

2015 HONORS MUSIC FESTIVAL CULMINATES IN KURHAUS CONCERT

ABOUT THE GUEST CONDUCTORS:



Dr. Mary K. Schneider, guest Instrumental Conductor, is an Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti, Michigan, where she conducts the Wind Symphony, teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in conducting and music education, and oversees and guides all aspects of EMU's comprehensive band program. Under her direction, the EMU Wind Symphony has received an unprecedented level of accolades for its performances, including an invited performance the North Central College Band Directors Association Conference in 2012 (the first time since 1968), and at the Michigan Music Conference in 2011. Prior to her appointment at EMU in the fall of 2008, Dr. Schneider was a faculty member at the School of Music at the University of Minnesota.

Active nationally and internationally as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator, Dr. Schneider is a strong advocate for new wind music and maintains an active interest in that area of research. In addition to published articles in the series *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band*, she has engaged in extensive research and presentations surrounding Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Corigliano and his Symphony No. 3 for large wind ensemble, "Circus Maximus."

Dr. Schneider brings a diverse background to the podium and to her students in the classroom. She holds a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied conducting with Jerry Junkin. She has also earned degrees in both horn performance and music education from the University of Connecticut and the New England Conservatory of Music, having graduated with Distinction in Performance honors from the latter. Her teaching experience includes numerous years as a public school music educator in her native state of New Jersey, where she taught all grade levels of instrumental music at award-winning programs, and maintained a busy performing schedule as a hornist.

An elected member of the American Bandmasters Association, Schneider is currently serving her second term as President of the Mid-American Conference Band Directors Association. Additionally, she maintains professional affiliations with the College Band Directors National Association, the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and the National Association for Music Education. She has also been awarded lifetime honorary memberships in Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, and the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.



Professor Mark A. Babcock, guest Choral Conductor, is a native of Iowa, and received a Bachelor's degree in music education from Central College, Pella, Iowa. He holds a Master's degree in choral conducting and organ performance from the prestigious Westminster Choir College - Princeton, New Jersey. While in Princeton, Professor Babcock sang in the Westminster Choir which performs regularly with the New Jersey Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. He has worked with great musical leaders such as Joseph Flummerfelt, Joan Lippincott, Robert Shaw, and Riccardo Mutti. In addition, he has pursued doctoral studies in organ and choral conducting at the University of Iowa.

Professor Babcock has taught vocal music at Union Middle and High Schools, La Porte City, Iowa, was the Director of Music/Organist at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, taught at Kirkwood Community College, and directed the Cedar Rapids Symphony Discovery Children's Chorus.

Currently, Professor Babcock, Associate Professor of Music, is in his sixteenth year of teaching at Central College. He is the Chair of the Music Department and the Director of Choral Activities. As the director of the Central College A Cappella Choir, he led the choir on a prestigious tour of Italy in the spring of 2009, Washington, D.C and the National Cathedral in 2010, Brazil in 2013, and the East Coast and St. John the Divine NYC in 2014. His duties at Central include private organ instruction; courses in church music, music education, and music theory; and directing three auditioned choirs. He was awarded the M. Joan Farver Endowed Professor of Music at Central College in 2011.

Professor Babcock has been the Dean of the Central Iowa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, was the chair for the AGO Region VI Convention held in June of 2011, was elected to the AGO National Council as Councilor for Conventions in the summer of 2012, is on the Board of the Iowa Choral Director's Association as Repertoire and Standards Chair for Music and is the ICDA 2015 Summer Symposium Chair. He provides choral and organ consultation, festival leadership, and music training in a variety of settings.

As a recognized organ recitalist, he was honored by Iowa State University as the 2005 "Organist of Iowa." His organ performances demonstrate the versatility and virtuosity that draw audiences to the "King of Instruments." In addition, he regularly collaborates with other instrumentalists and shares his mastery of organ improvisation.