

# MATTHEW R. KOPERNIAK

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## PERSONAL HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Educational Background

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| 2015 | <b>College of Fine Arts, Boston University</b><br>D.M.A. in Music Education                                    |
| 2004 | <b>Hugh Hodgson School of Music, University of Georgia</b><br>M.M. in Music Education, <i>with distinction</i> |
| 2002 | <b>Hugh Hodgson School of Music, University of Georgia</b><br>B.M. in Music Education, <i>Magna cum Laude</i>  |

### Public School Administrative & Teaching Experience

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| 2020–present | <b>Fulton County Schools</b> , Atlanta, GA<br>Performing Arts Coordinator<br><i>Leads department of 180 music teachers and music therapists. Coordinates P–12 music curriculum, professional development, district events, teacher recruitment, and mentoring programs. Manages \$1.6 million performing arts budget, grant accounts, and contracts.</i> |
| 2019–2020    | <b>Johns Creek High School</b> , Fulton County Schools, GA<br>Director of Bands  |
| 2008–2018    | <b>Riverwatch Middle School</b> , Forsyth County Schools, GA<br>Director of Bands<br><i>Expanded band program enrollment from 135 students to 680 students. Directed national invited performances. Received national recognition from John Philip Sousa Foundation and National Band Association.</i>   |
| 2005–2008    | <b>Norcross High School</b> , Gwinnett County Schools, GA<br>Assistant Director of Bands & International Baccalaureate Music Teacher   |
| 2004–2005    | <b>Jefferson High School</b> , Jefferson City Schools, GA<br>Band, Chorus, and Elementary Music Teacher  |

## College-Level Teaching Experience

- 2022–present **Georgia State University**, Atlanta, GA  
Part-Time Instructor  
*Leads senior seminar for student teachers one evening per week.*
- 2018–2019 **Georgia Southern University**, Savannah, GA  
Assistant Professor of Music Education  
*Taught methods courses to music education and general education majors. Supervised field experiences and student teachers. Served as advisor for CNAfME chapter.*
- 2002–2004 **Hugh Hodgson School of Music, University of Georgia**  
University-Wide Graduate Teaching Assistant  
*Taught University Concert Band, Aural Skills I & II, and Applied Trombone Lessons. Assisted with Music Theory I & II, Brass Methods, and Instrumental Conducting. Supervised student field observations.*

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- 2024–present **Kennedy Center Partners in Education**, Washington, D.C.
- 2024–present **Fine Arts Advisory Council**, Georgia Department of Education
- 2024 **Barbara Buehlman Composition Contest Committee Member**  
The Midwest Clinic: International Band & Orchestra Conference
- 2023–present **Historian**, Georgia Music Educators Association
- 2023–present **Education Advisory Committee**, ArtsBridge Foundation
- 2022 **TKES Administrator Guide Writing Team for Music**  
Georgia Department of Education
- 2021–2023 **President**, Georgia Music Educators Association  
Supervised staff and annual budget; coordinated program and curriculum for statewide In-Service Conference. Administered All-State events for band, chorus, elementary, and orchestra. Chaired meetings of Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Served on Board of Directors as President-Elect (2020–2021) & Immediate Past-President (2023–2024).
- 2021–2023 **Strategic Plan Writing Team**, National Association for Music Education
- 2021/2023 **Panelist**, Clayton State University Creative Career Fair
- 2021/2022 **Panelist**, National Endowment for the Arts, Grant Committee

2020/2021 2022	<b>Panelist, “stART” Grant Committee, Georgia Department of Education</b>
2020–present	<b>District Arts Coordinator Council, Georgia Department of Education</b>
2020	<b>Chair, Advocacy Task Force, Georgia Music Educators Association</b> Led 15-member statewide task force to develop resources and support during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2019–present	<b>Mentor, University of Georgia Mentor Program</b>
2018–present	<b>Production Editor, TOPICS</b> (published by MayDay Group)
2018–2020	<b>At-Large Representative, National Band Association</b>
2017–2019	<b>State Band Chair, Georgia Music Educators Association</b> Coordinated and organized All-State Band and In-Service Conference Band Division sessions & performances. Chaired GMEA band council meetings.
2015–2021	<b>National Executive Committeeman-at-Large, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia</b>
2015–2017	<b>International Review Board, TOPICS</b> (published by MayDay Group)
2015–2018	<b>Production Team, TOPICS</b> (published by MayDay Group)
2014	<b>Young Band Composition Contest Committee Member</b> National Band Association
2013–2016	<b>Chair, Middle School All-State Band Auditions, GMEA</b>
2012–2017	<b>All-State Band Committee, GMEA</b>
2012–2015	<b>Commission on Standards, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia</b>
2010–2012	<b>School Leadership Team, Riverwatch MS</b>
2010–2018	<b>Organizer &amp; Host, Solo &amp; Ensemble Festival, GMEA District IX</b>
2010–2015	<b>Treasurer, GMEA District IX</b>
2010–2015	<b>Secretary, Province Governors Council, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia</b>
2010–2014	<b>Band Division Steering Committee, GMEA District IX</b>
2005–2015	<b>Province Governor, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia</b>
2005	<b>Music Director &amp; Conductor, Classic City Community Band, Athens, GA</b>

## PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

### Research Paper Presentations

- Koperniak, M. (2024). Harmonizing Perspectives: Navigating Sacred Music in Public School Curricula. *Education Law Association 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*. Orlando, FL: November 8.
- Koperniak, M., & Byrd, J. (2024). Exploring the Mentor & Administrator Relationship in a Music Teacher Mentoring Program. *NAfME Music Research and Teacher Education National Conference*. Atlanta, GA: September 26–28, 2024.
- Koperniak, M. (2021). Underrepresented Composers and Traditional Large Ensembles: Reforming Practice or Reinforcing Norms? *MayDay Group Colloquium 32*. University of Oregon (virtual conference): July 1.
- Koperniak, M. (2021). Religion, LGBTQ Studies & Music Education: A Postsecular Study. *QMUE 4: LGBTQ Studies and Music Education Symposia*. University of Oregon (virtual conference): June 30.
- Greene, J., Cote, H., Koperniak, M., & Stanley, L. (2018). A Foot in Both Worlds: Navigating the Landscapes of Public School Post-Doctorate, An Auto-Ethnography. *NAfME Music Research and Teacher Education National Conference*. Atlanta, GA: March 22–24.
- Koperniak, M. (2016). The NAfME Position Statement on Sacred Music in Schools: A Genealogical Inquiry and Postsecular Reconstruction. *NAfME Music Research and Teacher Education National Conference*. Atlanta, GA: March 17–19.
- Koperniak, M. (2014). Survival of the Fittest: Competition in Music Education and Physical Education. *MayDay Group Colloquium 26*. Gettysburg College: June 18–21.
- Koperniak, M. (2010). Don't Ask, Don't Tell—Perspectives of Three Gay Band Directors in the Public Schools. *QMUE 1 (Establishing Identity): LGBTQ Studies and Music Education Conference*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: May 26.

### Articles and Reviews

- Greene, J., Cote, H., Koperniak, M., & Stanley, L. (2021). A Foot in Both Worlds: Navigating the Landscapes of P–12 Education Post-Doctorate. *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, 30(2), 93–107.
- Koperniak, M. (2020). The NAfME Position Statement on Sacred Music in Schools: A Genealogical Inquiry. *Music Educators Journal* 107(2), 20–27.
- Koperniak, M. (2018). Brass Instrument Fitting with Beginning Band Students. *National Band Association Journal* 58(4), 40–41.

- Koperniak, M. (2011/2010). Ten Quick Tips for Young Trombone Sections. *Tempo: The Official Magazine of the New Jersey Music Educators Association* 65(3), 18. Reprinted with permission from *Georgia Music News* 71(3), 61–62.
- Koperniak, M. (2011). Review: The Teaching of Instrumental Music, Fourth Edition. *Music Educators Journal* 97(3), 16–17.
- Koperniak, M. (2011). Memories from a World War: Reflections of Music Educators who served in WWII. *The Sinfonian* 59(2), 6–12.
- Koperniak, M. (2004). Review: Summit Brass Live. *International Trombone Association Journal* 32(4), 55–56.

## Poster Sessions

- Koperniak, M. & Schramm, W. (2020). Repertoire and Male Student Participation in High School Choir: A Phenomenological Inquiry. *Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference*. Athens, GA: January 24.
- Koperniak, M. & Parker, A. (2019). A Critical Content Analysis of Elementary Music and Beginning Band Repertoire. *Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference*. Athens, GA: January 25.

## Professional Development and In-Service Presentations

- Koperniak, M., & Byrd, J. (2025). Music Teacher Mentoring: A Relevant & Replicable Approach. *Alabama Music Educators Association conference*. Birmingham, AL: January 23.
- Koperniak, M. (2025). Teaching 101: Maximizing Opportunities as a High School Student. *Future Alabama Music Educators (FAME) seminar at Alabama Music Educators Association conference*. Birmingham, AL: January 23.
- Koperniak, M., & Byrd, J. (2025). Music Teacher Mentoring: A Relevant & Replicable Approach. *Florida Music Educators Association conference*. Tampa, FL: January 10. *Cancelled due to weather impacting travel.*
- Koperniak, M., & Byrd, J. (2024). Music Teacher Mentoring: A Relevant & Replicable Approach. *Tennessee Music Educators Association conference*. Nashville, TN: April 11.
- Koperniak, M. (2024). Zoning Out? Twenty Ways to Improve Student Engagement in Large Ensembles. *Connecticut Music Educators Association conference*. Hartford, CT: April 6.
- Koperniak, M. (2021). Zoning Out? Twenty Ways to (Re)Engage Band Students. *North Carolina Music Educators Association conference*. Winston-Salem, NC: November 7.
- Koperniak, M. & Weldon-Stephens, A. (2021). Starting & Sustaining a Music Therapy Program in your District. *NAfME Music Program Leaders virtual conference*. November 4.

- Koperniak, M. (2021). Effective Fundamentals & Application to New Repertoire. *Gwinnett County Band Director Professional Development*. Lawrenceville, GA: October 13.
- Koperniak, M. (2018). Trombone Pedagogy from Day One. *The Midwest Clinic: An International Band & Orchestra Conference*. Chicago, IL: December 19 & 21.
- Koperniak, M., & Murphy, A. (2014). Instrument Fitting 101: Creating a Positive and Effective Process for Beginning Band Students. *Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference*. Savannah, GA: January 30.
- Koperniak, M. & Saile, H. (2011). Instrument Fitting 101: Creating a Positive and Effective Process for Beginning Band Students. *Middle School Band Symposium*. University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA: October 17.

## PERFORMANCE & ADJUDICATION ACTIVITIES

### Invited Performances with Public School Bands

*All performances occurred as Director of Riverwatch Middle School Symphonic Band, unless otherwise noted.*

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| 2017 | <b>The Midwest Clinic: An International Band &amp; Orchestra Conference</b><br>Chicago, IL                                 |
| 2017 | <b>Music for All Regional Concert Festival</b> , Atlanta, GA   |
| 2016 | <b>National Band Association/College Band Directors National Association Southern Division Conference</b> , Charleston, SC |
| 2015 | <b>“Strike up the Band” on WABE 90.1, National Public Radio</b><br>Episode air date: September 22, 2015                    |
| 2015 | <b>University of Georgia Middle School Festival</b> , Athens, GA   |
| 2014 | <b>University of Alabama Middle School Honor Band</b> , Tuscaloosa, AL   |
| 2014 | <b>Music for All National Concert Festival</b> , Indianapolis, IN  |
| 2013 | <b>Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference</b> , Savannah, GA  |
| 2012 | <b>National Band Association/College Band Directors National Association Southern Division Conference</b> , Kennesaw, GA   |
| 2010 | <b>University of Georgia Middle School Festival</b> , Athens, GA   |
| 2007 | <b>Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference</b> , Savannah, GA (Norcross High School Wind Symphony)       |

## Guest Conducting & Teaching

2025	<b>GMEA District 14 High School Honor Band (9-10),</b> Jefferson, GA
2025	<b>Carroll County Middle School Honor Band,</b> Carrollton, GA
2024	<b>River Trail Middle School Symphonic Band,</b> The Midwest Clinic, IL
2024	<b>GMEA Middle School All-State Band,</b> Athens, GA
2022	<b>Johns Creek High School Chamber Orchestra,</b> The Midwest Clinic, IL
2022	<b>GMEA District 9 Middle School Honor Band,</b> Cumming, GA
2022	<b>Riverwatch MS Symphonic Band,</b> GMEA In-Service Conference, GA
2021	<b>GMEA District 7 Middle School Honor Band,</b> Bremen, GA
2020	<b>GMEA District 14 Middle School Honor Band,</b> Toccoa, GA
2019	<b>University of Alabama Middle School Honor Band,</b> Tuscaloosa, AL
2019	<b>Georgia Southern University “Winterfest” Middle School Honor Band</b> Savannah, GA
2019	<b>GMEA District 5 Middle School Honor Band,</b> Fulton County, GA
2018	<b>University of Wisconsin Honor Band Festival,</b> Milwaukee, WI
2018	<b>University of Georgia Middle School Band Festival,</b> Athens, GA
2018	<b>Reinhardt University Middle School Honor Band,</b> Walseka, GA
2018	<b>Middle Tennessee School Band &amp; Orchestra Association</b> Middle School Gold Band, Nashville, TN
2017	<b>Alabama Bandmasters Association</b> District 4 Middle School Honor Band, Birmingham, AL
2017	<b>South Georgia All-Region Middle School Honor Band</b> Encompasses GMEA Districts 2, 8, 11
2017	<b>GMEA District 10 Middle School Honor Band,</b> Augusta, GA
2016	<b>Knox County High School Honor Band,</b> Knoxville, TN
2016	<b>GMEA District 14 Beginning Honor Band,</b> Jefferson, GA



- 2016            **Auburn University Middle School Honor Band**, Auburn, AL  
Included collaboration with composer-in-residence Robert Sheldon
- 2015            **Reinhardt University Middle School Honor Band**, Walseka, GA
- 2015            **GMEA District 6 Middle School Honor Band**, Tyrone, GA
- 2015/2009      **University of Georgia Summer Music Camp Junior Band**, Athens, GA
- 2014            **Armstrong State University “Winterfest” Middle School Honor Band**  
Savannah, GA
- 2014            **GMEA District 11 Beginning Honor Band**, Macon, GA
- 2013            **Kennesaw State University Concert Band**, Kennesaw, GA
- 2013            **Archdiocese of Atlanta Middle School Honor Band**, Cumming, GA
- 2012            **GMEA District 13 Middle School Concert Band**, Toccoa, GA
- 2011            **Young Harris College “Tri-State” Middle School Honor Band**, GA

## Concert Band Adjudication

- 2024–present   **GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation Head Adjudicator**  
Approve repertoire selections for all performing groups. Lead team of adjudicators in providing appropriate ratings and feedback to high school and middle school bands. GMEA District 7 – Northwestern Georgia (2024), District 11 – Central Georgia (2025), District 13 – Gwinnett County (2025), District 14 – Northeastern Georgia (2025).
- 2019–present   **“Music in the Parks” Festival**, Douglasville, GA
- 2019            **Nebraska State Concert Festival**, Omaha, NE
- 2019            **Georgia Southern University Pre-LGPE Workshop**, Statesboro, GA
- 2015/2016      **Barrow County (GA) Concert Festival**
- 2014–present   **GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation Adjudicator**  
Provided written and recorded ratings and feedback to high school and middle school bands. GMEA District 2 – South Georgia (2017), District 6 – Fayette/Coweta Counties (2016), District 7 – Northwestern Georgia (2014, 2021), District 12 – Cobb County (2014 & 2019), District 13 – Gwinnett County (2015, 2022, 2024), District 14 – Northeastern Georgia (2019).
- 2006–2013      **“Trills & Thrills” Music Festival**, Marietta, GA



- 2006–present **Pre-LGPE Adjudicator at local public schools**  
Provided written and recorded comments to public school bands in preparation for GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation, including Gwinnett School of Math, Science, and Technology (2024), Cherokee Bluff MS & HS (2023, 2025), East Hall Middle & High School (2012, 2014, 2016–2018), Dacula High School (2017), Norcross High School (2017), Brookwood High School (2008, 2011, 2016), Lanier Middle School (2013, 2015), Northwestern Middle School (2012), Jefferson City Schools (2012, 2021, 2025), Oconee County Schools (2012, 2016–2018), West Forsyth High School (2008), South Gwinnett High School (2007), Paulding Co. HS (2006)

## Marching Band Adjudication

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| 2024 | <b>Armuchee Invitational</b> , Rome, GA  |
| 2023 | <b>Northwest GA Marching Band Championship</b> , White, GA<br>(also 2017, 2019, 2022)                |
| 2023 | <b>Superbowl of Sound</b> , Carrollton, GA<br>(also 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022)                          |
| 2023 | <b>Carroll County Marching Band Exhibition</b> , Carrollton, GA                                      |
| 2023 | <b>Fayette County Marching Band Exhibition</b> , Fayetteville, GA                                    |
| 2019 | <b>Georgia Contest of Champions</b> , Commerce, GA<br>(also 2014, 2016)                              |
| 2017 | <b>Wolverine Classic</b> , Cumming, GA<br>(also 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)                              |
| 2015 | <b>Blue Ridge Marching Invitational</b> , Fannin Co., GA<br>(also 2011, 2013)                        |
| 2014 | <b>Tennessee Division II State Marching Band Championships</b><br>Murfreesboro, TN (also 2010, 2013) |
| 2013 | <b>Hall County Public Schools Marching Exhibition</b> , Gainesville, GA<br>(also 2011)               |
| 2008 | <b>Gwinnett County Public Schools Marching Exhibition</b> , Snellville, GA                           |
| 2008 | <b>Southern Invitational</b> , Marietta, GA  |
| 2007 | <b>United States Scholastic Band Association</b> , Snellville, GA                                    |

## PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

2024	<b>Advocacy Award</b> American Music Therapy Association – Southeastern Region
2020	<b>Music Educator of the Year</b> Georgia Music Educators Association
2018	<b>Service Award – Travel Grant to Present at The Midwest Clinic</b> Faculty Service Committee, Georgia Southern University
2018	<b>Sudler Silver Cup – National Award</b> John Philip Sousa Foundation
2017	<b>40 Under 40 – Award Winner</b> University of Georgia Alumni Association
2017	<b>Music Educator of the Year – National Finalist</b> Music & Arts
2016	<b>Program of Excellence Blue Ribbon Award – National Winner</b> National Band Association
2016	<b>State Winner</b> , National Wind Band Honors (also received in 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011)
2016	<b>Citation of Excellence</b> , National Band Association (also received in 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010)
2015	<b>Exemplary Program Award</b> , Georgia Music Educators Association (also received in 2010)
2015	<b>National Commended Winner</b> , National Wind Band Honors
2015	<b>Departmental Award</b> , Boston University
2014	<b>Elected to Membership</b> , Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity
2013	<b>National Volunteer of the Year</b> , Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
2012	<b>Semi-Finalist</b> , Forsyth County Teacher of the Year
2012	<b>Teacher of the Year</b> , Riverwatch Middle School