

October

NEWSLETTER

2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - ELVA KAYE LANCE (DELTA/MS)



### Greetings to the Brothers and Sisters of Phi Beta Mu:

I hope the school year is off to a good start (albeit different) for each of you. As we seek to navigate different challenges, I am reminded of a game many of us older adults may recall from childhood – the Chalk Trail game. The object was to follow various chalk clues on the sidewalks leading to the home/finish. The clues might be arrows or printed directions or a cryptic clue. The challenge was to figure out exactly which direction might be best and would result in us getting to the destination quickly.

It is clear that we need a chalk trail to navigate through the changes foisted upon us by the virus. We know the destination – developing good musicians, helping to develop outstanding young citizens, and providing good social experiences, but we are all actively seeking the best way to get there.

To help define a way forward in my work, I have relied on the most basic concepts that we all know about our band students:

- Students need to feel safe and cared-for. A quick look-back through history tells us that teachers have made the safety and well-being of their students a priority forever. Just look at the way teachers have responded in various crisis situations, often putting others above self. We got this!
- Students need and want to connect with others. Normally this is a natural for us. But there is no rule book on how to interact with our students behind a mask or in a virtual environment. But there are lots and lots of resources out there with best practices from the leaders in our field. Don't feel alone in this – reach out to others and brain storm your ideas. Don't be afraid to try new ideas, keep the good ones, and adjust as you go.
- Students need to have clear instructions, clear goals, and an appropriate achievement standard that will move them forward. Good instruction (which includes individual assessment for all grade levels) is imperative, regardless of the environment. Nothing encourages retention like making progress and having success.
- Students want to make music with their friends, even if it is just recording an individual part and submitting it for a virtual trio. By the way, most students are much more comfortable with all of this than many of us teachers.
- Students need to see us modeling how best to respond in less than ideal circumstances – how to adjust and get through difficult times – with calmness and a sense of purpose.
- There are always various twists and turns in our instructional plans and this

year obviously has many more rather unorthodox elements required to accomplish our goals. Some programs are meeting in smaller groups using bell covers and performers masks. Some are trying to continue their instruction online. Whatever the format, the guideposts mentioned above still apply, and that is the big challenge in our present situation.

We recently surveyed our student leadership to assist us with how we might best describe our band program in an infomercial to play at football games. The number 1 response from all was FAMILY. That is and has always been important. While we are trying to make music in the safest environment possible, we simply must find a way to promote the sense of the band family. This familial bond is usually best initiated during conversations when sharing meals and traveling together – both elements either not allowed or significantly altered. It is imperative that we find a way to develop and strengthen this sense of family. Regardless of the level you are teaching, here are some thoughts:

- Create a platform to introduce a section per week – video/photo collage of the students involved in social or music-making activities.
- Develop a consistent way to deliver a weekly personal message to the entire band and their families – same format/same time, etc., highlighting the progress of the week and featuring the individual achievements of your students. Be sure to include some of the students' accomplishments outside of band.

**Continued on next page**

## Lance– Continued

- Connect with recent graduates of your program. Highlight what they are doing and include brief remarks from them about their favorite moments and what they loved about their band experience.
- Define your brand: Host a contest amongst your students to develop or revise a logo or a slogan that markets your program (and your school) into the future.
- Involve your students with creating the talking points about why band is important to them and share them with the community through your media outlets.

“While we are trying to make music in the safest environment possible, we simply must find a way to promote the sense of the band family.”

- Encourage small group service projects in your communities. The needs in each of our communities are great.
- Assign a high school musician to mentor a younger musician through on-line lessons.
- Regularly share the activities of your program with the community through printed media, school websites, and social media.

**As teachers and Phi Beta Mu members, we all have important work to do** – not only for the young people in our immediate charge, but also for the profession. Bearing in mind the health and safety of all involved, we simply must continue forward motion. The students and communities where we serve deserve our best. The profession needs our best in order to continue to secure a future for instrumental music education in our schools and in

our communities. The students in our elementary, middle, and high schools will one day be the school and town board members who will define the support of the arts in the communities where they live. It is not easy – but it never has been. Make your own chalk trail for those who will come after you. Be assured that we will get through this together by continuing to believe that the best days remain ahead.

With sincere warm wishes,

*Elva Kaye Lance*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Our present plan is for there to be a virtual meeting of the International Board of Directors during the 2020 Midwest Clinic (December 16-18, 2020). A copy of the minutes and committee reports presented will be distributed to the membership via email. **The next General Session/Business Meeting and Awards Breakfast will be held during the 2021 Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic.**

### **OUTSTANDING BANDMASTER AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR AWARDS**

The 2020 Recipients ( Alfred Watkins and John M.Stoner, Jr.) will be honored at the 2021 Midwest Clinic. **Nominations will be requested in October 2021 for future awards.**

# PHI BETA MU ELECTION 2020

Phi Beta Mu International holds an election each year for positions on the [International Board of Directors](#).

## **Terms of Office:**

- All elected officers serve terms that are three years in length.
- Board orientation occurs during the 2020 meetings with service commencing 2021-2023.

Any individual who allows their name to stand for election must be able to attend all meetings of the International Board of Directors at the [2020 Midwest Conference \[December 16-19, 2020\]](#).

Board and General Assembly meetings are scheduled on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. (A Virtual Board Meeting will be held at 3:00 PM, December 16, 2020)

## **Rules:**

- Each chapter may submit two nominations for the International Board of Directors.
- Be aware of the restriction that no election result can achieve more than two members from a single chapter sitting simultaneously on the International Board of Directors. The President, Vice President and Executive Secretary are exempt from this, as they form the International Executive Committee.

A candidate for President or Vice President must have been a regular member of the fraternity for at least three years prior to his/her nomination and may not hold the office of International President or Vice President while maintaining these roles at the chapter level.

## **Nomination Process:**

- Nominations should originate at each chapter's annual business meeting or by online ballot and must have the endorsement of the Chapter President and/or Secretary.

PBM members can reference [Forms and Documents](#) on the Phi Beta Mu website to access the *Chapter Nomination Forms*.

- All nominations must be accompanied by a brief biography and high-resolution jpeg photo for the ballot. Please forward all documentation to the Phi Beta Mu International Executive Secretary – David Lambert at [dlambert55@comcast.net](mailto:dlambert55@comcast.net)

## **Timelines:**

The following timelines will be adhered to:

- Nominations received by October 31, 2020
- Nominations vetted and mounted on the International website by mid-November.
- Polls close at 12:00 midnight on November 30, 2020 [PST]

Election results announced on December 1, 2020

Thank you for everything you do for our profession and fraternity. Please consider sharing your time and talents with Phi Beta Mu International. We welcome your comments and encourage you to participate in the upcoming Phi Beta Mu International election.

**If you have any questions regarding this process please contact [David Lambert](#) – Phi Beta Mu International Executive Secretary.**

## **EARL D. IRONS PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION** – PAUL WOROSSELLO (Alpha/TX)



**Due to the uncertain school environment created by the current Covid-19 pandemic, nominations for the Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction have been temporarily suspended for the 2020-2021 school year.**

We anticipate a resumption next school year.

### **Criteria for Nomination and Selection**

- The Phi Beta Mu Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction is open to all high school band programs.
- Director must have been at that program for at least the previous five years.
- Any Phi Beta Mu member may nominate one program.
- The initial nomination occurs in confidence with the Director unaware of the nomination.
- Bands may be nominated at any time up to April 30 of the academic year. (**We are currently suspending nominations**)

Name of nominated program, director and contact information is sent to Paul Worosello: ([worosell@swbell.net](mailto:worosell@swbell.net)) who, within a week, will notify director of the nomination by sending a letter of congratulations and information on how to proceed. Bands are under no obligation to act upon the nomination.

## **COMMISSION PROJECT DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DECEMBER!**

In keeping with our commitment to contribute to the repertoire of the concert band, we have commissioned **Dr. Quincy Hilliard** to compose a Grade 2 – 2.5 composition for our next literature contribution.

**We invite you to join us!** Consider using this opportunity as a memorium or to honor an individual or group. There are two ways to participate in the consortium:

- Chapters may participate for a fee of \$200.
- Individuals may participate for a fee of \$100.



Text for acknowledgement and payment must be received by December 1, 2020 to facilitate publication deadlines and performance consideration at the Midwest Clinic 2021. All inquiries and fees should be sent to our Executive Secretary, David Lambert at [dlambert55@comcast.net](mailto:dlambert55@comcast.net).

Thank you, Alpha, Delta, Mu Alpha, Omicron and Theta Chapters for your recent contributions!

### **Editor's Note -**

I have enjoyed reading the Chapter Reports and Articles contributed by our many talented members. *We were invited to become members to this august organization because we were perceived by others to be good teachers and outstanding communicators.* The Newsletter is always interested in sharing your Chapter News and teaching tips. It does not have to be a "full-blown article" to be significant enough to help another colleague (that you might not know) get through a tough problem, or springboard them to another solution. Please send your Chapter News to [philmin04@gmail.com](mailto:philmin04@gmail.com) or Teaching Tips to : [jbearden66@gmail.com](mailto:jbearden66@gmail.com)

**Thanks!**



# Phi Beta Mu Meetings with Member Initiation Joining the Virtual Platform

—JULIA REYNOLDS (OMNICRON/ARKANSAS)

**When the decision was made to move the Arkansas Bandmasters Conference in July to a virtual format, selecting the platform ended up being the easiest part of the planning process!** The answers to the “who, what, when, where, and how” seemed to grow exponentially. One decision made concerning an element of the conference resulted in one item crossed off the list, but the addition of new details to manage! Sound vaguely familiar? No doubt you, too, have been or are virtually navigating the COVID-19 waters for classes and professional meetings.

Professional development clinics were prerecorded and broadcast twice each so attendees could choose the time slots that fit best into their schedules. To add a bit of normalcy to our conference, we scheduled the regularly occurring meetings for boards, committees, and state associations. New members for the Arkansas Omicron chapter of Phi Beta Mu were elected in February, were contacted, and were scheduled for initiation at our PBM breakfast meeting during Arkansas Bandmasters Conference. We really wanted to initiate and include the new members instead of having them wait until our next scheduled PBM meeting in February 2021. We sent a request to the International Board of PBM for permission to include a virtual initiation ceremony in our meeting during our summer conference and received their approval. Since we could not present pins and certificates, we will make that a part of our next meeting, and, hopefully, be able to extend a congratulatory handshake...or at least an elbow bump.

**If your chapter needs to have a virtual meeting and include the initiation ceremony, you can make it work.**

The International Board fully supports the chapters in their endeavors to transact chapter business. Following is a list of best practices for a virtual meeting/initiation. Full disclosure, some of these we included with our session, some we learned that we will need to include if it has to occur again.

- Choose your platform – we used WebEx meetings because we are hosted by Arkansas Tech University and they provide and support WebEx meetings and events. (WebEx events was used for our professional development sessions.) Make sure members are contacted with the need for any app for your computer, tablet, or phone that facilitates the platform.
- We imported the list of verified attendees and their contact emails so we could send invitations and login information to them in advance. Only PBM members and initiates had access to the meeting. For your chapter records, a list of attendees is easily generated.
- Be sure that the attendees understand the need to be muted unless they are given permission to speak. Our main problem was an attendee who called in for an audio only connection. We asked him to mute his phone, we muted it, but the connection did not stay muted – not sure if it was user or program error. I think video connection is best. After all, we want to be able to see our friends and colleagues.
- Either schedule a test connection in advance or allow for time at the beginning of your meeting to handle any connection issues.
- Prior to the meeting, select two individuals to assist the president and give these people applicable permissions in your platform to operate in presenter roles. We used one person to monitor the chat window to alert the president if there were individuals who had questions or needed permission to speak. Another person was given platform credentials to administer any polling (voting) that was required. Make certain these individuals know how to fulfill their roles in advance. Preset the time allowed for the voting window in advance. We discovered in an earlier board meeting that our platform defaulted to a five-minute window. After the meeting has begun, but prior to the first vote, you can adjust the time allowed for casting votes. We found that a one-minute allowance was very adequate.

**A special thanks to our Omicron Chapter of PBM, the Arkansas Tech University IOS department, our Arkansas Bandmasters Association Board, the Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association Board, and Mike Brashears (TBA). Also, a HUGE thank you to the ASBOA Administrative Assistant, Joseph Gearhart. This conference would not have been possible without his assistance!**



**PBM EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROJECT** – June Bearden (Alpha/TX)

The International Board created the project at Midwest 2018 and this is the fourth series of articles under “Teaching Tips” and “The Profession” topics. There is a lot of useful information shared by our membership in the form of handouts, websites, links and more to coordinate with the fall semester! *Special efforts to share ideas for teaching during the Covid pandemic are in this issue.* All articles will remain on the PBM International website as a resource for directors, so please share and consult the previous submissions under the EO tab. **Best wishes on a successful fall semester!**



**The Profession:**

- Mentoring opportunities during the fall semester - great advice from a mentor!  
[\*Sustain Your Successful Band Program\*](#) by Barry Trobaugh, Munford Tennessee / Phi Beta Mu, Eta Chapter
- Organizing your fall band events & video instruction tips  
[\*Lights, Camera... Learn! Tips for Making Videos for Remote Instruction\*](#) by Scott Watson | July 24, 2020
- Preparing for adjudication for marching contests - an informative link to explore!  
[\*https://ajudgesperspective.weebly.com/\*](https://ajudgesperspective.weebly.com/) by Kathy Johnson, Coordinator and Instructor of Brass and Woodwind Techniques The University of North Texas

**Teaching tips:**

- Events: marching band, all region/state auditions  
[\*Making Efficient Use of Your Warm-up Time at Marching Contest\*](#) by Kathy Johnson, Coordinator and Instructor of Brass and Woodwind Techniques The University of North Texas
- Rehearsal ideas from a composer  
[\*If You PLAY Something, SAY Something!\*](#) By Brian Balmages, composer
- Instructional tools - informative handout for your files!  
[\*LET'S TALK BEGINNERS!! It's a Seven Year \(and beyond\) Plan\*](#) by Melanie Mallow, retired North Richland MS, Birdville ISD

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH, CONTINUED

### Covid Resources:

- [CTMS Band Enrichment Resource, 2020](#) by Laura Bell & Katie Lewis, band directors in Frisco ISD, Texas
- [Cultivating Covid Champs!](#) By Laura Bell & Katie Lewis, band directors in Frisco ISD, Texas
- [Band Directors Talk Shop](#) A treasure trove of creative instructional games and resources!
- [Connecting our Students to Meaningful Music Making](#) by Travis J. Weller
- *Brett A. Richardson, Alpha chapter member and Director of Bands at the University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio TX), commissioned Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame member Fred J. Allen to create a flexible-instrumentation version of Tielman Susato's "The Danserye" (1551) for use by small, socially-distanced chamber ensembles. Allen carefully arranged ten movements for woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion, allowing groups of varied instrumentation to perform Susato's collection of Renaissance dances. As part of the commission, Richardson and the students of the UIW Bands will be providing the score and parts gratis to bands and orchestras that have experienced budget cuts due to the coronavirus pandemic. As of September 2020, nearly forty high school and university bands from across the U.S. and Europe have requested access to the arrangement. If you would like to request access to the music, please contact Dr. Richardson at: [barichar@uiwtx.edu](mailto:barichar@uiwtx.edu). (August 2020)*

## What Instrumental Music Educators Are Learning About eLearning

by Dr. Scott Watson

The impact of the global pandemic on school band and strings programs has evolved from what at first seemed like a momentary interruption to what has become a rethinking of almost every aspect of instruction. After much tentative planning during the summer, amidst frequently changing parameters due to the vagaries of the disease, some schools have opened with a 100% online instructional model. Others are back in their buildings, seeing students face-to-face (F2F), but with precautions in place such as social distancing and facemasks. My district is using a hybrid model, in which students with A-L last names get in-school, F2F instruction early in the week, while M-Z students work remotely on eLearning at home, then later in the week the two "cohorts" swap places.

Ensemble music has been hit the hardest as large-group gathering has been curtailed or socially distanced. Some marching programs continue so long as players are outside, 6' apart, possibly using bell covers. Rarer still are small concert bands, or subsets of larger ones, being allowed to rehearse indoors using the same precautions. String orchestras, whose players don't emit aerosol particles, may be allowed to rehearse indoors with masks and spread out. Directors whose ensemble meetings have been eliminated have drastically re-imagined their curricula. A new emphasis has been placed on individual and small-group lessons (whether in-person or remotely) and creative or critical thinking activities. Below is a "highlights list" of strategies and resources that have emerged to help directors and their students move forward with instrumental music education in this unprecedented time.

CONTINUED.....

WATSON — CONTINUED

**Video-Conferencing**

[Zoom](#) and [Google Meet](#) have emerged as the video-conferencing apps of choice for educators, offering access and educator-friendly features. While no video-conference app currently works well for live, real-time music performance, they are great for making all sorts of connections with students - individually, in small groups/sectionals, or even with entire ensembles. Music Ed Tech specialist, Katie Wardrobe (at [midnightmusic.com.au](http://midnightmusic.com.au)) has a very [comprehensive guide for best configuring Zoom settings where musical audio is involved](#). Some schools have placed video cameras in classrooms that allow online students to “Zoom in” virtually to be with their F2F classmates, seeing and hearing what is going on. Models such as [the one linked HERE](#) intelligently track and focus on activity in the room, and allow remote participants to chime in to ask questions. Zoom and Google Meet sessions can be recorded and archived for later viewing, but you should first check district policies since students are involved.

**Digital Learning Platforms**

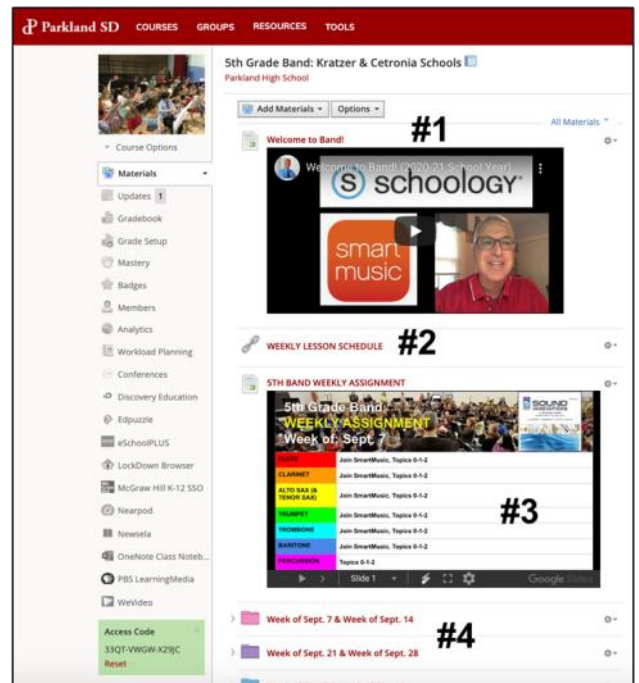
Schools and districts that hadn’t already adopted and integrated a digital learning platform before last spring have done so now! F2F, Hybrid and Online students alike use their devices (i.e. Chromebooks, laptops, iPads, home computers, etc.) to access course content from school or home via services such as [Google Classroom](#), [Schoology](#) or [Canvas](#). These learning platforms allow for flexibility and consistency should a district need to move from F2F to Hybrid, or Hybrid to 100% online.

Digital learning platforms host a wide variety of multimedia content an instrumental music teacher might use: text, images, PDF files, hypertext links, audio, video and more. Folders can be used to organize content (by week, units, etc.) and can even be configured to unlock for students on a particular date. Students can message teachers questions and/or leave collaborative comments for classmates. For instance, using the [Audio-Video Recording Tool in Schoology](#), a student might record a brief performance, demonstrate/check on a new fingering, or show part of his instrument to ask about a potential repair (i.e. popped spring, reed placement, etc.). Other benefits include [COPPA](#) compliance, since they are closed systems, and integration with most school/district gradebook systems.

**The image to the right, of a band class in Schoology, shows the following integrated elements:**

- #1 - Embedded YouTube Video
- #2 - Linked Lesson Schedule (to a Google Sheet)
- #3 - Embedded Google Slide (listing weekly assignments)
- #4 - Unit Folders (containing text instructions and resources for specific assignments)

**Dr. Scott Watson** has taught instrumental and elective music in the Parkland School District (Allentown, PA) for 30+ years and serves as adjunct professor for several Philadelphia area universities. He is a frequently commissioned composer with approximately 90 published pieces for band and strings at all levels that have been performed at venues around the world, including the Academy of Music (Philadelphia), the Midwest Clinic (Chicago) and the White House (Washington, D.C.). He is an exclusive composer for Alfred Publications and a contributor and clinician for their *Sound Innovations* band series. Watson has presented numerous workshops/clinics for music educators, frequently serves as guest conductor for honor band festivals, and is the author of the highly regarded music education text, *Using Technology to Unlock Musical Creativity* (©2011, Oxford University Press). To learn more, visit [www.scottwatsonmusic.com](http://www.scottwatsonmusic.com).





# WE ALL NEED HELP SOMETIMES !

—DAVID ALLISON, MIKE DOLL, MIKE JONES (THETA/SOUTH CAROLINA)

**This statement is as true for a thirty-year professional as it is for a first year teacher.** Help is always needed on many fronts. Organization methods, rehearsal techniques, musical selections, discipline systems, parent organizations, travel tips, and SCBDA policies are but a few of the realities faced daily by band directors in our state.

**The South Carolina Band Directors Association and the Theta Chapter of Phi Beta Mu have created a Mentoring Program to assist instrumental music educators.** Individuals will be matched with experienced, successful teachers in neighboring communities who will be available to answer questions, give advice or just lend a friendly ear when needed.

Theta Chapter conducts a special meeting for new band directors to the state of South Carolina each year. This is in conjunction with the South Carolina Band Directors Association's fall membership meeting. This opportunity helps to acquaint and familiarize them with the policies and procedures of the Association, and to give them contact information of experienced band directors in their area of the state that could serve as mentors.

**We also hold a "Best Practices" roundtable twice yearly for both the Middle School and High School levels.** This allows band directors to gather and exchange ideas and teaching strategies. These roundtables are held at the state Music Convention in February and at the All-State Band Clinic in March.

In addition, Theta chapter sponsors both a Middle School and a High School Reading Band each year at the All-State Band Clinic. This reading opportunity allows time for directors and All-State Alternate students to read new music provided by publishers.

**Theta Chapter is proud to offer these opportunities. Offering or receiving help and support from one another is no farther than a phone call, email, or text message away.**



David Allison



Mike Doll



Mike Jones

## From The PBM Facebook Page —

"The world needs band, choir and orchestra. Our ensembles are a better place when we learn to listen - so is the world. Our ensembles are better when we put aside differences and distractions and pursue creating beauty - so is the world. Our ensembles are better when we have the courage to speak up - so is the world. Our ensembles are better when we take time to encourage and check up on each other as people - so is the world. Our ensembles are better when we work together - so is the world." - **Travis Weller**

# THINK INTERNATIONAL!

—ROLANDO MOLINA (ALPHA/TEXAS)



My name is Rolando Molina, Phi Beta Mu member from Alpha Chapter in Texas. I had the pleasure of meeting Andre Oliveira at the 2020 TMEA Convention this past February. A big thank you to Keith Bearden for introducing us. Andre is a music professor from Brazil that came to our TMEA Convention in San Antonio. He is also a Phi Beta Mu member of their newly formed chapter in Brazil. I also served as an interpreter for Andre and Keith for a while.

Andre and I struck up a long conversation about instrumental music education in Brazil. He shared many stories with me about how their band directors are starving for educational material in our field. He admitted that there are some band programs that teach their music by ear rather than by reading music. He even offered me to come to Brazil and serve as a clinician for a group of band directors in July of 2020. The Pandemic situation in both our countries made this impossible.

**I would like to make an appeal to all of our Beginner Band Method authors/composers.** There is a big demand for your method books in Mexico and all of South America. All you have to do is have your books translated to Spanish. Andre told me Brazilians speak Portuguese but they can read Spanish very well. You already have the books written! Now just arrange to have them translated into Spanish and get ready to make some money! I suppose you could translate them to other languages also. Please talk to your publishers about this big opportunity for you.

Keith Bearden also introduced me to Elva Kaye Lance, Phi Beta Mu International President. She and I went to visit Frank Eychaner at his booth in the TMEA Convention. He explained to us that he was already in the process of translating into Spanish his latest book Foundations of Conducting Technique. He will be distributing it to our neighbors in Mexico and South America very soon. We need more of you in this business to expand your American Band tradition to the rest of the world. Please call your publishers right away and get busy on this international project.

**I would also like to encourage our young band directors that can speak Spanish to think of producing some short videos on how to teach beginner instruments.** You should make one for every instrument. Speak to a music publisher about your intentions and I am sure they can help you get started. There is a big demand for your talent right now! We can also present clinics on band technique for our South American and Mexican band director through Zoom. The Pandemic has prepared us for this. Now you just need to brush up on your Spanish.

**Please contact our International President, Elva Kaye Lance, if you think you can do any of these projects mentioned above.**

“We need more of you in this business to expand your American Band tradition to the rest of the world.” — Rolando Molina

## SOME OF THE BEST TEACHING CAN HAPPEN BEFORE REHEARSAL STARTS

— GARY BARTON (ALPHA/TEXAS)



**“My band knows that when I step on the podium, class starts.”** This is true in most rehearsal rooms. I used this myself, but I never thought of it as the time when my actual class started. This was when my rehearsal started. During the last half of my career, I decided that class should start at the very moment a student enters the room. I know that keeping the instruments silent before rehearsal creates a more orderly atmosphere, but I want to hear productive sounds before I begin rehearsal. I was that student who couldn’t wait to play. To be warmed up before rehearsal is a common expectation in university and professional settings. A university concert band won’t have fifty to ninety minutes of rehearsal each day. While some ensemble warm-up may happen, it will be slowed down if the players are playing their first notes of the day when the conductor begins. For a professional group time is money, and that money is not being paid to the players to warm-up. I have always believed that players should warm-up before rehearsal begins, but to create a culture in your classroom where class starts, including your grading policy, before you start as a group can bring a wealth of benefits.

Lining up outside the door, entering the room silently, refraining from playing until the director begins the ensemble, all are great classroom management techniques. When looking for ways to get an unruly class in order, these are always among the most common suggestions because they work. I view these as training suggestions, but once the students are trained and are meeting your expectations, adjustments can happen. Lining up at the door is only if you cannot supervise your room because of hall duty or any other distraction. We all agree that students should be supervised once they enter the room. My goal is for students to enter the room as quickly as possible with normal to quiet voice levels and to begin practicing as soon as possible.

Students must be taught how to warm-up and every teacher I know does this well. At the same time, students’ knowledge that they should start with long tones is not a guarantee that they will do so. The most advanced students will always do things correctly but most students will need constant and consistent guidance. Current practice in schools is for the teacher to have objectives listed on the board and administrators will look for them during observations. Music directors have listed a rehearsal order for decades, so that list could begin with the individual pre-rehearsal warm-up/practice objectives. I believe every instrumental class at every level should utilize a book for fundamentals. **The following is a suggestion that could be on the board and is not based on any particular book:**

“The most advanced students will always do things correctly but most students will need constant and consistent guidance.”

- Gary Barton

### *Any Fundamentals Book*

1. page 4, lines 2 and 7 (long tones)
2. page 7, lines 3 and 4 (articulation)
3. page 22, lines 4 and 5 (concert Ab and Db major scales)
4. brass: page 8, line 3 (lip slurs); woodwinds: page 10, line 9 (Ab thirds)
5. slowly practice a passage in your music that is giving you trouble

The objectives on the board are flexible and will change daily. They are intended to keep the students on track and can be more or much less material depending upon the ability and level of the students.

The teacher has responsibilities during these minutes as well. This is not a time for dealing with fundraising collection, permission slips, or any other paperwork tedium. These are suggestions, but very strong ones:

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## BARTON—CONTINUED

*For At Least Three to Five Minutes After All Students Are Playing*

1. Take attendance. I've never called role in a band rehearsal and never past the first week in a beginning class.
2. Walk the room and check reeds, random inspection of water key corks, etc. Note hand positions, embouchures, posture, assembly.
3. Make the students aware that you are listening to what they are doing and how they are doing it.

Making a portion of your grades a participation grade is an excellent idea. Carry your gradebook or electronic device in your hand as you monitor the room. I have even carried an instrument and played with students during this time. Your modeling proper practice is a powerful tool.

In education we say that students will meet expectations. This is only true if teachers are tenacious about their expectations. **If you train your students to use those few minutes before the tardy bell and then a few minutes after the bell to warm-up, get the fingers moving, make great sounds, when you give the downbeat your group will be mentally and physically ready to make music.**

# DID YOU KNOW ?

Phi Beta Mu now has a PUBLIC Facebook Page that anyone can join! This was created so that other band directors can find out about PBM, and especially so we can share teaching tips and expand our Educational Outreach. This Facebook Page was created and is moderated by Board Member June Bearden and is located at : <https://www.facebook.com/www.phibetamu.org/>

## OMISSION

In the June 2020 issue we omitted the author of the article [Tips for Success in Districts with No Central Arts Administrator](#). This very useful article was written by **James Van Zandt**. We apologize for this mistake and are pleased to correct it!

## CHAPTER NEWS

### **Rho Chapter (AL) NEWS** —Glenn Spiller

We were unable to have our Business meeting in April, due to the cancellation of the Alabama All-State Band, but plan to hold a virtual induction ceremony for our new members in January during the Alabama Music Educations Association. This will be a first for us! We were able to go ahead and award our Lamar Triplett Scholarship to Sam Kinsaul, a senior that graduated from Lee-Scott Academy in Auburn, AL. **Rho looks forward to continue serving young directors with the challenges of this coming year!**

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Zeta Chapter (GA) NEWS —Barry Golden

The ZETA Chapter welcomed seven new members this year. The member initiation ceremony was held on March 7 at the Classic Center in Athens during the Georgia All-State Band weekend. Joining the chapter in 2020 are Jay Davis of Houston County High School, sponsored by Todd Howell; Sean Furilla of Teasley Middle School, sponsored by David Harrison; Jaclyn Hartenberger of the University of Georgia, sponsored by Christine Kraemer; Mark Hoskins of Wheeler High School, sponsored by John Palmer; Steven Myers of Coffee County High School, sponsored by Ed Barr; Michael Robinson of the University of Georgia, sponsored by Dwight Satterwhite; and Raymond Thomas of North Forsyth High School, sponsored by Al Estep.



(Photo Left to Right) Jaclyn Hartenberger, Christine Kraemer, Michael Robinson, Dwight Satterwhite, Sean Furilla, David Harrison, John Palmer, Mark Hoskins, Raymond Thomas, Al Estep, Ed Barr, Steve Myers, Jay Davis, and Todd Howell.

### Mu Alpha Chapter (ALB) NEWS —Trish Howe

To say that 2020 has been a different year may well be the biggest understatement of our time! That said, Mu Alpha and it's members have been finding great coping strategies and doing solid advocacy work to keep music safely in our schools and encourage band music in every capacity that we can safely do so, to help build better, healthier, more well balanced students. With every challenge that we've faced, our members have found new opportunities and new ways to keep music alive!

As with most chapters, there were activities and events that we had to change, cancel, or postpone. Mu Alpha took the opportunity to move to more virtual meetings and update some internal functions, to further our chapter's goal of being seen doing the good work of Phi Beta Mu within the community by joining with collaborative groups and coalitions, and to further the NAMM Foundation's work in using chamber work to keep instrumental music in our schools until we can do band more safely. Some of our members took leadership rolls in creating virtual spaces for teachers to gather and plan first in our province, then sharing ideas across the country and with our friends across the continent.

As all of us go back into the band room and the classroom with our students, we wish our Brothers and Sisters much love, strength, and music, and leave you with the reminder that you serve a greater good by serving the young people of this world.

**Stay safe, stay well, stay sane !**



## CHAPTER NEWS

### Alpha Chapter (TX) NEWS —Scott Coulson

Due to the COVID 19 Outbreak, the Texas Bandmaster's Association Convention was held virtually with great success. The Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame (sponsored by Alpha Chapter) Induction Ceremony was postponed until the 2021 Convention. The inductees for the Class of 2020 are: **Fred J Allen, Randy Bartlett, Frank Coachman, Dennis Fisher, Jim Koch, Cindy Lansford, Dois Pace, Sharon Prince and Paul Worosello** We recognize the contributions of music educators who have made a difference in the bands of Texas. I invite you to visit the Phi Beta Mu Alpha Chapter web site at [www.pbmalpha.org](http://www.pbmalpha.org) to view the biographies of past inductees – this is a wealth of band history in Texas. These eminent men and women made our band programs today possible. **You will be inspired by their commitment to excellence and their perseverance in overcoming obstacles.**

Phi Beta Mu Alpha Chapter sponsored two virtual clinics during the TBA Convention: (1) “First Chair to Last Chair: Developing and Regenerating Buy-in for Non-Varsity and Sub Non-Varsity Bands”, presented by Susan Meyer Patterson and Jana Harvey. And (2) “MS/HS Band Fundamentals to Work on During Online Masterclass Sessions”, presented by Jarrett Lipman. The two clinics had the highest virtual attendance of all the sessions offered!

Alpha Chapter continues to offer the Band Director's Support Network. The BDSN is to assist band directors throughout the State/Nation by providing consultant services, professional development workshops and peer mentoring. There is no charge for any of the services listed below:

1. Consultant/Clinician Services - Each member participating in the network will volunteer up to two free clinic/sessions each school year.
2. Class Coverage - PBM members will volunteer to cover classes for wither a half or full day (at the discretion of the PBM member) so a director may observe other band directors in the area where they live.
3. Mentoring - PBM members will volunteer to mentor a director and provide ongoing support and guidance to this director through email or phone.

### PI CHAPTER (WI) NEWS —John Szczygiel



**Dr. Craig Hurst**

**PI Chapter's (Wisconsin) latest Band Master of the Year is Dr. Craig Hurst.** Dr. Hurst received his Bachelor of Music from Boise State University, Master of Music Ed from North Texas State and his PHD from the University of North Texas. He was a trumpet teaching assistant at the University of North Texas and taught at Pauline G. Hughes Middle School and Burleson High School, located in a suburb of Fort Worth, Texas. He has been the Director of Bands at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Waukesha Campus from 1993 to the present. In addition, he served as chair of the UW Colleges Music Department from 2004-2017. Dr. Hurst also directs the New Horizons band in Waukesha. He is presently actively performing as a section player and a soloist with the Waukesha Civic Band and the Waukesha Area Jazz Express. Craig and his wife, Nancy, also perform as a piano – trumpet duo. In his spare time, Dr. Hurst leads the group Hornzz, an eight-piece modern jazz powerhouse based in Waukesha Wisconsin. The band plays Straight Ahead, Latin, Funk and Fusion. Their latest album “39

yards (If You Have a Good Arm)” is available through various digital sources. Throughout his Tenure at UWMilwaukee/Waukesha he has been Brass Ensemble Director, Jazz Ensemble Director, String Ensemble Director and Percussion Ensemble Director. Dr. Hurst served as the president of our chapter of Phi Beta Mu for 11 years.

**Deadline for February Issue is January 15!**

Teaching Tips: [jbearden66@gmail.com](mailto:jbearden66@gmail.com)

Chapter Reports and News: [philmin04@gmail.com](mailto:philmin04@gmail.com)