

# Building Better Bands

## Literature Favorites: What are your favorite pieces? by Brad Hudson

What are your top 5 favorite pieces? What are some pieces you have not heard recently. These are the questions I asked the MBA Hall of Fame and retired members. The responses were excellent. "I cannot narrow it down to five!", one member said. Another said, "I will send your five from multiple categories." One member said, "high school or middle school? I will send you both." I intentionally left the question open ended.

I have learned many new pieces and have been reminded of some great pieces and great composers. The composer most listed is Missouri's own, Claude T. Smith. Also listed by many directors were the following composers: Clare Grundman, Pierre LaPlante, Frank Erickson, Alfred Reed, Michael Sweeney, and Clifton Williams. I appreciated the middle school titles! Now to the titles!

### Listed by 3 or more people

American Folk Rhapsody #1 (M) - Clare Grundman  
(most listed)

A Festival Prelude (M) - Alfred Reed

An Irish Rhapsody (ME) - Clare Grundman

Emperata Overture (MA) - Claude T. Smith

American Riversongs (M) - Pierre LaPlante

Suite of Old American Dances (A) - Robert Russell  
Bennett

### Listed by 2 people (not the complete list)

Purple Carnival (MA) - Harry Alford

Inglesina (M) - Davide Cese

The Universal Judgement (A) - Camillo de Nardis

In the Forrest of the King (ME) - Pierre LaPlante

Bandology (ME) - Eric Osterling

Incidental Suite (M) - Claude T. Smith

Celtic Air and Dance (E) - Michael Sweeney

Rhythm of the Winds (ME) - Frank Erickson

There are more pieces listed. Once you start looking you will start listening!

[For a complete list](#)  
[CLICK HERE.](#)



[FORMS](#)  
[AVAILABLE](#)  
[HERE](#)

## Important Dates

### March 1, 2025

- Young Band Director Grant Due
- MBA Hall of Fame Nomination Due
- Butch Antal Service Nomination Due

### April 1-June 1, 2025

Pre-registration opens

### June 15-18, 2025

MBA Summer Convention

### December 6, 2025

All-State Auditions

# Building Better Bands



## MBA 2024 Convention Gold Sponsors

Last year we had multiple Gold Sponsors:

American Band Accessories is a Missouri-Based company for all of your marching band needs.

Bob Rogers Travel has been a great supporter of MBA and many of our directors for years. Call them for your travel needs.

Central Methodist University has many alumni teaching music in Missouri. They offer both an undergraduate program and a summers masters program that can fit with your teaching schedule.

Thank you for being great supporters of Missouri Bands!

Would you like to be an MBA Convention Sponsor? [CLICK HERE](#)

[SPONSORSHIP LEVELS](#)  
[MBA EXHIBITORS AND SPONSORS](#)  
[CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

Hall of Fame Award Nominations Due March 1: by Kenny Hansen- Past President

Please consider nominating a mentor, hero, or person of great influence to you as a band director for the Missouri Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame Award. This award is given at our business meeting each summer. The award needs one person to be the initiator of the nominations. This person finds others that also believe this person needs to be in the hall of fame and collects their letters of recommendation for the award. The letter and nomination form are sent to the past president, Kenny Hansen ([khansen@bssd.net](mailto:khansen@bssd.net)) by March 1st. The MBA Hall of Fame seeks to recognize great band directors (active/retired) that have helped set the standard in our field that others try to emulate. This can be a person from your "area" that has provided great impact to the band community, or it can be someone that has influenced the entire state. All nominations are reviewed by the Missouri Bandmasters Association and one nominee is chosen each year. If you have any questions about the hall of fame award please contact Kenny Hansen, [khansen@bssd.net](mailto:khansen@bssd.net). We would love to hear from YOU!

## MBA OFFICERS

President [Brad Hudson](#)  
President-Elect [Sarah Sacco](#)  
Past President [Kenny Hansen](#)  
Vice President [Julie Swope](#)  
Board Member [Paul Fliege](#)  
Secretary/Treasurer [Kurt Bauche](#)  
Membership [Doug Hoover](#)



## JOIN MBA!

Collegiate Member: \$0  
First Year Teacher: \$0  
Active Member: \$50  
Retired Member: \$40  
[Click here to join](#)

## Calendar Revisions

# MMEA Band Moments

Thank you Dr. Threinen for providing our students with an amazing All-State Band experience!

