

# Rachel L. Sze

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## EDUCATION:

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**Bachelor of Music in Music Education** 2017  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- Graduated with High Honors (3.94 GPA) within Honors College

## CERTIFICATIONS:

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**Standard Teaching Certificate** 2017 – 2023  
Michigan Department of Education

**Standard Professional 1 Certificate (SPC1)** 2017 – 2022  
Maryland State Department of Education

**Adult and Child First Aid/CPR/AED** 2017 – 2021  
American Red Cross

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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**Colonel Zadok A. Magruder High School**, Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD  
2019 – Present, Music Department Chair

- Supervised department staff and attended internal leadership meetings to influence school policy.

2017 – Present, Instrumental Music Director

- Instructor of: Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, and AP Music Theory.
- Under tenure, bands have received only superior ratings at adjudication.
- Managed outreach to middle school feeders and led cluster concerts and recruitment events.
- Led start of the public-private partnership “Latin Strings and Percussion” program that brought professional string musicians and Latin percussionists to the school twice a week during a month period, culminating with a concert.
- Served as Music Director for all spring musical productions.
- Led music department on several out-of-state trips.

Director of Magruder Marching Colonels

- Led all aspects of the marching band, including show design, drill design, and logistical planning.
- Supervised percussion and color guard staff for collaborative show design and season success.

**George N. Parks Drum Major Academy**, Various US Locations

Summer 2020 – Present, Location Manager

- Worked with lead clinician to assign staff duties and spearhead staff development throughout the workshop.
- Coordinated with between on-site staff (dining, housing, and conference services) and Drum Major Academy office staff to ensure student needs, as well as contractual needs were met.

Summer 2014 – Present, Instructional Staff

- Taught groups varying in size including one-on-one, twenty-student break-out conducting sessions, and five-hundred student lectures.
- Provided lessons and guidance on leadership, pedagogy, and conducting to high school students training to become drum majors with their high school band.
- Worked with other professional staff to revise and refine curricula between and during summers to better integrate technology and optimize new strategies to increase student success.

Summer 2012 – 2013, IMPACT Team (Internship)

- Taught small group sessions with support and mentorship from instructional staff.

**Montgomery County Senior Honors Band, Rockville, MD**

2019 – 2021, Preparatory Conductor

- Twice conducted and rehearsed an honors band made up of tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders selected by highly-competitive auditions from a pool of all twenty-five county high schools. During COVID-19 school year, assisted in development of a virtual honors band auditions and experience.
- Led the ensemble through four-to-five rehearsals prior to arrival of guest conductor and coordinated staff to conduct sectionals.
- Repertoire highlights include *Armenian Dances Part I* by Alfred Reed, *Transcendent Journey* by Rossano Galante, *O Magnum Mysterium* Arr. H. Robert Reynolds, *Strange Humors* by John Mackey, and *To Tame the Perilous Skies* by David Holsinger.

**Washington Brass Institute Summer Boot Camp, Rockville, MD**

Summer 2019 – Present, Small-Ensemble Conductor and Euphonium Instructor

- Worked with euphonium, tuba, and trombone students in chamber ensembles, small ensembles, and one on one.
- Conducted and coached ensembles, masterclasses, and full rehearsals. Taught students how to listen critically, communicate, and run their own effective rehearsals.
- Modeled performance on the euphonium.

**Moco Marching Band Collective, Virtual**

August 2020 – November 2020, Instructor and Euphonium/Baritone Instructor

- Worked as baritone and drum major instructor for a virtual county-wide marching band during the COVID-19 shutdown.
- Presented on the topics of basic field conducting and Big 10 Marching Band tradition, history, and style.

**Private Euphonium Instructor, Various US Locations**

2014 – Present

- Taught students to be independent musicians, rehearse effectively in small ensembles, and effectively collaborate with pianists for solo performances.
- Placed students consistently in the Maryland All-State Band, the Montgomery County Junior and Senior Honors Bands, and in the Potomac Valley Youth Orchestra.

**Youth Education in the Arts (US Bands), Mid-Atlantic Region**

2017, Tabulator

- Coordinated scores from all judges and calculated final scores, placements, and caption scores
- Assisted in event timing and coordination between bands and venue staff.

**Hayes Middle School, Grand Ledge, MI**

2017, Student Teacher

- Assistant Instructor of: 6th Grade Beginning Band, 7th Grade Concert Band, 8th Grade Concert Band, Symphony Band, and Jazz Band.

**ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

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**Guest Conductor**

May 16, 2019	Montgomery County Latin Strings and Percussion Ensemble
April 28, 2017	Meridian Community Band, Okemos, MI
April 22, 2016	Jenny Chung (Tuba) Senior Recital, Michigan State University

**Musical Theater Director Experience**

Spring 2020	Mama Mia!
Spring 2019	All Shook Up
Spring 2018	Legally Blonde

**Publications**

April 2020	“Cellos? In a Time Like This?” <i>New Music Box</i> and <i>Medium (Full Article)</i>
April 2013	“Being the New Kid Again,” <i>Halftime Magazine</i>

**Presenter/Panelist**

September 14, 2020	So You Want to Conduct? – Moco Marching Band Collective
September 14, 2020	Teaching Music – The First Five Years, Miami University Marching Band
January 11, 2020	The Montgomery County Mental Health Forum – <i>The LGBTQ Experience</i>
December 19, 2019	The Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic - <i>Alphabet Soup - LGBTQ+ - An Open and Honest Discussion on the Topic for the Music Teacher</i>

May 18, 2019 The Montgomery County LGBTQ+ Forum – Opening Panelist

### Adjudicator

2020 Montgomery county Senior Honors Band Audition Judge  
 2020 Montgomery County Junior Honors Band Audition Judge  
 2019 Montgomery County Senior Honors Band Audition Judge  
 2019 Montgomery County Junior Honors Band Audition Judge  
 2018 Montgomery County Junior Honors Band Audition Judge  
 2017 Montgomery County Senior Honors Band Audition Judge  
 2017 Montgomery County Junior Honors Band Audition Judge

### Service

2020 Member, The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee,  
 The Michigan State Alumni Band  
 2020 Committee Member, Montgomery County Public Schools COVID-19  
 Health & Operations Committee, Budget Sub-Committee  
 2020 Chair, Instrument Return and Cleaning During COVID-19 Committee.  
 Montgomery County Music Educators Association  
 2015 Member, Sexual Violence Advisory Committee, Michigan State  
 University

## RELATED CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE:

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2020<sup>1</sup> Miami Frost School of Music Young Women Conductors' Symposium  
*Clinician: Emily Threinen*  
 2020<sup>2</sup> Shenandoah Conservatory Instrumental Conducting Symposium  
*Clinicians: Timothy Robblee and Emily Threinen*  
 2017 Michigan State University Conducting Symposium  
*Clinicians: Kevin Sedatole and Jeffery Grogan*

## APPLIED INSTRUMENT INSTRUCTORS:

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2012 – 2016 Philip Sinder – Euphonium  
 2009 – 2016 Roger Behrend – Euphonium  
 2007 – 2009 Steve Kellner – Euphonium  
 2006 – 2007 Nathan Zgonc – Euphonium and Trombone

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<sup>1</sup> Moved online in September 2020 from original May 2020 date due to COVID-19 Pandemic

<sup>2</sup> Cancelled due to COVID-19 Pandemic

## HONORS AND AWARDS:

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### Michigan State University

2017	Nominee, Featherstone Award for Outstanding Graduating Senior
2012 – 2017	Dean's List (All Semesters)
2012 – 2017	MSU Music Performance Scholarship
2015 – 2016	The Ellis G. Houston Scholarship for Music Education
2015 – 2016	Elizabeth S. Rimpau Memorial Scholarship for Euphonium in the Spartan Marching Band
2012 – 2016	Honors College Non-Resident Tuition Grant
2016	The Jeff and Diana Glass Endowed Scholarship
2016	The Walter Adams Scholarship for Leadership in the Spartan Marching Band
2015	Eldon C. Rosegart Endowed Scholarship in Instrumental Music
2015	Emil G. & Doris E. Ellis Family Endowed Scholarship in Music Education
2013	Paul and Mavis Pitzer Endowed Scholarship for Urban Teaching
2012	Alumni Distinguished Scholarship Semi-Finalist

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

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National Association for Music Education  
 Tau Beta Sigma, National Band Sorority  
 Maryland Music Educators Association  
 Michigan Music Educators Association  
 Montgomery County Music Educators Association