

# East Stroudsburg Area School District

## 2013 Music Hall of Fame Inductees



### **Christina Caiazzo-Pritchard**

“Chrissy” is a graduate of East Stroudsburg Area High School, Class of 1997. She began playing clarinet at age 9, joining the East Stroudsburg Bands in sixth grade, while continuing through grade 12 as a member of the HS Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Jazz Band, and Musical Pit Orchestra. During her years as a Cavalier, Chrissy also participated in Student Government, National Honor Society, the girls’ soccer team, and was an editor of the school yearbook. She was a member of Pocono Youth Orchestra, and was selected to participate in PMEA District X Bands (once seated first chair), District Orchestra, Region Bands, All-State Band, the PA All-State Lions’ Band and Bands of America National Honor Band in Indianapolis, Indiana, while also receiving the John Phillip Sousa Award. Chrissy attended Shenandoah University Conservatory in Winchester, VA, graduating Cum Laude in 2001 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Certification in Clarinet Performance. As an undergraduate, she participated in Concert Winds, Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Woodwind Quintet, Schubert Octet, as well as Musical and Opera Pits, and

received the Wind Ensemble Director’s Award while being named the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Senior Conservatory Student. She was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta collegiate honor society and served as President of Kappa Kappa Psi, National Honorary Band Fraternity. Chrissy has served as the Band Director at Stroudsburg Area School District since 2002, while teaching Fifth Grade Band with well over 100 beginners each year, also teaching Seventh Grade Concert Band and General Music. In addition, she serves as Middle School Jazz Band Director, and as Chairperson of the Music Department. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association and the National Association For Music Education, and also teaches a successful studio of private clarinet students with most moving on to PMEA District and Region Bands themselves. She served as the Music/Drama Director for the Buck Hill Falls Summer Youth Camps for 4 years before moving on to spend her summers as the Director of Youth Activities for her community.

### **Jeremiah Downes**

Jeremiah is a graduate of East Stroudsburg High School, Class of 2000. At ESHS, he was an active member of Choir, Chorale, Choraliers; District, Regional and State Choirs; and was featured in the annual musical production during all 4 years of high school. Today, he is an actor, musician, songwriter and teacher who is equally at home in the worlds of music and theater. He has appeared on stage as an actor in leading roles, world premieres and alongside some of Broadway’s finest, both in New York and regionally, and has performed at a long list of clubs, concert halls and cabarets in New York and Philadelphia, including The Duplex, The Triad, Rose Hall at Lincoln Center and The Tin Angel, and has had the honor of appearing in concert for President George W. Bush and Philadelphia’s Mayor John Street. Jeremiah was instrumental in the development and inception of the Walnut Street Supper Club in Center City Philadelphia, where he currently serves as music director, entertainment manager and appears nightly on stage as the headlining vocalist, pianist and personality. He also is the creator and director of MiCOPhilly, modeled after New York’s City Center Encores, and was the founding artistic director of the short lived, but notable, Philadelphia Music Theater Works where he successfully led the organization through a sold-out inaugural season while serving as an actor, director, producer and/or writer. He continues to maintain a successful career as a studio singer, background singer and musician (vocalist, vocal arranger, keyboardist and accompanist), as well as a composer and lyricist. His songs have been performed by artists from the worlds of Broadway and commercial music, and he is a sought after teacher and coach of vocal technique, song interpretation and performance. He has maintained a private studio in New York City and Philadelphia for the past decade where his clients have found success on Broadway, in film and on television, in opera houses and recording studios. Jeremiah is the creator of Get Real: The Broadway Master Class with Broadway actress Sarah Bolt, offering practical and intensive training to aspiring musical theater performers, and has served on the voice faculty of the New York Film Academy’s musical theater conservatory and has taught at musical theater programs around the country. He holds a Master of Music degree from Oklahoma City University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts, where he served for three years on the staff of the Pre-College musical theater program. Jeremiah is a member of Actors’ Equity Association, ASCAP, Songwriters Hall of Fame, National Association of Teachers of Singing, New York Singing Teachers’ Association and Musical Theater Educators Alliance.



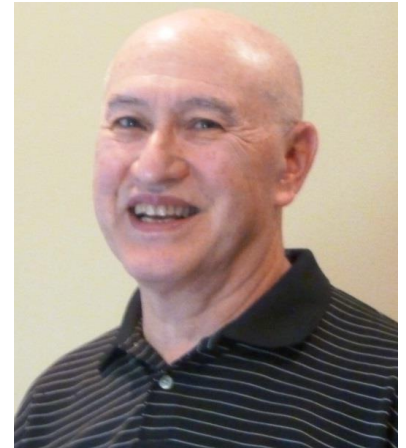


### **Kathaleen Joffe**

Kathy served the East Stroudsburg High School South Music Department from 2003 through 2012 as the Music Secretary to the Band and Chorus Departments, supporting the Symphonic and Concert Bands, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Dixieland Band, and the Alumni program, as well as the Chorus and the Choralier Programs and the ESASD Music Hall of Fame. She graduated from Roxbury High School (Succasunna, NJ) in 1975, having participated in chorus and chorale for four years, while also assisting backstage for school musicals and various other school events. She was an active member of the National Honor Society, and after high school graduation, earned an Associate's degree in Medical Technology and continued her education in the field of tourism. Kathy also enjoys playing the trumpet, and married with 2 children, was proud to volunteer to participate in her children's numerous activities while they were growing up, including Pocono Community Chorus, the band parents' organization at ESHS-South, and as a chaperone for band trips and festivals. She also served as a volunteer for sports parents' clubs at ESHS-South, including girls' basketball, swim team, cross country, and girls' soccer, as well as serving a term as President of the boys' soccer booster club in 2005.

### **Gordon L. Fung**

Gordon received a Bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and a Master's degree from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and taught in New York State prior to coming to East Stroudsburg Area Schools in 1973 as the Junior High Band Director. He started the Monroe County Junior High Honors Band, and initiated the Instrumental Music Department Concert at East Stroudsburg, also serving as Chairman for the All-Eastern Band seating auditions. From 1980 to 1993, he was the ESHS Director of Bands and during this time, the ESHS "Marching Show Band" accepted invitations to present half-time shows at four NFL games and six CFL games, as well as at an MLB playoff game. The ESHS Band was named "Best Youth Band" in the Canadian National Thanksgiving Parade, Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario, and was the featured "Honor Band" for a halftime performance at a Syracuse University football game in the Carrier Dome. They earned the 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Trophy for the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Grande Parade, St. Catharines, Ontario, and received "Superior" ratings each year at 13 PMEA sponsored marching band adjudications. Under Gordon's leadership, the ESHS Concert Band accepted two invitations to perform at PMEA Conferences as well as a performance at the Mid-East Music Conference in Pittsburgh, and a \$35,000 scholarship fund was established, while seven compositions were commissioned/premiered, and the Concert Band earned twelve "Superior" ratings in grade 6 music at PMEA sponsored concert band adjudications. The ESHS auditorium was dedicated to Clement Wiedinmyer at a concert, with the ceremonies featuring three commissioned compositions. ESHS hosted 2 Region V Band Festivals and a PMEA Adjudication Festival each year, and was named "Best Overall" at Heritage Music Festival in Boston, and ESHS students consistently placed well in PMEA District, Regional and All State Bands and Orchestras, and annually featured a guest artist from either the NY Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra or comparable at the Spring Concert. From 1994 to 2001, Gordon was an Elementary Band Director, twice accepting an invitation to perform with Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser at the PMEA Conference, and he prepared a video for Hal Leonard Publications, Inc., with Dr. Lautzenheiser for the Essential Elements Method Book that has been distributed world-wide. He commissioned Les Taylor to compose a suite for the district's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band students, and organized the first ESHS Alumni Band in 1994. Gordon's professional recognition includes the Rotary Club of the Poconos' "Teacher of the Year", PMEA "Citation of Excellence" high school teacher, PMEA "Citation of Excellence" elementary teacher, National Band Association's "Citation of Excellence", membership in the Pi Kappa Lambda honorary music fraternity and Phi Beta Mu international bandmasters fraternity, an elected member of the Board of Directors of the National Band Association, PMEA Executive Council, Shawnee Press Publications Review Board and a Clinician for Music and Arts Center, with numerous articles published in the music journals of NY, NJ and PA and the national publication *The Instrumentalist*. He was the author of the book, "Case Study: A Successful Band Program," and has served as a guest conductor, adjudicator and lecturer in DE, FL, GA, MD, PA, NJ, NY, also conducting numerous concerts in Europe. Since retirement in 2001, Gordon moved to Delaware while continuing his extensive guest conducting and adjudicating experiences, also performing with community bands and the Dover Symphony. He has also served as a consultant/teacher at Sussex Technical H.S., a United States Department of Education designated *Blue Ribbon* high school in Delaware.



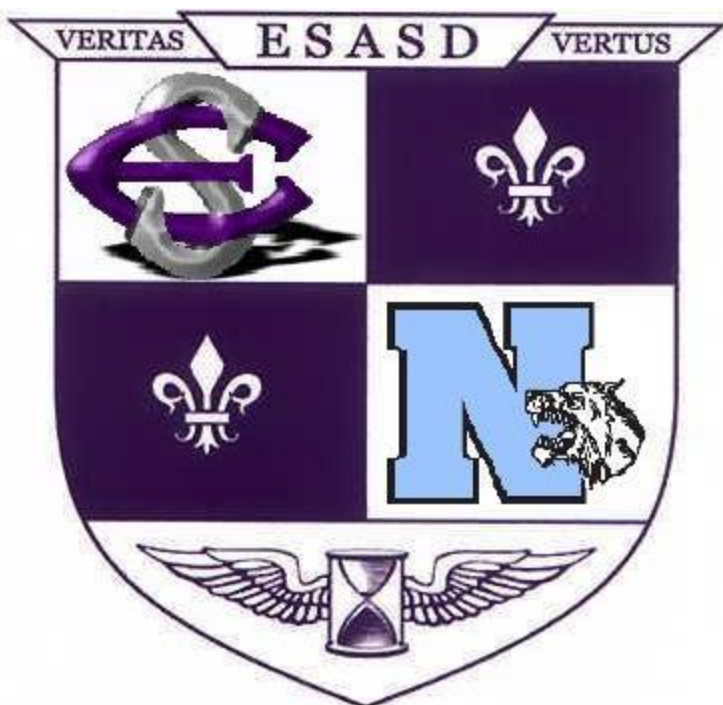




## Daniel Omelio

Dan is a graduate of East Stroudsburg High School-South, Class of 2001. At HS-South, he participated in a wide range of musical and non-musical activities, including Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, Symphony Band, School Productions (in the pit orchestra, as well as acting), Chorale, Chorus, and the Percussion Ensemble, also participating in All-District Band. He won "Best Solo" for the Monroe County Jazz Competition, and also performed with jazz legends Phil Woods and Tony Marino for the COTA Cats Jazz Ensemble (as part of the annual Delaware Water Gap COTA Jazz Festival). As a Cavalier student-athlete, Dan earned seven varsity letters, four in tennis, and three in soccer. He was selected by his senior classmates as "Most Talented" in their yearbook's "Senior Class Superlatives" section. Dan graduated from Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music in 2005. While at Syracuse, Dan was a member of the drumline in the Marching Band, also playing in the percussion section of the SU Orchestra, as well as the Brazilian Jazz Ensemble which toured the Central NY area, playing shows with other acclaimed musicians. He performed in many of the

school's ensembles, also serving as the in-house producer and drummer for the Belfer Recording Studio—the on-campus recording studio for the school of music. Upon graduation from Syracuse, Dan was hired by EMI Music Publishing, where he helped to break acts such as James Blunt, Ne Yo, Rihanna, and The Fray. After touring nationally as a guitar and drum performer, as well as gaining experience in musical production, he was signed by Cherry Lane Music Publishing as a producer/songwriter with the stage name "Robopop." Later, Dan met and worked with Ammar Malik and Benny Blanco to co-write the song "Stereo Hearts" (which would be performed by Gym Class Heroes, featuring Adam Levine), his first #1 hit, which would shape his musical career. That song reached #1 on the Billboard Pop Radio Chart, and sold more than 4 million copies in the United States. "Robopop" has become a multi-platinum, Grammy nominated songwriter/producer, with several of his productions becoming worldwide hits, while gaining critical acclaim for his production and ability to cross genres. Dan, Benny and Ammar would later see their biggest record to date, Maroon 5's "Payphone," co-written with Adam Levine, featuring rapper Wiz Khalifa, which sold close to 500,000 copies in its first week—the highest selling song for a band in its debut week ever—and has sold over 9 million copies worldwide, while being nominated for a Grammy Award at the 55th annual Grammy Awards show in February, 2013. Currently "Robopop" (Dan) is working with a wide range of artists, including Maroon 5, Gavin Degraw, James Blunt, Melanie Martinez, Emily Katter, Travie McCoy and Jason Mraz.



Past inductees into the East Stroudsburg Area School District Music Hall of Fame have included: (2002) Doreen Derr Bondy, \*Marguerite Cramer, John Eaton, \*Bernice Nauman, Dr. Kenneth Raessler, \*Clement Wiedinmyer, Robert Zellner; (2003) John E. Casagrande, Judith Farmer, Stuart Jones, David Lantz Jr., Melissa Mary Lengua, \*Louis Millard; (2004) Suzanne Anderson, Sallie Ferrebee, Jere Lantz, Stanley R. Schoonover, Michael Silvoy; (2005) Michael L. Ehrlich, Tasitha ("Tassy") Newcomb Gilbert, Steven R. Mathiesen, Larry Zaccaro Jr.; (2006) Jesse Green, Jennifer Schoonover, Vincent Yanovitch; (2007) Dr. Katharine ("Katchie") Cartwright, Patrick C. Dorian and Rebecca DeSanto Taylor; (2008) Robert C. Hartman, Susan Farmer Talley, David Springfield and Ly Wilder Tartell; (2009) Samuel DeRenzis, Zachary Giffel, Cory D. Miller and Robert Posten; (2010) Cynthia (Cindi) Bowman Copeland, Daniel Gelber, James A. Martini and Jenny Wunder Galunic; (2011) Michael Drolet, Brian McNulty, Kristen J. Smith and William Stine; (2012) Susan Moore Jordan, Caryn Kerstetter and Jennifer Kitchen.

\*-deceased