

American Prize Recognizes ACB Members In 2023

The American Prize is a series of competitions in the performing arts in a variety of categories ranging from performance to composition. For ACB members, the categories related to instrumental and ensemble performance as well as composition are of the greatest interest. In recent years, ACB members have been recognized – and 2023 continues that trend.

Semi-Finalists are announced throughout the year, with winners being announced towards the end of the year. As of print deadline, these ACB members have been recognized as Semi-Finalists:

In the Composition—music for orchestra (professional division), member **Jesse Ayers** from Canton Ohio, has been recognized as a semifinalist for “Shinkansen.”

In the Composers (choral division) member **Edward D. Messerschmidt**, from Poughkeepsie, New York, was recognized as a semifinalist for “Safe Till Tomorrow.”

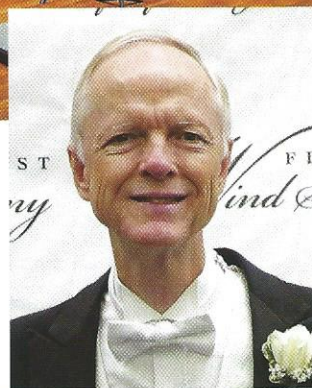
In the Composers (instrumental chamber music division), member **Edward D. Messerschmidt**, from Poughkeepsie, New York, was recognized as a semifinalist for “Pressing On.”

In the Conducting – band/wind ensemble (non-collegiate division), two conductors of member bands were recognized as semi-finalists. **Artie Clifton** from the First Coast Wind Symphony in Jacksonville, Florida, and **Ronald Demkee** from the Allentown Band, in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

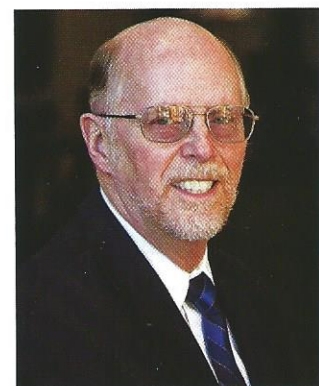
In the Band/Wind Ensemble Performance category, the following member bands were recognized: **First Coast Wind Symphony** (Jacksonville,



Above: First Coast Wind Symphony of Jacksonville, Florida, is a semi-finalist for Band/Wind Ensemble category, directed by (right) Artie Clifton, who is also a semi-finalist in the Conducting, band/wind ensemble (non-collegiate division).



Below: Buffalo Wind Symphony, Buffalo, New York, Amy J. Steiner, conductor, is a semi-finalist in the Band/Wind Ensemble category.



Jesse Ayers, semi-finalist in Composition, music for orchestra (professional division)

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS#

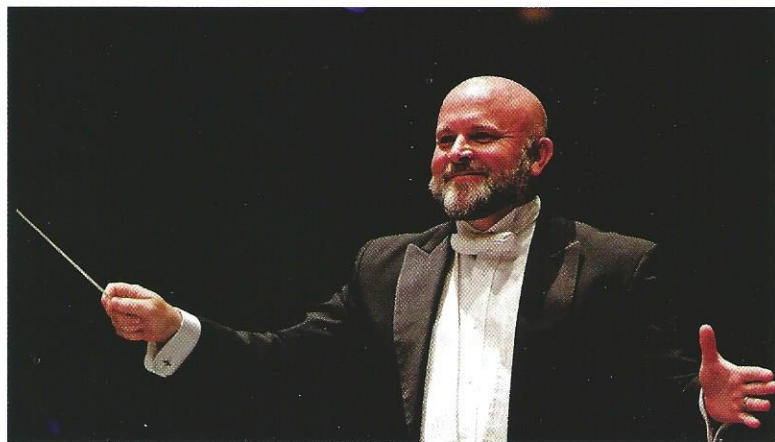
Florida), Artie Clifton, conductor; **The Allentown Band** (Allentown, Pennsylvania), Ronald Demkee, conductor; **Boulder Concert Band** (Boulder, Colorado), Dr. Kenneth Singleton, conductor; and **Buffalo Wind Symphony** (Buffalo, New York), Amy J. Steiner, conductor. In addition, ACB member **Paul W. Popiel** was recognized as conductor with The University of Kansas Wind Ensemble.

Watch ACB's Facebook and Twitter accounts for more announcements throughout the year as other semi-finalists and winners are selected. The October issue of *ACB Journal* will provide an update on this contest. If you are interested in submitting to the American Prize – be aware that contest preliminary deadlines are often in April and May for the next year. The American Prize website provides details on what materials are necessary, particularly in terms of recordings. To learn more about the American Prize, visit their website at theamericanprize.org, and follow the competition on their blog at <https://theamericanprize.blogspot.com>.

~ Submitted by Sarah McElfresh



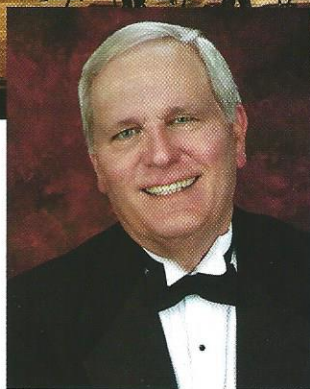
Ted Messerschmidt, semi-finalist in Composers (choral division) & Composers (instrumental chamber music division)



Paul W. Popiel, conductor of the University of Kansas Wind Ensemble, was recognized with his band for Band/Wind Ensemble Performance.



Above: Allentown Band of Allentown, Pennsylvania, is a semi-finalist for Band/Wind Ensemble category, directed by (left) Ronald Demkee, who is also a semi-finalist in the Conducting, band/wind ensemble (non-collegiate division).



Below: Boulder Concert Band, Boulder, Colorado, Dr. Kenneth Singleton, conductor, is a semi-finalist in the Band/Wind Ensemble category.

