

About the Clinicians



Patricia Cornett is the Director of Bands at Temple University where she conducts the Wind Symphony, teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting, and courses in wind literature. Prior to joining the faculty at Temple, she was the Director of Bands at Cal State Fullerton where she conducted the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds, and taught courses in conducting and music education. She was also a Visiting Assistant Professor at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music. She earned her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan, Master of Music degree from Northwestern University, and Bachelor of Music dual degree in music education and saxophone performance from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dr. Cornett taught at Essex High School in Essex Junction, Vermont from 2007-2010 where she conducted three concert bands, jazz band, and taught courses in guitar and history of rock. She was also the Director of Instrumental Music at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls, Connecticut, from 2003-2005. She is published in the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series, the *CBDNA Journal*, the *WASBE Journal*, and *The Instrumentalist*. Her editions of *Divertimenti Nos. 2, 3, and 4* by eighteenth-century composer Vicente Martín y Soler are published by Boosey & Hawkes in the *Windependence* Series. She has presented sessions at The Midwest Clinic, national and regional CBDNA conferences, and numerous state conferences. Guest conducting engagements have included "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, as well as district, region, and state-level ensembles in over 20 states. She is a member of the College Band Directors National Association, the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education.



Michael Haithcock retired from his duties as director of bands and professor of music (Conducting) at the University of Michigan in May of 2023 after twenty-two years of distinguished leadership which followed his twenty-three years at Baylor University. Following in the footsteps of William D. Revelli and H. Robert Reynolds, Professor Haithcock conducted the internationally renowned University of Michigan Symphony Band, guided the acclaimed band and wind ensemble graduate conducting program, and provided administrative leadership for all aspects of the University of Michigan's diverse and historic band program. In February of 2012, he was named an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor by the University of Michigan which is the University's highest award for excellence in undergraduate teaching. He is the primary author of the *Elements of Expressive Conducting*, a widely adapted textbook for conducting classes.

Ensembles under Haithcock's guidance received a wide array of critical acclaim for their high artistic standards of performance and repertoire. These accolades have come through concert reviews at national and state conventions, performances in major concert venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York City, Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, and a variety of performances presented during the Symphony Band's May 2011 tour of China, as well as recordings on the Albany, Arsis, and Equilibrium labels. Reviews of the

ten commercial CD's he recorded with the U-M Symphony Band stated, "programming and execution of this caliber ought to be available worldwide...musically impressive, giving a sense of elation." The American Record Guide praised the "professional manner with which the group delivers...they show great skill and artistry" and proclaimed the "sound of the U-M Symphony Band is something to savor." The University of Michigan Symphony Band's YouTube channel is also a highly acclaimed resource for bands around the world as well as an important archive of his artistic accomplishments while director of bands at U-M.

Throughout his career, Professor Haithcock has been a leader in commissioning and premiering new works for band and has earned the praise of both composers and conductors for his innovative approaches to developing the band repertoire as well as his interpretations of new and standard works. He is in constant demand as a guest conductor with professional ensembles, major universities, all-state, and festival ensembles. He is also a resource person for conducting symposiums and workshops in a variety of instructional settings.

A graduate of East Carolina University, where he received the 1996 Outstanding Alumni Award from the School of Music, and Baylor University, Haithcock has done additional study at a variety of conducting workshops including the Herbert Blomstedt Orchestral Conducting Institute. *The Instrumentalist*, the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, *The School Musician*, the Southwest Music Educator, and *Winds Magazine* have published his articles on conducting and wind literature.

Professor Haithcock is an elected member of both the music honor society Pi Kappa Lambda and the American Bandmasters Association. He remains active in the College Band Directors National Association following his term as president (2001-2003) and received the organizations Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021. In 2011, he was awarded the Distinguished Service to Music Medal by Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity.



Alfred L. Watkins is former Director of Bands at the storied Lassiter High School in Marietta, Georgia for 31 of his 37 years until his retirement from the classroom in 2013. He spent his first six years as Director of Bands at Murphy High School in the Atlanta Public Schools. He is currently Co-Founder, Musical Director and Conductor of the Cobb Wind Symphony, a premier all-adult community band in Metro Atlanta, a group he founded in 1999. Mr. Watkins is a 1976 graduate of Florida A & M University with additional studies at Georgia State University. In July 2022, he was conferred an Honorary Doctorate from the VanderCook College of Music.

His bands have earned the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Flag of Honor (concert), Sudler Shield (marching) and the Sudler Silver Scroll (community band) making him one of the few directors in the country to hold three Sudler Awards simultaneously. Concert bands under Watkins' leadership have performed at 32 invitational concert band events. He has conducted All-State High School Bands in 33 states and has worked with bands in 38 states.

Ensembles under Dr. Watkins' batons have performed five times at the Midwest Band Clinic, six times at the Music for All National Festival, G.M.E.A. Convention and the National Band Association Convention. The

Lassiter Trojan Marching Band has performed in Tournament of Roses Parades four times and three times in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC. They are the 1998 and 2002 Bands of America Grand National Marching Band Champions and winner of nine BOA Regionals. The Lassiter Winter Color Guard was named the 1996 and 1997 W.G.I. World Champions. The Lassiter Concert Percussion Ensemble won the Percussive Arts Society "Call for Tapes" in 2007 and performed at the Midwest Clinic in 2004 and 2011.

Dr. Watkins is a member of the American Bandmasters Association, Florida A & M University Gallery of Distinguished Alumni and in the Hall of Fames of Bands of America, Conn Selmer Institute, Minority Band Directors National Association, and the Georgia Chapter of Phi Beta Mu Band Directors Fraternity. He has received Midwest Clinic Medal of Honor, is a Midwest Clinic Legend, received the American School Band Director Association's "Edwin Franko Goldman Award," the Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity's "Distinguished Service to Music Award," was the 2020 Phi Beta Mu "International Bandmaster of the Year" and was awarded the "2022 Outstanding Conductor Award" presented by the Association of Community Bands. He has received 28 Certificates of Excellence from the NBA, the Sudler Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation, and the Band World Magazine Legion of Honor Award. Dr. Watkins is a Co-Founder of the Minority Band Director National Association, an organization dedicated to serve, promote, celebrate, and mentor ethnic minority band directors in America. Along with Dr. Sue Samuels, in 1988, Watkins pioneered the concept of the Symphonic Band Camp, an early winter, 3-day intensive concert band event dedicated to the development of concert bands in your home school.

The \$1.5 million Alfred L. Watkins Band Building at Lassiter High School bears his name. He and his wife of 41 years, Rita, live in Marietta, GA. They have two adult sons: Christopher, a trumpeter in the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" in Washington, D.C. and Jonathan, a businessman in Nashville. They have two grandchildren.



Matthew Brunner is Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music and Director of Athletic Bands in the Boyer College of Music and Dance. His responsibilities at Temple include serving as Director of the Diamond Marching and Basketball Bands, conductor of the Symphonic and Collegiate Bands, and instructor of courses in conducting. He also serves as the Eastern Division Chair and Pennsylvania State Representative for The National Band Association, the world's largest band organization. A native of Dover, OH, he received his Doctor of Music degree in Wind Conducting from Indiana University. He graduated from Ohio University *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music

Education and became one of the band directors in the Carrollton School District in Carrollton, OH. His musical versatility was frequently showcased as he could be heard on trumpet in several area concert bands, orchestras, jazz, rock, and funk bands. Dr. Brunner returned to Ohio University and completed his Master's degree in Instrumental Conducting with minor in trumpet studies. He also became one of the staff arrangers for the Ohio University Marching 110. He is credited with over one hundred marching band arrangements for university and high school marching bands across the country. He has also published articles in the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* and *Teaching Music Through Performance in Beginning Band* series as well as the *National Band Association Journal*. Dr. Brunner serves as an adjudicator and clinician around the country. In 2007, he was one of the winners of the National Band Association's International Conducting Symposium, which took place in Sherborne, England. His professional affiliations include The National Band Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Kappa Kappa Psi, College Band Director's National Association, MENC, and the Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association.