Shawn Smith is Associate Professor of Conducting and Director of Bands at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In high demand as a band and orchestra conductor, clinician and adjudicator, Smith has been invited to conduct professional and educational ensembles throughout the United States and internationally, including engagements with two of the finest professional bands in South America, the State Symphonic Band of São Paulo (Brazil) and the State Symphonic Band of Córdoba (Argentina). Smith has also been invited to conduct region and all-state bands in Arizona, Idaho, Illinois, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina and Texas. His performances have been heard numerous times on American Public Media’s “Performance Today,” the most popular classical music radio program in the United States.

Equally at home with opera and musical theater productions, Smith has conducted pit orchestras for the Marriage of Figaro and a six-week run of Les Misérables. Smith has also presented numerous educational clinics and speeches, most notably at the International Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago and at music conferences throughout the United States, Europe and South America.

As a public school teacher, Smith served as Director of Bands and Orchestra at one of the largest high schools in Idaho where he administered a comprehensive instrumental music program. While at Meridian High School, ensembles under his direction were distinguished as among the finest in the state.

Dr. Shayna Stahl is Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at UNC Charlotte. In this role, Dr. Stahl serves as the Director of the “Pride of Niner Nation” Marching Band, the 49er Basketball Band and the University Symphonic Band. Prior to her appointment at UNC Charlotte, Dr. Stahl worked for ten years with the athletic bands at Stony Brook University, the final three years as Director of Athletic Bands. She also served for seven years as a public school band director in New York.

Dr. Stahl holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Temple University, a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Stony Brook University, a Master of Music Education/Wind Band Conducting from The Hartt School at the University of Hartford and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Instrumental Conducting from the University of Washington. At the University of Washington, she served as the Graduate Assistant Director of the Husky Marching Band, conductor of the Concert Band and assistant conductor of the Wind Ensemble.

Dr. Stahl is currently a member of the National Association for Music Education, College Band Directors National Association, Golden Key International Honor Society, Sigma Alpha Iota and an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi.
The Charlotte Youth Wind Ensembles

The Charlotte Youth Wind Ensembles (CYWE), now preparing for its twenty-eighth season, has established itself as one of the Carolinas' premier student musical organizations. Past repertoire has included some of the most famous and respected titles in band literature as well as new literature. CYWE includes two bands, the Charlotte Youth Wind Orchestra, conducted by Shawn Smith, and the Charlotte Youth Symphonic Band, conducted by Shayna Stahl.

Following a series of rehearsals, the bands will present a number of regional concerts. In the past, CYWE has been featured on local television in Charlotte.

Students from an 80-mile radius of Charlotte have been members of the Charlotte Youth Wind Ensembles, which are sponsored by the Department of Music of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Mission

The mission of CYWE is to provide the ultimate concert band experience for highly-talented high school students as a musical enrichment program. Very high standards for performance and attendance are expected of all CYWE musicians. Our aim is to present the highest caliber band music in a university-level rehearsal and performance atmosphere.

Eligibility

CYWE auditions are open to all North and South Carolina band students in grades 9-12. All CYWE musicians must be enrolled in their school band or orchestra program. Home-schooled musicians are also eligible.

Auditions

Auditions will be held at Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts, UNC Charlotte on Sunday, December 8, 2019, beginning at 1:00pm. All auditions must be in person, and no alternative audition dates are possible. Audition materials consist of the current year’s All-State solos for North and South Carolina. Students in grades 9-10 can choose to play either the 9-10 or the 11-12 solo for either state; however to be eligible for placement in the Wind Orchestra, students must perform the 11-12 solo. Students will be expected to play their district cuts. Students should also be prepared to play major scales to four sharps/flats and a short sight-reading excerpt.

Rehearsals/Concerts

Wind Orchestra rehearsals will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. and Symphonic Band rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-9:15pm. All rehearsals are held at UNC Charlotte’s Robinson Hall for the Performing Arts. This site is easily accessible for students traveling from any part of the region. Wind Orchestra rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 and will continue through Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Symphonic Band rehearsals will begin on January 8, 2020 and continue through February 19, 2020. Students accepted into CYWE will receive music in advance of the first rehearsal and, similar to an All-State band or orchestra experience, will be expected to come to the first rehearsal with the music technically prepared. Up to three concerts will be given throughout the region late February to early March.

CYWE Soloist Competition

Any student selected for membership in the Wind Orchestra is also eligible to compete in the CYWE Soloist Competition to be held before rehearsal on January 14, 2020. The winner of the competition will have the honor of performing as a featured soloist in this season’s CYWE concerts. Students selected for the Symphonic Band are not eligible for the soloist competition. Solos must be less than ten minutes and have a band accompaniment that is readily available. Soloists should consult with their band director, private instructor or Dr. Smith to select an appropriate solo.

CYWE Application/Fees

CYWE application materials are available online at: www.music.uncc.edu. A $10 audition fee (payable online) must accompany the application materials. Upon receipt of notification that a student is accepted as a member of CYWE, s/he will receive a rehearsal schedule and a contract for membership which must be signed by the student and parent and returned to CYWE at the first rehearsal.

The tuition for membership is $120 for the season, payable online. The tuition fee covers parking, music, staff and clinician expenses, printing, and other related costs.