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Message from the President



Greetings! If you are a summer lover like I am, time is flying by too quickly. It has been a busy year for the International Board, and I am very pleased with the work being done by board members and by Executive Secretary/Treasurer, June Bearden.

One of our major goals this year has been publishing our handbooks. This process evolved into an in-depth review involving several meetings and careful study. We hope that having a hard copy of the handbook will make it easier for each chapter's president and secretary to access important information. There are also a few constitutional changes we'll share with you in early December for review before the Midwest Clinic.

During the handbook review, we discovered a misunderstanding regarding the membership process. Some chapters thought nomination, voting, and induction happened across three separate years. The updated handbooks will clarify how the more streamlined process should work.

Our latest commission, "Rising From the Earth," by Adrian Sims will be premiered Friday morning at the Midwest Clinic by the Wiley Middle School Band from Leander, Texas. Board Member Cindy Lansford did an outstanding job guiding the process. Many thanks to

the chapters and individuals who supported this consortium. If you would still like to add your name, please contact June Bearden right away.

We also plan to post several composer interviews on our YouTube channel in the coming months. This new project, proposed by Quincy Hilliard, will feature short interviews about the composition process, which will be of interest to both students and educators. Public Relations Chair, Andrew Marouch and his committee, are leading this effort and would welcome your help.

As previously announced, we've moved our Midwest Clinic meetings to the Marriott Marquis Hotel, adjacent to the Convention Center. Please join us for the Awards Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on December 19, 2024, to recognize our 2024 honorees.

- Outstanding Bandmaster, Jay Gephardt
- Outstanding Contributor, Brian Balmadges
- Earl D. Irons Program of Distinction, The Lafayette High School Band and Director Robert "Dee" Bishop

Followed by the General Assembly at 9:00 a.m., where we'll be voting on several important matters.


Stay well, and we hope to see you in Chicago!

Keith Rudolph

Mu Alpha Chapter

Alberta, Canada

Submitted by Brian Thorlacius



Mu Alpha has had a busy year supporting our provincial music scene. As of September 2024, our chapter had financially supported two

high school students—one in Calgary and one in Edmonton—to attend the National Youth Band in Ontario from April 21–27. Additionally, we financially supported the *Girls in Jazz* weekend workshop and concert, led by Sis. Kathie Van Lare, a program run exclusively by and for female jazz students, players, and educators.

Mu Alpha is excited to announce that Bro. Chris Herard has secured plans for a 2025 Conn Selmer workshop in Alberta. We hope it will attract more Canadian applicants, and, perhaps, educators from the northern USA. In addition, we will continue to support our Special Projects Initiative that focuses on one-time area workshops, which involve junior and senior high feeder programs.


A chapter social gathering at the summer lake home of Bro. and Sis. Baril at Pigeon Lake in Central Alberta on Sunday, June 8, with about 18 people in attendance. It was a wonderful event that included delicious BBQ and sides provided by our hosts and a fun-filled time of camaraderie spent renewing friendships, catching up on careers, and sharing musical memories.

The Fall Alberta Music Conference will be in Edmonton on October 25–26, followed by our PBM business meeting. We look forward to inducting our prospective new members and to awarding the David Peterkin Award, which recognizes an outstanding PBM member who demonstrates continued support for and delivery of quality music education.

Delta Chapter

Mississippi

Submitted by Mel Morse



In December 2023, David Willson, a native Mississippian and longtime music educator, was inducted into the Delta Chapter Hall of Fame.

Willson's distinguished career spans more than four decades, beginning with 16 years in the Mississippi public schools before moving to the University of Mississippi (UM), where he served as Director of Bands beginning in 1991. Under his leadership, the university's band grew in both size and reputation, doubling in membership and becoming one of the most respected ensembles in the region.

Throughout his career, Willson earned numerous accolades, including the 2005-2006 Frist Award for Outstanding Service to Students and the 2006-2007 Elsie M. Hood Outstanding Teacher Award, both from the UM. His leadership extended beyond the university, having served as President of the Delta Chapter in 1993 and as President of Phi Beta Mu International in 2006-2007. His influence also reached countless young musicians and educators through his books *Band Calisthenics* and *Starting Beginner Bands*, which are widely used throughout the Midsouth.

Willson retired in 2023 after an incredible 32-year tenure at the University of MS, where he now holds the titles of Director of Bands Emeritus and Professor of Music Emeritus. His legacy continues through the 160 active music educators across the country who were taught and mentored by him—myself included. We are proud to recognize David Willson's remarkable contributions to music education and welcome him into the Delta Chapter Hall of Fame!



Psi Chapter
Kentucky

Submitted by **Marc Monroe**

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, the Psi Chapter hosted its Fifth Annual Concert Band Festival at Louisville Male High School in Louisville, Kentucky. The event featured four middle school and three high school bands, selected through an application process. Each ensemble performed selections for clinician Dr. Trae Blanco, Director of Bands at Butler University, and received a clinic session immediately following their performance.

Participating ensembles included:

- Carrithers Middle School Band (Adam Bullock, director)
- Noe Middle School Band (Linda Pulley, director),
- Eastside Middle School Band (Susannah Taylor, director)
- Oldham County Middle School Band (Tony Wise, director)
- Louisville Male High School Symphonic Band (Scott Cooksey, director)
- Eastern High School Symphonic Band (Conner Kinmon, director)

- George Rogers Clark High School Band (AJ Cook, director).

The festival provided bands the opportunity to perform in an honors setting and to receive expert feedback from Dr. Blanco, a highly respected figure in the music education field. The feedback from directors was overwhelmingly positive, with many noting this as one of their students' best musical experiences.

The Psi Chapter is proud to continue offering this event, promoting quality band performance across Kentucky. For more information about hosting a concert band festival, please contact Marc Monroe, Psi Chapter Concert Band Chair (marcus.monroe@jefferson.kyschools.us.education).



Social media post for the Psi Chapter Festival



Dr. Blanco giving a clinic to the Oldham County Middle School Band.



Susannah Taylor conducting the Eastside Middle School Band at the 2024 Psi Chapter Concert Band Festival.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD NOMINEES

**Voting begins November 1 and continues until midnight (PST) November 30.*



Dr. Rusty Courson is a native of Phenix City, Alabama. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Troy University, earning a BME in 1989 and an MSE in Music Education in 1996, along with a certificate in Educational Administration in 2008. Dr. Courson also earned degrees in Educational Leadership (Ed.S./2010, Ed.D./2018) from Liberty University.

With 33 years of service as a music educator in Alabama, including 22 years as a band director in the Smiths Station attendance area of Lee County Schools, Dr. Courson continues to contribute to music education as an adjunct professor at Troy University. He is the Immediate Past-President of the Rho (Alabama) Chapter of Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters

Fraternity, a Past-President of the Alabama Bandmasters Association, and has served on the board of the Alabama Music Educators Association. He also sits on the Board of Directors for the Southeastern United States Concert Band Clinic.

Dr. Courson's accolades include being named Teacher of the Year at Smiths Station High School and receiving the Page One Nominee for Outstanding Teacher by the Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer. Additionally, he was recognized as one of 50 Directors Who Make a Difference by School Band and Orchestra Magazine. He is a multiple recipient of the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence. In 2021, the Lee County Board of Education named the Smiths Station Junior High School Band Room in his honor for his years of service. Dr. Courson is also the founder and conductor of the 85-member Smiths Station Community Band and represents District 2 on the Lee County Board of Education.

Dewayne Dove is the current Executive Secretary of the Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association (ASBOA), a position he assumed in 2022. Before this role, he spent 32 years at the Russellville School District (RSD) in Russellville, AR, where he held various positions, including High School Band Director, Music Coordinator, Middle School Band Director, Eighth Grade Band Director, Sophomore Band Director, Jazz Band Director, and Musical Director for Cyclone Theatre at Russellville High School (RHS). Prior to his time at RSD, 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 also served as an adjudicator and clinician in AR and Oklahoma and facilitated professional development workshops on band literature and trombone pedagogy.



Mr. Dove's professional affiliations include PBM (AR Omicron Chapter, past president), ASBOA (past president and board member for 10 years), National Federation of High Schools, National Band Association, and AR Bandmasters Association. His numerous awards include the 1997 Southwest Region UMI-ASBDA Outstanding Young Band Director Award, the 2020 AR Bandmaster of the Year, and being named one of the 50 Directors Who Make a Difference by School Band and Orchestra Magazine in 2008. He has also been listed three times in Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Mr. Dove serves in key roles on several state music organization committees and boards, contributing to the development of procedures that foster growth in music education.

Under his leadership, the Russellville Band Program consistently earned superior ratings in both marching and concert assessments. Many of his students achieved high placements in honor bands, including the AR All-State Bands. In 2016, the Russellville Band Program received the NBA Blue Ribbon Award for Musical Excellence, Southwest Division. In December 2021, Mr. Dove directed the RHS Symphonic Band at Carnegie Hall during the "Arkansas Tech University and Friends" concert. Many of his former students have gone on to successful careers in music. He remains active as both a solo performer and as a member of the River Valley Brass Quintet. He has also worked with the 'Not One More' and 'Out of Darkness' programs for the past decade as part of his passion for suicide awareness and prevention. Mr. Dove is married to Sarah, a retired kindergarten teacher. They reside in Seattle, WA, along with their son Keith and his wife Leigh, who are both ordained ministers.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD NOMINEES



Mr. Jody Dunn is currently in his 33rd year as a band director and has served as Director of Bands at Crestview High School (CHS) since 2006. Under his leadership, the Crestview Band has earned the Otto J. Kraushaar Award, the highest honor given by the Florida (FL) Bandmasters Association, on multiple occasions. In 2011, Mr. Dunn served as clinician and conductor for the Southeastern United States Honor Band at Troy University. The CHS Band has performed at prestigious events, including the 123rd Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, in 2012, and a performance at Carnegie Hall in 2014. In February 2017, the Wind Ensemble performed at the States Concert Band Clinic in Troy, Alabama, and in both 2019 and 2023, Mr. Dunn was a guest clinician and conductor for the Matanuska-Susitna Honor Band in Palmer, Alaska. In 2020, he served as clinician and conductor of the FL All-State High School Honor Band.

Mr. Dunn is highly active as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the southeast. He has served on the executive board of the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) as district chairman and has chaired both the FBA Ethics Committee and the FBA Marching Band Task Force. He is a recipient of the National Band Association's Certificate of Merit. His professional affiliations include Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, the FL Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, the National Band Association, the American School Band Directors Association, and PBM International Bandmasters Fraternity, where he served as president of the Omega Chapter. Mr. Dunn is also a recent recipient of the prestigious FBA Oliver Hobbs Award.

Jody is the proud father of Olivia, Elizabeth, Joseph, and Elijah.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Greetings from the International Office! This fall, we are focusing on nominations and elections for the two international board member positions, as well as coordinating breakfast reservations for our annual meeting at the Midwest Clinic, which will be held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in McCormick Place Convention Center. Updates, including the breakfast reservation link, will be posted on the website this semester, so please check back for the latest news. As always reach out if I can assist in anyway. - June Bearden

- November 1 - Polls open for voting on International Board Positions
- November 1 - Awards Breakfast reservations open
- November 30 - Polls close at Midnight (PST) for voting on board members
- December 1 - Election results announced
- December 1 - Awards Breakfast reservations due for Midwest meeting
- December 18 - International Board Meeting (Wednesday during Midwest Clinic)
- December 19 - International Awards Breakfast and General Assembly (Thursday during Midwest Clinic)