

All-State Middle School String Orchestra
Randal Swiggum - Conductor

Randall Swiggum is a passionate advocate for a richer learning experience in choir, band, and orchestra, Swiggum has served as Chair of the Wisconsin CMP (Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance) Project, now in its 38th year. A frequent presenter at MENC, ASTA, and ACDA conferences, he has addressed the Pennsylvania MENC on "The Art of Rehearsing," as well as the Maryland MENC, the ACDA North Central Division in Des Moines and Eastern Division in Hartford, CT, the Texas Orchestra Directors Association, and national conventions of the MENC in Phoenix and Kansas City.

He has conducted successful performance tours to Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, Scotland, and throughout the U.S. His choirs performed throughout Italy under the auspices of UNESCO, in Brazil as guests of the city of Rio de Janeiro and Intercultura Brasil, and with the Icelandic National Symphony in Reykjavik under the direction of Lukas Foss. He conducted the University of Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra in Prague, Brno, Bratislava, Budapest, and Vienna. In 2012, he led the EYSO Youth Symphony in an innovative Civil War tour which combined performances and travel throughout the South and East.

All-State High School Orchestra

Alexander Jiménez - Conductor

Alexander Jiménez serves as Professor of Conducting, Director of Orchestral Activities, and String Area Coordinator at the Florida State University College of Music. He has served on the faculties of San Francisco State University and Palm Beach Atlantic University. He has degrees from Baylor University (B.M.) and The Florida State University (M.M., M.M.E, and D.M.). Jiménez studied with Phillip Spurgeon, Michael Haithcock, and the late Anton Guadagno. As a former percussionist and timpanist, he studied with Gary Werdesheim, Larry Vanlandingham, Keiko Abe, and Cloyd Duff.

Under his direction the FSU Orchestras have continued their long tradition of excellence. Both the undergraduate University Philharmonia and the University Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Jiménez have championed new music and collaborated with such composers as Krzysztof Penderecki, Martin Bresnick, Anthony Iannaccone, Christopher Theofanidis, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, Chen Yi, Zhou Long, and Ladislav Kubik. In 2016 the USO was chosen as the featured orchestra at the National Conference of the American String Teachers Association. In 2016 the USO was invited to perform at the national conference of the American String Teachers Association.





All-State Middle School Band

Timothy Loest - Conductor

Timothy Loest is a nationally known composer, arranger and music educator. His young band publications possess an accessible, artistic style that flows from over thirty years in the classroom.

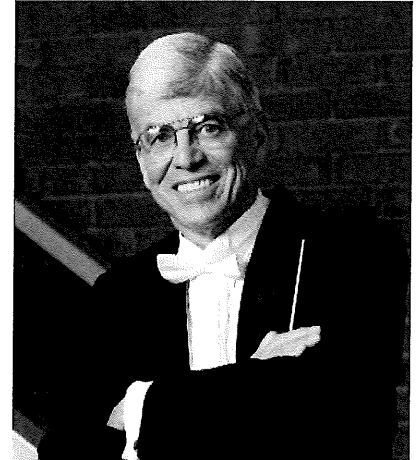
Tim had his first work published in 1995 by Warner Brothers Publications. Today he is an exclusive writer for The FJH Music Company with 84 published pieces and two published supplemental methods. His *Warm-ups and Beyond* has sold over 192,000 copies and his band pieces, recorded by the world-renowned Washington Winds, have been performed in over twenty-five countries. Tim is also coauthor of *Measures of Success®: A Comprehensive Musicianship Band Method*. This progressive method has established a new paradigm in how instrumental music is taught and learned.

As a clinician, Tim delivers engaging and thought-provoking presentations on various aspects of instrumental music. In 2017, he received the Cloyd Myers Memorial Award for Excellence in Music Education, sponsored by the Illinois Grade School Music Association.

All-State High School Band

James Keene - Conductor

Professor James F. Keene retired from the University of Illinois School of Music, where he held the titles of Director of Bands and Brownfield Distinguished Professor of Music. Appointed in 1985, he was only the fourth person to hold the Director of Bands position since 1905. During his 23-year tenure at Illinois, the UI Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony, under his direction, were selected to perform for every major music conference in the U.S., have toured internationally and have performed in many of America's most prestigious concert halls, including New York's legendary Carnegie Hall and several performances in Chicago's Orchestra Hall. The Illinois Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band have produced one of the most extensive bodies of commercial band recordings. These recordings have been broadcast on National Public Radio in the U.S., as well as radio programs in Asia, Australia, and several European countries.



Mr. Keene is a Past-President of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors. He is a Past-President of the National Band Association, having previously served in several other NBA offices, and is a Past-President of The Big Ten Band Directors Association. For several years he served as chairman of the ABA/Ostwald Composition Contest, and is currently a member of the Editorial Board of The Journal of Band Research.



All-State Jazz Ensemble

Tracy Heavner - Director

Dr. Tracy Heavner, internationally known music educator and distinguished performance artist, performs in a variety of genres ranging from classical to jazz. His talents as a saxophonist, clarinetist and flutist are witnessed on stage as a soloist, chamber ensemble member and within the orchestra. Dr. Heavner currently serves on the faculty at the University of South Alabama as a professor of music education, saxophone and director of jazz studies.

Dr. Heavner completed a doctorate degree in music education (D.M.E.) with a secondary emphasis in jazz studies from the University of Northern Colorado and bachelor's (B.M.E.) and master's (M.M.E.) degrees in music education from Appalachian State University. While earning the graduate degrees, he held teaching assistantships in music education, music technology, music theory, applied saxophone and jazz studies.