

# The New PML Committee: How do “they” work? What do “they” do? Why did “they” do that??? Who is “they”??

**Danny Prado**

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The PML Committee..... brings up visions of late night clandestine meetings, invisible ink, communiqués in code, trench coats, secret drops, dictatorial edits, etc. doesn't it? I am sorry to disappoint you, but the PML Committee is none of these things. The PML committee is a group of music educators, just like you, that is charged with an impossible job...selecting curriculum and pleasing all of the band directors in the state of Texas. I would like to share with you some of the deep, dark secrets of the PML Committee in this article (the rights for the movie script are being negotiated as I write this).

The Prescribed Music List Committee is made up of eight music educators diverse in background, school classification, expertise and most certainly, opinion! The other members of the committee are:

- Dennis Fisher, University of North Texas
- Greg Countryman, Fort Settlement MS, Fort Bend ISD
- Richard Lovelace, New Boston HS, New Boston ISD
- Mike Brashear, Richardson ISD
- Diane Gorzyski, Austin ISD

- Asa Burk, Cross Timbers MS, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD
- Mike Brown, Shadow Ridge MS, Lewisville ISD

My sincere thanks to them! They are without a doubt the brightest, most hard working people I have ever been around.

Why and how are these people selected? At the end of each PML term, Richard Floyd (Director of UIL Music Activities) is charged with forming a committee to select new music for the next four years and solicits recommendations from the elected leadership of TMEA and ATTSB. (If you are interested in serving on this committee, Mr. Floyd would encourage you to contact him and offer your services to this project.) At the end of each term, a previous member is retained and becomes the chair of the new committee. This person, along with Mr. Floyd, reviews and discusses possible committee members, contacts those candidates, and the committee is formed. The first meeting of this committee took place in January 2006. At that time, philosophies, formats, meeting dates, processes, etc. are mapped out and the work begins.

One of the most pressing concerns is the criteria used for evaluating a piece of music. Some of the key points are: Does the composition have some shape and design and is it consistent in quality throughout the various sections? Does the composition reflect good scoring and how active are the parts? How predictable are the probable musical goals and does the piece contain a musical result, which moves above just historical worth and “a good teaching piece”.

After the January meeting, music publishers receive a letter from Mr. Floyd describing the submission process and boxes of scores and CD's begin arriving at our residences. Through emails and spreadsheets, I am able to keep track of who has received what and when in order to ensure that we are all on the same page and time line of listening. At the next meeting in June 2006, committee members were instructed to bring to the meeting two packages. In one package are the scores and recordings that they feel are outstanding and are a MUST for the new list. The other package contained scores and CD's

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they feel may have merit. Other scores were left at home.

At the meeting, each publisher's score was reviewed with this action taken: (1) not accepted (2) placed in the review stack, or (3) added to the New PML template. A vote of 5 -2 in either direction was final, with this caveat: each committee member has tremendous respect for each other's opinion. If, for some reason, a member was adamant that we were moving in the wrong direction, we placed that score in the review stack. (I only recall that happening once in all of our meetings.) At the end of the June meeting, we scheduled a November meeting to continue with the review process for new music. At that meeting (held at UNT) the process was the same and we continued to add and review new music as well as scheduled a January 2007 meeting to finalize the Band list. (A side note: the committee listened to over 3,000 new recordings for evaluation.)

At this time, we have added these scores to the PML: Grade 1 – 30, Grade 2 – 27, Grade 3 – 36, Grade 4 – 27, Grade 5 – 41 (Some of the Grade 5 additions are currently on the list, but new editions have been made available.)

### **"PML – New Music List Overview"**

#### **Panel Discussion**

**Friday, July 20,  
1:30 p.m.  
CC Room 217**

You may be asking...aren't there many pieces (new and old) that might be worthwhile additions that the committee did not review? Of course! New music is being composed every day! We can only review what publishers send, hence the submission process. If you are not familiar with that process, go to the UIL Music web site and click on the Prescribed Music List tab and open the PDF document titled Band Music Substitution Form.

The Solo and Ensemble additions/changes/deletions operate a bit differently. Each PML Committee member is responsible for his or her fair share of the S & E list. Those members either review and/or form a sub committee to add/delete the music that is submitted. All of the S & E music is sent to the chair who

is responsible for organizing the music to hand over to the respective committee member for review.

This article's intention is to provide you with a short introduction to the PML Committee and its process. For a more in depth look and information on the committee, please join us in a Clinic/Panel at the TBA Convention/Clinic on Friday, July 20 at 1:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you!

*Danny Prado is a graduate of Stephen F Austin University and received his Masters of Music from Texas Women's University. Mr. Prado retired from public school education in 2005 after 33 years with stints in Jacksonville ISD for one year and Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD for seventeen years and most recently fifteen with the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD. He has served on numerous occasions as a guest clinician for percussion workshops, honor concert and jazz bands, and is an active adjudicator for invitational and UIL contests. Mr. Prado is a member of the National Band Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, College Band Directors National Association, Percussive Arts Society and the International Association of Jazz Educators. He has served as the Texas Music Educators Association Region 24 chairman and served on this organization's State Board for several years. He is also a member of the University Interscholastic League Prescribed Music Committee, serving an 8-year term and will chair the committee 2007 through 2011. Mr. Prado resides in Grapevine with his wife Kathy, a high school Language Arts/World History teacher in the Carroll ISD. He has two children: Michael recently completed a second tour with the 4th Infantry Division, 110 Cavalry Scout Unit as a Combat Medic in the Baghdad, Iraq theater and is currently Active Reserve. Daughter Danielle is a student and Longhorn Band section leader at The University of Texas at Austin.*