

High School Honor Band Conductor and Bio

Mr. Dragovich was a band director for the Hewlett-Woodmere Public Schools for thirty-three years, twenty-nine spent as

director of bands at George W. Hewlett High School. Under his direction, the Hewlett bands received numerous awards and recognitions. Both the Hewlett High School Wind Ensemble and Concert Band received gold ratings at NYSSMA Festivals, the Hewlett Marching Band received a first place award in the NYC Columbus Day Parade and the Hewlett Jazz Orchestra performed at many jazz festivals and conferences including the 2014

NYSSMA Winter Conference. All of his high school ensembles toured on a regular basis and performance destinations included Walt Disney World, Montreal and Quebec Canada, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Carnegie Hall and Puerto Rico. During his public school tenure Mr. Dragovich served as a cooperating teacher to over forty college students, all of whom are enjoying careers in music education.



Mr. Dragovich received his bachelor's degree in Music Education with a concentration in Percussion from Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus. Upon graduation Mr. Dragovich was offered a graduate assistantship to continue his studies at LIU, where he graduated with a master's degree in Music Education. He went on to serve on the music faculty of LIU Post teaching percussion methods for thirteen years. Mr Dragovich also studied at Hofstra University where he received a master's degree in Wind Conducting. While attending Hofstra he served as the graduate conducting associate to both the Hofstra Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Upon his graduation Mr. Dragovich joined the Hofstra faculty and taught both brass and percussion methods on the graduate and undergraduate level for nine years. As a conductor Mr. Dragovich has commissioned and conducted the world premieres of numerous works written for both symphonic band and jazz ensemble. Guest soloist with his ensembles include Stanley Drucker, Joseph Alessi, Mike Davis, Cecil Bridgewater, John Riley, Jack Schatz, Dave Pietro, Pete McGuinness, Jim Snidero and Mike Carubia, to name a few. As a performer Mr. Dragovich has always maintained an active schedule and has worked with many entertainers and jazz artists including Billy Eckstine, Jerry Vale, the Four Freshman, Clem DeRosa's Mighty Swing Machine, Ray Alexander and the Four Aces, in addition to various bands, orchestra and theater productions in the metropolitan region, including his own 17 piece jazz orchestra.

At present Mr. Dragovich is Director of Bands at Five Towns College where he directs the college wind ensemble and jazz orchestra. He also conducts the Nassau Suffolk Jazz Band, is an adjudicator for Music in the Parks, Festivals of Music and the Long Island Music Festival while serving as a guest clinician for Educational Tours, Inc. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Best Bands and Choirs International and the American Chamber Ensemble. Mr. Dragovich works as a BOCES Artist in Residence and serves as the state treasurer for the New York State Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society and is the percussion editor for the School Music News, a publication of NYS-SMA. He is also a co-director of Percussion on The Sound (POTS!) A pre-collegiate program for percussion students and presents a week-long residency each summer at Five Towns College. Mr. Dragovich continues to be in demand as a guest conductor, clinician and performer while maintaining his own teaching studio specializing in concert percussion, drum set, and instrumental conducting. He presently resides in Amity Harbor, NY with his wife Mindy where he enjoys cycling, gardening and being Izolda's grandpa!