

All State 2018

Jazz Band

Dr. John Daversa

Director of Jazz Studies at University of Miami (FL)

John Daversa is Chair of Studio Music and Jazz at the Frost of Music as well as an internationally respected performer, composer, arranger, producer, bandleader, educator, and Schilke and BFM Jazz recording artist. In December 2016, John Daversa's Kaleidoscope Eyes: Music of The Beatles, was nominated for three GRAMMY® awards: Best Large Jazz Ensemble, Best Arrangement, Instrument or A Capella (Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds), and Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals (Do You Want To Know A Secret).

Daversa's celebrated career has included appearances on "The Today Show," "Late Night with David Letterman," "The Oprah Winfrey Show," as well as such gatherings as Live 8 in Berlin, the Hamburg Music Festival, the Java Jazz Festival, the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Montreal Jazz Festival, the Montreux Festival, and the Playboy Jazz Festival. He has recorded with such notable and distinguished artists as Herbie Hancock, Fiona Apple, Michael Bublé, Sheryl Crow, Caymi, Andraé Crouch, the Bob Mintzer Big Band, and The Yellowjackets.

In 1996, Daversa founded the John Daversa Progressive Big Band, an influential jazz ensemble of considerable distinction. Their 2011 album Junk Wagon: The Big Band Album won Best in Show and Awards of Excellence in creativity, originality and production from The Global Music Awards. AllAboutJazz.com described it as "Daversa's fearless exploration...takes him off the beaten path, as he creates bold and ballsy big band music for the modern epoch."

Daversa's latest big band release, 2016's, Kaleidoscope Eyes: Music of the Beatles reverently puts a distinctive twist on the iconic Beatles songbook by combining a 40 piece orchestra with vocals by Renee Olstead and Katisse Buckingham.

The album has been recognized with six Gold Medals from the 2016 Global Music Awards. "This is art," said jazz legend Terence Blanchard. "This is what music should be. No recreation. No mimicking. Just honesty—Fearless honesty."

In addition to his other accolades, Mr. Daversa is a recipient of the Herb Alpert Award, the David Joel Miller Award, the National Trumpet Competition, the ITG Jazz Soloist Competition, and a finalist in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition.

Daversa earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from The University of California, Los Angeles, a Master of Fine Arts degree in Jazz Studies at California Institute of the Arts, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Jazz Studies at the University of Southern California. He previously taught at both USC and California State University Northridge, California. He endorses Schilke Music Products

Note from Jim Antonucci, jazz ensemble chair

"John came up last year to Hall for a residency during Pops n jazz. He wrote a piece for our kids and worked with the entire pnj cast. He was amazing--best guest we've had in years and we've had some great guests. The way he connected with the kids, was totally humble, and his technical chops in front of a band are amazing."

Orchestra

Ara Sarkissian

Orchestra Conductor, Interlochen Arts Academy; Instructor of Violin, Interlochen Arts Academy and Interlochen Arts Camp; Faculty, Interlochen Violin Institute

Ara Sarkissian has conducted string and full orchestra ensembles since 2008, garnering praise for his educational process with students of varying abilities. He was appointed to the role of Interim Conductor at Interlochen Arts Academy (IAA) in 2015. During that academic year, he prepared the IAA Orchestra for the internationally recognized 2016 NYPHIL BIENNIAL- a festival for modern music hosted by the New York Philharmonic. His work with the students received critical acclaim from Alex Ross of *The New Yorker* who wrote, "I would happily have stayed in the world of this music for twice as long, not least because of the avid commitment of the Interlochen students." In the 2016-2017 academic year, Sarkissian accepted a full-time appointment to conduct the IAA Orchestra. Under his direction, the orchestra typically performs once a month from September through May, making it one of the most prolific high school performing ensembles in the country. The orchestra performs a wide range of repertoire including Romantic, 20th century, film, ballet, and contemporary music. 2018 brings new conducting opportunities for Sarkissian at IAA as he looks forward to conducting a newly formed Contemporary Music Ensemble in addition to a string orchestra. Having experience performing on the violin with many living composers and conductors, he brings a wealth of information to the newly formed Contemporary Music Ensemble and is excited to share that background with his students at IAA.

Sarkissian received his Bachelors and Masters of Music degrees in Violin Performance with academic honors from The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. His principal teachers were Marylou Speaker Churchill and James Oliver Buswell IV. Other important mentors throughout Ara's career include Mary LaMonaca, Lynn Chang, Paul Biss, Carol Ou, Paul Katz, and Roger Tapping.

Treble Choir

Thomas Tutwiler

Choral Director, Music Department Chair, C.D. Hylton High School

Tommy Tutwiler holds a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Bachelors Degree in Music Education and Psychology from James Madison University. Having served at Broadway and Harrisonburg High Schools, he is now in his fifteenth year as choral director at C. D. Hylton High School and has taught public school for twenty-two years. In addition, Mr. Tutwiler is in his twentieth year of singing professionally with the Choir of Men, Boys, and Girls at Washington National Cathedral. He has served as guest conductor for regional, district and county level honor choirs, as well as adjudicating at numerous choral festivals. This spring, he will be the guest conductor of the first ever Connecticut All-State SSAA Chorus. Mr. Tutwiler has been an adjunct instructor for graduate level choral literature courses at James Madison University and Virginia Commonwealth University. He is also a frequent guest speaker and clinician at colleges and universities addressing future choral educators and conductors. Mr. Tutwiler has done post-graduate

study in conducting at the University of Cincinnati, the University of Hartford, and the University of Missouri at Kansas City. In 2015, he was named High School Teacher of the Year by Dale City in Prince William County, VA, as well as Alumni Music Educator of the Year by James Madison University.

Mixed Choir

Dr. Jamie Spillane

Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies at University of Connecticut

Dr. Jamie Spillane is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies. He directs the University Choir and Chamber Choir and teaches undergraduate and graduate choral conducting and choral literature. Previously, Dr. Spillane was director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, NY where he directed the RWC Chorale, taught conducting and private voice students as well as conducting RWC Opera Theater's production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. Before that, he was at Iowa Wesleyan College where he directed three choirs, taught conducting and had a private voice studio. He also directed the Mount Pleasant Chorale, a college and community ensemble that often performed under his direction with the Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra. The Chorale and the Iowa Wesleyan College Choir recently combined to perform the Iowa premier of Stephen Paulus' "*To Be Certain of the Dawn* – a Holocaust remembrance oratorio", other literature included: Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, the Duruflé *Requiem*, the Mozart *Requiem*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, and the Bach *Magnificat in D major*.

In the summers, Spillane has taught graduate choral conducting and choral literature at the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University and directed a vocal jazz choir for talented high school students at Indiana State University. Prior to Iowa, Dr. Spillane was at the University of Arizona in Tucson. At the University of Arizona, Spillane was director of the Symphonic Choir, the premier undergraduate choir, the 125 voice University Community Chorus and orchestra, and *UAVJE*, the university vocal jazz ensemble as well as teaching undergraduate choral conducting. Spillane was also the Chancel Choir Director at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. For 14 years, Dr. Spillane was chairman of the Ledyard High School Music Department in Ledyard, Connecticut where he directed a program that grew to over 400 singers in 12 choirs. These choirs performed throughout America and Europe and at state and division conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and Music Educators National Conference. During Spillane's tenure, Ledyard High School was twice voted a Grammy Signature School as one of the top 100 high school music programs in the United States.

Dr. Spillane is a very active festival conductor, adjudicator, and clinician who enjoys working with choirs of all ages. He has conducted All-State or honor choirs in Connecticut, Colorado, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Indiana, Missouri, Arizona, North Dakota, Nebraska, Rhode Island, and Iowa and has presented interest sessions at state and divisional conventions. In 2009, Dr. Spillane directed All-State Mixed Choir in North Dakota and the All-State Jazz Choir in Iowa and in 2012 he conducted the Colorado All-State Choir.

In 2008, Dr. Spillane was honored by the faculty and students of Iowa Wesleyan College as the *Chadwick Teacher of the Year*. Dr. Spillane holds degrees from Ithaca College, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Arizona and is often listed in many *Who's Who* publications. Dr. Spillane's conducting mentors

include: Dr. Bruce Chamberlain, Dr. Peter Bagley, Dr. Paul Phillips, Prof. Lawrence Doebler, and Dr. Robert Page. Dr. Spillane has been very active in ACDA and MENC/NAfME. He is on the NAfME – National Board for Choral Music Education and is a Past President of the Connecticut Chapter of the ACDA as well as the Eastern Division R & S Chair for Vocal Jazz and Show Choir. He was also the chair of the 2011 Iowa Choral Directors Assoc. Summer Symposium and Convention in Mason City, IA. Dr. Spillane, and his wife Linda, are pleased to be back at their alma mater here at Uconn and are the proud parents of two sons, J.B. & Colin.

Band

Dr. Scott Tobias

Director of Bands, West Virginia School of Music

Scott C. Tobias currently holds the position of Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music at West Virginia University where his responsibilities include conducting the Wind Symphony, teaching courses in conducting, and providing administrative leadership for the WVU Bands program. Prior to his appointment at West Virginia University, Dr. Tobias served on the faculties of the University of Central Florida and Appalachian State University. He also previously served as a high school band director in the public schools of Georgia and South Carolina. Dr. Tobias has worked with a number of community music organizations including the Youth Band of Orlando, the Macon Symphony Youth Orchestra, and the Appalachian Youth Wind Ensemble. He remains active as a clinician conducting honor bands throughout the United States.

Bands under Dr. Tobias' direction have performed nationally and internationally at events such as the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival, the Western International Band Clinic, the London New Year's Day Parade, and the Cabalgata de Reyes (Madrid, Spain). Dr. Tobias is a recipient of the National Band Association Citation of Excellence, the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award, and has been named to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. While at Appalachian State University, he was also recognized with the Hayes School of Music Outstanding Teacher Award.

Dr. Tobias received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the University of Georgia, where he also earned a Masters degree in Music Education. He received the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Furman University. Dr. Tobias presently serves as 1st Vice-President and President-Elect of the National Band Association. Additional professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education, College Band Directors National Association, West Virginia Music Educators Association, Pi Kappa Lambda, Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.