

TRI-DISTRICT ARTS



***TRI-DAC 2023 Music Staff and
Guest Artists Bios***



Camille Jones - Music Coordinator

Camille Jones, aka, Ms. Cornmeal, graduated from the University of South Carolina in Columbia with her Bachelor's of Music (1986) and Master's in Music Education (1997). She has attained her National Board Certification and Recertification. Camille has just re-retired after 34.5 years of teaching in Lexington One: 2 years at Indian Land (Lancaster County), 31 at Gilbert Middle and High and the last 1.5 at Red Bank Elementary and Rocky Creek Elementary teaching general music. She will "begin" a new teaching career in the fall with the Beechwood Middle School Choirs in Lex1. She co-directed the Lexington One Children's Honor Choir until her first retirement in 2020. She serves as musical director and/or accompanist for many shows in the Lexington and Columbia area community theaters and is organist at Cayce United Methodist Church. She has served as Lead Teacher for Lexington One choral directors as well as R & S Chair for South Carolina ACDA for Middle School and Chairperson for the SCMEA Middle School CPA event.

BAND DIRECTORS



Lorrie Turner, SYMPHONIC Band Director

Lorrie Miller Turner is currently serving her 7th year as the Director of Bands at Irmo Middle School in Columbia, SC. Prior to this appointment, she served 14 years as Director of Bands at CrossRoads Middle and 11 years as the Director of Bands at Gilbert Middle School. Her bands have received consistent Superior Ratings at SCBDA events throughout her career. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a Performance Certificate in Flute from the University of South Carolina in 1988. She completed her Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of South Carolina in 1990 where she served as a Graduate Assistant with the Carolina Band under James Copenhaver. A former student of Constance Lane, she was the 1986 winner of the USC Concerto-Aria competition. In addition to her duties as a full-time band director, she maintains a private flute studio of at least twenty students per year. Her students have qualified for the SCBDA Region and All-State Bands as well as The Bands of America National Honor Band. Her students have won competitions such as the South Carolina Youth Philharmonic Concerto Competition, the Lake Murray Symphony Concerto Competition, and Piccolo Spoleto Rising Stars. Ms Turner is the Symphonic Band director of the Tri-District Arts Consortium. She performs with The Carolina Wind Symphony as well as many freelance gigs in the Columbia area.



Elizabeth DeBessonnet, SYMPHONIC Band Assistant Director

Elizabeth DeBessonnet is the band director at Frances Mack Intermediate School in Lexington School District 4. Originally from Chesterfield, SC, she earned her Bachelor's of Music Education from Furman University in 2015, her Master's of Arts Education in Music from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2019, and is currently working on her Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction from Anderson University, where she is anticipated to graduate in 2024. She was the previous director of bands at Newberry Middle School (2015-2019), where the band more than doubled in size in the four years she was there. During her time at Frances Mack, she has doubled the size of the program and will be starting a fifth grade band program next year in her school. She is an

accomplished clarinetist and avid performer with community and semi-professional groups around the Columbia and Upstate areas. She is excited to teach the students of Tri-DAC and cannot wait to work with them this summer!



Christina Randall, CONCERT Band Director

Christina J. Randall earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Charleston Southern University. She is in her 21st year of teaching and is currently the band director at Sandhills Middle School in the Lexington 4 School District in South Carolina. She is a member of National Association for Music Education, South Carolina Music Educators Association, South Carolina Band Directors Association, Phi Beta Mu and Women Band Directors International. Christina was the 2008-2009 Jasper County School District Teacher of the Year and was a quarterfinalist for the Grammy Music Educator Award in 2020. She is also one of the founders of the Low country Youth Wind Symphony in Bluffton, SC and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Junior Jazz Foundation in Hilton Head, SC.



Courtney Vance, CONCERT Band Assistant Director

Courtney Vance is a native of Irmo, South Carolina. She currently teaches in Spartanburg School District One. She serves as the Music Teacher/Choral Teacher at Inman Intermediate School and Director of Bands at Campobello Gramling School. Ms. Vance earned her Bachelor's in Music Education with a Flute Performance certificate and a minor in Theater from Newberry College in 2018. Ms. Vance recently finished her Master's in Music Education from the University of Florida in the spring of 2023. Currently, she is working on her Master of Education in Trauma Informed Education at Columbia College. Her goal is to gain a doctoral degree in Traumatology to help students and educators through traumatic experiences. Ms. Vance's goal is to provide music educators with tools to teach resilience in their classrooms. Outside of the classroom, Ms. Vance enjoys reading, meditating, hanging out with friends and family, and spending time with her four children.

STRINGS DIRECTORS



Brent Wilson, Director of STRINGS II

Brent Wilson is currently the Director of Strings for the Tri-District Arts Consortium, a highly recognized program for the musically gifted. Mr. Wilson, a native of Lima, Ohio, earned his Bachelor of Music Education and a Masters in String Instrument Pedagogy from The Ohio State University. He was a middle and high school orchestra instructor with Richland School District Two in Columbia, SC. Prior to moving to Columbia, Mr. Wilson taught in the West Carrollton, Ohio public schools. Brent Wilson has performed as a cellist in many orchestras, including the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, Augusta Symphony, Middletown Symphony, Springfield Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony (Indiana),

Whitewater Opera, Ohio Light Opera, and Lima Symphony. He has also performed with the well-known artists Henry Mancini and Johnny Mathis. Mr. Wilson has performed as conductor of the South Carolina Philharmonic Repertory and Youth Orchestras, Columbus Symphony (Ohio) Jr. String Orchestra, and the Richland Two District Orchestra (including four performances in Carnegie Hall – New York, NY), and frequent regional clinic orchestras. Currently Mr. Wilson is a member of the American String Teachers Association and the South Carolina Music Educators Association. With SCMEA he has served as Orchestra Division committee Member “At Large.” He is a former member of the Ohio Music Educators Association and served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Southwest Region Brent Wilson’s writing is published by the American String Teachers Association.

Alex Lopez Arrocha, Assistant Director of STRINGS II

Born and raised in Columbia, SC, **Alex Lopez Arrocha** (they/them) has lived a life filled with musical expression and artistic exploration. At a young age, Alex displayed a natural talent for the artistic world, their medium being the violin. At 16, Alex decided to audition for South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, an art residential high school in downtown Greenville, SC. In addition to greater musicality and technique work under the direction of Jennifer John, SCGSAH offered Alex a philosophical approach in understanding what it truly means to be an artist and a human. Afterward, they attended the University of South Carolina and graduated with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Music, along with a Violin Performance Certificate and a Cognate in Education. They studied performance and chamber music with Dr. Ari Streisfeld, Assistant Professor of Violin and Violin & Viola Pedagogy at UofSC as well as taught private lessons and classes of first and second-year students at UofSC’s String Project, under the direction of Dr. Gail Barnes. Alex recently spent their summers in Leicester, Vermont being a cabin counselor at Point Counterpoint, under the executive direction of Jenny Beck. Their days are filled with activity planning, camper counseling, and musical enrichment for over 200 campers over 10 weeks. Alex currently teaches at Dent Middle School (their alma mater). Alex aims to create a curriculum where art, identity, and interdisciplinary studies are used to enhance musical knowledge and engagement. When Alex is not being an educator, they spend their time singing to themselves and wondering how reality, in all its complexity, exists without a second thought.



Haley Calore, Director of STRINGS I

Haley Calore is a dedicated music educator with a rich background in teaching and performing. With over twenty years of experience, she has been an influential figure in School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties. Haley's primary focus has been teaching Orchestra to students ranging from 5th to 8th grade, with her main tenure at Irmo Middle School. Currently, she holds the esteemed position of Orchestra Director at River Bluff High School within Lexington School District One. Growing up in District Five, Haley's musical journey began with the USC String Project, where she first discovered her passion for the violin. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Converse College and a Master's degree in Music Education from the University of South Carolina. Throughout her career, she has also maintained a private violin studio. Additionally, she actively participates as an Orchestra Director for the Tri-District Arts Consortium summer program. Haley Calore's expertise extends beyond the classroom as she has been invited as a guest conductor for noteworthy events. In 2014, she led the Richland One

District Middle School Honors Orchestra, and in 2015, she served as the guest conductor for the Aiken All County Orchestra Festival. Her knowledge and experience were also sought after as a guest adjudicator for the SCMEA Concert Festival in Charleston in the same year. As a violinist, Haley has appeared on stage as a member of the Spartanburg Philharmonic and the South Carolina Philharmonic. Notably, she cherishes the memories of performing alongside legends such as Ray Charles and Olivia Newton John. Beyond classical music, she embraces her versatility by playing the "fiddle" in the local bluegrass band, Carolina Hayride. Additionally, she finds joy in collaborating with various string quartets throughout the midlands.

Shadaye Romelien, Assistant Director of STRINGS I

Shadaye Romelien is a recent USC graduate (2023) with a bachelor's degree in Music and emphasis in Music Education. She has gained field experience through student teaching at Irmo Middle School with Haley Calore and Irmo High School with Frank Turner. She has taught two years with the USC String Project. She will be teaching orchestra and choir this fall at the American Leadership Academy in Lexington.

VOCAL DIRECTORS



Craig Coelho, CHORAL Director

Craig Coelho is the Choral Director at Gilbert High School and in his eleventh year of teaching. He is also the Director of Music Ministries at Cayce United Methodist Church. Craig received both his Bachelor of Music with emphasis in Music Education and Master of Music in Choral Conducting Degrees from the University of South Carolina. Craig is currently the President Elect for South Carolina ACDA, serves on the SC All-State Chorus Committee, and the Vocal Director for TriDAC Summer Intensive. Groups under Coelho's direction consistently participate in the SC All-State Chorus, ACDA Honor Choirs, and receive superior ratings at state events.



Kaleb Hilton, ASSISTANT CHORAL Director

Kaleb Z. Hilton is the Director of Choral Activities at Blythewood High School, where he conducts five ensembles- Chorale, aca Bengals, Treble Singers, Men's Chorus, and Concert Choir. In addition to teaching, Kaleb serves as the Artistic Director of the Dutch Fork Choral Society, and is an active collaborative pianist and has accompanied choirs at the University of Kentucky, National American Choral Directors Association, Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts, the Kentucky Music Educators Association All-State SATB Honor Choir, and a variety of regional Honor Choirs and schools in Kentucky and South Carolina. A native of Henderson, KY, Kaleb received his Bachelor's Degree in Vocal and Instrumental Education from the University of Kentucky in the fall of 2021.

TRIDAC 2023 GUEST PERFORMER BIOS

FLAT OUT STRANGERS (Performing 6/15/2023)

The Flat Out Strangers call their music American Gypsy Swing. It is a hybrid of music from the great American songbook of the 1930's & 1940's performed in the style of Gypsy Jazz, also known as Hot Jazz, or Manouche when in France. And it swings hard!

Gypsy Jazz is a unique European style Swing Jazz. Never loud, but addictively driving, this upbeat acoustic style was made famous by the Belgium-born Romani gypsy and virtuoso guitarist, Django Reinhardt, who performed in the best jazz clubs of Paris with his band called, Hot Club Quintette du France. He is considered one of the greatest guitar geniuses of all time, Django forged this lively style of innovative jazz, blending nomadic gypsy sensibilities with intricate and unparalleled technical prowess, particularly considering he was only able to play the neck with mostly two fingers, and without the ability to read or write music.

Notable in Gypsy Jazz is a unique rhythm guitar style called, 'La Pompe', meaning 'the pump'. La Pompe is a steady, jaunty and relentlessly acoustic pulse of jazz chords, resulting in a compelling rhythmic drive, an essential trademark of gypsy jazz.

The Flat Out Strangers are: Jessica Sims — lead vocals, Jerry Sims — lead guitar, Ella Thomas — gypsy violin, George Fulton — upright swing bass, Professor Doug Graham — hot jazz swing clarinet, Jim Channel — La Pompe rhythm guitar, and Justin Sims — drums.

You can learn more about the Flat Out Strangers by visiting and liking their Facebook page, named simply, FLAT OUT STRANGERS.

BOOMTOWN TRIO (Performing 6/20/23)

Boomtown Trio has a big sound fueled by bigger energy. Combining the talents of renowned upright bass player Craig Butterfield, champion fiddler Kristen Harris and multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Cat Galan, Boomtown Trio creates a rare and wonderful combination of chamber music, folk, and Americana. Individually, these 3 musicians draw from diverse influences and unite with compositions that showcase virtuosic instrumental performances, unique and ethereal string textures, and powerful songwriting.

The Pat-a-Pans (Performing 6/27/2023)

The Pat-a-Pans include members Matthew Jones and Davin Lail as well as a bass player. Davin has a Music Education Degree from USC Columbia and teaches at Conder Elementary in Richland Two where he is a music teacher. He also performs across the region with steel drums. Matthew has a Music Performance Degree from USC in Columbia and performs with orchestras from across the region including Augusta, Columbia and Florence. He also performs with shows in theaters in Lexington and Columbia and teaches private lessons to high school and college students. Matthew works with TriDAC percussion students and has for many years and you can also catch him performing with the TriDAC Drama Showcase!