**BIOS**

Julie Duty (186 Words)

Julie Duty completed her undergraduate degree at Arizona State University in 1998, earning a Bachelor of Music in Music Education. She then taught high school and middle school band and served as a mentor teacher for nine years in Arizona.

In 2014, Julie founded United Sound, Inc., and currently serves as its Executive Director, working with teachers, parents, and administrators to bring meaningful participation and inclusivity to the instrumental music classroom. United Sound was created with the goal of developing relationships between students with and without disabilities and providing them with the opportunity to build self-esteem, self-confidence, friendships, and a sense of belonging through music. In just five years, over 8,000 students have participated in the United Sound program and they have logged over 213,000 relationship-building, music-making hours together.

Julie is still an active musician, performing as a member of the Tempe Winds for the last 22 years. She also serves as a member of The Midwest Clinic Advisory Board, Music for All’s Advocacy in Action Committee, The Institute for Composer Diversity Advisory Council, and as the Vice Chair of the Tempe Winds Board of Directors.

Bob Morrison (251 words)

Robert B. Morrison has an extensive history as a supporter of music and arts education and is widely recognized as one of the nation’s leading researchers and advocates for arts education. He is the founder and CEO of Quadrant Research, the nation’s preeminent arts education data analytics and market research firm. His leadership in research, public policy, and advocacy efforts have led to significant advancements in access to music and arts education programs in America.

Morrison also serves as the Director of Arts Ed NJ, the statewide arts education policy group for New Jersey where he also served as managing partner for the groundbreaking New Jersey Arts Education Census Project, completing the first statewide census for arts education in every school building. Through this work, New Jersey has emerged as the leading state for arts education in the country. In addition, his report, *The* Sound of Silence: The Unprecedented Decline of Music Education in California Public Schools (2004) was one of the catalysts for a $1 billion reinvestment into music and arts education in public schools that was signed into law by then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Mr. Morrison’s advocacy work has earned him both a Prime-Time EMMY and a Peabody Award. He received an honorary doctorate from the State University of New York for his work nationally to advance music and arts education for all children. Morrison is considered to be one of the nation’s leading experts in addressing how the music classroom can be a place for social and emotional growth.

Marcia Neel (226 words)

Highly regarded for her commitment to program inclusion and expansion, Marcia is recognized for developing the largest standards-based mariachi program in the country—over 6,000 students annually—in the Clark County School District (CCSD) headquartered in Las Vegas, NV. She and the CCSD mariachi education team were sought after to write *¡Simplemente Mariachi!*, a beginning level mariachi method series. She also served as contributing author for *¡Canta Mariachi Canta!*, published by Hal Leonard, to serve elementary music programs and *Foundations of Mariachi Education*, published by MENC, to serve as a resource guide for mariachi educators. Neel has been instrumental in developing over 150 mariachi programs nationwide serving tens of thousands of students who were, and continue to be, new to music-making.

Neel currently serves as president of Music Education Consultants, Inc. In 2016, Marcia was named Senior Director of Education for Yamaha Corporation and subsequently, a Yamaha Master Educator. She also serves as Education Advisor to the Music Achievement Council, a 501(c)(6) organization whose sole purpose is to assist directors in recruiting and retaining students in instrumental music programs through effective professional development programs. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Percussive Arts Society. In these capacities, Marcia has provided innovative, interactive sessions in 42 states and more recently, a variety of webinars for educators, students, and school music dealers.