

Michael D. Blostein

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Curriculum Vitae

Areas of Expertise: Conducting, Composition, Arranging; Tuba, Bass Trombone; Instrumental Music Education (conducting and teaching through all levels)

Education:

- Master of Music, **The University of Arizona** (Graduation date: 5/99)
Major: Music Composition. GPA: 3.767
Private studies in conducting, composition, and tuba.
- Bachelor of Music, **Crane School of Music
SUNY College at Potsdam, N.Y.** (Graduation date: 5/96)
Major: Music Education: Instrumental Band Emphasis. Graduated Cum Laude. GPA 3.32
Honors: Four Semesters - Dean's List. Member Kappa Delta Pi.
Private studies in composition.
- Acceptance into the 2011 Juilliard Summer Conducting Institute for Music Educators.
- Eastern String Educator's Workshop, Villanova University, Summer 2002.

Teaching Experience, University Level:

- **The University of Arizona**, Tucson, Arizona. August 1997 - May 1998.
Instructor - Tuba Techniques.
Created, implemented, and evaluated curriculum to teach future music teachers proficiency on tuba and euphonium.
Included basic instruction on trombone.
Emphasized performance through level 3 (early high school), as well as anticipating typical performance issues as well as resolutions.
Collaborated with brass faculty for consistency of instruction.
Evaluated students on progress and provide feedback for improvement.

Teaching Experience, Secondary Level:

- **Averill Park High School**, Averill Park, New York. August 2000 - Present.
Direct 2 String Orchestras and all string lessons, Full Orchestra, 9th Grade Band (in the past – no longer exists) and lessons, and Music Theory/General Music Classes.
Emphasis of program is on musical fundamentals, included ear training, ensemble balance and blend, rhythmic accuracy, sight-reading ability, scale knowledge, tone production, and improved knowledge of overall musical product.
Curriculum exceeds Federal and NYS Guidelines.
Compositional elements are an integral part of the instrumental curriculum.
Technology (Finale, Auralia, Audacity, recording) has been incorporated into the performing ensemble curriculum.

Teaching Experience, Secondary Level, continued:

Improvisation and ear-training are part of the daily routine.

Program has grown consistently since inception.

Higher level group has recorded 2 CD's (3rd in process), performed for the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration as well as performed for the New York State Education Commissioner, amongst other invitations and accomplishments.

Incorporation of many guest artists in a variety of genres, including electric violin, classical violin, fiddle, classical cello, composition, arranging.

Combined groups have travelled to Montreal, Boston, and Chicago and have earned consistently high ratings, including first place and excellence awards at various competitions.

Students consistently enrolled in university-level music programs of choice, as well as All-Eastern, All-State, Area All-State ensembles.

Music Theory curriculum accurately reflects standards and expectations of New York State and College Board outline.

Compositional elements and structure form basis of courses in both General Music and Music Theory.

Honored by students as a 2011 Scholar's Recognition teacher.

- ***Bellows Falls Union Free High School***, Bellows Falls, Vermont. September 1996 - June 1997.
Band director, all band instrument lessons, music theory and general music classes.
Directed high school concert band, marching band, jazz ensemble, music theory and general music classes.
Initiated small group lessons.
Restructured existing musical curriculum to include improvisation and composition.

Teaching Experience, Elementary Level:

- ***Tucson Hebrew Academy***, Tucson, Arizona. January 1999 - May 1999.
Instructed students in grades 3 through 6 in chamber ensembles, as well as band.
Conducted and organized a small mixed ensemble of band instruments.
Selected age and ability appropriate music.
Incorporated basic improvisation elements.
Arranged simple jazz tunes for students, and included historical developments in an age-appropriate manner.

Teaching Experience, Private:

Private low brass studio; beginning through advanced students, various age levels from 9 through 25.

Focus on higher-level performance on tuba and trombone.

Private students involved in Area All-State, All-State, and All-Eastern Ensembles, and have successfully auditioned for multiple local and university-level ensembles and/or programs.

Primary focus on contemporary and traditional classical styles, with jazz and improvisation incorporated especially with trombone lessons

Student's Honors:

- NYSSMA Zone 7 Area All-State Conference; Sections Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, 2002 - 2010
- Acceptance into Tuba Studio - Schenectady County Community College, 2010
- Acceptance into Tuba Studio - Crane School of Music (SUNY Potsdam), 2009
- AP Music Theory Exam - students consistently earning 5/5 and similar high marks in each of the 3 tested areas, 2008
- Acceptance into University of Mississippi Marching Band program, 2008
- Acceptance into Viola Studio - Lawrence Conservatory, 2005
- Acceptance into Violin Studio - Crane School of Music (SUNY Potsdam), 2004
- Winner Concerto Competition - Saratoga Springs Youth Orchestra, 2004
- Principal Tuba, All-Eastern MENC Conference Orchestra, 2003
- NYSSMA Solo Festival - Increased participation each year. Students consistently ranked "Excellent" or "Superb"
- Consistent participation in the Empire State Youth Orchestra, Repertory Orchestra, and String Orchestra

Teaching Related and Clinician Experience:

- *Adjudicator*, NYSSMA Solo Festival, Brass, 2009 - Present.
- *Guest Conductor*, *Delmar Community Orchestra*, Delmar, NY. February 2011.
Community orchestra made up of primarily adult amateur players, with several professionals and high school students also part of the ensemble.
- *Presenter*, *Teaching Strings as a non-string player*, Capital Region CASDA Conference, October 2010.
Designed clinic to provide information for non-string players teaching string classes in K-12 schools.
Incorporated pictures and video of common issues and their solutions, basic repairs, instructional materials, and demonstrations. In addition, provided best practices for beginning and continuing instruction.
- *Conductor - special reception for newly named New York State Education Commissioner*. October 2009.
Selected appropriate music for background and foreground music, including appropriate selections for the situation and educationally sound and diverse materials.
Required additional rehearsals due to condensed timeframe to prepare for performance.
- *Manager*, *Suburban Council Middle School Orchestra*. Spring 2007.
Chose conductor, age and level-appropriate literature.
Arranged for audition adjudicators, managed logistical issues relating to running the ensemble.
- *Conductor - New York State Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration*. January 2009.
Performed at the official state celebration.
Selected appropriate music for the event and venue, especially with respect to cultural significance.
Arranged logistical issues with NYS Office of General Services.
Performance was broadcast live throughout the state.

Teaching Related and Clinician Experience, continued:

- Brass Clinic - Albany County School Music Association. April 2005.
Co-taught brass clinic designed to provide information on brass instruments to non-brass players who are teaching in the Albany County schools.
Incorporated literature, basic repairs, and common issues and their resolutions, as well as best practices for beginning and continuing instruction.
- *Creator and Co-Manager, Rensselaer County School Music Association Orchestra.* Winter 2003 - Present.
Choose a different conductor on an annual basis
Work with conductor to choose age and level-appropriate literature
Arrange logistical issues relating to running the ensemble.
- *Adjudicator, Suburban Council Music Festival Auditions.* 2000 - Present.
Serve as a judge in both brass and string rooms.
Similar to festival setting – adjudicate students based on prepared audition.
- *Albany Symphony collaboration* - incorporated multiple guest artists, in association with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, into single-day clinics for high school students. These have included The Parnas Sisters, three composers from The Juilliard School, and others as well. Required coordination with the Albany Symphony liason, working around scheduling issues, meeting artist needs, and preparing students for guests.
- *Organizer, Festival of Brass 2001.*
Arranged for all aspects of a unique brass festival during the fall of 2001 for students in grades 6-12 throughout the Albany, NY area.
Obtained outside funding sources. Arranged for guest artists, obtained and arranged music, organized structure of the event and promotion of the festival.
- *Adjudicator, 1999 and 2000 Vermont All-State Student Composition Scholarship Competition.*
One of three adjudicators of student compositions.
Evaluate each composition submitted for quality with respect to pitch use, formal structure, harmonic and rhythmic use throughout, clear and consistent thought process, clarity of manuscript, and other musical elements.
Provided positive and constructive feedback for each composition.
Ranked each composition for the purposes of naming a “winner”.
- *YMCA of Tucson, Lighthouse Center.* June 1998 - May 1999.
Work with children from 6 to 12 years of age in a before and after school program, as well as summer camp.
Structured musical and other activities for large groups.
- *St. Mary’s School, Potsdam, NY.* Spring 1993 - 1996.
Taught second grade general music class.
Required planning and implementing lessons that were age appropriate, and met the guidelines and standards set by the school curriculum.
Directed fourth grade band; required selecting appropriate music, rehearsing once a week after school, and presenting a concert to parents and the community in a shortened timeframe.

Teaching Related and Clinician Experience, continued:

- *Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York. Spring 1995.*
Responsible for instructing accelerated twelfth grade trumpet students. Required selecting appropriate literature and working for improved control and understanding of the techniques of playing as well as musical understanding.
- *Student Support Services, SUNY Potsdam. Fall 1993 - 1996.*
Tutored several students in music theory.
Met individually with students twice a week; addressed class material and on improving study skills.

Musical Experiences:

- Guest Conductor, Delmar Community Orchestra. February 2011
- *Tuba and Bass Trombone, Molecules to the Max!* January 2007.
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute project detailing how atoms and molecules work.
Animated 40 minute film in 3D, now showing in multiple IMAX theatres worldwide.
- *Founder and Tuba: The Dominant Five Brass Quintet.* 2008 - Present.
- *Bass Trombone: The Georgie Wonders Orchestra (big band).* 2005 - Present.
- *Bass Trombone: The Starlighter's Big Band.* 2001 – 2005.
- Awarded Honorable Mention award in International Tuba-Euphonium Association contest for Intermediate Tuba Etude Collection 2003
- Published arrangements and original literature through Southern Music Company and Tuba-Euphonium Press.
- *Capital Region Wind Ensemble, Clifton Park, New York.* 2000-2001 season.
- *Tuba - Guilderland Town Band.* 2001 season.
- *Tuba - Colonie Brass Choir.* 2001-2002 season.
- *Capital District Marching Band, Albany, New York.* 2000 - 2002.
- *Writer for All Media Guide (AllClassical.com).* Wrote reviews of classical music works and composers. Required extensive research. Published in 3 compilations, quoted in many programs.
- *Heavy Metal Brass Quintet, Tucson, Arizona.* 1998 - 1999
Performed with during the season in several performances throughout the Tucson area.
Adjudicator and Clinician for their brass festivals.
- *Berkshire Symphony, Williamstown, Massachusetts.* 1996 - 1997
Performed with this group as their principal tuba during the season.

Administrative Experiences:

- Curriculum Leader, Music K-12 Department, Averill Park High School. 2004 - Present.
Facilitate communication between the Administrative level and teachers within the department
Organize and run regular department meetings
Ensure that curriculum administered throughout various levels is consistent and covers all State and Federal requirements.
Stay current on trends in our geographic area as well as nationally to assist department in staying current
- Technology Assistant, Averill Park High School. 2007 - Present.
Assist teachers in various curricular areas with software used throughout the district as well as their specific area
Work with teachers to resolve technology issues in a timely manner
Work with teachers and administration to provide opportunities for professional technology growth for faculty
- Suburban Council Representative, Averill Park High School. 2004 - Present.
Help structure annual festival to provide further performance opportunities for students.
Help to design and plan annual regional conference.

Software Experiences:

- Finale 2009 - Expert-level user
- Musition 2 - Expert-level user
- Auralia 2 - Expert-level user
- MS Word, Excel – Intermediate-level user
- Mixcraft – Working knowledge

Memberships:

- American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, 1996 - Present.
- Music Educator's National Conference, 1992 - Present.
- New York State School Music Association, 1992 - Present.
- American Federation of Musicians. 2000 - Present.
- American Music Center, 1998 - 2007
- American String Teacher's Association, 2001 - 2008.
- New York State Band Director's Association, 1996 - 2002.
- International Association of Jazz Educators, 1996 - 1997.
- Vermont School Music Association, 1996 - 1997.