

MSBOA Bulletin

2016 Teacher of the Year Issue

Each year MSBOA recognizes a Teacher of the Year for Band and a Teacher of the Year for Orchestra. The process begins in the Spring with each of the MSBOA Districts able to nominate a candidate in each classification. The Executive Board reviews all of the candidates and selects up to three in each area to submit to the entire active membership. In this Bulletin are statements about each candidate and the ballot for active members to select their choice in each category.

MSBOA congratulates each of these fine instrumental music educators for their nomination to this honor.

BAND NOMINEES:



THOMAS CLAIR is in his thirty-eighth year of teaching and received both his Bachelor of Music Education and Master's degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University. He was a saxophone student of Patricia Nixon. He has directed all bands at Kingsley Area Schools since the fall of 1988. Before settling in Kingsley he taught instrumental music for ten years at Cass City and Harbor Beach schools. His duties have included; beginning band, sixth grade band, middle school concert and jazz bands, high school marching, concert, jazz, pep, music theory/technology classes, and theatrical music productions. His jazz and concert bands have earned numerous awards including consistent first division ratings at district, regional and state MSBOA festivals and invitations and honors including an invitation for his high school band to perform at the 2002 Midwestern Conference in Ann Arbor. He was voted "Outstanding Educator" for 2000 by the Grand Traverse Area Chamber of Commerce and "Teacher of the Year" in 1995 by the Kingsley Chamber of Commerce. He was a finalist for MSBOA "State Instrumental Music Teacher" for 2003, 2007 and 2015. He is past president of MSBOA District

Two, past chairman for Music Technology in Michigan and presently serves as treasurer for District Two. In his spare time, he enjoys adjudicating Solo & Ensemble, Band & Orchestra and Jazz festivals for the MSBOA, guest conducting, directed at Camp Bernstein for the Blue Lake Music Camp and loves woodworking. He is a member of American School Band Director Association (ASBDA), Past Master for Manton Masonic Lodge #347 F&AM, Past Patron for the Order of the Eastern Stars and a proud member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. With his loving and dedicated wife of thirty-eight years Nicoli, they raised two sons, Benjamin (Katharine) and Daniel (Delle) and are proud grandparents to Amelia "Mia" Sue Clair and Adrienne Melody Clair.



MATTHEW SHEPHARD graduated from Central Michigan University with a BME and MM in Conducting degrees. Matthew has spent his 15-year teaching career with the Meridian Public Schools. The band program at Meridian High School has grown from roughly 30 students when he began to over 130 this year. Roughly 35% of the high school population is in the band program. He is the only music educator in his school district, and currently has over 375 students in his bands (5-12).

Mr. Shephard is a highly sought after clinician, adjudicator and marching drill designer and has conducted many honors and jazz bands throughout the state. He judges both Band & Orchestra Festival and Jazz Festivals. Mr. Shephard has conducted his Symphonic Band and presented sessions at the 2011, 2015 and 2016 Michigan MMC. In addition, the Meridian High School Jazz Ensemble has performed at the 2013, 2014, and 2015 Detroit Jazz Festival.

Matthew has served the MSBOA District V Executive Board for the last 7 years in several offices including President, he is currently the State Vice President for Band & Orchestra. Mr. Shephard is a member of ASBDA. Meridian Junior High School was named the recipient of the 2013 ASBDA—MI Chapter Award of Excellence. In 2014, his school district was named a NAMM Best Community for Music Education. Matthew continues to perform professionally on the bass trombone as a member of the Michigan Jazz Trail Big Band, and as a freelance musician across the state.



MARK STICE is in his 18th year of teaching and his 10th year at Okemos High School. A graduate of Lakeshore High School in Stevensville, MI, he first studied clarinet with Band Director Lori VonKoenig. After graduating from WMU in 1998, Stice began his teaching career in Eaton Rapids. Stice earned a Masters Degree in Music Education from VanderCook College of Music in 2004 and was also recognized as a “Rising Star” in 2001 by the MENC in Michigan.

Stice has also shared his talents with many groups. Marching experiences include playing contra bass bugle in the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps the summer of 1995 and the World Champion summer of 1996. Since then, he has spent many summers working with high school marching bands as both a woodwind specialist and marching technician. He was on the visual staff with the 1999 Phantom Legion Drum and Bugle Corps and served as visual caption head and program coordinator for the 2001 World Champions Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mr. Stice is also an active adjudicator for MSBOA, ISSMA, and MCBA. A member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity for Men, Stice served as Province Governor for Michigan and Northern Ohio. Stice also is a member of ASBDA.

Mr. Stice has been an active member of MSBOA since 1998 beginning his career. At Eaton Rapids the bands and students consistently received First Division ratings and the Jazz Band was invited to perform at the Detroit International Jazz Festival twice representing MSBOA.

After accepting his position at Okemos High School, Stice continued his involvement with MSBOA as Jazz Festival Chair for District 8, hosted State Solo and Ensemble, hosted District Band and Orchestra Festival, is Chair of the MSBOA Conducting Symposium, a MSBOA Representative on the MMC Planning Committee, and an adjudicator for Band and Orchestra Festival. On occasion, Stice has been asked to assist with various MSBOA panels and projects. Most recently, Stice coordinated the 10th Anniversary Collage Concert at the 2015 MMC.

Under his direction at Okemos starting in 2006, the bands continue to receive superior ratings at festivals, premier new literature, commissioned 2 works for wind ensemble, performed over seas, performed at the 2011 MMC, and at the 2013 WMU Spring Conference on Wind and Percussion Music. Numerous students from Okemos and Eaton Rapids have continued their musical careers after graduation. Several have or are currently in collegiate marching bands, collegiate bands and orchestras, drum and bugle corps, educators in and out of Michigan, and recording artists.

ORCHESTRA NOMINEES:



LEO HAZEN received his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Western Michigan University in 1982 and his Master's Degree from Concordia University in 2012. Leo Hazen has taught for 28 ½ years and has completed his 27th year in Portage Public Schools. He currently instructs orchestras at North Middle School, West Middle School, and Portage Northern High School.

His orchestras have participated in district festivals for the last 28 years with very successful ratings consistently. Leo has been an active member of District XI, hosting District Festival for 14 years, hosting the String Workshop for the past 13 years, Band and Orchestra chair for two terms, and Executive of Orchestra for District XI in addition to the state level.

Leo has been nominated for numerous awards throughout his distinguished career including being nominated for Orchestra Teacher of the Year in 2005 and Michigan Teacher of the Year in 2006. Additional awards include: Excellence in Education 3 times,

International Baccalaureate Educator 11 times.

In addition to teaching, Leo is a member of the Grand Rapids Symphony (over 30 years), plays music in his church and often gives the children's message. Leo and his wife Dianne enjoy traveling and spending time at their cottage in Clare, MI in addition to the ongoing endeavor of training their rambunctious puppy, Scout.



LINDA MURRAY has taught in MSBOA District V since 1986 as a member of the Midland Public Schools Music staff. She is a graduate of Bowling Green State University, with a degree in Cello Performance and Music Education. During her tenure in Midland, she has shown tremendous musical versatility, teaching Elementary General Music, 5th and 6th grade Band, and 5th – 8th grade Strings.

Linda is one of the most respected educators in District V. She has served on the District Executive Board as Vice President of Orchestral Activities for the past four years. In addition, she helped reconfigure the district's Jr. High All Star Weekend to include an orchestra, and currently serves as the Chair for that event. Linda is also highly sought after as an adjudicator across the state as she fills her calendar with Solo & Ensemble and Band & Orchestra Festivals each year.

Ms. Murray continues to perform as a cellist throughout the region, having participated in the Saginaw Bay Symphony, and has been a member of the Midland Symphony Orchestra cello section for nearly 30 years. Linda is also in high demand as a freelance musician and continues to share her musical knowledge in her studio as a private string teacher. Her performing talents are not limited to strings, however, as Ms. Murray has accompanied a host of Midland Public Schools students at the piano at MSBOA District and State events.

Linda spends considerable time as an advocate for string education. She served seven years with the Michigan ASTA Camp as counselor, chamber music director, and camp director in the 1980's. She also had the opportunity to be a camp conductor at MASTA Camp in both 2014 and 2015. In 2012, Ms. Murray was named conductor of the MSBOA District V Jr. High All Star Orchestra.

Ms. Murray was named the 2009 Midland Musician of the Year, and in 2013 she received the highest honor given to members of the Midland Public Schools teaching staff, the Gerstacker Excellence in Teaching Award.

Linda Murray has a giant heart for her students. Her love of music has been passed on to thousands of individuals through both her passion for teaching and compassion for children.



ANNE THOMPSON is in her 19th year teaching, and her 9th year at Forest Hills Eastern. She is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and holds a Bachelor's degree in Cello Performance and Music Education from Western Michigan University, as well as a Master's degree in Cello Performance from the University of Notre Dame. Anne began her career in Kentwood Public Schools before joining Forest Hills Public Schools. Her orchestras consistently received Division 1 ratings at MSBOA festivals and she has had two of her high school symphony orchestras selected to perform at the MMC – the East Kentwood Symphony Orchestra in 2002 in Ann Arbor and the Forest Hills Eastern Symphony Orchestra in 2015 in Grand Rapids. Anne was nominated as Teacher of the Year for MASTA in 2015 and won District X Orchestra Teacher of the Year for MSBOA in 2015.

In both Kentwood and Forest Hills, Anne's students have received many honors over her nearly two decades of teaching, including selection into multiple All-State and Youth Arts orchestras. Anne is also in demand as a sectional coach, leading sectionals with various local youth orchestras,

as well as regional and state orchestra events. Anne is also a sought-after private cello instructor, and has maintained a thriving private studio since her arrival in Grand Rapids.

In addition to teaching 6th-12th grades, Anne continues to serve as an Adjunct Professor of Music Education at Grand Valley State University, where she has taught the string techniques course since 2008. Anne has also served as Assistant Director of the MASTA Elementary String Camp, Secretary of MSBOA District 10 Executive Board, and is currently is the Music Education representative. She has performed as a cellist with the Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, South Bend, and West Michigan Symphony Orchestras. During many weekends throughout the year, she can be found performing with the Signature String Quartet.

Beyond her education, beyond her accomplishments and the honors bestowed upon her students, Anne's greatest accomplishment is the sense of community she, her students, and her students' parents have created at Forest Hills Eastern. Anne values every member of that community and is grateful for their support.

Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Ballot for 2016 Teachers of the Year

Please cast your vote by mail, fax or in person at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids.

- Ballots cast by mail/fax/email must be **received** at the State Office by noon on Tuesday January 19, 2016.
- All in-person ballots must be turned in **by 5:00 pm** Friday January 22, 2016 at the MSBOA booth at the MMC .

◇ **Vote for one candidate for Band Teacher of the Year and
one candidate for Orchestra Teacher of the Year.**
ú **Please mark an “X” in the box next to the name of your choice.**

BAND TEACHER OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES:

☐

**TOM
CLAIR**

☐

**MATTHEW
SHEPHARD**

☐

**MARK
STICE**

ORCHESTRA TEACHER OF THE YEAR CANDIDATES:

☐

**LEO
HAZEN**

☐

**LINDA
MURRAY**

☐

**ANNE
THOMPSON**

To vote **by mail**, send your ballot to:
(Must be **RECEIVED BY** noon Tues. Jan. 19)

MSBOA Teacher of the Year
3899 Okemos Rd. Suite B1
Okemos, MI 48864-4206

To vote by email, send the ballot to msboa@msboa.org and include “**TOY Ballot**” in the message area.
(Must be **RECEIVED BY** noon Tues. Jan. 19)

To vote **by FAX**, fax your ballot to: 517-347-7325
(Must be **RECEIVED BY** noon Tues. Jan. 19)

To vote **in person**: Bring your ballot to the MSBOA Booth located in the Exhibitor’s Area of the DeVos Place before 5:00 pm on Friday January 22, 2016.

IN ORDER FOR YOUR VOTE TO BE TALLIED, YOUR BALLOT MUST BE SIGNED IN THIS BOX

Only current Active Members may cast a ballot. Those holding Individual, Associate, Commercial Sustaining, Non-Profit Sustaining, Honorary and Emeritus Memberships are not permitted to vote.

Print Your Name

Signature