

2017 TBA Prestigious Honors



Dr. Matthew McInturf
Bandmaster of the Year

Dr. Matthew McInturf is Professor of Music, Director of Bands and Director of the Center for Music Education at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Dr. McInturf received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he was a student of Eugene Migliaro Corporon. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Theory from the University of North Texas and a Master of Music in Composition from the University of Houston. An advocate of new music, Dr. McInturf is a member of the Board of Directors of the World-Wide Concurrent Premiers and Commissioning Fund, Inc., a non-profit corporation that works internationally to form consortiums to commission significant new works from contemporary composers. He is a Past President of TBA, serves as Region Officer in TMEA, and served on the College Band Directors National Association Music Education Task Force and the Board of Advisors for the American Band College.



Rolando Molina
Meritorious Achievement Award

Rolando Molina was named head director at H.M. King High School in 1983 and remained there until his retirement in 2015. Under Molina's baton, the band won 31 sweepstakes awards and 54 students achieved All-state honors. The band was featured in the Orange Bowl in 2005 and the Cotton Bowl in 1999. Molina taught 68 students that are now music educators. He was the director of Mariachi Del Rey at H.M. King High School from 2005 to 2015 and currently is an officer for the Texas Association of Mariachi Educators. Molina was the director of the McAllen Town Band from 2005 to 2007. Other honors for Molina include induction into the TAMUK Band Hall of Fame and Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame, honorary Kappa Kappa Psi membership, and in 2013, Kingsville ISD named the new fine arts complex the "Rolando Molina Fine Arts Center."



Gabe Musella
Meritorious Achievement Award

Gabe Musella is in his 30th year of teaching, currently as Director of Bands at Spring High School. Bands under Mr. Musella's direction have earned UIL Sweepstakes in eight separate varsity and non-varsity categories and placed in the finals of the TMEA Honor Band competition. Among numerous awards, band ensembles have garnered five Midwest performance invitations since 2008, qualified to the finals of the Coltman Chamber Competition in Austin and performed at the MFA National Concert Festival. The marching band has qualified to the State Marching Contest at every opportunity since 2006. The Spring Music Department was recognized as a 2016 Grammy Signature School. The Spring Band was a Houston Symphony Residency School during the 2016-17 school year. Musella is a published composer with works being performed internationally. He has served as Guest Composer-in-Residence at UTEP, Texas Tech, and Columbus State University in Georgia. His compositions can be found on the Texas PML and on similar lists in several states.



Lee South
Meritorious Achievement Award

Now retired in East Texas, Lee South began his 43 years of teaching music in 1961. In 1966, he worked at R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton to establish a comprehensive private lesson program and in 1970, he carried that program to Irving High School. The resulting consistent sweepstakes band awards also reflected the excellent teaching of staff members. Irving HS had student teachers from North Texas State University each year and several graduates who have become band directors. Lee is proud of the many fine students who developed and maintained a lifelong love of music. After teaching two years at Tarleton State University and six years at Sherman High school, South returned to Irving High in 1987 where he maintained a very successful band program for seven more years. South's last ten years in Irving were spent teaching brass and strings in middle schools.



John Kline
Lifetime Administrator Achievement Award

John Kline is a 1973 graduate of Abilene Christian University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Kline also holds a Master's Degree in Music from Texas A&M-Commerce, and a Supervisor's Certification from the University of North Texas. Having served as a band director in the Mesquite ISD for 23 years, his bands at North Mesquite High School received numerous honors: finalist in the Parade of Champions Marching Contest seven years in a row, consistent UIL Sweepstakes winner, and Grand Champion Band at the Opryland Music Festival. Kline served as the Director of Fine Arts for the Mesquite ISD from 1995 until his retirement in 2013. Over his career, he was involved with several music and community organizations. He is past president of the Texas Music Administrators Conference, was named their Music Administrator of the Year in 2005-06 and in 1995, and was inducted into the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu. Currently retired, Kline is a Past President of the Dallas Magic Club and was named the Dallas Magician of the Year.



Willie Perez
Music Industry Award

TMF Tours and Travel was established in 2003 with a small daytime music festival at Super Splash Water Park in Edinburg, Texas. Through the years, TMF president Willie Perez saw a need for student travel that was affordable and offered services at a better price. Willie expanded the festival to include multiple weekends in each of the metroplex areas and has added overnight travel destination options throughout the U.S. and abroad. TMF rapidly grew into a leading tours and travel company for student groups in the state of Texas. Currently, TMF takes student groups into different parts of the world—most recently, they have gone to China, Italy, Hawaii, and Ireland. The company takes great pride in giving back to the music industry by providing student scholarships, sponsoring band contests and as well as co-sponsoring the RGV Hall of Fame and Region IVX Hall of Fame Banquets.



Marcus High School
Exemplary High School Band
Amanda Drinkwater, Director

Marcus High School is located in Flower Mound, Texas and is one of five high schools that make up the Lewisville ISD. The Marcus Cluster Band organizations collectively strive to instill a life-long love of music within each student member and have been awarded with numerous honors. The Wind Symphony was named a TMEA 5A Honor Band Finalist five times, performed at The Midwest Clinic twice and recognized five times as a National Wind Band Honors finalist. Marching ensembles have earned seven consecutive trips to the 5A/6A Texas State UIL Marching Contest, placing First five times. The band has been a consistent Bands of America finalist and recipient of various caption honors. The Marcus Band program was awarded the John Philip Sousa Foundation Sudler Shield for excellence in marching band performance in 2008 and the Sudler Flag for excellence in concert band performance in 2014 respectively. Currently in her 23rd year as a Texas music educator, Amanda Drinkwater has served as Director of Bands at Marcus since 2005. She received her academic training at Louisiana State University and at the University of Kansas in Music Education and Instrumental Conducting, respectively.



Driscoll Middle School
Exemplary Middle School Band
Richard Gonzalez, Director

Driscoll Middle School opened in 1992, and at the time, was the most northern middle school in North East ISD, the second largest district in San Antonio and the eighth largest in Texas. Known for its award winning schools, NEISD has multiple Blue Ribbon campuses and is rated as a recognized district by the Texas Education Agency. In 2016, North East ISD was named Best Communities for Music Education. Richard Gonzalez is the Director of Bands at Driscoll MS, a position he has held since 1998. Currently the Driscoll band program serves 200 band students. During Gonzalez' tenure as head director, the Driscoll Band has earned 18 consecutive UIL Sweepstakes Awards, stretching the streak to 25 years in a row for the school. In the TMEA State Honor Competition the Driscoll Bands have advanced to Area eight times and were named Honor Band Finalist four times. The Driscoll band staff and parents have hosted region auditions for 15 years. All band students participate in Solo & Ensemble contests. Many students from Driscoll have gone on to become music educators themselves.