



Peter Markes is currently in his twelfth year as director of orchestras at Edmond North High School where he also chairs the performing arts department, teaches AP Music Theory, and team-teaches 8th grade orchestra at Cheyenne and Sequoyah Middle Schools in Edmond. In that time, his orchestras have received numerous superior ratings at festival competitions, and the high school orchestra is a ten-time recipient of the state sweepstakes award, the highest honor given by the state activities association. The high school orchestra was honored by the Oklahoma Music Educators Association as the 2012 High School Honor Orchestra to perform at the state conference in January, marking the second time the orchestra has received this honor under his leadership. Most recently, the orchestra was invited to perform at the prestigious 2012 Midwest Clinic.

Mr. Markes is a graduate of Oklahoma City University where he earned his bachelor degree in music education with emphasis in violin and guitar. While at OCU, he was twice selected as a concerto competition winner on violin and had the privilege of performing with the OCU Symphony Orchestra. In addition, he performed on master classes with the ProArte String Quartet, violinist Corey Cerovsek, and Oscar winning composer John Corigliano. He also played in the pit orchestra for sixteen productions with the Oklahoma Opera and Music Theater Company.

As a lifelong classically and folk trained violinist and hobby guitarist, Mr. Markes has had the chance to perform with musical partner, Kyle Dillingham in over twenty countries in North, Central, and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. During those travels, he conducted violin and guitar improvisation master classes in Venezuela, Macedonia, and China, and the duo was featured several times on television broadcast to millions worldwide. In 2000 while in Bangkok, Thailand, they recorded an album of thirteen original songs, titled *Outside the Box*. Mr. Markes can still be seen performing with Dillingham as part of the band, *Horseshoe Road*. Most recently, the band was selected as one of ten performing ensembles to represent the US Department of Cultural and Educational Affairs in the American Music Abroad program and toured Korea, Taiwan, Burma, and eastern Russia for five weeks in the spring of 2013.

In addition to his work in the Edmond Public Schools, Mr. Markes is also the conductor for the Oklahoma Youth Philharmonia and Oklahoma Youth Orchestra Chamber Ensemble. While on tour through Germany with the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra in 2004, Mr. Markes conducted the European premiere of *Summer Song* by composer Samuel Magrill. With the Edmond North Orchestra, he has conducted in the Chicago Symphony Center, the Dallas Meyerson Symphony Center, the Oklahoma Civic Center Music Hall, and twice in the world-famous Carnegie Hall where the ensemble was met with numerous standing ovations. He is regularly invited to clinic and conduct all-city orchestra and honor orchestra festivals throughout the region.

Mr. Markes was most recently selected as the 2014 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. In 2013, he was named one of the 40 Under Forty by *OKC Biz* magazine. In 2009, Mr. Markes was selected by *School Band and Orchestra* magazine as the Oklahoma representative for the nation's "50 Directors Who Make a Difference." In 2007, he was selected as the Cheyenne Middle School Teacher of the Year and was also a finalist for the Edmond Public Schools Teacher of the Year. In the same year, he was awarded a Governor's Commendation from Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry, and was selected as a "Feature Teacher of the Week" by *Magic 104* (KMGL 104.1). He has been honored three times by former students as their Teacher of Honor at the Oklahoma Academic All-State Celebration of Excellence. He has also been named Teacher of Today by the Oklahoma City Masonic Fraternity and received the 2012 Global Health Inspirational Teacher Award for the North High School vertical schools. Mr. Markes serves as president for the North Central Honor Orchestra, vice-president for the Oklahoma-ASTA chapter, has twice served as the Oklahoma Music Educators Association All-State Honor Orchestra chair, and has served on the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association Music Advisory Board; he has served as the concertmaster for the Enid Symphony Orchestra, is a three-year alum of the Oklahoma Summer Arts

Institute at Quartz Mountain, and performed two seasons as a section violinist with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. He is certified-trained by the Advanced Placement College Board to teach Advanced Placement Music Theory, a course he has taught for seven years at North. His professional memberships include the American String Teachers Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Education Association, the North Central Honor Orchestra, the Oklahoma City Orchestra League, and the Pi Kappa Lambda honor music fraternity. Mr. Markes resides in Oklahoma City with his wife, Kris, and their sons, Patrick and Vincent.