

Dear Missouri Band Directors,

Last year, the Missouri Bandmasters Board of Directors received a proposal for a change in the materials used for All-State Band percussion auditions. The initial proposal was presented at a time when we felt that we were unable to adequately analyze and discuss the proposal or to implement adjustments in the audition process. We did, however, form a committee composed of percussionists, percussion judges, and band directors representing schools of varying sizes from across the state. This committee has met to discuss all facets of each proposal, giving careful consideration to the various circumstances presented in each program across the state, examining the proposals from the perspective of large to small school districts, districts with and without percussion specialists, etc. Realizing that changes to the All-State Band audition process generally create tension, concern and discomfort, the Board also recognizes our responsibility to assure that audition materials are reflective of the musicianship level of our students, as well as the caliber of percussionist that we wish to build. Therefore, we believe that the following changes are timely and will be beneficial to our bands.

As we move into Set II, III, and IV of our All-State audition material, we will change the percussion option descriptions. We will now offer both **GENERAL PERCUSSION** and **TIMPANI** options. The General Percussion option will consist of more challenging and more musical exercises, featuring the snare drum, keyboard, multi-percussion and timpani. The timpani option will now feature more challenging timpani etudes, while continuing to assure that timpanists are also proficient on snare, keyboard, and multi-percussion. Seven students will be selected for the General Percussion option and one student will be selected for the Timpani option for the All-State Band. Four students will be selected as alternates to the General Percussion option, and two students will be selected as alternates for the Timpani option.

With the new audition material, we will be adding one new book, [Masterpieces for Marimba](#) by Tom McGillen, published by Alfred Publishing. We realize that many schools have limited resources for new materials, and we explored options that would not require a book change, but we all strongly agreed that this book would be beneficial to our percussionists, as it is approachable, while allowing performers to showcase their musicianship. Updated materials can be viewed on our website at www.missouribandmasters.org after April 1. We believe this should assure ample time for preparation for district band auditions in the fall and All-State auditions next December.

A video regarding these changes will be posted on the Missouri Bandmasters Association Facebook page and website.

Kenny Hansen
President-Elect