

**Midwest Clinic**  
**Wednesday, December 18, 2013**  
**10:30-11:30am**  
**Meeting Room W185**

**“Best of All Worlds in Your High School Orchestra”**  
***Ideas on How to Balance Eclectic and Traditional Instruction in the School Orchestra***

**Christian Howes, International/Yamaha Jazz Violin Artist**  
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**Douglas Droste- Director of Orchestras, Ball State University**  
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**I. Overview**

- A. *All-inclusive* string program
- B. Benefits

**II. Curriculum Ideas**

- A. Implementation of eclectic styles
- B. Implementation of traditional rehearsal techniques that aid all styles
  - 1. Fundamentals in EVERY rehearsal (select a few to focus on each day)
    - a. Style and Phrasing
    - b. Rhythm and Tempo
    - c. Balance and Blend
    - d. Technical concerns
    - e. Intonation
- C. Repertoire/Methods
  - 1. *Yamaha Certified String Teacher* spreadsheet, compiled by Kenny Baker
  - 2. Good “starter crossover” pieces:
    - 1. Time Piece- Steven Amundson
    - 2. Hugging the Shore- Paul Salerni
    - 3. Hoe Down- Aaron Copland

**III. Assessment of All Styles**

- A. Playing test during or outside rehearsal (recorded)
- B. Small combo jam sessions/chamber music/sectionals
- C. Trial performance with an outside adjudicator/clinician
- D. Distance learning- video submissions submission: **Creative Strings Academy**

**IV. A Good Balance of Eclectic and Traditional**

- A. Sample rehearsal schedule (55 minute period)  
(Will obviously need to be adjusted as certain performances approach)

9:00am	Set-up and tune (timing can vary due to level)
9:10am	Fundamentals <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scales- intonation/tone building</li><li>Rhythm</li><li>Improvisation</li></ul>
9:25am	Repertoire <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>String orchestra/festival piece</li></ul>

Alternative styles piece (rhythm section can set-up during string piece rehearsal)

9:50am Pack-up

## V. Guest Artist Residencies (see **Best of All Worlds Orchestra Residency** flier)

1. Fund raising opportunity

## VI. Websites

- o christianhowes.com
- o music.okstate.edu/droste\_bio.php
- o yamaha.com
- o astaweb.com

## Bios

Jazz violinist, educator, and producer **Christian Howes** grew up in Columbus, Ohio, where he studied classically from the age of five, performing as a soloist with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra at age 16 and later receiving his bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the Ohio State University.

At age twenty, a "cultural intervention" occurred when Christian had the opportunity to perform at regular gospel church services. "Playing in the gospel church services influenced me to change musical directions. The experience was so different from the classical music world; it felt fresh and inspiring. It became my mission to become a violinist with a strong voice in jazz." Since his shift 21 years ago, he has gained great notoriety from critics and players alike as one of the world's most respected jazz violinists. Christian was a favorite of the late Les Paul, with whom he worked for 11 years. Says Christian of his mentor, "Les defied categorization in terms of age or genre. His character, approach to life, and musicianship taught me many valuable lessons." From 2001-2010 Howes became an in-demand violinist on the New York scene, collaborating with a bevy of top shelf jazz artists, including Greg Osby, D.D. Jackson, Frank Vignola, Joel Harrison, Dafnis Prieto, Dave Samuels, Spyro Gyra, and a 4-year chair in Bill Evans' "Soulgrass" band.

In 2013, he was voted among the top three violinists in *JazzTimes*' "[2012 Expanded Critics Poll](#)". In August 2011, Christian was ranked as the #1 "Rising Star" violinist in the Downbeat Critics Poll. He was a nominee for the Jazz Journalists Association's "Violinist Of The Year" in 2011. In 2012, he received the Residency Partnership from Chamber Music America for his work in outreach with orchestral education programs. He regularly tours throughout Asia, Europe, and the U.S. as a leader of his own groups and a soloist with orchestras. Says All About Jazz, "as a jazz violinist he has no peer." The Minneapolis Tribune called Christian "arguably the most intriguing young violinist in jazz." According to the Chicago Reader, "Not since Jean Luc Ponty has a violinist ranged from pure classical to fuzz-tone rock to convincing jazz with such authority."

After releasing a string of independently released CDs as a leader, he signed with [Resonance Records](#) in 2008 and released two critically acclaimed CDs. The first, "Heartfelt," featuring pianist Roger Kellaway, features ballads and lyrical works. "Out of the Blue" released in 2010 features guitarist Robben Ford, and demonstrates a wide range of modern and traditional sensibilities, steeped in the blues. His newest release, "Southern Exposure," featuring accordionist Richard Galliano, draws from a hispanic sphere of influence. A former Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music, he is also the founder of the [Creative Strings Workshop and Festival](#), which convenes during the first week of July every year in Columbus, Ohio. Says Howes, "The Creative Strings Workshop and Festival offers string players from Columbus and around the world an

opportunity to study improvisation, composition, and styles outside the realm of classical music, while bringing the city of Columbus a plethora of talent and musical energy.”

In 2011, Howes launched an online lessons website, the “[Creative Strings Academy](#),” which boasts the largest enrollment worldwide of string players studying jazz and improvised music.

Since 2007, he has also built an innovative online production business, “[Christian Howes String Recording](#),” which provides live string sections and more to music producers worldwide via a remote, collaborative “virtual” orchestra.

Christian is an active blogger and clinician, frequently engaged to speak regarding music education and music business at schools and conferences.

Conductor **Douglas Droste** is recognized as possessing "obvious joy" for making music and a "sure sense of timing" when on the podium. Those under his baton routinely acknowledge him for his in-depth musical interpretations, keen sense of communication, and his personable ability to empower musicians. Droste is the newly appointed Artistic Director of the Muncie Symphony Orchestra and Director of Orchestras at Ball State University.

Most recently, Droste served as Director of Orchestral Studies at Oklahoma State University and Principal Guest Conductor of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. During his tenure at OSU, Droste was lauded for his performances of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, Holst's *The Planets*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 1*, and Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5*, among others. He also helped establish the opera studies program, conducting performances of Donizetti's *Elixir of Love*, Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*, Menotti's *The Medium*, and the full premier of Jeremy Beck's *Review*. With the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Droste conducted a variety of concerts as well as productions with the Oklahoma City Ballet, including the full premier of Lanny Meyers' *Legends of Sleepy Hollow*. Demonstrating his versatility, Droste has conducted pops concerts with artists such as Ben Folds, The Flaming Lips, Pink Martini, Michael Cavanaugh, John Pizzarelli, Christian Howes, as well as *Cirque de la Symphonie*. Droste's recent guest conducting appearances include the orchestras of Columbus, Midland-Odessa, Tulsa, and the Amarillo Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra on an all-Bach concert, performing as violin/leader on *Brandenburg Concerto No. 1*.

A dedicated advocate of music education, Droste regularly conducts youth orchestras throughout the country. Droste is also active as a clinician and adjudicator for school orchestras and festivals. Believing that outreach is an important tool for the promotion of music education, Droste has developed Young People's Concerts for several orchestras.

A talented violinist, Droste has performed with the orchestras of Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Nashville, Memphis, Lubbock, and the Lancaster Festival (OH). He is a former student of John Gilbert and the late Michael Davis. Droste is also skilled on viola and trumpet, and has sung with a variety of choral ensembles.

Previous positions include music director/conductor of the Oklahoma Youth Symphony, and faculty positions at Austin Peay State University (TN) and Liberty Union-Thurston School District (OH). Droste studied conducting at the Pierre Montoux School, Oregon Bach Festival with Helmuth Rilling, as well as other prominent conducting seminars. His primary conducting mentors include Gary Lewis, Larry Rachleff, Michael Jinbo, David Lockington, and Jose-Luis Novo. Droste holds degrees from The Ohio State University and Texas Tech University.