



Daniel O'Connell is a retired Music Educator with 40 years of classroom experience. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Mr. O'Connell has taught strings at elementary, middle school, high school, and college levels. The majority of his teaching career was in Addison, Illinois where he was Music Department Chair at Addison Trail High School and taught strings, orchestra and guitar classes. He directed numerous ensembles including the Chamber Strings, the Symphony Orchestra, the Guitar Ensemble, and more. Of the many special projects undertaken over the years, the annual Holiday Benefit Concert which supported local charity organizations was one of his favorite events. Another major undertaking was hosting the annual ILMEA District 9 auditions. As an educator he earned the Outstanding Service Award and the curriculum STAR award. Since retiring from full-time teaching he has taught in Elgin U-46, Downers Grove Districts 58 and 99, St. Charles District 303, Naperville District 204 and at Benedictine University in Lisle.

Dan O'Connell is also an active violinist performing in the greater Chicagoland area. He was a member of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra for 23 seasons and is a founding member of the Chicagoland Educators Orchestra performing annually at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. As a versatile musician who enjoys all styles of violin, he is a lifelong student of jazz violin and he performs popular, folk, and alternative country music on the fiddle and mandolin in the band Mickey Hatfield.

Mr. O'Connell has been an active adjudicator and clinician for his entire career. He has served as an adjudicator for the IGSM, IHSA, ILMEA, and the DuPage Youth Symphony Orchestra. He has also served as a clinician for the ILMEA and presented at the IMEC conference.

Dan has maintained an active lifestyle over the years, earning a Black Belt in Hapkido, hiking and kayaking all over the pacific northwest, and hunting for wild mushrooms whenever he can. He takes great joy in his three adult children who all play stringed instruments and comprise a family string quartet when they are together.