

Dr. Michael Quantz
2018 NAFME All-National
Guitar Ensemble



Dr. Michael Quantz is a pioneer in guitar ensemble curriculum and classroom education for guitar students. He is a recipient of the University of Texas System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award and the University of Texas at Brownsville President's Outstanding Teaching Award. He served as the Director of Education for the Guitar Foundation of America (GFA) and he is a founding Board Member for the Texas Guitar Directors Association which began its service to music education in 2017. In addition, he was the creator and director of the GFA's International Youth Competition and Guitar Ensemble Showcase. He is also widely known as a conductor and clinician for guitar orchestras having conducted the Florida Music Education Association All-State Guitar ensemble in 2017, and he has conducted many world premieres for music in this genre. He has enjoyed a long association as a conductor for Austin Classical Guitar's "Guitar Ensemble Showcase" annual festival concert. He presents regular clinics for school districts across the nation, for the GFA, and for the Texas Music Educators Association conference.

Dr. Quantz has extensive performance adjudication experience having judged the GFA International Artist Competition, the UT Dallas Guitar Competition, the Beatty Competition (Washington, DC), and many Texas University Interscholastic League contests. During his tenure as director of guitar studies at Lopez High School in Brownsville, Texas, the College Board and the J. Paul Getty Trust selected him as a Site Coordinator for a national multi-year project entitled: *The Role of the Arts in the High School Curriculum*. His students were the first in BISD to win gold medals at State level solo UIL competition in guitar.

Dr. Quantz later developed the classical guitar division at UT Brownsville into a dynamic award-winning program that has been recognized as one of the most accomplished and progressive in the United States. He was also the creator/director of the Brownsville Guitar Ensemble Festival and Competition



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which, for 15 years, drew participants from over 50 cities spanning the nation. His students have consistently distinguished themselves as top prize winners in solo guitar competitions and his university graduates have the phenomenal professional placement rate of 100%. His guitar ensembles have toured Austria (by invitation, with performances at the US Embassy in Vienna and at the Schoenbrunn Palace), performed twice for the National Flute Association annual convention and three times for the Texas Music Educators Association convention. His students have been specially requested for performances in Austin by the Chancellor of the UT System and they have been recognized by the Texas State Legislature for performance excellence. Under Dr. Quantz's direction, his student guitar orchestra was twice featured on the internationally syndicated "Guitar Alive!" show on National Public Radio, and this ensemble was the first of its kind invited to perform during the annual GFA convention. Dr. Quantz is currently Professor of Music at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.



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