

# Andrew J. Lesser, Ed.D.

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## CAREER SUMMARY

**Music Educator and Administrator** certified for grades K-12 and higher education. Self-directed and highly motivated professional providing support and leadership necessary to promote the values of learning music. Adaptable teaching style accommodating high levels of change in a fast-paced learning environment. Proven ability to analyze and resolve issues relating to multiple areas within all curricula. Recognized as a valued and reliable instructor capable of addressing all challenges and motivating students by example. Areas of professional expertise include:

- Differentiated Instruction
- Staff Development
- Classroom Management
- Cross Curricular Integration
- Curriculum Development
- Organizational Administrator

## EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS

**Administrative Supervisor's Certification** - Issued 2019  
Standard New Jersey Certificate 0106 – Certificate ID# 1144171

**Ed.D.** - Doctor of Music and Music Education, 2019  
Teachers College, Columbia University; New York, NY  
Dissertation Topic: "Video Game Instruction and Learning in the Music Classroom"

**Graduate Degree** - Master of Music (Clarinet Performance), 2005  
University of Maryland; College Park, Maryland  
Graduated with Highest Distinction – 4.0 Average

**Bachelor's Degree** – Dual degree in Music Education and Music Performance (Clarinet), 2002  
Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University; New Brunswick, New Jersey  
Graduated Cum Laude – Highly Qualified Status

## CURRENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Senior Adjunct Professor of Music; Rowan College at Burlington County (2015-Present)**  
*Music Instructor – Instrumental/Vocal*

Primary instructor of large ensemble performing classes, including Concert Band, Concert Choir, and Jazz Band. Responsible for training and performances of all music majors. Worked with administration department to provide optimal music education for enrolled students and community members.

- Music Director for all large ensembles, including Choir, Band, and Jazz Band.
- Responsible for recruitment, retention, and development of musical skills for both music majors and community members.
- Served as Acting Department Chair during transition between Pemberton campus and Mount Laurel campus.

**Director of General and Vocal Music; Wilbur Watts Intermediate School (2010-Present)  
Burlington City Public Schools**

*Music Instructor – General/Vocal*

Primary music teacher for over 400 students in Grades 3-6. Responsible for all General Music classes and vocal music. Prepared concerts and various events in coordination with all district schools. Worked with administration department to provide optimal music education for mainstream and special needs students.

- Responsible for music education in all intermediate school grade levels.
- Primary builder of chorus program and general music classes.
- Responsible for individual lessons and group instruction.
- Developed positive working relations between all students, staff, and parent/guardians of the district.
- Experienced in General Music and choral instruction for all Grades 3-6 students.

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Music Director; Lindenwold High School, Lindenwold, NJ (2006-2009)**

*Music Instructor – Vocal/Instrumental*

Primary music teacher for Grades 9-12. Responsible for Concert Choir, Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band, and Music Theory. Prepare concerts, festivals, events, and competitions in coordination with all district schools. Worked with administration and staff to provide optimal music education for all students of a wide demographic.

- Primary builder of music program and responsible for rapid growth.
- Creator of Music Theory program and Music Boosters Parent Organization.
- Inducted into Tri-M Music Honors Society - Chapter 5801.
- Recipient of Superior ratings for all ensembles in multiple competitions.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

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**New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) (2019-Present)**

*Technology Chair*

- Member of the NJMEA Board of Directors
- Responsible for state-wide coordination of educational musical activities
- Primary organizer of New Jersey Technology Music Expo
- Coordination with Technology in Music Education (TI:ME) national chapter

**The Philadelphia Wind Symphony, Philadelphia, PA (2011-Present)**

*Concertmaster & Founding Member/Past-President, Board of Directors*

- Principal Clarinetist and Concertmaster.
- President of the Board of Directors: 2012-2014.
- Former Chief Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Wind Symphony with general supervision over the business and affairs of the ensemble.

**New Jersey Young Composer's Competition Committee (2010-Present)**

*Founding Member & Chairman*

- Responsible for coordination of all applications, materials, and multimedia.
- Clinician for the New Jersey Music Educators Association Convention.
- Chairman of all administrative responsibilities and organizational efforts.

**Professional Studio Instruction**

**(2004-Present)**

*Clarinet, Piano, and Saxophone Performance*

- Primary teacher of individual students from beginner to advanced proficiency.
- Builder of curriculum materials and responsible for professional growth.
- Worked with instrumental students of all ages and backgrounds.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- Guest Conductor, All South Jersey Elementary Band Festival, April 2020 (Forthcoming)
- Guest Conductor, All South Jersey Elementary Choir Festival, March 2020 (Forthcoming)
- Presider, "New Jersey Young Composers Competition Finals", NJMEA State Convention, February 2020
- Clinician, "Video Game Instruction in Music Education", NJMEA State Convention, February 2020
- Clinician, "Cross-Curricular Integration in the General Music Classroom", NJMEA State Conference, February 2020
- Clinician, "Video Game Instruction in Music Education", NJEA State Convention, November 2019
- Clinician, "Cross-Curricular Integration in the General Music Classroom", NAFME Biennial Eastern Division Conference, April 2017
- Clinician, "Cross-Curricular Integration in the General Music Classroom", NJMEA State Conference, February 2016
- Clinician, "Cross-Curricular Integration in the General Music Classroom", NJMEA Summer Conference, August 2015
- Clinician, "Teaching Woodwinds for the Non-Woodwind Player", NJMEA Summer Conference, August 2015
- Clinician, "Cross-Curricular Integration in the General Music Classroom", NJMEA State Conference, February 2015
- Clinician, "Cross-Curricular Integration in the Elementary General Music Classroom", NJMEA Summer Conference, August 2014
- Clinician, "Teaching Woodwinds for the Non-Woodwind Player", NJMEA Summer Conference, August 2014
- Presenter, "Acquiring Materials Through DonorsChoose.com", Burlington City, 2013
- Burlington City McRel Teacher Evaluation Committee, 2012-Present
- Burlington City Target Young Audiences Grant Project Coordinator, 2011-Present
- Burlington City Superintendent's Liaison Committee, 2011-12
- Clinician, "New Jersey Young Composer's Competition Finals", NJMEA Convention, New Brunswick, NJ: 2010-Present
- Manager, Olympic Conference Jr. High Honors Band, 2010
- Guest Conductor, All South Jersey Jr. High Honors Band (Gold Band), 2009
- Region III New Jersey All State Committee Procedures Representative, 2008
- Clinician, "Surviving the First Year", NJMEA Summer Workshop, Red Bank, NJ: 2007
- Clinician, "Music and the Martial Arts", Rutgers University, 1998

MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

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- *Snow Through a Window* for Wind Ensemble. Published by Kjos, 2008.  
Featured in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band, Volume 10*
- *O Magnum Mysterium* by Tomás Luis de Victoria. Arranged for Clarinet Quartet.  
Published by Grand Mesa Music, 2006.

- *The Labyrinth* for Wind Ensemble. Published by Musica Propria, 2002.

#### PRINT PUBLICATIONS

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- Lesser, A. (2020, Forthcoming). An investigation of digital game-based software in the elementary general music classroom. *Journal of Sound and Music in Games*.
- Lesser, A. (2019). Reflections on continuing education: Process and progress. *Tempo*, 73(3), 50–51.
- Lesser, A. (2019). *Video game instruction and learning in the music classroom* (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from ProQuest. (UMI #13427524).
- Lesser, A. (2017). Music education in the political arena. *Tempo*, 71(3), 42–43.
- Lesser, A. (2017). Analysis of a music affective behavior scale. *Tempo*, 71(2), 52–55.
- Lesser, A. (2016). Toward a new vision of equality: Perspectives of male teachers in the elementary music classroom. *Update: Applications of Research in Music Education*, 1(8), 1–9. doi:10.1177/8755123316661854
- Lesser, A. (2016). Teachers' perspectives in using Disney songs in the music classroom. *General Music Today*, 30(1), 25–29. doi:10.1177/1048371316641987
- Lesser, A. (2016). A modern exploration of gender stereotypes in the selection of music teacher applicants. *Tempo*, 70(3), 42–44.
- Lesser, A. (2016). Promoting STEAM: Advocacy and application. *Tempo*, 70(2), 24–25.
- Lesser, A. (2015). New Jersey Young Composers 2015-16 Competition. *Tempo*, 70(1), 44.
- Lesser, A. (2015). Beyond the classroom: Helpful tips for acquiring tenure. *Tempo*, 69(3), 50–52.
- Lesser, A. (2015). Cross curricular integration in the elementary general music classroom. *Tempo*, 69(2), 34–36.
- Lesser, A. (2014). New Jersey Young Composers Competition finals. *Tempo*, 68(4), 46.
- Lesser, A. (2014). Preparing effective lesson plans. *Tempo*, 68(3), 28–30.
- Lesser, A. (2014). Three online tools for music educators. *Tempo*, 68(2), 28.
- Lesser, A. (2013). Preparing for a successful audition. *Tempo*, 68(1), 28–29.
- Lesser, A. (2012). Be in tune with your body. *Tempo*, 66(3), 36–37.
- Lesser, A. (2000). Music and the martial arts. *Tempo*, 54(2), 28–30.

#### AWARDS/HONORS

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- Quarterfinalist, 2018 Grammy Music Educator Award - June 2017
- Espirit de Corps Award, Music in the Parks Festivals - May 2017
- Finalist: More FM Christmas Choir Competition - December 2015
- Featured in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band, Volume 10* - December 2014
- Target Young Audiences of New Jersey Education Grant, 2011, 2012, & 2014 Recipient
- Action Hall of Fame Induction for Excellence in Teaching, January 2011
- Espirit de Corps Award, USSBA Northern States Championships - November 2009
- Theodore Presser Award, Rutgers University, September 2000

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)
- National Association for Music Educators (NAfME)
- International Clarinet Association (ICA)
- New Jersey Educator's Association (NJEA)
- New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA)
- South Jersey Choral Directors Association (SJCDA)

- South Jersey Band and Orchestra Directors Association (SJBODA)
- Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society – Inducted 2005
- Golden Key National Honors Society – Inducted 2000

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

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Dr. Harold Abeles

Professor of Music Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

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Mr. Robert Shappell

Principal, Wilbur Watts Intermediate School, Burlington City Public Schools

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