

TBA Honorary Life Membership

Paula Crider



Following a distinguished 33-year teaching career, Professor Paula A. Crider continues to share her passion for making music through an active schedule as guest conductor, lecturer, clinician and adjudicator. Professor Crider has presented professional teacher seminars throughout the United States, and has served as Music Director for the London New Year's Day Parade. She is coordinator for the National Band Association Young Conductor/Mentor Program, is senior Educational Consultant for Conn-Selmer, Inc., and serves on the Midwest Board of Directors. Crider is a Past President of the National Band Association and the American Bandmaster's Association. Professor Crider has taught in the public schools at all levels, and holds the unique distinction of having been the first female in the state of Texas to serve as director of bands at a class 5A high school. A tenured Full Professor at The University of Texas, Crider conducted the Symphony Band, and was Director of the acclaimed University of Texas Longhorn Band. During her 17-year tenure, she was twice accorded the "Eyes of Texas" Award for distinguished teaching. Additional honors include the Tau Beta Sigma/Kappa Kappa Psi Distinguished Service to Music Award, the Sudler Legion of Merit, The Women Band Directors International Rose, The Grainger Society Medal, the National Band Association AWAPA Award, 2004 Texas Bandmaster of the Year, Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame, and the Midwest Medal of Honor. In 2013, she was honored with a Doctor of Music Education *Honoris Causa* from the Vandercook School of Music. She was inducted into both the Women Band Directors International and the National Band Association Hall of Fame, and in 2015 was elected to the Phi Beta Mu International Hall of Fame.

2019 Bandmaster of the Year

Frank Troyka



Frank Troyka is the retired Director of Bands and Coordinator of Fine Arts at Berkner High School in Richardson. He began his college career at Western Michigan University under the baton of Eddie Green and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Arlington where he studied conducting with Ray Lichtenwalter and clarinet with Carol Jessup. A teacher for over 30 years, Frank came to Berkner in May of 2006 following seven years as Director of Bands at Cypress Falls HS in Houston where the Golden Eagle Band was presented the Sudler Flag of Honor. Ensembles under his direction have been selected to perform at the Music For All National Festival, the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and twice at The Midwest Clinic: with the Cypress Falls Symphonic Band in 2004 and with the Berkner Symphonic Band in 2011. Also, Berkner HS Symphonic Band I was named Runner Up on two consecutive occasions in TMEA Honor Band competition. Frank presents workshops and professional development sessions throughout the U.S. and internationally. He is a Senior Educational Clinician with Conn-Selmer, Inc.; the Director of Education for System Blue, the educational arm of the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps; and the coordinator of the Generation Next track and co-founder of the Day One track for The Midwest Clinic. In 2015, the World Music Contest of Kerkrade, The Netherlands, named him to its International Board of Experts and in 2016, he was inducted into the BOA Hall of Fame. In 2017, Frank joined the faculty of the Meadows School of the Arts at SMU as Adjunct Associate Professor of Music Education where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate level courses. He is also adjunct faculty at Sam Houston State University where he mentors student teachers.

2019 Malcolm Helm Memorial Endowed Scholarship Winner

Jessica Calvit

Jessica Calvit is currently studying Music Education at Texas Tech University. During her time at Texas Tech, she has performed in the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands. Under the instruction of Dr. Andrew Stetson, Ms. Calvit was selected to compete as a solo semi-finalist at the National Trumpet Competition in 2017 as well as with her trumpet ensembles from 2017-2019. Her trumpet ensembles have also had the pleasure of performing at the International Trumpet Guild and the Texas Music Educator Association convention. Ms. Calvit has served as a private lesson instructor and sectional coach throughout multiple schools in the Lubbock area. She also served as the Drum Major for the Goin' Band from Raiderland. Before graduating in December 2019, Ms. Calvit looks forward to student teaching in the DFW area this fall.



2019 TBA Prestigious Honors



Mark Melton
Meritorious
Achievement Award

Mark Melton is the current Executive Secretary for UIL Region 4. He retired last year as Fine Arts Director from Pine Tree HS (Longview) after a 37-year music educator career. As band director at Pine Tree HS, he directed the Pine Tree "Pride" Marching Band, the Wind Ensemble and the jazz band. All were very successful with six UIL Sweepstakes Awards. He was the recipient of the Beacon Award in 2016 (nominated by student essays) and the 2017 UIL Sponsor Excellence Award. Mark spent most of his 23-year career at Union Grove ISD. There he built the struggling program to one of the premier small school band organizations in the state. He had 20 consecutive UIL Sweepstakes Awards, three State Marching Contest appearances, numerous NAMMB Best in Class awards, and several top five TMEA Honor Band finishes. In 2007, the Union Grove MS Band was named TMEA Class C Honor Band.

Growing up as a trumpeter in the Kilgore HS band, Mark had the good fortune of having one of the first women directors in the state, Mary Read (now Mary Griffith). She greatly influenced many of today's successful band directors. Mr. Melton attended Stephen F. Austin University and studied trumpet with Max Morley and band directing pedagogy from Mel Montgomery. His directing career began in 1978. The next year he moved to Lufkin Junior High East where he spent five years as director. While at Lufkin, he spent many hours with Waymon Bullock learning to study scores, repair instruments, mark practice fields, repair a yard line cutter, clean and cook fish, and chart drill on napkins at the local coffee shop. He also cherishes the many hours at Tatum Music on Saturdays learning from Alto Tatum and Neil Grant and the many veteran directors who would show up to encourage young directors. Mark was an early member of ATSSB serving as the Area East Coordinator many years and helped with the ATSSB All-State Band contests.



Gloria Ramirez
Meritorious
Achievement Award

Gloria Ramirez is the Director of Bands at Langham Creek HS, Cypress Fairbanks ISD in Houston. She has enjoyed a distinguished career at both the middle and high school levels for 38 years. Concert ensembles led by Ms. Ramirez have received superior ratings at the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and have been recognized at both the state and national level. In 2008 and 2018 the Langham Creek Symphonic Band was selected as a National Wind Band Winner for Class 6A band. Ms. Ramirez was CoDirector of the TMEA 5A Honor Band in 2006-07 and placed 6th in the 2016 (6A). Ensembles under direction have been honored to perform at the Music for All National Festival in Indianapolis, Carnegie Hall, and in Chicago's Symphony Hall. During her tenure at Wells MS, the Symphonic Band was selected as the TMEA 3C 1st Runner Up Band in the 2000 and 2nd Runner Up in 2002. While at Kingwood MS, her band was selected as the TMEA C 3rd Runner Up in the 1988. The Langham Creek Lobo Marching Band advanced to the State Marching Contest in 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2016.

Ms. Ramirez is a Grammy-nominated Music Educator this year as well as the Teacher of the Year for Langham Creek HS. In April 2017, she was featured on the cover of the *International Musician* magazine. Among other honors, she was a 2016 nominee for Music Educator of the Year and in 2008 received the TMEA Leadership and Achievement Award.

Gloria has had a lifelong passion for music, beginning with listening to Herb Albert's albums and later in the Texas City HS band, under the direction of Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame and Texas Bandmaster of the Year Educator, Bob Renfroe. She received her academic training in Music Education at the University of Houston.



Ronnie Rios
Meritorious
Achievement Award

Ronnie Rios, a multi Grammy-nominated Music Educator, graduated *summa cum laude* earning a Bachelor of Music Education and a Masters in Music Education from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. At 21, he began teaching in the Kingsville ISD where his middle school and high school Concert Bands received consistent UIL Sweepstakes awards and Best in Class awards at various State and National festivals. Mr. Rios was Director of Bands at Harlingen HS for 21 years. During this time, all six Concert Bands received consistent high honors. The Harlingen HS "Big Red" Cardinal Marching Band made 11 consecutive appearances at the Texas State Marching Band Championships, qualifying every opportunity since 1998. In 2011, the Harlingen HS Band was named the TBA Exemplary High School Band Program of the Year. The Harlingen HS Jazz Ensemble has received numerous awards including performances at the IAJE convention in New York City and The Midwest Clinic (three times). The Jazz Ensemble was the featured group to Duke Ellington's music with guest Wynton Marsalis at Lincoln Center and was named the TMEA Honor Jazz Ensemble.

Mr. Rios is currently the Director of Music Programs in the Harlingen CISD. He also created and serves as the Artistic Director for the Rio Grande Valley Jazz Orchestra. He has performed with this group at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago as well as sharing the stage with the World Famous Count Basie Orchestra.

He is an active member of several music organizations including serving as President of IAJE-Texas.

2019 TBA Prestigious Honors



Rick Ghinelli

Lifetime Administrator Achievement

Rick Ghinelli grew up in Michigan and later attended the University of Houston. He began his teaching career in the Spring ISD and remained there until he retired in 2013. Following his success as a band director and earning his Masters of Education in

Administration from Sam Houston State University, he began a career in administration. While principal at Dueitt MS, Ghinelli was selected as a finalist in the MacGregor Medical Middle School Principal of the Year Competition. In 2000, Rick assumed the role of Director of Performing and Visual Arts for Spring ISD, a position he held until his retirement. During his term, the district's fine arts programs gained notoriety for their excellent work and were frequent recipients of the highest honors in competition. He was named the Culture Shapers Administrator of the Year and awarded the Distinguished Alumnus in Music Education from the U of H Moores School of Music. Rick is currently completing his sixth year as the Educational Support Manager, Southwest Region, in the Division of Education for Conn-Selmer, Inc. As the Director of Music Administration Outreach, he was involved in assisting music program leaders across the country and he continues to provide support for teachers, staff and students through his work with the Music Administration Collaborative.



Jim Melhart

Music Industry Award

Jim Melhart, owner of Melhart Music Center in McAllen, Texas, is celebrating the company's 50th year in the music business. The company is a huge supporter of music education in South Texas.

Jim got his start at his father's Horn Shop, a music store in Corpus Christi. At the age of 18, Jim was the only band instrument repairman in Corpus Christi. In 1969, Jim went into business for himself. With only a \$600 investment, he opened Melhart Music in Corpus Christi as a piano and organ store. His live music performances (drums) allowed his family to survive in the early business days. He found himself traveling to McAllen once a month to sell the pianos out of a van, prompting him to open a piano and organ store there. This store became the foundation for Melhart Music Center as a full line store and later a manufacturing facility. By the mid '80s, Jim's manufacturing business was in full swing; he was sending containers of speaker cabinets around the world. Now out of the speaker business, Melhart Music Center designs and manufactures over 250 products for school music programs. It has become the #1 band tower manufacturer in the U.S., including a custom 70-foot tower in Alabama.

Jim holds ten patents in the music industry, with six still being active.



Duncanville High School

Exemplary High School Band

David Brandon, Director

For over forty years the Duncanville HS Band Program has been considered a model for many high school programs throughout the state of Texas and the U.S. The band program flourished under the leadership of

Dr. Tom Shine (1980-2010), Brian Merrill (1983-2003), Jeff King (1988-2015) and David Brandon (1996-present).

Duncanville ISD is the proud home to over 1,200 students from grades 6-12. All of these students end up at Duncanville HS which offers five large concert bands, marching band, applied music classes, AP Music Theory, Percussion Ensemble, and Winterguard. All bands are consistent recipients of first division ratings in concert and sight-reading assessments and have all won numerous "Best in Class" awards at festivals and contests. The DHS Wind Ensemble has been the TMEA Region 20 Honor Band every year since 1980 and has placed in the State Finals ten times, culminating in their selection as the 1998, 2004 and 2008 TMEA 5A Honor Band, making them the only band to win three 5A Honor Bands. Most recently, the band was the 2nd Runner Up in the 2019 6A Honor Band Competition. Over these years the Duncanville Marching Band has been awarded the "Sudler Shield of Honor", has been the UIL State Champion in 1986, 1990 and 2002 and is the only large classification (5A/6A) band in Texas to advance to the State Marching Band Contest every year since 1988.



Lindale Junior High School

Exemplary Middle School Band

Bene Davis, Director

Located in the piney woods of Northeast Texas, Lindale Junior HS has an enrollment of 635 students in seventh and eighth grades. Lindale ISD is known for its academic excellence with a focus on college and career

readiness. Lindale is one of those old-fashioned towns where the schools are the heart of the community.

Band begins in the sixth grade at E. J. Moss Intermediate School with four periods of homogeneous, beginner classes. At Lindale Junior HS, the seventh and eighth grades bands perform three concerts each year, play at three LJH football games and pep rallies, are consistent first-division recipients at band festivals, as well as participate in UIL and TMEA events. This year, 72 students earned a chair in the TMEA All-Region Band and the LJH Band earned 300 first-division medals at the Region 21 MS Band Solo and Ensemble Contest. The Symphonic Band has earned 37 consecutive UIL Sweepstakes awards in Class CC and has been an ATSSB OPS first place winner and finalist several times. Along with their band activities, a majority of the LJH Band students are involved in many other activities on campus that include athletics, cheerleading, drama productions, Student Council, and UIL Academic Events.

This year marks only the second time that both a high school band and their middle school feeder have both been TBA Exemplary Award Winners. (The Lindale HS Band was awarded in 2008.)