

Dr. Catherine Rand is the Director of Bands at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she conducts the Wind Ensemble, teaches graduate wind conducting, and oversees all aspects of the university's comprehensive band program. Before joining Southern Miss, she served as Director of Bands at Florida International University and the University of South Carolina Aiken.

Dr. Rand holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Tampa, a Master of Music in Conducting from the University of South Florida, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music. Prior to her collegiate career, she taught band and orchestra in the Florida public school system for 15 years.

A passionate advocate for music education and performance, Dr. Rand is an active presenter and clinician. She has led workshops on festival preparation, rehearsal techniques, meaningful conducting gestures, and curriculum development for band programs. Her research, *Balancing Artistry and Education*, has been presented across the U.S. and internationally in Austria, Singapore, Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama. Dr. Rand has also conducted numerous honor bands and All-State ensembles, including the Third Marine Aircraft Wind Band in San Diego. She was a founding member of the Creative Music Project, which promotes student-driven musical creativity through improvisation, composition, and technology-based interdisciplinary approaches.

Dr. Rand is published in *A Composer's Insight: Thoughts, Analysis, and Commentary on Contemporary Masterpieces for Wind Band* (Vol. 5) and in *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* (Vols. 11 and 12), both distributed by GIA Publications.

As an advocate for new music, Dr. Rand has commissioned and premiered works by contemporary composers such as Joseph Schwantner, David Maslanka, James Stephenson, Michael Ippolito, James M. David, Luigi Zaninelli, Paul Dooley, Anthony Barfield, and Steve Danyew. She has also served as assistant producer for several commercial recordings with the NAXOS label, including *ALCHEMIZE*, released in December 2017 with the Southern Miss Wind Ensemble. Her second CD will be released in 2025.

Dr. Rand's ensembles have performed at numerous prestigious events, including the National Conference of the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) in Tempe, Arizona, in 2019, and the CBDNA Southern Regional Conference in Tampa, Florida, in 2018.

Dr. Rand maintains an active presence as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer both in the U.S. and internationally. In 2017, she was honored as a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician. She is the state representative for the College Band Directors National Association and the past president of Women Band Directors International. Her other professional affiliations include the Phi Beta Mu, National Band Association, College Music Society, Mississippi Bandmasters Association, Florida Bandmasters Association, Kappa Kappa Psi, and the National Association for Music Education.