



### **All-State Middle School Band**

### **Mark Walker - Conductor**

Dr. Mark J. Walker is Director of Bands at Troy University where he guides all aspects of a large, comprehensive band program. He conducts the Symphony Band and directs the “Sound of the South” Marching Band. In addition to these responsibilities, Dr. Walker teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, wind literature, marching band techniques and measurement/assessment. He has adjudicated and conducted honor bands nationally and internationally. Dr. Walker is the editor of the book, *The Art of Interpretation of Band Music* published by GIA Publications. He has appeared as guest conductor with the United States Air Force Band, the United States Navy Band, Royal Hawaiian Band, among several others. Dr. Walker is a member of several professional organizations, among them Phi Beta Mu, CBDNA, Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha, and is an elected member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association.

Dr. Walker lives in Troy, Alabama with his wife Jessica, who teaches sixth grade and daughter Emily, who attends Troy University.

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### **All-State High School Band**

### **Rebecca Phillips - Conductor**

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 program. 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.

A native of the Washington, D.C. area, Dr. Phillips earned her Bachelor’s 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.

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.



### **All-State Jazz Ensemble**

### **Kris Johnson - Director**

Kris Johnson is an award-winning trumpeter, composer, and educator. He has appeared on five Grammy-nominated albums and composed the original score for the four-time Emmy-nominated webseries “King Ester”. Kris toured the world as a trumpeter and arranger with the Count Basie Orchestra from 2008-2019 and served as the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Utah from 2015-2019. Currently, Kris is a freelance composer, arranger, and educator in Metro Detroit, and the creator and curator of the online educational series “Office Hours with Kris Johnson”.

Kris received his master’s (2007) and bachelor’s (2005) degrees in Jazz Studies from Michigan State University. He was a full time faculty member at The Ohio State University from 2012 – 2015 as a Jazz Lecturer. He is also the former director of Detroit Symphony’s Civic Jazz Orchestra where he led the most talented students in Metro Detroit. Johnson has also served as a Jazz Artist in Residence at Troy High School, Southfield-Lathrup High School, Eaton Rapids High School, and is the composer and co-creator of The Learning Express, a series of workshops that use hip-hop and jazz to teach elementary students about science, reading, and math.



### **All-State Middle School String Orchestra    Cathie Hudnall - Conductor**

Dr. Catherine Hudnall received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of music, her Master's degree from Georgia State University, and her Doctoral degree from Mercer University. Currently she is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra. She was the teacher of the year at Norcross High School and received the American String Teachers Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Hudnall is a regular conductor and clinician for honor ensembles throughout the state. She served as an adjudicator for the National ASTA Orchestra Festival in 2019. Her students have been invited to perform for the Georgia State Music Educators conference in 1995, 2006, and 2009. She was a guest conductor of the Gwinnett Philharmonic Orchestra in 2004, 2006, and 2007, and she co-directed the Gwinnett County Youth Symphony for six years. In 2006, the Norcross High School Philharmonic Orchestra won the National Championship High School String Orchestra Award at the American String Teachers Association conference in Kansas City. Three of her ensembles have been selected to perform at Carnegie Hall.

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### **All-State High School Orchestra**

### **Robert Gardner - Conductor**

Robert Gardner is a bassist, conductor and composer with experience in a wide variety of musical genres. He has served on the music education faculty of the Penn State School of Music since 2003. He specializes in stringed instrument playing and teaching, orchestral conducting, and eclectic styles for string ensembles. Gardner has written chapters and articles in various publications, including *UPDATE: Applications of Research in Music Education* and *American String Teacher*, and has given presentations at conferences and workshops throughout the country. His research has focused on the supply and demand of American public school music teachers, and the status of string programs in K-12 schools. Several of his pieces and arrangements for string orchestra are available through Alfred Publishers. Robert received his bachelor's degree in music education from the Ohio State University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in music education from the Eastman School of Music. Prior to joining the faculty at Penn State, he served as orchestra director and instructor for public school districts in Ohio and New York. Gardner was also music director for two youth orchestras at the Hochstein School of Music, and has been guest conductor for many honors ensembles. He has designed and directed programs for adult learners and eclectic styles for string ensembles. Robert has served as chairperson of the Alternative Styles Task Force for the American String Teachers Association (ASTA), and as president of the Pennsylvania-Delaware chapter of ASTA (PADESTA).

