

## **Thomas G. Kociela — Conductor**

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### **POSITIONS**

Score Reader, March 2018 - present

Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops Orchestra

- Coordinate with Assistant Conductors Ken-David Masur, Anna Rakitina and Yu-An Chang as well as the Broadcast and Media Director, and film crew before and during live concerts.
- Cover concerts by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops Orchestra, Boston Baroque, and Boston University.
- Prepare all scores for video capture during live performances.
- Collaborated with the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) Production Crew for the 2019 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular.
- Worked with directors Habib Azar, Bob Comiskey, and Peter Moll
- Provide feedback on segments of performance which are suitable to be released to the public.

Music Director and Conductor, June 2019 - present

Lowell Philharmonic Orchestra (Lowell, MA)

- Plan and conduct weekly rehearsals of the 60+ piece symphony orchestra.
- For my first concert as Music Director I invited City Counselor and Former Mayor Rita Mercier to narrate and artist Jeffery Lipsky to paint to live music. I also surveyed our Shedd Park audience via an online and paper survey. This survey gathered information about our audiences' musical preferences as well as their preferences for a concert experience.
- Collaborated with UMass Lowell Piano Faculty Jacob Hiser in concertos by Brahms and Gershwin in November 2019.
- Collaborated with dancers from Tricia's Dance School in excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and invited Bilricia, MA Selectman George Simolaris to narrate on our December 2019 holiday program.
- I initiated "orchestra check-ins" shortly after the COVID-19 closure in March 2020.
- Directed, produced, edited, and conducted *More Than Self, A Tribute to the Nurses, Doctors and Staff at Lowell General Hospital*. More information can be found on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/RZkLFm4rBmg>

Music Director and Conductor, June 2019 - present

Parkway Concert Orchestra (Norwood, MA)

- Plan and conduct weekly rehearsals of the 50+ piece symphony orchestra.
- Near weekly utilization of my Assistant Conductor Brian Bell and Concertmaster Sarah Rogers as section coaches.
- Assistant Conductor Brian Bell will conduct at least one piece on each concert, in addition to giving a pre-concert talk before each performance.
- My first concert as Music Director titled "A Night In Italy" featured Tenor Soloist David Rivera Bozon, this was a sold out standing room only performance, and our local cable station Norwood Community Media broadcast a preview to the community. Concertmaster Sarah Rogers was also a featured soloist in Vivaldi's *Spring*.

*Curriculum Vitae, Thomas G. Kociela*

- Norwood Selectman Tom Maloney narrated *Twas the Night Before Christmas* for our December 2019 Holiday Performance.
- Bassist Moises Carrasco performed Bottesini's *Bass Concerto #2* in March of 2020.
- I initiated "orchestra check-ins" after the COVID-19 closure.
- I have rallied the board and membership to pursue a Fall Project which will premiere in October 2020.

Substitute Conductor/Section Coach/Audition Adjudicator, Dec 2018 - present

New England Conservatory Preparatory School

- Conducted rehearsals, and coached sections from multiple orchestras.
- Adjudicated all incoming wind and brass auditions for the 2019/20 season.

Music Director Candidate, Spring 2019

Indian Hill Music School Youth Orchestra (Littleton, MA)

- Filled in for a music director candidate who left the search process one week before their scheduled performance.
- For my own concert cycle: Conducted weekly rehearsals of the Sinfonia Concert Orchestra (flagship ensemble) and the Camerata String Ensemble.
- Was unable to accept the position, due to a rehearsal schedule conflict with the Parkway Concert Orchestra.

Assistant Music Director and Symphony Orchestra Conductor, June 2016 - June 2017

Community Youth Orchestra of Southern California (Irvine, CA)

- Conducted all rehearsals of the Symphony Orchestra (flagship ensemble)
- Worked weekly with coaches (present at each rehearsal) to provide optimum instruction for our students.
- Conductor for the 2016 CYOSC Summer Intensive Session

Assistant Conductor, Summer 2017

Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras, Tour of Central Europe

- Conducted rehearsals on stage at Bela Bartok National Concert Hall in Budapest Hungary, Dvorak Hall at the Rudolphium in Prague Czechia, Kolarac Concert Hall in Belgrade Serbia, and Kostel Povýšení svatého Kříže in Jihlava Czechia (Gustav Mahler's hometown)
- Provided musical feedback to Music Director Allen Tinkham during dress rehearsals.

Assistant Conductor, April 2015 - June 2017

Temecula Valley Symphony (Temecula, CA)

- Covered rehearsals
- Guest conductor on subscription concerts
- Attended and presented at Temecula Valley Symphony Board Meetings
- Conducted "Rock Legends", a concert for the City of Temecula in the Summer of 2016. Featuring Rock Legends - Vinny Appice, Rudy Sarzo, Andrew Freeman and Craig Goldy.

Music Director and Conductor, August 2014 - June 2017

Temecula Valley Youth Symphony (Temecula, CA)

- Conducted all rehearsals
- Established educational standards for the entire organization
- Represented the youth symphony at Temecula Valley Symphony Board Meetings
- Designed and implemented a curriculum which fostered growth and student buy-in

*Curriculum Vitae, Thomas G. Kociela*

- Recruited from local school programs within a 50 mile radius
- Communicated with sectional coaches about musical needs and current student abilities
- Initiated the annual Temecula Valley Youth Symphony Summer Orchestra Program
- Initiated small ensemble and solo opportunities on regular concerts and outreach performances

Choral Director, August 2014 - June 2017

Riverside Unified School District (Riverside, CA)

- Received unanimous Superior Ratings at the SCVA Festival
- Was the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department head since September 2015
- Oversaw over \$100,000 of annual VAPA Department Funds
- Initiated collaborations performances between all VAPA disciplines
- Provided piano accompaniment for all choral ensembles
- Collaborated with all other district high school choral directors for our annual Masterwork performances, featuring 5 district high schools in Schubert's Mass in G, Vivaldi's Gloria, Mozart's Coronation Mass, and Orff's Carmina Burana
- Coached, conducted pit musicians and played piano for the annual musical
- Collaborated and recruited from local middle school programs.
- Designed and implemented lessons which fit the Middle Years Program (MYP) curriculum
- Attended International Baccalaureate (IB) training at Rice University, and then implemented the IB Music curriculum into the advanced music course
- Created and pursued solo performance opportunities for all students
- Directed all scheduled quarterly performances as well as additional community performances

Music Director of the University of Chicago Brass Ensemble, and Instructor in Trombone and Euphonium, 2010 - 2013

The University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)

- Recruited university students
- Selected and planned all quarterly concert programs
- Standing room only at most Brass Ensemble performances
- Directed multiple brass ensemble sectionals each quarter
- Initiated an annual collaboration with the University of Chicago Lab School, grades 9 - 12
- Collaborated with soprano soloist Julia Tobiska in works by Bolcom and Ginastera
- Arranged music as needed
- Was the Symphony Orchestra low brass section coach
- Was the University Wind Ensemble low brass section coach
- Presented quarterly concerts and outreach performances for the community
- Provided low brass lessons and repertoire clinics

Assistant Director and Winds/Brass Coach, 2008 - 2013

Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras (Chicago, IL)

- Planned and conducted weekly sectionals for the wind, brass and percussion sections of the Debut Orchestra
- Selected, rehearsed, and conducted an orchestral work with the Debut Orchestra each semester
- Audition adjudicator for the Concert Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra
- Conducted all rehearsals when the Music Director was absent
- Bowed string parts as needed

*Curriculum Vitae, Thomas G. Kociela*

- Frequent sectional coach for the Concert Orchestra
- Sectional coach for the Symphony Orchestra for their Orchestra Hall concerts
- Substitute chamber music coach

Director for Pathways Neighborhood Ensembles, 2008 - 2013

Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras (Chicago, IL)

*Outreach music education program aimed at providing music instruction to underserved students in underserved communities.*

- Developed, promoted, and presented a beginning band at Graham Elementary School
- Coached, provided instructional curriculum, and planned concert band performances at Pulaski Fine Arts Academy
- Initiated, recruited, and presented a beginning band at the Mark Sheridan Math and Science Academy. After only one semester in the program, students performed solos, small ensemble pieces, and full band works at their first public performance

Brass Ensemble Director, Low Brass Instructor, 2009 - 2013

Whitney M. Young Magnet High School (Chicago, IL)

- Taught weekly private lessons on trombone, tuba and euphonium
- Founded and directed the Whitney Young Brass Ensemble
- Provided piano accompaniment
- Many students went on to receive notable scholarships for their musical abilities

Wind Ensemble Director; Instructor in Brass Technique and Music Theory, 2010 - 2013

The Chicago High School for the Arts (Chicago, IL)

- Founded the ChiArts Wind Ensemble
- Designed curriculum for Wind Ensemble, Brass Technique, Brass Ensemble, and Music Theory classes
- Was an adjudicator for annual auditions and juries
- Was a frequent substitute for Class Piano, Piano Repertoire, Choral Technique, Percussion Technique, Woodwind Technique, Guitar Technique, Music History and Jazz Combo classes

Brass Ensemble Director, Low Brass Instructor, 2007 - 2011

Riverside Brookfield High School (Riverside, IL)

- Provided weekly private lessons on trombone, euphonium, tuba, french horn and trumpet
- Founded and directed the Riverside Brookfield High School Brass Ensemble
- Provided piano accompaniment
- Many students went on to receive notable scholarships for their musical abilities

Group Rhythm class instructor, 2007 - 2009

Triton College Preparatory School (River Grove, IL)

- Prepared weekly lessons for eight classes
- Collaborated with three other faculty members
- Presented a student recital at the conclusion of each semester
- Provided piano accompaniment at recitals
- Ages 6 - 11

Acting Band Director, 2007 - 2008

Rhodes School (River Grove, IL)

### *Curriculum Vitae, Thomas G. Kociela*

*Maintained the music program while the regular director was on a long-term leave.*

- Taught concert band, jazz band, group lessons and prepared students for solo and ensemble performances
- Grades 6 - 8

Instrumental Music Director, 2004 - 2006  
Scammon Elementary School (Chicago, IL)

*Directed the Scammon Concert Band*

- Was a volunteer position
- Annual concerts featured solos, ensemble pieces, and a concert band
- Presented an instrument demo day for the student population which immediately increased the band size significantly
- Provided piano accompaniment recitals

### **CONDUCTING MASTERCLASSES**

Monthly private conducting study with Neil Varon, November 2019-present  
Professor of Orchestral Conducting, Eastman School of Music

Eastman School of Music Orchestra Conducting Masterclass, 2019  
Neil Varon, master teacher

University of Oregon Conducting Institute, 2019  
Neil Varon, David Jacobs, master teachers

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, 2018  
Cristian Măcelaru, Octavio Más-Arocas, master teachers

Wintergreen Summer Music Festival, 2018  
Victor Yampolsky, master teacher

Baltimore Conductor Workshop, 2018  
Markand Thakar, master teacher

International Conducting Institute, New York Conducting Workshop, 2017  
Donald Schleicher, master teacher

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, Conducting Fellow, 2016 & 2017  
Robert Franz, master teacher

### **PERFORMANCE**

Chicago Symphony Orchestra, 2006 - 2013

*Over 100 performances at Orchestra Hall in Chicago as a substitute and as an extra musician on tenor trombone, euphonium, and bass trumpet.*

- Three tours to Carnegie Hall
- One tour to Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, Michigan
- Janacek Sinfonietta Recording (tenor tuba 1)
- Performed on the Grammy Award-winning Otello album conducted by Riccardo Muti
- La Mer Beyond The Score film
- Festa Muti 2010 - A Concert for the City of Chicago at Millennium Park

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- Performances with Riccardo Muti, Pierre Boulez, Bernard Haitink, Christoph Eschenbach, Michael Tilson Thomas, David Robertson, James Conlon, Stephane Deneve, Richard Kaufman, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Duain Wolfe, Mei-Ann Chen, Yo-Yo Ma, Michelle DeYoung, Sir James Galway, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, and Sir Patrick Stewart

Chicago Symphony Civic Orchestra, 2006 - 2010

*Over 50 performances at Orchestra Hall in Chicago as an Associate Member on tenor trombone, bass trombone, euphonium, and bass trumpet.*

- Performances with conductors Pierre Boulez, Cliff Colnot, Peter Oundjian, Mark Elder, Edwin Outwater, Alastair Willis, Andrew Grams, Leo McFall, Oliver Knussen and Larry Rachleff.
- Musicorps substitute —Involved presenting accessible chamber music concerts to students K-12 in and around the Chicago area
- Performance at the annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL

Studio Musician, 2009 - 2013

- Featured on recordings backing trombonist Curtis Fuller, vocalist Andrea Miller, saxophonist Steve Cole, pianist Russ Ferrante, singer/songwriter Brandon McHose, and vocalist Carrie McDowell Hodge
- Performing on tenor trombone, bass trombone, and euphonium

Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Master Singers, (Skokie, IL/Barrington, IL) 2011 - 2012

*Performed with musicians from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lyric Opera Orchestra of Chicago and leading area freelance musicians as a substitute principal trombonist.*

Founded trombone quartet “Chicago Trombone Project”, 2008 - 2013

*Presented recitals, school concerts, and performed at community functions.*

West Michigan Symphony Orchestra, (Muskegon, MI) 2011 - 2013

*Substitute principal trombonist*

Kenosha Symphony Orchestra, (Kenosha, WI), 2008 - 2011

*Substitute trombonist*

Chicago Composers Orchestra, 2010 - 2013

*Regular member on trombone and euphonium*

Racine Symphony Orchestra 2008 - 2013

*Substitute trombonist*

Chicago College of Performing Arts 2003-2007

- Symphony Orchestra
- Chamber Orchestra
- Jazz Ensemble
- Wind Ensemble
- Lab Jazz Band
- Trombone Quartet

### *Curriculum Vitae, Thomas G. Kociela*

- Brass Ensemble
- Trombone Ensemble

#### Detroit Civic Jazz Orchestra, 2001 - 2003

- Regular member: trombone
- Performed under noted jazz musicians Marcus Belgrave, Rodney Whitaker, Wycliffe Gordon and Delfayo Marsalis

#### Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, 2000 - 2003

- Regular member: trombone
- Principal Trombone 2002 - 2003
- Performed under Neeme Jarvi, Thomas Wilkins, Charles Burke, Itzhak Perlman
- Civic Brass quintet performance on FOX 2 News
- Attended Detroit Symphony Summer Institute 1999 - 2003

### **EDUCATION**

New England Conservatory of Music, 2019  
Masters in Conducting, 4.0 GPA

Chicago College of Performing Arts, Roosevelt University, 2007  
Bachelor of Music Education, *cum laude*

### **HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Dean's List, New England Conservatory Fall 2017 - May 2019

Pi Kappa Lambda nominee

Chicago College of Performing Arts Music Conservatory Scholarship

Chicago College of Performing Arts Music and Theatre Scholarship

Chicago College of Performing Arts Performing Arts Recognition Scholarship

Roosevelt University Performing Arts Scholarship

Franklin Honor Society

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

May, 2013 - Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI) "The Intonation Repair Tool, Accurate Flexibility in Ensemble Performance"

Invited by Dr. Steve Woflinbarger, Professor of Trombone

February, 2013 - Michigan State University (Lansing, MI) "The Intonation Repair Tool, Accurate Flexibility in Ensemble Performance"

Invited by Dr. Rich Illman, Professor of Trumpet

February, 2013 - Hope College (Holland, MI) "The Intonation Repair Tool, Accurate Flexibility in Ensemble Performance"

Invited by Pam Baker, Professor of Trumpet

February 2013 - University of North Texas (Denton, TX) "The Intonation Repair Tool, Accurate Flexibility in Ensemble Performance"

Invited by Brian Bowman, Coordinator of Brass; Euphonium. Presented by Erik Lundquist.

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February 2013 - Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras Masterclass Series, free and open to the public “Intonation Repair” (Chicago, IL)

Invited by Brian Baxter, Director of Operations.

February, 2013 - Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL) “The Intonation Repair Tool, Accurate Flexibility in Ensemble Performance”

Invited by Mark Ponzo, Professor of Trumpet

September 2012, August 2013 - Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras (Chicago, IL) “The Intonation Repair Tool, Accurate Flexibility in Ensemble Performance”

Invited by Allen Tinkham, Music Director

December, 2012 - Chicago College of Performing Arts, Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL) “The Intonation Repair Tool, Accurate Flexibility in Ensemble Performance”

Invited by Charles Schuchat, Head of the Brass program, Professor of Tuba

### **ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS FEATURING THOMAS KOCIELA**

Community Music Center of Boston, Faculty Spotlight: Thomas Kociela.

<https://cmcb.org/faculty-spotlight-thomas-kociela/>

Riverside Unified School District Annual Professional Development Day

<https://riversideunifiedschool distr2016a.sched.com/speaker/tkociela>

Tout de Suite: University of Chicago Department of Music blog (2013) “UC Brass Ensemble Breaks Down Barriers with Laughter”.

<https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/performanceprogram/2013/05/uc-brass-ensemble-breaks-down-barriers-with-laughter/>

Jay Friedman: Principal Trombonist, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Articles (2012) “Just Desserts”. [http://www.jayfriedman.net/articles/just\\_desserts](http://www.jayfriedman.net/articles/just_desserts)

Dr. Thomas Zuger presenting at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic (2004) “Building a Quality Low Brass Sound”.

[https://www.midwestclinic.org/user\\_files\\_1/pdfs/clinicianmaterials/2004/thomas\\_zuger.pdf](https://www.midwestclinic.org/user_files_1/pdfs/clinicianmaterials/2004/thomas_zuger.pdf)

Jerry Fallenberg on Music for Brass.com (2003) “Symphonic Play-Along Practicing for Trombonists”. <http://www.musicforbrass.com/articles/symphonic-play-along-practicing.html>

### **CERTIFICATION**

California Single Subject Teaching Credential, Music

International Baccalaureate (IB) Music Certification, Music

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (MYP) Certification, Music

State Teacher Certification Board - State of Illinois Certificate, Music

English Learner (EL) Authorization and Cross Cultural, Language, and Academic Development (CLAD) Certificate - State of California (courses taken through the University of California Riverside)

### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS**



*Curriculum Vitae, Thomas G. Kociela*

International Conductors Guild

League of American Symphony Orchestras

Association of California Symphony Orchestras

Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association

Southern California Vocal Association

National Association for Music Education (formerly MENC)

**CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

International Conductors Guild Conference, 2020

League of American Orchestras, 2016 and 2020

Association of California Symphony Orchestras, 2015 and 2016

Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association, 2014

Illinois Music Educators Conference, 2013

Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, 2003-2013

(attended each year, was on the exhibit floor with the Intonation Repair tool in 2012 and 2013)