

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RESEARCH STUDY

November 1, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Phi Beta Mu,

I hope all of you are having a good year. The purpose of this email is to invite you to participate in a research project that I am conducting, in partial fulfillment of the degree requirements for a Doctorate of Philosophy in Music Education at Kent State University. The study is entitled *Perspectives on emergent wind band literature: Understanding the views of band directors in high school instrumental settings*. This research study will examine a national sample of high school band directors who direct at least one concert band comprised of students in grades nine through twelve. The purpose is to (a) discover what criteria band directors consider important when evaluating new and emergent concert band pieces and (b) examine if director experience and educational background has any influence on the evaluation of new and emergent concert band music.

Repertoire evaluation and selection is a responsibility shared by many directors across the United States. For this reason, it would be advantageous to gain as accurate of a national perception as possible as to the value of new and emergent works. As a member of Phi Beta Mu International Band Fraternity, we are charged with responsibility of promoting bands, nurturing a meaningful appreciation for quality wind band literature, and encouraging widespread interest in band performance. For these reasons, I sought permission from the Phi Beta Mu Executive Board to invite you to contribute to this study.

Although data collection is anonymous, participants will be asked to submit basic demographic information related to age, teaching experience, educational background, and teaching situation. In the second part of the study, participants will listen to an audio recording and view a score image of each work. When that is completed, participants will utilize a criteria list to evaluate various characteristics of the three works. The final part of the study poses a series of open-ended questions to participants to expand upon their perspectives regarding new works for concert band.

This study will also seek to simulate conditions of evaluating and selecting music in an online setting by viewing a score image while listening to an audio recording. You may wish to make use of headphones during the listening of the three pieces, but regardless you will need some form of audio playback as you evaluate the works. I expect that this study will take you 20 to 25 minutes to complete. All information will be collected online through the use of a Google Drive Survey Form.

The information and data that are provided by participants will only be identified by a time stamp and will be compiled in aggregate data. The resulting data generated will be compiled, analyzed using a combination of appropriate statistical tests, and reported in aggregate form only. There is no compensation offered for participation. If you have any questions about this research protocol, please contact me at 724-748-5584 or my advisor, Dr. Craig Resta at 330-

672-4803. If you have further questions or if you wish to lodge a complaint or concern, you may contact the Kent State University Institutional Review Board at 330-672-2704.

As a Brother in our fraternity, I thank you for your time and though the study is optional, I hope you will consider participating. I appreciate your willingness to contribute to our profession through research and I anticipate that you will find the experience valuable. As a reminder, this research study is anonymous and in no way will you be asked provide contact information. You may receive a reminder email towards the middle of the month of November, but that will be the only correspondence you will receive regarding this research study. The link at the bottom of this email will take you to the introductory page of the study. Best wishes to you and your ensembles through the rest of the school year.

Sincerely,

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Link to survey:

<https://sites.google.com/site/directorperceptionstudy/>