

How to Get Your Horn Section from The “Clamfest” to the Concert Hall

Rick Lambrecht

After having taught a very successful 5A band for over thirty years at Coronado High School in El Paso while maintaining an active playing schedule as Principal Horn in the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, third horn in El Paso Opera, horn in El Paso Brass and teaching horn at UTEP, Rick Lambrecht has come to believe that one of the major performance concerns in the state is that of the horn section. The horn section has the largest number of problems with accurate attacks and note accuracy, weak intonation, poor balance, resonance, and a lack of clarity/transparency. Their inability to play at the quality level of the rest of the ensemble tends to “mar” the otherwise fabulous performance of the rest of the ensemble.

This topic will be addressed in a special clinic at the TBA Convention/Clinic presented by Rick on Friday, July 20 at 2:45 p.m. Sponsored by Patterson Hornworks, the presentation features Brian O’Connor along with Jim Patterson and John Groves.

The clinic will feature Brian O’Connor playing excerpts from

some of the over 2000 film and television sound tracks in which he was the solo horn player. Brian in addition to being the “number one call” for horn players in the Los Angeles studios is the instructor of horn at UCLA. In “Brian’s world” you must have perfect accuracy, rhythm, intonation and be very musical on the very first take or you will not have a job the next week. He will be presenting and demonstrating proven methods and techniques of playing and teaching that result in the perfect musical performance required of the film recording artist in the sound stage/studio environment.

Patterson Horns are currently in use by the finest studio musicians in Hollywood as well as members of the New York Philharmonic and many of the world’s finest orchestra and university musicians/teachers. Jim Patterson will discuss why these instruments play as they do. He will include construction, acoustics, intonation, and design. Attendees will learn

what to do to improve their equipment and receive information about repair, maintenance, upgrade and manufacture.

John Groves has over 25 years experience at every level of teaching including Symphony,

Opera and Quintet performance; middle school, high school, and university band; and horn instruction. John will discuss the importance of a daily routine that

is ability-level appropriate for the development of flexibility and technique.

These four presenters will demonstrate section playing concepts as related to intonation, balance, resonance and clarity. They will show different placements in the band and seating arrangements, demonstrating how that affects the sound of the section as well as the overall sound of the band. This clinic is appropriate for every level of teaching from the beginner band to the most advanced university wind ensemble.

“Horn: Playing, Teaching and Manufacturing” presented by Rick Lambrecht on Friday, July 20 at 2:45 p.m.

Richard Lambrecht has been playing Principal Horn in the El Paso Symphony Orchestra for over forty years. He is also a founding member of El Paso Brass, plays Principal Horn in the Roswell Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra de UAJC (Juarez, Mexico) and the El Paso Opera. He is currently Instructor Of Horn at UTEP. Rick was the band director at Coronado High School in El Paso for thirty years and a recipient of both the Sousa Foundation Sudler Flag Of Honor for concert band and the Sudler Shield of Excellence for high school marching band.