

PMEA 2018 Slate of Candidates

General Music Content Area Rep Candidates:



Elizabeth Parker (current)

Elizabeth Cassidy Parker, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University where she instructs undergraduate general music and choral methods in addition to history and philosophy graduate courses. Prior to her work at Temple, Elizabeth was Associate Professor of general and choral music education at the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University, GA. She has held PK-12 school positions in New York, Nebraska, and Georgia, specializing in the vocal development of young people through both general and choral music education. Elizabeth was also Director of Music for a large New York City not-for-profit for eight years. She currently conducts the Troubadors, an upper elementary and early middle school vocal ensemble of the Pennsylvania Girlchoir. Elizabeth's research interests include the social, vocal, and philosophical development of young people in school music programs as well as identity of preservice and inservice music educators. She regularly presents general music clinics, conducts elementary honor choirs, and shares her research through PMEA, NAfME, and the American Educational Research Association. Selected publications include the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, *Music Education Research*, and the *International Journal of Music Education*. Elizabeth holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Rachel Pollard

Rachel Pollard received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education, and a concentration in classical and jazz voice, from Duquesne University. She holds both a Master of Education degree in Education and Certificate of Educational Administration from Gannon University and is a Certified Master Teacher of Estill Voice Training. She enjoys voice studio teaching and works actively as a guest conductor throughout the Eastern United States, specializing in both treble choral and mixed changing-voice choir pedagogy, technique, and repertoire. Ms. Pollard is certified in the Orff-Schulwerk Pedagogy, having completed her Levels I, II, III and Masterclass at the University of Memphis and University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is a Past President of the Pittsburgh Golden Triangle Orff Schulwerk Association. Rachel works nationally as a workshop clinician specializing in the Orff Schulwerk pedagogical method. In addition to regularly serving as a guest lecturer at local universities, and having served as adjunct faculty in music education at Duquesne University, she has presented sessions at regional and state conferences for PMEA, OMEA and the National AOSA Conference. Rachel is employed full-time as a vocal music specialist at the elementary level for the Fox Chapel Area School District in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she lives with her husband, Stephen, and sons, Elijah and Ezra.

Jazz Content Area Rep Candidates:



Gunnar Mossblad

GUNNAR MOSSBLAD is well known as a saxophonist, composer and educator. He earned a B.M. in Jazz Studies and an M.M. in saxophone performance from the famed University of North Texas. Over the last 35 years he has held full time faculty positions as a jazz educator and saxophone instructor of both jazz and classical styles at James Madison University, West Chester University of PA, and now The University of Toledo.

His collaborations with jazz masters such as Dave Liebman, Jon Hendricks, Jimmy Cobb, Randy Brecker and many others have enriched his unique voice on the saxophone and as a composer. His performing and compositions can be heard on numerous recordings including his award winning recordings **Gunnar Mossblad & CrossCurrents** (SUMMIT DCD-587), **R.S.V.P.** (SUMMIT DCD-662), **Monk, A NYC Tribute** (Jazz 'n' Arts JnA6112), **The Seasons Reflected** (Soul Note 121345-2), and with the Dave Liebman Big Band on the Grammy Nominated recording, **Live...As Always** (MAMA Records MAA-1039) and **Tribute To Wayne Shorter** (MAMA 1047), and finally the Manhattan

Saxophone Ensemble's *The Dogwalk* (GPC-1023). He also serves as the musical director and member of the internationally acclaimed *David Liebman Big Band* as well as the *Manhattan Saxophone Ensemble*.

When Gunnar is not performing, he is composing music. He has composed original compositions and arrangements music for a wide variety of musical situations from small jazz groups to big band & symphony orchestra. He is published by *Houston Publishing*, *LeMoine Music*, *FJH Music Company*, and *Jazz Aebersold*. He was a regular contributor to now defunct *Saxophone Journal* as well as *Jazz Player* magazine.

He is a clinician for the CONN-SELMER Company, and endorses the Silverstein Saxophone Ligatures.

Kevin McManus



Kevin M. McManus holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Penn State University, a Graduate Performer's Certificate from SUNY Purchase Conservatory and a Masters Degree from Carnegie Mellon University. His primary teachers include: Mark L. Lusk, Robert D. Hamrick, Matty Shiner, Jim Pugh, Dick Nash, Peter Sullivan, Murray Crewe, James Markey and Randy Purcell.

Mr. McManus has performed on Broadway in New York City and completed two First National Tours of the shows "Urinetown: the Musical" and "Little Women the Broadway Musical." In the summer of 2009, Mr. McManus was a featured soloist in Pittsburgh's Civic Light Opera production of Swing! Kevin was also featured along side of Dick Nash, Bill Watrous, Bill Tole, George Roberts and Harry Betts at the 2009 NAMM show in Anaheim, California. He has performed with such artists as: Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra Jr., Josh Groban, Clay Aiken, Wayne Newton, Frankie Vallie and The Four Seasons, Aretha Franklin, Pattie LaBelle, and The Manhattan Transfer. He has performed with: the Pittsburgh and Wheeling Symphony Orchestras - Pittsburgh Opera Theatre – the Pittsburgh Ballet, and the River City Brass Band.

Mr. McManus is the founder and leader of: The Bone Forum, a jazz 10 trombone ensemble with rhythm section, The Kevin M. McManus Jazz Octet, a swingin' eight piece jazz ensemble, and The Pittsburgh Trombone Project, one of America's premier chamber music ensembles. In 2016, Kevin premiered Andrew Kohn's "Finney's Birthplace" for Trombone and Chamber Orchestra with Maestro Roger Zahab and the University of Pittsburgh Orchestra.

As a writer and arranger, Kevin has written for many organizations including: The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, The McKeesport Symphony, The New Trombone Collective and Bo Wagner's "Rat Pack." Mr. McManus is currently an elementary instrumental teacher in the Gateway School District and on the faculties of Seton Hill University, Messiah College, Westminster College, Westmoreland County Community College and The Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School.

Kevin has also served on the faculties of Waynesburg and Frostburg State Universities. In 2014, The Kevin M. McManus Excellence in Jazz Scholarship and Award was established in perpetuity at Westminster College for outstanding undergraduate students. His extensive knowledge of ensemble playing, repertoire and rehearsal techniques for groups of all ages have brought Kevin invitations to appear as guest conductor and clinician throughout America. Kevin is proud to be a member of The Pittsburgh's Musicians' Union, Local 60-471, where he has served as a member of The Finance Advisory and Price List Committees.

Music Technology Content Area Rep Candidates:



Richard Fisherowski

Rich Fisherowski is a teacher and band director who works with elementary school students in the DuBois Area School District. In addition to working with elementary students, Rich also previously served as both junior and senior high school band, marching band, and choir director at Brockway Jr./Sr. High School. Rich believes that music education enhanced with technology integration provides the most engaging experience for students and teachers. He has been recognized as a Keystone Technology Innovator and has also served as his district's Technology Coordinator during his twelve years at DuBois. Throughout his career, Rich has designed and presented technology themed professional development seminars and webinars for district in-service trainings as well as

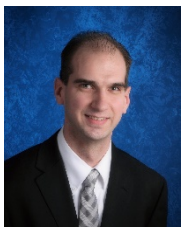
state conferences, focusing not only on the music education classroom but also across the curriculum. Currently, Rich serves as the PMEA Technology Resources Coordinator as well as the Technology and Communications Coordinator for the DuBois Area Education Association. In his spare time, he enjoys playing his trumpet in the pit for various high school musicals and relaxing at home with his wife and three rescue dachshunds. Rich can be reached at fisherowski@live.com.



Steve Selfridge (current)

Steve Selfridge has been teaching music in the Garnet Valley School District since 2001, where he directs elementary band, two middle school jazz bands and the high school small jazz ensemble. In addition to his teaching at Garnet Valley, Steve is a co-director of the Chester County Youth Wind Ensemble, graduate conducting assistant with the Temple University Night Owls Campus Concert Band, and former director of the Kimmel Center Youth Jazz Ensemble. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Music Education at Temple University, where his research focuses upon the rapidly growing field of technology-enhanced music education and blended learning. His YouTube channel "Mr. Selfridge" reaches over 50,000 subscribers and features lessons on a variety of band instruments and music topics. Steve was recently awarded the PMEA Citation of Excellence for District 12, and has presented sessions at PMEA conferences on the topics of Jazz Improvisation and Blended Learning/Teaching Videos.

PMEA State President-Elect Candidates:



Mark Despotakis

Mark Despotakis is the Director of Market Development at Progressive Music located just outside of Pittsburgh, PA. He has been a part of the Progressive Music team since 2002 and currently coordinates the company's marketing strategies. He also is responsible for management of corporate finances.

Prior to working at Progressive Music, he spent time at CNN Newsource in Washington D.C. where he helped to produce stories out of the nation's capital for CNN as well as their nearly 800 affiliate stations across the country. He graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Communication.

Before CNN, Mark was the News Director at TV 5 News in Clarion, Pennsylvania where he anchored coverage of the attacks of September 11, 2001 and hosted his own television talk show, "Feedback with Mark Despotakis" and radio talk show, "Talk Around Town." While at TV 5 News, Mark won various awards and was named as a Young American Broadcaster.

He taught with the Baldwin High School Band in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1998 - 2011 serving as the Assistant Band Director of the Marching Band and the Director of the Woodwind Ensemble. Among the bands many accomplishments was their 2006 performance in the 80th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Despotakis spent over 10 years teaching with a high school music program so he has combined his experience in music education with his communication background in his current role at Progressive Music. Mark has presented sessions on music education marketing, advocacy, public policy, and the music industry at the Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association annual conference, the Pennsylvania Arts Education Network Symposium, various music educator professional development events, as well as the yearly gathering of the music product's industry - The NAMM Show. He has had articles published in the *PMEA News* and various music industry publications including *The Music and Sound Retailer*.

He serves on the SupportMusic Coalition Steering Committee, is currently serving as the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Young Professionals President, is a member of the Board of Directors for Western Pennsylvania's Tournament of Bands performance organization, and is a member of the Pittsburgh Public Schools Arts Advisory Board.

He currently serves as Chair for the PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association) Music Education Advocacy Council where he coordinates statewide advocacy and public policy. In the world of advocacy, he also is a member of the NAFME (National Association for Music Education) Advocacy Leadership Force.



Phil Stattel

Philip Stattel has been a music educator for the past 31 years, the last 17 years as the choral director at Penns Valley Area Jr./Sr. High School. Philip has directed Elementary, Junior High, Middle School and High School Choirs and Marching Band, and has taught General Music K-12, Elementary, Junior High, and High School Brass Lessons, and Junior High and High School Guitar Class. Prior to working at Penns Valley, he held positions in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Charles County, Maryland, and Poughkeepsie, New Paltz, and Elwood, New York. A graduate of Indiana University, Philip has also taken graduate coursework at Western Connecticut State University and Shenandoah University.

Philip's choirs have performed at festivals in New York, Toronto, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, and Florida, receiving ratings of Excellent and Superior. He has had numerous students selected to All-State Choirs and even some selected to All-Eastern Choirs. He has been Director, Co-Director, Music Director, and/or Pit Conductor for musical productions at each of the school districts where he has worked.

As a performer, Philip has had lead roles in community theater productions of Camelot, Oklahoma, Kiss Me Kate, South Pacific, Pirates of Penzance, Carousel, and Once Upon A Mattress. Since 2004, he has been a soloist/cantor and Christmas Eve Mass Choir Director at Saint Kateri Church in Spring Mills, PA.

Philip has taken an active role in PMEA since arriving at Penns Valley; hosting three District 4 Chorus Festivals, one Region III Chorus Festival, and three Centre County Honors Band and Chorus Festivals. Philip was elected as District 4 Vice President in 2012 and then served as PMEA District 4 President for the 2014 - 2016 school years. He was a member of the 2016 committee tasked with rewriting the PMEA Media Policy.

Philip is married to Cynthia, his wife of 30 years. They have two wonderful children, Robert and Virginia, who are now full time music students at Millersville University and Indiana University of Pennsylvania respectively. After having his own two children be so affected by the good that PMEA does, Mr. Stattel wants to continue in that tradition and extend those benefits to as many students and teachers as possible. The work that PMEA does in creating a better society is sorely needed in this world, and Philip looks forward to being a part of that creation in whatever role he has to play within PMEA.