

## Biography

Edward “Ted” Messerschmidt is a versatile musician and educator. He has conducted and performed professionally with a variety of ensembles; taught at colleges, public schools, private schools, and a prison; presented research internationally; and composed and published original works for performances on several continents.

Ted’s original compositions, published by Cimarron Music Press, have been performed by acclaimed soloists and ensembles including Andy Akiho, George Allen of the United States Army Band (Pershing’s Own), Charley Brighton of the BBC Winds, Jason Ham of the United States Military Academy Band, Dr. Patrick Smith of Virginia Commonwealth University, Harry Watters, the United States Army Orchestra, and students at music schools and conservatories including Boston Conservatory, Peabody Conservatory, and SUNY Fredonia.

As a composer, Ted has shown facility writing in a variety of styles, from classical to pop. In February 2005, he was named a finalist in the VH1 Song of the Year Competition (Electronica/Dance), and in 2017, Ted served as a judge for the National Trombone Composition Competition of the American Trombone Workshop. Recently, Ted was named a semifinalist in the Band/Wind Ensemble category and a finalist in the Pops/Light Music category of the 2020 American Prize Composition Contest. His 2021 work *Solitary* was featured in the digital gallery of Boston University’s project *Race, Prison, Justice: Illuminating Stories through the Arts*.

An active freelance musician, Ted has performed on trombone with groups including The Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra, the Maryland Choral Society, the National Concert Band of America, and the Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra. He has done sideline work on trombone for HBO, session recording for SubFamily Records, and played in the pit orchestra for productions of *Les Miserables* and *Newsies* at the Center for Performing Arts in Rhinebeck, NY. He has played under the direction of renowned conductors including Arnald Gabriel and Johan de Meij, and he has performed on programs with Phil Smith, Leon Bates, and Zuill Bailey. In addition, he has performed on percussion with groups including The Capitol Band and the award-winning Fifes and Drums of Prince William III. He has also played electric bass in the pit for several high school musicals, and he has sung with choral groups including The Ron Freeman Chorale, a Washington DC-based chamber choir specializing in early music.

Ted has worked in a variety of contexts as a conductor. He has guest conducted community, school, and college ensembles, including bands, orchestras, and choirs. From 2007-2013 Ted served as the Associate Director of Bands at Marist College, and he was the Director of the Marist College Orchestra from 2012-2018. While at Marist, Ted conducted and performed at several national music conventions, and he also directed the Marist College Pep Band at games that were broadcast nationally on networks including ESPN2 and ESPN U. In 2018, Ted was named a semifinalist in the American Prize Conducting Competition (College/University Orchestra Division).

# TED MESSERSCHMIDT

MUSICIAN, COMPOSER AND EDUCATOR

Ted also taught music history courses and beginning piano classes at Marist College, where he was recognized for “Outstanding Service to Individuals with Disabilities” and was also selected as the “Marist College Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year.” During his time at Marist, Ted volunteered in the Robert Hoe V Music Library and served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Concert Bands (ACB). As a board member of the ACB, he helped found the ACB Young Composers Composition Contest in partnership with the John Philip Sousa Foundation. Ted has also taught private composition lessons at Dutchess Community College and college classes at Fishkill Correctional Facility through Rising Hope, Inc.

Ted is currently the Director of Music and Arts Department Chair at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, New York. In that role, he conducts each of the school ensembles, music directs the school musicals, and develops curriculum for, and teaches, all music courses for grades 5 through 12. He also founded the Community Service through the Arts class along with the Arts Exchange of Red Hook and Oakwood (AERO), a one-year creative exchange between students at Oakwood and a juvenile detention center in Red Hook, NY (2017-2018). In 2020, he initiated the Oakwood Friends School Virtual Arts Lecture Series to foster student engagement and artistic activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. His students have received numerous awards and been accepted to music composition, performance, music technology, and music therapy programs at institutions including Bard College, Boston Conservatory, Boston University, Ithaca College, the Mannes School of Music, New York University, Temple University, and Peabody Conservatory.

Ted completed his doctoral dissertation on music education in prisons at Boston University in 2017, and he continues to conduct research dealing with the role of music in promoting criminal-legal reform and social justice. He has published papers in peer-reviewed journals including *The Journal of Band Research* and *Questions*, and he has presented original research in Austria, the Republic of Georgia, Germany, and the United States.

Prior to his doctoral studies, Ted earned a Master of Music in Composition at George Mason University, where he studied composition with Mark Camphouse and Glenn Smith and conducting with Anthony Maiello. Ted has also studied conducting with Gary Wayne Hill through VanderCook College of Music. Ted earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music and German Literature from the College of William and Mary, studying trombone with Ronald Baedke and Dayl Burnett and composition with Edgar Warren Williams. Ted has also studied trombone with Scott Shelsta and Michael Parnell, violin with Lauren Regan, piano with Ann Lee, and composition with Andrew Earle Simpson and Bryan Kidd. Between his undergraduate and graduate programs, Ted helped populate the updated Folkways and Global Sounds websites while working as an intern for Smithsonian Folkways Recordings.

Ted lives with his wife and son in Poughkeepsie, NY. When not making music, he enjoys hiking, playing tennis, studying foreign languages, and traveling.