

# N. E. Ekpo

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Web: [www.NseEkpo.com](http://www.NseEkpo.com)

## EDUCATION

- 2017**                      ***Master of Business Administration-(General Management)***  
University of South Carolina Darla Moore School of Business  
Columbia, SC
- 2015**                      ***Doctor of Music Arts (Orchestral Conducting)***  
Dissertation: “Expanding the American Canon: The Orchestral Music Black American Composers”  
<https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/etd/3098/>  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC
- 2005-2007**                ***Graduate Studies (Wind Conducting)***  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA
- 2005**                      ***Master of Music (Orchestral Conducting)***  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC
- 2001**                      ***Bachelor of Music (Music Education/ Clarinet Performers Certificate)***  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

## CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE

- 2022-Present**            ***Assistant Conductor***, Lake Union Civic Orchestra (LUCO), Seattle, WA
- 2019-Present**            ***Music Director and Conductor***, Issaquah Philharmonic Orchestra (WA)
- 2018-Present**            ***Rehearsal Conductor***, Evergreen Community Orchestra (WA)
- 2018-2019**                ***Interim Conductor***, Seattle Pacific University Symphony Orchestra
- 2018-2019**                ***Assistant Conductor***, Issaquah Philharmonic Orchestra (WA)
- 2014-2015**                ***Assistant Conductor***, Congaree New Horizons Band (Adult Community Band)
- 2008-2009**                ***Conductor***, West Side Symphonette (Community and Youth Orchestra)  
West Seattle, WA

## OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2015**                      ***Music History Instructor***, Carolina Summer Music Conservatory at the University of South Carolina
- 2012-2014**                ***Founder, Camp Director***, Aspire! Band Camp  
Greenville, SC

2011-2014            **Founder, Camp Director**, Explore! Summer Jazz Camp  
Clyde Hill, WA

2009-2014            **Founder, Camp Director**, Explore! Summer Band Camp  
Clyde Hill, WA

2007-2008            **Graduate Assistant Director**, University of Washington *Husky Band*

2006-2008            **Founder/ Teacher**, \*First Place School Elementary Band Program  
\**School for Disadvantaged Children*  
Seattle, WA

2001-2002            **Personnel Manager**, University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra  
Columbia, SC

2001                    **Student Teacher**, Irmo High School/ Irmo Middle School  
Irmo, SC

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2016-Present            **Concert Band Director Director**, Lakeside School  
Seattle, WA

2015-2016            **Band Director**, Lakeview Middle School  
Greenville, SC

2014-2015            **Instructor of Music Appreciation**, University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC

2012-2015            **Clarinet Instructor**, Lander University  
Greenwood, SC

2007-2012            **Band Director**, Bellevue Christian School  
Clyde Hill, WA

2003-2005            **Band Director**, West Baltimore Middle School  
Baltimore, MD

### COLLEGE COURSES TAUGHT

2018-2019            **Seattle Pacific University**  
Interim Director of Orchestras

2014-2015            **University of South Carolina**  
Instructor for Music 110 (Music Appreciation)

2012-2015            **Lander University (SC)**  
Applied Clarinet Lessons

2005-2007            **The University of Washington**  
Musen 302/ 502 Concert Band  
Musen 309/ 509 Summer Band  
Musen 300/ 500 Summer Orchestra

2000                    **University of South Carolina**  
Undergraduate Teacher's aide for Music 110

### **WORKSHOPS/ MASTER CLASSES ATTENDED**

- 2022** International Masterclass Berlin with Colin Metters  
Berlin, Germany
- 2022** Cascade Conducting Workshop with Sarah Ioannides  
Tacoma, WA
- 2015** International Conductor's Workshop and Competition  
Roswell, GA
- 2014** Conductor's Institute of South Carolina at Columbia
- 2004-2005** Gustav Meier conducting master classes at the Peabody Conservatory,  
Baltimore, Maryland
- 2003** Conductor's Guild Workshop, Wind Ensemble:  
The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Conductor's Guild Workshop: The Pennsylvania Air National Guard Band
- 2001** Conductor's Institute of South Carolina at China
- Conductor's Institute of South Carolina at Columbia
- 2000** Conductor's Institute of South Carolina at Columbia

### **HONORS/ AWARDS**

- 2018** Resident, Rockland Residency, Bremerton, WA
- 2018** The American Prize: finalist for Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for Programming of American Music
- The American Prize: finalist for the Orchestral Conducting Award, Professional Division
- 2015** University of South Carolina Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
- 2007** Teaching Assistant, Summer Band at the University of Washington
- 2006** Teaching Assistant, Summer Band at the University of Washington
- 2005** Runner Up, Washington MTNA Solo Competition
- 2005.2006** GOMAP Research Fellowship, University of Washington
- 2001** Van Doren Award for Most Outstanding Graduating Music Education Student, University of South Carolina
- 2000** Presser Award for Most Outstanding Rising Senior Music Student, University of South Carolina
- Ron McNair Post Baccalaureate Fellowship
- 1998** Freshman of the Year Award, The University of South Carolina's School of Music

### **PREMIERES**

- 2022 Conductor of *A Converging Excursion* (Commissioned by the Issaquah Philharmonic) Composed by James Lee III, World Premiere
- 2014 Conductor of music for “*Our Journey Forward*” Univ. South Carolina Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> year of the desegregation of the University. Composed by Bert Ligon, World Premiere
- 2011 Conductor of *Pacific Tides (Commissioned for Nse Ekpo and Bellevue Christian School)* Composed by John Moody, World Premiere
- 2007 Conductor of *Chamber Suite for Eleven Players* Composed by Walter Hartley, World Premiere
- 2002 Conductor for *Light Bulb for Solo Horn and Orchestra* Composed by Baljinder Sekhon, World Premiere

### PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 Dissertation: Expanding the American Canon: A Conductor’s Compendium of Black American Orchestral Composers, published by ProQuest dissertations (<https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/etd/3098/>)
- 2009 “Walter Harley” chapter in *A Composer’s Insight: Vol. 4.* Edited by Timothy Salzman, published by Meredith Music.
- 2006 Assistant Editor for *A Composer’s Insight: Vol. 3.* Edited by Timothy Salzman, published by Meredith Music.

### SELECTED MASTER CLASSES/ CONDUCTING / ADJUDICATING

- 2022 Guest Conductor, Everett School District HS (WA) Honor Orchestra
- Guest Clinician, South West Washington Music Educators Association Middle School Band Festival
- Guest Clinician, Tyee Middle School Music Festival
- Guest Clinician, Chinook Middle School Band & Orchestra Festival
- 2019 Guest Conductor, Lake Washington Symphony Orchestra (African American Music Program)
- Guest Adjudicator, Bellevue School District High School Band II Festival
- Guest Adjudicator, Olympic Music Educators Association High School Band Festival
- Guest Clinician, Mount Pilchuck Music Educators Association 8th Grade Honor Band
- 2018 Guest Conductor, Pazardjik Symphony Orchestra (Pazardjik, Bulgaria)
- Guest Rehearsal Conductor, Issaquah Philharmonic
- Guest Rehearsal Conductor, Orchestra of Flight
- Adjudicator (Sight Reading), Bellevue School District (WA) Middle School Band Festival
- Adjudicator, Valley Region (WA) High School Concert Band Festival
- Adjudicator, Elliot Bay Music Educators Association (WA) Middle School Band Festival

Adjudicator (Clarinets), Mountain Region (WA) Solo and Ensemble

Guest Conductor, Tacoma Community College Orchestra

Conductor, Lakeside Middle Symphony-featured guest performing ensemble at the WMEA Convention

**2017** Guest Conductor, Pazardjik Symphony Orchestra (Pazardjik, Bulgaria)

Guest Conductor, Puget Brass (Seattle, WA)

Guest Rehearsal Conductor, Seattle Pacific University Symphony Orchestra

Guest Rehearsal Conductor, Orchestra of Flight (formerly Boeing Employees Orchestra of Flight)

**2016** Guest Rehearsal Conductor, Orchestra of Flight (formerly Boeing Employees Orchestra of Flight)

**2015** Assistant Conductor, Congaree New Horizons Band (SC)

Richland One Middle School Honor Band Clarinet Judge

**2014** Rehearsal Conductor for USC Saxophone Ensemble

Conductor for “Our Journey Forward” Program at USC (Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of desegregation at USC.

Guest Clinician & Conductor, Congaree New Horizons Band (SC)

Guest Clinician, Hand Middle School (SC) Clarinets

**2013** Guest Clinician & Conductor, Woodmont High School Pre-festival Concert

**2012** Adjudicator, Olympic Region (WA) High School Concert Band Festival

Guest Clinician, Greer High School (SC) Clarinet and Saxophones

Guest Clinician, Greer Middle School (SC) Clarinet and Saxophones

Guest Clinician, Ralph Chandler Middle School (SC) Concert Bands

Guest Clinician, Blue Ridge High School (SC) Concert Band and Wind Ensemble

Guest Clinician, Woodmont High School (SC) Concert Band

Guest Clinician, Southside High School (SC) Concert Band

Guest Clinician, Hughes Academy (SC) Concert Band

Guest Clinician, Sevier Middle School (SC) Clarinets and Saxophones

**2011** Guest Conductor, Puget Brass (Seattle, WA)

Adjudicator, Chinook Region (WA) Solo and Ensemble, woodwinds

Adjudicator, Commencement Bay Region (WA) High School Concert Band Festival

**2010** Guest Clinician, Peninsula High School (WA) Wind Ensemble and Concert Band

Adjudicator, Commencement Bay Region (WA) Solo and Ensemble; Oboe, Bassoon, and Clarinets

**2008-2013** Clarinet and Saxophone private teacher  
[Including studios at Kennelly Keys Music, Tukwila (WA) and Musical Innovations (SC)]

**2008** Guest Rehearsal Conductor, U.W. Summer Orchestra  
Adjudicator, Olympic Region (OMEA), WCD III, Junior High/Middle School Band Contest (WA)

**2007** Conductor/ Master Class, Bassett High School (CA) Concert Band  
(visit to U.W. campus)  
Woodwind Master Class, Chief Sealth High School (WA)

**2006** Conductor/ Master Class, Orem High School (UT) Concert Band and Orchestra  
(visit to U.W. campus)  
Conductor, West Side Symphonette “Build an Orchestra in a Day”  
(Seattle, Chief Sealth High School)  
Guest Rehearsal Conductor, Boeing Employees “Orchestra of Flight”  
(Seattle, WA)

**2005** Clarinet Master Classes, Encore Music Camp (GA)  
Master Class/ Field Tech., Irmo High School (South Carolina) Marching Band

**2004** Master Class/ Field Tech., Irmo High School (South Carolina) Marching Band

**2003** Master Class/ Field Tech., Irmo High School (South Carolina) Marching Band  
Conductor, Student Composer’s Concert at the University of South Carolina

**2002** Master Class/ Field Tech., Sumter High School (South Carolina) Marching Band  
Clarinet Master Classes, Encore Music Camp (Georgia)  
Clarinet Master Class, Laing Middle/Irmo Middle Exchange Concert (South Carolina)  
Conductor, College Street Brass Choir at the University of South Carolina  
Conductor, Student Composer’s Concert at the University of South Carolina

**2001** Master Class/ Field Tech, Sumter High School (South Carolina) Marching Band  
Clarinet Master Class, Laing Middle/ Irmo Middle Exchange Concert (South Carolina)  
Conductor, Prince George Winyah Opera, “Amahl and the Night Visitors” (South Carolina)  
Conductor, College Street Brass Choir at the University of South Carolina

**2000** Master Class/ Field Tech, Sumter High School (South Carolina) Marching Band

**2000 - 2003** Founder/ Conductor, Sumter Chamber Orchestra (South Carolina)

**1999** Master Class/ Field Tech, Crestwood High School (South Carolina) Marching Band

**1997** Master Class/ Field Tech, Crestwood High School (South Carolina) Marching Band  
Master Class/ Field Tech, Lakewood High School (South Carolina) Marching Band

**1996 - 2003** Private Clarinet Teacher

**PLAYING EXPERIENCE**

- 2015 Second Clarinet, Aiken Symphony Orchestra (SC)  
Section Clarinet, Palmetto Concert Band (SC)
- 2009 Clarinet soloist on Mozart's Clarinet Concerto mvmt. 2, Westside Symphonette Orchestra (WA)
- 2008 Guest Principal Clarinet, Northwest University, Kirkland, WA
- 2007 Co-Principal Clarinet, University of Washington Wind Ensemble, Japan Tour
- 2005 Founder, Emerald City Wind Quintet
- 2004 Clarinet, Prince George Philharmonic Orchestra (MD)  
Bass Clarinet, Baltimore Symphonic Band  
Solo Clarinet/ Voice Recital, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Recital Series (MD)
- 2002-2003 Clarinet, Hilton Head Opera (SC)
- 2001-2003 Clarinet, Palmetto Concert Band (SC)
- 2001-2002 Clarinet, Augusta Opera (GA)
- 2000 Principal Clarinet, University of South Carolina Symphonic Band  
Founder, University Chamber Players, Clarinet Quintet (Strings)  
Reeds, *The King and I*, Village Square Theatre (SC)  
Reeds, *Sweet Charity*, Town Theatre (SC)
- 1999 Principal Clarinet, South Carolina Intercollegiate Band  
Founder, Carolina Chamber Society Woodwind Quintet  
Reeds, *Cabaret*, Town Theatre (SC)  
Reeds, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, Town Theatre (SC)
- 1998-1999 Clarinet Section Leader, University of South Carolina "Mighty Sound of the South East" Marching Band
- 1997 Principal Clarinet and soloist, University of South Carolina Band and Orchestra Clinic  
Principal Clarinet, January Music Festival (Jan-Fest) at the University of Georgia
- 1996 Winner/ Performer, Omega Psi Phi National Talent Hunt  
Los Angeles, CA

### CONDUCTING TRAINING

- 2022 Colin Metters (Emeritus conductor professor, London Royal Academy)
- 2022 Sarah Ioannides (Music Director & Conductor, Symphony Tacoma)
- 2021 Lee Mills (Associate Conductor, Seattle Symphony)
- 2007 Peter Eros (Conductor, University of Washington Symphony Orchestra)

- 2005-2007** Timothy Salzman (Director of Concert Ensembles, University of Washington)
- 2000-2003, 2014-2015** Donald Portnoy (Director of Orchestral Studies, University of South Carolina)
- 2000-2001** William J. Moody (Emeritus Professor of Conducting, University of South Carolina)

### CLARINET TRAINING

- 2005** Steven Barta (Principal Clarinet, Baltimore Symphony)  
William McColl, ( Emeritus Professor of Clarinet, University of Washington)
- 1996-2001** R. Douglas Graham (Former Principal Clarinet, South Carolina Philharmonic)

### VOICE TRAINING

- 2004** Mary Anne Collins (Former Professional Opera Singer)
- 2003** Illah Raleigh (Graduate Student, Peabody Conservatory)

### COMPOSITIONS/ ARRANGEMENTS

- 2008** *“Low” for Elementary Band*
- 2003** *Johanna’s Suite for Saxophone Quartet*

### DISCOGRAPHY

- 2012** *The Best of Symphonic Wind Ensemble! Volume II, 2010-2012*
- 2010** *The Best of Symphonic Wind Ensemble! Volume I, 2007-2010*

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ ACTIVITIES

- 2017** NW-MENC Convention Presentation “Diversify: The Band and Orchestral works of African-American Composers”
- 2011** NW-MENC Convention Presentation “Start your own Summer Band Camp”
- 2010** NWCSI (Northwest Christian Schools International) Conference Presenter on “Band Crash Course---Rehearsal Techniques and Strategies for the 5-12 Band Program”, Surrey, B.C
- 2008** National Band Association (NBA)  
WMEA Eastshore League Band I Festival Host and Chairman
- 2007** University of Washington School of Music Recruitment Diversity Committee
- 2006** Honorary Member of Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity (Gamma Chapter)
- 2005** Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA)
- 2001** Conductor’s Guild



**2000** MENC, Collegiate Chapter President  
**1997** Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Delta Sigma Chapter)

**VOLUNTEER/ COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**2014** Announcer for USC Symphony Cirque de La Symphony Childrens' Concert  
**2007** Master of Ceremonies, Talent Night, Emmanuel Reformed Baptist Church (WA)  
**2006** Volunteer at Saint Martin Deporres Homeless Shelter (Seattle, WA)  
**2005** Youth Choir Director, Emmanuel Reformed Baptist Church (WA)  
**2004** Assistant Conductor, Christmas Cantata at Trinity Reformed Baptist Church (MD)  
Jail Ministry, Trinity Reformed Baptist Church (MD)  
**2000** Founder of MusiCare, A service providing music for persons living in nursing homes (SC)  
**1999** Volunteer, Gallery 701, Performing Arts Non Profit Organization (SC)  
**1998-2000** Honor Band Clinician Host, University of South Carolina Band and Orchestra Clinic