

The Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music at the University of Memphis announces four new faculty members in its orchestra and band areas.



Will Plenk, Director of Athletic Bands

William Plenk was most recently Director of Marching/Athletic Bands at the University of Nevada, Reno. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the University of California, Los Angeles, where he was assistant conductor of the UCLA Symphonic Band, associate conductor of the UCLA Wind Ensemble and associate conductor of the UCLA Brass Ensemble.

Plenk has worked with concert bands and marching bands across the United States, Singapore and Japan, including three seasons with the Tenrikyo Aimachi Marching Band from Nagoya, Japan, the eight-time All Japan National Champion.

Dr. Plenk has served on the staff of several drum and bugle corps including The Academy, Boston Crusaders and Phantom Regiment. He is currently a member of the College Band Directors National Association, College Music Society, the National Association for Music Education and the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles.

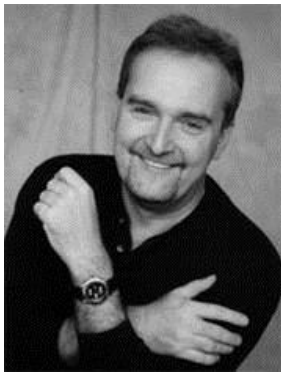


Mathias Elmer, Visiting Professor Orchestra Director

Mathias Elmer received an MM in Orchestral & Opera Conducting from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Lucerne Hochschule Luzern – School of Music, Switzerland, and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Orchestral Conducting from Zurich University of the Arts. He is currently pursuing a DMA in orchestral conducting.

Elmer is the co-founder and conductor of Sinfonietta Memphis, a chamber orchestra focusing on the performance of Viennese classics. At the same time, he served as associate music director and conductor of the Germantown Performing Arts Center (GPAC) Youth Symphony. From 2005-2013, Elmer was music director and conductor of Symphony Orchestra "Con Brio" in Switzerland. Also in Switzerland, he served as music director of "Kirchenchor Walenstadt" and the wind ensemble "Harmoniemusik Glarus."

Last year, Elmer was conductor for the University of Memphis Opera production of *Die Fledermaus*. As an instrumentalist, he was a founding member of the Philharmonic Brass Zurich-Generell5, performing on the trumpet. As an educator, Elmer has traveled to Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Chengdu, China, and Shanghai Conservatory of Music, School of Music, Shanghai, China.



Sam Shoup, Visiting Professor in Jazz

After completing a degree in Music Composition from the University of Memphis in 1979, Sam Shoup spent ten years working as a full time jingle writer for Media General Broadcast Services, where he received several awards for his outstanding work. He was a founding member of the band "Dog Police", which won MTV's Basement Tapes Competition in 1985.

After starting his own company, SamJamm Productions in 1990, Shoup began specializing in orchestral and big band arranging. He is currently a staff arranger for The National Symphony Orchestra at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., as well as The New York Pops Orchestra, Houston Symphony and The Memphis Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to writing and arranging, Shoup plays upright and electric bass, trumpet and piano and is a two-time winner of NARAS's Premier Bassist Award. He has performed or recorded with Ringo Starr, Kallen Esperian, Ella Fitzgerald, Aaron Copland, Wynton Marsalis and many others.



Daryn Zubke, bassoon

After receiving a Bachelor's degree from the Julliard School of Music and a Master's from the Manhattan School of Music, Daryn Zubke will receive his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Kansas in December 2017.

Zubke has performed with the Kansas City Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Topeka Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de México and the Kansas City Ballet Orchestra. In addition, he has participated in summer music festivals including the Nice Festival Academy, Nice, France; the National Repertory Orchestra, Breckenridge, CO; Aspen Music Festival and School, Aspen, CO; and Hidden Valley Music Seminars, Carmel Valley, CA.

Active in community outreach programs, he has performed for special audiences with New York Kammermusik and the National Repertory Orchestra. Zubke has also performed on three studio recordings and five other audio recordings.