

Building Better Bands

New Semester and New Literature by Brad Hudson

Part of the excitement about the new semester is literature for all of my bands. I try to look at it from multiple aspects. Which piece of literature will be exciting and engaging for my students? Which piece of literature will challenge me as a teacher and conductor? Which piece of literature will connect with the audience on an exciting and emotional level. All of these goals can be obtained whether you are teaching beginning, middle school, high school, or at the collegiate level.

Many of us are thinking about the upcoming MSHSAA Festivals. In many states this is referred to as their state assessment. When I am choosing music for this “unit” I use the categories listed above. There are also a few traps I try not to fall into. These include playing music written by the the same composer each year. For example, when my students asked me, “which Samuel Hazo piece are we playing this year?” it is time for a change. Another trap is playing music that is too easy. The students need challenged. Finally, the most common trap is playing music that is too hard. The best advice I ever received was, “if you cannot get through it on the first read-through, it is too hard.”

Literature selection for our bands is so important. After the convention last year I asked for some volunteers to analyze the MSHSAA Selections from the 2024 season.

Check out page 2 to see the data!



Important Dates

January 14, 2025
All-State Payment Due

January 29–31, 2025
MMEA

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

Building Better Bands



MBA 2024 Convention Platinum Sponsors

Last year we had two Platinum Sponsors: Missouri Alliance for Arts Education and Stanbury Uniforms.

MAAE does great work for all arts education in Missouri. Watch their website for grants, important legislation regarding arts funding, as well as opportunities to play for at the Missouri State Capitol.

Stanbury Uniforms has been a longtime supporter of MBA. They are located in Brookfield, Missouri. They have been producing uniforms for over 100 years.

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Data from the MSHSAA
Large Ensemble Festival
2024 by Wendy Stewart
[CLICK HERE](#)

Wendy Stewart

Wendy Stewart is currently in her fourth year as a band director in Monett, Missouri. She is an oboist and is currently pursuing her Masters in Music Education from Arkansas Tech University while continuing to teach. She was a recipient of a MBA Young Band Directors Grant for the MBA Summer Convention in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Most recently, Wendy served as a cadet judge for the first time for All-State Band Auditions on December 7th.

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Calendar Revisions

MMEA Band Events

ASB Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday, January 29

4:30-5:45 Compass Rose

10:00-12:00 A.M. Paradise A

Thursday, January 30

7:00-7:45 Compass Rose

(sectionals)

11:00-12:15 Compass Rose

3:30-4:45 Compass Rose

8:30-10:15 Compass Rose

Friday, January 31

8:00-9:15 Compass Rose

9:45-11:30 Landshark

(sectionals)

12:30-1:45 Compass Rose

5:00-6:15 Compass Rose

9:15-12:00 Paradise A

Saturday, February 1

9:00-11:00 Paradise A

12:30 Paradise A CONCERT

BAND CONCERT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

8:15 Clark Middle School (Fayette)

10:15 Rockwood Summit Wind Ensemble

11:15 Eureka High School Wind Ensemble

12:15 Oakville High School Wind Symphony

3:15 Mehlville High School Symphonic Band

9:15 Northwinds Symphonic Band

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

9:15 Windsor Middle School Cadet Band

10:15 Lawson High School Concert Band

2:15 Lee's Summit West Wind Ensemble

3:15 UMKC Conservatory Wind Symphony

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

12:30 ALL-STATE BAND CONCERT

Band Meetings and Clinics

Wednesday, January 29

10:15 Small School Tips and Tricks

Thursday, January 30

8:00 Surviving to Thriving: Teaching at Small Schools

11:45 Drum Corps Pedagogy and Procedures

12:30 Musical Taboo: Injuries and Staying Healthy

1:15 MBA Business Meeting

2:00 Meet the All-State Band Conductor

2:00 Winds, Percussion, and Guard SOUND

3:00 Redefining Our Gestures: Effective Conducting

4:00 Your Drumsticks are Not Light Sabres

Friday, January 31

8:30 Teaching Intonation in the Ensemble

8:30 Everything about Tri-M

11:00 Filling Your Toolbox for Effective Rehearsals

2:00 Setting Your Horn Players Up for Success

3:00 Simple Exercises for Improvisation

3:30 Improvising in ALL Ensembles

4:30 Next Level Band: 25 Tips from 25 Years

Saturday, February 1

9:00 Starting Your Beginning Jazz Band

9:45 From Ella to Elling: Jazz Vocalist

10:00 Teaching Like a Coach and Coaching Like a Teacher

11:00 Warmups for your Jazz Ensemble