

A Symphony of Success

Educator, Composer, and a Detroit Award nominee

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YPSILANTI-- Brooke Pierson's profession and avocation are in perfect harmony.

The Washtenaw International High School (WIHI) and Washtenaw International Middle Academy (WIMA) music teacher is passionate about teaching his students a holistic approach to music and is equally driven to compose music. He is riding a crescendo of achievements with a national performance of an original symphony and a nomination for a Detroit Music Award.

The Ypsilanti educator was invited by one of the world's most prestigious ensembles and the longest active military band in the nation, the West Point Band, to compose an original piece, *Symphony #2 West Point*, performed by the band February 19, 2022, in New York (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWbrYfSF0jc&t=194s>). Right behind this honor was a notification of his nomination for a 2022 Detroit Music Award for outstanding composer in the classical category. Winners will be announced on April 24, 2022.

Nhu Do, Principal of WIMA/WIHI, says Brooke has been a teacher since the inception of the International Baccalaureate program, and is an asset.

"Brooke is a leader in developing the IB music curriculum, and he is a mentor to teachers and students," she said. "Brooke is an incredibly talented and dedicated music educator and composer, and we celebrate his success composing musical works locally and nationally. I was thrilled to learn that Brooke's original symphony was selected to be performed by the West Point Band and am so proud of him for earning this distinguished honor."

After returning from the New York performance of his symphony, where he introduced the piece and shared his inspiration for its creation, he will again return to West Point for their upcoming performance of his 1st symphony. Additionally, he will conduct a short-term music residency at the University of Northern Colorado and will continue to add new material to his publishing company. The recent accolades are in line with his life goals.

"I've always made music in some way, playing piano by ear at a young age," said Pierson. "I formally began composing in high school, and in 9th grade, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. That's always been my path. Teaching is incredibly important to me. At the same time, writing music is an integral part of my passion and professional experiences which I also bring to the classroom in the hope I can inspire other students to pursue their own unique paths".