

RAY DONATO – BIO

Ray Donato holds a Bachelor of Music in Education, and a Master of Arts in Music from Florida Atlantic University, where he studied percussion with Seth Wexler, formally of the Florida Philharmonic, and Dr. Michael Parola, of Lynn University. He had 13 years experience as a percussion instructor and arranger for various South Florida High Schools, before moving to the Orlando area.

Ray was a member of the Florida Wave Drum and Bugle Corps from 1989-1990, and Concord Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps from 1991-1992. He then served as front ensemble technician and/or arranger for: Suncoast Sound, Florida Guardsmen, Heatwave Senior, and The Magic Drum & Bugle Corps, before becoming caption head in 2006.

Ray was previously the Marching Band Director and Percussion Coordinator at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida, followed by Director of Bands at Eustis High School in Lake County, Florida. He is currently the Program Coordinator and Music Arranger for "STRYKE Percussion" based out of West Palm Beach, Florida, which is a WGI Independent Open Bronze Medallist, and is pursuing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at the University of Central Florida.

Ray is a member of The Florida Music Educators Association, The Florida Bandmasters Association, The Percussive Arts Society and The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). Ray is also endorsed by Vic Firth Drumsticks, and is a member of their Education Team as a Marching Percussion Specialist. He is currently the Percussion Caption Head of the Central States Judges Association.