

Band Director Workshop

Friday, October 31, 2025

McCracken Middle School
Skokie, Illinois

Rebecca Phillips
William Talley
Michael Pote

Lockport Township High School
Wind Symphony

McCracken Middle School
Symphonic Band

2025



A tradition of excellence for more than 75 years!

Solo & Ensemble

Organization Contests/Festivals

All-Illinois Junior Band

The Illinois Grade School Music Association, Northern Division, is dedicated to encourage, aid, and advance music education in the elementary, middle and junior high schools of the State of Illinois. IGSMA sponsors contests among school bands, orchestras, and choruses, including solos and ensembles. The year culminates with a final organization contest/festival.

Why Become a Member?

Adult professionals, dedicated to providing valuable and meaningful feedback for both students and directors, serve as adjudicators. IGSMA, Northern Division, is divided into nine districts making contest site locations convenient. Participation in IGSMA supports statewide advocacy for music education at the elementary and middle school levels.

“Out of all of the activities I do with my students throughout the school year, without a doubt the most beneficial are IGSMA Solo/Ensemble Contest and Organization Contest. The students always seem a bit more “professional” after their first time being at Organization Contest - I definitely notice a change in their demeanor and attitudes. I heartily recommend all directors to join this fine organization!”

- Carrie Provost, Orchestra Director,
Franklin MS

“Participating in the IGSMA Organization Contest has brought my choral program to a level of excellence that I could not have done alone. This tradition gives my students an amazing sense of accomplishment and an annual goal that we work together to achieve.”

- Elena Ryan, Choral Director, Attea MS

“I have been sending students to the Illinois Grade School Music Association Organization Band Contest for almost 20 years and have found it to be an incredible place for students to achieve both individual and ensemble performance goals. IGSMA encourages a high level of musical and personal growth for each student who participates and is an integral part of our instrumental music program.”

- Kimberly Farris

Officers

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lisakiener@gmail.com

George Andrikokus
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gandrikokus@d181.org

Terrence Melbourn
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
tmelbourn@igsma.org

District Chairpersons

Justin Bangert, District 1
jbangert@pikeland.org

Brian Woods & Heather Woods, District 2
bwoods@dist102.org,
hwoods@dist102.org

Rebecca Meadows Verdure, District 3
igsma3@igsma.org

Alexia Carafe & Jessica Koenig, District 4
igsma4@igsma.org

Jamie Kotovsky, District 5
igsma5@igsma.org

Jennifer Carlton & William Goetz, District 6
igsma6@igsma.org

Joseph Koppel, District 7
igsma7@igsma.org

Allison Reatherford & Leslie Paul, District 8
areatherford@igsma.org

Kristina Wooden, District 9
igsma9@igsma.org

For information pertaining to membership and participation next school year, contact:

www.igsma.com • tmelbourn@igsma.org

Welcome!!!

Mentorship is one of the most important, and most overlooked, aspects to having a successful career in music education. I have been very lucky, over the years, to have had many people invest their time, and talents into me and my students. Over the last handful of months, we've lost three extraordinary band directors who had a tremendous influence on me and the McCracken Bands. We dedicate this year's workshop to their memory. Their influence, inspiration, and friendship to so many of us is already missed:

- **Don DeRoche** was Director of Bands at DePaul University. He was a graduate of York High School and was a clarinetist in Verne Reimer's legendary band program. He attended the University of Illinois before auditioning into the U.S. Army Band in Washington D.C.. He taught at Willowbrook High School before getting his PhD at Northwestern University and starting at DePaul.

Don's son Jeff was a 5th grader in my program the year I started at McCracken,. And was a tremendous influence well beyond the four years he was a "band parent." Never overstepping, but always there to provide guidance and wisdom when needed. He had an incredible ear and always made the kids *so much* when he worked with them. He had the best stories and I doubt a day goes by that I don't think of something he said or use something with my students that I learned from him.

- **Ed Lisk** was a legend of our field. You'll definitely want to read his *Creative Rehearsal Techniques* books if you're not familiar with them. *Intangibles of Music Performance* was the very first text on teaching musical expression to students that really resonated with me and changed my teaching. We developed a friendship through email and our work together on the Midwest Clinic technology committee.
- **Rob Blim.** This one's especially tough. Besides his passing being so recent, I imagine that many of us here knew Rob. During my first several years teaching, my very favorite thing to do was to get release time to observe his Wilmette Junior High School Symphonic Band rehearsals and talk all things music/band following. He was 100% student centered and remarkably even keeled at all times.

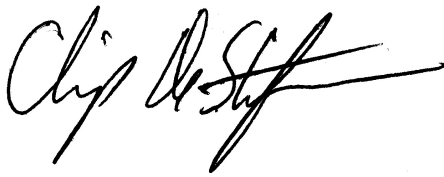
Rob was a wonderful musician and teacher, and maybe an even better colleague and friend. His bands always played beautifully and consistently represented themselves among the best in the state. I can remember vividly their 2004 and 2005 SuperState performances as well as a terrific IMEC performance from around that time, but he was perhaps even more enthusiastic celebrating other's success. Always excited to talk about a performance he just heard and one of the first to send an email or call with congratulations and thanks...even post-retirement.

We continue to be incredibly grateful for the support of the **Illinois Grade School Music Association** and the **National Band Association**. They've provided generous financial support

and publicity that has allowed us to bring in such a distinguished panel of clinicians year after year. Both of these organizations have been essential to my program and my professional development. They have been the primary sponsors of this workshop since it's beginning, and I could not be more appreciative of their continued sponsorship of this day. A big thank you to **Skokie School District 73.5** and **Charles Kyle**, superintendent, for allowing us to host the workshop here again this year.

Special thanks to my colleagues **Cesar Mendoza** & **Amy Keipert**, for the enormous amount of work they put in to making this day run smoothly. Lastly, of course, a sincere appreciation **to you!** There is a wonderful energy and excitement when members of our profession come together. It is inspiring to share space with dozens of like minded colleagues gathered for the purposes of helping their students get better. It's fun, and invigorating, and has become one of the things I look forward to most each year.

Thank you for being here. Here's to a wonderful day of professional development!



Chip De Stefano

Director of Bands, McCracken Middle School

Board of Directors - Middle School Representative, National Band Association



Day One - Trombone

Chip De Stefano, *clinician*

W193

Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 1:30 PM

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 12:00 PM

Friday, December 19, 2025, 11:00 AM

Middle School Band Rehearsal Lab

Chip De Stefano, *clinician*

W184

O'Fallon School District 90 Symphonic Winds, Kate DeMonica, *conductor*

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 10:15 AM

We Are...



NATIONAL
BAND
ASSOCIATION



Elementary, Middle School, High School, Collegiate, Community, and Military Band Directors committed to the betterment of bands and band music.

Educators of all ages and levels of experience sharing the music we love with our students and audiences around the world

A diverse membership of directors forming the largest band organization in the world.

The professional organization for today's band director,
we are the National Band Association.

ICONIC LEGACY NEW DIRECTION'S.

<http://www.nationalbandassociation.org/join>

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

8:00 - 9:00

WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION

Band Room

Improving Musicianship in Ensemble Settings

Presenter: Rebecca Phillips

9:10 - 10:10

SESSION TWO

Band Room

Conducting with Purpose: Foundations for Effective Musical Leadership

Presenter: William Talley

10:20 - 11:00

PERFORMANCE

Gym

Lockport Township High School Wind Symphony

Brian Covey, *conductor*

11:00 - 12:00

LUNCH

12:00 - 1:00

SESSION THREE

Gym

Harmony Director 101

Presenter: Michael Pote

McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band

1:10 - 2:00

SESSION FOUR

Band Room

Making Artistic Decisions

Presenter: Rebecca Phillips

2:10 - 3:00

SESSION FIVE

Band Room

Curriculum Through Repertoire: Selecting Music to Teach, Inspire, and Challenge

Presenter: William Talley

3:10 - 4:00

SESSION SIX

Band Room

Teaching from the Light

Presenter: Michael Pote

CLINICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

REBECCA PHILLIPS



Dr. Rebecca Phillips is Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Colorado State University where she conducts the CSU Wind Symphony and guides all aspects of the band and graduate wind conducting programs. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at the University of South Carolina where she was responsible for directing the Symphonic Winds Concert Band, "The Mighty Sound of the Southeast" Carolina Marching Band, "Concocktion" Pep Bands, teaching undergraduate instrumental conducting, and directing the Carolina Summer Drum Major Clinic.

Dr. Phillips has served as a guest-conductor, clinician, and performer throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. Most recently, she was invited to conduct the Department of Defense All-Europe High School Honor Band (Frankfurt, Germany). Other guest invitations include conducting the wind band and symphony orchestra for the "2019 Prague Multicultural Music Project" and conducting members of the Prague National Symphony at the inaugural "2017 American Spring Festival" (Prague, Czech Republic.) In 2018, she conducted members of the Des Moines Symphony in a chamber concert for the Iowa Bandmasters Association annual conference. Dr. Phillips regularly conducts collegiate honor bands, all-state bands, and festival bands

across the United States, Canada, and Europe and she has been a rehearsal clinician at the Midwest Clinic: An International Band and Orchestra Conference. Ensembles under her direction have been featured at the 2020 Colorado Music Educators Association Convention, the 2019 American Bandmasters Association National Convention, the 2012 College Band Director's National Association Southern Division Conference, the 2010 Society of Composers International Conference, and the 2008 North American Saxophone Alliance International Convention.

Dr. Phillips believes in treasuring the traditional wind music of the past as well as promoting cutting edge works of today's finest composers. She has commissioned and conducted world and consortium premieres of works by several leading composers, including William Bolcom, James David, John Mackey, John Fitz Rogers, Adam Silverman, Frank Ticheli, and Dana Wilson to name a few. Her conducting performances of David del Tredici's *In Wartime* and John Mackey's *Redline Tango* are both featured on the nationally distributed Louisiana State University Wind Ensemble compact disc project and the world premiere of John Fitz Rogers *Narragansett* is featured on the Compact Disc *And I Await*, featuring Dr. Phillips as guest conductor of the University of South Carolina Wind Ensemble.

As a trombonist, Dr. Phillips' performances can be found on several internationally distributed recordings. She has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own), the Tallahassee Symphony, and the Tampa Bay Opera Orchestra. She has also performed internationally in England, Mexico, the Caribbean, Russia, and Sweden, and has toured as a trombonist with Johnny Mathis and Barry Manilow.

A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Dr. Phillips earned her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from The Florida State University, Master of Music degrees in conducting and trombone performance from the University of South Florida, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in conducting at Louisiana State University. She served as a secondary school band director for seven years in Florida, including Director of Bands at Howard W. Blake Performing Arts High School in Tampa, Florida where she developed an award-winning concert band program. She is a Past-President of the National Band Association, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of American Bandmasters Association.

WILLIAM TALLEY



William Talley is the Director of Bands at Ohio University, where he directs the wind symphony and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in conducting and wind literature. Dr. Talley received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he served as the associate director of the Eastman Wind Orchestra and the assistant director of the Eastman Wind Ensemble. In addition to his responsibilities with these ensembles at Eastman, Dr. Talley taught undergraduate conducting and served as the assistant director of the Eastman Harmonie. He also regularly conducted for a variety of ensembles at Eastman, including OSSIA's new music ensembles and the Graduate Composer's Sinfonietta. While a student at Eastman, Dr. Talley was a recipient of the Frederick Fennell Conducting Fellowship, the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize, and was the first recipient of the newly established Donald and Polly Hunsberger Endowed Conducting Scholarship. While

in residence at Eastman, Dr. Talley concurrently served as the wind ensemble director at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY.

Prior to attending Eastman and receiving a Master of Music degree in conducting from the University of South Carolina, Dr. Talley taught for 15 years in the Asheville City Schools district in Asheville, NC. In his time as a band director, Dr. Talley served as the president of the Western North Carolina Bandmasters' Association, and he also received the Award of Excellence from that organization. He was the recipient of many awards and recognitions in teaching during his tenure at Asheville High School, including the WLOS 'Thanks to Teachers' award, the WYFF 'Golden Apple' award, and Asheville High School and Asheville City Schools Teacher of the Year for the 2013-2014 school year. Dr. Talley is a National Board-certified teacher, and his high school bands repeatedly earned superior ratings at NC Concert Band Music Performance Adjudication and marching band contests. In 2013, the Asheville High School Marching Band, under his direction, performed for the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Talley has served as a clinician and adjudicator in the Carolinas, Ohio, Georgia and in New York, and he is an active arranger and transcriber of music for wind ensembles. In 2019, his transcription of Heitor Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 7* was premiered by the Eastman Wind Ensemble.

MICHAEL POTE



Michael Pote retired as Director of Bands at Carmel High School (Carmel, IN) in 2025 after spending 35 years in music education. The band program at Carmel High School serves nearly 600 students with 6 concert bands, 5 jazz ensembles, marching band, chamber ensembles, private lesson program, percussion ensembles and 3 winter color guards.

Carmel High School's Wind Symphony 1 performed at the 2005 Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic, the 2020 North Central Division CBDNA Conference, numerous state conference performances and clinics and has been a 4-time participant in the Music For All National Concert Band Festival. Wind Symphony 1 is a 10-time ISSMA Concert Band State Champion including the last 7 consecutive years.

The marching band at Carmel High School has been a Bands of America National Finalist 27 consecutive years dating back to 1996 and were the ISSMA State Champions in 1990, 2001, 2002, 2012, 2018 and 2022. CHS is a 28-time Bands of America Regional Champion and were named the Bands of America Grand National Champions in 2005, 2012, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2022.

The Carmel band program has received the National Band Association Program of Excellence Blue Ribbon Award as well as being a two-time recipient of the prestigious Sudler Shield.

Michael was a music ensemble consultant for the Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps during the 2022 and 2023 seasons and is currently on the brass staff of the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. A clinician for the Yamaha Master Educator Collective, Michael has presented clinics across the country including the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, the Texas Music Educators Association Convention, the South Carolina Music Educators Conference, the Boston Brass Summer Winds Seminar, the North Carolina Music Educators Conference, Florida Music Educators Association and the Arizona Music Educators Association.

Michael was elected to membership in the American Band Masters Association in 2021 and in 2019 was awarded the Phi Beta Mu Indiana Chapter Outstanding Bandmaster. Michael's three wind ensemble method books, *Process*, *Ensemble: an integrated approach to the Yamaha Harmony Director* and *The Pure-Tempered Bach* are published through Fannin Music Productions.

SUGGESTED RESTAURANTS

WALKING DISTANCE

Subway

4025 W Oakton St
Skokie, IL

Brown's Chicken

3949 Oakton St.
Skokie, IL

SHORT DRIVE

Dengeos

3301 W. Main St.
Skokie, IL

Herm's Palace

3406 Dempster St
Skokie, IL

Poochie's

3602 Dempster St
Skokie, IL

Taco Bell

8329 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

Pita Inn

4710 Dempster St
Skokie, IL

LONGER DRIVE

Chipotle

9408 Skokie Blvd.
Skokie, IL

Portillo's

9400 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

Jimmy John's

9402 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

Panera Bread

9611 Skokie Blvd
Skokie IL

Wendy's

9319 Skokie Blvd
Skokie, IL

Culver's

9455 Skokie Blvd
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CHORALES AND BEYOND

Timothy Loest and Chip De Stefano

with percussion by Kevin Lepper

NEW!

FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENTATION

All chorales are written in four-part harmony with all parts appearing in each book for ultimate flexibility. Includes engaging parts for mallet, battery, and accessory percussion.

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Daily routines cover breathing, long tones, pitch matching, intervals, scales, arpeggios, chord progressions, and chorales.

EASY TO ADVANCED CHORALES IN TEN KEYS

Each unit includes a daily routine and three chorale cycles that can be used to provide constant variety and freshness.

BACH HARMONIZATIONS

Chorales by Lowell Mason, Thomas Tallis, Ralph Vaughan Williams and a dozen other composers, with each cycle culminating in a Bach chorale.

PERSONAL WARM-UPS, SCALES, MUSICAL TERMS

Basic and advanced warm-ups are instrument specific to meet the unique needs of each woodwind, brass, and percussion student.

About the Authors

Timothy Loest is a name in music synonymous with creativity, versatility, and accessibility. His compositions and arrangements are performed worldwide and his pedagogical methods and conducting appearances continue to impact performers and audiences at the state and national levels. With over 30 years teaching experience, Tim is familiar with the interests and pedagogical needs of today's student.

Chip De Stefano is active nationally as a clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator. His bands at McCracken Middle School in Skokie, Illinois have performed at the Midwest Clinic and several state and regional conferences and festivals. The McCracken MS Band program was awarded the prestigious Sudler Silver Cup from the Sousa Foundation in 2007 and the National Band Association's Programs of Excellence Award in 2015.

Kevin Lepper is an internationally known percussionist/educator. His musical career has embraced a wide range of experiences, including El Paso Symphony, Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps, and commercial recordings. As a Yamaha Performing Artist, and Professor Emeritus at VanderCook College of Music, he has presented and performed at The Midwest Clinic, The Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and many state conferences.



AVAILABLE BOOKS:

BB211CS	Conductor
BB211FL	Flute
BB211OB	Oboe
BB211BSN	Bassoon
BB211CL	B♭ Clarinet / Bass Clarinet
BB211ASX	E♭ Alto Sax / Baritone Sax
BB211TSX	B♭ Tenor Saxophone
BB211TPT	B♭ Trumpet
BB211FHN	F Horn
BB211TBN	Trombone
BB211BBC	Baritone B.C.
BB211BTC	Baritone T.C.
BB211TU	Tuba
BB211PER	Percussion

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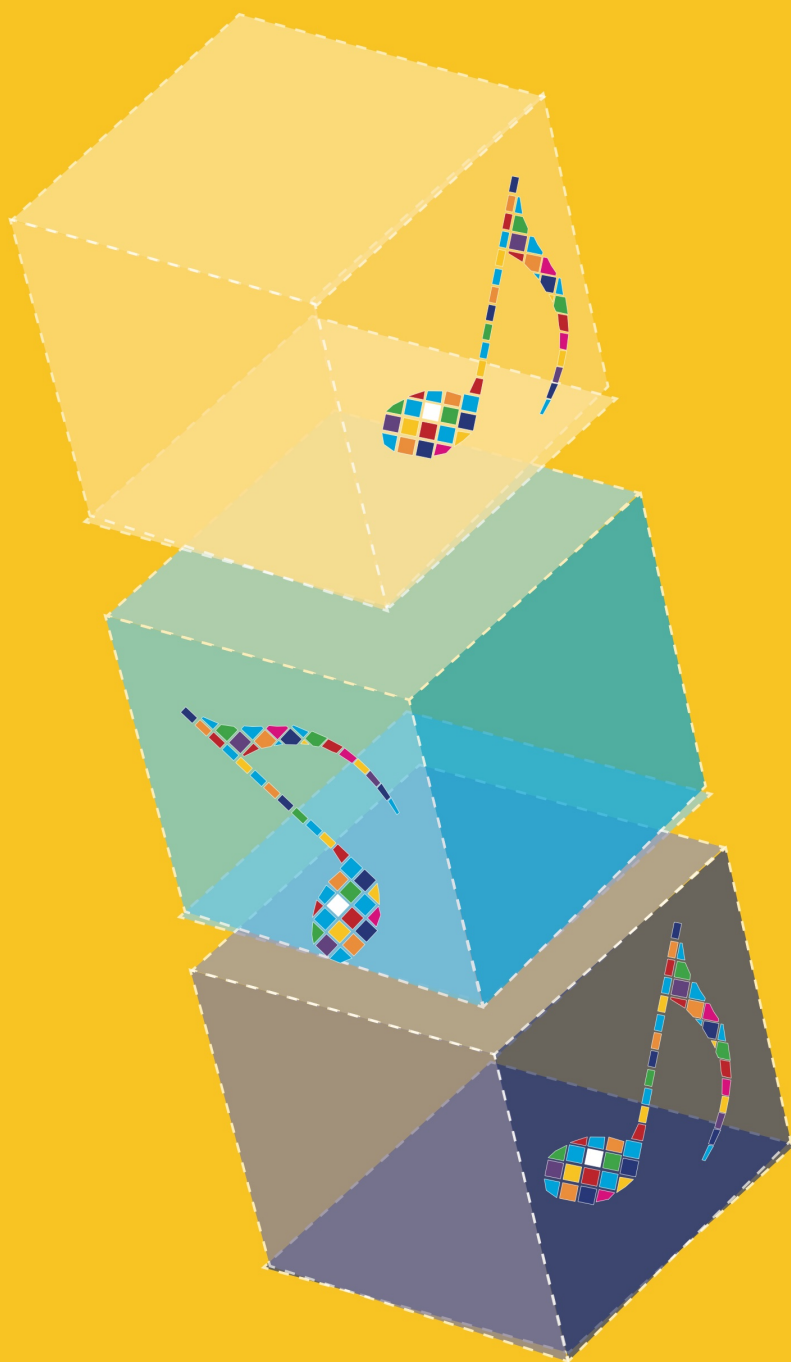
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FOUNDATIONS

THE FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS FOR BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM



With a Foreword by
Tim Lautzenheiser

Compiled and Edited by
Chip De Stefano
and **Chris Grifa**

Contributors:
Kim Bain
Chip De Stefano
Rick Ghinelli
Corey Graves
Chris Grifa
Robert Herrings
Wendy Hart Higdon
Kazuhiko Tsuchiya
Heath Wolf

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

McCRACKEN BAND

SKOKIE, IL



IGSMA

Illinois Grade School Music Association
Northern Division
Since 1939



*National
Band
Association*

