

# From the Board

**Brian Merrill, 2009-10 TBA President**

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I hope everyone has gotten off to a great start to the school year. I know I am looking forward to another terrific year working with the wonderful students and faculty at Southern Methodist University. Their enthusiasm and thoughtfulness constantly inspires me to be a better teacher and to really think about what is most important in our profession. I also look forward to getting to visit schools, work with directors and observe rehearsals and performances



throughout the state. I am constantly impressed by the quality of teaching and the achievement of the students. I would like to encourage everyone to put forth your best effort and to enjoy your day to day routine. Take advantage of opportunities to revel the depth of your love for music and for teaching music. Take the time to appreciate the impact that your teaching is having on your students and their families. Your influence as a teacher, musician, and role model will stretch far beyond the classes and performances of this semester.

Gary Robbins has been a great President, a very thoughtful and innovative leader. I would like to congratulate him for putting together an incredible '09

convention. Gary, as well as the TBA Board, worked hard to bring you a convention that was both inspiring and practical. Great concerts, great clinics and clinicians, and fun social events all added up to a wonderful "jump start" for the 2009-10 school year.

I would also like to thank the TBA Business Members and exhibitors for supporting the TBA Convention/Clinic. It takes a lot of time and effort on their part to bring their goods and services to display. Many of them also sponsor clinics and other convention events and activities. Even in the middle of a significant recession, our Business Members continued their support. They are truly our partners in music education. Please thank them for their contribution. Quick links to our sponsors and all of our business members can be found on the TBA web site.

I want to express the Board of Director's appreciation to Mike Brashear, TBA Executive Director, and the TBA staff: Robin Tovar, Alfred Esquivel and Justin Young. They all do exceptional work with exemplary professionalism and dedication. I want to add a special commendation to Mike for a great

"Rookie" year and a huge thanks to past Executive Director Al Sturchio for his time and effort in helping facilitate a smooth and seamless transition.

TBA has put together the strongest line up yet of Professional Development Clinics. We have scheduled nine sessions—going to Austin, La Joya, El Paso and Lubbock for the first time and returning to Huntsville, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Houston and Dallas. These clinics are designed to cover one topic in great depth in an informal atmosphere. Participants really have the time to get to know the clinicians, take part in discussions and get questions answered. Directors will come away from these sessions with a deep understanding of the topic and with practical applications to put in use immediately. A complete list of the Professional Development Clinics can be found on the first two pages of this *Bandmasters Review*.

TBA exists to assist its members in best serving their students. Please feel free to contact the Board of Directors with your comments and suggestions. The more input we receive, the better we can provide you with what you want and need. Thank you for making the Texas Bandmasters Association such an exemplary organization.