 5th Grade Band.

CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

Student Teaching (Fall 2010)

Under the supervision of Mr. Richard Saucedo, Director of Bands.

ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

Saxophone, Marching, and Visual Assistant (Summer 2006, 2007, 2009)

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Practicum (Fall 2008)

Under the supervision of Mr. Robert Carlson, Director of Bands.

JAMESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Assistant to the Director of Bands (Fall 2007-2008)

Assist director, Mr. Brady Olson, in individual, small group, and full ensemble rehearsals.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Substitute Choral Director (2007-2009)

Prepare and rehearse the choir in the absence of their regular director, Dr. Aaron McDermid.

AWARDS, HONORS, PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

IT'S JUST INTONATION: STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING ENSEMBLE INTONATION

Missouri Music Educators Association Conference (January 18, 2021).

An exploration of techniques and strategies for improving ensembles intonation by incorporating prepared chorales, technology, and other resources. A survey of best practices for introducing various intonation concepts and identify tangible techniques that can be immediately instituted to improve ensemble instruction. A look at various technological devices and applications that can aid in ensemble instruction including Yamaha's Harmony Director and Tonal Energy.

AMERICAN PRIZE, THIRD PLACE COMPOSITION IN WIND ENSEMBLE DIVISION - *Conductor An Immigrants Story* by Marat Sanatulloev (May 2019).

A collaborative project between composer and conductor, the premier recording of the work received the Third Place American Prize in Composition 2019.

MUSIC CONTEST REFORM: RESTORING THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF MUSIC CONTEST

The Instrumentalist Vol, 73, No. 4 (November 2018): p. 10-14, 38.

The benefits of music contests have been largely minimized as a result of inconsistent standards across the U.S. and abroad, damaging emphasis placed on the final results rather than a process driven endeavor with judge comments providing guidance along the way, and poor judge training.

CONTRADICTIONS - THE MUSIC OF DANIEL BALDWIN - *Conductor*

(Summer 2017)

An album featuring the wind music of composer Daniel Baldwin. Recordings completed summer 2017. Release upcoming.

NATIONAL BAND ASSOCIATION YOUNG CONDUCTOR - *Semi-Finalist*

(Summer 2017)

A national selection process that pairs young conductors with veteran conductor mentors in an intensive collaboration culminating in the premiere of new works from young composers.

ESSENTIAL TRANSCRIPTIONS

The Instrumentalist Vol. 71, No. 9 (April 2017): p. 18-24.

"Over the past century an increasing emphasis has been placed on the performance of original works for band, resulting in fewer transcriptions being performed each year. This article seeks to identify the origin of this trend, assert the value of transcriptions in the band repertoire, and propose significant transcriptions worthy of performance."

HIXSON-LIED STUDY GRANT RECIPIENT

Glenn Korff School of Music, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Nov. 15, 2016)

Student study grant of \$1,000 to support participation in the Northwestern University Conducting Symposium in Evanston, IL. Grant augmented by Glenn Korff School of Music award of \$500.

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

United States Army (May 1, 2010, Oct. 9, 2010)

Awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity while serving as a member of the United States Army.

DEAN'S LIST OF OUTSTANDING SCHOLARS

University of Jamestown (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010)

COLLEGE FELLOW - *Department of Music*

University of Jamestown (May 1, 2010, Oct. 9, 2010)

A limited number of outstanding junior and senior students are selected each year by the faculty for the distinction of College Fellow. Recipients are to be of exemplary character and must possess an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or better as well as a grade point average of 3.50 or better in their majors. Fellows may tutor or teach under the direction of their department chair(s) and hold rank just below that of a college instructor.

ARMY RESERVE COMPONENT ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

United States Army (Mar. 9, 2011)

Awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity while serving as a member of the United States Army Reserve.

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

United States Army (Aug. 8, 2008)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Sioux Empire Red Cross (2006)

GUEST CONDUCTING & ADJUDICATING

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS LARGE GROUP CONTEST
Des Moines, IA (April 21, 2020)

LENOX JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL HONOR BAND
Lenox, IA (March 28, 2020)

BLUEGRASS CONFERENCE HIGH SCHOOL HONOR BAND
Lamoni, IA (March 26, 2020)

SOUTH CENTRAL IOWA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION LARGE GROUP CONTEST
Norwalk, IA (March 14, 2020)

TRENTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS LARGE GROUP CONTEST
Trenton, MO (March 10, 2020)

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SYMPHONIC BAND
Lincoln, NE (December 6, 2018)
Giroux: *Shine*

DONALD A. LENTZ CONCERT BAND
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (April 26, 2018)
Spittal: *Celestial Song*, Buckley: *Doctor Who: Through Time and Space*, Prescott: *Time Circles*

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL WIND ENSEMBLE
Lincoln, NE (Mar. 19-24, 2018)
Bernstein/Beeler: *Overture to Candide*, Mackey: *Sheltering Sky*, Sheldon: *Danzas Cubanas*, Filmore: *Klaxon March*, Hazo: *Sólas Ané*, Balmages: *Midnight on Main Street*

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN WIND ENSEMBLE
Lincoln, NE (March 7, 2018)
Salfelder: *Cathedrals*, Daugherty: *Bells for Stokowski*, Sanatullo: *Through my eyes: one immigrant's story*

JACK R. SNIDER CONCERT BAND
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (April 27, 2017)
Mahr: *Daydream*, Mackey: *Foundry*, Bryant: *Machine Awakes*

NEW MUSIC RECITAL
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (March 31, 2017)
Derek Molacek: *The War Never Ends*

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN WIND ENSEMBLE
Lincoln, NE (March 8, 2017)
Barnes: *Incantation and Dance*

SAXOPHONE CHOIR
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2016-2017)

WINTER WINDS HONOR BAND
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (January 14, 2017, January 21, 2018)
Rehearsal Conductor Gould: *Ballad for Band*, Schmitt: *Selamlık*

WEST FARGO HIGH SCHOOL
West Fargo, ND (January 2-5, 2017)

GRANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
Granville, ND (March 4-8, 2015)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

TEACHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Graceland University (2019-Present)

Monitor progression of students in the elementary and secondary education programs. Tasks: Approves students for admission into teacher education program. Monitors probationary candidates and those for whom expressed concerns have been submitted. Approves students for student teaching placements. Receives student petitions and appeals in the education program.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES & RESEARCH EXPERIENCES EVALUATOR

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2016-2019)

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

451st Army Band, Ft. Snelling, MN (2008-2014)

ASSOCIATE CONDUCTOR

University of Jamestown Pep Band, Jamestown, ND (Fall 2006-2010)

Lead the Jamestown College Pep Band in performance for football and basketball games.

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

University of Jamestown, Jamestown, ND (Fall 2006-2008)

Assist musical director, Dr. Richard Valentine, in all aspects of preparing the University of Jamestown orchestra and theatre members for numerous performances. These aspects include: rehearsing small and large ensembles independently, keeping notes on the progress of the ensemble(s), preparing part books, and assisting in the printing of the program.

ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

University of Jamestown, Jamestown, ND (Fall 2008-2010)

DRUM MAJOR

451st Army Band, Ft. Snelling, MN (2008-2014)

ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER

451st Army Band, Ft. Snelling, MN (2008-2014)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

HEART OF AMERICA WIND ENSEMBLE

Kansas City, MO (2019-present)

Saxophonist

451ST ARMY BAND

Ft. Snelling, MN (2008-2014)

Associate Conductor, Assistant Team Leader, Senior Instrumentalist

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AUTHENTIC PERFORMANCE OF WIND BAND TRANSCRIPTIONS

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Dissertation (May 2019)

An examination of five representative wind band transcriptions (*Danzon No. 2* by Arturo Marquez transcribed by Oliver Nickel, Finale from *Symphony No. 9* by Antonín Dvořák transcribed by Mark Hindsley, *Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral* by Richard Wagner transcribed by Lucien Cailliet, *Serenity* by Ola Gjeilo transcribed by Eric Wilson, and Johannes Brahms *Blessed Are They* transcribed by Barbara Buehlman), how they relate to their original form, and how a performance of the transcription may be influenced by an increased understanding of its original form.

WIND BAND TRANSCRIPTIONS: A VITAL COMPONENT OF THE WIND BAND REPERTOIRE

The Instrumentalist Vol. 71, No. 9 (April 2017): 18-24.

Reprinted *Music Association Journal Vol 35 No.2 (May 2019): 18-21.*

Wind band transcriptions represent a rich and vast selection of the repertoire, and create a window into the past for the students in our ensembles.

MUSIC CONTEST REFORM: RESTORING THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF MUSIC CONTEST

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The benefits of music contests have been largely minimized as a result of inconsistent standards across the U.S. and abroad, damaging emphasis placed on the final results rather than a process driven endeavor with judge comments providing guidance along the way, and poor judge training.

VIBRATO USE IN THE WIND BAND

A search for broad criterion for the use of vibrato in the wind band (On Going)

With its vastly different timbre's, some instruments generally expected to use vibrato and others not, how does one approach the creation of a unified sound within the wind band. How are these principles affected by the era of a composition, the relative range of the instrument, the composer, and the orchestration? The answer will include input from conductors (wind, choral, and orchestral), applied instructors, and composers.

EFFECTIVE REHEARSAL STRATEGIES

Seeking potent rehearsal techniques that encourage ensembleship, and individual musicianship (On Going)

Gone are the days (thankfully) of hierarchal, oneway music making from the podium to the student musicians. Students and musicians today warrant significant opportunities for input into the creative process, furthermore this is the best way to create life-long enthusiasts of music. Additionally, the scope of the public school ensemble director must extend beyond the preparation of excellent performances. The educator has the responsibility to convey the building blocks of music, relevant historical and biographical information, and to instill a passion for music that extends well beyond the concert stage.

COMPREHENSIVE BAND METRIC

A quantitative study of public school band programs in the United States with the intent on creating a comprehensive metric to predict the quality of a given band program. Using objective data points such as: band population (compared to school population); solo & ensemble participation and ratings; large group ratings; and more; to identify predictors of program quality and develop a model to track the year-to-year trajectory of a given program.

THE EFFECTS OF WIND INSTRUMENT PERFORMANCE ON CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

Identifying the effects of prolonged wind instrument performance on cardiovascular health. (Future Study)

Controlled breathing exercises have been shown to lower heart rates and have other cardiovascular health benefits. Do the exercises and demands on the lungs necessary to perform on a wind instrument produce the same benefits?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MISSOURI MUSIC EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
Osage Beach, MO
(2020)

IOWA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE
Ames, IA
(2019, 2020)

THE MIDWEST CLINIC
Chicago, IL
(2008, 2009, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018)

CONDUCTING SUMMIT
University of Wisconsin (2017)
With Donald Hunsberger

KIETH LOCKHART
University of Nebraska (2017)
Conducting Masterclass Iowa Western
Conductor's clinic
With Col. Bruce Pulver (2017)

WIND BAND INSTITUTE
Concordia University (2009, 2010)
With Dr. Scott Jones, and
Richard Saucedo

CONDUCTING SYMPOSIUM
University of Minnesota (2009)
With Craig Kirchhoff

MINNESOTA MUSIC EDUCATORS
CONFERENCE
Minneapolis, MN
(2013, 2014, 2015)

NEBRASKA MUSIC EDUCATORS
CONFERENCE
Lincoln, NE (2016, 2017, 2018)

COLORADO CONDUCTING SYMPOSIUM
University of Colorado - Boulder (2018)
With Allen McMurray, Donald J. McKinney,
Matthew Roeder, and Matthew Dockendorff

MEMBERSHIPS

College Band Directors National Association (2016-Present)
National Band Association (2007-Present)
National Association for Music Education (2007-Present)
Iowa Bandmasters Association (2019-Present)
Minnesota Band Directors Association (2011-2015)
Minnesota Music Educators Association (2011-2015)
North Dakota Music Educators Association (2007-2011)

REFERENCES
