

RYAN ROSS

Music Educator and Conductor

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TEACHING POSITIONS

Director of Orchestras — Plano West Senior High School

2015–Present

Cluster Orchestra Head, Plano ISD

- Direct a 200+ member program across six ensembles and coordinate curriculum with six feeder campuses.
- Seven-time TMEA Honor Orchestra winner since 2014, including six wins at Plano West (2016, 2018, 2019, 2023, 2025, 2027) — the most state Honor Orchestra selections of any director in TMEA history, and the most of any Texas school.
- Invited performance, The Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference (2018).
- National Winner, Mark of Excellence National Orchestra Honors Project (2016, 2018, 2025, 2026).
- Winner, The American Prize in Orchestral Performance (2016). ArtsCentre of Plano Arts Award (2023).
- Ensembles routinely earn UIL Sweepstakes ratings across all six orchestras.

Director of Orchestras — Jasper High School

2012–2015

Plano ISD

- Winner, 2014 TMEA Honor Full Orchestra — the only non-varsity ensemble ever to earn the distinction in Texas history.
- Texas Honor String Orchestra Finalist: 2nd place (2015), 5th place (2013).
- National Winner, Mark of Excellence National Orchestra Honors Project (2014). Winner, The American Prize in Orchestral Performance (2013).

Additional Teaching Experience

2011–2012

Director of Orchestras / Cluster Lead — Lewisville High School (Lewisville ISD). Revitalized the program in one year, moving both ensembles from UIL ratings of III/IV to Sweepstakes.

2008–2011

Orchestra Director — Williams Middle School (Rockwall ISD). Founding director of a new curriculum-based program; beginner-strings retention near 90%.

2005–2007

Graduate Teaching Assistant — Texas Tech University. Undergraduate conducting and orchestra.

EDUCATION

Master of Music, Orchestral Conducting — Texas Tech University

2007

4.0 GPA · Conducting study with Gary Lewis · Texas EC-12 Music Teaching Certification, Standard Certificate

Bachelor of Music Performance — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2005

Summa cum laude, 3.93 GPA · Conducting study with Donald Schleicher

Additional Conducting Study: Marin Alsop and Gustav Meier (Cabrillo Festival Orchestra; Orquesta Filarmónica de Chihuahua); Larry Rachleff (Filharmonie Bohuslava Martinů, Zlín); David Hoose and Ken Woods (Rose City Chamber Orchestra).

CONDUCTING APPOINTMENTS

Music Director — Allen Philharmonic Orchestra

2018–Present

Allen, TX (professional) · Principal Guest Conductor, 2016–2018

- Full artistic responsibility for a professional regional orchestra operating on a \$250,000 budget: programming, personnel, and long-term vision.
- Seasons of 7–8 programs spanning masterworks, pops, and youth/educational concerts, including numerous world premieres and programming exploring North Texas communities not typically represented in classical music.

Philharmonic Conductor — Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra

2026–Present

Dallas, TX

- Second-level ensemble of a six-orchestra organization; approximately 80 advanced high-school musicians performing standard and contemporary repertoire.

Co-Conductor — UT-Arlington Summer Strings Symphony Orchestra

2018–Present

Artistic Director / Conductor / Co-Founder — Ars Nova Dallas

2009–2012

Dallas Festival of Modern Music, Dallas, TX (professional)

- Annual festival and resident ensemble spotlighting contemporary art music; repertoire included Stravinsky's *Histoire du soldat*, Weill's Violin Concerto, and Joan Tower's *Petroushskates*, alongside several world premieres.

Music Director — East Texas Youth Orchestra**2007–2012**

Tyler, TX

- Grew the flagship ensemble from mostly arrangements to exclusively unabridged standard repertoire; created the New Music Project, an annual commission for youth orchestra.

Cover Conductor — Lubbock Symphony Orchestra**2005–2007**

Lubbock, TX

Graduate Assistant Conductor — Texas Tech University Symphony and Chamber Orchestra**2005–2007****GUEST CONDUCTING AND CLINICS**

Guest conductor and clinician in 11 states with more than 100 engagements since 2006. Selected highlights:

In Total	13 TMEA All-Region Orchestras and 3 All-City Orchestras
Jul 2026	Guest Conductor, Garland Symphony Orchestra
Dec 2025	Prosper ISD All-City Orchestra
May 2022	UMEA (Utah) High School Orchestra Festival
Nov 2021	Alaska All-State Orchestra
Nov 2021	Arkansas North Region Concert Orchestra
Nov 2019	Clark County (Nevada) High School Honor Orchestra
Sep 2019	Arkansas South Region HS Honor Orchestra
Nov 2018	Marquette University Orchestra Festival (Milwaukee, WI)
Sep 2018	Santa Fe Youth Orchestra Fall Retreat

Clinician for 100+ residencies with school and youth orchestras across more than 25 districts in Texas, New Mexico, and Nevada since 2006, including recurring engagements with the Dallas Asian-American Youth Orchestra (2018–present) and multi-year residencies in Frisco, Lewisville, Allen, Rockwall, and Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISDs.

ADJUDICATION AND PANELS

2026	ASTA National Orchestra Festival, San Francisco, CA
2026	East Texas A&M University Concerto Competition
2020, 2022	UMEA (Utah) High School and Junior High Orchestra Festivals
2019	Anchorage School District and Nevada ASTA Orchestra Festivals
2017, 2018	Marquette University Orchestra Festival
2014–Present	TMEA Honor Orchestra Judge
2013–Present	UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Adjudicator, statewide

CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATIONS

2026	TODA. "Same Tune, Different Orchestra: Rehearsal Strategies in High School vs. Middle School"
2025–2026	Plano, Northwest, and Arlington ISD PD. "Ensemble Interleaving," "Tone & Tuning Development," "Revving Up Your Recruitment and Retention"
2023	Frisco ISD PD. "Ensemble Interleaving"
2021	The Midwest Clinic. High School Lab Orchestra Rehearsal Clinician
2019	The Midwest Clinic. "HIPP in the Classroom"; TMEA. "Interleaved Learning: Musical Cross Training in the Ensemble Rehearsal"
2017–2019	TODA. "New to the PML Reading Session," conductor
2012–2017	TMEA/TODA. "HIPP in the Classroom" (2015, 2017); "Perspectives of the Honor Orchestra Directors," panelist (2014); "Full Orchestra Reading Session," conductor (2013); "Revving Up Your Recruiting and Retention" (2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2006–Present	TMEA Zone 1 (DFW) Area Coordinator, Texas All-State Orchestra Auditions
2023–2024	TMEA Honor Orchestra Revision Committee
2019	TMEA All-State Process Revision Committee
2016–2020	UIL Orchestra Prescribed Music List (PML) Committee (Chair, 2019–2020)
2016–2019	UIL Sight-Reading Selection and Advisory Committee
2016–2018	TMEA Region 24 Orchestra Chair
2015, 2017	TMEA All-State Orchestra Organizer
2013–2016	TMEA Region 25 Assistant Orchestra Chair / Chair-Elect