

GENERAL MUSIC CHAIR-ELECT

Candidate Platform for
Colorado Music Educators Association.

The election will be held online. The ballot will be sent via email and you will vote using that email.



Elizabeth Ford

Elizabeth is currently the PK-5th grade General Music Specialist at Discovery Canyon Campus-Elementary School in Academy School District 20. She is a proud Orff Schulwerk Educator, and holds her Level I and II Certification. She was named the “Charles Tewell Elementary Educator of the Year” at her building for the 2012-2013 school year and the “2012 Exceptional New Alumna for Adams State University.” Elizabeth received her Masters of Education in Curriculum & Instruction from Concordia University and also holds an endorsement in Gifted and Talented instruction. Her students have participated in the Colorado Elementary All State Choir every year since its inception.

Elizabeth co-directs World Choir, a 3rd –12th grade all-campus ensemble, a large

Spring musical each year, and co-directs a Performing Arts Summer Camp.

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District 1



Theresa Derr

Theresa Derr is in her 18th year as music specialist at Centennial Academy in Littleton, Colorado. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice degree from North Park University, and Master of Music in Voice from the University of North Texas. She obtained teacher certification from the University of Texas in Arlington, and began her teaching career at Rose Hill Elementary in Commerce City before joining the Centennial staff in 1998. Ms. Derr maintains a busy private voice studio and has received grants from AT&T Venture Fund, Colorado Opera, and the LPS Foundation. An accomplished soprano soloist, she sings with Denver's KANTOREI, and recently served as choral clinician for the Arvada Area Elementary Honor Choir and the Rocky Mountain Chorister's Guild Festival. Ms. Derr has presented sessions on vocal technique for children at the MEI (Music EdVentures International) convention, and presented at both CMEA and SWACDA in 2016.

District 3



Cathy Keller

Cathy Keller is in her sixth year at Prairie Ridge Elementary School in the St. Vrain School District. There she serves as general music instructor and conductor of the Soaring Singers, a before-school choir of ninety 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Prior to that position, Mrs. Keller taught at Erwin Middle School in Loveland, Fossil Ridge High School and Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School in Fort Collins, and Thimig Elementary in Brighton. Mrs. Keller holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and a Masters of Music in Music Education from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. In her university studies, Mrs. Keller focused on voice, collaborative piano, and Kodály instruction.

In spring of 2013 the Soaring Singers attended the Elitch Gardens Music Festival where they took first place—Mrs. Keller won the “Outstanding Director/Conductor” award. In January 2015, the Soaring Singers perform as an exemplary ensemble at the annual convention of the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA) in Colorado Springs.

Mrs. Keller comes from a family of music educators. Her parents and parents-in-law, Chris and Dona White, Lori Courier, and Jim Keller recently retired from careers in music education. Her sister, Jennifer Stream, is currently the general music instructor at Pioneer Elementary in Fort Morgan.

Mrs. Keller is married to Travis Keller, the Director of Bands at Fairview High School. They have two wonderful children, Matthew and Emma. When not at school, she enjoys camping, hiking, snowmobiling and most any outdoor activities with her family. She particularly loves taking her kids to all of Travis' marching band activities in the fall to cheer on the band!

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District 5

Shannon Glenn

District 7



Anna Robinson

Anna Robinson teaches K-3 General Music at Telluride Elementary School in Telluride, CO. Originally from Fort Collins, Anna received a Bachelor's of Music Education from DePauw University. Additionally, she completed her Orff-Schulwerk certification courses at the University of Northern Colorado, and is an active member of the Four Corners Orff Chapter in Durango. Anna also serves as Vocal Music Director (and performer) with the Telluride Theatre Company, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Telluride Choral Society.

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Craig Westwood

Craig Westwood is in his 11th year as Director of Bands at Cherry Creek West Middle School. Prior to taking the position at West, Mr. Westwood was Director of Bands at Wheat Ridge High School for 9 years. He holds an undergraduate degree in Music Education from Colorado Christian University and a Masters Degree in Conducting from The American Band College at Southern Oregon University. Mr. Westwood is an active clinician/adjudicator in Concert, Jazz and Marching Band in Colorado. The past four summers he has been a guest conductor at the Lebanese Band Association for the Promotion of Music (LeBAM) International Band Camp held near Beirut, Lebanon. He is a member of the Colorado Bandmasters Association, Colorado Music Educators Association and Phi Beta Mu and is an active performer in the Denver/Boulder area as a Percussionist, primarily playing drum set. Craig has performed with a variety of artists including Bo Diddley, “Pinetop” Perkins, Big Bill Morganfield, Don Lanphere, and The Boulder Philharmonic. A native of Colorado, Mr. Westwood grew up in Littleton

and graduated from Columbine High School. He now lives in the Chatfield area with his wife Marcee, daughter Emma (18), and son Ridge (7).

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District 1



Marie Jenkins

Marie Jenkins is the Director of Bands at Powell Middle School in Littleton. She graduated summa cum laude from Wichita State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education in 1989. She received a Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado in 1994. She also received a Certificate in Special Education: "Teaching the Gifted and Talented" in 1998 from UNC. Mrs. Jenkins is a member of the Music Educators National Association, the Colorado Music Educators Association, the Colorado Bandmasters Association, and the American School Band Directors Association.



Nick Hinman

Nick Hinman is the Director of Bands at Thunder Ridge Middle School in Aurora, CO. His duties at Thunder Ridge include 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands, an extracurricular jazz band, and conducting the TRMS spring musical. The bands annually perform at festivals around the metro area, and consistently receive superior or excellent ratings.

Nick went to the University of Colorado-Boulder where he earned Bachelors degrees in Trumpet Performance and Music Education. He performed with the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Orchestra, and "Golden Buffalo" Marching Band. Nick recently completed his Masters degree at the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, IL.

Nick is a member of NAFME and CBA, is currently on the brass staff with the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps, and keeps up his musicianship by playing in community groups

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District 3



Pete Toews

Peter Toews has been the Director of Bands and Orchestras at Mountain View High School since the school opened in August, 2000. He also teaches Music History, Music Theory, AP Music Theory, and piano. Mr. Toews holds a Bachelor's Degree in K-12 Music Education and a Master's Degree in Conducting from the University of Northern Colorado, where he served as a graduate teaching assistant. While at UNC, Mr. Toews was awarded the Departmental Scholar Award, and was selected for membership in Pi Kappa Lambda (the National Music Honor Society). He is an active member of ASTA, CBA, CMEA, NAFME, and Phi Beta Mu. He has held positions on the governing boards for both the Colorado All-State Band and All-State Orchestra. Mr. Toews was selected as the 2002-2003 Teacher of the Year at Mountain View High School, and the 2013-2014 Thompson Education Foundation Secondary Teacher of the Year. In 2013,

he was awarded a citation for his work in the field of music education by the National Band Association. He continues to perform and serve as a clinician on a regular basis while living in Greeley with his wife, Shanna, and their twins, Alyson and Michael.



David Merrill

David Merrill has been a high school band director for the past 20 years. Under his direction, the bands at Longmont High School have consistently received superior ratings at festival including numerous "Best in Class" and "Best in Show" awards. His bands have premiered new works by notable composers such as Frank Ticheli, Richard Saucedo, and Dana Wilson. He founded the LHS Steel Band and LHS Mariachi Ensemble and the Longmont High School Winter Drumline has earned six state championships and 5-time WGI World Finalist. Mr. Merrill was nominated for Who's Who Among America's Teachers, won an Outstanding Teacher of the Year award, and served on the Colorado Music Educators Instrumental Board for 8 years. In 2014, Mr. Merrill won the Eleanor Venture Travel Grant given to one teacher in the St. Vrain school district,

and traveled to Japan to study instrumental education. Mr. Merrill formed the Longmont International Friendship Exchange Band (LIFE Band) which will give their debut performance in Chino, Japan in April of 2017. Mr. Merrill received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from University of Colorado and a Master of Music degree from the Hartt School at the University of Hartford.

Corry Petersen

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District 5



Kate Margrave

Kate Flynn Margrave is in her 9th year of teaching at Pine Creek High School and 13th year of her teaching career. At Pine Creek, she teaches marching band, concert band, symphonic band, jazz ensemble, jazz combo, orchestra, world drumming, music tech and music composition. Kate received her Bachelors of Music in Music Education from Mansfield University in Mansfield, PA and her Masters of Music in Instrumental Conducting from the American Band College in Ashland, OR.

Her passion is for conducting and wind literature, presenting a clinic on the subject at the Colorado Music Educators Association State Conference, the Massachusetts Music Educators Association State Conference, the California All-State Music Education Conference and at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. Kate's enthusiasm and love for teaching music shines in her students, who work to achieve excellence through their musicality and passion. In March of 2016, the Pine Creek Symphonic Band had the honor of performing at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, IN.

Originally from Massachusetts, Kate moved to Colorado to enjoy the outdoors and the mountains. She married the love of her life, Brian, also a band director, and they have two "bandtastic" beagles, Rosie and Cooper. Kate is an active member of Phi Beta Mu, the International Bandmasters Fraternity, the American School Band Directors Association, Women Band Directors International, the Colorado Bandmasters Association and the Colorado Music Educators Association.

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District 5



Tom Chapman

My name is Tom Chapman and it is my pleasure and honor to be running for the District 5 representative to the Colorado Music Educators Association Instrumental Council. Teachers from around the Pikes Peak Region and Colorado serve a vast array of students and deliver to them a well-rounded education tailored to what our students need. Through our award-winning orchestras, wind bands, jazz ensembles, and marching bands, we demonstrate what is possible in excellence in instrumental music. It is to represent our hard work that I am running for this position.

I am an instrumental music teacher in my seventh year in the Lewis-Palmer School District (LPSD) where I teach beginning band and assist with the middle school and high school band programs. Prior to this position I taught PreK-12th grade band and general music for two years in the Kit Carson School District. In my time in these two districts I conducted the first 1A school band (made up of over half middle school musicians) to be selected for the Colorado Bandmasters Association State Concert Band Festival, I have conducted the LPSD 6th Grade Festival Band at the CBA Middle School Festival for the past four years where they have consistently received a superior rating (a beginning-level volunteer ensemble and one of the few beginning ensembles to participate), and have conducted the 6th Grade Festival Band at the 2015 Colorado Music Educators Association Clinic & Conference, the first beginning level instrumental ensemble to be selected in at least twenty years for this performance.

I am also an active professional outside of the classroom. In addition to my daily teaching duties I work with the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony and have worked with a number of high schools and middle schools in the Pikes Peak region as a clinician and sectionals coach. I have also presented a number of times throughout the state at the CMEA Clinic & Conference, the CBA Summer Convention, and CU Boulder, CSU Fort Collins, and UNC Greeley on topics ranging from balancing arts, academics and athletics, to creating a musical beginning band experience, to the experience of the first years of teaching and what to expect from them.

I have a passion for all types of music from all genres that goes beyond my selected medium of wind band. As a trumpeter I have performed post-undergraduate in symphony and opera orchestras, wind ensembles, pit orchestras, chamber music ensembles, and I am currently performing weekly with the Colorado Springs Contemporary Jazz Big Band, a group I have been with since 2011, and run and perform with a local pop/rock/funk ensemble made up of music teachers from the area. I try to bring this experience and passion into my teaching running high school musicals, creating a successful beginning band chamber ensemble unit, and working with both Lewis-Palmer and Palmer Ridge High Schools to create a district-wide chamber music program that includes a brass choir and percussion ensemble and will grow this year to include a woodwind choir.

I earned my Bachelors of Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado and I am currently pursuing a Masters of Music Education at the University of Colorado Boulder. When I am not staying busy teaching and performing, I enjoy spending time with my wife, Jen, and two dogs and cat, Penny-Lane, Watson, and Daisy. With my background and passion for both music and teaching I would be an excellent representative with CMEA. It would be my honor and privilege to serve the music teachers in our region and across Colorado as your District 5 Instrumental Music Council Representative.

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District 7



Isaac Lavadie

Isaac Lavadie is the Director of Bands at Grand Junction High School and Drumline Instructor for the Colorado Mesa University Maverick Stampede Marching Band in Grand Junction, Colorado. Mr. Lavadie received his undergraduate degrees in K-12 Instrumental Music Education and Percussion Performance from Mesa State College in 2007. While at Mesa State College, Mr. Lavadie had the privilege to perform with Mark Ford, Nancy Zeltsman, and Lisa Pegher. He was also the 2006 MSC Concerto Competition winner and performed the “Concertino for Marimba” by Paul Creston with the Mesa State College Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Lavadie has also been a percussion member of the Grand Junction Symphony since 2002.

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Todd Dicamillo

Todd Dicamillo is in his 21st year of teaching and first year at Doherty High School. He has been actively involved with CMEA for the past ten years as District 5 Rep, Chair Elect and Vocal Music Chair. When Todd is not in the classroom teaching you will find him somewhere in the state as an Honor Choir Clinician or Large Group Festival Judge. In his spare time, you will find him running the largest Large Group in Colorado.

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District 1



Kathy Lushman

Kathy Lushman is a musician, educator, clinician, and arts and community advocate in Denver. Now in her fourth year teaching at Denver North High School, a Title I Denver Public School, Katy has taught for over a decade in both suburban and urban public schools, as well as international schools in both Switzerland and China. Katy holds a Bachelor of Music Education (choral emphasis) from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College, where she was the graduate assistant for the Westminster Choir under Dr. Joe Miller and performed with world-renowned conductors and orchestras. Throughout her career, Katy has been active in NAFME and ACDA, holding leadership roles as the Children's Choir Repertoire and Standards Chair for the Ohio Choral Director's Association, and as the assistant to the ACDA National Youth and Student Activities Repertoire and Standards Chair. Recently, Katy directed the DPS Citywide Middle School Honor Choir and presented a session at CMEA entitled "Creating Success in Emerging High School Music Programs" and has recently been named the Executive Director of the Ad Astra Music Festival, a month-long classical music festival serving rural Kansas each July. In addition to her work as an educator, Katy is an active vocalist and sings with the St. Martin's Chamber Choir, the Anima Chamber Ensemble, the Evan's Choir, and at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Katy is passionate about pushing the boundaries of what vocal music education is and she is equally proud that her students have had the opportunity to perform at Boettcher and Carnegie Hall as she is about their collaborations with local hip-hop and punk bands. In particular, Katy is interested in the potential that exists to create a bridge between the traditional choral education model, of which she is a product and strong supporter, and innovative and community-oriented music making, especially for students in urban and rural school settings.

District 3



Allen Denney

Alan Denney is in his 12th year as choral director at Estes Park High School and Estes Park Middle School. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Indiana State University, a Master of Music degree in Music Theory and Composition from Colorado State University, and a Doctor of Arts degree in Choral Conducting from University of Northern Colorado.

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Dawn Wisdom

Dawn Wisdom has been teaching music for 27 years, 21 of them as vocal music director at Cheyenne Mountain High School. She serves as the chair of vocal music for the Colorado Springs District 12 schools and directs six choral ensembles at CMHS. She previously served on the board of the Colorado Music Educators Association as a District 5 vocal council rep, Chair-Elect and Chair.

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Brad Hirsh

Bradley Hirsh attended the University of Northern Colorado for his undergraduate studies, where he earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree. While studying at UNC, he had the opportunity to spend one month in Germany as a chorus member for the touring opera company, Opera Classica. The following school year, Bradley was asked to be the chorus master for UNC's own production of *La Rondine*, by Giacomo Puccini. Bradley also had the opportunity to work with several outstanding directors at UNC, including vocal jazz arranger, Kerry Marsh. Bradley now resides in Grand Junction, where he has directed the Grand Junction High School choirs for two years. He directs seven ensembles at the high school, including several women's choirs, mixed choirs, a men's choir, a jazz choir, and a modern a cappella group. Bradley looks forward to providing as many opportunities for his students as possible over the course of his career.



Amy Swonger

Amy Swonger is in her 3rd year teaching K-12 music at Caprock Academy in Grand Junction, Colorado. She teaches elementary general music and 5th-high school choir. Amy attended The University of Colorado- Denver where she received her Bachelor of Science in Music with a vocal performance emphasis. Prior to moving to the Grand Valley she taught music, theatre and technology at Silverton Public School in Silverton, Colorado during which time she obtained her Master of Music degree from CSU. Amy is happy to be living in Grand Junction and singing with the Western Colorado Chorale.

Francisco Castaneda