



Introducing Our New Music Director

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the Ann Arbor Civic Band has chosen Dr. J. Nick Smith as our Music Director. He joins a list of stellar individuals who have led the AACB for the past 86 years.

Dr. J. Nick Smith



J. Nick Smith is Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands for the School of Music & Dance at Eastern Michigan University. Smith recently completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Band Conducting with emphasis in Choral Conducting at the University of Minnesota with primary teachers Emily Threinen and Kathy Saltzman Romey. Prior to his doctoral studies, he received his Master of Music degree in Wind Band Conducting from the University of Michigan with primary teacher Michael Haithcock.

Smith's professional experiences range from work with middle school musicians through adult community and professional ensemble musicians. As an active guest conductor and clinician, he has conducted various local and regional ensembles in the areas he has been employed. Smith was also selected as one of Minnesota Chorale's *Emerging Conductors* (www.mnchorale.org/emergingconductor.html). Smith was also recently active as an international conductor and clinician in Beijing, China and the surrounding areas where he has engaged over fifteen local band programs over a five-year period.

As an experienced public-school educator, Smith served a total of six years in the positions of Assistant Director then Director of Bands at Hillcrest High School in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. As Director of Bands, he instructed the Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, the "Pride of Patriot Parkway" Marching Band, and taught AP Music Theory. Under his direction, the Hillcrest High School Wind Ensemble received "Superior with Distinction" at all Music Performance Assessment events and was invited to perform at the 2014 University of Alabama Honor Band Festival and the 2013 Music for All National Concert Band Festival. In addition, the Percussion Ensemble was invited to perform at the 2012 Alabama Music Educator's Conference. During Smith's tenure as Director of Bands, the program had the highest number of students in the history of the band program selected for the Alabama All-State Honor Band.



Smith earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Auburn University, where he was named the “Outstanding Undergraduate Student in the College of Education.” Among serving as Head Drum Major for the Auburn University Marching Band and principal trumpet of various ensembles, he was also President and Treasurer of Kappa Kappa Psi and Founding President for the student chapter of the National Band Association.

He is an active member of The College Band Director’s National Association, Life Member of Kappa Kappa Psi, and Honorary member of Tau Beta Sigma.

Clearly, we are thrilled that Dr. Smith said yes: the Ann Arbor Civic Band family is incredibly special, and I know I speak for all the board when I say we know how lucky we are to have him be a part of it. Here’s to the next 86 years.

Gail

Gail Stout

President

Ann Arbor Civic Band