

**Thomas Mann** graduated with a BA in Music at Texas State University with a focus on piano and composition and will be completing his Masters of Music in Composition this Fall, 2018. Formerly Head Director of Orchestra and Guitar as well as the Fine Arts Department Chair at Consuelo Mendez Middle School, in the Austin Independent School District of Texas, USA, Mann is currently Director of Orchestras and Guitar Ensembles at Akins High School. Mr. Mann is a board member-at-large of *The National Association of Composers, USA-Texas Chapter* as well as a member of *Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Orchestra Directors Association, Texas Guitar Directors Association, Society of Composers International, National Association for Music Educators, The College Music Society, and The National Honor Society*. He plays Piano, Hammond Organ, Rhodes, Guitar and Bass in several genres and with various artist around Texas. Along with teaching and live performances, he does studio work, arranging and composing for pop, jazz and modern works. Mann has played with many popular artists nationally and throughout Texas and has experience on large stages, opening for B.B.King, Storyville, Bob Schneider, and Pat Benetar as well as experience performing and conducting art music.

Mr. Mann has written pieces for the Texas State Tuba Ensemble, which were performed at the Brass Ensemble conference in Indiana. Another composition, "Piano Drift for Two Pianos" won the Texas State University composition competition in 2011. His catalogue of compositions has been rapidly expanding and recently his composition *Suite for Flute* won the National Association of Composers, USA-Texas 2016 Composition Competition. He studied with composition professor Richard Hall and Dr. Russell Reipe along with acclaimed pianist Dr. Washington Garcia as an undergraduate, Dr. Bruce Pennycook of the University of Texas and currently with Dr. Thomas Clark and Dr. Michael Ippolito at Texas State University. Mann continues to compose music and pedagogy for his orchestras along with popular and commercial music.

Thomas always tries to keep his grasp beyond his reach and strives to be as well rounded and disciplined in music as possible while driving for more knowledge and ability without sacrificing creativity in performance, composition and teaching practices.