



The College of Visual and Performing Arts Alumni Award

Bill Podolski

BM '06 | BA Music '06 | MEd Education Leadership '19

Bill Podolski, BM '06, BA Music '06, MEd Education Leadership '19, a Grammy-nominated, award-winning music educator who has spent more than 20 years teaching musicians of all ages, from elementary school through the professional level.

For the past 18 years, Podolski has served as choral director at H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program in Arlington, Virginia, where he directs five middle and high school choirs, teaches general music for English-language learners, co-directs the musical theater productions, leads the HBW Community Choir, and serves as fine arts department chair. The HBW choirs have earned a reputation for excellence, performing regularly in major venues and with leading arts organizations. Highlights include the 2015 Virginia Music Educators Association Conference, the Washington Chorus Candlelight Christmas Concert at the Kennedy Center (2016,



2018, and 2024), and performing for then Vice President Joe Biden at the U.S. Naval Observatory.

Previously, Podolski taught general music at Forest Edge Elementary School, and served as assistant artistic director for Choralis and director of music ministry at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Sterling, Virginia.

Respected as a leader among his peers, Podolski is a frequent adjudicator and has conducted All-County and All-District choirs throughout Virginia. He is president-elect of the Virginia Choral Directors Association and former president of the Virginia American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) chapter.

Podolski was honored to be Teacher of the Year in 2007 and 2017. In 2008, he received the ACDA Southern Region Colleen Kirk Award for excellence in teaching and was one of 10 finalists for the 2026 Grammy Music Educator Award.

He also holds a master's in music education from Florida State University.