



## **Chris Piecuch**

Chris Piecuch is a bassoonist, saxophonist, and woodwind doubler from the Memphis and Mid-South areas. Primarily a symphonic bassoonist, in 1997 he won the 3<sup>rd</sup> bassoon/contrabassoon position with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and is a twenty year member of the Tupelo Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Piecuch also has maintained a private studio, and has been featured at double reed festivals in the Mid-South area.

As a saxophonist, Mr. Piecuch appears regularly with the MSO big band, the Memphis Saxophone Quartet, and has performed with such artists as Michael Feinstein, Three Dog Night, America, Natalie Cole, The Four Tops, Lou Rawls, Nell Carter, and Debby Allen to name a few. He was recently featured as saxophone soloist with the Memphis Mens Chorale, and at the American Choral Directors Association's annual convention.

As the son of a 'President's own' Marine Band member, Mr. Piecuch began his musical studies with his father at an early age, and a list of influential mentors includes Gene Saucier, Wade Irvin, Mark Avery, and Leyla Zamora.

Mr. Piecuch is also a professional music educator. He is most known for the sixteen years he served as the Director of Bands at Overton High School for the Creative and Performing Arts in Memphis, TN, where his band performed at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.

Mr. Piecuch is active as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States, and has served as President of the Tennessee Bandmasters Association. He has served as guest conductor of the Memphis Youth Symphony on two of their European Tours, and in the summer of 2008, Mr. Piecuch served as the primary conductor of this group on their tour to Spain.

Mr. Piecuch currently resides in Memphis with his wife Katy and their daughters, Hannah and Elise.

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Chris Piecuch is generally credited with reviving the instrumental music program at Overton High School. Since he came to Overton eleven years ago, the band has received accolades in virtually every area. While he has maintained a world-class wind ensemble, (featured in performance at the 49th Annual Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic), he has also cultivated a marching band that has been nearly perfect in class competition and has won at least one grand championship in each of the past five years.

In addition to the high level of performance of the large ensembles, Overton High School band students are also well respected for their individual achievements. Under Mr. Piecuch's leadership, Overton High School has had more all-district student participants than any other school in the state for the last eleven straight years. The number of all-district students peaked in 2002 with 82 all-district students out of the band enrollment of 114.

Mr. Piecuch has also been a leader amongst his colleagues. He is sought after as a clinician and adjudicator throughout much of the southeastern United States, and is currently the President of the Tennessee Bandmasters Association. Mr. Piecuch has also received placement on the Memphis City Schools' Supplement Committee, where he successfully bargained band director supplements for all MCS directors to be equal to the coach's supplements: an area of historically gross disproportion. Mr. Piecuch is also very active in the promotion of the junior and middle school band programs in Memphis. In 1998 he formed the Memphis Area Junior High Honor Band and has hosted the event since.

Mr. Piecuch credits what success he has enjoyed as a music educator due to his interest in maintaining and developing his own personal music skills. Mr. Piecuch won the Contrabassoon/3rd Bassoon position with the Memphis Symphony and performs regularly with other professional ensembles such as the Orpheum pit orchestra, Opera Memphis, and the Tupelo Symphony. He also has been a featured conductor with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra at the Sunset Symphony Concert, and the Germantown Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Piecuch is also a frequent guest clinician with the Memphis Youth Symphony.