

Virtual Advanced Teacher Training Seminar 2020 Participant Guide

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2 <u>Welcome</u>

Page 3 How to Use This Guide

Page 4-5 Featured Speakers & Artists

Page 6 <u>Daily Schedule</u>

Page 7 <u>Preparing to Watch the Performances</u>

Page 8 <u>Cross-over Themes</u>

Pages 9-16 | Performance Resources (listed in workshop order)

<u>Amadeus</u>

Into the Woods

<u>Red</u>

Sunday in the Park with George

<u>Medea</u>

<u>Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street</u>

<u>Tosca</u>

Present Laughter

Page 17-20 Participant Directory







Teaching to me is the sacred profession. My life was saved by teachers, first a Latin teacher in high school, and then Oscar Hammerstein who was a teacher.

Stephen Sondheim

Welcome to the first Virtual Advanced Teacher Training Seminar! This unique seminar will honor our most revered honorary board members, Zoe Caldwell and Sir Peter Shaffer, both of whom were our most treasured teachers. For thirty years they taught us what theater really is. When they came to Dayton and when we met them in New York City, we knew our lives would be changed.

Stephen Sondheim has also been a great teacher to us. We saw the original productions of *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Into the Woods* and later almost all his revivals, as well as producing *Into the Woods* with our students for our annual musical. He turned 90 in March and, as the world celebrates, we too would like to honor him.

There has perhaps never been a time when the chance to look forward to something, to create, to learn or to feel hopeful is more critically needed. We hope this virtual foray into world-class performing arts feeds your soul, fills your cup and inspires you to persevere in the life-saving work of teaching.

Adventurously yours,

Suzy Bassani Muse Machine

Founder

Mary Campbell Zopf

Muse Machine Executive Director

Emily Gray

Emily

Secondary Schools Program Director

How to Use This Guide

We are delighted to showcase eight seminal works of theatre and opera as well as the lives of three extraordinary artists who helped bring them to life. Featured interviews with four special friends of Muse Machine—and significant artists in their own right—pull back the curtain even further.

In order to prepare for these experiences, please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the Guide:

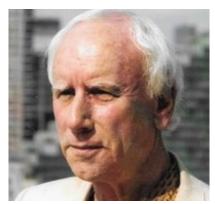
- Except for the Participant Directory, all the resources in this printable Guide are also linked on the event website: www.musemachine2020.wixsite.com/virtual-atts-2020.
 - Print the Guide or refer to it as a digital document. Links (underlined in blue) will take you to the appropriate section or open a new browser window.
 - We recommend printing page 6 (the Daily Schedule) and posting it somewhere prominent next to your computer.
 - o Performances and their resources are listed in workshop order.
- We are pleased to be able to share performances that are available on various online platforms for free or a nominal fee. Please tell us if you have trouble accessing the videos.
- Pace yourself by watching the performance videos over the next couple weeks in advance of the workshops.

Your Zoom meeting invitation will be sent in a separate email in the first week of June. Please monitor your email for other updates, especially links to the featured interview recordings.

The Muse team looks forward to seeing you on June 8! We can be contacted any time with questions or concerns. Please email Emily Gray at emily@musemachine.com.

Featured Speakers & Artists

Guest Lecturers



Bob Lear



John Sheehan

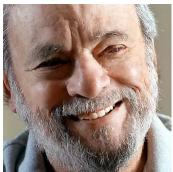
Artist Spotlights



Sir Peter Shaffer



Zoe Caldwell



Stephen Sondheim

Featured Interviews



Michael Pennington



Maryann Plunkett



Lonny Price



Charlie Whitehead

Speaker & Artist Bios

Please refer to the ATTS event website for expanded biographies and additional links.

Bob Lear is International Producer of the Global Arts Corps. Bob sees most everything on the stage in NY and has followed the American and European theatre closely since the 1960's, having lived in Paris for 14 years.

John Sheehan has directed plays, musicals and operas throughout the U.S., the UK, Ireland and Vietnam including *Amadeus* and *The Seahorse* for The Human Race and the *Viva, Victoria! Opening Night Gala* in Dayton, which was broadcast live on PBS.

Sir Peter Shaffer was best known for his hugely popular philosophical dramas *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* (1964), *Equus* (1973) and, in particular, *Amadeus* (1979). The last of these, was a highly sought after ticket at the National Theatre and on Broadway, and was turned into one of the most successful films of the 1980s, which won eight Academy Awards including best picture.

Zoe Caldwell was, according to Thomas Schumacher, Chairman of the Broadway League, "indisputably Broadway royalty with four Tony Awards and four decades of thrilling performances in work ranging from Tennessee Williams to Euripides to Terrence McNally. Her audiences were struck by her elegance, her strength, and the penetrating timbre of her extraordinary voice. But those of us lucky enough to have worked with her likely equally remember her kindness and beaming smile."

Stephen Sondheim is best known for the startling complexity of his lyricism and music. His contributions to West Side Story and Gypsy in the 1950s brought him recognition as a rising star of Broadway. His major works for the theater also include A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Sweeney Todd, Sunday in the Park with George and Into the Woods.

Michael Pennington is an English actor, director and writer. Together with director Michael Bogdanov, he founded the English Shakespeare Company in 1986 and was its Joint Artistic Director until 1992. He is an Honorary Associate Artist of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Michael played opposite Dame Judi Dench in Peter Shaffer's play *The Gift of the Gorgon* in 1992.

Maryann Plunkett is a TONY, Obie and Drama Desk Awards-winning actress. She's toured Europe, China, and Australia with Richard Nelson's trilogy *The Gabriel Family Plays* which first premiered at NY's Public Theatre and was televised on PBS. She was recently seen at the Public in Nelson's newest play *The Michaels* and online in his first virtual play *What Do We Need To Talk About?* Broadway credits include *Agnes of God*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Me and My Girl* (Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical), *The Crucible*, *St. Joan*, *The Seagull*, *A Man for All Seasons*.

Lonny Price directed *Sweeney Todd* starring Emma Thompson and Bryn Terfel at the ENO and Lincoln Center. Lonny's New York Philharmonic credits include *Company*; *Sondheim: The Birthday Concert* (Emmy Award); and *Passion*. His documentary, *Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened*, premiered at the New York Film Festival, and was named one of The New York Times' top 10 films of 2016.

Charlie Whitehead is a Producer and General Manager who has worked at all levels of theatre and film since 1998. His Broadway credits include: *The Beauty Queen Of Leenane* and *The Play What I Wrote*. In 2012, Charlie and his mother, Zoe Caldwell, finally got the chance to work on two productions together. First was the film *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, and second was the one-woman show *Elective Affinities*, which was Zoe's final performance on stage.

Daily Schedule

	Sunday, June 7: Watch the Tonys directed by Lonny Price at www.TonyAwards.com !		
	Monday, June 8	Tuesday, June 9	Wednesday, June 10
10:00 AM	Opening Remarks		
10:30 AM	Workshop I: Amadeus	Workshop 4: Sunday in the Park with George	Workshop 7: Tosca
12:00 PM	Lunch Break		
1:00 PM	Workshop 2: Into the Woods	Workshop 5: Medea	Workshop 8: Present Laughter
2:30 PM	Break		
3:00 PM	Workshop 3: Red	Workshop 6: Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street	Curriculum Connections
4:30 PM	Day I concludes	Day 2 concludes	Day 3 concludes and Happy Hour begins
6:00 PM			Happy Hour Ends!

Watch all performances before June 8
Answer critical thinking prompts right after watching
Read/watch supplemental links in the days just before the workshop

Preparing to Watch the Performances

Stop. Pour a glass of wine. Choose your viewing device (we recommend your largest computer screen or a smart TV but even your smartphone will do in a pinch).

Darken the room and enjoy the show.

Easy enough?

Seriously, we want your experience with each performance to be the next best thing to seeing it in the theater. Treat yourself to a date night (or eight)!

The next several pages do include important information. There are handy reminders about the date and time of each workshop, the runtime and even links to the videos.

You will find cross-over themes that relate to multiple performances and 3-4 critical thinking prompts specific to each performance. Read the questions ahead if you like, but don't worry—there's no test! We suggest answering the prompts right after finishing each video. Use them to gather your thoughts, deepen your thinking and generate discussion for the workshop Q&As.

A handful of supplemental materials are also listed for each performance. Check them out right before the workshop. They will give you a greater appreciation for the artists behind the work.

Remember that we are an email away if you need technical assistance. Email Emily Gray at <a href="mailto:email

Cross-Over Themes

As you watch, you will begin to see thematic bridges among the plays and musicals. These questions highlight only some of the potential connections!

Theme I: "A Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man"

The title of James Joyce's first novel, above, is an example of Bildungsroman, a literary device that also defines the genre of the Coming of Age novel in English.

How does the literary concept of Bildungsroman translate into drama?

Theme 2: The Business of Art - Patrons, Critics and Changing Taste

In both Amadeus and Red but also in Sunday in the Park with George, the influence of patrons shapes the possibility for artists to grow, to work and to radically change the artistic taste of their times. It may also compromise the artist or force her/him into conformism.

In our own time, who are art's patrons? Who incubates genius? What is the relationship today between art and commerce – in the visual and performing arts?

Theme 3: Storytelling in Musical Theatre

All musical theatre is, in fact, told through both vocal and orchestral music. How is music part of the drama and what is its contribution that is not included in the words?

Is truth-telling essential to art? Deception figures in the plots of *Into the Woods*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Tosca*. Would we appreciate or want to experience a story or a theme that is not honest? How can we tell the difference?

How do these characters reach the end of their struggles and what results have they achieved? Is there such a thing as "happily ever after"? Does understanding what has helped them to grow give us satisfaction? After witnessing the fear and pity of tragedy can we live in a more meaningful way?



Amadeus

Workshop: Monday, June 8, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM including 45 min. Q&A

Presented by Bob Lear

Watch Ahead: YouTube (rent or buy) or Amazon Prime (rent or buy). Director's Cut!

Cast and Crew: Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | Book: Peter Shaffer | Director: Miloš

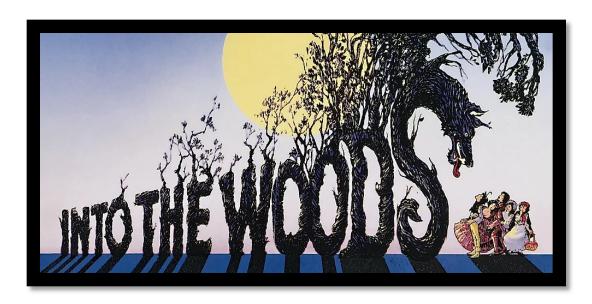
Forman | Starring: F. Murray Abraham, Tom Hulce, Elizabeth Berridge

Run time: 3 hours

Critical Thinking Prompts

- 1. How does the playwright construct tension through contrasts of character and language?
- 2. How do the opposite passions of Mozart and Salieri build the emotional arc of the play? Is there a dark/light dichotomy driving the play?
- 3. Where does the music of the production become a character in itself?
- 4. With which contemporary musicians can students today relate to Mozart?

- <u>INTERVIEW with Michael Pennington</u> (password: muse I 23!)
- Theater Talk: Peter Shaffer Discusses "Amadeus"
- Peter Shaffer: Mozart's music
- Peter Shaffer: Amadeus not an objective biography
- We also pay tribute to Peter Shaffer's historic (self-) preservation comedy, Lettice and Lovage, that garnered awards in London and New York for the play and its laugh-aminute star, Dame Maggie Smith: https://youtu.be/LDRyHYDH7xl



Into the Woods

Workshop: Monday, June 8, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM including 45 min. Q&A

Presented by John Sheehan

Watch Ahead: <u>Hoopla</u> (requires a Dayton Metro Library card)

Cast and Crew: Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim | Book & Director: James Lapine | Starring:

Tom Aldredge, Joanna Gleason, Bernadette Peters

Run time: 2 ½ hours

Critical Thinking Prompts

- I. At what point does individual responsibility become responsibility to the community and how do the characters learn the difference?
- 2. Why does the lyric change from "children must listen" to "children should listen" to "children will listen"? What does it mean "careful before you say, 'Listen to me'"?
- 3. What does the expression mean "Be careful what you wish for"?

- CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood: During the 1995 revival of Company, Stephen Sondheim discusses his relationship with mentors and teachers, anxiety, the modern American musical, concept musicals and his body of work.
- All eight of Sondheim's Tony wins (and one infamous loss) as well as his Lifetime Achievement in Theatre Award
- Stephen Sondheim Theatre Unveiled on Broadway



Red

Workshop: Monday, June 8, 3:00 PM-4:30 PM including 45 min. Q&A

Presented by Bob Lear

Watch Ahead: <u>PBS Great Performances</u> (free—EXPIRES May 27) or sign up for a free trial and watch on <u>BroadwayHD</u>.

Cast and Crew: Book: John Logan | Music: Adam Cork | Director: Michael Grandage | Starring: Alfred Molina, Alfred Enoch

Run time: 1 1/2 hours

Critical Thinking Prompts

- I. What examples of *Bildungsroman* come to mind from intermediate and secondary-level English and Literature curricula? What characteristics do these novels share? What is the journey of the young protagonist and how are the challenges of growing up shaped by time, setting and culture?
- 2. How does the literary concept of Bildungsroman translate into drama?
- 3. How does it especially apply to the young Mozart in Amadeus and Mark Rothko's young intern painter in Red?

- Red on Broadway promotional video (this production featured Eddie Redmayne)
- Alfred Molina's Appearances on The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson
- Mark Rothko's Mirrors of the Soul



Sunday in the Park with George

Workshop: Tuesday, June 9, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM including 45 min. Q&A

Presented by John Sheehan

Watch Ahead: Hoopla (requires a Dayton Metro Library card)

Cast and Crew: Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim | Book & Director: James Lapine | Starring:

Mandy Patinkin, Bernadette Peters

Run time: 2 ½ hours

Critical Thinking Prompts

- I. Who determines what art is good?
- 2. Why does young George feel afraid and adrift? Is it typical for an artist to feel this way? Do you think Sondheim may have drawn on his own life experiences to dramatize both Georges?
- 3. How would you compare Seurat's process of drawing individuals before he places them into his landscape with the way films are made today?

- INTERVIEW with Maryann Plunkett (password: muse 123!)
- "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte" by Georges Seurat
- Georges Seurat Artist Bio
- The Late Show Interview with Bernadette Peters



Medea

Workshop: Tuesday, June 9, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM including 45 min. Q&A

Presented by Bob Lear

Watch Ahead: YouTube (free)

Cast and Crew: Book: Euripides | Adaptation: Robinson | effers | Director: Robert Whitehead |

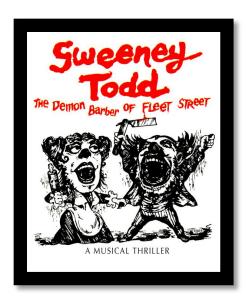
Starring: Zoe Caldwell, Judith Anderson

Run time: 1 ½ hours

Critical Thinking Prompts

- 1. What makes this production starring Zoe Caldwell a performance for the ages?
- 2. How does Miss Caldwell create sympathy for a character that co-exists with our horror at what Medea does? What is our own frailty, the frailty of our own humanity, in a dual response?
- 3. How far is too far? Where are the limits to revenge and the rage to right a terrible wrong, in a society of law and morality? When is a tooth for a tooth not the answer?

- INTERVIEW with Charlie Whitehead (password: muse 123!)
- Watch the Women in Theatre <u>interview with Zoe</u>
- Zoe Caldwell Wins the Tony Award for Medea
- Zoe Caldwell's 4th Tony award originating the role of Maria Callas in Terrence
 McNally's Broadway production of Master Class demonstrates the breadth of her range
 from deepest drama to highest comedy: Master Class Reviewer Reel
- Zoe Caldwell Wins the Tony Award for Master Class



Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Workshop: Tuesday, June 9, 3:00 PM-4:30 PM including 45 min. Q&A

Presented by John Sheehan

Watch Ahead: Amazon Prime (rent or buy)

Cast and Crew: Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim | Book: Hugh Wheeler | Director: Harold

Prince | Starring: Angela Lansbury, George Hearn

Run time: 2 1/4 hours

Critical Thinking Prompts

- I. Usually songs slow down a narrative but, in this case, they propel the action and support the characters. Which ones did you find most successful?
- 2. How many clues did you pick up in the course of the mystery?
- 3. Sondheim wrote "to seek revenge may lead to hell but everyone does it, and seldom as well." If the lesson to be learned from Sweeney Todd & Tosca is that revenge isn't the answer, why do we find these stories so satisfying?

- INTERVIEW with Lonny Price (password: muse 123!)
- The Real Sweeney Todd? From Penny Dreadful to Broadway Musical
- Masterworks Broadway VEVO Interview: Angela Lansbury on Sweeney Todd
- NYT Arts: Musical Motifs in Sondheim Anthony Thommasini
- A clip of the NY Philharmonic concert version with Bryn Terfel and Emma Thompson, staged by Lonny Price



Tosca

Workshop: Wednesday, June 10, 10:30 PM-12:00 PM including 45 min. Q&A

Presented by John Sheehan

Watch Ahead: Rent at Met Opera on Demand or sign up for free trial to view for free. Make sure you watch the 2018 production!

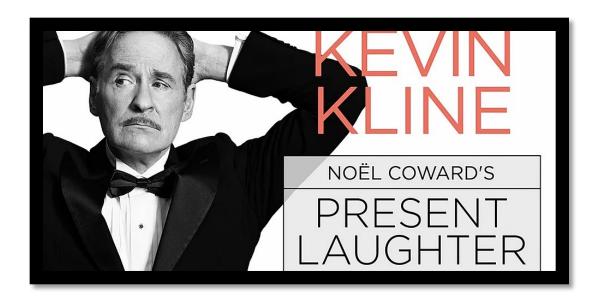
Cast and Crew: Composer: Giacomo Puccini | Librettist: Giuseppe Giacosa & Luigi Illica | Conductor: Emmanuel Villaume | Director: Sir David McVicar | Starring: Sonya Yoncheva, Vittorio Grigolo, Želiko Lučić

Run time: 2 1/4 hours

Critical Thinking Prompts

- I. Tosca and Sweeney both respond to injustice with violence. Although striking back rarely works, are they justified?
- 2. All four of the main characters are betrayed; how does each one cope with that turn of events?
- 3. Tragedy is defined as a story in which the main character is destroyed as a consequence of a tragic flaw, either moral weakness or an inability to cope with misfortune for the purpose of eliciting a catharsis of fear or pity from the audience. Does the opera accomplish this?

- Maria Callas is regarded as the finest Tosca ever to take the stage: <u>Tosca Act Two</u> excerpt @ Covent Garden with Maria Callas, Tito Gobbi
- Why Tosca is opera's greatest thriller with footage of Puccini!
- NYT Arts: Musical Motifs in *Tosca* Anthony Thommasini



Present Laughter

Workshop: Wednesday, June 10, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM including 45 min. Q&A

Presented by Bob Lear

Watch Ahead: <u>PBS Great Performances</u> (free—EXPIRES May 27) or sign up for a free trial and watch on <u>BroadwayHD</u>

Cast and Crew: Book: Noël Coward | Director: Moritz von Stuelpnagel | Starring: Kevin Kline, Kate Burton, Kristine Nielsen, Cobie Smulders

Run time: 2 1/4 hours

Critical Thinking Prompts

1. What in Present Laughter makes us laugh?

- 2. As you look at this light comedy in the context of classic Restoration Comedy or Moliere farces, what similarities strike you in terms of the central characters and their "comic flaws"?
- 3. Can Present Laughter strike a chord with young people today, even though its background is distant? Are there contemporary stand-ins from popular comic or animated films with extravagant, ridiculously self-centered characters?

- "Behind the Curtain" with Roundabout's production of Present Laughter
- The 50-minute, two-part South Bank Show is the definitive film biography of Noël Coward: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2gdTHONfyc
- Words and Music of Noël Coward

Participant Directory

Thank you all for making the arts part of your life and sharing that love with others.



Loretta Amos Northmont Middle School **Grade(s) Taught:** 7-8 **Subject(s):** All/special education



Nicole Askew
City Day Community School
Grade(s) Taught: 5-8
Subject(s): Reading



Pino Bassani Muse Friend



Suzy Bassani Muse Machine Founder



Robin Blathers
Miamisburg Middle School
Grade(s) Taught: 8
Subject(s): Social Studies



Angela Bruno
Trotwood-Madison High School **Grade(s) Taught:** 9-12 **Subject(s):** Choir and Piano



Mary Campbell Zopf Muse Machine



Heather Campbell-Lieberman
Butler Tech
Grade(s) Taught: 9-12
Subject(s): English and I coach
Arts instructors



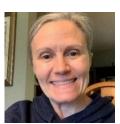
Rosalie Catalano Muse Machine



Lois Clond Incarnation School Grade(s) Taught: 4-8 Subject(s): Orchestra



Becky Davis Retired



Crystal DeYoung
Butler Tech
Grade(s) Taught: 11-12
Subject(s): English



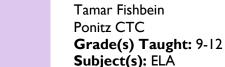
Janet Ferguson
Northmont Middle School
Grade(s) Taught: 7-8
Subject(s): School Counselor



Kimberly Ferraro
Incarnation School
Grade(s) Taught: PreK-6
Subject(s): Spanish



Corrinne Fischer Northmont High School **Grade(s) Taught:** 9-12 **Subject(s):** Math





Jen Ghrist
Tower Heights Middle School
Grade(s) Taught: 6-8
Subject(s): Music



Patti Giering Muse Machine



Emily Gray Muse Machine



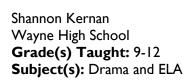
Jillian Hall
Edwin Joel Brown Middle School
Grade(s) Taught: 8
Subject(s): ELA

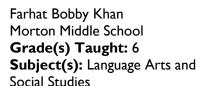


Pamela Jacobs
West Carrollton High School
Grade(s) Taught: 9-12 (&
college level)
Subject(s): English



Macy Janney Muse Friend





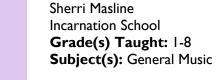


Tara Knopp-Ashworth
Carroll High School
Grade(s) Taught: 9-12
Subject(s): Spanish



Marjorie Loyacano Dixie Middle School **Grade(s) Taught:** 4-8 **Subject(s):** Gifted/ELA

Robin Manning
West Carrollton Middle School
Grade(s) Taught: 8
Subject(s): Science





Liz Maxson
Fairlawn Local Schools
Grade(s) Taught: 9-12
Subject(s): ELA



Judy McCormick Muse Friend



Thom Meyer
Kettering Fairmont, retired **Grade(s) Taught:** Retired **Subject(s):** Photo and Art



Penni Meyer Kettering Fairmont, retired **Grade(s) Taught:** Retired **Subject(s):** English



Audrey Miller
Alter High School **Grade(s) Taught:** 10-12 **Subject(s):** Public Speaking,
English



Erin Mullarkey-Curliss
Beavercreek City Schools
Grade(s) Taught: 2
Subject(s): All academic areas



Ken Neff Greenville High School **Grade(s) Taught:** 9-12 **Subject(s):** All subjects for credit recovery



Eric Neuenschwander Reynoldsburg City Schools **Grade(s) Taught:** 5-8 **Subject(s):** Music



Elizabeth Perry
The Overfield School **Grade(s) Taught:** PreK-3 **Subject(s):** Art



Ken Ridenour Northridge Local Schools **Grade(s) Taught:** 8-12 **Subject(s):** World Languages



Kristan Runyan
Tecumseh Middle School
Grade(s) Taught: 7
Subject(s): Social Studies



Wendy Scholl Muse Friend



Doug Scholz Muse Friend



Sharon Scholz Muse Friend



Hilda Shirley
Coy Middle School
Grade(s) Taught: 6
Subject(s): ELA



Rachel Smith
Summit Academy Xenia
Grade(s) Taught: 8
Subject(s): Intervention
Specialist



Anthony Sollenberger
Dixie High School

Grade(s) Taught: 5-12

Subject(s): Choir, General

Music, History of Rock and Roll,
Theatre Arts



Dawn Stamper Beavercreek High School **Grade(s) Taught:** 9-12 **Subject(s):** ELA



Becky Suhr Incarnation School **Grade(s) Taught:** PreK-K, 5-8Music and Band



Christina Suppo Northridge Local Schools **Grade(s) Taught:** 5-12 **Subject(s):** Music/Choir



Jan Wagoner Retired



Stacey Ward
The Overfield School **Grade(s) Taught:** PreK-3



Sheri Weaver
Wright Brothers Elementary
Grade(s) Taught:
Kindergarten
Subject(s): ELA, Math, Science,
Social Studies



Carolyn Wheeler Muse Machine



Jolene Young
Edwin Joel Brown Middle School
Grade(s) Taught: 7-8
Subject(s): School Counseling