

Gary Alan Wood's work in arts and education is brimming with front-line experiences with distinctive organizations and institutions of national scope, including the University of Miami, The New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (New Orleans), The Philadelphia Orchestra, the Minnesota Orchestra and more. At the center of his career in arts and education is a life-long association with classical music, endeavoring to ensure that the art form continues its rich and vibrant history of inspiring and developing young minds.

Mr. Wood serves the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami as Director, Arts Presenting and Live Entertainment Management, a dynamic and comprehensive graduate degree program. His responsibilities include the oversight, design and supervision of the program, including student achievement, program goals and objectives, course content and syllabi, and outcomes and evaluations. He is the instructor of courses in arts leadership, venue administration, non-profit arts best practices and career management.

In addition, Mr. Wood designed and launched the Arts Presenting and Live Entertainment full degree program online via Frost Online, including numerous classes, presentations and instructional materials. After just two years, nine students have graduated from this exclusive program.

Prior to his arrival in Miami, Wood served Fairfield University as Director, Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts. The position was responsible for every aspect of planning, directing, and managing the arts center, program and season design, producing and presenting events, fundraising, marketing, university-based educational collaborations, community-centered activities, 300+ yearly events, supervising staff and volunteers (100+), and managing a \$2,500,000 + yearly budget. Included in the vast array of activities were initiatives to enhance student learning through master classes, special talks and interactions with visiting artists and education professionals.

Additionally, Mr. Wood directed the operations of the Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery, coordinated its acclaimed OPEN VISIONS Forum Speaker series, served as Co-Chair of the Arts, Community Engagement Committee (ACCE), and Co-Chaired the campus-wide, cross-curriculum focus topic, *Cities*.

From 2003 to 2008, Mr. Wood served as President/CEO of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), an outstanding conservatory for arts education (Grade 3 through 12). Wood led the return of NOCCA to "better than ever status" after Hurricane Katrina, the redesign of the entire arts curriculum across seven disciplines, and the design and construction of campus expansion. In 2006, Americans for the Arts presented NOCCA and Mr. Wood with its prestigious Public Leadership in the Arts Award.

Having served the Minnesota Orchestras and The Philadelphia Orchestra as their education and outreach leader, Mr. Wood organized front-line experiences connecting youth to the rich and vibrant heritage of classical music in a number of ways, including side-by-side rehearsals and master classes. And in collaboration with the Minnesota String Teachers Association (MSTA), he created and managed a highly successful series of Middle School Orchestra Festivals featuring young musicians and ensembles from around the state, with involvement by Minnesota Orchestra musicians as instructors and mentors. In 1998, MSTA voted Mr. Wood, “Community Music Educator of the Year.”

As a child Mr. Wood was fortunate to live in a community replete with music education opportunities. Starting with clarinet in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Mr. Wood played in school and community based music organizations as much as possible, including the Minnesota Youth Symphonies, an organization for which he holds great affection for its caring, nurturing and musically challenging culture. After graduation from the University of Minnesota, Mr. Wood taught instrumental and vocal music for several years in the public schools, enjoying the complexities and rewards of teaching talented young children and musicians.

Over the years, Mr. Wood has been fortunate to work in collaboration on numerous projects with nationally and Internationally-prominent composers, music directors and musicians such as, Roberto Sierra, Libby Larsen, Steve Heitzeg, Eiji Oue, Wolfgang Sawalisch, David Robertson, Giancarlo Guerrero, Midori, Joshua Bell, Thomas Hampson, Elis Marsalis and many more. Commissions, master-classes, pre- and post-concert talks, recordings and outreach activities are few examples of his extensive work.

Mr. Wood is blessed to be married to Sakiko Ohashi, a professional pianist and teacher. As a graduate of The Juilliard School, Sakiko has performed nationally and internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. Mr. Wood and Sakiko have great fun (and intense exhaustion) chasing around their adorable 5-year old boy, Kenji. Mr. Wood continues to play clarinet as time allows, as well as teach and conduct.

When asked about his passion for arts education, Mr. Wood said, “Education through the arts—whether or not a child is intent on a career in the arts—is of paramount importance. The benefits of music cannot always be directly measured, but we know active involvement has life-long positive and lasting meaning, something we see so prominently and beautifully in the world of youth symphonies. Done well, young musicians in this setting test themselves in challenging ways, build life-long friendships and cultivate their appreciation for beauty and creativity. For me, I must be around that type of community—and do what I to can to contribute to every student’s learning and success.”

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