

2024 WINTER CONFERENCE

December 5- December 8, 2024 – Rochester, NY



88th Annual Winter Conference Keynote Speaker, Guest All-State Conductors and Guest Composer in Residence Biographies



2024 NYSSMA® Winter Conference Keynote Speaker, Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes back Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser as its 2024 Winter Conference keynote speaker.

Tim Lautzenheiser is a well-known name in the music education world as a teacher, clinician, author, composer, consultant, adjudicator, and, above all, a trusted friend to anyone interested in working with young people in developing a desire for excellence.

Lautzenheiser has been a part of the Bands of America family for more than 25 years. He served as Executive Director in 1980-82 and has since worked directly with tens of thousands of Bands of America students and directors in leadership and motivational training.

His career involves 10 years of successful college band directing at Northern Michigan University, the University of Missouri, and New Mexico State University. During this time Lautzenheiser developed highly acclaimed groups in all areas of the instrumental and vocal field.

Following his three years with Bands of America, he created Attitude Concepts for Today, an organization designed to manage the many requests for workshops, seminars, and convention speaking engagements focusing on the area of positive attitude and effective leadership training. He presently holds the Earl Dunn Distinguished Lecturer position at Ball State University. Lautzenheiser also is the Director of Education for Conn-Selmer, and he serves as the national spokesperson for NafME's "Make A Difference with Music" program.

Lautzenheiser's books, produced by G.I.A. Publications, *The Art of Successful Teaching* and *The Joy of Inspired Teaching*, are best-sellers in the music profession. He is also co-author of Hal Leonard's popular band method, *Essential Elements*, as well as the creator of the highly-acclaimed Director's Communication Kits.

A graduate of Ball State University and the University of Alabama, Lautzenheiser was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from VanderCook College of Music. Additional awards include the distinguished Sudler Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation, Mr. Holland's Opus Award, and the Music Industry Award from the Midwest Clinic Board of Directors.



2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble Guest Conductor Carol Jacobe, La Moyne College, Syracuse, NY

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Carol Jacobe as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State

Vocal Jazz Ensemble guest conductor.

Carol Jacobe is a graduate of Syracuse University and has been a music educator for 52 years, serving in the Liverpool and Baldwinsville school districts. For the past 20 years she has been a member of the faculty at Le Moyne College, where she founded the vocal jazz ensemble The Jazzuits.

Students of Jacobe have received numerous awards around the country, including the prestigious 23rd Annual Student Music Award from *Downbeat* for outstanding high school female jazz vocalist. Professional awards of her own include Outstanding Choral Director from Civic Morning Musicals, Outstanding Vocal Music Educator from the Syracuse Symphony and Syracuse University, and Outstanding Jazz Educator from the Syracuse Jazz Fest.

To honor her expertise and devotion to jazz education, in 2005 the Syracuse Jazz Fest honored her for her contributions to vocal jazz. In 2015 she was honored as both the first female and first vocal jazz educator to receive the Jazz Central Jazz Educator of the Year Award. Honors from Le Moyne College include Outstanding Part-time Faculty Member of the Year (2020) and the Ignite Leadership Award for Excellence in Inclusive Programming (2018).

Jacobe has acted as chairperson for numerous terms for the NYSSMA® All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble and has recently been chosen as the guest conductor of the 2024 New York All-State Vocal Jazz ensemble. She has also served as the New York State Chairperson for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Repertoire and Standards for Vocal Jazz. Jacobe is active in ACDA, Jazz Educator Network and NYSSMA®, serving as a certified adjudicator, clinician, and chairing vocal jazz festivals.

Her compositions and arrangements have been published by Anchor Music and Hal Leonard, and ArrangeMe and have been performed nationally. Jacobe's select vocal jazz quartet, Salt City Voices, received a 2023 Sammy nomination for jazz. Their CD, *For Once in My Life*, is streaming on numerous platforms.



2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Instrumental Jazz Ensemble Guest Conductor

Bethany Robinson, Purdue University

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Bethany Roberson as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Instrumental Jazz Ensemble guest conductor.

As of July 1, 2024 Bethany Robinson officially leads the jazz program at Purdue University holding the title of Clinical Assistant Professor of Bands. She is a 2022 GRAMMY Music Educator Award Finalist and Yamaha Performing Artist, and is an avid performer on upright bass, electric bass, and vocals. Prior to her appointment at Purdue, Robinson was the jazz band director at Noblesville High School.

Originally from Kokomo, IN, Robinson graduated with degrees in Music Education and String Bass from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL. In 2011, Bethany received her first Lilly Teacher Creativity Grant and traveled to New Orleans and New York City exploring the current trends of jazz in those two cities. She experienced dozens of jazz shows, attended the Band Director Academy at Jazz at Lincoln Center, composed her first piece for big band, and came home with a whole new concept of jazz pedagogy at the secondary level.

Since her return from this experience, her jazz program has expanded from one to six high school big bands, and the top band has made regular appearances at the ISSMA Indiana Jazz State Finals, placing first in 2023. Other honors include first place finishes at both Ball State and Purdue University Jazz Festivals, as well as two-time finalist for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Essentially Ellington Festival and Competition.

In 2014, Robinson was named Indiana Jazz Educator of the Year by the Indianapolis Jazz Foundation. In 2015, she was named Teacher of the Year for Noblesville Schools, the 11th largest high school in Indiana. In 2016, Robinson was a semifinalist for Indiana Teacher of the Year. She was named one of the 2022 Jazz Heroes by the Jazz Journalists Association, which honors advocates who have had a significant impact in their local communities. Robinson was also named the 2023 High School Music Educator of the Year by the Indiana Music Educator Association.

Robinsons currently serves as Chair of the National Association for Music Education Jazz Council (NAfME), Jazz Education Network NAfME Liaison Board Member, and is Past President of the Indiana Jazz Educators Association. During her time as IJEA President, she spearheaded efforts to create the All-District Jazz Program, a Junior All-State Jazz Ensemble, began a partnership with Jazz at Lincoln Center, and partnered with IJF Artistic Director Rob Dixon to feature the Indiana All-State Jazz Combo at the annual Indy Jazz Fest.

In 2018, Robinson was a part of the inaugural Indiana Jazz Girls Day, traveling around the state playing bass at concerts and workshops with New York City musicians Leni Stern, Jamie Baum, and Monika Herzig. She continues to travel with this

group annually in the spring, playing bass and serving as a clinician at workshops around the State of Indiana, inspiring young jazz musicians to be leaders on the bandstand.

Upon receiving her second Lilly Teacher Creativity Grant, she spent the summer of 2019 exploring the Brazilian cities of Salvador and Rio de Janeiro, taking in the sounds of choro, Bossa nova, and samba while exploring her mother’s childhood home, creating music for her students, and collaborating with local Brazilian musicians.

Robinson has been a featured presenter for music education students at Ball State University, Butler University, Vanderbilt University, for community members at the Center for Performing Arts/Palladium (Carmel, IN), and has adjudicated several jazz events, including the Benny Golson Jazz Festival at Butler University, the Clark Terry Jazz Festival at Southeast Missouri State University, and the Western Australian Schools’ Jazz Festival.

In September 2021, Robinson was a keynote speaker for the Australia National Band and Orchestra Conference, speaking on topics such as building jazz culture, teaching jazz for those new to jazz, and building leaders through the Jazz Girls Day Event.

Robinson was also a presenter at the 2022 Indiana Music Educators Conference, the 2022 International Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL, the Oklahoma Bandmasters Summer Convention, and was the keynote speaker for the 2023 New York State Summer Music Conference. She is thrilled to be the guest conductor for the 2024 NYSSMA® All-State Instrumental Jazz Ensemble.



2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Wind Ensemble Guest Conductor

Dr. Evan Feldman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Dr. Evan Feldman as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Wind Ensemble guest conductor.

Dr. Evan Feldman is Director of Wind Studies and Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he conducts the UNC Wind Ensemble and teaches courses in conducting and music education. He also directs the Triangle Wind Ensemble and serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the Greensboro Symphony, where he conducts education, holiday, and pops concerts.

Feldman is an active guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator in and outside of the United States, with recent engagements in Spain, Switzerland, Romania, Belgium, and Tanzania, as well as all-state, all-district, and all-county honor bands in the United States. Under his direction, the UNC Wind Ensemble has twice been invited to perform at the College Band Directors National Association southern division conference. He has been described as “... the real thing – a conductor with

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evident ensemble-building skills who knows his way around the podium ...”

In 2020, Feldman’s college textbook, *Instrumental Music Education* (Routledge Publishing), was released in its third edition and has been adopted by university music education programs throughout the country. He is the author of the first massive open online course (MOOC) dedicated to conducting and rehearsal technique. More than 25,000 students have enrolled through Coursera.org.

Feldman’s arrangements and editions of music by Léo Delibes, Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Enescu, Antonin Dvořák, Ariel Ramirez, and Sergei Prokofiev are published by Tierolff Muziekcentrale.

Feldman earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he studied with Donald Hunsberger and Mendi Rodan and served as an assistant conductor for the Eastman Wind Ensemble and Eastman Wind Orchestra. He received his Master’s in Conducting degree from Ithaca College and his Bachelor of Arts in Music degree from Duke University. He previously taught high school band in Hicksville, NY.



2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State String Orchestra Guest Conductor Ching-Chun Lai, Rutgers University

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Ching-Chun Lai as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State String Orchestra Guest Conductor.

Possessing a wide range of symphonic repertoire from Baroque to contemporary music, conductor Ching-Chun Lai has worked with professional orchestras, such as the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Buffalo Chamber Players, Gstaad Festival Orchestra (Gstaad Menuhin Festival, Switzerland), Madison Bach Musicians, New Jersey Symphony, New Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria), Richmond Symphony Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Symphoria, as well as regional orchestras.

In the course of her conducting career, Lai has performed in Jordan Hall in Boston, Overture Center and Music Hall in Madison, WI, and Chung-Hsin Concert Hall in Taiwan. She has prepared the orchestra and served as assistant/cover conductor for Gunther Schuller, JoAnn Falletta, and André Raphael, as well as Christof Perick, Larry Rachleff, and Duain Wolfe. Lai has also collaborated with renowned artists, such as the Berlin Philharmonic Woodwind Quintet, violinist Kelly Hall-Tompkins, percussionist Aiyun Huang, trombonist Burt Mason, and bassist Barry Green.

With her deep interest in opera and new music, Lai has conducted the world premiere of Maura Bosch’s opera *Art and Desire*, a University of Wisconsin-Madison commission. She has also worked for opera productions of Debussy’s *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale*, *L’elisir d’amore*, and *Maria Stuarda*, Handel’s *Alcina*, Massenet’s *Thaïs*, Britten’s *Turn of the Screw*, and many others.

A great success, the performances of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* with the Madison Bach Musicians were described in *Isthmus* as “consistently excellent, from the opening triple chorus to the final double chorus, while the harmonized chorales were soaring anthems of faith.”

She collaborated with the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and was a founding member of the group, New Muse. With these dynamic musicians, Lai undertook several significant projects, including fully staged performances of *Eight Songs for a Mad King* by Peter Maxwell Davies, and performances of Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire*.

Lai made her conducting debut at the age of 19 with Taiwan’s National Cheng Kung University Wind Ensemble and was appointed conductor of that ensemble soon after her first engagement. During her tenure, this ensemble won music competitions in Taiwan, became one of the top university wind ensembles in the country, and was invited by the Asian Pacific Band Festival to perform in the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Lai is currently appointed as Director of Orchestral Activities and Engagement and Associate Professor of Orchestral Conducting at Rutgers University. Prior to this appointment, she held the post of Director of Orchestras and Associate Professor at the Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam, for more than a decade. During her tenure, the Crane Symphony Orchestra advanced swiftly in both quality of performance and reputation. The orchestra has performed in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In Potsdam, Lai appeared annually in Potsdam’s traditional holiday Candlelight Concert, broadcast nationwide by PBS. As part of Crane’s mission for community engagement, Lai and the Crane orchestras toured regularly throughout the northeastern United States.

A committed educator and experienced ensemble clinician, Lai has worked with numerous youth orchestras and university ensembles in Taiwan, Canada, and United States. She has conducted the Boston University Symphony Orchestra, as well as several honors orchestras in New York State and Massachusetts, has given conducting masterclasses at universities in Taiwan, and has served as ensemble clinician in New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and at the Kiwanis Music Festival in Canada. Other highlighted educational engagements include a joint concert of Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, performed in Kodak Hall at Eastman Theater.

Lai twice received the Church Memorial Conducting Award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in recognition of emerging conductors who show great professional promise. She was recently granted a competitive research award, the Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Program sponsored by the State of New York/United University Professions. Her interdisciplinary projects at SUNY-Potsdam included a collaboration with trombonist Burt Mason for the *Untold Legacies* residency (a series of concerts and discussions about diversity in classical music), as well as the Bill Williams’s residency, *Path to Optimal Performance*.

A protégé of Gunther Schuller, Lai worked with the legendary maestro for more than 10 years. In addition, she worked with Neeme Jarvi and Johannes Schlaefli at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival and Academy in Switzerland and participated in the Dallas Opera's Linda and Mitch Hart Institute for Women Conductors.

Masterclasses include work with Gustav Meier, JoAnn Fallotta, Larry Rachleff, and Kenneth Kiesler. Lai holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Master of Music in Conducting with Distinction in Performance and Academic Honors from the New England Conservatory of Music. Lai also holds a Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Aeronautics Engineering from the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan. She has previously held faculty positions at The Ohio State University (Director of Orchestral Studies and Visiting Professor of Orchestral Conducting) and Mount Holyoke College.

Ching-Chun Lai is represented by William Reinert Associates.



2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Treble Chorus Guest Conductor

Dr. Amy Voorhees, Susquehanna University

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Dr. Amy Voorhees as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Treble Chorus guest conductor.

Dr. Amy Voorhees is the Director of Choral Activities at Susquehanna University and holds the Cyril M. Stretansky Professorship in Choral Music. Voorhees conducts the University Choir and Chamber Singers and teaches courses in choral conducting, choral methods, supervises student teachers, and designs the annual choir tour.

Voorhees also teaches for the Simpson College Summer Master's in Choral Conducting Program as a resident conducting faculty member. She teaches conducting lessons, leads masterclasses, presents seminars, produces concerts, and assists in the choral literature course each summer. The Susquehanna University Choir was invited to perform at the Eastern ACDA Conference in Boston in February of 2022. Most recently, the University Choir was named a finalist for the 2023 American Prize in Choral Performance.

A graduate of Michigan State University's Doctor of Musical Arts program Voorhees was a Doctoral University Distinguished Fellow. Voorhees holds a B.M. degree in Vocal Performance from Simpson College, has a Music Education certificate from Iowa State University, and a master's degree in administration and educational leadership from Drake University.

Prior to her studies at MSU, Voorhees taught public school for more than 15 years with experience at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Her most recent appointment was as the Director of Choral Activities at Waukee High School where she supervised staff and accompanists while overseeing 11 different choral ensembles, including very successful show and jazz choir programs. During her tenure, the A Cappella Choir was invited to sing at the 2015 American Choral Directors

Association National Conference in Salt Lake City, UT. Voorhees is in demand as a clinician, guest conductor and presenter. She has worked with choirs and conducted festivals in Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Her presentations and workshop sessions have been shared at colleges, universities, and numerous ACDA and NAFME state conferences.

She is a member of NAFME and the American Choral Directors Association, serving on the Pennsylvania-ACDA Executive Board as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator. She previously served on the state ACDA Board of Directors for Iowa and the Michigan State Vocal Music Association as Coordinator of Student Activities.



2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Mixed Chorus Guest Conductor

Dr. Andrea Ramsey

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Dr. Andrea Ramsey as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Mixed Chorus guest conductor.

Dr. Andrea Ramsey enjoys an international presence as a composer, conductor, scholar, and music educator. Her teaching experiences range from work with adolescent and children's voices to high school and collegiate voices. She enjoys regular opportunities to conduct all-state and divisional level honor choirs, festival events at Carnegie Hall, and has served as a principal conductor for the Pacific International Young Women's Choral Festival in Eugene, OR, and conducted the National ACDA Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir in 2023.

Before leaping into full-time composing and guest conducting, Ramsey held positions in music education and conducting at The Ohio State University and the University of Colorado, respectively.

An ASCAP Plus award-winning composer, Ramsey believes strongly in the creation of new works. Her compositions are available with traditional publishers and also through Music-Spoke, a digital sheet music marketplace. She enjoys residency collaborations with ensembles and festival choirs, some of which have included the University of Oregon, the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City, and the Crescent City Choral Festival in New Orleans.

As a scholar, she has presented for state, divisional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, the 6th Annual Symposium on Sociology in Music Education, as well as The Phenomenon Singing Symposium in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada.

She has co-authored articles published in the *Choral Journal*, as well as the *Journal of Research in Music Education*. A native of Arkansas, she has experienced in her own life the power of music to provide a sense of community, better understanding of our humanity, and rich opportunities for self-discovery.

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2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Symphonic Band Guest Conductor
Dr. Shayna Stahl, University of Kentucky

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Dr. Shayna Stahl as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Symphonic Band guest conductor.

Dr. Shayna Stahl is the Director of Athletic Bands/Associate Director of Bands at the University of Kentucky. In this role, Stahl serves as the Director of the Wildcat Marching Band, the UK Pep Bands and as the conductor of the UK Concert Band.

Prior to her appointment at the University of Kentucky, Stahl was Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at UNC Charlotte. She was also the conductor of the Symphonic Band and taught courses in conducting and marching band techniques.

Previous to UNC Charlotte, Stahl served for three years as the Director of Athletic Bands at Stony Brook University and seven years as the Coordinator of Athletic Bands. While serving as the Coordinator of Athletic Bands, she also taught for seven years as a music educator in the Middle Country Central School District where she taught Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Jazz Band.

Stahl holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Temple University, a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree from Stony Brook University, a Master of Music Education/Wind Band Conducting degree from The Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Instrumental Conducting degree from the University of Washington.

At the University of Washington, she served as the Graduate Assistant Director of the Husky Marching Band, conductor of the Concert Band and assistant conductor of the Wind Ensemble. In addition to conducting, she also served as a teaching assistant for the marching band techniques and introductory music methods courses. While at the University of Washington, Stahl was awarded first prize in the American Prize in Conducting - Band/Wind Ensemble (Community Division) in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Stahl is currently a member of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), Women Band Directors International, Golden Key International Honor Society, Sigma Alpha Iota, and an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi.



2024 NYSSMA® Conference All-State Symphony Orchestra Guest Conductor
Helen H. Cha-Pyo, New Jersey Youth Symphony/Wharton Arts

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Helen H. Cha-Pyo as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference

All-State Symphony Orchestra guest conductor.

Helen H. Cha-Pyo is currently in her sixth season as the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts, New Jersey's largest independent performing arts education organization comprising four programs.

Under her leadership, Wharton Arts serves close to 2,000 students from 12 different New Jersey counties through a range of private lessons and group classes at the Wharton Performing Arts School, 15 performing ensembles at the New Jersey Youth Symphony, 5 performing ensembles at the New Jersey Youth Chorus, and the Paterson Music Project, an El Sistema-inspired program that provides free after-school instrumental music instruction to more than 500 children in Paterson, NJ.

For 16 years as Music Director and Conductor of the Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO), Cha-Pyo inspired hundreds of young musicians to perform at the highest levels, resulting in ESYO being recognized as one of the nation's premier music organizations for youth musicians. She led the orchestra on three international tours: Europe in 2008, China and South Korea in 2012, and Portugal in 2016, and won the ASCAP's Adventurous Programming Awards for championing music by American composers.

Cha-Pyo's vision was instrumental in the founding of ESYO CHIME in 2015, a music education program dedicated to serving underprivileged youth of Schenectady and Troy, NY. In 2018, ESYO established the Helen Cha-Pyo Golden Baton Award and Scholarships for students who embody her passionate commitment to music as a means to uplift and enrich communities.

For her stature as an accomplished musician who inspires young people around the world, Cha-Pyo received The Dove Leadership Award from the David and Dovetta Wilson Scholarship Fund in 2019. She is also the recipient of the 2022 Angelos Artist Award from the Angelos Mission Ensemble where she was honored for her passionate leadership and commitment to using music as a vehicle for social change.

In 2022, Cha-Pyo also received the Eastman Centennial Award from Eastman School of Music, which is given to those who exemplify the school's mission and legacy through their commitment to artistry, scholarship, leadership, community engagement, and/or philanthropy.

From 1996 to 2002, Cha-Pyo served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Riverside Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, as well as Associate Director of Music at The Riverside Church in New York City. She released three recordings with the Riverside Choir. (JAV Recordings)

Born in Seoul, Cha-Pyo immigrated to the US when she was 12. She studied piano and organ at the Pre-College Program at The Juilliard School. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and a Master of Music degree in Conducting and Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music.

Cha-Pyo is a frequent guest conductor and clinician for all-state and regional festival orchestras throughout the country. She served as Visiting Associate Professor of Conducting at the John J. Cali School of Music, Montclair State University (NJ) and Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University (NJ). She currently serves as a board member for the Youth Orchestra Division and is also a committee member of the Conductors Constituency Leadership of the League of American Orchestras. Read more at helenchapyo.com.



Adrian Gordon, 2024 NYSSMA® Conference Guest Composer in Residence

NYSSMA® proudly welcomes Adrian Gordon as the 2024 NYSSMA® Conference Guest Composer in Residence.

Adrian Gordon is an active performer, composer, and music educator living in Charlotte, NC. His colorful compositions are captivating for musicians of all ages from very easy to advanced levels. Over the years Gordon has written several acclaimed works for string orchestra such as *Apocalypse* and *Song of the Ocean Winds* to name a few.

Gordon takes pride in creating music that is fun and pedagogically sound at all levels. He currently serves as the orchestra director at Providence Day School in Charlotte, NC. He received his B.A. degree in Music from the University of Miami, and his Master's degree in Music Education at Florida International University.

In addition to teaching, Gordon is a composer with Alfred Music Publishing and the founder of Leap Year Music Publishing, which publishes string music for elementary, middle, and high school ensembles. Gordon's compositions appear on the California, Florida, Texas, Maryland, and Georgia Orchestra Association Music Performance Assessment Lists. His compositions are distributed through JW Pepper and have been performed throughout the world.