

Ray Ostwald is in his twenty-fourth year directing the orchestras, teaching conducting and coaching chamber ensembles at York Community High School in Elmhurst, Illinois. He holds degrees from Lawrence University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Mr. Ostwald has served on the faculties of many summer music camps and youth orchestras. Guest conducting and clinician appearances include the Ecuador National Symphony Orchestra of Quito, the Korean International Music Educators Honors Festival in Seoul, the Clark County Honors Orchestra of Las Vegas, the Indiana ASTA Orchestra Festival at Ball State University, the Northeast Iowa Regional Honors Orchestra, the Iowa All-State 9-10 Orchestra, the Northwest Symphony of Chicago, the ASTA National Orchestra Festival in Albuquerque, ILMEA District Senior and Junior Festival Orchestras, the Fox Valley Festival Orchestra and numerous other regional and festival orchestras. He was recently honored as the “2018-2019 Educator of the Year” by the Illinois chapter of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) and the 2017 Quinlan and Fabish Chicagoland Outstanding Educator Award. He has published a number of arrangements for string orchestra and for brass ensembles. A member of the American String Teachers Association, National Association for Music Education, the American Federation of Musicians and the Conductors’ Guild, Mr. Ostwald is a founding member of the Illinois Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance (ILCMP) leadership committee. Mr. Ostwald has presented lectures at several conferences and teacher institutes, and taught a summer symposium graduate course for string teachers at the VanderCook College of Music in Chicago for four years. Professional publications include contributions to Volumes I and II of *Teaching Music through Performance in Orchestra*, as well as to *The String Teacher’s Cookbook: Creative Recipes for a Successful Program*. Mr. Ostwald has hosted twenty-one student teachers from eight universities and been a guest lecturer to music education students at Northwestern University, DePaul University, Roosevelt University, the University of Illinois, Lawrence University, North Central College and Concordia University. Mr. Ostwald is active as a violinist and violist and has performed on stage supporting Bernadette Peters, Barry Manilow, The Who, The Moody Blues, Josh Groban, Dennis DeYoung, Weird Al Yankovic, Anne Murray, Bob Hope, Celtic Woman, Richard Marx and Lena Hall. He enjoys motorcycling, and has done so in 49 states and seven countries.