

Peter W. Thomsen

Peter W. Thomsen is a native New Yorker, raised in Nyack, a suburb of New York City. He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York.

Mr. Thomsen came to Longmeadow in 1973 and has served the music Program in many capacities. In 1982 he became the first Coordinator Of Music Grades K-12. In 1988 he was appointed Department Chair of Music, Art, Home Economics and Industrial Arts and Technology. He presently teaches in the vocal music and music lab program at Longmeadow High School. The music lab program was started by Mr. Thomsen in 1973 and was one of the first of its kind in a high school setting. The choral program numbers nearly 250 singers, 65 of which are young men. The Men's Chorus has performed and presented workshops at the Music Education National Conference All State and Eastern Division Conferences. The high school's select 42 voice mixed choir, "Lyrics," and chamber ensemble, "I Cantori" have performed in many parts of the eastern United States, including Carnegie Hall, Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood, Mechanics Hall, and Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal, Canada.



In 2005 Lyrics toured Italy, presenting concerts in many famous Basilicas, in Venice, Florence, Cortona and Rome. In April 2007 Lyrics toured and performed in Salzburg, Vienna, Eisenstadt, Austria and Budapest. Each spring this ensemble selects and performs from memory a major choral work. Six of the students from "I Cantori" were selected by audition to be in the 20 voice 2006 All State Vocal Jazz Ensemble. This April both the Men's Chorus and Lyrics performed at Mechanics Hall after receiving Gold Medals for their performances in the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Adjudication Festival which was hosted at the High School. Lyrics won it's tenth consecutive gold medal at this year's festival.

Mr. Thomsen is very proud of his long association with the Outstanding students and the music teachers in the Longmeadow Music Department. The high school music department has received multiple "Grammy Signature School" awards from the National Association of Recording Artists. In 1992 the Massachusetts Music Education Association presented Mr. Thomsen with the "Lowell Mason Award" for outstanding contributions to music education.

Mr. Thomsen is a professional singer, guitarist, keyboardist, percussionist, as well as a private vocal coach and teacher. He has also taught music and music technology at many Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts. Many of the groups and singers with which he has worked are presently performing and recording professionally. Mr. Thomsen is often sought after as an adjudicator, clinician and guest conductor for festivals and conferences. He is currently an active member the American Choral Directors Association and the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association.

Mr. Thomsen lives in Longmeadow with his wife Abby. She holds Degrees in piano performance from Ohio State University and the University of Akron. She has served on the faculty at the University of Akron, and the Harte School of Music at the University of Harford. Mrs. Thomsen also serves as the accompanist at Longmeadow High School. She was District Manager for Baldwin Piano's Debut Music Systems. Presently, she has an active private piano studio and plays piano professionally as solo performer.