

Susan Blaese is in her thirteenth year as adjunct faculty at Elmhurst University, where she conducts Varsity Strings, supervises student teachers, coaches chamber ensembles and teaches private lessons for the Community Music Program. Ms. Blaese taught for 33 years in School District 23, Prospect Heights, Illinois from 1980-2013. She is an active guest conductor and clinician for workshops and festivals throughout the Midwest region. Susan Blaese received her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she studied violin with Virginia Farmer and Paul Rolland. She holds a Masters degree in Educational Administration and Supervision, also from the U of I. Ms. Blaese was named Outstanding School Orchestra Director of the Year (2001) by the Illinois American String Teachers Association (ASTA), and she received the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award given by Quinlan and Fabish Music Company (2009). She has been the orchestra director for over 25 years at Epworth Music and Worship Retreat, a high school and adult church choir camp at Manchester University, Indiana. In addition, Ms. Blaese served for ten years as treasurer of Illinois ASTA. As a violinist, she was a member of the Dubuque Symphony (Iowa) from 1980- 2001 and is currently performing with the Harper Symphony in Palatine, IL. Susan lives with her husband in Barrington, where she enjoys playing golf in her spare time.