

# Gregory Snyder, Director Emeritus



**Gregory Snyder retired from Lakota West in 2015**, after 35 years of teaching and conducting and his 27th year as director of bands in the Lakota School District. **He is founder and conductor of the Nashville Youth Wind Ensemble (NYWE)**, providing an intensive musical opportunity, and a deep study of iconic wind band literature for some of Middle Tennessee's finest high school musicians. **Mr. Snyder mentors band directors**, coaching them in conducting and rehearsal techniques. He holds clinics for band programs in Nashville, and across the U.S., and is on staff at Antioch High School, Antioch, Tenn. An adjunct professor for Bowling Green State University (BGSU), Bowling Green, Ohio, Mr. Snyder coaches and advises BGSU masters candidates as part of the **Master of Music Education-Teaching Artistry Specialization**. At Belmont University, Nashville, Tenn., he is also an **adjunct professor**, teaching Brass Methods and supervising student teachers.

**As a highly sought-after guest conductor and clinician, Mr. Snyder regularly travels the country.** Recently, he guest-conducted the 2020 Mississippi State University Honor Band; the 2019 **W.D. Packard Concert Band**, a professional Northeast Ohio ensemble; All-State bands for the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association (MTSBOA); the University of Tennessee at Martin, and East Tennessee, as well as the Northern Kentucky Select Band.

**Mr. Snyder recently served as clinician** for Mississippi State University; through **Music & Arts** in the Charleston County

School District, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.; the University of Tennessee; The Fresno State University Sutherland Wind Festival, Fresno, Calif., and the Boise State Band Clinic Festival, Boise, Idaho. He also conducted clinics for Fayette County High School, Fayetteville, Ga.; Hoover High School, Hoover, Ala.; Jackson High School, Jackson, Ohio; South Forsythe Middle School, Cumming, Ga., and Williamson County (Tenn.) band directors. He serves as clinician for VH1 Save the Music, conducting clinics in San Diego, Calif., and New Britain, Conn. Mr. Snyder is the Nashville clinician for Music Travel Consultants.

**He is a Central States Judges Association of America (CSJA) adjudicator.** CSJA provides selective, exclusively-trained judges for competitive musical and visual ensembles throughout the United States. He is a **Massachusetts Instrumental Choral & Conductors Association** adjudicator and a select-judge for the **Alabama Bandmasters Association**.

**Mr. Snyder is director of bands emeritus, Lakota West High School, West Chester, Ohio.** He taught and conducted high school band for 35 years, teaching 27 years in Lakota—9 years at Lakota High School, and 18 years at Lakota West High School. His concert bands toured Europe and earned a nearly-unprecedented three invitations to the internationally-acclaimed **Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic** (Chicago, Ill.). The Marching Firebirds earned more than 75 grand champion awards and numerous accolades, including performing twice in the iconic **Tournament of Roses Parade** (Pasadena, Calif.), and in the legendary **Macy's Thanksgiving Parade** (New York, N.Y.).

**From 1988-2015, Mr. Snyder led the Lakota/Lakota West High School bands to success in performance and victory in competition.** For two decades, Lakota/Lakota West students were awarded the most positions in OMEA All-State Ensembles each year. Not only did the Lakota West program grow to a nearly-unprecedented seven concert bands, but the top three ensembles performed in state competition in classes AA and A, earning

superior ratings annually. Under his tenure, the instrumental music program grew from 100 students in grades 9 – 12 to more than 800 district-wide. As director of bands, he directed Symphonic Winds, the Symphonic Red and Symphonic White Bands, and the 280-strong Marching Firebirds. He assisted with two freshmen concert bands and was music supervisor for 17 years.

**Under his leadership, the Lakota West instrumental program gained a national and international reputation for excellence.**

Symphonic Winds was invited to perform at the world-renowned Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago three times, a first for Ohio, in 2000, 2006 and 2011. Mr. Snyder partnered with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO), performing Community Concerts in 2007 and 2010. In 2015 he had the rare privilege of performing with Symphonic Winds at the iconic home of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the legendary Cincinnati Music Hall. Other major performances include: Great Southern Contest of Champions, Orlando, 1990; Bowling Green State University New Music Reading Clinic, 1993 and 1998; Dixie Classic Music Festival (grand champion award), Chattanooga/Atlanta/Richmond, 1995, 1998 and 2010; Toronto Music Festival, 1996; Music in the Parks Festival, Chicago, 1999; 30th Annual Ohio Band Directors Conference, University of Akron, 2001; New Concert Band Music Reading Clinic, Capital University, 2002; OMEA State Convention, Cincinnati/Dayton/Columbus/Cleveland, 1992, 1996, 2004 and 2015; European tour with performances in Paris, Brussels, and London, 2004; won the Jupiter National Concert Band Competition, performing with the Boston Brass, 2008; Youngstown State University Wind and Percussion Invitational, 2008; Rutgers University Music Festival, New Brunswick, 2010; and Branson Music Festival, 2013.

**The Lakota Marching Thunderbirds and Lakota West Marching Firebirds earned more than 75 grand champion awards under Mr. Snyder's direction.** They were invited to march in the Reds Opening Day Parade and to perform as the Bengals' halftime

show several times over the years. Additional major performances include: The Great Southern Contest of Champions, Orlando, 1990; the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade, 1991. Disney's Magic Music Days, Orlando, 1993 and 1996; the Hollywood Christmas Parade, 1999; the Citrus Bowl, New Orleans, 2003; Pearl Harbor and the Waikiki Holiday Parade, Maui, 2005; the 119th Tournament of Roses Parade, Pasadena, 2008; Disney World and Universal Studios, Orlando, 2010; the 87th Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, New York City, 2013, and the 126th Tournament of Roses Parade, Pasadena, 2015.

**To solicit their expertise, Mr. Snyder invited many prominent composers and conductors to conduct Lakota/Lakota West Bands,** including: David Booth, John Bourgeois, Geoffrey Brand, Marcellus Brown, John Climer, Eugene Corporon, Raymond Cramer, James Curnow, Elliot Del Borgo, Stephen Gage, David Gillingham, Gary Gilroy, Gary Green, Joseph Hermann, Robert Jorgensen, Brant Karrick, Mark S. Kelly, Craig Kirchhoff, Barry Kopetz, Edward Lisk, Donald McGinnis, Stephen Melillo, Stan Michalski, Russel Mikkelson, Glenn Price, Ryan Nowlin, Alfred Reed, David Shaffer, Robert Sheldon, Phillip Sparke, Gary Speck, James Swearingen, Mallory Thompson, Jan van der Roost, Myron Welch, John Whitwell, Frank Wickes, and Rodney Winther.

**Chairing many Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA)-adjudicated events, including Ohio All-State Band, he also served as All-State chair.** He is past-president of OMEA, District XIII. Prior to his tenure at Lakota, Mr. Snyder e served as assistant director for five years and director of bands for three years in the Clyde-Green Springs School District, Clyde, Ohio.

**Mr. Snyder is an elected member of the exclusive American Bandmasters Association.** He was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Bowling Green State University in 2014. In recognition of his accomplishments and "extraordinary

success,” the Ohio State House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate officially commended him in 2014. Mr. Snyder crafted a proprietary program on how to develop musicians through chamber music, presenting how-to-style clinics at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and the OMEA State Conference. He is recognized as a visionary on the topic, penning an article for the TRIAD professional journal, “Chamber Playing’s Impact: Bringing Your Students out of the Audible Shadow.” The program is also featured in “The Conductor’s Companion” (pub. Meredith Music Publications) by Gary Stith.

**Prior to earning a master of music education degree in 1985 from VanderCook College of Music, Chicago, Mr. Snyder earned a bachelor of music degree from Bowling Green State University in 1980.** He acquired additional post-graduate work from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, Miami University and Boston University. Mr. Snyder is a member of Phi Beta Mu, Tennessee Music Education Association, and the National Association for Music Education.

**Mr. Snyder and his wife Sandra live in Mount Juliet, Tenn.** They have two sons: Alexander (Ashlinn) is a band director at Grassland Middle School in Franklin, Tenn.; Adam is an attorney for Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo in Los Angeles, Calif.

For more information, go to [GregSnyderBand.com](http://GregSnyderBand.com).

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