



### 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    Daryl Silberman - Conductor**

With a viola performance degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder and additional work at the University of Southern California and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Daryl currently plays viola (and violin) in the Chicago-land area for chamber groups, orchestras and with her husband's group UnBande (2 violas, cello, and guitar) and DuettoDS2.

Daryl is proud to be an orchestra director at Waubonsie Valley High School and the Youth Symphony of DuPage. She is a former director (6 years) of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Kaneland Youth Orchestra (1 year). She is part of the clinician network for ILMEA, a member of IL CMP, and IL ASTA. She enjoys working with orchestras of all levels, playing any genre of music, from baroque, through classical and into contemporary, improvisatory, electric and beyond. She enjoys teaching with her acoustic 5-string violin and conducts virtual Blues workshops with school programs.

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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).

