2022 Spotlight Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion Prelim. Panel

Dr. John Burdett is the Associate Director of Winds and Percussion, and Director of Music Education at Azusa Pacific University where he conducts the acclaimed APU Wind Ensemble and teaches graduate students pursuing the Master of Music in Conducting and the Master of Music in Music Education degrees. Dr. Burdett completed music education and conducting degrees at Azusa Pacific University and California State University, Los Angeles before earning the Doctor of Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has published and presented his research at European and American conferences, including the International Society for Music Education, College Band Directors National Association, Spirituality and Music Education, and California Music Educators Association and contributed to the Peter Lang (Oxford) series. Dr. Burdett particularly enjoys engaging with high school and middle school students through conducting regional and state honor bands and orchestras in Texas and California and serving as an adjudicator with The Music Center of Los Angeles' Spotlight program - Classical Instrumental Division.

Dr. Susan Helfter is an artist-educator known for her community engagement work through music. At the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music, Dr. Helfter is an Associate Professor of Practice, in the Music Teaching and Learning Department and Director of the Thornton Community Engagement Programs. As a hornist, Dr. Helfter is a past winner of the Canadian National Music Competition and in her role with the Thornton Community Engagement Programs since 2004, she has been responsible for the direction, design, implementation, and funding of these extensive music programs. Her current musical interests and pursuits lie in community and musician self-actualization through musical engagement, with research topics of musician identity, musician as facilitator and community partnerships. Dr. Helfter is called upon regularly by professional arts organizations to lead masterclasses, workshops and contribute to the development of young and emerging musicians.

Amy Tatum obtained her Master of Music degree in Flute Performance from USC's Thornton School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music from Arizona State University. Ms. Tatum has performed for The Bolshoi Ballet and Ballet Arizona, and she played principal flute in the American Youth Symphony. She has appeared with New West Symphony, San Bernardino Symphony, Riverside Symphony, Redlands Symphony, Stockton Symphony, and Center Stage Opera. As a recording artist, Ms. Tatum performs on a variety of flutes for film, television, video game and popular music, and has recorded on the Summit, Capitol, and XL record labels. Her playing can be heard on the latest albums by Yellowcard and Devendra Banhart, the movies Seven Pounds and Marmaduke, the Call of Duty, Black Ops and The Sims video games, and in television shows such as Fringe and How I Met Your Mother. She has collaborated with some of the world's foremost artists and musicians, including Yo-Yo Ma, James Galway, Sarah Chang, Yundi Li, Quincy Jones, Natalie Cole, Stevie Wonder, James Moody, Dave Koz, Monica Mancini, Josh Groban, Brad Paisley, Michael McDonald, Shelly Berg, George Crumb, John Williams, and Esa-Pekka Salonen. She is a founding member of LA-based Midnight Winds

Gary Woodward has had a multifaceted career at the highest level of performance in orchestral, chamber music, commercial recording, and musical theater. He has an over forty-year career as one of Los Angeles's most respected freelance flutists, twenty-five seasons as the Principal Flutist of the Los Angeles Opera Orchestra, and performances as principal with the LA Phil, LA Chamber Orchestra, LA Master Chorale, Orange County Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony, American Ballet Theater, Joffrey Ballet, and the Bolshoi and Kirov ballet companies. Mr. Woodward teaches at Azusa Pacific University, Biola University, and The Master's College. He teaches each summer at Northern California Flute Camp and joins the faculty this summer at Credo Flute. He is also the Choir Director at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church, where he serves as an Elder. Mr.Woodward holds degrees in music from the USC and Chapman University.