

TEREN SHAFFER

BIOGRAPHY

First prize winner of The 2014 American Prize in Conducting, **Teren Shaffer**, has been praised as an “Outstanding Arts Educator” by the Orange County Department of Education. Mr. Shaffer serves as director of the Classical Instrumental Music Conservatory at the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA), where he is also the music director and conductor of the Frederick Fennell Wind Ensemble. Mr. Shaffer serves as associate conductor and general manager of the Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra (OCYSO), cover conductor for Sinfonia Gulf Coast in Florida, and is the co-founder and director of artistic management for First & Grand Entertainment, LLC. A sought after adjudicator and clinician throughout Southern California, Mr. Shaffer has served on the Spotlight Awards selection panel at The Music Center in Los Angeles. Mr. Shaffer also serves on the national board of directors for the Arts Schools Network.

While completing a master’s degree from the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), Mr. Shaffer also served as cover conductor for the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. He conducted an array of ensembles including CCM’s Philharmonia, Concert Orchestra, Ballet Orchestra and Café MoMus (CCM’s contemporary music ensemble). Furthermore, he led an acclaimed production of Janacek’s opera *The Cunning Little Vixen* with CCM’s Opera d’Arte, which was awarded third place in its division by the National Opera Association.

In addition to completing a master of music degree in orchestral conducting at CCM, Mr. Shaffer holds bachelor of music degrees in instrumental conducting, bassoon performance and music education from Chapman University’s Conservatory of Music. At Chapman, he developed a keen interest in conducting and pursued his studies with Daniel Alfred Wachs. During this time, he prepared members of the Pacific Symphony for a concert with the Chapman Chamber Orchestra as part of the *American Composers Festival*.

Mr. Shaffer has conducted OCYSO at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa, California, in numerous *Concerts for Fifth Graders*, presented by the Philharmonic Society of Orange County. In addition, Mr. Shaffer served as a fellow with the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra. He has participated in numerous international summer music festivals and workshops, including CCM Spoleto in Italy, the Conductor’s Institute at Bard College Conservatory of Music, and the Conductor’s Retreat at Medomak.

Since taking over the helm of OCSA’s Frederick Fennell Wind Ensemble in 2011, Mr. Shaffer has led the ensemble to great success and recognition. In addition to earning unanimous superior ratings in festivals, the ensemble has been recognized for three consecutive years by The American Prize. In 2014, the ensemble was selected as the first prize winner for The American Prize in Band Performance. The 2011-2012 season also included a unique grant-underwritten performance of music by Grammy Award winning composer, Michael Daugherty, who visited OCSA for a weeklong residency. In February 2013, the ensemble was featured in a showcase performance at the California All-State Music Education Conference. During the 2013-2014 season, the Wind Ensemble collaborated with Grammy Award winning pianist, Bill Cunliffe, and traveled to the Music for All National Concert Band Festival as one of 16 schools selected from throughout the United States. The crowning achievement for any band program around the world is an invitation to perform at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. This notoriously competitive festival has long been a dream for OCSA’s Wind Studies Program, and the Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform at the 2014 Midwest Clinic – the first band from Southern California in the Midwest Clinic’s distinguished 68-year history.

The 2014-15 season will include engagements with the Frederick Fennell Wind Ensemble, Orange County Youth Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia Gulf Coast with Grammy-nominated composer and artist Chris Brubeck, and OCSA’s Summer Wind Studies Festival Ensemble for which Mr. Shaffer is the Founder and Artistic Director.