RYAN ROSS

Conductor · Orchestra Director · Music Educator

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Profile

Music Director of a professional regional orchestra, Director of Orchestras at an award-winning public high school program, and youth orchestra conductor. Career built on unabridged standard repertoire, new music (22 orchestral premieres), and the preparation of future music teachers. Seven-time TMEA Honor Orchestra winner; Midwest Clinic performing ensemble and clinician; contributing author to GIA's *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra* series.

Selected Highlights

- **Music Director, Allen Philharmonic Orchestra (2016–Present).** Full artistic responsibility for a professional regional orchestra; 7–8 programs per season spanning masterworks, pops, and youth/educational concerts.
- **Seven-time TMEA High School Honor Orchestra winner** (Texas Music Educators Association): 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2023, 2025, 2027. This is more TMEA state Honor Orchestra wins than any other director in the competition's history. The 2014 win is the only one ever by a "non-varsity" orchestra.
- **National recognition:** Invited performance at The Midwest Clinic (2018); The American Prize in Orchestral Performance (2013, 2016); National Winner, Mark of Excellence Orchestra Honors Project (2014, 2016, 2018, 2025, 2026).
- **Guest conductor and clinician** in 11 U.S. states and internationally in China at well over 120 festivals, honor orchestras, and school residencies; adjudicator for the ASTA National Orchestra Festival (2026).
- **New music:** 22 orchestral premieres, including commissions for professional, youth, and high school ensembles.
- **Teacher preparation:** 13 student teachers hosted since 2015 from seven university programs (UT Arlington, Baylor, SMU, Texas Tech, UNT, Stephen F. Austin, West Texas A&M).
- **Scholarship:** Five entries in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra* (Vols. 4 and 5, GIA); *Music Education Journal* (2025); *Southwestern Musician* (2019); presenter at The Midwest Clinic, TMEA, and TODA.

Education

2007	**Master of Music Performance, Orchestral Conducting** — Texas Tech University (4.0 GPA)
	Conducting study with Gary Lewis
	Certification: Texas EC-12 Music Teaching, Standard Certificate
2005	**Bachelor of Music Performance** — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (summa cum laude, 3.93 GPA)
	Conducting study with Donald Schleicher and euphonium study with Mickey Moore.
	Bronze Tablet Award (top 3% of graduating class)

Conducting Workshops

Aug 2011	Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, Santa Cruz, CA — Conductor Program with Marin Alsop and Gustav Meier
Jun 2008	Filharmonie Bohuslava Martinů, Zlín, Czech Republic — International Conducting Festival with Larry Rachleff
Aug 2006	Orquesta Filarmónica de Chihuahua, Mexico — International Conducting Festival with Gustav Meier
Jul 2006	Rose City Chamber Orchestra, Portland, OR — Conducting Workshop with David Hoose and Ken Woods

Conducting Appointments

2016–Present **Allen Philharmonic Orchestra**, Allen, TX (professional)

Music Director/Conductor (2018-Present); Principal Guest Conductor (2016–2018)

- Full artistic responsibility for a regional professional orchestra operating on a $250,000 budget: music programming, personnel decisions, and long-term vision and development.

- Seasons of 7–8 programs (masterworks, pops, youth/educational); numerous world premieres; innovative programming exploring the cultures of North Texas communities not typically represented in classical music.

2026–Present **Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra**, Dallas, TX — Philharmonic Conductor

- Second-level full orchestra of an organization with six large ensembles; approximately 80 advanced high-school-aged musicians; professional level standard and contemporary repertoire.

2018–Present **University of Texas-Arlington Summer Strings Symphony Orchestra** — Co-Conductor

2009–2012 **Ars Nova Dallas / Dallas Festival of Modern Music**, Dallas, TX (professional)

Artistic Director/Conductor/Co-Founder

- Annual festival and ensemble spotlighting contemporary art music, with a focus on commissioning new works for the instrumentation of existing masterworks.

2007–2012 **East Texas Youth Orchestra**, Tyler, TX

Music Director/Conductor

- Led the flagship ensemble of a three-orchestra organization, growing it from performing mostly arrangements to performing exclusively unabridged standard repertoire.
- Created and championed the New Music Project, an annual commission for youth orchestra.

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

2005–2007 **Texas Tech University Symphony and Chamber Orchestra** — *Graduate Assistant Conductor*

Teaching

Experience

2015–Present **Plano West Senior High School** (Plano ISD) — *Director of Orchestras and Cluster Lead*

2012–2015 **Jasper High School** (Plano ISD) — *Director of Orchestras*

2011–2012 **Lewisville High School** (Lewisville ISD) — *Director of Orchestras and Cluster Lead*

2008–2011 **Williams Middle School** (Rockwall ISD) — *Orchestra Director*

2005–2007 **Texas Tech University** — *Graduate Teaching Assistant* (undergraduate conducting; orchestra)

Program Building

- **Jasper HS:** 2014 TMEA Honor Full Orchestra — the only non-varsity orchestra ever to earn the distinction.
- **Lewisville HS:** revitalized the orchestra program in one year, moving from UIL (Texas state contest) ratings of III and IV to Sweepstakes (superior ratings in concert and sight-reading) for both orchestras.
- **Williams MS:** orchestra director in the inaugural year of a curriculum-based program; developed procedures and culture and began work to establish an orchestra program at the high school.
- **Rockwall ISD beginner strings:** on faculty for the inaugural year; helped develop procedures, goals, and curriculum and the first class's transition to middle school. Retention of nearly 90%.

Student Teachers Hosted (13)

Thirteen student teachers since 2015: UT Arlington (4), SMU (3), Baylor (2), and one each from Texas Tech, UNT, West Texas A&M and Stephen F. Austin.

Ensemble Honors

2027 TMEA Honor Full Orchestra (Plano West)

2026 Mark of Excellence National Winner (Plano West)

2025 TMEA Honor String Orchestra (Plano West); Mark of Excellence National Winner (Plano West)

2023 TMEA Honor Full Orchestra (Plano West); ArtsCentre of Plano Arts Award

2019 TMEA Honor String Orchestra (Plano West)

2018 TMEA Honor Full Orchestra (Plano West); invited performance, The Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference; Mark of Excellence National Winner

2016 TMEA Honor String Orchestra (Plano West); The American Prize in Orchestral Performance; Mark of Excellence National Winner

2014 TMEA Honor Full Orchestra (Jasper HS); Mark of Excellence National Winner (Jasper HS)
2013 The American Prize in Orchestral Performance (Jasper HS)

Premieres and Commissions

World premieres unless noted.

2027 Hyde, David Michael. *Spring Tempest*. Plano West Kammer Orchestra. Consortium-based premiere.
2026 Das, David. *Lenny and George Walk into a Bar*. Allen Philharmonic Orchestra.
2026 Bikel, Dan. *Piano Concerto No. 1*, with Ben Loeb (piano). Allen Philharmonic.
2026 Jinosko, Jordan. *Rainfall*. Plano West Orchestra. Consortium-based premiere.
2025 Ellerby, Martin. *Chimera*. Plano West Chamber Orchestra.
2025 Larsen, Libby. *Six or Seven Dances*. Plano West Orchestra. Consortium-based premiere.
2024 Ellerby, Martin. *Ascent*. Plano West Chamber Orchestra.
2024 Vlasse, Danaë Xanthe. *Andromeda*. Allen Philharmonic Orchestra.
2024 Tran, Dylan. *evening in the village*. Allen Philharmonic Orchestra.
2024 Harder, Lane. *In Lumine*. Allen Philharmonic Orchestra.
2023 MacDonald, David. *What. On Earth. Was. That.* Allen Philharmonic Orchestra.
2023 Bhutani, Anuj. *After the Freeze* (orchestral version). Allen Philharmonic Orchestra.
2021 Buchanan, Douglas. *Variations on a Shape-Note Hymn*. Allen Philharmonic Orchestra.
2019 Yang, Karen. *Revival*. Plano West Chamber Orchestra and Chorus.
2012 Garcia, Federico. *Divergimento*. Tyler Youth Orchestra.
2011 Lynn, Monica. *A Soldier's Heart Beats*. Ars Nova Dallas at DFMM.
2011 Thomas, Paul. *Two Manifestations*. Ars Nova Dallas at Dallas Festival of Modern Music.
2011 Zare, Roger. *Roaring Fork*. Tyler Youth Orchestra.
2010 Sato, Kentaro. *Breath of Dawn*. Tyler Youth Orchestra.
2010 Garcia, Federico. *Festive Fugue*. Ars Nova Dallas at Dallas Festival of Modern Music.
2010 Campkin, Alexander. *Counting my Numberless Fingers*. Tyler Youth Orchestra. American premiere.
2009 MacDonald, David. *Folding In*. Tyler Youth Orchestra.

Guest Conducting

Professional Orchestras

Jul 2023 Garland Symphony Orchestra, Patriotic Pops — Garland, TX
Mar 2016 Allen Philharmonic Orchestra, Conductor Finalist Concert — Allen, TX
Dec 2015 Allen Philharmonic Orchestra, *The Nutcracker* — Allen, TX
Jul 2009 Rose City Chamber Orchestra, Young Conductor Showcase — Portland, OR
May 2007 Lubbock Camerata — Lubbock, TX

Student All-State, All-Region, Honor Performances

Dec 2026 TMEA Region 3 All-Region HS String Orchestra
Nov 2026 TMEA Region 33 All-Region Symphony
Dec 2025 Prosper ISD All-City Orchestra
Dec 2023 TMEA Region 23 All-Region Philharmonic
Nov 2023 TMEA Region 24 All-Region Chamber Orchestra
Nov 2022 TMEA Region 13 All-Region Symphony
May 2022 UMEA (Utah) High School Orchestra Festival
Dec 2021 TMEA Region 2 All-Region Philharmonic
Nov 2021 Alaska All-State Orchestra
Nov 2021 Arkansas North Region Concert Orchestra
Mar 2020 UMEA (Utah) State Jr. High Orchestra Festival
Nov 2019 TMEA Region 26 All-Region MS Full Orchestra

Nov 2019	Clark County (Nevada) High School Honor Orchestra
Sep 2019	Arkansas South Region HS Honor Orchestra
Jan 2019	TMEA Region 5 All-Region HS String Orchestra
Nov 2018	Marquette University Orchestra Festival (Milwaukee, WI)
Sep 2018	Santa Fe Youth Orchestra Fall Retreat (Santa Fe, NM)
Dec 2017	TMEA Region 4/21 All-Region HS Orchestra
Nov 2017	TMEA Region 9 All-Region JH Orchestra
Nov 2017	Marquette University Orchestra Festival (Milwaukee, WI)
Feb 2017	Oklahoma City Youth Chamber Orchestra (Oklahoma City, OK)
Nov 2016	TMEA Region 23 All-Region MS Symphony
Jan 2016	TMEA Region 19 All-Region Orchestra
Dec 2015	McKinney ISD All-City Orchestra
Feb 2015	Off-stage conductor, TMEA All-State Philharmonic Orchestra
Jan 2015	Rockwall ISD All-City Orchestra
Nov 2014	TMEA Region 20 All-Region Orchestra
Feb 2013	Off-stage conductor, TMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra
Jun 2011	El Paso Summer String Institute — El Paso, TX

Summer Camps and Festivals (International and Domestic)

Jul 2027	Wuhan Qintai Youth Orchestra Summer Workshop, Guest Conductor — Wuhan, China
2024–2026	McKinney ISD Summer String Camp, Guest Conductor
2023	Frisco ISD Summer Orchestra Camp, Guest Conductor
2009	Lubbock ISD Summer Orchestra Camp, Guest Conductor

Community Orchestras

Jun 2013	Fredericksburg Community Orchestra — Fredericksburg, TX

Guest Clinics and Residencies

Clinician with school and youth orchestras, listed by year (district in parentheses).

2027	Rockwall HS (Rockwall); Liberty HS, Lawler MS (Frisco); Blalack MS (Carrollton-Farmers Branch); JJ Pearce HS (Richardson); Lovejoy HS (Lovejoy); Guyer HS (Denton); North Garland HS (Garland)
2026	Rockwall HS (Rockwall); Liberty HS, Lawler MS (Frisco); Walnut Grove HS, Rushing MS (Prosper); Guyer HS (Denton); North Garland HS (Garland); Lowery Freshman Center (Allen); Blalack MS (Carrollton-Farmers Branch); Atascocita HS (Humble)
2025	Lovejoy HS (Lovejoy); JJ Pearce HS (Richardson); Newman Smith HS (Carrollton-Farmers Branch); Heritage HS, Lawler MS, Fowler MS (Frisco); Lowery Freshman Center (Allen); Guyer HS (Denton); Plano East Senior HS (Plano); Hebron HS (Lewisville); Dallas Asian-American Youth Orchestra (Dallas)
2024	Heritage HS, Emerson HS, Lawler MS (Frisco); Williams MS, Cain MS (Rockwall); Faubion MS (McKinney); Dallas Asian-American Youth Orchestra (Dallas)
2023	Liberty HS, Centennial HS, Lawler MS (Frisco); Clark HS, Otto MS (Plano); Creek Valley MS (Lewisville); Faubion MS (McKinney); Dallas Asian-American Youth Orchestra (Dallas)
2022	Clear Falls HS (Clear Creek); JJ Pearce HS (Richardson); Delay MS (Lewisville); Liberty HS, Lawler MS (Frisco); Creekview HS (Carrollton-Farmers Branch); Dallas Asian-American Youth Orchestra (Dallas)
2021	Lone Star HS, Lebanon Trail HS (Frisco); Dallas Asian-American Youth Orchestra (Dallas)
2020	JJ Pearce HS (Richardson); Centennial HS, Liberty HS, Lone Star HS, Fowler MS, Nelson MS (Frisco); Creekview HS (Carrollton-Farmers Branch); Delay MS (Lewisville)
2019	West HS, Bartlett HS, Chugiak HS, Dimond HS, Service HS, East HS, South HS, Central MS (Anchorage, AK); Lawler MS, Nelson MS, Lone Star HS, Liberty HS, Lebanon Trail HS, Centennial HS (Frisco); Dallas Asian-American Youth Orchestra (Dallas); Delay MS (Lewisville); Wilson MS (Plano); Creekview HS (Carrollton-Farmers Branch); Clark HS, Green Valley HS (Las Vegas, NV)

2018	Creekview HS (Carrollton-Farmers Branch); JJ Pearce HS (Richardson); Lebanon Trail HS, Lawler MS, Nelson MS (Frisco); Arlington Youth Orchestra (Arlington); Delay MS, Huffines MS (Lewisville); Dallas Asian-American Youth Orchestra (Dallas); Santa Fe Youth Orchestra (Santa Fe, NM)
2017	Arlington Youth Orchestra (Arlington); Rockwall-Heath HS (Rockwall); Curtis MS (Allen); Delay MS (Lewisville); Newman Smith HS (Carrollton-Farmers Branch)
2016	Arlington Youth Orchestra (Arlington); University of Texas at Dallas Orchestra (Dallas); Liberty HS, Independence HS (Frisco); Lewisville HS, Delay MS (Lewisville); Curtis MS, Erickson MS (Allen)
2015	Arlington Youth Orchestra (Arlington); Lewisville HS, Delay MS (Lewisville); Erickson MS, Curtis MS (Allen); North Garland HS (Garland)
2007	Lubbock Youth Orchestra (Lubbock, TX); Estacado HS (Lubbock)

Adjudication (selected, not comprehensive)

2026	ASTA National Orchestra Festival, San Francisco, CA
2026	East Texas A&M University Concerto Competition
2025	Oklahoma OSSAA State Orchestra Festival
2022	UMEA (Utah) High School Orchestra Festival; Jr. High Orchestra Festival (2020)
2019	Anchorage School District Orchestra Festival; Nevada ASTA Music Festival
2017, 2018	Marquette University Orchestra Festival
2014–Present	TMEA Honor Orchestra judge
2013–Present	UIL Concert and Sight-Reading adjudication across Texas
Ongoing	UIL Solo and Ensemble (Regions throughout DFW); district Solo and Ensemble in Allen, Grand Prairie, McKinney, Frisco, Richardson, Rockwall, Plano, Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Lewisville, Prosper, and others; pre-UIL adjudication across North Texas

Presentations

Conference Clinics

2027	Texas Orchestra Directors Association (TODA) Midwinter Clinic. “Conducting Coaching Workshop”
2027	TMEA (Texas) Online Learning Course. “Same Tune, Different Orchestra: Rehearsal Strategies in High School vs. Middle School”
2026	TODA. “Same Tune, Different Orchestra: Rehearsal Strategies in High School vs. Middle School”
2021	The Midwest Clinic. High School Lab Orchestra Rehearsal Clinician
2019	The Midwest Clinic. “HIPP in the Classroom: Historically Informed Performance Practice Made Easy”
2019	TMEA. “Interleaved Learning: Musical Cross Training in the Ensemble Rehearsal”
2017	TMEA. “HIPP in the Classroom: Historically Informed Performance Practice Made Easy”
2015	TODA. “HIPP in the Classroom: Historically Informed Performance Practice Made Easy”
2014	TMEA. “Perspectives of the Honor Orchestra Directors” (panelist)
2012	TODA. “Revving Up Your Recruiting and Retention”

Reading Sessions (Conductor)

2017 - 2019	TODA. “New to the PML Reading Session”
2013	TODA. “Full Orchestra Reading Session”

School District Professional Development

2026	Plano ISD. “Ensemble Interleaving”
	Northwest ISD. “Ensemble Interleaving,” “Tone & Tuning Development,” “Revving Up Your Recruitment and Retention”
2025	Arlington ISD. “Ensemble Interleaving,” “Tone & Tuning Development”
2023	Frisco ISD. “Ensemble Interleaving”

Publications and Compositions

Published Writing

2026 Two entries in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra*, Vol. 5 (GIA Publications): Jessie Montgomery, *Starburst*; Haydn/Parrish, *Symphony No. 44 "Trauer"* (IV)

2025 Ross, Ryan, and Amy Gross. "Another Perspective: Ensemble Cross-Training: Interleaved Practice in the Large Group Rehearsal." *Music Education Journal*, Dec. 2025. DOI: 10.1177/00274321251379475

2021 Three entries in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra*, Vol. 4 (GIA Publications): Tchaikovsky, *Souvenir de Florence*; Tchaikovsky, *Cossack Dance*; Bach/Gadza, *Air on the G String*

2019 "Reinforce Learning with Rehearsal Cross-Training." *Southwestern Musician*, August 2019

Published Musical Compositions

2026 *The Parting Glass*, string orchestra. J.W. Pepper Music

2004 *The Bicycle*, string orchestra and percussion. C. Alan Publications

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

2011 Region 3 Middle School Coordinator

2009–2012 West Texas String Association, Advisory Board

Honors and Affiliations

Musical

2023 ArtsCentre of Plano Arts Award

2019 Mu Omicron Membership, professional honorary fraternity for orchestra directors

2005 University of Illinois Bands A.A. Harding Award; School of Music Concerto Competition Finalist (winner of Brass Division)

1999–2000 Winner (1999) and Featured Guest Composer (2000), Claude T. Smith Composition Contest

Academic

2005 University of Illinois Bronze Tablet Award (top 3% of class); Edmund J. James Scholar; Phi Kappa Phi

2002 University of Illinois School of Music Duane A. Branigan Award

Professional Affiliations

Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA); Texas Orchestra Directors Association (TODA); Texas Music Adjudicators Association (TMAA); American String Teachers Association (ASTA); American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)

Representative Repertoire (selected)

Allen Philharmonic Orchestra — Professional (2016–Present)

Akpabot	Three Nigerian Dances
Beethoven	Symphonies 3, 5, and 7; Choral Fantasy; Egmont Overture; Coriolan Overture
Berlioz	Symphonie fantastique
Copland	Appalachian Spring; Fanfare for the Common Man; Outdoor Overture; 4 Dance Episodes from Rodeo
Debussy	Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun
Duruflé	Requiem
Dvořák	Symphonies 8 and 9; Cello Concerto
Elgar	Serenade for Strings; Cello Concerto
Gershwin	Rhapsody in Blue; American in Paris
Hagenberg, Elaine	Illuminare
Hindemith	Symphonic Metamorphosis
Mendelssohn	Symphony No. 5; The Hebrides Overture
Montgomery, Jessie	Five Freedom Songs; Overture
O'Connor, Mark	Strings and Threads
Orff	Carmina Burana
Price, Florence	Ethiopia's Shadow in America
Rimsky-Korsakov	Scheherazade
Schubert	Symphonies 5 and 8
Still, William Grant	Afro-American Symphony (No. 1)
Strauss, Johann II	Overture to Die Fledermaus, Blue Danube Waltz
Stravinsky	The Firebird (1919)
Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto No. 1; Violin Concerto in D major; The Nutcracker Ballet; Swan Lake Suite; 1812 Overture
Tin, Christopher	Calling All Dawns
Wang, Danhong	Clouds and Flowers Fantasy for Pipa

Plano West Chamber and Symphony Orchestras (2015–Present)

Bartók	Music for Strings, Percussion, and Celeste (complete)
Beethoven	Symphonies 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (movements)
Blache, Quenton	Habari Gani; To Heed One's Sorrow
Brahms	Symphony 4 (complete); Symphonies 1 and 3 (movements); Academic Festival Overture
Coleman, Valerie	Tracing Visions
Copland	Appalachian Spring (13 instrument version); Letter from Home; Music from Our Town
Dvořák	Serenade (complete); Symphonies 8, 9 (movements)
Elgar	Introduction and Allegro; Serenade (complete)
Finzi	Romance; In Terra Pax
Gershwin	An American in Paris
Kay, Ulysses	Six Dances for String Orchestra

Mendelssohn	Octet, Sinfonias 2, 7 and 10
Montgomery, Jessie	Banner; Starburst; Strum
Mozart	Divertimenti in F, B-flat, and D; Symphony 35 (IV)
Orff	Carmina Burana (complete)
Puccini	Intermezzo to Act III of Manon Lescaut; Preludio Sinfonico; I Crisantemi
Rachmaninoff	Symphony 2 (multiple movements)
Schoenberg	Verklärte Nacht; Suite for Strings; 10 Waltzes for String Orchestra
Schreker	Intermezzo
Shostakovich	Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a (complete), Symphony 5 (multiple movements)
Strauss, Johann II	Overture to Die Fledermaus
Strauss, Richard	Metamorphosen
Stravinsky	Concerto in D “Basle”
Suk	Serenade (complete); Meditation on an Old Czech Chorale
Tchaikovsky	Serenade (complete); Souvenir de Florence (complete); Symphonies 5 and 6 (multiple movements)
Theofanidis	Muse; Visions and Miracles; A Thousand Cranes; Rainbow Body
Turina	La Procesión del Rocío; La Oración del Torero
Vaughan Williams	Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis; Concerto Grosso; Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus
Webern	Langsamer Satz

Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Philharmonic (2026–Present)

Bates, Mason	Mothership
Borodin	In the Steppes of Central Asia
Coleridge-Taylor	Othello Suite
Elgar	Cello Concerto; Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*
Marquez	Conga del Fuego Nuevo
Mason, Quinn	Inspiration! Festive Overture
Mussorgsky	Night on Bald Mountain
Respighi	Pines of Rome
Smetana	Three Dances from the Bartered Bride
Suppe	Light Cavalry Overture

References available upon request.