

Bands Adjudicator – Dr. Leah McGray

Growing up in Nova Scotia, music was a huge part of daily life, learning and performing on clarinet, violin and piano. Finding my voice and space in the music of the wind ensemble, I am delighted to continue my professional work and studies as a conductor of wind and orchestral groups. I am the director of the Wind Orchestra at Wilfrid Laurier University and will also be teaching classes in conducting and community music. Previously, I was the director of Instrumental Studies for the State University of New York at Geneseo, and Rhodes College in Memphis TN, conducting orchestra, wind ensemble, and teaching classes in conducting and theory.

Guest conducting has taken me around the world, including the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, Memphis Youth Symphony Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Penfield Symphony Orchestra, the 2023 National Youth Band of Canada, and for International Schools, honour bands, and music camps as far ranging as South Korea, California, and Alaska.

I started my professional path in the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education degrees from Acadia University, and taught in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia school music programs before earning my Master of Music from University of Toronto, and DMA in conducting at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.