

NICHOLAS BALLA, D.M.A.

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan • Ann Arbor, Michigan April 2023
Doctor of Musical Arts—Conducting: Band and Wind Ensemble

University of Michigan • Ann Arbor, Michigan April 2021
Master of Music—Conducting: Band and Wind Ensemble

Missouri State University • Springfield, Missouri Summa Cum Laude, May 2014
Bachelor of Music Education—Instrumental Music
Bachelor of Science in Electronic Arts—Audio Studies
Board of Governor's Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Arkansas State University Jonesboro, AR
Interim Associate Director of Bands August 2023-Present
Interim Coordinator of Music Education August 2023-Present

- *Courses Taught:* Concert Band Methods, Instrumental Conducting I, Instrumental Conducting II, Graduate Conducting Lessons, Student Internship, University Orchestra, University Wind Ensemble

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
Concert Band, *Teacher of Record* Winter 2023

- Organize ensemble logistics and administration while collaborating with faculty conductors

Undergraduate Conducting Course, *Graduate Student Instructor* Winter 2021, January 2021 – Present

- Assist instruction of movement fundamentals and conducting technique

Volleyball Band, *Conductor* Fall 2022

- Coordinated personnel recruitment, auditions, logistical operations, and communication with University Athletics for ensemble

Band Conducting and Pedagogy Workshop, *Workshop Coordinator* Summer 2022, 2023

- Liaise workshop logistics between faculty and University offices while leading team of graduate student employees in workshop administration

University Campus Band, *Conductor* Winter 2022

- Programmed and conducted Winter Term concert of non-music major students
- Organized and managed ensemble recruitment, rehearsals, logistics, and student evaluation

Michigan Marching Band, *Graduate Student Instructor*

August 2019 – January 2022

- Evaluated student performance of marching fundamentals and musical performance
- Led and trained a team of Graduate Student Instructors through organizational processes
- Coordinated rehearsal technology (e.g., Tonal Energy drones, metronome programs, PA system) to ensure consistency and efficiency of rehearsal and musical performance
- Provided private lessons for incoming low brass students
- Assisted with COVID response through committee leadership and course organization

Eastern Michigan University

Ypsilanti, MI

Student Teacher Supervisor

Winter 2023

- Observe and assess student teachers in instrumental music classrooms

PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director of Bands

August 2014 – May 2019

Lebanon R-III School District

Lebanon, MO

- Developed strategies for student achievement through vertical curricular alignment and long-term evaluation
- Collaborated with four additional colleagues on program direction, curriculum, and instruction
- Provided private studio lessons for low brass students ranging with students placing in the area Youth Symphony, area Youth Wind Ensemble, All-District, and All-State Bands
- Implemented high school chamber ensemble program; conducted brass chamber ensembles
- Led project on expanding chamber music library and program through a \$3500 Grant Award
- Coached students to consistent “Superior” ratings at large and small ensemble contests
- Assisted with marching band instruction, pre-production, and creative design

Courses & Ensembles:

Beginning Low Brass, 7th Grade Low Brass, 7th Grade High Brass, 8th Grade Brass and 8th Grade Band, Lebanon High School Symphonic Band, Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble, Trombone Choir, Brass Choir

ADDITIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Orientation Leader & Office Administrator

January 2010 – August 2013

Missouri State University Student Orientation Advisement and Registration

Springfield, MO

- Facilitated the matriculation of first year students through introducing university policy
- Instructed incoming students on academic policy and procedures while advising them on realistic academic expectations to ensure a successful first semester schedule
- Engaged students and family members to reinforce their connection to Missouri State University
- Organized logistics for summer orientation sessions through interaction with faculty, staff, and administration

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

- “Cultivating Inclusive Atmospheres through Music Engagement
in the Instrumental Music Classroom” – Poster Session
Symposium for Music Teacher Education, *Salt Lake City, UT* October 2023
- “Vincent Persichetti’s Wind Manuscripts” – Poster Session
CBDNA National Convention, *Athens, Georgia* February 2023
- “Strategies for Developing and Inclusive and Effective Rehearsal Atmosphere”
Educational Session
Michigan Music Conference, *Grand Rapids, Michigan* January 2023
- Guest Lecturer, “From Wagner’s ‘Ring’ to the ‘Lord of the Rings’” – Guest Lecture
Senior English Seminar, *Lebanon High School* March 2017, 2018
- “Analyzing Cinematic Music through ‘James Bond’ Themes” – Guest Lecture
Advanced Placement Literature, *Lebanon High School* February 2016, 2017, 2018
Missouri Scholars Academy, *University of Missouri-Columbia* June 2021

GUEST CONDUCTING

- Guest Conductor, Ann Arbor Civic Band June 2022, June 2023
Ann Arbor, MI
- Guest Conductor, Francis Chiodo Trumpet DMA Recital, University of Michigan
L’Histoire du soldat by Igor Stravinsky March 2023
Ann Arbor, MI
- Guest Conductor, Saxophone Ensemble Recital, University of Michigan
November 2022
Ann Arbor, MI
- Guest Conductor, Trombone Studio Recital, University of Michigan
November 2022
Ann Arbor, MI
- Conductor, Workshop Reading June 2022
Serenade for Solo English Horn & Chamber Ensemble by William Bolcom
Ann Arbor, MI
- Guest Conductor, Tyler Coffman Trombone Specialist Recital, University of Michigan
Three Miniatures for Trombone and Trombone Octet by Brian Balmages April 2022
Ann Arbor, MI
- Conductor, Lebanon Community Band Summer 2018, 2019
Lebanon, MO

PREMIERES AND COMMISSIONS

Premiere: <i>Into the Labyrinth</i> by Alberto Rojo (arr. Michael Gould) DMA Ad Hoc Recital – University of Michigan	January 27, 2023 Ann Arbor, MI
Commission Consortium Member: <i>Go Down Moses</i> by Carlos Simon	2022

CLINICS & ADJUDICATION

Livonia High School – Guest Clinician University of Michigan Instrumental Music Education Clinic	March 2023
Pickney Community High School Band – Guest Low Brass Clinician Pickney, MI	August 2022
Muskegon High School Band – Guest Clinician University of Michigan Instrumental Music Education Clinic	March 2022
Marion C. Early High School Band – Guest Clinician Morrisville, MO	April 2019
Trombone Studio Clinic – Guest Clinician Central High School, Springfield, MO	March 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Visiting Trombone Clinician Central High School, Springfield, MO	Winter 2017
All-State Trombone Adjudicator Missouri Music Educators Association	2018 – 2019
District Trombone Adjudicator South Central Missouri Music Educators Association	2014 – 2019

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Content Management Assistant Institute for Composer Diversity, <i>State University of New York at Fredonia</i>	July 2023 – Present
Applied Conducting Lessons By request of University of Michigan undergraduate students	January 2022 – May 2022
CD Editor, University of Michigan Marching Band	2020
Elementary & Special Needs Music Teacher Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, MO	Summer 2019

Freelance Trombone Studio Teacher and Performer Southwest Missouri	2014 – 2019
Student Teaching Lee's Summit R-VII School District, Lee's Summit, MO	January 2014 – May 2014
Career & Résumé Peer Advisor University Career Center, Missouri State University	January 2010 – May 2013
Classical Music Division Intern Allegro Media Group, Portland, OR	May 2010 – July 2010
Audio/Digital Intern Whitaker Publishing, 417 Magazine, Springfield, MO	January 2010 – May 2010

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCTING WORKSHOPS

University of Colorado-Boulder Wind Band Conducting Symposium	2020
Northwestern University Conducting & Music Symposium	2020
Missouri State University Conducting Workshop	2016, 2017, 2018
University of Minnesota Wind Band Conducting Workshop	2018
University of Michigan Band Conducting and Pedagogy Workshop	2018
University of Central Missouri Conducting Symposium	2015, 2016, 2018
Michigan State University Conducing Symposium	2017
Kansas City Conducing Workshop, UMKC	2017

AWARDS AND HONORS

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (\$3000), <i>University of Michigan</i>	2023
Candidacy Oral Examinations, High Pass, <i>University of Michigan</i>	November 2022
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (\$1500), <i>University of Michigan</i>	2022
Tom F. Luthy Teaching Grant, <i>Boswell Family Foundation, Lebanon, MO</i>	
<i>Music Rehearsal & Research Resources</i> (\$2500)	2019
<i>Chamber Music Library Expansion</i> (\$3500)	2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

College Band Directors National Association	Current
Kappa Kappa Psi, Honorary Membership, <i>University of Michigan</i>	Current
National Association for Music Education	Current
Pi Kappa Lambda	Current
Missouri Music Educators Association	2014-2019