

For over thirty years, Kim Benson's heart has been rooted in the Iowa band community. While her path has led her from the conductor's podium to the editor's desk, her purpose has remained steady: to foster excellence in music-making and inspire the next generation to reach their full potential.

Kim's teaching journey began in the classroom, where she had the joy of sharing music with students at North Mahaska, Oskaloosa, Southeast Polk, and Pella. In 2014, she transitioned into the music publishing industry, bringing her love for music education to the C.L. Barnhouse Company. Over a distinguished 10-year tenure with the historic publisher, Kim rose to the role of Senior Vice President, simultaneously directing operations and creative vision as the company's Editor and Production Manager. During this time, she also spent five seasons assisting with the William Penn University Marching Band.

Today, Kim continues her mission behind the scenes. She spends much of her time as a freelance editor, production specialist, consultant and clinician. She is proud to partner with the team at RWS Music Company to help produce new music while carrying forward the spirit and legacy of its founder. Whether she is collaborating with composers, writing her own music, or mentoring young directors, Kim finds her greatest fulfillment in "paying it forward."

When not in her office, you can still find Kim guest conducting, presenting clinics, and judging throughout the state. She keeps her musicianship skills sharpened by sitting in with a variety of local groups. In 2025, Kim was humbled to receive the Karl L. King Distinguished Service Award Retired from the Southeast Iowa Bandmasters Association—a beautiful reminder of a lifetime dedicated to the Iowa band tradition and the people who make it special.