



Oscar-Jose Garcia retired from formal fulltime band and music teaching in 2016 after 34 years as the Director of Bands at St. Mary Catholic School in Westlock, Alberta. Oscar-Jose is currently a guest clinician and adjudicator. He is also an adjudicator for The WordStrides and Heritage International Music Festivals which operate each year across major cities in the U.S. and Canada. He has adjudicated at such international festivals in Orlando, Florida and Anaheim, California, as well as at festivals all across Alberta.

He is currently the director of the True North Community Jazz Ensemble from Westlock, Alberta which he formed in 2017.

Oscar-Jose is also very well known as an accomplished and recognized flamenco guitarist. He performs regularly with his wife, singer, and flamenco dancer Judith Garcia, along with their flamenco troupe “*Flamenco En Vivo*” which they founded in 1999.

Over his long tenure at St. Mary, Oscar-Jose operated Junior and Intermediate Junior High Concert Bands, a High School Wind Ensemble (Concert Band) and a High School Jazz Band. He has also coached many school combo bands (Student-run rock bands) and instrumental quintets.

His school bands have received countless Superior and Gold Awards at local, national, and international music festivals for their high level of performances and accomplishments.

Over the years, he has traveled extensively with his high school Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band exposing them to the cultures and musical experiences worldwide, and having them partake in international music festivals – enjoying such U.S. cities as New York, San Francisco, and Seattle. Closer to home, and here in Canada, they visited such cities as Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, and Grande Prairie. He has also taken his school bands to Spain where they performed in Madrid, Segovia, Avila, Cuenca, and Toledo.

Oscar-Jose was also nominated for the Alberta Excellence in Teaching Award. He has appeared as a guest conductor for the Alberta Honour Band in Calgary and the Fort McMurray Honour Band. He currently participates in band clinics throughout the year, and enjoys adjudicating band and performance groups at festivals.

His school band program was well known all across Canada and was considered to be one of the top small high school band programs in Alberta.

Oscar-Jose is very passionate and has a great understanding of music and conducting student bands. He has an ease and fun way of getting kids to understand the concepts of team work in relationship to playing as a complete ensemble.

Oscar-Jose’s teaching motto is very simple; *“All kids should have the opportunity to learn to play and love a musical instrument with the chance to surround themselves in a cohesive group of musicians working together to produce beautiful music during their formative educational years. Music does make you smarter.”*