

PRESS KIT · PROGRAM BIOGRAPHIES

Ryan Ross

Music Director & Conductor, Allen Philharmonic Orchestra
Conductor, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Philharmonic
Director of Orchestras, Plano West Senior High School



Biographies

Four approved versions for concert programs, honor orchestra booklets, convention listings and introductions. Please use the length that fits your space without further editing.

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Full Biography

APPROX. 420 WORDS

For program books, press releases and websites.

Ryan Ross is Music Director of the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra, a professional symphony orchestra in Allen, Texas; Conductor of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Philharmonic; and Director of Orchestras at Plano West Senior High School. He has led seven TMEA Honor Orchestras: the 2016, 2019 and 2025 string orchestras and the 2018, 2023 and 2027 full orchestras at Plano West, as well as the 2014 full orchestra at Jasper High School, the only non-varsity orchestra ever to receive that distinction. His ensembles have also earned an invitational performance at The Midwest Clinic in 2018, repeated National Winner awards in the Mark of Excellence Orchestra Honors, and multiple wins from The American Prize in Orchestral Performance.

With the Allen Philharmonic since 2016, Ross leads seasons of seven to eight programs spanning masterworks, pops and educational concerts, with a unique spotlight on programming that explores the cultures of North Texas communities not often represented in classical music. A committed advocate for new music, he has led 22 orchestral premieres, including commissions for professional, youth and high school ensembles. He previously served for five years as Music Director of the East Texas Youth Orchestra in Tyler. He also spent four seasons as co-founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Dallas Festival of Modern Music and its resident professional chamber ensemble, Ars Nova Dallas. Before joining Plano ISD, he taught at Lewisville High School in Lewisville ISD and Williams Middle School in Rockwall ISD.

An active guest conductor and clinician, Ross has worked with well over 120 festivals, honor orchestras and school residencies in eleven states, from Alaska to Florida. He has presented clinics at the TMEA and TODA conventions and The Midwest Clinic, adjudicated the ASTA National Orchestra Festival, and chaired the UIL Orchestra Prescribed Music List Committee. He is a contributing author to Volumes 4 and 5 of GIA Publications' *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra*. He also co-authored a 2025 *Music Education Journal* article on interleaved practice in the ensemble rehearsal. Committed to preparing the next generation of teachers, he has hosted thirteen student teachers from seven university programs.

Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Ross graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's degree in music performance. He earned a Master of Music degree in orchestral conducting from Texas Tech University. His principal conducting teachers are Donald Schleicher and Gary Lewis, with additional study under Marin Alsop, Gustav Meier and Larry Rachleff. Ross is a member of TMEA, TODA, TMAA and ASTA.

280-Word Version

APPROX. 280 WORDS

For a single program page or a conference profile.

Ryan Ross is Music Director of the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra, a professional symphony orchestra in Allen, Texas; Conductor of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Philharmonic; and Director of Orchestras at Plano West Senior High School. He has led seven TMEA Honor Orchestras, including six at Plano West and the 2014 full orchestra at Jasper High School, the only non-varsity orchestra ever to receive that distinction. His ensembles have also earned an invitational performance at The Midwest Clinic, repeated National Winner awards in the Mark of Excellence Orchestra Honors, and multiple wins from The American Prize in Orchestral Performance.

With the Allen Philharmonic since 2016, Ross leads seasons spanning masterworks, pops and educational concerts. A committed advocate for new music, he has led 22 orchestral premieres. He previously served as Music Director of the East Texas Youth Orchestra and as co-founder and Artistic Director of the Dallas Festival of Modern Music and its resident ensemble, Ars Nova Dallas.

An active guest conductor and clinician, Ross has worked with well over 120 festivals, honor orchestras and school residencies in eleven states. He has presented at the TMEA and TODA conventions and The Midwest Clinic, and adjudicated the ASTA National Orchestra Festival. He is a contributing author to GIA Publications' *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra* and co-author of a 2025 *Music Education Journal* article on interleaved practice in rehearsal.

A St. Louis native, Ross graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois and earned a Master of Music in orchestral conducting from Texas Tech University, studying with Gary Lewis and Donald Schleicher, with additional study under Marin Alsop, Gustav Meier and Larry Rachleff.

150-Word Version

APPROX. 150 WORDS

For concert programs and honor orchestra booklets.

Ryan Ross is Music Director of the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra, Conductor of the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Philharmonic, and Director of Orchestras at Plano West Senior High School. He has led seven TMEA Honor Orchestras, including six at Plano West and the 2014 full orchestra at Jasper High School, the only non-varsity orchestra ever to be so honored. His ensembles have also performed by invitation at The Midwest Clinic and earned national recognition from the Mark of Excellence awards and The American Prize. A committed advocate for new music, he has led 22 orchestral premieres. As a guest conductor and clinician, Ross has worked with more than 120 festivals, honor orchestras and school residencies in eleven states, and is a contributing author to GIA's *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra*. He holds degrees from the University of Illinois and Texas Tech University.

50-Word Version

APPROX. 50 WORDS

For convention listings, introductions and social media.

Ryan Ross is Music Director of the Allen Philharmonic Orchestra, Conductor of the GDYO Philharmonic, and Director of Orchestras at Plano West Senior High School. He has led seven TMEA Honor Orchestras, and has guest conducted and presented clinics at over 120 events in eleven states.