

PMEA 2020 Slate of Candidates:

General Music Representative Candidates:

Becky Burdett currently teaches grades K-4 at the Abington Heights School District, as well as directs two children's choirs in the Choral Society of Northeast Pennsylvania. Her goal is for each student to be joyful in the act of making, expressing, and creating music. Her classroom pedagogy blends together the elemental patterns and movement basis of Orff-Schulwerk with the vocabulary of patterns presented in the Kodaly method. She believes that students can be capable musicians when allowed the guided freedom to explore all areas of musicianship.



Becky is passionate about music education and music pedagogy. She completed her Kodaly training in 2003 at the Hartt School of Music. She also completed Orff-Schulwerk training through the University of the Arts at Villanova in 2010, as well as MasterClass studies through George Mason University.

Becky is an active member of several music education organizations: PMEA, AOSA and PAOSA, (Philadelphia Orff chapter), and NAfME. She has served as a clinician for PMEA District 9 and 10 professional development in-services, PAOSA and Baltimore Orff Chapters, as well as the AOSA National Conference. In 2016, Becky was a local conference chair for the AOSA National Conference, where she coordinated the Boutique. Doing so required outreach to other teachers nationally to create useful manipulatives and materials for use in the general music classroom. In 2014 she was named to the American Center for Elemental Music and Movement Roster of Excellence.

As current President of PAOSA, one of her main responsibilities is to connect with clinicians who will lead workshops for the Philadelphia Chapter. For this two year term, Becky will oversee the participants' professional development opportunities. Prior leadership positions included Act 48 reporting chair and Vice-President. A sample of her journal contributions can be found in the Winter 2019 *Orff Echo*, an AOSA publication.

Becky has also served District 9 PMEA as a coordinator for Music in Our Schools Month. Seeing the success of the Viewmont Mall Performances, she organized a similar event for the Wyoming Valley Mall to make the event closer for some of our PMEA schools. In 2018, she was elected by her peers to serve as Elementary Professional Development Representative for PMEA District 9.

Becky is passionate about all things music education, and is excited about the possibility of sharing and connecting with members of PMEA as Content Representative.

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 an Estill Master Trainer (Voice). 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.

PMEA Jazz Representative Candidates



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. 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, Glen Campbell, Maureen McGovern, Isaac Hayes, Lou Rawls, Gloria Gaynor, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Don Rickles, Regis Philbin, Joan Rivers 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. He recently performed at the American Trombone Workshop in a new collaborative project with Matt Niess and the Capital Bones entitled "Pennsylvania Roots." 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 general music teacher in the Plum Borough 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 and taught elementary instrumental music in the Gateway School District. In 2014, The Kevin M. McManus Excellence in Jazz Scholarship and Award was established in perpetuity at Westminster College for outstanding undergraduate music 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. Kevin is currently serving as the Jazz Content Area Representative for the Pennsylvania Music Education Association. Mr. McManus is an Artist for Edwards Musical Instruments.

John M. Seybert, serves as Performing Arts Curriculum Leader and Middle/High School Band Director in the Upper St. Clair School District. Seybert served as Professor and Coordinator of the Music Education Program at Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA. He received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in music education from the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. Seybert currently serves on the Teacher Training, Recruitment & Retention Council for the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. He also served as the Performance Development Coordinator for the Race to the Top Performing Fine Arts Assessment Project for the state of Florida.



Seybert served as Research Reviewer for the National Core Arts Standards (2014), President of the Florida Collegiate Music Educators Association, member of the Florida Music Educators' Association (FMEA) Executive Board, and Vice President of the Florida Jazz Educators Association (FJE). He has been cited for "Effective Teaching and Scholarship" by Seton Hill University; "Outstanding Research and Scholarship," by the University of Oxford Round Table; "Outstanding Service to the Community" by the Florida Bandmasters Association; an "Outstanding Instructor" from Indiana University in Bloomington; recipient of the State of Indiana's "Top Twenty-Five Teacher Award" and the "Superintendent's Award for Excellence in

Education.” Seybert has published research in *The Journal of Research in Music Education* and other peer-reviewed publications in music and education. Dr. Seybert is an active performer, clinician, and soloist.

Music Technology Representative Candidates

Susan Basalik has taught stringed instruments in Methacton School District, Eagleville, PA since 1981. She teaches 230 elementary students, directs 3 orchestras & serves as music department coordinator. Susan received Bachelors & Masters Degrees in Music Education from Temple University. Her post-masters studies include music technology & leadership and she is currently completing a Masters Degree in Educational Technology at Wilson College.



She is a Google Certified Educator, Levels 1 and 2. Susan is very active in PMEA and has served in a variety of roles including chair of the PMEA Professional Development Council from 2009-2015. Her other professional memberships include ASTA (American String Teachers Association) and ISTE (International Society for Technology Education.) She has presented many conference sessions on the local, state, and national levels on innovative ways to add technology to all aspects of music education. Susan was named a 2019 Keystone Technology Innovator Star and was also the 2019 recipient of PMEA’s James Stewart Award for Distinguished Service.

Stephen Goss is the Director of Bands at Ephrata Area School District for grades 6th - 12th grade, in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. His duties included directing the Ephrata middle and high school concert bands, marching band and percussion ensemble. In addition to teaching in the Ephrata Area School District, Mr. Goss is an Adjunct Professor of Percussion at Millersville University, where he teaches drum set, classical percussion lessons, percussion ensemble and percussion methods courses.



He is a graduate of West Chester University with a Bachelors of Science in Music Education and a Masters of Science in Music Performance. He holds professional memberships with the Percussive Arts Society (Treasurer of PA Chapter), NAFME: National Association for Music Education, and Lancaster-Lebanon Music Education Association.

Mr. Goss is clinician for SmartMusic software, designed by MakeMusic Inc. and he teaches clinics for the company to music educators throughout the east coast region. Mr. Goss is honored to have been nominated for a WGAL Teacher Impact Award, as well as a Grammy Music Educator Award by his students and parents. In 2014, he was honored with the Lancaster-Lebanon Music Educator’s Private Teacher Award. Mr. Goss remains active as a freelance performer with local orchestras, churches and other performing ensembles. He is a drum set player for LCBC Church-Ephrata Campus where he plays on various worship bands. Mr. Goss is endorsed by Sabian Cymbals and Innovative Percussion.

PMEA President – Elect 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, high school band, high school marching band, and high school jazz band.

Believing that professional affiliations are essential as an educator, Mr. Cullen has been a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association for his entire career. His activities and roles with PMEA have been varied. He has hosted or co-hosted five high school honors festivals for band, orchestra, and chorus students. He has also had an active role as a leader in District 12 serving at various times as president, festival coordinator, advocacy chair, and curriculum and instruction chair. In these roles Scott has also served on the PMEA state board.

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 Allegro Orchestra Lancaster, Orchestra Concordia, and 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 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. He was invited to co-direct the Chester County Youth Wind Ensemble in 2017 until his departure in 2019.

Mr. Cullen has been involved with the annual spring musical at Octorara Area High School since 2003. He has had the roles of pit orchestra conductor, music director, and director. 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," Aldolfo in "The Drowsy Chaperone," and J.B. Biggley in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," all three musicals produced by the ACT Players 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, West Chester University, and the University of Montana working with conductors Dr. Andrew Yozviak, Dr. Gregory Martin, Dr. Kevin Sedatole, Dr. Robert Carnochan, H. Robert Reynolds, Dr. Emily Threinen, Col. Arnauld Gabriel (ret), Michael Haithcock, Dr. Allan McMurray, and Dr. James Smart.

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.

Vision Statement

Relating to its current membership, I would like to explore how PMEA might be able to partner with organizations such as PARSS (Pennsylvania Rural and Small Schools) so that we can determine how to address member teacher needs in rural areas, which make up a majority of the state. I would like to explore how performing groups are accepted to perform at the state conference to determine if there is a way we can better represent the population of the state. I would like to also reach out to music teachers in Pennsylvania that are not members of PMEA and find out why they have not joined. Through this type of inquiry, we can better determine how to serve music education in the state. We may also learn how we can increase our membership. PMEA should be an advocate for non-traditional ensemble classes in schools such as steel pan, mariachi, and modern band, but encouraging schools to sponsor these programs is one thing. Helping teachers find the resources needed is another. Perhaps PMEA can work with outside organizations who will help pilot new programs in schools that are outside of band, orchestra, chorus, and jazz.



Jason Lerew currently serves as a music educator at Parkland High School in Allentown, PA. During his tenure, he has instructed concert band, marching band, jazz bands, as well as music theory and piano for the past 29 years. While at Parkland he has built the band program from approximately 70 students to a membership of over 200. Prior to his tenure at Parkland, Jason taught middle and high school band at the Daniel Boone School District in Birdsboro, PA, as well as middle school choral and elementary general music in the Anne Arundel County (Maryland) School District.

His personal and professional experiences in rural, urban and suburban settings have exposed him to a wide variety of circumstances that our music teachers experience across Pennsylvania.

As a music educator, Jason believes that fostering a positive and productive relationship with fellow teachers, administrators, parents, students and members of the music industry is critical to a successful music program.

For the past 20 years, he has served as a member of the PMEA District 10 Executive Committee, most recently as the District 10 President. During that time he sharpened his skills as a leader within our organization. As PMEA State President, Jason would look to build on PMEA's already strong foundation by refining our vision to be sure the organization continues to serve the teachers and students of Pennsylvania. Moving forward, it is essential that PMEA be ever conscious of the changing needs of our students and willing to adapt to the demands of the modern educational system.

Jason holds BS and MA degrees in Music Education from West Chester University. Additionally, he has completed course work in Music Education and Educational Leadership at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, University of the Arts, and Wilkes University. He has hosted several PMEA festivals and fests and was the recipient of the 2015 PMEA District 10 Citation of Excellence. In addition to his teaching schedule, Jason remains an active musician in the Lehigh Valley.

Vision Statement

Music is an essential part of every student's education. Our role as the professional organization for music education in Pennsylvania is to see that quality music instruction is available and provided for all of our students. I would like to grow PMEA as an organization that serves and encompasses all music students and teachers of Pennsylvania. Additional visions for PMEA:

- To support quality music education at all age levels in rural, suburban and urban schools
- To be engaged in ideas and strategies with teachers, administrators, parents, and legislators
- To instill a passion for and producers of music
- To promote PMEA as a prominent organization at the national level, working with other state organizations and stakeholders to ensure music and the Arts are always treated as an essential and treasured part of our culture and education.