

Dr. Bethany Amundson

Bethany Amundson is the director of bands and director of instrumental activities at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, where she conducts the Wesleyan Band, Tiger Pep Band, LyricWood Orchestra, and teaches instrumental music lessons, instrumental pedagogy, band methods, and courses in music appreciation, music history and world music. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Augustana University, a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance and a Master of Music in Conducting, both from the University of South Dakota, and a Doctorate in Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the University of Kansas, where she studied with Dr. Paul Popiel. Amundson is the president-elect of the South Dakota Music Education Association, the South Dakota representative to the College Band Directors National Association, the chair of the South Dakota Intercollegiate Band Committee, and is a member of South Dakota Bandmasters and Phi Beta Mu. She is an active clinician and adjudicator, and performs regularly throughout the Midwest with various ensembles.

Dr. Dave Sanderson

David N. Sanderson is Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of South Dakota, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music education. He completed a PhD from the University of Minnesota and earned Master in Music and Bachelor in Music Education degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Previously he taught undergraduate music courses at the University of Minnesota and Augsburg University and directed the Seward Concert Band in Minneapolis, MN. He began his career teaching general, vocal, and instrumental music at North Star High School in Lincoln, NE. Dr. Sanderson has presented at the National Conference for the National Association for Music Education, the Society for Music Teacher Education Bi-Annual Symposium, the Big Ten Academic Alliance Music Education Conference, and state music education conferences in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. His professional memberships include the National Association for Music Education, American String Teachers Association, College Music Society, and the South Dakota Bandmasters Association.

Edward Easse

Edward Easse is an elementary general music teacher in Wayne, New Jersey, where he teaches K-5 general music and choir. He holds his Bachelor of Music in Music Education from The College of New Jersey, where he graduated magna cum laude, and holds his Master of Arts in Music Education from Montclair State University with the distinction of Outstanding Graduate Music Student. Throughout the course of his undergraduate and graduate career, Edward has performed extensive research in the field of elementary music education with regard to issues of gender; his graduate thesis is entitled "What's a Male to Do? Teaching Pitch Matching to Elementary General Music Students." In the future, Edward looks forward to obtaining a doctoral degree in Music Education and one day teaching at the collegiate level.

Faith Farr

Cellist Faith Farr is a private teacher and free-lance performer in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. She taught for over 30 years at MacPhail Center in both the private instruction and Suzuki departments and now teaches exclusively in her home studio. She has presented workshops on cello technique many times for MNSOTA (Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association), and for teacher clinics at school districts in the Twin Cities area. Her pedagogy articles have been published in MNSOTA's String Notes journal. In addition, she self-publishes "Foundations for Music Reading," a string-based theory curriculum for violin, viola and cello.

Dr. Ioana Galu

Ioana Galu, a native of Romania, has enjoyed a national and international career in both Europe and the United States. Former Assistant Professor of Violin and chamber music at Gheorghe Dima Music Academy in Cluj, Romania, Galu has also been on the faculty at Heidelberg University, Bowling Green State University, and The College of Wooster. In August 2016, Galu joined the University of South Dakota as an Assistant Professor of Violin and member in the Rawlins Piano Trio. She has been on the faculty of the Eastern Music Festival (Greenboro, NC) since 2004.

A graduate of Gheorghe Dima Music Academy, Galu earned a second master's degree in violin performance from Bowling Green State University, an Artist Diploma from University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music and a doctorate in Contemporary Music from Bowling Green State University.

Galu has been awarded prizes in several national and international competitions, including Second Prize in the Mozart International Competition for Piano Trios (Romania), and First Prize and Special Prize of the SOROS Foundation at the George Enescu Violin National Competition (Romania).

In 2014 Galu performed the world premiere of Marilyn Shrude's violin concerto Libro D'Ore with the Central Ohio Symphony and the European premiere with the Sibiu State Philharmonic in Romania. She gave the US premiere in October 2014, and subsequently recorded the concerto for Albany Records. In January 2015, Galu recorded "Music Under Political Unrest" - Works for Two Violins by Grażyna Bacewicz, Henryk Górecki, and Michał Spisak with Iuliana Cotirlea, violin, to be released in the near future.

During the season of 2020-2021, Galu will give the European premiere of Samuel Adler's Violin Concerto in Romania.

Dr. Jonathan Babcock

Jonathan Babcock is in demand as conductor, educator and clinician internationally. He is a Professor of Music at Texas State University where he conducts the Texas State University

Singers, The Texas State Men's Choir, and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in choral conducting, literature and pedagogy.

Babcock has been privileged to work with such artists as Richard Tucker Award winner Stephanie Blythe, and Tony Award winner Victoria Clark, in highly esteemed venues such as Carnegie Hall, New York City; The Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing, China and The St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, Germany. Working as an advocate for contemporary choral music, he has overseen the commissioning of new works by composers such as Paul Moravec, David Del Tredici, John Conahan and Stephen Paulus.

Babcock's 2019-20 season includes presentations at the 2020 Utah Music Educators Association Conference, The 2020 New Jersey Music Educators Association Conference and the 2020 Southwestern American Choral Directors Association Regional Convention. In May 2020 Dr. Babcock will conduct the Carnegie Hall Debut of Ralph Vaughan William's A Cambridge Mass with the New England Symphonic Orchestra and Festival Choir.

Babcock is the host of the podcast Texas State Choirs Today! Launched in 2018, TXST Choirs Today! includes substantive interviews with esteemed colleagues including composer Gwyneth Walker, conductor Ralph Allwood, composer & conductor Craig Hella Johnson, composer Shawn Kirchner and many other leaders from the current choral community.

Babcock received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from The Crane School of Music, State University of New York at Potsdam, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Hartt School, University of Hartford.

Dr. Kevin Kessler

Kevin Kessler is the Director of Athletic Bands at SDSU, where he directs the Pride of the Dakotas Marching Band, Pep Band, Concert Band, CommUniversity Band, and the Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble. He also teaches Conducting 1, Theory 1, Marching Band Pedagogy, and Applied Euphonium and Tuba. Dr. Kessler earned his B.M.E. from South Dakota State University, where he studied trumpet and conducting with John Colson. He earned his M.M. from the American Band College of Southern Oregon University, and a D.M.A. in Band Conducting with a minor in Music Education from the University of Iowa, where he studied conducting with Dr. Richard Mark Heidel, arranging and marching band drill design with Mr. Kevin Kastens, and euphonium with Mr. John Manning. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Kessler served as a band director for 14 years in the Brandon Valley, South Dakota school district, where his concert and marching bands consistently earned top rankings and ratings at region and national contests. Dr. Kessler is an active arranger and marching band drill designer. His drill design and musical arrangements have been performed by several college marching bands across the country. He is also active as an adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor. Dr. Kessler holds memberships in Phi Beta Mu, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, South Dakota Bandmasters, College Band Directors National Association, Tau Beta Sigma (honorary), and is state chair for the National Band Association. Kevin and his wife Heidi are proud parents of Karianne.

Marques L. A. Garrett

Marques L. A. Garrett is an Assistant Professor of Music in Choral Activities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the Glenn Korff School of Music. Before completing the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Music Education (Choral Conducting) at Florida State University, he was the Director of Choral Activities at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. He is an accomplished vocalist and composer with his works published with Mark Foster, GIA Publications, Walton Music, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Hinshaw Music, G. Schirmer, and Beckenhorst Press and performed by festival/honor choirs, all-state choirs, and professional and university choirs such as Seraphic Fire and the Oakwood University Aeolians. Recent commissions and premieres include the University of New Hampshire, Seraphic Fire, Westminster Choir College, and the American Choral Directors Association. He regularly serves as a choral clinician and guest conductor for festival and honor choirs throughout the country.

Dr. Matthew Bumbach

Matthew Bumbach is known for heartfelt choral performance that engages singers and audiences alike. He uses choral performance to develop the whole person and to equip students with the tools to think deeply, create imaginatively, and lead transparently. To achieve this, he focuses not only on quality performance that is historically informed and carefully polished but an ethical path to excellence. Bumbach works to create an inclusive environment that focuses on equity and justice so that all singers can fulfill their potential.

Since 2017, Dr. Bumbach has served as assistant professor and Director of Choirs at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, SD where he leads a thriving choral program of STEM students. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Stetson University where he studied with Duncan Couch and Jane Christensen, his Masters of Music degree from the University of South Florida where he studied with Richard Zielinski and Robert Summer, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Miami Frost School of Music where he studied with Karen Kennedy and Coreen Duffy.

Dr. Bumbach has published articles in ACDA's The Choral Journal, NCCO's Choral Scholar, SDMEA's South Dakota Musician, and FMEA's Florida Music Director and is the editor of Chorus America's Research Memorandum Series. He currently serves as the Western Region Representative for South Dakota ACDA. As a singer, he has performed and recorded with such artists as Gloria Estefan, Time for Three, and Broadway star Rachel Potter. As a composer, Bumbach's music has been performed by the Virginia Chorale, Florida Singing Sons Boychoir, the Orlando Chorale, Fredonia State University Chamber Singers, College of Central Florida, University of Miami, and a number of middle and high school choirs. His published choral music is carried by Hal Leonard and his independent publications can be found at sheetmusicplus.com. A Florida native, Dr. Bumbach previously served as assistant professor and director of vocal music at College of Central Florida (Ocala, FL), conductor of the Marion Civic Chorale (Ocala, FL),

director of choirs at Seminole High School (Seminole, FL), and director of vocal music at Pine Castle Christian Academy (Orlando, FL). He is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, and the National Association for Music Education. Matthew resides in Rapid City, SD with his wife Dr. Melissa Bumbach, their twin daughters Rachel and Selena, and their dog Sansa.

Mark Doerffel

"Mark Doerffel is the Director of Instrumental Activities at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa where he teaches Applied Brass, Music Theory, Instrumental Methods, Conducting, Music Appreciation, and directs the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble. Previously, he taught in the secondary schools of Florida and North Carolina. He has completed coursework (ABD) for his Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Florida, Master of Music Education from Appalachian State University, and Bachelor of Music Education from Louisiana State University. Doerffel has presented at conferences in several states, including: Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Florida, and North Carolina on topics that range from classroom management, new teacher preparation, and trombone & brass pedagogy. He currently serves the South Central District of the Iowa Bandmasters Association (IBA) as Past President and College Affairs representative. He also serves as the State Chair for the College Affairs Committee for IBA. His professional affiliations include NAFME, National Band Association, College Band Directors National Association, College Music Society, Iowa Bandmasters Association, and the International Trombone Association. He lives in Ankeny, Iowa with his wife Amanda, and their two sons Charles and Brooks.

Michael Watson

Michael Watson is a teacher and double bass performer in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota area. He currently teaches orchestra at Coon Rapids High School and teaches several private bass students from around the metro area. Mr. Watson also performs with local professional groups, including the Minnesota Opera and Minnesota Orchestra. He is currently the Past-President of the Minnesota String and Orchestra Teachers Association, a state chapter of ASTA. He was the Vice-President for Orchestra in 2009-2011 for the Minnesota Music Educators Association, a state chapter of NAFME.

John M. Petzet

John Martin Petzet is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He was invited to teach at the West Texas Choral Workshop, to teach, present, and conduct at La Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, and to work with the Anaíma Ensemble Vocal in Juárez, Mexico. While performing with the Kansas City Chorale, he sang on the Chandos recording of Alexandre Grechaninov's Passion Week, which won a Grammy

for Best Engineered Classical Album. He resides in Kearney, Nebraska with his lovely wife Jennifer and his 3 children: Zachary, Andrew, and Catherine.

Bobby Pace

Bobby Pace is the full-time staff accompanist at Chadron State College in Nebraska. A graduate of The Florida State University, Mr. Pace holds the MM degree in Accompanying and the MM degree in Music Theory and Composition. In his current position, he accompanies all vocal ensembles at CSC, including the Concert Choir and Vocal Jazz Ensemble, as well as all music majors in their private instruction. He has accompanied soloists of all levels in rehearsals, lessons, recitals, competitions, contests, and evaluations.

Dr. Scott Deppe

Scott Deppe recently retired from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, where he served as Director of Bands for nine years. His responsibilities included directing the Wind Ensemble, teaching Instrumental Methods and Conducting, teaching Graduate Instrumental Music courses, and overseeing the entire instrumental program. Additionally, he was responsible for preparing the addition of a Marching Band to the curriculum in the fall of 2010.

Prior to accepting his position at Lamar University, Dr. Deppe taught at Klein High School for 3 years. Under his direction, the Klein Wind Ensemble earned national recognition by being named one of five National Winners in Class 5A by the National Wind Band Honors Competition. As Associate Conductor of the Klein High School Full Orchestra, the orchestra was chosen as the 2007 TMEA State Honor Orchestra and performed at the 2008 TMEA convention in San Antonio. He previously taught at Nacogdoches HS, Spring Hill JH, Jasper MS, McCullough JH (The Woodlands), and Bridge City HS. The McCullough band was a state honor band finalist twice, and the Bridge City band was a state honor band finalist once. The Spring Hill JH band performed at the TMEA convention in 1993 as the Class C State Honor Band. That same year, he was named as the Phi Beta Mu Young Bandmaster of Texas. Additionally, the Lamar University Wind Ensemble was selected to perform in concert at the 2015 TMEA convention.

Dr. Deppe graduated Magna Cum Laude from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1985 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. He received a Master of Music Education Degree from Lamar University in 1990. He received his Doctorate in Educational Leadership in May of 2012. In 2015, he received his Certification in Philanthropy (in Professional Fundraising) from the Boston University Center for Professional Education. He is also a 2012 graduate of Leadership Beaumont. His areas of research include music advocacy, student leadership development, and the relationships between music and math.

Dr. Deppe currently works in his fourth year in sales for Swicegood Music Company in Beaumont, Texas, serves as a University Supervisor for Lamar University student teachers, and enjoys serving as a mentor for many directors.

Sheri Holt

Sheri Holt graduated in 1994 from Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, with a BA in Elementary Education, a Liberal Music Minor, and a School Music Concentration. She received her Masters in Music Education from Northern State University in 2019. Her teaching assignments include teaching third grade for 8 years in the Twin Cities, teaching combined 4th/5th grades in Colorado for 6 years, serving as an elementary reading specialist for 1 year in Aberdeen, and then vocal music director for the past 10 years at Sioux Valley Schools in Volga, South Dakota, where she currently teaches two middle choirs, two high school choirs, fifth grade band lessons, fifth grade general, and assistant for High School Band. She loves integrating other subjects into music, creating "bridges" for student optimal student learning.

Dr. Sonja Kraus

Dr. Sonja Kraus, a native of Germany, is an internationally acclaimed cellist, teacher, and music scholar, whose career has taken her through Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the United States. Currently, Kraus holds the position of Assistant Professor of Cello/Bass at the University of South Dakota and is the cellist in the renowned Rawlins Piano Trio. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of South Dakota, Kraus was the Cello Professor at the Universidad de Especialidades Espiritu Santo as well as the principal cellist of the Orquesta Filarmónica Municipal de Guayaquil in Ecuador.

During the past few years, Kraus participated as a teacher and performer in several music festivals and is a sought-out clinician and instructor of masterclasses throughout the US, Latin America, and Germany. Her latest solo performances were with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Loja (Ecuador), Camerata Romeu – Havana (Cuba), and the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra.

William Ulrich

Will Ulrich received his Bachelors Degree from UW-Milwaukee in 1995. In 2011 he earned his Masters Degree in Curriculum & Instruction from Concordia University-Wisconsin. Will joined the World Music Drumming teaching staff in 2013.

Will has been teaching general music in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, since 1997 at the elementary, middle and high school levels. He also teaches World Music at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee. Will designs music classes specifically to teach students about world music. The cross-cultural curriculum is aimed at raising students' listening skills, respect, cooperation, teamwork and self-discipline through African, Caribbean and Latin drumming, movement and song. When he is not teaching music, Will enjoys making instruments for the classroom, performing throughout his community, as well as writing and recording music. He also enjoys camping and fishing with his wife and son.

Will Ulrich facilitates workshops in cooperative teamwork, multiculturalism through music, ukulele, drumming, and instrument building throughout the United States.

Anna Sobotka

Anna learned about the Alexander Technique while studying violin performance at the University of South Dakota. The back pain that she experienced while playing and performing became so disabling she thought she would have to quit her musical ambitions. However, in her first Alexander lesson, Anna found that the principles of the Technique not only eliminated her back pain, but brought freedom and ease to her whole body. In order to teach others how to manage and eliminate pain, Anna attended the training course Alexander Technique Denver, Colorado. Completing 1600 hours of training, she became a certified AmSAT teacher. Anna loves teaching students the tools they need to take care of themselves while working toward their personal and professional goals.

Mary Cogswell

Mary Cogswell is currently in her 30th year of teaching band, the past 26 years in the Brookings, SD School District teaching beginning band. She is President of the honorary band fraternity Phi Beta Mu-SD chapter, has served the SD Bandmasters Association as young band representative and is currently President-Elect of the organization. Mary has presented clinics emphasizing recruitment and proper instruction for the success of beginning band students to SD Bandmasters, SDMEA, SD Department of Education Mentoring Program as well as the SDPBS radio show "In the Moment", just to name a few. In addition, she developed the SD Bandmasters Director of Young Bands Midwest Clinic Scholarship and the SD Bandmasters Heritage Video Series. Her recognitions include the 2019 SD School Band and Orchestra Magazines "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" and 2020 Phi Beta Mu Distinguished Service Award. Mary's guest conducting engagements include the 2018 SD Middle School Festival All-State Band as well as the SDSU All-State Summer Music Camp for Young Band Members. A few local/regional education and musical outreach activities that Mary has engaged in are: creator/director of the Brookings Summer Youth Band Program, assistant conductor for the Brookings Area Summer Community Band and Brookings High School Marching Band as well as serving nine years as the SDHSAA All-State Band Music Chair.

Sioux Valley Orff

Sioux Valley Orff consists of Music Educators from South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. We collaborate and support one another through professional development to inspire the creative potential of all learners. Sioux Valley Orff is a chapter of American Orff-Schulwerk Association. American Orff-Schulwerk Association is a professional organization of educators dedicated to the creative music and movement approach developed by Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman. Orff builds musicianship through music, movement, speech, and drama. It allows children to learn doing what they do best, play! This fun way to explore music allows children to grow into confident, life-long musicians.

Jason Worzbyt

Jason Worzbyt is professor of Bassoon and associate director of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He holds a BS in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Music in wind conducting from the University of North Texas, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in bassoon performance from the University of North Texas. Worzbyt has studied bassoon with Kathleen Reynolds, principal bassoon of the Dallas Opera Orchestra and professor of bassoon at the University of North Texas; Kristen Wolfe Jensen, professor of bassoon at the University of Texas; and David Borst, professor emeritus of bassoon at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His conducting teachers include Jack Stamp, director of band studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and Eugene Migliaro Corporon, director of wind studies at the University of North Texas

Kim Bruguier

Kim Bruguier is in her 14th year of teaching elementary music. Mrs. Bruguier teaches K-5 music/band at LB Williams Elementary in Mitchell, is the director for the Mitchell Area Children's Choir, is the Immediate- Past President and conference manager for the South Dakota Music Education Association and is an adjunct professor in the education department for Dakota Wesleyan University. She has been a clinician multiple times at the State Music Education Conference, the NAFME National conference in Dallas, the Technology In Education conference and at the South Dakota Arts Education Institute. She was recently selected as a presenter as well for the North Dakota Music Education Conference held in early 2021 and presented this fall for the Sioux Valley Orff. Mrs. Bruguier has judged numerous vocal and band contests over the years and has directed both a SDMEA festival choir in the spring of 2018 as well as in 2019 was guest director for the Brookings Festival of Voices for middle school singers. In 2011 she was awarded the South Dakota Outstanding Young Music Educator Award and in 2017 was selected as both the LB Williams and Mitchell School District Teacher of the Year.

Timothy Kaiser

Timothy Kaiser is pursuing the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting at the University of Arizona. Mr. Kaiser comes to Arizona from Del Valle High School in Austin, Texas, where he conducted the Concert and Jazz Bands and co-directed the Proud Cardinal Marching Band. He began his career at Antioch High School in Antioch, California, as teacher and administrator of a comprehensive program that included bands, string orchestra, and AP Music Theory. His ensembles have performed at Pearl Harbor, Disneyland's Magic Music Days, AT&T Stadium (home of the Dallas Cowboys), the Reno Jazz Festival, and Fiesta San Antonio.

Dr. Jake Wallace

Dr. Wallace is currently Associate Professor of Music at South Dakota State University, where he serves as Director of Concert Bands. In this capacity, he conducts and supervises instrumental ensembles; teaches coursework in conducting, literature, and education; and administrates the wind ensemble activities of the School of Performing Arts as a whole. Prior to this, he served as Director of Bands at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where his active efforts included the new music initiative projekt (n), which engaged student musicians directly with composers in collaborations on new works for wind ensemble. His writings on music have been published in nine volumes of GIA's Teaching Music Through Performance in Band series and he has become known for a series of engaging program notes, commissioned directly from a number of composers, which have helped fresh audiences understand new works on their first listening. His research in the area of diversifying composer representation in large ensemble literature has been presented at The Midwest Clinic, national conferences of the College Band Directors National Association, and other workshops and conventions. During summers, has served on the conducting faculty of the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Tuscany, Italy.

Bobby Pace

Bobby Pace is the full-time staff accompanist at Chadron State College in Nebraska. A graduate of The Florida State University, Mr. Pace holds the MM degree in Accompanying and the MM degree in Music Theory and Composition. In his current position, he accompanies all vocal ensembles at CSC, including the Concert Choir and Vocal Jazz Ensemble, as well as all music majors in their private instruction. He has accompanied soloists of all levels in rehearsals, lessons, recitals, competitions, contests, and evaluations.

Kathy Sunvold

Kathy Sundvold is in her 28th year of teaching in the Sioux Falls Public School District. She graduated from Sioux Falls College in 1992 with degrees in Vocal Music Education and Speech Communications and Theatre, she also earned her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Development from SMSU. Kathy began her career teaching Kindermusik and private voice instruction at Sioux Falls College and then worked part-time in the vocal music program at Edison Middle School and has been at Memorial Middle School for the past 25 years teaching Choir, General Music, Speech and Drama and Signature Show Choir. Kathy has served as the President of the SD American Choral Directors Association, as well as the SE Area Representative, and is an advocate of the arts in schools. In her spare time, she loves to spend time with her family Mark, Mason and Madi, their new puppy Oakley, reading mystery novels and baking.

Mike Bossman

A Sioux Falls native, Mike Bossman is currently in his thirteenth year of teaching as the Assistant Vocal Director at Memorial Middle School. He graduated from The University of South Dakota in the fall of 2007 with a bachelor's degree in K-12 Vocal and Instrumental Music. Mr. Bossman has taught voice lessons, is level 1 Orff Certified, and is currently serving on the South Dakota Music Education Association Board as the President-Elect and Webmaster. He was recently inducted into the Roosevelt High School Fine Arts Hall of Fame in Sioux Falls, SD and he completed a Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in Technology from Augustana College in 2014.

Toni Garza

Toni

Garza graduated from Berklee College of Music with a Bachelor's in Music Education with a minor in Psychology. While attending Berklee, she was elected President of their collegiate chapter for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and upon graduation, received the Outstanding Student Teacher Award from the Dean of Music Education. Toni began her teaching career in the Boston Public Schools as a middle school choral and general music teacher and then moved to Nashville to teach elementary music in the Metro Nashville Public Schools. While teaching, Toni received her MBA in Music Business from Southern New Hampshire University in association with Berklee College of Music and began coaching other music teachers within her district with a focus on classroom management. Amongst coaching, Toni also spent a brief period teaching 4th grade in a general education classroom which inspires a lot of her cross-curricular connections and passion for SEL. Toni currently serves as an Instructional Coach and Clinician for QuaverMusic, which she describes as her dream job. In this role, she is able to combine her love of teaching and coaching to empower other educators to create a well-rounded and impactful music classroom.

Dr. Laura Diddle

Dr. Laura Diddle is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at South Dakota State University (SDSU) where she conducts the Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers and the Choralia (the Women's Choir). She teaches applied voice to music majors and minors and is responsible for vocal music education courses.

Dr. Diddle began her career at SDSU in 2003 as Associate Director of Choral Activities and was promoted to Director of Choral Activities in Fall 2012. Under Diddle's direction, the select 70 voice Concert Choir has performed regionally and internationally. The Concert Choir tours regionally every year, performs a fully staged Madrigal Dinner every other year, and is the face of the SDSU Choral Department. Dr. Diddle also leads the 120-voiced SDSU University Women's Ensemble Choralia. The ensemble toured Moscow and St. Petersburg Russia during 2012 and regularly performs in Women's Choir festivals across the region yearly. Her private voice

students regularly compete and place highly in state, regional, and national voice competitions. Many of her students chose to attend graduate school in voice performance in schools such as Indiana University, the University of Michigan, Florida State University, the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Arizona State University, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. In addition to her conducting duties at SDSU, Dr. Diddle is active as a guest conductor, adjudicator and clinician in the Midwestern and Southeastern United States. She was co-conductor of Midwest Ambassador's Tour to Western Europe for Summer 2007-2019. She is sought after to present interest sessions in her areas of research which include Repertoire Selection Practices of Beginning Choral Music Educators, Curriculum Development, and Early Childhood Music Education.