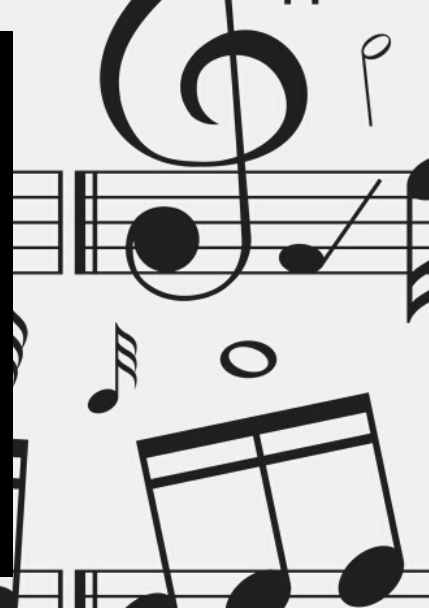


ΦΒΜ

Life - Love - Music



Message from the President



President
Keith Rudolph

Greetings to all at this busy time of the year! Many of you are near the midpoint of football season while retired members may remember those years with a smile, enjoying what is now a much longer summer.

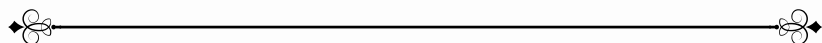
Many of us, both active and retired, are looking forward to another Midwest Clinic in a few short months. Whether attending as a relatively young teacher to pick up new tips, or a very experienced teacher looking to stay sharp as an adjudicator or clinician, the Midwest Clinic always offers an incredible array of clinics, concerts, and opportunities to share fellowship with friends – both old and new! We encourage you to attend the Phi Beta Mu International Award Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at the Hilton Hotel, followed by the International Assembly at 9:00 a.m. **It is our fondest wish**

that each chapter have at least one representative at these events!

This year the International Board has engaged in reaching out to our many chapters to both better understand how you are doing and to make sure all members are aware of things we are doing at the international level.

I am very proud of the work being done by your International Board and our various committees! While most chapters have fully recovered from the effects of COVID on all organizations, a few chapters have not yet resumed live meetings. We will continue to do everything we can to help them return to sharing fellowship at least once each year.

I would be remiss if I did not thank our Executive Secretary, June Bearden, as she approaches the end of her first year in the position. June is a joy to work with and is doing a wonderful job! June and I deeply appreciate the efforts of all chapter officers whom we count on for timely reports. Our very best wishes to you! We hope to see you at the Midwest Clinic!



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“Are We There Yet?”

Submitted by Travis J. Weller (Nu Chapter)

With summer in the rear-view mirror, band directors might reflect on that age-old question heard while traveling in the previous months: Are we there yet? As marching band ramps up and groups travel to games and competitions, the question might resurface: “Are we there yet?” As fall fades and ensembles start moving towards holiday concerts and festival season, directors may ask the internal question about the progress of their group: “Are we there yet?”

Sometimes along the path that ensembles take, the focus on the eventual destination – “there” – might distract from the progress (and beauty) of the journey. A student might be pleased to get nine out of ten questions correct on a math quiz, but band directors know that nine out of ten notes played correctly does not quite meet the standard.

During rehearsals, band directors can focus on correcting errors made by the ensemble, a necessary part of our job. However, the pursuit of perfection in rehearsals at various points of the year can distort or skew the progress the students and the ensemble have made. It is admirable to practice a passage until you cannot get something wrong. It requires tenacity and grit – two qualities that are valuable in music and life. In an imperfect world in which students have seen their lives and sense of normalcy turned upside down, directors need to notice progress. Band directors know that some of the concepts and skills they help students acquire do not happen instantaneously. While the pursuit of perfection in performance is a goal (“there”), progress (“here”) is the barometer by which directors need to gauge their students and ensembles.

Our repertoire choices for the year help students reach curricular goals and build musicianship skills. The availability and strength of individual students and sections within the ensemble factor into repertoire decisions. If the goal is to have students develop a life-long connection to music, directors must build and develop these insights and skills through daily rehearsals, emphasizing that progress on the journey is as important as the destination.

Getting from “here” to “there” might require a map, and sometimes a long-term rehearsal plan is just the map the ensemble needs. Developing a long-term rehearsal plan (e.g., a quarterly concert cycle) for the repertoire can be very helpful. Working backward from the concert or performance date can be a useful tool to budget rehearsal time and help students plan their individual practice time. By mapping out when specific sections of the music will be rehearsed, students can better gauge what they need to prepare and when it needs to be ready.

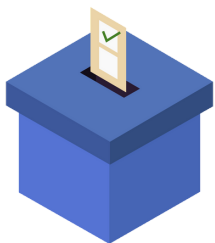
Directors can further anticipate how to better use the warm-up time in the rehearsal to help students make progress toward the annual goals of the curriculum. Directors can also identify and incorporate concepts from the repertoire. As these concepts are linked to the warm-up activities, students can apply these skills directly to the repertoire. Ultimately, the director shares the plan with the students and ensemble for their growth and development. Through that process, everyone will have a better sense of their individual and group progress and start to get a better sense of how far “there” is from their current location.

For an ensemble, performances of any kind serve as an important destination for the students. Adjudicators, audience members, and directors evaluate the ensemble in those moments of their journey. In some cases, the progress made is more valuable than the perfection in the performance. In every rehearsal, directors, students, and ensembles need to celebrate each victory on the path of progress as they provide a resounding answer to the question: “Are we there yet?” Best wishes on your journey this year – wherever “there” takes you!



2023 PBM International Board of Directors Nominees

Submitted by June Bearden



Nominations were accepted from June 1 through September 30, 2023, for International Vice-President/President-Elect and two positions on the International Board.

- Nominations will be vetted and posted on the PBM International website by 11/1/2023.
- Voting will close at 12:00 a.m. (midnight) PST on 11/30/2023.
- Election results will be announced 12/01/2023.

International Vice-President/President-Elect Nominee

Travis Weller is currently serving as the Assistant Chair for the Music Department at Messiah University. In addition to that position, he is the Director of Music Education. His duties at Messiah include supervising instrumental music education students, teaching methods courses, working with graduate students, and conducting the Symphonic Winds.

He holds degrees from Kent State University, Duquesne University, and Grove City College. Travis is a member of Phi Beta Mu (Nu Chapter), ASCAP, and the National Band Association. He is serving on the Phi Beta Mu International Board of Directors as the Educational Outreach Chair and previously served as President for Nu (PA) Chapter. He previously served as a state officer for PMEA and currently serves as the PCMEA State Chapter Adviser. He frequently presents on instrumental music education at professional development conferences like the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and state music conferences.



Travis has been a contributing author for articles in *Teaching Music*, *The Instrumentalist*, *National Band Association Journal*, *The PMEA Journal*, and the *Phi Beta Mu International Newsletter*. He performs with the Musician's Concert Band and works with the Pittsburgh Creator's Project. He is in frequent demand as a guest conductor for honor bands and composer in residence sessions with school bands across Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Virginia, and New England. As a composer, Travis has published works available from multiple publishers including Wingert-Jones, The FJH Music Company, Murphy Music Press, Grand Mesa Music, C.L. Barnhouse Music Publishers, Bandworks Publications, Carl Fischer, Ludwig-Masters and Manhattan Beach Music. Travis resides in Grove City with his wife, their three daughters and a son.

International Board Nominees

Dwayne Dove is the current executive secretary of the Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association (ASBOA). Before accepting this position in 2022, he was the high school band director and music coordinator for the Russellville School District (RSD) in Russellville, AR. During his 32-year tenure at RSD, Mr. Dove also held director positions for the middle school, eighth grade, sophomore, and jazz bands, as well as Musical Director for the Cyclone Theatre at Russellville High School. Prior to moving to Russellville, Mr. Dove taught at Greene County Tech Public Schools in Paragould, AR.



He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Arkansas Tech University and a Master of Music in Trombone Performance from the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Dove has been an adjudicator and clinician in Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as a facilitator for professional development on band literature and trombone pedagogy. (continued on page 4)

2023 PBM International Board of Directors Nominees, continued

Mr. Dove's professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu (past president of the Arkansas Omicron Chapter), Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association (past president and a board member for 10 years), National Federation of High Schools, National Band Association, and the Arkansas Bandmasters Association. Awards and recognitions that he has received are the Southwest Region UMIASBDA Outstanding Young Band Director Award (1997), Arkansas Bandmaster of the Year (2020), named One of the 50 Directors Who Make a Difference by the School Band and Orchestra Magazine (2008), and being listed three times in Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Mr. Dove serves in many key roles on vital committees and boards of our state's music organizations. He is always willing to contribute to the development and implementation of procedures that lead to growth in music education.

Under his leadership, the Russellville Band Program flourished. Russellville Bands consistently received superior ratings in both marching and concert assessments, and, during the years of Mr. Dove's tenure, numerous junior and senior high students attained high placements in honor bands including the Arkansas All-State Bands. In 2016 the Russellville Band Program received the NBA Blue Ribbon Award for Musical Excellence Southwest Division, and, in December of 2021, Mr. Dove directed the Russellville High School Symphonic Band at Carnegie Hall as part of the "Arkansas Tech University and Friends" concert. Many of Mr. Dove's former students are enjoying very successful careers in music. He is active as a musician, performing as a soloist throughout the area, as well as performing with the River Valley Brass Quintet. Passionate about suicide awareness and prevention, Mr. Dove has worked together with 'Not One More' and 'Out of Darkness' programs for the past ten years. He is married to Sarah, a retired kindergarten teacher. Their son Keith and his wife Leigh are both ordained ministers and live in North Carolina.



Jody Dunn is currently in his 33rd year as a band director. He assumed his current position as Director of Bands at Crestview High School in 2006. Under his direction, the Crestview Band has received the Otto J. Kraushaar Award, the highest award given by the Florida Bandmasters Association, several times.

In 2011, Mr. Dunn was a clinician / conductor for the Southeastern United States Honor Band at Troy University. In 2012, the Crestview High School Band was featured in the 123rd Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. In 2014, the Wind Ensemble performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In February of 2017, the Wind Ensemble performed at the Southeastern United States Concert Band Clinic in Troy, Alabama. In the spring of 2019 and 2023, Mr. Dunn served as the guest clinician / conductor of the Matanuska-Susitna Honor Band in Palmer, Alaska. In 2020, he was the clinician / conductor of the Florida All-State High School Honor Band.

He is active as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the southeast. He has served on the state executive board of the Florida Bandmasters Association as district chairman as well as chair of the FBA Ethics Committee and chair of the FBA Marching Band Task Force. He is a recipient of the Certificate of Merit from the National Band Association. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Florida Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Band Association, the American School Band Directors Association and Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters Fraternity, where he served as president of the Omega Chapter. Mr. Dunn is a recent recipient of the prestigious Florida Bandmasters Association Oliver Hobbs Award. Jody is the proud father of Olivia, Elizabeth, Joseph and Elijah.

(continued on page 5)

2023 PBM Board of Directors Nominees, continued

Ann Cameron Haenfler recently completed more than thirty years of teaching in instrumental music classrooms. Originally from Minnesota, Ann received a Bachelor of Music Plus Teaching Degree from South Dakota State University and a Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of South Dakota.



Ms. Haenfler began her teaching career at Sioux Falls Washington High School and continued at Patrick Henry Middle School, as well as many beginning band programs in the elementary schools of Sioux Falls. Her bands were twice selected to perform at the South Dakota Bandmasters Convention. In 1999, the Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Mu named her South Dakota Outstanding Bandmaster. In Arizona, Ann has taught in both Gilbert and Mesa Public Schools. While in Gilbert, Ann was a band director in grades five through twelve and served as Assistant Band Director at Highland High School. Her bands consistently garnered recognition for fine performances at state-wide events. Before retiring, Ms. Haenfler was a Band Specialist in Mesa Public Schools.

Ann has served as Vice President for Elementary and Junior High School Activities for the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association. She continues to be an active adjudicator and clinician for middle school band festivals and this past spring was the conductor of the Arizona Sixth Grade All-State Band. Ms. Haenfler is Curriculum Consultant for the peer mentorship program United Sound. Her clinics on the topics of Title One Band, Beginning Percussion, and Career Navigation for Newer Teachers have been presented in Arizona and South Dakota, and this year are scheduled at the Iowa Music Educators Annual Conference.

Ann Haenfler is a proud Charter Member of the Arizona Kappa Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Mu.



Cindy Lansford is a 1976 graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Music Education degree with a master degree in Educational Administration from East Texas State University. She taught both at the middle and high school level in Birdville ISD, Plano ISD, and Goose Creek Consolidated ISD. Ms. Lansford was named "Teacher of the Year" both at Carpenter Middle School and North Ridge Middle School. She served on the Texas U. I. L. Prescribed Music List selection committee and frequently served her regions in leadership positions.

Bands under her direction have received recognition at the local, state, and national levels. North Ridge Middle School (BISD) was the first band recognized by TBA as an Exemplary Program. They performed at the 2005 Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. In 2008 Ms. Lansford received the Meritorious Achievement Award from the Texas Bandmasters Association. Ms. Lansford retired from public school teaching in 2007; she is currently doing freelance work as a band consultant/clinician, mentor to young teachers, and adjudicator/clinician for contests and festivals all the way from Alaska to Georgia, and many places in between.

Honor bands conducted include too many region bands to count as well as all-state bands in both Arkansas and Georgia. Ms. Lansford is a Past President of Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Mu and serves on the Hall of Fame Committee for Alpha Chapter. She was inducted into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame in 2021 and is currently serving on the Board of Directors of Phi Beta Mu International.

(continued on page 6)

2023 PBM Board of Directors Nominees, continued

Andrew Mroch is a native of Tell City, IN and has served as band director for the Trigg County Public Schools in Cadiz, KY since 1999. A 1997 graduate of Western Kentucky University, Mr. Mroch earned Rank II Certification from Western Kentucky University and Rank I Certification from Murray State University. Additionally, Mroch was a marching member of the World Champion Star of Indiana Drum and Bugle Corps from 1989-1993. Mroch is currently Secretary and a Past President of Psi Chapter, Phi Beta Mu National Bandmasters Fraternity, and a member of the Kentucky Music Educators association and the First District Band Directors Association.



Recognitions include selection as the 2003 District I Middle School Teacher of the Year as well as 2005 and 2007 District I High School Teacher of the year. Mr. Mroch has been active in KMEA and has served the association in many capacities including District President and Band Chair on two occasions. Mroch has been an adjudicator and clinician for KMEA and regional events. Under Mroch's direction, the concert bands in Trigg County have earned distinguished ratings at KMEA Concert Band Assessments for the last 25 years. While the concert band is the heart of the program, it also features an outstanding marching and jazz band. The marching band has been a state finalist on numerous occasions with a runner-up finish in 2013. The jazz band has been a frequent participant at regional jazz festivals. The program regularly places students into KMEA All-District, All-State Bands as well as regional honor bands. Mr. Mroch and his wife Kim, a middle school social studies teacher, reside in Hopkinsville. They have twins, Logan and Leigh Allyn.

Educational Outreach Committee

Submitted by Travis Weller

Are you looking for some new resources? Check out these websites that contain a wealth of information including downloadable scale sheets and warm-ups to articles on integrating technology in band rehearsals. Everyone is sure to find something that will help enrich your curriculum and inspire your pedagogical approach.

- John McAlister Music Free Resources: John is a high school band director and composer living in California. In addition to a media-rich website, he has a number of free downloadable resources for use including scale sheets and warm-ups, as well as materials for jazz, strings, and recruiting.
- Historic Music of Newport: This organization has chronicled a rich history of music in the region, including making several older marches available for purchase by donation on their website. If you are seeking a *new* march to add to your band's repertoire, there are a number of compelling options.
- Beginning Band: Jim Evans is a retired band director who taught for 28 years. In addition to free downloadable scale sheets and fingering charts, Jim has a 2-volume method book for beginning band students available.
- Teaching Music and More - A Band Director Resource: Keith Ozvath is a band director teaching near Chicago. His website includes useful articles focusing on integrating technology into band rehearsals at multiple levels.

Tips for a Successful Honor/Region Band Experience

Submitted by Cindy Lansford

This session was presented at the Texas Bandmasters Association eleven years ago but is still relevant today! Ryan Johnstone, Director of Bands at Rouse High School, Leander Independent School District (ISD), was my co-presenter. At that time, Ryan was the Director of Bands at Aledo Middle School, a Midwest Clinic performer in 2013 and Texas Honor Band finalist. He is currently the Director of Bands at Rouse High School in the Leander ISD. There are a lot of specifics and detail in the outline, and I hope you are able to pick up a few tips and strategies for enhancing your and your students honor band experience!

Tips for a Successful Honor/Region Band Experience...

From Start to Finish!

Two Perspectives: Teacher and Clinician

Are you not seeing the results you or your students want through the honor/region band process? Perhaps you are new to the clinician role and want to “dot your I’s” and “cross your T’s” in ensuring a positive and lasting experience for the students? Check out these detailed tips and strategies that will help you to realize success for whichever role you are playing!

From the Band Director...

“Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance!”

Objective/Pass-Off Sheets

- Break etudes down into small chunks – no more than 4 bars expected for MS; larger chunks (multiple lines) can be expected of HS students.
- Have clear expectations for what a “pass-off” is – be realistic, be flexible, and use a fair rubric depending on the age and ability level of the players you are teaching.
- Consider a standard that rewards the result you are looking for (i.e. – early pass-offs reward perfect notes and rhythms at a slower tempo, while pass-offs that occur closer to the audition date require performance tempi with dynamics, style, and shaping).
- Use a visible accountability system (pass-off charts or something similar).

Band Outline/Sectional Plans and Curriculum for Each Six Weeks

- Investigate general weaknesses for the entire section – plan accordingly (could be different from section to section).
- Make teaching the students HOW to practice a major focus! Strategize fundamental concepts/drills that will make the music easier for your students.

Sectional Plans for Each Week

- One-hour sectional should be divided fairly equally between fundamentals, region scale work, and listening to actual excerpts from the music.
- Strategize fundamental concepts/drills that will make the music easier for your students.
- Be willing to review previous sectional’s material when the music presents challenges that you didn’t see coming. Try to plan well enough to avoid this scenario.

(continued on page 8)





Tips for a Successful Honor/Region Band Experience, continued

Masterclass Night from Outside Teachers You Respect

(Practice Marathon or Similar Activity)

- 30 minutes of fundamental exercises/routines (have clinicians bring a hard copy of exercises they use) You are paying for their services, so why not learn from it and gain something concrete that you can use in later years?
- 45 minutes on each etude, separated by a 30-minute break for pizza and time to talk with clinicians about what they are seeing/hearing.

Mock Audition (Four weeks Prior to Real Audition)

Prior to:

- Prepare students for the rules and procedures involved in all aspects of your region's audition process – this may take an entire sectional, but it will be worth it
- Go over "Audition Tips for Success" – stress the importance of having a plan and sticking to it

Day of:

- Make the mock audition as much like the real thing as possible
- Use the results of the audition for winter concert seating

Mini Lessons – One-on-One Sessions with Students

- Three weeks prior to audition – group sectionals end until conclusion of region auditions.
- Schedule lessons 10-15 minutes each.
- Use this process to screen players – they have 3 weeks to meet your standards for audition (make your expectations clear).
- Teach beginning of lesson like mini-audition.
- Make a copy of the etudes to mark on so that each student can get a concrete representation of what they need to work on for their next lesson.
- Pick at least one scale that is out of their comfort area and demand that the scale be great!
- Sightread if your region requires this procedure.
- Select excerpts from etudes.
- Expose them to the reality that their cuts will not necessarily start at the beginning of the etude. This is especially important for your percussion students since they are likely to memorize their mallet etude.
- At the conclusion of the mini lesson, cover major areas of concern.
- Discuss what it will take for the student to "earn" the opportunity to audition for region band.

In Class

- Revisit scales daily.
- Gradually increase tempo and number of scales played each week.
- Have a process for how scales are to be played.
- Make sure your ensemble performs scales as you would like the individual to perform in audition.
- Make a "Region Band Audition Day Countdown" – display in a prominent place in your band hall.
- "Talk it up" - Celebrate students who have earned the right to audition (display certificates, pass-off charts)

(continued on page 9)



Tips for a Successful Honor/Region Band Experience, continued

In Class, continued

- Review “Audition Tips” a few days prior to the audition. Cover audition procedures with all of your students with emphasis placed on your young students who are auditioning for the first time.
- Go over expectations for audition etiquette.

Final comments from the band director...

So much of our students’ success or failure can be traced back to their introduction to the etudes and following course of action in learning them. We forget that the art of auditioning is indeed an art unto itself! Educate students on appropriate audition strategies that will allow their hard work to show through when it counts...in the performance!

From the Clinician...

“Careful Composition of the Clinic/Concert”

Before the Clinic... Selecting a Clinician

- (Suggestions for the region officer responsible for securing the clinician)
- Learn as much as possible about the person you are asking to conduct the clinic.
- Have you heard their band?
- Do colleagues recommend this person as a clinician?
- Have you observed them in a clinic/band camp setting?
- Consider whether or not this person will satisfy the diversity of your region.
- Look at the teaching experiences of the clinician.
- Primarily middle school or high school; metropolitan or small school/rural area
- When contacting the clinician, be very specific about timelines.
- Rehearsal/concert schedules/schedule of when other materials are needed
- Deadlines for music selection
- Staff assigned to the region band (organizer, percussion organizer, contact person)

Music Selection

- Ask questions about the skill level of the band you will be working with.
- Ask for a copy of past programs.
- Contact past clinicians to get their perspective.
- If conducting the second or third band, inquire about who is conducting the other bands.
- Contact other clinicians to keep music levels sequential.
- Find out HOW the bands are set up.
 - Bands set up top to bottom
 - Two equal bands
 - One “wind ensemble” and two equal second bands
- Consider the clinic length.
 - One day
 - Could be spread over two days
 - One evening and one full day

(continued on page 10)



Tips for a Successful Honor/Region Band Experience, continued

Music Selection, continued

- Sectionals before the clinic?
- When is the concert in relationship to the final rehearsal?
- Know your teaching pace – select pieces of appropriate length accordingly!
- Ask about region directors' expectations.
- Is there a commissioned piece that will be included in the program – when will it be available?
- Ask if there are any other considerations – holiday/patriotic piece acceptable?
- Consider selecting several new pieces/stay away from pieces on the contest list.
- Establish a “library” of region band tunes that you can “mix and match” for region bands that you may conduct over a period of a few years.
- Consider including a piece that you can almost “play down” with little rehearsal, one that sounds harder than it really is, and one that the students will really enjoy.
- Keep a log of past programs/regions – make notes about pieces for future reference.
- Always take at least one “back-up” piece – one easier and/or one more challenging – just in case you need it!

Clinic Responsibilities

- Ask lots of questions/make your wishes known prior to the start of the clinic.
- Will the percussion be in or out of the first rehearsal?
- Will there be a percussion teacher with the section throughout the clinic?
- Can sections/soloists be pulled out if needed?
- Are you responsible for the set-up chart?
- Set the tone of the rehearsal from the very start – positive but firm!
- Be very clear (to both students and directors) that discipline is NOT your responsibility!
- Remember that the students are there to prepare and perform a concert, not learn and rehearse your concept of daily drill exercises.
- Use a brief warm-up to establish basic ensemble skills/protocol/learn conducting cues.
- Remember that you are a guest of the region – reserve any concepts that may be considered “controversial” for your own ensemble!
- Use your time wisely. Plan and pace the rehearsals so that you reach your “goals” by the end of each rehearsal segment.
- Remember that most of the time students are giving up their free time and often their weekends to be a part of this event. While it is an honor, students today have many activity choices to make.
- Treat them with respect and find ways to make it not only educational but fun as well.
- Find that “fine line” between perfection and performance-ready.
- Make sure the performance has the best possible chance of a high level of success – play-through is essential!
- Have a Plan B - make cuts in music if it will benefit the quality of the performance
- Develop a “technique” that will provide as much “play through” as possible without tiring the students so that a successful performance is unattainable.

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Tips for a Successful Honor/Region Band Experience, continued

Clinic Responsibilities, continued

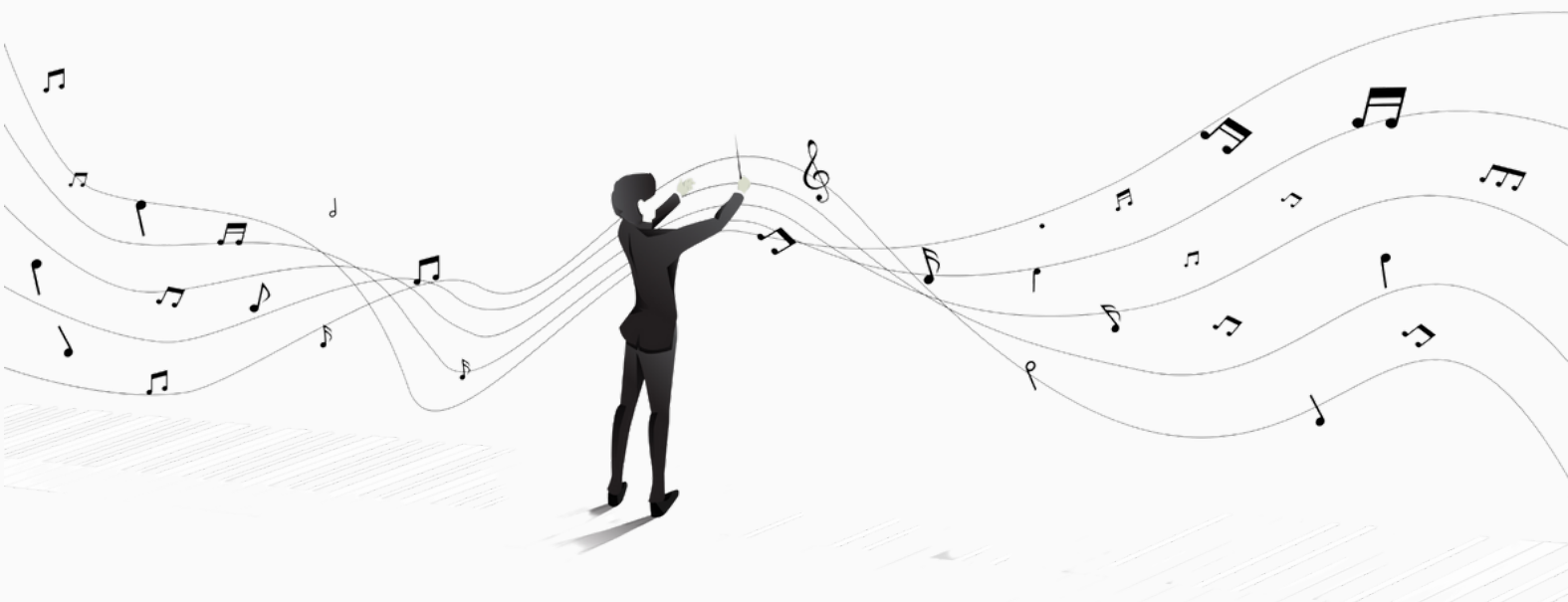
- Note to directors... make certain that there are always a few directors present during the rehearsal times to handle any student "emergencies" or discipline issues and to show courtesy to the invited clinician!

Concert Responsibilities

- Make certain the students are familiar with your version of concert etiquette.
- Plan/rehearse when and how to stand and acknowledge audience applause
- Make decisions ahead of time as to who, if anyone, will be acknowledged after each piece.
- Teach students that when you do this much music in this small of time frame; something unusual is bound to happen.
- Instruct them on HOW to react.
- Assure them that the quality of the performance will be obvious if they give their best effort.
- Communicate with the audience about the music but also about the clinic and the students' experiences.
- Brag about their children!
- Use this time to promote music in the schools and in the community.
- Remember to acknowledge and thank appropriate directors for their time.

Final comments from the clinician...

It is so important that you keep things in perspective! Remember that the region directors have hired you to provide a positive musical and educational experience for their children. Their hope is that their students return to school the next week being better musicians and loving band even more than they did before the clinic/concert. Work hard at creating and providing an atmosphere that will lead to a positive outcome for all those that are involved in the experience!



PBM Chapter News

Kappa Zeta

The Kappa Zeta Chapter from Arizona has experienced a wonderful year of growth in 2023. The chapter welcomed 14 new initiates at their annual meeting in February. In addition, the chapter recognized 22 members for the Hall of Fame Award. This was the first time in chapter history that this award was presented.

Originally formed in the 1970s, the Kappa Zeta Chapter was re-instated in 2017. Renee Shane-Boyd was the first Outstanding Bandsman Award recipient, and she was recognized at the Arizona All-State Concert. The first Outstanding Senior Award recipient was presented to Anika Gray from Red Mountain High School, and she plans to attend Arizona State University to major in music therapy.

The Kappa Zeta Chapter was also very proud to continue its support of music education majors by presenting 12 scholarships to students from Glendale Community College and Northern Arizona University to cover the cost of attending the Arizona Music Educator Association State Conference. Two members were chosen to serve on Phi Beta Mu International committees: Dennis Smith on the Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction Committee and Rene Shane-Boyd on the Educational Outlook Committee. We hope to expand on these and pursue additional state outreach projects in the future.



Theta

PBM's South Carolina Theta chapter is delighted to announce the launch of its new website (phibetamutheta.org/). This effort marks a significant advancement in the chapter's digital presence. Designed to be both user-friendly and comprehensive, the website serves as a central hub for members and the broader community to stay informed on chapter activities, events, and philanthropic efforts.



In Memory of Robert W. Smith

Robert W. Smith, internationally-renowned educator, composer, conductor, and music publisher died on September 21, 2023 in Montgomery, AL, of complications following heart surgery.

Mr. Smith was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by wife Susan L. (Hawkins) Smith; two daughters, Savannah Grace Smith and Madison Windham Smith; and a sister, Pam Tindol (Mike); niece: Rachel Gillis; nephews: Lex Tindol, Jay Hawkins (Alison), Turner Hawkins (Victoria), JR Hawkins, Jake Hawkins; aunt and uncle: Jessie and Pat Windham; brothers-in-law: Ben Hawkins (Cyndee), Chuck Hawkins (Jeanette); and numerous other family, friends, colleagues, and students. He was preceded in death by his father, Staff Sgt Benjamin Smith (U.S. Army, ret.) and his mother, Grazia Windham Smith. Further, Mr. Smith earned the friendship of tens of thousands of colleagues and fans throughout the world.



Oct. 24, 1958 - Sept. 21, 2023

Born in 1958 in Daleville, AL, Mr. Smith graduated from Daleville High School, and earned a bachelor's degree from Troy University and a master's degree from the University of Miami, where he studied with Alfred Reed. He taught high school band in Florida at Pinellas Park High School and Clearwater High School before being appointed to the faculty of James Madison University, where he met his future wife, Susan. He served as Director of Bands at Troy University from 1997-2001. He later returned to his alma mater to build a new program in Music Industry, which met with meteoric success in size and in its record of graduate placement in professional positions. Mr. Smith took pride in founding and leading POPulus, Troy University's American Popular Music Ensemble. In 2015, he founded RWS Music Publishing Company, nurturing and promoting dozens of aspiring composers. Through his own profuse output of compositions, which were beloved by beginning students and professionals alike and his appearances as guest conductor and clinician on five continents, Robert inspired musicians and audiences across the globe.

Throughout his life, Robert was closely involved with various organizations within Drum Corps International, including Suncoast Sound, Magic of Orlando (which he founded), Spirit of Atlanta, Cadets of Bergen County, Boston Crusaders, Colts, Madison Scouts, and the Troopers. In 2010, he was elected to the DCI Hall of Fame, which recognized him as a pioneer in the activity, in no small part due to having written and produced the competitive circuit's first show consisting exclusively of originally composed music, for Suncoast Sound. Robert received multiple other awards and recognitions for his work, including elected membership in the exclusive American Bandmasters Association, of which he was serving as President-Elect at the time of his death. In 2022, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal from Kappa Kappa Psi, National Honorary Band Service Fraternity, in which he had become a brother as a student at Troy University.

It is impossible to fully express the positive influence Robert had on untold numbers of people worldwide, most especially on his family members and those friends who knew him best. News of his passing has met with an overwhelming outpouring of love and support, for which the family wishes to express their deepest gratitude. A visitation will be held on Thursday, September 28 from 5-7 p.m. at Dillard Funeral Home in Troy. A second visitation followed by a Celebration of Life service will take place in Claudia Crosby Theater on the campus of Troy University on Friday, September 29. The visitation will begin at noon, and the service at 2:00.

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In Memory of Robert W. Smith...continued

Memorial donations can be made to the Troy University Music Industry Program online at bit.ly/RWSmemorial or mailed to the Troy University John M. Long School of Music 112 Long Hall, Troy AL. 36082.

To view this obituary online and share a tribute or memory, visit Dillard Funeral Home: [Robert William Smith](#)

Rho Chapter member, Clifford Winter, also shared a tribute to Mr. Smith that was published on the Troy University blog, [Troy Today](#).

Phi Beta Mu International extends our deepest sympathies to the Smith family and brothers and sisters of the PBM Rho Chapter.



Fall Reminders

Submitted by June Bearden

- **November 1** - Midwest Clinic PBMI Awards **Breakfast Reservations** will open.
 - **Breakfast tickets** will be for the PBMI Awards Breakfast will be **\$25**. Reservation payments will be available via PayPal link that will be emailed and posted on the website...stay tuned.
- The 77th Annual **Midwest Clinic** - International Band and Orchestra Conference is scheduled for **December 20-22, 2023**.
- **December 20** - PBMI Board Meeting from 3:00–6:00 p.m., Chicago Hilton Hotel, PDR Room #2, 3rd floor
- **December 21** - PBMI Awards Breakfast from 8:00–9:00 a.m., followed by the Member General Assembly Meeting from 9:00–10:00 a.m., Chicago Hilton Hotel, Waldorf Room
- **Annual Roster Update** - We encourage all members to update their personal profiles on the website and with their local chapters. If you need assistance, please reach out!
- Remember to visit the **International website** (phibetamu.org) often for new information from our board and news about all our chapters!



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