

PMEA 2019 Slate of Candidates

Band Content Area Rep Candidates:

Scott Cullen teaches instrumental music for grades 7 through 12 for the Octorara Area School District. Prior to working at Octorara, Mr. Cullen taught elementary band and middle school performing arts classes for the Central Bucks School District. Mr. Cullen joined the music department at Octorara in 2002 and teaches high school music electives such as guitar, piano, music theory, and music appreciation, in addition to teaching middle school band and high school band, marching band and jazz band.

An active performer, Scott is the principal trombonist with the New Holland Band and the Chester County Pops Orchestra, is a member of the Main Line Symphony Orchestra, and has performed with Orchestra Concordia, Allegro Orchestra Lancaster, the Lancaster Brass Quintet. As a freelance musician, he has performed in pit orchestras at the Fulton Theatre and the Dutch Apple Dinner Theater in Lancaster, the Bravo Theater Company in West Chester, and at various high schools in southeastern Pennsylvania.

In addition to his activities as an educator and a trombonist, Mr. Cullen also enjoys working as a conductor. He was invited to co-direct the Chester County Youth Wind Ensemble in 2017. He was also named the Associate Conductor of the Pennsylvania Symphonic Winds in January 2018 and the assistant conductor of the Main Line Symphony Orchestra in July 2018. He has also conducted the Chester County Pops Orchestra and the Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, and Concert Band at West Chester University.

Mr. Cullen is also involved with the annual high school musical coaching the vocalists and conducting the pit orchestra. Mr. Cullen also has experience working with local community theater groups. He directed "The Music Man" and "Little Shop of Horrors" for the Jennersville YMCA and was the music director for the production of "Hairspray" at Streetlamp Productions in Rising Sun, Maryland. Scott has also dabbled slightly as an actor and performed the roles of Marcellus Washburn in "The Music Man" and Aldolfo in "The Drowsy Chaperone," both musicals produced by the Avon Grove Community Theater.

Scott earned his Bachelor's degree in music education from West Chester University in 2001. He returned to WCU to earn his Master's degree in music education with an emphasis in technology in 2009, followed by a second Master's degree in music performance in wind conducting in 2015. Since completing his degree in conducting, Mr. Cullen has attended master classes in wind conducting at Temple University and West Chester University, working with conductors Dr. Andrew Yozviak, Dr. Gregory Martin, Dr. Kevin Sedatole, H. Robert Reynolds, Dr. Emily Threinen, Col. Arnald Gabriel (ret) and Michael Haithcock.

Mr. Cullen's organization affiliations include the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Band Association, the Association of Concert Bands, Phi Beta Mu - The International Bandmasters Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Kappa Kappa Psi.

Jason Worbyzt (current) is Professor of Bassoon and Associate Director of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He holds a B.S. 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. Dr. Worbyzt 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; David T. Borst, professor emeritus of bassoon at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and James Rodgers, principal contrabassoon of the Pittsburgh Symphony. 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.

Dr. Worbyzt has performed, recorded and has been featured as a soloist with wind ensembles and orchestras all across the country. These ensembles include the Keystone Wind Ensemble, IUP Wind Ensemble, North Texas Wind Symphony, North Texas New Music Ensemble, Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, Highland Wind Quintet and the IUP Faculty Woodwind Quintet. In 2001, Dr. Worbyzt gave the world premiere of Bruce Yurko's **Concerto for Bassoon and Wind Ensemble** with the Keystone Wind Ensemble at the College Band Directors National Association conference. From 2006 to 2009 he was a member of the artist-faculty at the Western Chamber Music Institute hosted by Western State College in

Gunnison, Colorado. Additional performances include several recitals at meetings of the International Double Reed Society. In March of 2013, Klavier Records released a compact disc recording (*Five in the Sun*) by the Keystone Chamber Players of which Dr. Worzbyt is a member. Most recently, Dr. Worzbyt premiered and recorded Bruce Yurko's **Concerto No. 2 for Bassoon and Wind Orchestra** in October of 2014. During his almost 21 year tenure at IUP, he has performed with many of the regional orchestras in western Pennsylvania, including the Johnstown Symphony, Altoona Symphony, Westmoreland Symphony, and Butler Symphony.

As a guest conductor, Dr. Worzbyt has worked with elementary, junior high, senior high and professional ensembles in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Indiana, Georgia, and Kentucky. Highlights of these appearances include the Indiana Junior High All State Band, New Jersey All State Symphonic Band, PMEA All State Orchestra, PMEA Western Region State Orchestra, PMEA Region III Band, PMEA Region IV Band, PMEA Region V Band, PMEA District 4 and 6 Orchestras in Johnstown and Westmont, PMEA District 2,3,5 Orchestras in Indiana and Purchase Line, and PMEA District Bands in Pittsburgh, York, Berlin, Johnstown, Harrisburg, Punxsutawney and Philadelphia. From 2007 through 2013, he was music director and conductor of the Westmoreland Symphonic Winds, a professional wind ensemble in residence at Seton Hill University. Committed to music education in the state of Pennsylvania, Dr. Worzbyt is currently the Band Content Area Representative for the Pennsylvania Music Education Association. He formerly served as President and Higher Education Representative of PMEA District 3, and continues to serve this organization as an adjudicator, guest conductor, and clinician. He has also authored several study guides for the **Teaching Music Through Performance in Band, Middle School Band and Beginning Band** series published by GIA. Dr. Worzbyt lives in Indiana, PA with his lovely wife Michelle, a Presbyterian pastor, and very active nine year old, Christian James.

Chorus Content Area Rep Candidates:

Jay Althouse is the Director of Choral Music for Southern Middle School and Susquehannock High School in the Southern York County School District, Glen Rock, PA, where he directs two curricular concert choirs, two co-curricular auditioned choral ensembles, as well as the Men's and Women's Choirs for grades seven through twelve. He also teaches 8th Grade Music classes. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Lebanon Valley College, where he studied voice under Mrs. Victoria Rose, piano under Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman and Dr. Dennis Sweigart, and choral conducting under Dr. Mark Mecham. Jay completed his Master of Music in Music Education from Boston University with his graduate thesis focused on the use of critical pedagogy in the choral classroom. He has also engaged in research on the adolescent male changing voice.

In addition to being a full time educator, Mr. Althouse is an active choral conductor, serving as the Artistic Director of the Bel Air Community Chorus, Bel Air, Maryland, a position he has held since the fall of 2013. Mr. Althouse has served as a guest conductor, choral clinician, and adjudicator in PA and MD, most recently presenting a choral reading session at the PMEA District 7 Professional Development day entitled, "Middle School Choral Repertoire: Capturing Your Singers and Audience." Additionally, Jay serves on the PMEA State Curriculum and Instruction Committee and is on the PMEA District 7 Executive Board serving as High School Curriculum and Instruction Representative.

Bryan Helsel (current) received bachelor degrees in music education (vocal) and in piano performance from Westminster College and earned a master's degree in piano performance from Duquesne University. He is the director of choirs and music technology at Butler Area Senior High School, teaching recording and songwriting in addition to running the choral program. His choirs have appeared at the PMEA State Conference twice, and they are regularly assessed at the superior and excellent levels. Each year they alternate between taking a choir tour to a major city and performing a large choral masterwork. Past masterworks have included Mozart's Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, Rutter's Gloria, the *Mass of Hope* by (and performed with) Joe Negri, the Holocaust Cantata, performed with a Holocaust Survivor, Fauré's *Requiem*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, and Steve Dobrogosz's Mass. His recording and songwriting classes are active in creating inventive music in various forms of media in these project-driven, student-centered courses.

Active in the arts in Western Pennsylvania, Helsel plays piano in the Butler Symphony, organ and keyboards at various churches, trumpet in the Butler Brass Quintet and Musician's Concert Band, and can be found playing

recitals locally or playing jazz and rock music at Pittsburgh area venues and private functions. He is listed in "Who's Who among America's Educators" as well as "Who's Who in America." His professional affiliations include PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association), NAFME (National Association of Music Educators), TI:ME (Technology Institute of Music Education) and ACDA (American Choral Directors' Association).

Helsel has composed several choral works and has released albums of his own contemporary music. He has appeared on public radio as a pianist. He has been the conductor for the community choir of Butler County, and he is in demand as accompanist and guest conductor at county and District festivals, most recently in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and North Carolina. He has presented research and rehearsal strategies at state conferences in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He has appeared as guest artist in concertos with Regional Symphonies and bands playing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Concerto in F, I Got Rhythm Variations and Saint-Seans' Carnival of the Animals. As a pianist and singer, Helsel has shared the stage with the likes of Shirley Jones and Garrison Keillor. Aside from performing and conducting, he owns and operates Helsel Music, a full production recording studio and is currently a doctoral candidate at Kent State University, completing his dissertation to earn a Ph.D. in music education sometime in 2019. Bryan resides near Saxonburg, Pennsylvania with his talented and beautiful wife, Heather and toddler, Colin.

Orchestra Content Area Rep Candidates:

Johannes Dietrich, a native of Bozeman, Montana, joined the faculty of Lebanon Valley College in 1995. As the Newton and Adelaide Burgner Professor in Instrumental Music, he directs the LVC Symphony Orchestra, teaches conducting, string methods, applied violin and viola, and coaches chamber music ensembles. As a violinist and chamber musician, he has performed throughout the United States, as well as in Austria, Germany and Italy. As a member of *Duo Terlano*, he performs regularly with his wife, cellist Marie-Aline Cadieux. He has released two CDs - *Solo Journeys*, which includes the World Premiere of Scott Eggerts "Adagia" for solo violin and the *Duo Terlano* recording, *Whimsies*.

Dr. Dietrich has conducted festival, district, regional and All State orchestras from New Jersey to Montana. His college orchestra has toured Austria, Italy, Ireland and the Czech Republic, with performances by special invitation at Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, and the world- renowned Rudolfinum in Prague. Plans are underway for a return trip to Europe, scheduled for the spring of 2020.

Dr. Dietrich began studying the violin at the age of five, and shortly thereafter began lessons on the piano. He has studied with Helmut Zehetmair at the *Mozarteum* in Salzburg, Austria, with Cora Cooper and Johan Jonsson at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, and with Constantine Kiradjieff at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, from which he holds a Master of Music degree in violin performance and a Doctorate in Violin Performance and Conducting.

His students have been prizewinners and finalists in both State and National competitions, and have been accepted into leading undergraduate and graduate music programs. Many have gone on to become successful teachers and performers in their own right.

Sarah Lavelle (current)

Sarah Lavelle has been teaching orchestra in the North Allegheny School District in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for the past 13 years. During that time, the high school orchestra program has doubled in size and now includes nearly 400 students in grades 9-12. Mrs. Lavelle's schedule includes two select high school ensembles and four sections of non-auditioned string orchestra. She also leads the Golden Strolling Strings, a strolling group that performs on a regular basis at banquets, conventions, and other events. Her ensembles have been featured at PMEA and ASTA conferences and consistently receive high ratings at adjudication festivals. Her groups, including the Golden Strolling Strings, have also performed at the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference.

Mrs. Lavelle graduated Summa Cum Laude from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and was recognized as the Outstanding Graduate of both the WVU School of Music and the College of Creative Arts. She then earned a Master of Music Education in String Pedagogy from Florida State

University. For several years she returned to the Florida State campus to teach Irish Fiddling at the FSU Summer Music Camps.

Before coming to North Allegheny, Mrs. Lavelle taught orchestra in grades 4-12 in the Beaver Area School District in Beaver, PA.