



Academic Magnet High School

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Media Release

SOA Orchestra Earns International Recognition, Led by Nationally Acclaimed Director Dr. Christopher Selby

Charleston, S.C. – Under the direction of strings director Dr. Christopher Selby, Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA) Symphony Orchestra has collected international recognitions and awards for the school. But today, Friday, March 21, 2025, he received a major honor.

Dr. Selby received the [Elizabeth A. H. Green Award](#) at the National Conference of the American String Teacher Association in Atlanta, GA. This recognition is bestowed upon distinguished school strings teachers who have done transformative work in music education. Along with developing the school's program, Dr. Selby has published multiple lines of orchestral instruction books, selling over 100,000 copies worldwide.

"I started writing a resource that I could use to teach my students at the Charleston School of the Arts," said Dr. Selby. "That initial book was published by GIA in 2013, and it became very popular. Since then I've published six other books for students and teachers."

Earlier in the school year, SOA's Symphony Orchestra was invited to perform at the renowned International Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL, which is the world's largest instrumental music education conference. The event draws approximately 17,000 attendees from across the world. This was the second time SOA was invited to the International Midwest Clinic, the first being in 2019.

In addition, the school has placed in multiple national conferences, including first place at the American String Teachers Association National Orchestra Festival in 2023 and third place at the National High School Orchestra Cup in 2024.

"The Charleston County School of the Arts High School Orchestra aims to perform spectacular concerts for the school and community, foster student growth through exceptional educational experiences, and help prepare artistically thoughtful, skilled, disciplined young adults for the careers and challenges they will encounter throughout the rest of their lives," added Dr. Selby.

Along with these significant achievements, SOA's Symphony Orchestra is committed to the local community. The program hosts multiple public performances and concerts, including the annual Holiday Spectacular—a consistently sold-out event featuring holiday favorites in collaboration with the school's vocalists at the renowned Gaillard Center.

For more information, contact Principal Dr. Shannon Cook at (843) 529-4990.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.