

ADJUDICATOR



Jonathan Baird is a renowned music educator, performer, and advocate for the enriching power of music. Originally hailing from Prince Edward Island, Canada, he has been imbued with a passion for music that transcends borders.

Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Prince Edward Island and a Master's of Music Performance from McGill University in Montreal. His academic pursuits laid a strong foundation for his thriving career in music education and performance.

His teaching journey began in Canada, where he dedicated 7 years to inspiring middle and high school band students. He then extended his influence to the Dominican Republic, where he continued his work with young musicians for another 7 years. Currently, in his 8th year, he serves as the middle school band director at the International School of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Throughout his teaching career, Jonathan has also maintained an active presence as a professional trumpet player. He has graced stages with many orchestras in Canada, including the illustrious Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and was the principal cornet with the Griffon Brass Band. His talent also led him to become a member of the 438 ETAH Airforce Band and Co- Principal Trumpet with the National Symphony Orchestra in the Dominican Republic.

In Malaysia, Jonathan's musical versatility shines as a member of the Philharmonic Winds of Malaysia and as a performer with various jazz, hip-hop, and salsa bands. His ability to adapt to different styles is a testament to his broad musical interests and expertise.

Philosophically, Jonathan holds a profound belief in the immense value of music education. To him, music is more than just an art form; it's a tool to help shape well-rounded individuals. He emphasizes that music should be rewarding, challenging, and, above all, fun. This philosophy echoes in his teaching methods, ensuring that his students not only learn but also thrive in a joyful musical environment.

With a career marked by dedication, innovation, and a love for nurturing young talents, Jonathan Baird is a prominent figure in the field of music education and performance. His work continues to resonate with students and audiences alike, making a lasting impact on the global musical landscape.



Conductor **Dr. Robert J. Ambrose** enjoys a highly successful and diverse career as a dynamic and engaging musician. His musical interests cross many genres and can be seen in the wide range of professional activities he pursues. Dr. Ambrose studied formally at Boston College, Boston University and Northwestern University, where he received the Doctor of Music degree in conducting. Dr. Ambrose currently serves as Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Georgia State University a research institution of over 53,000 students located in Atlanta.

Dr. Ambrose is in constant demand as a guest conductor and has performed on four continents. Recent engagements include performances in Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan as well as across the United States. In 2016, Dr. Ambrose was invited to spend ten days on tour as a guest conductor with the United States Army Field Band. Ambrose is the only civilian in history to be invited to guest conduct a premiere American military band on tour. This engagement led to the formation of the National Chamber Winds, a professional wind dectet based in Washington, D.C. for which he is Founder and Music Director. Ambrose is also the Founder and Music Director of the Atlanta Chamber Winds and Ensemble ATL, ensembles comprising musicians from the Atlanta Symphony, Atlanta Opera, and Atlanta Ballet Orchestras.

Dr. Ambrose is Founder and Principal Guest Conductor of the Metropolitan Atlanta Youth Wind Ensemble (MAYWE), a highly-selected high school honor ensemble consisting of musicians from throughout the Atlanta area. During his nine-year tenure as Music Director, nearly 1000 high school students participated in the MAYWE program and the ensemble was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall on two occasions.

Dr. Ambrose has strong ties to the Finnish music community. He is frequently engaged in that country as a guest conductor, teacher, master clinician, and lecturer. Recent guest conducting appearances include the Finnish Navy Band, the Helsinki Police Band, the STM Summer Music Festival Wind Orchestra, the Rauma Wind Band, and the youth wind bands of Kokkola, Kotka, and Rauma. He has taught conducting workshops in Tampere, Rauma, Kuopio, and Kokkola, and has served as a guest lecturer at the Central Ostrobothnian Conservatory and the Sibelius Academy.

Ambrose is a prolific arranger with nearly two dozen publications to his credit. His transcriptions and editions are published by Presser Music, Murphy Music Press, C. Alan Publications, Fennica Gehrman (Finland), and Edition Tilli (Finland). His transcriptions appear on several state lists and have been performed around the world.



Parker Tee holds a Bachelor Degree of Fine Arts in Music from the University of Taipei. During his studies in Taiwan, he performed with several orchestra such as the Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, Taipei Symphony Orchestra, Pro Arte Symphony Orchestra, Taipei Symphonic Youth Wind Band, and the Taipei Chinese Youth Orchestra.

Before joining the National Symphony Orchestra Malaysia as Principal Timpanist, Parker served as a percussionist with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra and as Sub-Principal Percussionist with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

He has been awarded scholarships to attend summer programs such as the Pacific Region International Summer Music Academy, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's program in Whistler, and Youth Music Culture Guangdong.

Since returning to Malaysia, he has been actively involved in local performances and coaching with ensembles such as the Philharmonic Winds of Malaysia, San Percussion, and Hands Percussion.

In addition to his orchestral career, Parker is also active in music production, working as a live recording engineer for numerous classical concerts and contributing to recording editing for renowned Taiwanese singers.

His extensive performance and touring experience spans multiple regions and countries, including Taiwan, China, Canada, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, France, and the Czech Republic.



"Music can change lives — it is not only about sound, but about growth, connection, and inspiration."

Miss Chou Yang Ching is a highly respected and accomplished band instructor with over 25 years of experience in the Malaysian public school system. She has nurtured generations of students, from absolute beginners to professional performers, instilling discipline, creativity, and a deep appreciation for music.

Her students have toured and performed in international concert tours and music exchange programmes throughout Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Japan. Highlights include collaborations with:

- **Nakamura Gakuan Girls High School Band** (Japan)
- **Da Dao Junior High School Band** (Taiwan)
- **UK South Norfolk Youth Symphonic Band**

She has participated in prestigious events such as the **Yamaha Young Band Festival**, **A Festival of Wind**, **Philips Jazz Festival**, **Malaysia Marching Band Competition**, and **Taiwan Jia Yi International Band Festival**.

Miss Chou is the founder of the **Jesselton Philharmonic Orchestra** and the **Jesselton Philharmonic Winds Orchestra**, offering performance platforms for youth across Sabah.

Her annual interschool music camps and workshops often engage 200–400 students, promoting music education at a grassroots level.

She has trained under leading international musicians and educators, including:

- **Mr. Michael Booty** (UK, Rotary Club)
- **Mr. Mitsuo Nonami** (Japan)

Her formal training includes the **Band Instructor Course** (Yamaha Music Singapore & Singapore MOE) and a **Band Music Arrangement Course** by Mr. Nonami. She has also contributed to recorders workshops under the Malaysian Ministry of Education.

Miss Chou's legacy as a music educator is defined by her leadership, tireless service, and her belief that music transforms lives.



Raymond Kong Yeng Wai

Born 1968 in Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.

Active as clarinetist, arranger, composer and educator.

As a clarinetist he performed with:
ASEAN Youth Orchestra (Principal)
Asian Youth Orchestra (sub principal)
Asian Philharmonic Orchestra (co principal)
Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (sub)

Currently the principal clarinet and head of woodwinds with The National Symphony Orchestra (Malaysia) and Concertmaster of the Symphonic Winds NSO 2014 to 2016.

Clarinet teachers:
Mark Spuria (Singapore Symphony Orchestra)
Floyd Williams (Brisbane Conservatory of Music)
Noburo Taga (Sapporo Symphony Orchestra)
Richard Lesser
Ulf Rodenhauser (Berlin Philharmonic)

As composer and arranger his work have been commissioned and performed by the National Symphony Orchestra Malaysia, the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Kuala Lumpur Symphony Orchestra, KLPAC Simfonieta and Camerata Kuala Lumpur.