

# *Oakland University*

## *Staff Bios and Credits*

Lesson plans created by Oakland University's leading experts in music education. For more information regarding Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, call (248) 370-2030 or email [mtd@oakland.edu](mailto:mtd@oakland.edu).

**Jackie Wiggins** is Professor of Music Education and Chair of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Oakland University where she teaches primarily graduate courses in psychology of music learning, research in music education, and general music methods. Before her arrival at Oakland in 1994, she taught general and choral music in New York public schools for more than twenty years. Known for her work in children's musical creativity and for her expertise in constructivist music education theory and practice, she has been an active clinician, presenter, and author in local, state, national, and international settings. She holds degrees in music education from Queens College of the City University of New York and the University of Illinois.

Wiggins is author of three books that are widely used as texts for music teacher education throughout the United States and in other parts of the world: *Teaching for Musical Understanding* (2001, McGraw-Hill), *Composition in the Classroom* (1990, MENC), and *Synthesizers in the Elementary Music Classroom* (1991, MENC). She has also written several book chapters and numerous journal articles dealing with topics such as constructivist music education practice, the nature of musical understanding, creative process in the music classroom, and technology on the music classroom. An active presenter, she has made well over 100 presentations, including more than 50 national and international presentations and several keynote addresses.

Her most recent work is a chapter on "Compositional Process in Music" for a new *International Handbook of Research in Arts Education*, edited by Liora Bresler (2007, Springer) and a chapter in the upcoming *A Cultural Psychology for Music Education*, edited by Margaret Barrett (in press, Oxford), entitled, "When the Music is Theirs: Scaffolding Young Songwriters."

**Joseph Shively** is Assistant Professor of Music Education in the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at Oakland University where he teaches instrumental music education methods, philosophy of music education, and research in music education. Prior to joining the faculty at Oakland in the summer of 2004, he served on the faculty at Kansas State University from 2002-2004 and at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro from 1993-2002. He holds degrees in music education from Limestone College and the University of Illinois. While at Illinois, Dr. Shively served as Associate Editor of the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education* and Coordinator of Band Programs for the Office of Continuing Education and Public Service in Music. Prior to beginning graduate study, he served as Director of Bands at Lewisville High School and Middle School and Clover High School in South Carolina.

Dr. Shively has served as an adjudicator, arranger, clinician, drill designer, and program consultant for concert, jazz, and marching bands and orchestras throughout the United States. Recent publications include chapters on constructivist learning approaches in *Dimensions of Musical Learning and Teaching* (National Association for Music Education: MENC) and *Musical Understanding*, (Canadian Music Educators Association), as well as a chapter in the upcoming book, *Questioning the Music Education Paradigm*, also published by CMEA. He has presented papers at conferences in the US and Canada. His areas of interests include constructivist learning and teaching, instrumental music, teacher education, technology, and philosophy.

**Gregory Cunningham** is in his tenth year as the Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Pontiac Oakland Symphony, a regional semi-professional orchestra “in residence” at Oakland University. In addition to his duties with the orchestra, Dr. Cunningham serves as the Dorothy Travis Associate Professor of Music, and Director of Bands at Oakland University, where he conducts the Oakland University Wind Symphony and teaches conducting and instrumental literature courses at the undergraduate/graduate levels.

Prior to his appointment at Oakland, Dr. Cunningham served as a Doctoral Conducting Intern at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During his residency at UIUC, Cunningham taught courses in conducting, was a staff conductor within the university band program, and was an Editorial Assistant for the Journal of the Council of Research in Music Education. Additionally, he served as a guest conductor with the Champaign-Urbana and Illini Symphony orchestras, and was employed by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra as the conductor of the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony and Sangamon Valley Youth Chamber Orchestras.

Dr. Cunningham remains active as a clinician and adjudicator of middle/high school orchestras and bands throughout the country, and has served as guest conductor for various district and state level honors ensembles in the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast. He has presented/co-presented workshops for instrumental music teachers at the Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin Music Educators conferences, has co-presented at the 2004 MENC National Conference in Minneapolis, MN, and was a member of a panel of Oakland University faculty who presented at the 2005 Symposium on Music Teacher Education in Greensboro, NC. He has recently made guest appearances as an Artist in Residence at the University of Illinois–Urbana Champaign, the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, and has also served on various summer faculties of youth music camps throughout the Midwest.

**Deborah Blair** is Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Music Education at Oakland University. She teaches undergraduate learning theory, elementary general music methods, and choral music methods as well as a wide variety of topics for graduate students during summer sessions. Deborah’s research includes all areas of music learning and the ways it can be supported in the classroom.

Prior to her appointment at Oakland University, Deborah taught elementary and high school music in the Port Huron Area School District and also served over twenty years as a church and community musician. She is an active presenter with over 50 presentations including 17 international and national presentations. Deborah holds degrees from Calvin College, Eastern Illinois University, and Oakland University.

Materials for the DSO Educational Concert Series were designed by the **Oakland University Department of Communications and Marketing**.  
Geoffrey Upward, Director