

EIGHT:

Professional Service

Candidate Statement

When I agree to help with any kind of service, my goal is that my energy will create a positive impact for the organization. Service allows me opportunities to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds and gain a deeper knowledge of their needs and challenges. I have also learned much about leadership and teamwork through these various organizations.

Leading as Vice President of the Youth Orchestras of Lubbock became my most dedicated service project while being on the faculty at TTU. As there was no formal Executive Director, five of us on the executive committee divided up all job elements from this role and shared in steering the direction of the Youth Orchestra. These professionals were from across Lubbock, all of us with children in the program. From hiring faculty to organizing concert venue details, we made a commitment to our community to help make the organization healthy. At the end of my time with the organization, we successfully merged with the Lubbock Symphony, handing them a positive financial bank balance and support from the program's musical families. I did not imagine how much of a positive impact this position would bring to my own life, as I established close ties with many local families, and developed friendships with my executive board that still continue to thrive. I'm proud of our work, knowing that we provided organizational framework for this great organization to thrive into the future.

Another substantial service activity involved being on the Hot Springs Music Festival executive board. This 25-year-old festival had been in troubled financial shape and was unable to continue as it had once been. With a small group of musician faculty-mentors, we committed to do our best to get this festival on its feet. Visits to Arkansas and communication with donors has led to new beginnings in Memphis, where we will continue the festival concept, but in a new location. I'm proud to be a part of this national team of leaders and know that we will be serving the international classical music community to the best of our abilities.

At TTU, I have been a part of the Mentorship Academy program, in its "beta" year. I was placed with a group of Associate Professors from different schools on campus, and we had monthly meetings to discuss a variety of issues. Sharing CV information, workload, and work-life balance issues gave me a supportive outlet for learning and growing as a university professor. It was just announced that I have been chosen as one of 30 faculty members for the 2023-2024 academic year to be a mentor for a new group, and I couldn't be more honored to be a facilitator in this important program developed by the TLPDC.

As a representative to the J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts, I was on the Graduate Council for three years. The University Tenure Hearing Committee was a good contrast to my work on the Student Affairs Committee of the Graduate Council, which gave me some insights to student struggles across the university.

Within our own music department, I was asked to be a Faculty Mentor Advisor for the TTU Chapter of the American String Teacher Association, which is an honor after they were nominated as the 2022 Outstanding Student Chapter last year. The chapter is a recognized TTU Student Organization and participates in campus, college, and school events. Membership also provides service to our local school string programs. I have also served on numerous search committees, including the recent *Director of the School of Music* search. A significant impact with students can be made by bringing guests onto campus, and I enjoy coordinating these visits. Not only do students have the opportunity to meet artists from around the world but hear new ideas that challenge them to grow. During Covid, I asked famous artists who normally would not have time in their schedules to do Zoom classes with us, and the connection between all of us seemed palpable, even when we couldn't be together in person.

These service experiences have added to my growth as a musician and individual. Bringing creative energy to a wide variety of programs has supported by overall mission of being community-based, whether at TTU, or on a more national scope.