



2019 CAPITOL CONCERTS
March 4-7, 2019
State Capitol Rotunda, Lincoln, NE
Performing Ensembles and Directors

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019

12:00-12:30 pm Schuyler Middle School 8th Grade Band; Troy Ehmke, Director

Troy Ehmke has been teaching in Nebraska for 7 years and is in his first year as the 5-8 Grade Band Director at Schuyler Community Schools. Ehmke is currently a soldier in the Nebraska Army National Guard as a saxophonist and drum major for the 43rd Army Band. Ehmke received his Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

12:30 pm-1:00 pm Ravenna High School Choir; Barbara Ellis, Director

Barbara Ellis began teaching in 2015 and has been teaching at Ravenna Public School since 2017 as the 5-12 grade band and choir teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She is involved with organizations such as the Nebraska Music Education Association, Nebraska Choral Director's Association and the Nebraska Bandmaster's Association. Barbara has been awarded the Outstanding Senior within the College of Fine Arts and Humanities and Music Education Honor Student for Teacher Education.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

12:00-12:30 pm Gretna Middle School Quintets; Christine Tucker, Director

Chris Tucker is in her 32nd year in the Gretna Public Schools and is currently Director of Middle School Bands at Gretna Middle School. She received her BME (1987), with Highest Distinction, and her MM(1992) from UNL. In 1993, Chris was awarded the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award, and in March of 2004, she received a Distinguished Service Award from the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association for serving on its Executive Board for nine years in the role of Treasurer. Chris was also the Associate Director of the Nebraska Wind Symphony from 2001 – 2012 as well as served as Interim Director for the Omaha Area Youth Orchestra's Conservatory Orchestra in 2010. Other professional organizations include Nebraska State Education Association, National Band Association, and Phi Beta Mu, an international honorary society for band directors.

12:30-1:00 pm Pius X Sotto Voce; Todd Krier, Director

Todd Krier graduated high school from Emery, South Dakota in 1997. He studied choral music with Dr. Charles Canaan at South Dakota State University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 2002. Krier then received his Masters in Music Education from the University of South Dakota in 2005. He was named Teacher of the Year at West Central High School in Hartford, South Dakota, where he taught K-12 vocal music for 3 years. Krier is in his 16th year of teaching and is most excited to be the director of Choral Activities at Pius X High School in Lincoln, NE. Krier also specializes in barbershop singing and has directed and helped form many barbershop quartets and groups across Lincoln.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

12:00-12:30 pm Waverly Middle School Jazz Band; Jim Kucera, Director

Jim Kucera is currently in his 29th year of teaching (past 18 at Waverly and 11 at Nemaha Valley). Jim's responsibilities at Waverly include director of middle school bands and beginning 5th grade bands, and director of Jazz bands. Jim's students receive superior ratings on a consistent basis and have performed at the Nebraska Music Education Association Conference and Nebraska State Bandmaster's convention. He is a member of NSBA, Nebraska Music Education Association, NAFME, The Jazz Education Network, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Jim has received the Jack Snider Outstanding Young Band Director award from NSBA, and the Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Horace Mann group. Jim serves as the music coordinator for District One with the Nebraska School Activities Association. He is a clinician and adjudicator throughout the state.

12:30-1:00 pm Crusader Chorale; Madisen White, Director

Madisen White graduated from Doane University in 2016 with her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and is currently in her 3rd year of teaching at Lincoln Christian Schools. Her teaching duties include two concert choirs: Crusader Chorale and the Junior High Choir, and various other extra-curricular vocal music endeavors including LCS's annual barbershop-style Singing Valentines and the JH Worship Team. She is also passionate about musical theatre and serves as the school's music director/pit conductor during musical season. Madisen is committed to continuing the rich tradition of choral excellence at LCS.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

12:00-12:30 pm Scott Middle School Jazz Band; Lori Falcone, Director

Lori Payne Falcone is in her 11th year at Scott Middle School (Lincoln) where she team teaches 6 – 8 Band and directs 3 Jazz Bands. Prior to Scott, she established the instrumental program at Lincoln Southwest High School (2002). She has 28 years of teaching experience that include the states of Virginia, Arkansas and Nebraska. She has taught band, jazz, orchestra, choir, swing choir, general music and music technology. As a percussion educator, she coordinates, organizes and coaches the All State 8th grade percussion section as well as coaching high school front ensembles for marching band. Lori is a native of Vandalia, IL and received her Master of Music in Conducting from UNL. She is a member of MENC, NMEA, NSBA and Phi Beta Mu.

12:30-1:00 pm Scott Middle School Women's Select Choir; Kirsten Jergensen, Director

Kirsten Jergensen is one of the Vocal Music teachers at Scott Middle School. She earned her Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Doane College and Masters in Music Education from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. At Scott Middle School she teaches 6th and 8th grade Vocal Music as well as leading the 6th Grade Choir and the Women's Select Choir. This is her 8th year teaching in Nebraska.