



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BANDS

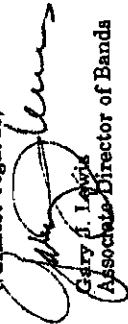
To the Members of Association of Texas Small School Bands:

Please allow me to thank you for the opportunity to work with your students in the ATSSB All-State Band. It was truly a pleasure to be able to work with these highly-motivated students and to share a very special experience at the concert. These students should be commended for their hard work, tolerance and desire to make the best music possible. Thanks to the officers and membership of ATSSB for planning, organizing and producing such an excellent event. From my perspective everything ran smoothly and, more importantly, the students were able to have a positive experience. Thanks to the teachers of these outstanding students. The level of ability in those students as an outstanding reflection of the quality of teaching they have received. Finally, thanks to the parents whose perseverance, patience and support has allowed the students to grow and develop.

I was asked to write some thoughts that came to mind as a result of the All-State experience. Seeing how these students reacted given the opportunity to experience some music beyond what they can normally access, I was reminded of a philosophy that I strongly believe in. We all agree that every ensemble in every school has different abilities and different needs. However, every student in every ensemble shares the same need: they must be exposed to music at the highest possible level. Not only should the curriculum for our bands (i.e., the literature through which we teach music) be of the highest possible quality and substance, but I feel that we should go beyond the limitations that all of us face in programming for our ensembles. I feel we must expose our students to the aspects and mediums of music that are not accessible to them through the normal band experience. Through recordings, video, live performances, etc., we can teach our students to appreciate the world of classical music and jazz beyond the limitations of the band literature. Not only should they understand and know the work of the best composers for band, but somehow they must learn to appreciate Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Mahler, Copland, Stravinsky, etc., (i.e. the best composers, period.) This is by no means a short list of prescribed composers, just an encouragement to broaden our students experience so that they come in contact with the very best music possible. Then, as adults, they hopefully will be the patrons and supporters of the arts that we so desperately need. I know that, ultimately, that is the goal that we are all striving for, i.e., educating and equipping our students to be able to appreciate and enjoy music throughout their lifetime.

I hope that the All-State Band was a growing experience for the students involved. It certainly was for me. Once again, thanks for the opportunity to work with and learn from your students.

Warmest regards,


Gary E. Lipp
Associate Director of Bands

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NEWSLETTER

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*** SPECIAL EDITION ***

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Michael G. Marsh

This year's TMEA convention was for me the most exciting since 1957 when I first attended as a student member of the All-State Orchestra. Those who had a part in bringing the ATSSB All-State Band into existence could not fail to have been moved when the dream finally became a reality with the performance in San Antonio. Anyone who doubted the quality of the group surely had those doubts removed as Gary Lewis directed the band in a most musical concert.

The concert was a success because a large percentage of our members contributed to the effort. When we had our first organizational meeting last March, I thought that the task set before us was too overwhelming and that one year was not enough time to develop such an organization. I had not anticipated the great spirit of comradeship and sense of common purpose that have evolved into ATSSB.

I want to express my thanks to John Gibson for doing such an outstanding job of running the seating tryouts in San Antonio - to Mike Hardy for the time-consuming job of serving as All-State Band Organizer - to Scott Stephenson for doing the computer work on the seating tryouts - to Elmer Schenk for writing the program notes and helping set up and take down the stands and percussion equipment - to Jim Childers and Fredericksburg High School for furnishing and transporting to the convention all of the equipment used by the band - to Fred Pankratz and his assistant Jennifer Willison for publishing the **NEWSLETTER** and always being available to offer ideas and advice - to our Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin without whose organizational skills ATSSB would never have gotten off the ground - to the 22 Region Coordinators and 5 Area Hosts who did such a great job organizing tryouts in their respective areas this first year - and finally to all of the members of ATSSB who never failed to respond when asked to perform any task and who volunteered their service without being asked.

I hope that each of you will express your thanks to the

TMEA All-State students. John Whitwell at Stephen F. Austin State University has said that since things were in flux at the moment, his staff will evaluate each bandsman who applies for a scholarship as to the value given (tuition like they give TMEA area candidates or full camp costs like they give TMEA All-State students). So give them a call if your student is interested in their band camp - and encourage them to go where they are most welcome.

As I am sure is being discussed by Mike in his column, there should be dialogue opening soon between TMEA and the leadership of ATSSB regarding the role each should play in the future. If that future should include a union of the two, you will be kept informed as to the progress of that dialogue. Your leadership has always maintained the importance of TMEA in the overall structure of music education in Texas and we are doing our best to not foster any split or separation regarding that issue. However, ATSSB evolved from a need small-school band directors felt was not being addressed by TMEA. Therefore, should TMEA decide they would like to talk about bringing ATSSB under the TMEA umbrella, we are certainly open to a dialogue about it. Since we are so completely organized as a separate corporation under the laws of the state of Texas, any change in our structure would require a referendum from you, the membership (owners of the corporation). Watch the **NEWSLETTER** for further developments - and be sure to pass it around to colleagues and friends of small-school bands in Texas.

The **ATSSB NEWSLETTER** is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands, a non-profit organization of band directors of A, AA and AAA high school bands in the state of Texas. It is published four times a year (exclusive of special editions) and distributed to its membership of record. All correspondence regarding this publication and any articles to be considered for publication should be addressed to the Editor:

Fred Pankratz
800 Hillside
Canadian, Texas 79014

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Kenneth L. Griffin

Some thoughts while getting ready for UIL Concert & Sightreading Contest!!!!:

The first clinic-concert of the ATSSB All-State Band is now history - and it is a history we can all share with pride and knowledge of a job well done. So many individuals worked long and hard to make it a reality - from your executive officers through Area and Region Coordinators and Region and Area audition hosts - and to each of you who encouraged your students to participate or supported us with your presence and help in all of our times of need. I know that each of your programs has benefitted from the experience and hope that the coming years for ATSSB will do even more - in more varied ways - for your individual bandmen. Some of the suggestions for ATSSB involvement include: 1) An ATSSB State Solo-Ensemble Contest; 2) An ATSSB job placement service; 3) An ATSSB Concert and Sightreading Contest - Regional, Area and State; 4) An ATSSB Marching Contest - Regional, Area and State. Please note that these are **SUGGESTIONS!** We do not plan to do any of these things in the coming year, we plan to fine-tune the process we already have to make it as glitch-free and even more meaningful for each of our programs than it was this past year. After we have established ourselves, we might want to branch out to other areas - but only when we are secure in the fact that we can accomplish them with the success we enjoyed with the All-State Band.

Interesting fact about the 1992 All-State Band: the membership included 14 freshmen, 22 sophomores, 47 juniors, and 40 seniors.

It was a real pleasure to meet so many of you - and to put a name to a face! I've spent a lot of time on the telephone this year but would rather sit around with you and talk band stuff! I had it mentioned to me numerous times how much pleasure we had sitting around talking about music, music education, our bands and the music we were playing and rehearsing -

instead of just talking politics all of the time!

Let's keep the lines of communication open. If you think of anything we need to be doing differently - or better - or more of - or less of - or anything at all, we would appreciate your jotting it down or giving us a call. I am sincere in encouraging you to be a vocal part of the Association. We are only going to be as good or as effective as the membership wants us to be.

When I saw how the membership and audience responded to the introduction of the first ATSSB All-State Band, I was thrilled - and touched by their sincerity. Even if the students thought the ovation was entirely for them (and it mostly was), it doesn't matter. They played beautifully and with musician-ship and were a credit to their schools, their directors, their clinician, themselves personally - and to our Association.

Interesting fact about the 1992 All-State Band: the 123 students were from 9 class A high schools, 18 class AA high schools and 96 class AAA high schools.

Please add to your list of members who are TMAA judges:

G.T. Gilligan
ASSOCIATE MEMBER
541 S. Ash
Kermit, Texas 79745
(915) 586-2886
TMAA: CB, MB

Also, please add to the enclosed membership roster the following member (whose application I received after the roster was printed):

Tim Hunger
Caldwell High School
203 N. Gray
Caldwell, Texas 77836
(409) 567-9506

CLASS AAA, REGION 18
808 N. Gray
Caldwell, Texas 77836
(409) 567-3171

The 1991-92 Membership Roster included with this mailing

of the **NEWSLETTER** is intended for your use to keep in touch with each other. We can enjoy more success if we treat our Association as a fraternity of brothers and sisters in the struggle to succeed in the small-school environment in Texas. Use it to suggest each other as judges for UIL Concert and/or Sightreading Contests (the only way we are going to get more small-school directors on the list!), for clinicians, for judges of UIL solo-ensemble contests, and as a source for information as you need it.

Interesting fact about the 1992 All-State Band: there were 500 programs printed for the concert and all were gone before a third of the audience arrived (we made sure each bandsman got one before we gave them to the audience!). They are sure to become a collector's item.

We realized that the lighting in the Scottish Rite Auditorium was not good for our students' eyes, but there was little we could do in the time allotted. I have discussed the situation with the Shriners and with John Bridges (who conducts the San Antonio Municipal Band which performs there) and we will address the lighting needs in plenty of time for next year's rehearsals and performance.

Interesting fact about the 1992 All-State Band: the students were from 77 different high schools in Texas (9 AA, 14 AA and 54 AAA).

If you would like to purchase a set of the music used on the concert (ATSSB had to buy it!), we will sell it to you at half-price: Flourish for Wind Band - \$16; Sussex Mimmers Christmas Carol - \$12.50; Chester - \$25; Shostakovich's Folk Dances - \$25; British Eighth - \$7.50; and Cajun Folk Dances - \$47.50 (yes, it retailed to us for \$95!). We had to purchase two complete sets because copying was a no-no. Just call or write and I will send it to you with a bill.

If your students participate in the various summer band camps at colleges across the state, you might want to give the directors of the camp a call. Baylor University's Michael Haithcock has told me that he is willing to give ATSSB All-State Bandsmen the same scholarship considerations given

businesses which assisted us - Caldwell Music Company for furnishing the programs, RBC Music Company for making up the Area Packets and All-State Band folders, Sol Frank Uniforms for furnishing the All-State patches, and G. Leblanc Corporation for loaning us a flugelhorn for our use on the concert. These contributions helped hold down expenses in this our first year of existence.

I have already been in contact with the new TMEA State Band Division Chairman, Don Hanna. He has asked that we keep him informed of our policies and actions so that he does not have to operate on the basis of rumors as he strives to establish a working relationship between ATSSB and TMEA. I feel that the new TMEA State Executive Board with Stan McGill, Will May and Don Hanna will be one which will be more responsive to the membership. I told Don that ATSSB would like to be affiliated with TMEA while still maintaining the autonomy of our own organization which is geared to address small-school concerns. We specifically are seeking access to the TMEA exhibits for our All-State Students during the convention.

The tape of the All-State Concert is excellent. John Hoover drove over from Ozona to my house on Sunday afternoon following the convention and played the recording for me. Those of you who ordered the tapes are going to be pleased. If you did not get to place your order at the convention, it is still possible to do so by mailing your order along with a check for \$10 to:

Educational Recording Service
115 Live Oak
Ozona, Texas 76943

You can expect delivery in about six weeks.

A questionnaire has been included in this edition of the **NEWSLETTER**. It would be very helpful if you would take the time to fill it out and note any problems that you observed with the tryouts, concert, facilities, etc. Things did go awfully well for the first year of our new organization, but we want to refine the process even more next year.