



# ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS

2117 Morse Street

Houston, Texas 77019

(713) 874-1151

# NewsLetter

Volume XXX, Number 4

March, 2021

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## Eric Gray Column

President 2019-2021

Greetings from the piney woods of East Texas! Just 2 weeks ago we had 12 inches of snow and -6, then yesterday it was sunny and 78...just got to love the Texas weather!



Like you, we have had lots going on since December.

Area auditions, Solo & Ensemble and Concert & Sightreading Evaluations. This is our Spring Break week, and I am super excited for a chance to breathe!

It was exactly one year ago that we were sent home for spring break...and did not come back until August. What a year it has been as we learned new procedures about how to teach and meet and organize! We have been Zooming like crazy and somehow have kept almost everything in motion. Yeah!

We are just super excited to be planning for the ATSSB All State Band Experience June 9-12 in Melissa!!! Jerry Whorton, Kenneth Griffin, and the entire Executive Board is planning and preparing to make this a truly one-of-a-kind experience for the kids and directors. We are looking forward to

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## REMEMBER!

- ◆ **The ATSSB All-State Band Clinic is scheduled for June 9-12, 2021 in Melissa.**
- ◆ Don't forget to discuss your region donating to the Scholarship Fund and/or the Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship Fund (individual donations to these funds are fully tax-deductible).
- ◆ Entries submitted in the 2021 ATSSB Outstanding performance Series will be checked to make sure the Head Director of the competing ensemble is a current Active Member of ATSSB, so join TODAY if you need to do so: [CLICK HERE](#)

Gray, continued from Page 1):

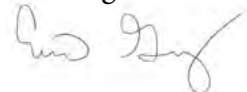
meeting in person and sharing all the unique experiences we have faced this year. I hope you are as excited as I am about this event. The deadline for go/no go is May 1st so look for more information coming your way soon.

Congratulations to our new Executive Board members! You are joining a great group of people with a genuine passion for kids in the small schools. I have been truly humbled by their passion and determination for their kids and our organization! I want to thank them once again for their vision through this pandemic and the fire it lit in me every time we gathered online to meet and talk. You guys are the best!!!

I would also like to thank the leadership of TMEA for their continued guidance and work during this exceptional year. The work they have done to make all our auditions successful has been monumental! We cannot express our thanks enough to these hard-working and caring people that have gone many, many extra miles to support what we do on behalf of our students. THANKS!!!

We obviously do not know what the future holds and we have learned that the best laid plans often must change and adapt. My hope and prayer for all of us is that we can continue to meet the needs of our students, schools, and communities whatever they may be. I have attended too many funerals this year, but it has determined me to pour everything I have into the lives of those closest to me, because we just never know. I beseech you to do the same and to continue to make a difference in the lives of the people you encounter every day.

Stay the course, stay strong, stay healthy and give this everything you have! I am looking forward to seeing you soon and please let me know if there is anything I can do for you!



**Matt Knight Column**  
President-Elect 2019-2021

Wow! Where did the time go?

As I write this I was thinking back to where I was this time last year. I was judging at the Region 32 UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest in Burnett. We were just coming in for our lunch break and Texas A & M had just decided to extend spring break an extra week. There were rumors that Baylor and Texas were going to do the same thing. All of us sat there and talked about what might happen next. I don't think any of us ever dreamed we would have the longest "Spring Break" in school history. What a ride it has been.

I never thought I would be so excited for the 1st day of school again. I felt like a 1st year teacher. I know this year has had many ups and downs. I prefer to look at things as a glass "half full" so to speak. Our kids have been



(Continued on Page 3)

Knight, continued from Page 2):

resilient. Any obstacle we have thrown at them, they have conquered! We have celebrated the joys of hearing bands at Friday night games, seeing bands in the parking lot warming up for contest, and hearing recorded concerts posted on social media for families to enjoy. So many things we took for granted. The band directors in our state have done one heck of a job!! Thanks to all of the school administrators and UIL Executive Secretaries that worked hard to find way for our kids to still have a “normal” year. Also a special thanks to TMEA for helping create a system for our region auditions that worked so well. For those that were able to host all region events, I hope it was a great success. For those that could not, I hope you find a way to honor your students' accomplishments. Either way, it has been quite a year.

Our All State Band Committees are working hard to prepare for our All State Concert in June. We are super excited that Jerry Whorton and his staff from Melissa High School were willing to take on this project. We currently have committees working on all aspects of this event from rehearsal schedules, to student activities, student safety, professional development for directors, vendors and a 30th Anniversary Banquet just to name a few. We hope to get more details for the event out to you as soon as we can. If you would like to help with one of these committees please let me know - just email me at [mknight@abernathyisd.com](mailto:mknight@abernathyisd.com). We hope to make this not only a special event for our All State kids but a time for all ATSSB members to get back together. I don't know about you, but the thing I have missed most during the last year is getting to see everyone at region meetings, auditions, TMEA and TBA. Our hope is to give a little of that atmosphere back to you.

Our Executive Board has been amazing during this time. They have done a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes to make this year as smooth as possible. Hats off to Eric Gray who has served as our ATSSB President. He has been a tremendous leader these past two years. He has guided us during uncertain times and been exactly what we needed. No doubt our Association is better because of his service. I am excited that he will still be on the board with us as he moves into his role as “Past President” after the All State Band Concerts in June. We have two other people moving off the Executive Board that have been tremendous leaders for our organization as well. A special thanks to Mike Bartley, Past President, and Angie Liss, 3A State Representative, for your many years of service to the Executive Board. Your advice and wisdom has been very valued. The best part is we know you will only be an email or phone call away. Congratulations to Rodney Bennett (Olney HS) and Bonnie Anderson (Littlefield HS) for being elected as President Elect and class 3A State Rep respectively and to Gina Muela for her re-election to the office of 1C Representative. We as excited to add the wealth of knowledge and experience you all bring to the Executive Board. Most of all, thank you for being willing to serve the students of small school bands in Texas. The one person that does not get enough credit is Kenneth Griffin. We would not survive without his leadership and experience. He is there for every question, every email, and form. He is a wealth of knowledge and contacts. Thank you for everything you do!!!!

As we finish up the year, treasure every minute with your students. When we left for Spring Break last year, I never dreamed the next time I would see my seniors would be at graduation. Don't take anything for granted!

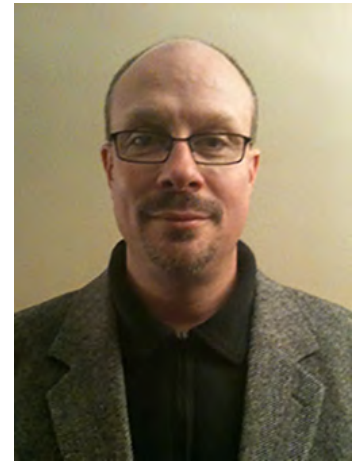
Have a great spring and I look forward to seeing everyone in Melissa!



## Mike Bartley Column

Immediate Past-President 2019-2021

It is almost unimaginable that it has been a year since the world was turned upside down by the pandemic. Like many instances in life, this seems so long ago but yet as if it was yesterday. When reflecting on all that our students have lost, and continue to lose, I think most of us have learned to be thankful for the things that we are still able to do. I know that watching my students be able to participate in band and be around each other this year has been a great experience, and much more enjoyable than what we went through last year. Hopefully through these trying times we have all learned not to take things for granted and to enjoy what we have!



With these thoughts in mind, I am very excited that we are moving forward with plans to have an All-State band experience for our students. It will definitely be different than normal, but I think it will still be a great event for the students and their families. There are many people working to put this together, too many to name in fact, making sure it will turn out to be a wonderful program. I want to encourage everyone to attend and be a part of supporting ATSSB as we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

I know many of us have gone to contest, or will be performing at UIL soon. I want to wish everyone luck and I hope your band has its best performance that day! Also, please do not forget about OPS and the fact that it is up and running again for 2021. There aren't many contests taking place other than UIL, so hopefully you can get a good recording and submit for OPS.

As we continue to wade through our current situation, there seems to be a little glimmer of hope recently that may lead to better times once again. I hope everyone focuses on this and continues to stay healthy, be safe, and keep moving forward for our students. Not only do they need this from us as educators, they deserve it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Bartley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

## ATSSB Music Lending Library

Various regions send the music they purchase for all-region band clinics to Groesbeck High School after they use them so others can use the music in similar situations. We also send the All-State music to the Lending Library. If you would like to borrow a title, let them know. Contact Brian Boecker at Groesbeck High School, P.O. Box 559, Groesbeck, TX 76642 or call (254) 729-4117 between 10:10 and 11:00, fax him at (254) 729-5458, or email him at [b.boeck@groesbeckisd.net](mailto:b.boeck@groesbeckisd.net). The only expense you will have is postage (both ways) as a courtesy to Brian and his staff. If you have music left over from an all-region clinic and would like to share it with other regions, send it to Groesbeck High School at the address above.

Here is the current list of titles available: <https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/MusicLibrary.htm>

We would like to thank Collin Anderson, Brian Boecker and the Groesbeck band staff for providing this service to ATSSB members.

## Brian Donnell Column

State Jazz Coordinator

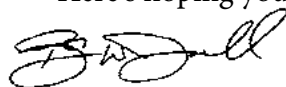
Happy March!

The music for audition Set A is now available to purchase from Buddy Mattei. <https://www.matteimusicervices.com/atssb>

The set has not changed since the 2016-2017 year, so if you have the music from that year then you are ready to go and do not need to purchase a new set. NEW -> The sheet music and audio files are available for download, so visit the site and contact Buddy if you have interest in digital copies.

For those directors who have students in this year's All-State Jazz Band, you will soon receive a message from our jazz band organizer, Steven Rash, regarding chaperoning sign up and other information for the rehearsals in June.

Here's hoping you and your students have a wonderful spring semester!



Brian Donnell  
bdonnell@atssb.org



## ATSSB All-State Band Clinic-Concert

June 9-12, 2021 in Melissa

Make plans now to attend the clinic being organized for the ATSSB All-State Band. It will be held on the campus of the newly-constructed Melissa High School Fine Arts complex in Melissa. Brian Balmages, Don Lefevre and Dr. Mo Trout are all under contract to clinic the three ensembles. Brian Balmages has completed the piece commissioned by ATSSB for the Symphonic Band - BREAKING THROUGH, an exciting piece you will not want to miss. Watch the website for breaking news as we approach May 1 when a final decision will be made regarding the clinic.

The ATSSB Newsletter is the official publication of the Association of Texas Small School Bands. Any correspondence should be addressed to ATSSB; 2117 Morse Street; Houston, TX 77019. You may also contact us on our Web Site ([www.atssb.org](http://www.atssb.org)) or email the Editor (Kenneth Griffin) at [atssb@att.net](mailto:atssb@att.net) or call 713-874-1151. Letters to the Editor will be published as space permits if signed and verified, although writers may remain anonymous by request.

Advertising is accepted for the ATSSB Quarterly Newsletter. The Newsletter is published online each September, December, March, and June. See our advertising policy and costs [HERE](#).

## Rodney Bennett Column

President-Elect 2021-2023

Usually at this time we have recently finished with the ATSSB All-State concerts and TMEA Convention, but this is not the case this year. Many of you have just finished UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest, perhaps this was held in person or as in some regions virtually. In Region 7 we held in person UIL S&E in multiple locations to limit the number of students being in contact with each other. UIL Concert & Sightreading preparation has been started and contests are underway. Region 7 has the distinction again this year of having the first UIL C&SR on February 23/24 hosted by Seymour ISD.



As this strange school year continues, I realize how fortunate we are that we still have the opportunity to teach band at our respective schools. I personally have been able to see my students daily with face to face learning. We have had our challenges with quarantines, contact tracing and the myriad safety protocols to keep our programs and school functioning. For those of you who have had the additional challenge of trying to teach band virtually or with some type of hybrid curriculum, realize that you are super heroes for providing your students meaningful educational experiences.

I am often reminded of why we are music educators, seeing the joy in the eyes of a beginner who finally gets how to play eighth notes or the high school student who understands being part of a musical experience that makes the soul sing. We all enjoy the accolades that come with success, but it's not the trophy or medal that really matters. It's the journey and musical growth that takes place daily in our band halls.

On a different thought, please take the time to thank your mentors and colleagues who have influenced your career. We get so busy with the day to day job of educating our students that we neglect to say "thank you" to the people who have helped shape us in this incredible profession we call band directing. I am guilty of this, and many of the mentors whose council, knowledge, and friendship I cherish are no longer with us and I did not say thank you enough. Time does march on and, before you know, decades have passed.

ATSSB is in great hands with the leadership of Matt Knight, Eric Gray, Kenneth Griffin and members of the Executive Board. I look forward the opportunity to learn from each of these colleagues.

I am very humbled to have been elected to the position of President-Elect of ATSSB. It is a tremendous honor and I look forward to serving the association, directors, and students of the small schools of Texas. If I can ever be of assistance to you or your students don't hesitate to ask.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodney J. Bennett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

## Collin Anderson Column

OPS State Chair

As we all know, unfortunately we were not able to have a 2020 OPS season, but I am very excited to get this spring's competition underway.

All of the following instructions/information will also be on the ATSSB OPS Webpage:

Entry deadline is Saturday, May 22 by midnight.

Entries will be certified to Area by midnight on Saturday, June 12.

Entries will be certified to State by midnight on Saturday, June 26.

State adjudication will be July 22 at the TBA convention in San Antonio (provided an in-person convention is held).



A matrix of which regions and areas will be judging others will also be posted on the webpage.

Be careful to read all the instructions carefully to fully understand the entry process. It is imperative that all files be of .WAV format for consistency. The File Name is extremely important; be sure to follow the protocol below (also on the OPS webpage):

FILE NAME protocol:

Region#\_SchoolClassification\_EntryID\_TitleOfPiece\_SchoolName\_DirectorEmail.wav

Example:

8\_3A\_1A\_TheTromboneKing\_GroesbeckHS\_c.ander@groesbeckisd.net.wav

\* Include NV after the school name for non-varsity entries.

Use the links on the OPS webpage to fill out your OPS Verification Form and to upload your .WAV file(s). Prepare your purchase orders early in order to have your fee(s) paid, along with sending in the Verification Form, by the May 22 deadline.

Check the webpage regularly until you are certain that your entry has been received and verified.

A Certification of Advancement form will be emailed by the OPS State Chair following each level of adjudication to show which entries advanced from region to area and then to the state OPS contest.

**\*\*\* ADDENDUM \*\*\***

The OPS Steering Committee has approved the following for the 2021 season and respectfully asks that you adhere to the expectations therein:

**2021 Addendum to OPS guidelines:**

***For all who do not have the opportunity to attend UIL Concert and Sightreading in person nor***

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(Anderson, continued from Page 8):

***attend an in-person festival this season in order to receive a professional recording according to OPS regular guidelines, recordings may be made by a school in preparation for submission to UIL for C/SR purposes or for a virtual festival. In keeping with the spirit of OPS, these at-school recordings should be done in one take with no post-performance mastering of the audio, as if the recording were made at UIL or an in-person festival. In the event that it becomes evident that the audio file was remastered in any way, the OPS submission may be disqualified.***

This addendum is to address current conditions for the 2021 OPS season only. It will be reviewed prior to the 2022 season to determine whether it will still be necessary.

If there are any questions or issues while entering OPS this year, call (903-390-3271) or email me (opsstatechair@gmail.com)! Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our fantastic organization as the OPS State Chair.



## Kenneth Griffin's Column

Executive Secretary

### Call to arms for every member!

The Texas Legislature is in session and of the 600 bills introduced, HB434 is already in committee - and we need your help stopping it from going forward! ATSSB has partnered with TMEA, Texas Music Administrators Conference, and many other arts-oriented organizations across Texas to work as one unit (click here for details: [Texas Arts Education Council](#)) to attempt to stave off the implementation of this bill. Please take a few minutes to view this video calling for action from parent groups, booster groups, anyone interested in fine arts in Texas schools and consider sharing it with your support groups: [CALL TO ACTION VIDEO](#). We are hoping every ATSSB member will join TAEC to lend their voice and influence to this effort. I visited with Robert Floyd (TMEA Executive Director) regarding this issue and appreciate his keeping ATSSB involved and up to date on all aspects of this issue. We need to find some small-school superintendents that are passionate about keeping the arts in Texas schools, that do not want to see their band programs destroyed by the bill, and who would be willing to contact their legislator to voice their concerns. Let me know if you have an administrator that would fit those parameters!



We are looking forward to the ATSSB All-State Band Clinic June 9-12, 2021, in Melissa. Melissa Director Jerry Whorton has graciously offered his newly completed high school campus for the clinic and concert - exclusively for ATSSB during that week. This will be in a truly state-of-the-art complex including the Melissa Performance Hall, two band halls, an academic complex we can use for chair

(Continued on Page 9)



(Griffin, continued from Page 8):

auditions, sectional rehearsals, vendor exhibits, clinics for band directors (possibly with CPE credits), and many other things. This will be a great time to get together at the start of summer before camps and vacations begin. Matt Knight is coordinating a large number of committees dealing with the details of planning and presenting all of the activities for the clinic, including a banquet celebrating ATSSB's 30th year of operations!

Student and director housing is always an issue - and no less so in Melissa. We have contracted with three hotels in McKinney to house our students and chaperones - all of whom are close to sold out already.

**Interesting fact about the 2021 All-State Bands:** The bands include 23 freshmen (up from 11 last year), 56 sophomores (down from 59 last year), 102 juniors (up from 101 last year), and 125 seniors (down from 129 from last year).

OPS - The Outstanding Performance Series had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Be sure to read Collin Anderson's OPS article carefully regarding the digital process for 2021. Every 2020-2021 member of ATSSB will receive a link to secure a PDD (permanent digital download) of the winning selections in the 2021 Outstanding Performance Series after results have been completed and mechanical licenses secured.

DIRECTORY - An ATSSB Membership Directory is available on the Website (on the main page, hover your mouse over MEMBERS then ATSSB TMEA MEMBERS DIRECTORY and enter your last name and last four Social Security numbers to access the Directory. It lists all those who are Active and Current for the fiscal year (which ends July 31). Since the State Board has voted that the ATSSB Website is the official document, we no longer print the Directory (or anything else) for mailout. All documents must be viewed/printed/downloaded from the Website. We secured the Directory because advertisers were mining the contact data and besieging our members with advertisements.

APPLICATION - There is a Membership Application in this Newsletter and on the Website that you can download and use or give to your assistants or to share with neighbors. Membership renewal reminders are not sent, so use the one available online or linked here to join as soon as you can in the new budget year (although we surely do appreciate all of the scholarship contributions you make when you join after October 1!). There is also a College Division Membership application available here and online. Give one to your senior bandsmen that might be considering music as a major or minor in college. Remember that dues are \$50. The \$25 late fee will continue to be added after October 1, so if you want to avoid the late fee, get your dues paid as soon as possible (you can use a school PO at any time, a check or money order or your credit card online).

**Interesting facts about the 2021 All-State Bands:** Alvarado, Canyon, China Spring and Grulla each had 8 students make All-State; Hidalgo had 7 make All-State; Anna, Hereford, Legacy Christian School, and McGregor had 5 students make All-State; four schools had 4 students make All-State; eighteen schools had 3 students make All-State; thirty-eight schools had 2 students make All-State; and ninety-seven schools had 1 student make All-State. In all, 170 different schools are represented in the ATSSB All-State Bands.

(Continued on Page 10)

(Griffin, continued from Page 9):

PAL - The Prescribed Audition List includes all known (and SARC-approved) errata to date on each of the etude pages. The scales are up to date on the website, including the State Board mandated statement that scales are to be played "as written" - so be careful your students play a whole note at the end of each scale. Be sure you are using the current data from the Website since an Update will not be mailed or passed out at TBA like we used to do (remember that the Website is the official document). We will be using YEAR A in the PAL for auditions in 2021-22. Watch the Website for the Year A Update - and remember that percussion auditions are unified. Links will be updated as they become available.

**Interesting facts about the 2021 All-State Bands:** Of the 306 students selected for ATSSB All-State, 7 were from class 1A schools (2.29% - same number as last year), 27 were from class 2A schools (8.82% - down from 29 last year), 104 from class 3A schools (33.99% - up from 92 last year), and 168 from class 4A schools (54.90% - down from 169 last year).

This year, recordings of the ATSSB All-State Bands will be available as a link online at no cost. We are moving away from CDs and going to streaming services. This way, everyone will have access to the All-State recordings without having to purchase CDs and waiting several months for their arrival. As soon as the recordings have been mastered and mechanical licenses secured, the links will be emailed to all participants and posted on the ATSSB website. You may still order plaques and t-shirts from the event through Pepwear. You may also order the large 10" All-State patch from this office (\$10 each includes shipping). Use the order forms in this Newsletter or online to get yours today.

Use your contacts at colleges and universities across Texas (and beyond) to make sure that they give scholarships (all expenses paid) to ATSSB All-State students and tuition scholarships to ATSSB Area students for their summer band camps like some colleges do. Check out what the camp offers and then encourage your students to go where they are wanted. Several colleges have already contacted me wanting the All-State list so our students can be contacted about scholarship opportunities. More and more colleges are interested in our seniors each year.

**Interesting facts about the 2021 All-State Bands:** Of the 306 members, each of the 22 regions had an average of 14 students in the band. One region had 29 (the most) and one region had none (the least).

Remember that Region Officers serve a two-year term, so if elections need to be held in your regions, go through the process in place to elect them. Be sure to let me know if you replace a Region Coordinator for 2021-22 in your Spring Meeting. I need to have their name as soon as possible for our plans for 2021-22 (call me at 713-874-1151 and leave a message). Your Region Coordinator is your region's representative on the State Board of Directors which makes all of the decisions for you regarding ATSSB matters. Make sure he/she or a proxy attends each SBOD meeting. It would also be nice if each Region Coordinator brought a mandate of opinion from region members so votes could be representative of each region of the state. Keep an eye on your region's page and volunteer to help keep it up to date if you are into web publishing and would like to help. The ATSSB State Board will send each Region a Fall Agenda, listing items each Region needs to address, so watch for those items.

Seniors Emma Aars (China Spring 4A Clarinet), Jonathan Azucena (Brazosport Jazz Trumpet), Lindsey

(Continued on Page 11)

(Griffin, continued from Page 10):

Byrom (London 3A Bass Clarinet), Caleb Chambers (Legacy Christian 4A Tuba), Henderson Chandler (The Awty International School Baritone Saxophone), Isabella Chartier (Van Alstyne 4A Flute), David Dellinges (Sanger 4A Bass Clarinet), Hiram Flores (Grulla 4A Trombone), Emmy Lovelady (Bethesda Christian 3A Euphonium), Mason Mejia (Brazosport 4A Clarinet), Camden Mize (Wills Point Jazz Trumpet), Gerardo Rivera (Ranchview 4A Flute), Kennedy Shumate (Seymour Alto Clarinet), Timmy Smith (Brownsboro Jazz Trumpet), Ximena Sotelo (Hidalgo 4A Flute), Nathaniel Sullivan (Tahoka 3A Clarinet), Sergio Villarreal (Grulla 4A Trumpet), Benjamin Wandell (Needville 4A Clarinet), and Lily Williams (Canyon 4A Clarinet) each received the \$500 ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship for making the band three of their four years in high school.

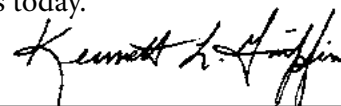
Seniors Charlye Baker (China Spring String Bass), Daniel Lander (Salado Alto Clarinet), Josue Molina (Cornerstone Christian Jazz Tenor Saxophone), Spencer Owens (Levelland 4A Trombone), and Michael Vara (Taft 3A Percussion) each received the \$2000 ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship for making the band all four of their years in high school.

These senior scholarship recipients will be given a plaque in a brief ceremony between the performances of the Concert and Symphonic Bands. This makes one hundred thirty-one students who have received the four-year scholarship (the first twenty-three received a \$1000 scholarship until 2003 when the three-year \$500 scholarships were started and the four-year award was raised to \$2000) and three hundred sixty-one who have received the three-year scholarship. Since 1992, \$422,000 in scholarships have been awarded to 492 individuals (6.78% of those selected to ATSSB All-State have received a scholarship).

**Interesting facts about the 2021 ATSSB All-State Band: Over the last thirty years, 7,252 students have been awarded All-State honors by ATSSB.**

In your spring meetings, be sure to nominate state officers for next year: Class 2C, 1A/2A and 4A Representatives to the State Board of Directors 2022-2024.

My thanks to all of you for what you have done to make ATSSB what it is today.



### **ATTENTION, COMPOSERS!**

The 2022 ATSSB Composition Competition winner in 2022 will receive a \$1500 award in addition to publication by TRN. The entry deadline is June 1, 2021. Be sure to check the website for details: <https://www.atssb.org/competitions/composition/>

**Do you need to purchase one of the large 10" patches at state this year? They cost \$10 each (including postage). Please use the order form online:**

**<https://www.atssb.org/files/execsec/LargePatchOrder.pdf>**



## ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS Membership Application

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.  
If this is a membership renewal, only enter name and school and ANYTHING THAT HAS CHANGED.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Last four SS# \_\_\_\_\_ TMEA # \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ REGION # \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_  
If a public middle or junior high school, what high school does your school feed? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many directors are on the band staff in your ISD? \_\_\_\_\_ New to this region? \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ FAX# \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE (if different from school) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL# \_\_\_\_\_  
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Until October 1, mail this completed form and \$50\* for dues to:

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary  
2117 Morse Street  
Houston, Texas 77019

Are you a judge listed with the Texas Music Adjudicators Association? If so, please select your area of certification:  
CB MB CB\* MB\*  
\* Supplemental

I would also like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund.**

Dues may not be deductible, but any amount over \$50 is considered a fully-deductible contribution.

I would also like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the  
**Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship Fund.**

Donations to this scholarship are fully deductible.

**\*NOTE:** The membership year runs from August 1 to July 31. After October 1, Regular Member dues increase to \$75 (the additional \$25 is deposited into the ATSSB All-State Band Scholarship Fund). A membership card and receipt will be returned to you via email, so make sure you have a valid email address. Associate Member dues are \$25 all year, so anyone may join as an Associate Member after October 1 for \$25. To enter students into competition leading to membership in an ATSSB All-State Band, you must be a current Active Member of the Texas Music Educators Association in addition to ATSSB. Retired Members dues are \$25. Only ATSSB Active Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB and submit entries in the Outstanding Performance Series. ATSSB membership is held on an individual basis and is nontransferable.

## ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS COLLEGE DIVISION APPLICATION

Please type or LEGIBLY print! We want to have accurate information for our Directory and mailing list.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 SS# \_\_\_\_\_  
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY \_\_\_\_\_ Anticipated Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
PERMANENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY & ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
MAJOR INSTRUMENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address to which you want the ATSSB Newsletter sent: \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent

Mail this completed form and \$25 for dues to:

**ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS SMALL SCHOOL BANDS**  
Kenneth L. Griffin, Executive Secretary  
2117 Morse Street  
Houston, Texas 77019

**Make checks payable to ATSSB**

**NOTE:** College Division Membership entitles you to have your name listed in the ATSSB Directory. You will also be listed in the region, area and state database for selection to judging panels for ATSSB auditions. Only Regular Active Members may vote or hold office in ATSSB.

## Minutes of the February ATSSB General Session

The General Session of ATSSB met by ZOOM on Sunday, February 7, 2021. President Eric Gray called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the General Session July 7, 2020, were approved as printed in the September Newsletter after a motion by Bonnie Anderson from Littlefield and a second by Collin Anderson from Groesbeck.

In the Website report, Webmaster Marc Nichelson noted improvements to the website and coming attractions, noting that advertisers should be able to pay for the website activities over the course of the year. He asked that if anyone gets an inquiry regarding how to advertise on the website to contact him.

In the Composition Competition report, Ann Lowes Mueller noted that the deadline for entry was June 1 and she was looking forward to receiving the entries.

In the SARC report, Matt Knight has no report.

Mike Bartley noted the Past-President Committee had no report.

Collin Anderson noted the loss of having OPS in 2020, but hoped to have all entry details ready for the March Newsletter so we could have OPS 2021.

State Jazz Coordinator Brian Donnell noted that this next year will be SET A. Buddy Mattei will have the accompaniment CDs ready for sale by March 1 and that Set A is unchanged from the last time it was used so if directors have the CD from that audition cycle, it is still good. Region Coordinators will be given the CD accompaniment at TBA or they will be mailed to them if TBA is virtual.

In the President's Report, Mr. Gray noted that ATSSB was working hard to prepare for the ATSSB All-State Clinic and Concert in Melissa June 9-12, 2021, with details to be released when they have been finalized. He thanked the Executive Committee members for their work this past year and for the work they are doing to prepare for the June clinic and thanked the membership for his opportunity to serve ATSSB over the past few years.

Executive Secretary Kenneth Griffin reported on the status of the scholarships, program and commission brokerage accounts. He reported clinicians and composers under contract for the next two years:

2021 (in Melissa June 9-12): Brian Balmages (FJH Music), Symphonic Band, Don Lefevre (WTAMU), Concert Band, Dr. Mo Trout (Purdue University), Jazz Ensemble. ATSSB has commissioned Brian Balmages to write a piece for the Symphonic Band to premier.

2022 (hopefully in San Antonio): Dr. Emily Threinen (University of Minnesota), Symphonic Band, Caroline C. Beatty (Texas State University), Concert Band (will premier the winner of the 2022 ATSSB Composition Competition), Russell Schmidt (Valley Jazz Cooperative, Phoenix), Jazz Ensemble.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Mr. Gray announced the newly elected officers: Rodney Bennett, Olney High School, President-Elect, Gina Muela, Littlefield Junior High School, Class 1C Representative, and Bonnie Anderson, Littlefield High School, 3A Representative. He noted that they will take office after the ATSSB All-State Concerts in June. Mr. Gray then announced the recipient of the 2021 Bruce Kenner Memorial Scholarship as Emma Aars from China Spring HS. Emma will receive a \$1000 scholarship. Mr. Gray recognized Gina Muela and Angie Liss for their service on the Executive Board.

Mr. Gray then adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

**State Board of Directors Meeting  
January 31, 2021 ZOOM Meeting**

Meeting **called to order** at 3:14 p.m. by Eric Gray.

**Minutes** of the SBOD meeting July 7, 2020, as printed in the September Newsletter were approved after a motion by **Matt Knight** and a second by **Don Summersgill**.

Under the reports of **Special Committees**:

The **Website Report** was given by Marc Nichelson:

Finances will be more transparently reported as advertisers participate, with funds expended on plugins and features to make the website easier to navigate and easier to edit. He suggested a \$100 advertiser fee to help make ends meet for website expenses. He encourages the Board to use the @atssb.org email addresses for ATSSB business to make it easier to keep and transfer data when officers change.

Heard reports of **Standing Committees**:

President-Elect and **SARC Chair Matt Knight** had no report

**Ann Lowes Mueller**, Competition Competition Coordinator, noted that we will pay the winning composer \$1500 to encourage more quality compositions. She also noted the steering committee would be looking into ways to screen entries they meet more stringent criteria regarding previously published works.

**Mike Bartley** reported that the **Past-President Committee** had no report. **Collin Anderson, OPS State Chair**, noted that entries this year will probably upload to the ATSSB website like 2019. Details regarding the 2021 OPS will be in the March Newsletter, including how to enter virtual entries that are recording at school if unable to attend an approved festival or UIL.

State Jazz Coordinator **Brian Donnell** thanked everyone for their help and support in using the new technology. Set A will be used for 2021-2022 auditions and the set has not changed from the last time it was used, so if directors have the Set A CDs, they will not need to purchase a new one. The accompaniment CDs will probably be available on the website or he may just mail CDs if needed. He asked that Regions be careful uploading files to check for accuracy before they submit the entries, since after that it is impossible to change the file without state intervention.

**President's Report** by Eric Gray:

Mr. Gray thanked everyone for their support during his time as President. He congratulated those who were actually able to have band classes in person and especially to those where able to navigate to UIL Marching Contests and State Marching Contest. He noted we were almost one year into the pandemic but that we should all be about the students. The opinions and beliefs about ATSSB are still strong and we take those seriously, with lots of Executive Committee hours spent in discussion and planning using ZOOM. He noted that ATSSB is in control of its own future, and that the Executive Committee voted to let each region decide whether to have in-person events after January 10. Some cancelled, some moved clinics to later in the spring, and some are moving forward with

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plans already in place. He noted that ATSSB students may put their information and upload a photo to the TMEA website for use in the Texas All-State Gallery. A decision regarding the All-Stat Clinic in Melissa will be made and announced by May 1.

**Executive Secretary's Report** by Kenneth Griffin:

He asked that regions still owing for region patches (1,9,15,16,21) to please get accounts current.

Gave a Scholarship Report which showed a value of \$165,411.55 as of January 1, 2021. We are awarding \$19,500 in scholarships this year to 19 3-year (\$500 each) and five 4-year (\$2000 each). Noted that the Kenner Scholarship Fund was valued at \$12,994.93 as of January 1, 2021, and that \$1000 would be used for the 2021 Kenner Scholarship to be awarded at the General Session on Friday. The Program Fund was valued at \$23,855.93 as of January 1, 2021 and that dividends from that fund have consistently paid for all-state programs since the fund was started with a donation from the Elmer and Anita Family Trust. The Commission Fund was valued as of January 1, 2021 at \$16,850.79, but that \$10,000.00+ will soon be moved into that account giving us over \$26,000.00 in the Commission Fund. Brian Balmages has already been paid his \$7500 commission fee. Noted that we have under contract for coming years:

2021: Brian Balmages (FJH Music) – Symphonic Band

Brian Balmages – ATSSB-commissioned composer (premiered by Symphonic Band)

Don Lefevre (West Texas State University) – Concert Band

Dr. Mo Trout (Purdue University) - Jazz Ensemble

2022: Dr. Emily Threinen (University of Minnesota) – Symphonic Band

Caroline C. Beatty (Texas State University) – Concert Band

Premier of winner of 2022 ATSSB Composition Competition

Russell Schmidt (Valley Jazz Cooperative, Phoenix) – Jazz Ensemble

There was no old business.

Under new business:

Mr. Griffin asked that any business using ATSSB logos or service marks or names must be ATSSB Licensees. Let us know who is selling things in ATSSB venues. We have only received \$2371 in royalty payments this year but have \$20,000 in scholarships to give.

Brian Sours opened a discussion regarding virtual auditions. He wanted to know how they went with everyone and questioned the digital tabulation process. After more discussions, he asked if we could do a Google Forms survey for 1) How auditions went? 2) How auditions can be improved? 3) Should we keep using virtual auditions even when the pandemic is over? The ATSSB General Session was set for a ZOOM meeting Sunday, February 7, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. on a motion by Brian Beeson and a second by Angie Liss. Motion passed.

Kenneth Griffin moved that the deadline to redeem 2020 scholarships be moved to June 1,

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(SBOD Minutes, continued from Page 15):

2021. After a second by Rod Rodriguez, motion passed.

Anyone having suggestions for clinics at TBA that ATSSB could sponsor was asked to contact Mr. Gray.

There was no other new business.

Region reports then were heard:

1. No report.
2. No report.
3. No report.
4. No report.
5. They had middle school auditions and will meet to decide on the clinic dates..
6. No report.
7. No report.
8. No report.
9. No report (Coordinator absent).
10. No report.
11. No report.
12. No report.
13. No report.
14. No report.
15. No report (Coordinator absent).
16. No report.
18. Meeting overlap.
21. No report (Coordinator absent).
22. No report
23. No report.
24. Schools in the Melissa area will help with All-State. Anyone wanting to help with the 30th Anniversary Banquet, let her know.
29. No report.

Area reports then were heard:

- Area North        No report.  
Area East        No report (Coordinator absent).  
Area West        No report.  
Area Central     No report.  
Area South       Emerico Perez thanked his Region Coordinators and Band Directors.

Mr. Gray adjourned the meeting at 4:07.



## ATSSB CLINICIANS & COMPOSERS

- 1992 Gary Lewis from the University of Michigan
- 1993 Myron Welch from the University of Iowa
- 1994 Jared Spears from Arkansas State University  
ELDORADO by Jared Spears (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 1995 James Curnow  
LONE STAR CELEBRATION, by James Curnow (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 1996 Robert Foster from the University of Kansas  
ELEGY FOR SELENA by Robert Foster (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 1997 Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Dr. Gary Garner - CONCERT BAND  
ROMANZA SEMPLICE by Fred Allen (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 1998 Anthony Maiello from George Mason University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Ed Huckleby - CONCERT BAND  
NEW MILLENNIUM by Ed Huckleby (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 1999 Col. Alan Bonner - SYMPHONIC BAND  
John O'Reilly - CONCERT BAND  
YORKSHIRE FANTASY by John O'Reilly (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2000 David Holsinger - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Jack Delaney from Southern Methodist University - CONCERT BAND  
RIDING WITH THE FRONTIER BATTALION by David Holsinger (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2001 Col. Arnald D. Gabriel (U.S. Air Force, Ret.) - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Bobby Francis from Texas Christian University - CONCERT BAND  
HILL COUNTRY HOLIDAY by Robert Sheldon (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2002 Anthony Maiello from George Mason University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Robert W. Smith - CONCERT BAND  
THE STAR OF DREAMS by Robert W. Smith (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2003 W. Francis McBeth from Ouachita University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
James Barnes from the University of Kansas - CONCERT BAND  
A SOLEMN PRELUDE by James Barnes (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2004 Jim Keene from the University of Illinois - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Shelly Berg from the University of Southern California - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Kevin Sedatole from Baylor University - CONCERT BAND  
FORTRESS VARIANTS by Elliot Del Borgo (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2005 Richard Floyd, UIL State Director of Music Activities - SYMPHONIC BAND  
H. David Caffey from California State Polytechnical University - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Fred J. Allen from Stephen F. Austin State University - CONCERT BAND  
EXHILARATION by Fred J. Allen (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2006 Col. John R. Bourgeois (USMC, Ret.) - Symphonic Band  
Paula Crider from the University of Texas at Austin - CONCERT BAND  
Rick Stitzel from Tarrant County College - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
FROM ANAHUAC TO SAN JACINTO by Gabe Musella (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2007 Jerry Junkin from the University of Texas at Austin - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Jeff Hellmer from the University of Texas at Austin - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Bill Brent from Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, LA ) - CONCERT BAND  
ON THE OVERLAND STAGE TO EL PASO by David Holsinger (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2008 David Holsinger from Lee University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Dr. Lou Fischer from Capital University Conservatory of Music - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Robert Sheldon, Concert Band Editor for Alfred Publishing Co. - CONCERT BAND  
CHOREOGRAPHY by Robert Sheldon (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2009 John Whitwell from Michigan State University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Mike Vax, International Artist, Yamaha Corporation of America - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Dr. William K. Wakefield from the University of Oklahoma - CONCERT BAND  
TOWARDS THE WESTERN HORIZON by Philip Sparke (commissioned by ATSSB)
- 2010 Mark Camphouse from George Mason University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Glenn Kostur from the University of New Mexico - JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Dr. Sarah McKoin from Texas Tech University - CONCERT BAND  
PARAMOUNT PARK by Eric Rath, winner of the 2010 ATSSB Composition Competition

(Continued on Page 18)

Clinicians & Composers, continued from Page 16):

- 2011 Larry J. Livingston from the University of Southern California - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Lowell E. Graham from the University of Texas at El Paso - CONCERT BAND  
KITTIE HAWK, 1909 by William Owens (commissioned by ATSSB)  
Chris Vadala from the University of Maryland - Jazz Ensemble
- 2012 Col. Timothy W. Foley (USMC, ret.) - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Dennis Fisher from the University of North Texas - CONCERT BAND  
EGYPT, THE AWAKENING by Billy Newman,  
winner of the 2012 ATSSB Composition Competition  
Jeff Jarvis from California State University, Long Beach - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2013 Dr. Peter Boonschaft from Hofstra University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Larry Gookin from Central Washington University - CONCERT BAND  
INSUPERABLE Second to None by William Owens (commissioned by ATSSB)  
Dr. Ron McCurdy from the University of Southern California - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2014 Richard Floyd, UIL Director of Music Emeritus - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Dr. Timothy Rhea from Texas A&M University - CONCERT BAND  
AND SAIL AWAY by Jack Wilds, winner of the 2014 ATSSB Composition Competition  
Chuck Owen from the University of South Florida - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2015 Michael Haithcock from the University of Michigan - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Dr. Eric Hammer from the University of the Pacific - CONCERT BAND  
IMAGINARIUM by Randall Standridge (commissioned by ATSSB)  
Robert Washut from the University of Northern Iowa - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2016 Robert Jorgensen, University of Akron - CONCERT BAND  
WHERE MORNING DAWNS, WHERE EVENING FADES by Eric Rath,  
winner of the 2016 ATSSB Composition Competition  
Stephen Pratt, Indiana University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
RESOLUTION march by Kenneth L. Griffin (commissioned by ATSSB)  
Dean Sorenson, University of Minnesota - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2017 Jeff Greshman, Capitol University (Ohio) - CONCERT BAND  
ARMENIAN RHAPSODY by Johnnie Vinson (commissioned by ATSSB)  
Joseph P. Missal, Oklahoma State University - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Ellen Rowe, University of Michigan - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2018 Matthew McInturf, Sam Houston State University - CONCERT BAND  
CHICAGO BELLE MOTIFS by Kenneth L. Griffin,  
winner of the 2018 ATSSB Composition Competition  
Brian Britt, University of Oklahoma - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Jay Saunders, University of North Texas - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2019 Dennis Johnson, Murray State University (Kentucky) - CONCERT BAND  
Dr. John Cody Birdwell, University of Kentucky - SYMPHONIC BAND  
SPRINGERLE by Jack Stamp (commissioned by ATSSB)  
Christopher Bruya, Central Washington University - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2020: Eugene Corporon, University of North Texas - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Dr. David F. Wilborn, Texas A&M University - CONCERT BAND  
SCHERZITO, AFTER GUSTAV HOLST by Christopher Lowry,  
winner of the 2020 ATSSB Composition Competition  
Paul Harshman, University of Washington - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2021: Brian Balmages, FJH Music - SYMPHONIC BAND  
BREAKING THROUGH by Brian Balmages (commissioned by ATSSB)  
Don Lefevre, West Texas A&M University - CONCERT BAND  
Dr. Mo Trout, Purdue University - JAZZ ENSEMBLE
- 2022: Dr. Emily Threinen, University of Minnesota - SYMPHONIC BAND  
Caroline C. Beatty, Texas State University - CONCERT BAND  
winner of the 2022 ATSSB Composition Competition  
Russell Schmidt, Director, Valley Jazz Cooperative in Phoenix - JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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