# Frederick Fennell

Impact on Wind Bands & Music Education
MUS 604: Foundations of Music Education
Laura Johnson

**"He was arguably the most famous band conductor since John Philip Sousa"**
- Jerry F. Junkin

- July 2, 1914 - December 7, 2004
- Conductor, educator, percussionist
- Bachelor's & Master's degrees from Eastman School of Music
- Known as the first conductor of Eastman Wind Ensemble & a notable conductor of the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra
- Started marching band at Eastman School as a freshman; became Symphony Band
- Created revolutionary Eastman Wind Ensemble (wind ensemble model)
- Responsible for the largest collection of wind band reference recordings (recorded with the Eastman Wind Ensemble & the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra)



## Wind Ensemble Model

- Result of arguments with CBDNA and displeasure with ensembles at Eastman
- One-to-a-part, flexible instrumentation
- Goals: eliminate clumsiness, encourage soloist playing, encourage new works for band
- Demonstrated sound potential for wind bands: expressivity, delicacy
- Resulted in commissioning masterworks for wind band
- Intended as a complement to Symphony Bands, not a substitute

## Recordings/Writings

- Published three books on wind bands, encouraging others to write monumental works
- Known for articles published in the *Instrumentalist* journal
  - Holst's Suites, John Philip Sousa, band repertoire, the Civil War, conducting, percussion
- Created largest collection of reference recordings for wind band
  - Demonstrated musicality, expressivity, and sensitivity that Fennell revolutionized through the wind ensemble model

## Philosophy

- Music excellence, regardless of age or caliber of the ensemble
  - Striving to always have high quality musical experiences
  - Musical: expressive, intentful playing at every rehearsal and at every performance
- American Musical Renaissance
  - Band directors' responsibility to instill passion and high musicality in their students
    - "Shake off musical ignorance"
- High levels of musicality, lifelong learning, passion for the arts