



MICHAEL SWEENEY

Director of Band Publications for Hal Leonard Corporation

Michael Sweeney is currently Director of Band Publications for Hal Leonard Corporation in Milwaukee, WI one of the largest publishers of printed music in the world. Michael is directly responsible for the development, production, recording and marketing of new publications for school bands. In addition, he contributes as a composer and arranger in all instrumental areas, and is particularly known for his writing at the younger levels for concert band and jazz. Since joining the company in 1982, Hal Leonard has published over 500 of his compositions and arrangements.

Mr. Sweeney is a 1977 graduate of Indiana University (Bloomington), where he earned a bachelor's degree in music education and studied composition with Bernard Heiden, John Eaton and Donald Erb. Prior to working for Hal Leonard he was a band director in Ohio and Indiana, working with successful concert, jazz and marching programs at all levels from elementary to high school.

A winner of multiple ASCAP awards, his *Ancient Voices* (1994) and *Imperium* (1992) are featured in the acclaimed Teaching Music Through Performance series by GIA Publications. Other works such as *Black Forest Overture* (1996), *The Forge of Vulcan* (1997), *Distant Thunder of the Sacred Forest* (2003) and *Celtic Air & Dance* (2007) have become staples in the repertoire for middle school bands. He has received commissions ranging from middle school and high school bands to the Eastman Wind Ensemble and Canadian Brass. His works appear on numerous state contest lists and his music is regularly performed throughout the world. Michael is also in demand as a clinician and conductor for honor bands and festivals.

Michael resides in the Milwaukee area where he enjoys fishing and playing the bodhrán.



ROLF OLSON

Director of Bands, Northern State University

Rolf Olson is Director of Bands and Professor of Trumpet at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota where he directs the Symphonic Band, and teaches conducting, brass methods, and studio trumpet. Previous to NSU, Olson taught at the University of South Dakota, Augustana College, and in the public schools of Arlington and Vermillion, South Dakota.

Olson is an active guest clinician/conductor, having directed the Dakota Wind Ensemble, the Nebraska Class B and C All State Bands, the South Dakota Middle School All State Band, the Northwest Iowa Honor Band, and numerous other band festivals and jazz festivals in South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa. He is active in the region as an adjudicator for all types of instrumental music competitions and serves as an adjudicator for the South Dakota All State Band auditions. Olson recently received the Outstanding Bandmaster of the Year Award in South Dakota, and the Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota High School Activities Association.

Olson is an active trumpet player, performing regularly with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, the Sioux Falls Big Band, and the Dalesburg Cornet Band of which he is cornet soloist and musical director. He has performed solos with numerous high school bands and has performed twice at International Trumpet Guild Conventions. He has also played professionally with the Carson & Barnes Circus Band, Gene Pitney Orchestra, and Myron Floren.