



2018 Educator Awards

2018 MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Emma Angoli

Director of Bands

Mukwonago High School, Mukwonago Area School District

Emma Angoli is the director of the Mukwonago High School Band program, a position she has held since 2014. There she directs a number of performing ensembles, including a winter percussion and color guard program that she helped create. She also teaches Music Theory on a biennial basis, and in the 2018-2019 school year will debut a Beginner Ukulele class as a means of reaching students not actively involved in the school music program. Under Emma's leadership, the Mukwonago Band program regularly rehearses and performs with clinicians and guest artists. Currently she has commissioned composer Nathan Daughtrey to write a work for the school's combined band, choir and orchestra. The world premiere, featuring over 250 musicians, will coincide with the opening of the new Greenwald Performing Arts Center in Mukwonago this April. Emma has also taught for three years with the Lighthouse Brigade, a summer marching band based in Racine. She received her Bachelor's in Instrumental Music Education from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

2018 EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Mary Pat Michels

District Music Coordinator

West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

Mary Pat Michels has worked in the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District since 1997. She is currently the District Music Coordinator, the Orchestra Director at Frank Lloyd Wright and West Milwaukee Intermediate Schools, and director of the WAWM Shining Strings. Mary Pat is also currently Principal Viola, Music Librarian and Personnel Manager of the Wisconsin Philharmonic, a member of Festival City Symphony, and the manager and founder of the Lakeside Strings. As a professional music educator and active free-lance musician, her expertise and understanding of music's importance in today's schools have made her a strong advocate for the WAWM School District's music program and earned respect from her colleagues and fellow administrators. In 2015 Mary Pat received CIVIC MUSIC's Certificate of Excellence in Instrumental Music Instruction for her work in the WAWM School District and with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Mary Pat earned degrees in Violin and Viola Performance and her Music Education Certification from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, with post-bac work in education and music education from UWM, Cardinal Stritch University and Wisconsin Lutheran College.

2018 MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ACE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Jodi Rupnow

Elementary Technology Integration Resource Teacher

Woodside Elementary School, Hamilton School District

Jodi Rupnow started her teaching career in 1995, and gained 16 years of classroom experience working with K4-2nd grade students in the St. Francis and Hamilton School Districts. In 2012, she moved to her current role as an Elementary Technology Integration Resource teacher at Woodside Elementary in Sussex. At Woodside Elementary, she is an integral part of the the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's ACE Multiphase Team every year. She teaches technology to 27 classrooms of kindergarten through 5th grade, assists the three music educators with using technology and recording and archiving students' music performances, and spends numerous hours readying technology and compiling student work samples for the ACE staff. Her greatest joy comes from guiding students and adults in understanding that a strong knowledge of technology, the arts, and academics are all powerful tools for a well-rounded and successful future. Jodi

has also been a New Director Mentor and assistant to the Regional Coordinator for the Invent Now Kid's Camp Invention program, and an adjunct instructor for Marian University. She earned her undergraduate degree from Mount Mary University, and her Masters of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Educational Technology from Marian University, where she also became a certified online instructor.

CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE

Instrumental Music Instruction

Terry Little

Band Teacher

Dixon Elementary School, Elmbrook School District

Terry Little is an instrumental music educator with 33 years of experience teaching band at all grade levels. She is currently employed in the Elmbrook School District in Brookfield, where she teaches fourth and fifth grade band. Terry is passionate about leveraging technology to implement a personalized approach to music learning. Her work is focused on engaging and motivating students, connecting parents with their children's learning, and reaching learners at all levels. She was recognized in December 2015 by *School Band and Orchestra Magazine* as one of "50 Directors Who Make a Difference." Terry is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire and Cardinal Stritch University.

Choral Music Instruction

Brent Johnston

Choral Director and Department Chair

Whitefish Bay High School

Brent Johnston is the Department Chair and Choral Director at Whitefish Bay High School, where he also teaches Digital Music Production and AP Music Theory. Prior to that, he taught at Cudahy High School and Lakes Community High School in Lake Villa, Illinois. His wide variety of performance experience includes Opera, Musical Theatre, being guest soloist with orchestras and rock bands, and participating in the Barbershop Harmony Society as assistant director and Bass section leader for the Midwest Vocal Express and as guest clinician for Youth in Harmony events. Brent earned his BFA in Music Education from UW-Milwaukee and his Masters in Educational Leadership from Cardinal Stritch University.

General Music Instruction

James Vernola

Music Teacher

ALBA Elementary School, Milwaukee Public Schools

James Vernola is the music teacher and ACE Coordinator at ALBA School, a Milwaukee Public Schools bilingual Spanish/English elementary school with a fine arts focus. He began building ALBA's music program in 2015, which now includes band, choir, guitar lessons, a hand drumming club, a recorder program, and an early childhood music program. He is passionate about folk songs/dance and believes in teaching from a global perspective. James graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater with a Bachelor's in K-12 Instrumental and General Music with an endorsement in special education. He is trained in Kodaly, Orff, and Dalcroze methods, and has world drumming and percussion experience. Currently he is pursuing an MBA in Educational Administration at Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Studio Music Instruction

Peter Thomas

Cello Instructor

Cellist **Peter Thomas** has been a member of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra since 2008. He has also performed around the world as a multi-genre soloist, clinician, educator, and chamber musician with the award winning classical cross-over indie-rock band, *I'm Not A Pilot*. As a teacher, Peter maintains a private cello studio of extremely gifted musicians, and since 2013 has served each summer on the faculty of the American Suzuki Institute. He has presented clinics and workshops across the country through his innovative use of the electric cello, and has recorded, arranged, and edited music for numerous artists including *2Cellos* and *The Piano Guys* through Hal Leonard Music. Peter was the winner

of the Wisconsin Area Music Industry's String Player of the Year award for 2012 and 2015. Originally from Stevens Point, where he was born into a family of musicians, he earned degrees at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying under Lawrence Leviton, Tanya Remenikova, Joseph Johnson and Stephen Geber.

Bernard Zinck

Violin Instructor

Bernard Zinck, concert violinist and recording artist, is currently Associate Professor of violin and chamber music and Director of the Sorkin Chamber Music Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Since 2011, he has also been the artistic director and founder of the Lakeside Chamber Music Workshop in Lake Forest, Illinois. He is in demand as a coach and teacher, and is regularly invited to conduct master classes and residencies in universities and conservatories throughout the world. Bernard's private students have won many local competitions, and his university students have embarked upon successful music careers in both teaching and orchestra playing. He began violin studies in his hometown of Tours, France and graduated from the Paris Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique with first prizes in violin and chamber music. As a Fulbright scholar at the Juilliard School of Music, he earned his BM and MM degrees after only four years of study. In 2006, he earned a DMA from Temple University in Philadelphia.

Youth Music Instruction

Tom Spitz

Orchestra Instructor

Poplar Creek Elementary and Ronald Reagan Elementary, New Berlin School District

String Specialist

Wisconsin Intergenerational Orchestra

Tom Spitz has been a professional string educator since 2009; when he began his teaching career by helping to establish Whitewater Unified School District's string program under the guidance of Christine Hayes and Susan Chandler. Since 2012 he has taught in the School District of New Berlin, growing the beginning orchestra programs at Poplar Creek and Ronald Reagan Elementary Schools. In 2017 he created SDNB's first-ever Summer School Orchestra program. Tom is also the String Specialist with the Wisconsin Intergenerational Orchestra, and enjoys performing with the Milwaukee Philharmonic on his primary instrument, the violin.