

Robert M. Botwinski is a conductor & educator located in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, IL. He currently holds the position of Director of Orchestras at Hawk Hollow Middle School in Bartlett IL, a brand new middle school in District U-46. Prior to his appointment at Hawk Hollow, he was the orchestra director at Kenyon Woods Middle School from 2016-2025.

Robert graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education (B.M.E.) from Illinois State University in 2015 and earned his Master of Music Degree (M.M.) in Conducting in July of 2024. Under the guidance of Prof. Wes Kenney, Dr. Rebecca Phillips, and Dr. James Kim, Robert has gained experience working with orchestras, bands, and choirs while focusing on all aspects of conducting including baton technique, score-study and preparation, rehearsal management, and leadership skills. To further his conducting studies, Mr. Botwinski regularly attends workshops including the Illinois State Conducting Symposium and the Chicago Conducting Masterclass and Workshop Series led by Prof. Donald Schleicher. In 2025, Robert was a finalist in the Emerging Maestros Conducting Competition in Atlanta, GA where he also studied at The Art of Conducting Academy led by Maestro Michael Palmer.

As a percussionist, Robert is a current member of the DuPage Symphony Orchestra in Naperville, IL. In addition to performing with the ensemble, Robert is also an active member of the DSO's Educational Partnership & Community Engagement committee.

As he continues in his career, Mr. Botwinski is committed to inspiring youth and all community members through classical music, and ensuring accessibility to high quality musical performances.