

Shake The Lakes Judge Bios 2023

Our 2023 Show Choir Judges



Jenny McClenahan

Jenny McClenahan is currently the vocal music teacher at Highland Community Schools for grades 6-12. Over the past several years, Jennifer has had the opportunity to conduct over 45 district honor choirs and vocal festivals, and in 2008, conducted the 5th and 6th grade Opus Honor Choir. She has been a member of the Iowa Choral Directors Association since 1992, and has served on the board for over 22 years. Her positions on the board have included: Website Manager, Historian, Sounding Board Ads, 2007 Summer Symposium Chair, 2011-2012, 5th and 6th grade Opus honor choir chair, and currently the Social Media Chair. Most recently, Mrs. McClenahan was elected President of the Iowa Choral Directors Association. She served 2 years as president-elect, is serving 2 years as president and will then serve 2 years as past president.

For the past 20 years, she has been actively judging State Music Festivals, including All-State, and numerous jazz and show choir competitions across Iowa. She was elected to the District Advisory Group in 2018 for the Iowa High School Music Association. Jennifer has also given sessions at the ICDA Summer and Fall Symposiums. Colleges and Universities in Iowa frequently ask Mrs. McClenahan to speak to methods classes, giving her insight on life in rural 1a and 2a schools, approaches to general music, and philosophies on standards. Outside of school, she, her husband and daughters are involved in community theater. She resides in Washington, Iowa, with her husband Craig, and they have 4 children, Tiffany, Tanner, Zoe and Rory, and 4 grandchildren, Eliza, Emme, Evie and Freddie.



Michelle Chaplin

Michelle taught vocal music for twenty-three years in Iowa, retiring from teaching in 2019. Michelle is a graduate of Trinity International University in Chicago, with a degree in Vocal and Instrumental Music Education. She began her teaching career in elementary music in West Des Moines from 1994-1995, and then was the vocal music director at Center Point-Urbana High School from 1995-2001. From 2003-2019, Michelle was the Director of Vocal Music at Pella Community High School, where she directed the varsity and prep show choirs (AcaPella, Bravo and Dutch Divas), while also directing Advanced Choir, Select Choir, two Concert Choirs, the musicals, Chamber Choir and Madrigal Singers each year. Under her direction, over sixty Pella students were selected for the Iowa All-State Chorus, and her

show choirs won dozens of Grand Championships at competitions across Iowa, over one hundred caption awards, and were able to experience performance tours to Florida, New York City, Toronto and multiple performances on Caribbean cruises. Michelle lives in Pella with her husband, Wes, where they have raised three children (Nathan, Noah and Courtney), all of whom were heavily involved in vocal music and show choir during their time in high school. Since retiring from teaching in the school system, Michelle stays busy giving private voice and piano lessons in her studio, serving as a clinician and judge for high school show choir competitions, working in a local women's clothing boutique, organizing events for the downtown Pella historic district merchants, serving as a deaconess in her church, and enjoying her dream job as Mimi to her first grandchild.



Rachel Wragge

Rachael Wragge is the Vocal Music Director at South Sioux City High School. Prior to teaching in South Sioux City, Ms. Wragge was Co-Director of Vocal Music at Bishop Heelan High School for 11 years. While at Heelan, her choirs were annually awarded top honors at state contest and were five-time Grand Champions of the Choral Showcase at Sioux City East's Sing All About It. During her 17 years of vocal music education, Rachael has directed and accompanied various show choirs and jazz choirs having the opportunity to lead the Riverside Community Schools vocal jazz choir to its first Iowa Vocal Jazz Championship appearance and Harmonia Mundi to a Grand Champion performance at Shake the Lakes. Outside of school, Ms. Wragge enjoys performing as a member of the Missouri River Choral Society and soloist at the

Cathedral of the Epiphany. She loves being an auntie to her biological and non-biological nieces and nephews and is accused of being a "crazy cat lady" by her friends although she has only one cat.



Dave Fog

David Fog has been a choral music educator in Iowa for 41 years, including 34 years at Emmetsburg High School where he directed six choral groups before retiring in 2014. After initial retirement, Dave taught 4 more years at North Union and Bishop Garrigan schools, introducing show choir and vocal jazz choirs into their choral offerings. The vocal music program at Emmetsburg was named one of fifty "Outstanding Small School Music Programs" in the United States by the Standards and Repertoire Committee of the American Choral Directors Association. In addition to numerous IHSMA state contest honors, the EHS Choral Groups have earned superior ratings and overall championships at choral festivals in Orlando, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington DC, and Denver during their regional tours.

The EHS varsity show choir, “High Voltage” consistently strove to “raise the bar” for small school excellence in show choir competition, finishing first in their class and performing in the overall championship finals many times. He also has directed all aspects of 22 musicals. Mr. Fog has been a football coach since he began teaching, and was named the Class1A Assistant Coach of the year in 2010. He is still coaching as a member of the Bishop Garrigan staff. He continues to be an active ICDA mentor, clinician and adjudicator for show choir festivals and the IHSMA sponsored state contests. He and his wife, Kelley, have been a “team” throughout their careers, co-teaching at Emmetsburg and assisting each other in all musical undertakings. They love to get together with their four children and three grandchildren on weekend gatherings, tailgates and at their home on the lake in Emmetsburg.



Brent Peterson

Brent Peterson is a vocal music director in the Waukee Community School District. Now in his 32nd year of teaching, he is currently at Timberline School where he directs all of the 8th grade ensembles and show choir EN FUEGO, assists with the 9th grade mixed chorus and show choir, gives voice lessons, and also assists with the other HS show choirs in the district as needed. In addition to his work with the choirs in Waukee, he is also a volleyball coach and track coach in the district, and was named the Iowa Association of Track Coaches Junior High Track Coach of the Year in 2015. Brent was the conductor for the Boys OPUS Honor Choir in 2006, and has also received the WOI Channel 5 “My Favorite Teacher” award.

Mr. P., as he is known at Waukee, graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in 1991 with a B.S. Ed. in Vocal Music Education. In 1999 he completed a Master of Arts in Effective Teaching degree from Viterbo University, where he has also served as an adjunct professor. When not working with students at Waukee, Brent is an active guest director, show choir clinician and judge, IHSMA All-State Choir Lead Auditor, and speaker around the Midwest. He is married to Anne Peterson, an elementary music teacher at Eason Elementary in Waukee, and proud Dad to 15 year old Joel Peterson, a 10th grader at Waukee High School. When not working, the family loves to travel to Florida, golf, and enjoy boating at their lake home on Sun Valley Lake.

Our 2023 Jazz Choir Judges



Haley Gibbons

Haley Gibbons is a choir director at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, where she leads traditional, show, and jazz ensembles. She conducts two curricular choirs: Valley Singers, a select-auditioned chamber choir, and Concert Choir, Valley's non-auditioned large ensemble. In addition, Ms. Gibbons leads two co-curricular groups: Choralation varsity show choir and Vocal Point prep jazz choir. Under her direction, Valley Singers have performed at the Luther College Dorian Choral Invitational

and in concerts with the Iowa State Singers and the Drake University Chamber Choir. In February, 2023, Valley Singers will perform at the National American Choral Directors Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ms. Gibbons serves as the Iowa All State Jazz Choir Chair for the Iowa Choral Directors Association. Her students are frequently selected to be members of the Iowa All State Choir, the Iowa All State Jazz Choir, and other regional honors ensembles. Ms. Gibbons is a 2011 graduate of Luther College and a 2018 graduate of Florida State University where she earned her Masters of Music Education. She lives in West Des Moines with her husband, Dan.



Heather Nail

Heather Nail is a graduate of Drake University where she received her Bachelor of Music Education with Vocal Emphasis and Master of Science in Education Leadership degrees.

She has been teaching in West Des Moines for twelve years where she conducts the 9th grade Treble and Bass Choirs, Chamber Choir, Syncopation 9th grade Jazz Choir and 10-12th grade Vox Women's Jazz Choir. She previously directed Ignition JV show choir and has been a clinician and judge for various festivals and events.

In addition to her teaching position, Heather is an active member of ICDA, NafME, JEI and JEN, and is the current Chair for the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championship. In 2017 she was the first recipient of the NafME Barbershop Harmony Society National Educator Award.

Prior to West Des Moines, she taught in the Des Moines public schools. She is originally from Norwalk, IA. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Ryan, and daughter, Hailey.



Brett Fuelberth

It has been Brett Fuelberth's privilege to serve as the Director of Choral Activities at Iowa Lakes Community College for the past 25 years. At Iowa Lakes, he directs four choirs, and teaches Music Theory, Music Fundamentals, Voice Lessons, and Music Appreciation. He received a master's degree in choral conducting from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and a bachelor's degree from Wayne State College. Since coming to Iowa Lakes, he has initiated the annual Elizabethan Madrigal Feasts, Heartland Honor Choir, Coffee House Nights, and online Music Theory & Music Fundamentals classes.

Brett has been married for 29 years to his wife, Barb, and they have two sons, William and Matthew and one daughter, Anna.



Fred Kiser

Dr. Fred Kiser is the Director of Vocal Music and Music Program Coordinator at Kirkwood Community College. He directs two vocal jazz ensembles and concert choir, teaches the music theory sequence and a course in film music. He hosts the annual Kirkwood Vocal Jazz Festival which brings nationally recognized artists and educators to Kirkwood. Fred has been involved in musical productions at Kirkwood for many years as well, with favorites including *City of Angels* and *Sweeney Todd*.

Fred came to Iowa in 2003 to complete doctoral work at the University of Iowa after several years of teaching and developing the music program at Westminster College, Fulton, MO. He started at Kirkwood in 2013 after stops at UNI, Cornell College and Coe College directing choirs at each institution. Fred is active as a clinician and adjudicator in Iowa and thoroughly enjoys working with students and educators. Fred is the new ACDA Repertory & Resources chair for the Midwestern American Choral Directors Association



Beth Mueller

Beth Mueller taught vocal music for 34 years and retired in 2020 from Maquoketa Valley. Throughout her tenure she has been very involved in fostering a love for vocal jazz. She formed her first group in 1996 and then directed 1-4 vocal jazz groups every year at Maquoketa Valley until she retired. She was the ICDA Vocal Jazz Repertoire Chair for 2 terms, All-State Vocal Jazz Chair for 4 years and was one of the original founding members of the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships.

Beth continues to be an active vocal jazz arranger and composer. Currently she is singing and directing “After Five”, a community based group from the Cedar Rapids area.

She lives with her husband Roger in Manchester. Beth is very involved in her church, has 3 horses, several barn cats..., 1 inside cat and loves to golf and travel.

Our 2023 Event Emcee



Wes Chaplin

Back for his second time on the Shake The Lakes stage, Wes Chaplin is an attorney in Pella, Iowa where he is a partner at Kreykes & Chaplin, PLC. Wes is a graduate of Central College, the University of Iowa College of Law, and is a proud former member of the Iowa All-State Chorus and Starburst, Inc. (Nevada High School’s show choir).

Although he is tempted to cite as his greatest accomplishment the time his senior year in show choir when he dropped into the splits during the final note of his solo in “Jesus Christ, Superstar”, in reality, he acknowledges his best accomplishment was convincing Michelle Chaplin to say “yes” over twenty-seven years ago.

Wes enjoys endurance sports, especially cycling, and has completed over 100 triathlons, including Ironman races in Arizona, France, Austria and Switzerland. He enjoys being involved in the show choir world, as an emcee at numerous events, and assisting his wife with clinics for various groups each year. He is honored to serve as our emcee today, and is privileged to share the stage with so many talented young people.