

Alexander Koops

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Profile Information

Brief Biography

Alexander Koops was born and raised in Jos, Nigeria. He holds a D.M.A. in Music Education from the University of Southern California, a M.M in conducting from University of Colorado, and a B.A in Music Education from Calvin College. His dissertation materials on introducing composition in middle school and high school bands and orchestras have been used by multiple schools in southern California. He has a chapter published in *Composing our Future*, (Oxford University Press, 2012), and was a contributor to *Musicianship: Composing in Band and Orchestra* published by GIA in 2013. Koops was awarded a Fulbright grant in 2012 to teach at the Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music in Riga, Latvia.

Alexander Koops joined the music faculty at Azusa Pacific University in August 2001 and currently is Director of Undergraduate Music Education, Associate Director of Bands, and Director of the Azusa Conservatory (a community music school). He frequently conducts the Lake Avenue Chamber Symphony and performs regularly on his horn.

Education

University of Southern California; Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education, academic minor in Theory, elective fields in Horn Performance and Orchestral Conducting, December 2009

University of Colorado at Boulder; Master of Music in Conducting; Specialization in Band Conducting, August, 2002

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, Instrumental Music emphasis, May, 1994

Kodály Level I (2002), II (2003), and III (2005) Certification, Kodály Association of Southern California

Courses Taught:

Practical Musicianship (MUS 133, 134, 217); MUS 333 Brass Techniques; Symphonic Band (MUS 142/143, 244/245, 342/343, 449/450); Conducting 1 (MUS 361); Instrumental Conducting (MUS 363); Form and Analysis (MUS 427); Directed Research (GMUS 590); Thesis Advising (GMUS 591); Instrumental Pedagogy (GMUS 515); Issues in music class pedagogy (GMUS 514);

Languages:

French

General Areas of expertise:

Music Education, Conducting, Brass, Theory, Ear Training

Specific Areas of expertise:

Instrumental Music Education Pedagogy; Graduate Music Education; Opera, Orchestra and Wind Ensemble Conducting; Horn Performance; Ear Training

Publications

Composing Our Future: Preparing Music Educators to Teach Composition

Edited by Michele Kaschub and Janice Smith, Dec. 2012, Oxford University Press. Chapter 8: Facilitating Composition in Instrumental Settings, p. 149-166. Alexander P. Koops.

Musicianship: Teaching composition in band and orchestra. GIA publications, 2013. Editorial committee.

Presentations

2013

Panel presentation at SMERS IX

Suncoast Music Education Research Symposium IX: Navigating the Future, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.

Participated on a book writing team on a panel discussing composing in instrumental school music ensembles and a new book published by GIA on composing in instrumental music ensembles.

<http://cmer.arts.usf.edu/content/templates/?a=901&z=137>

- 2011 Instrumental Music Teacher Educators Conference presentation**
Instrumental Music Teacher Educators Conference, Mt. Sterling Ohio
Presenter-Teaching Music composition to Middle School Band
- 2009 Instrumental Music Teacher Educators Conference presentation**
Presentation of my doctoral dissertation work on teaching music
composition to Middle School Band. Mt. Sterling, Ohio
- 2007 Research Poster Session Presentation**
California Music Educators Association Conference, Ontario CA
- 2005 Southern California Music Educators Conference, California State University, Fullerton, CA.**
Conducting presentation session
- 2005 Shanghai Musicians Association Conducting Workshop**
Conducting Clinician, Shanghai Musician's Association, China

Duties: Prepared and presented lectures, demonstrations, and participatory clinics on conducting for Chinese Band Conductors of the middle school, high school and college level; led rehearsals with local high school bands in Shanghai and one university band and coached conducting workshop participants as they conducted the bands. Conducted culminating concert at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music.

Awards

January-June, 2012 Fulbright Scholar, Riga, Latvia

Teaching: Taught an *Introduction to Kodály* music education class required for all music education majors; Wind Conducting Master classes; coached a student Brass Quintet; visited music schools around Latvia giving lectures and master classes in conducting and brass pedagogy; guest conductor for concert bands and a chamber winds ensemble; lectured on the state of wind bands for all the band directors in Latvia.

Adjudication: Adjudicated local, regional, and national festivals and competitions in instrumental music, including competitions in Latvia and Lithuania.

Music Review Summary Blog: <http://akoopslatvia.blogspot.com/>

Professional Experience

Academic Experience

2001-Present Azusa Pacific University; Associate Professor of Music

Director of Undergraduate Music Education; Associate Director of Bands;
Director of the Azusa Conservatory of Music (Community Music School); Opera
Conductor (2003-2009); Interim Conductor of Symphony Orchestra (2006-2007);
Director of the Marching Band (2001-2006)

Conducting/Teaching Duties: Conductor of the Symphonic Band, Undergraduate
Music classes, including Brass Techniques, Instrumental Music Methods,
Conducting, Aural Skills, and Form and Analysis; Graduate Music Education
Classes including Instrumental Pedagogy, and Issues in Music Class Pedagogy;
past conductor of the Opera, past Director of the Marching Band

Administrative Duties: Organization of Music education activities, organization
of schedules for select Artists in Residence, evaluating music education
curriculum; advising of all undergraduate music education majors; Director of
Azusa Conservatory of Music (Community Music School); Assistant Director of
Heidelberg Study Abroad Program (Fall 2008-2010)

2010-2014 Student Teacher Supervisor for University of Southern California Master of Arts in Teaching (Music).

Mentor student teachers from university of Southern California; observe student
teachers in local schools as assigned; lectures in music education and conducting.

January-March, 2013, Guest composition teacher in residence at Jordan Middle School in Burbank.

Guest composition teacher in collaboration with Dr. John Whitener, (USC).

2005-2008 Shepherd University
Professor of Conducting, Shepherd University, Los Angeles

2000-2001 Rehoboth Christian School
Director of Bands

Conducting/Teaching Duties: Conductor of High School Band, Middle School
Band and Sixth Grade Band; Teacher for Sixth Grade Keyboard Class

2000-2001 Wingate High School
Choir Director

Conducting/Teaching Duties: Conductor for high school choirs

1994-1998 Denver Christian Schools
Music Teacher

Conducting/Teaching Duties: Conductor of the High School Band, Jazz Band, Middle School Band, Fifth and Sixth grade Bands, High School Chamber Singers, High School String Ensemble, and Middle School Choir; Teacher for Middle School General Music Classes and Middle School Elective Classes including Girls Select Choir, Chamber Choir, and Jazz Band; Conductor for High School Musicals, Conductor and Director for Middle School Musicals.

Administrative Duties: All aspects of the music program including budgets and curriculum for Denver Christian High School, Middle School, VanDellen Christian Elementary School and Highlands Ranch Elementary School; Organized music for middle school chapel services, organized high school and middle school Fine Arts Weeks in cooperation with English and Art teachers; Organized Colorado Concert Tour for the High School Chamber Singers

Ministerial/Para-church Experience

2003-present Lake Avenue Church, Pasadena

Conducting/Performing duties: Horn player for Lake Avenue Chamber Symphony; Conductor for Lake Avenue Chamber Symphony, covering repertoire such as Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto 2*, Bach's *Orchestral Suites*, Saint Saen's *Organ Symphony*, Chausson's *Concerto for violin and piano*, traditional hymns, and contemporary Christian music.

Administrative duties: Select music for concerts and services in coordination with Church leadership; meet with orchestra cabinet

1998-2000 Crestview Christian Reformed Church
Church Choir Conductor

Duties: Conduct the Choir in the Sunday Morning Service and organize instrumental music for special occasions; Sing in Chamber Choir. Directed musical Daniel by Jed Koops

Industry Experience

1998-Present Performing Artist

Horn

Azusa Pacific University Faculty Brass Quintet, Lake Avenue Chamber Symphony (Pasadena), West Covina Symphony Orchestra, Bellair Presbyterian Church Orchestra (Bellair), Solo horn recital at Azusa Pacific University, September 2004, University of Southern California Concert Orchestra, University of Southern California Brass Band, Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church Orchestra (Denver, CO), University of Colorado Opera Orchestra, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Chamber Winds, Member and performer with Rocky Mountain Horn Ensemble (Denver).

March 21, 2014. Guest conductor and clinician, Valley Christian High School

Guest conductor and clinician for Valley Christian high school band and orchestra in Cerritos, California.

March 5, 2014. Adjudicator, Interscholastic Fine Arts Festival, Cerritos, CA

Adjudicated chamber music ensembles.

August 5-9, 2013 Directed Azusa Conservatory of Music Summer Music camp

Conducted the summer band; organized volunteers, taught composition and elective and organized and designed all electives.

February 21, 2013 Covina Rotary Club adjudicator for Instrumental Music Scholarship Competition

December 15, 2012, Guest Clinician, Valley Christian High School Band and Orchestra

December 15, 2011, Guest Clinician, Valley Christian High School Band

February 24, 2011, Covina Rotary Club adjudicator for Instrumental Music Scholarship Competition

May 6, 2010 Guest Conductor, Los Osos High School Band, Chafee Band Festival Rehearsed and conducted the Los Osos High School Band on the *William Byrd Suite* by Gordon Jacob

April 1, 2010 Adjudicator for Azusa Unified School District Band Festival

Adjudicated Middle School and High School band performances

May 27, 2009 Guest clinician for Los Osos High School band, Rancho Cucamonga

April 30, 2009 Conductor for New Music Concert, APU

Rehearsed and performed with faculty chamber ensemble and guest soprano JulieAnn Klein featuring Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunnair*e

April, 2009 Guest Conductor for Whittier School District Honor Band

April 2008 Adjudicated John Muir Arts Magnet HS orchestra and band

**April 2008 Band Festival Adjudicator, Association of Christian Schools
International band festival in Temecula, CA**

February 2008 Band Festival Adjudicator, Valley Christian Schools, Bellflower CA

April 2007 Adjudicator for Azusa Unified School District Band festival

Adjudicated Middle School and High School band performances

March 2007 Guest clinician for Garey High School Orchestra, Pamona CA

February 26, 2007 Performer and Director for New Music Recital

Duties: Horn Soloist on *Hunting for baby blues for horn and percussion* by Sean Brady; Organized concert with Azusa Pacific University faculty, composers, and guest artist Ma Xiao Whui from China (Internationally acclaimed Erhu player)

May, 2006 Guest clinician for CVHS Chamber Orchestra

Conducted and coached the orchestra

1997-2000 Denver Opera Company

Assistant Conductor

Duties: Conduct operas including Puccini's *La Boheme* and *Suor Angelica*, Menotti's *The Medium*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*; rehearse the chorus and soloist in preparation for operas and concert performances; board member

Administrative Duties: Organization of rehearsal schedules, hiring of orchestra members, assisting with budget

1998-2000 Colorado Mahlerfest

Internship

Duties: Board member, offstage conductor for Mahler's Second Symphony, Liaison to University of Colorado, assisting with the video production of each concert, assisting Stan Ruttenberg, President, and Robert Olson, Conductor

1999 **Boulder Music Teachers Association**
Conductor for Boulder Music Teachers Multiple Piano Festival

1995-96 **Denver Opera Company**
Apprentice Conductor

Duties: Conduct Apprentice Productions including Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Puccini's *La Boheme Act III*, Mozart's *The Impresario*; rehearse chorus and soloists in preparation for operas and concerts including highlights from Puccini's *Turandot*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, Verdi's *Requiem*, and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*

Clinics, Conventions and Symposiums

- 2014 College Band Directors Western Division Conference, Reno, NV
- 2013 Suncoast Music Education Research Symposium IX (SMERS IX):
Navigating the Future, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.
- 2012 Jungfrau Music Festival 2012, Interlaken, Switzerland; Master class in
Conducting with Felix Hauswirth.
- 2011 Instrumental Music Teacher Educators Conference, Mt. Sterling Ohio
(presenter-Teaching Music composition to Middle School Band)
- 2011 College Band Directors National Conference, Seattle, Washington
- 2009 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, Chicago, IL
- 2009 Instrumental Music Teacher Educators Conference, Mt. Sterling Ohio
(presenter-Teaching Music composition to Middle School Band)
- 2008 Organization of American Kodály Educators National Convention,
Denver, Colorado
- 2007 National Guild of Community Arts Schools National Convention, Los
Angeles, California

- 2006 Conductors Guild/Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music
Conducting Clinic; Marin Alsop and Daniel Lewis, clinicians
- 2005 CBDNA Conducting Symposium, University of Colorado
H. Robert Reynolds, Dick Floyd, Craig Kirchhoff and Allan McMurray,
clinicians
- 2004 SCSBOA Conducting Clinic, California State College, Long Beach; Allan
McMurray clinician
- 2002 Riverside Community College Conducting Symposium Michael
Haithcock (University of Michigan and Mitch Fennell (CSU at Fullerton),
clinicians
- 2000 Conductors Guild Workshop, University of North Carolina
William Curry, assistant conductor North Carolina Symphony, Michael
Votta, director of Bands, University of North Carolina, Frederick Fennell,
clinicians
- 1999 CBDNA Conducting Symposium, University of Colorado
Thomas Lee, University of California in Los Angeles, and Allan
McMurray, University of Colorado, clinicians
- 1998 CBDNA Conducting Symposium, University of Colorado
Jerry Junkin, University of Texas in Austin, and Allan McMurray,
University of Colorado, clinicians
- 1997 University of Northern Colorado Conducting Clinic
Colonel Lowell E. Graham, Commander/Conductor of The United States
Air Force Band, clinician
- 1996 University of Northern Colorado Conducting Clinic
Frank Battisti, New England Conservatory, clinician
- 1995 University of Northern Colorado Conducting Clinic
Stan Derusha, clinician

Professional Memberships

College Band Directors National Association
National Guild for Community Arts Education
National Association for Music Education