

# NICHOLAS BALLA, D.M.A.

nicktballa@gmail.com • 5555 Macedonia Rd., Jonesboro, AR 72405 • 417.234.2648

## EDUCATION

- University of Michigan** • Ann Arbor, Michigan 2023  
*Doctor of Musical Arts—Conducting: Band and Wind Ensemble*
- University of Michigan** • Ann Arbor, Michigan 2021  
*Master of Music—Conducting: Band and Wind Ensemble*
- Missouri State University** • Springfield, Missouri Summa Cum Laude, 2014  
*Bachelor of Music Education—Instrumental Music*  
*Bachelor of Science in Electronic Arts—Audio Studies*

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

- Arkansas State University (A-State), Jonesboro, AR August 2023 – Present**  
Director of Bands, Coordinator of Wind & Percussion Studies May 2024 – Present  
Interim Associate Director of Bands, Coordinator of Music Education August 2023 – May 2024

### *Creative Activity & Research*

- Global Partnership in Music Performance & Pedagogy: A Cross-Cultural Collaboration in Brazil, July 2026
  - Residencies at University São Paulo, University of Campinas, Federal University of Paraíba
- College Band Directors National Association Southwest Division Conference, February 2026  
Blind Peer-Selected Performing Ensemble, A-State Wind Ensemble
- Wind Ensemble Recording Project, Current
- Composer Collaborations:
  - Griffin Candey, On-Campus Residency, October 2025
  - Gala Falgello, On-Campus Residency, November 2024
  - Matthew Tommasini, Spring 2024
  - Lindsay Bronnenkant, Fall 2023
  - Roshanne Etezady, Fall 2023

### *Service*

- Band Performance Scholarship Management \$800,000 annual budget
- Ensemble Operations Coordination: Concert management, Ensemble audition organization
- Committees:
  - Calendar/Planning (College of Liberal Arts & Communications)
  - Graduate Assistant Selection (Dept. of Music)
  - Graduate Curriculum Committee (Dept. of Music)
  - Hearing (College of Liberal Arts & Communications)
  - Lecture Recital Series (University)
  - Private Scholarship Selection (Dept. of Music)
  - Recruitment, chair (Dept. of Music)

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- Search Committees:
  - Instructor of Horn, chair, Summer 2025
  - Department Chair, Fall 2024
  - Coordinator of Music Education/Assistant Director of Bands, chair, Fall 2024
  - Instructor of Trombone, Summer 2024
  - Interim Coor. of Music Education/Assistant Director of Bands, Summer 2024
- Event Management and Organization
  - ASBOA All-State Audition Host (2025)
  - ASBOA Region V Honor Band Host (2024-Present)
  - Mid-South Honor Band & Educator's Conducting Workshop (2024-Present)
  - A-State Open Marching Invitational (2024-Present)
- Tau Beta Sigma – Gamma Xi, Director of Band Advisor
- Support and guide Bands and Wind, Brass, & Percussion areas including Athletic Bands, Jazz Bands, Band Graduate Assistants

## *Teaching*

- University Wind Ensemble – Conductor & Artistic Director
- Coordinate Master of Music in Wind Band Conducting program
- *Current Courses:*
  - HNRS 400V – Independent Study: Senior Thesis
  - MUS 1331/3331/6331 – University Wind Ensemble
  - MUS 3441 – Instrumental Conducting I
  - MUS 3561 – Instrumental Conducting II
  - MUSP 1111 – Applied Undergraduate Conducting
  - MUSP 6112 – Applied Graduate Conducting
  - MUSP 6122 – Performance & Pedagogy: Conducting
  - MUSP 6131 – Graduate Recital: Conducting
- *Courses Taught:*
  - MUED 4002 – Concert Band Methods
  - MUED 6433 – Advanced Conducting
  - MUS 1481/3481/6481 – University Orchestra
  - MUS 6453 – Historically-Informed Performance Practice Graduate Seminar
  - TIMU 4826 Student Internship

**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**

Concert Band, *Teacher of Record*

**August 2019 – May 2023**

Winter 2023

Undergraduate Conducting Course, *Graduate Student Instructor*

Winter 2021, January 2021 – Present

Volleyball Band, *Graduate Student Instructor*

Fall 2022

Band Conducting and Pedagogy Workshop, *Workshop Coordinator*

Summer 2022, 2023

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University Campus Band, *Graduate Student Instructor* Winter 2022  
Michigan Marching Band, *Graduate Student Instructor* August 2019 – January 2022  
**Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI** 2023  
Student Teacher Supervisor

## PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

**Assistant Director of Bands** August 2014 – May 2019  
*Lebanon R-III School District* Lebanon, MO

- Developed strategies for student achievement through vertical curricular alignment and long-term evaluation
- Collaborated with four additional colleagues on program direction, curriculum, and instruction
- Provided private studio lessons for low brass students ranging with students placing in the area Youth Symphony, area Youth Wind Ensemble, All-District, and All-State Bands
- Implemented high school chamber ensemble program; conducted brass chamber ensembles
- Led project on expanding chamber music library and program through a \$3500 Grant Award
- Coached students to consistent “Superior” ratings at large and small ensemble contests
- Assisted with marching band instruction, pre-production, and creative design

### *Courses & Ensembles:*

Beginning Low Brass, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Low Brass, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade High Brass, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Brass and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, Lebanon High School Symphonic Band, Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble, Trombone Choir, Brass Choir

## ADDITIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

**Orientation Leader & Office Administrator** January 2010 – August 2013  
*Missouri State University Student Orientation, Advisement, and Registration* Springfield, MO

- Facilitated the matriculation of first year students through introducing university policy
- Instructed incoming students on academic policy and procedures while advising them on realistic academic expectations to ensure a successful first semester schedule
- Engaged students and family members to reinforce their connection to Missouri State University
- Organized logistics for summer orientation sessions through interaction with faculty, staff, and administration

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## RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

- “Maximizing Every Minute: Score Study as an Active Music-Making Process” January 2026  
Illinois Music Education Conference  
Co-Author, Dr. Kimberly Fleming
- “Maximizing Every Minute: Score Study as an Active Music-Making Process” December 2025  
Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic  
Co-Author, Dr. Kimberly Fleming
- “Do As I Do: Improving Rehearsal Efficiency Through Movement Fundamentals” November 2025  
North Carolina Music Educators Association Conference  
Co-Author: Dr. Daniel Johnson
- “Conductor Musicianship in Practice: Score Study as an Active Music-Making Process” May 2025  
Mid-South Honor Band Festival & Educator’s Conducting Workshop  
Co-Author, Dr. Kimberly Fleming
- “Conductor Musicianship in Practice: Score Study as an Active Music-Making Process” January 2025  
All-Illinois Junior Band Clinic, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Co-Author, Dr. Kimberly Fleming
- “Cultivating Inclusive Atmospheres through Music Engagement  
in the Instrumental Music Classroom” – Poster Session October 2023  
Symposium for Music Teacher Education, *Salt Lake City, UT*
- “Vincent Persichetti’s Wind Manuscripts” – Poster Session February 2023  
CBDNA National Convention, *Athens, Georgia*
- “Strategies for Developing an Inclusive and Effective Rehearsal Atmosphere”  
Michigan Music Conference, *Grand Rapids, Michigan* January 2023  
Arkansas State University, Department of Music September 2023  
University of Illinois, Advanced Conducting Course October 2023

## THESIS & DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

- “Teacher Leadership: Connecting Leadership Traits of Fine Arts  
Program Directors and school leadership” Current  
Andrew Tiefenbrunn, Doctor of Education dissertation  
A-State Dissertation Committee Member
- Graduate Recital 2026  
Parker Long, Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting  
A-State Graduate Recital Committee, Chair

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- “Ethnic and Cultural Amalgamation in Buenos Aires and the Evolution of Argentine Tango” 2026  
Damien Ehie, Honor Program Candidate  
A-State Honors Thesis Committee, Chair
- “Voice Dysphonia in Marching Band Directors” 2025  
Brianna Bass, Communication Disorders thesis  
A-State Thesis Committee Member, Department of Communication Disorders  
Dr. Shanon Y. Brantley, chair
- “Assessing Student-Centered Teaching in Northeast Arkansas Music Classrooms” 2024  
Brittney Isom, Master of Music Education thesis  
A-State Thesis Committee Member, Department of Music  
Dr. Colleen McNickle, chair

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY: CONDUCTING

- Principal Conductor, Jonesboro Community Wind Ensemble June 2024 – Present  
Jonesboro, AR  
*Arkansas Band Master’s Association State Convention, Invited Ensemble* July 2025
- Principal Conductor, Diamond Brass Band August 2023 – December 2024  
Jonesboro, AR
- Guest & Substitute Conductor, Jonesboro Community Wind Ensemble Spring 2024  
Jonesboro, AR
- Guest Conductor, A-State Brass Fest Brass Choir August 2023  
Jonesboro, AR
- Guest Conductor, Ann Arbor Civic Band June 2022, June 2023  
Ann Arbor, MI
- Guest Conductor, Francis Chiodo Trumpet DMA Recital, University of Michigan March 2023  
*L’Histoire du soldat* by Igor Stravinsky Ann Arbor, MI
- Guest Conductor, Saxophone Ensemble Recital, University of Michigan November 2022  
Ann Arbor, MI
- Guest Conductor, Trombone Studio Recital, University of Michigan November 2022  
Ann Arbor, MI
- Conductor, Workshop Reading June 2022  
*Serenade for Solo English Horn & Chamber Ensemble* by William Bolcom Ann Arbor, MI
- Guest Conductor, Tyler Coffman Trombone Specialist Recital, University of Michigan April 2022  
*Three Miniatures for Trombone and Trombone Octet* by Brian Balmages Ann Arbor, MI

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Conductor, Lebanon Community Band

Summer 2018, 2019  
Lebanon, MO

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY: PREMIERES AND COMMISSIONS

<i>Untitled Song Cycle</i> by Ricky Ian Gordon, Commissioning Consortium Member	2026
<i>The Great Nothing</i> by Clay Gonzalez, Commissioning Consortium Member	2026
<i>Double Aviary</i> by Griffin Candey Version World Premiere, February 2026, CBDNA-SW Conference, <i>composer in residence</i>	2026
<i>Saxophone Concerto</i> by Joel Love, Commission Consortium Member	2025
<i>Easy Tiger</i> by Griffin Candey, Commission Consortium Leader World Premiere: November 2025, <i>composer in residence</i>	2025
<i>Fantasy of Colors</i> by Paul Dooley, Commission Consortium Member	2025
<i>Love &amp; Nature</i> by Gala Flagello, Commission Consortium Member Arkansas Premiere: November 21, 2024, <i>composer in residence</i>	2024
<i>Fantasia on a Theme by Robert Schumann</i> by Steve Danyew, Commission Consortium Member	2024
<i>Into the Labyrinth</i> by Alberto Rojo (arr. Michael Gould), World Premiere University of Michigan	January 27, 2023 Ann Arbor, MI
<i>Go Down Moses</i> by Carlos Simon, Commission Consortium Member	2022

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY: HONOR ENSEMBLES & ADJUDICATION

Association of Texas Small School Bands Region 5/30 – Clinician: HS Honor Band Godley, TX	January 2026
ASBOA (Arkansas) Region V Senior High Honor Band – Clinician Jonesboro, AR	January 2026
Pirate Small Band Invitational, Gosnell High School, Blytheville, AR – Music Adjudication	September 2025
Westside & Valley View High School Pre-Contest Assessment Clinic – Adjudicator Jonesboro, AR	March 2024
Jonesboro High School Pre-Contest Assessment Clinic – Adjudicator Jonesboro, AR	February 2024

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ASBOA (Arkansas) Region V Junior High Honor Band – Clinician Jonesboro, AR	January 2024
Mid-South Marching Invitational – Drum Major Adjudicator Jonesboro High School, Jonesboro, AR	October 2023
All-State Trombone Adjudicator Missouri Music Educators Association	2018 – 2019
District Trombone Adjudicator South Central Missouri Music Educators Association	2014 – 2019

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY: CLINICIAN INVITATIONS

Valley View High School – Guest Clinician Jonesboro, AR	September 2025 February 2025 February 2024 October 2024 October 2023
Arkansas Bandmasters Association Convention, Conducting Workshop – Clinician	July 2025
Marching Band Clinic Day 2024 – Guest Clinician: Drum Majors, Brass Warrenton, MO	September 2024
Paragould High School – Guest Clinician Paragould, AR	March 2024
Piggott High School – Guest Clinician Piggott, AR	February 2025 February 2024
Westside High School – Guest Clinician Jonesboro, AR	February 2025 February 2024
Jonesboro High School – Guest Clinician Jonesboro, AR	April 2025 February 2024
Brookland High School – Guest Clinician	January 2025 February 2024
Batesville High School – Guest Clinician Batesville, AR	April 2025 February 2024
Greene County Tech High School – Guest Clinician Paragould, AR	February 2025 February 2024

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Greene County Tech Junior High School – Guest Clinician Paragould, AR	April 2025 November 2024 February 2024
Tuckerman high School – Guest Clinician Tuckerman, AR	February 2024
Rivercrest High School – Guest Clinician Wilson, AR	February 2025 October 2024 October 2023
Livonia High School – Guest Clinician University of Michigan Instrumental Music Education Clinic	March 2023
Pickney Community High School Band – Guest Low Brass Clinician Pickney, MI	August 2022
Muskegon High School Band – Guest Clinician University of Michigan Instrumental Music Education Clinic	March 2022

## AWARDS AND HONORS

Kay’s Foundation Grant: “Sound of the Natural State” Piccolo Line (\$13,440), <i>A-State</i>	2025
College of Liberal Arts and Communication Professional Development Award (\$1200), <i>A-State</i>	2024
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (\$3000), <i>University of Michigan</i>	2023
Doctoral Candidacy Oral Examinations, High Pass, <i>University of Michigan</i>	November 2022
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (\$1500), <i>University of Michigan</i>	2022
Tom F. Luthy Teaching Grant, <i>Boswell Family Foundation, Lebanon, MO</i>	
<i>Music Rehearsal &amp; Research Resources</i> (\$2500)	2019
<i>Chamber Music Library Expansion</i> (\$3500)	2018

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity	Current
Tau Beta Sigma, Honorary Membership, <i>Arkansas State University</i>	Current
Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association	Current
National Band Association	Current
College Band Directors National Association	Current
Kappa Kappa Psi, Honorary Membership, <i>University of Michigan</i>	Current
National Association for Music Education	Current
Pi Kappa Lambda	Current
Missouri Music Educators Association	2014-2019

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## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

National Band Association, Arkansas State Chair

Current

Music Mentos Roundtable, Midwest Band & Orchestra International Clinic

December 2025