

# From the Board

**Don T. Haynes, Jr., 2009-10 TBA President Elect**

## “You Too Can Become A Master Teacher”

In my 36 years of teaching band, I have been fortunate to learn from some of the finest teachers and conductors of modern times. I have performed under the baton of Clifton Williams, Mark Hindsley, Paul Creston, Vincent DiNino, Eddie Galvan and Bill Moody. The influence of these and other legendary master teachers span well across the land. The modern day master teachers may not carry the high profile names as those aforementioned, but they are solid, hard-working band directors with an organized, daily systematic approach.

Let me offer my working definition of a master teacher of band. He or she is a teacher that becomes very skilled and well informed at teaching the various elements of band—an “expert”, if you will. Let’s be candid. There is much to know about all the things we must do well. And it starts with listening. Listening and watching as many good teachers as you can in your area. Listen to their comments to the young musicians—and add a part of their technique to your own “bag of tricks”. Note how their enthusiasm and energy permeates across the rehearsal. Listen to a master clinician’s information and learn how they “fix” balance, tuning, and articulation issues. Listen to their creative, musical ideas and most of all watch how they inspire the youngsters



to bring the music to life. Whenever possible, have detailed conversation with master teachers; they love sharing.

Do you believe you have what it takes to become a master teacher? I hope your answer is a resounding YES. However, it will not happen in a year or two. I recall my wonderful UT education professor, Dr. Nelson Patrick sharing with his class (1971) of young music education majors that it will take five years of teaching before we would know how to be a strong teacher in this

profession. His point was that it simply takes a long time for a young director to become an excellent teacher. Dr. Patrick was right on the mark, but I quickly learned that it takes more than years alone. My mentors had me going to the TBA convention immediately after graduation.

In the summer of 2006, my first year on the board, TBA sponsored an incredible line up of master teachers on the UT - El Paso campus. The special symposium was titled “The Art of Teaching Band”. The featured educators (master teachers) included Paula Crider, Eddie Green, Tim Lautzenheiser, Alfred Watkins, Cindy Bulloch, Barbara and Rick Lambrecht, Mike Brashear, Curtis Treadway, Frank Troyka, Brian Merrill and many more. This distinguished team of experts

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## Mission Statement

The purpose of the Texas Bandmasters Association, Inc. is to:

Continually assist its membership in achieving the highest standards of instrumental music education.



Promote the place and value of music education in our society and the important role instrumental music plays in our cultural, intellectual, and social lives.



Foster goodwill, fellowship and a collegial, fraternal spirit among its members.



Provide its membership with an annual Convention/Clinic which introduces new music, tried and proven teaching methods and materials as well as instruments and equipment.



Provide Educational Publications of instructional methods and materials for TBA members and aid them with their personal development and leadership.



Provide information for the university music student preparing to become a band director.

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gathered to share their passion, their techniques, and their approach to producing successful band programs. The two-day symposium was an amazing event. In fact, I watched master teachers learning from other master teachers.

Becoming a master teacher is a life-long journey. I believe it ought to be every band director's goal. A major goal of TBA is to present learning opportunities and experiences for the young as well as seasoned directors through clinics by master teachers.

TBA is a large family that looks after its young brothers and sisters. Therefore, we veteran directors must help get the young directors to the “family meeting”. A

message here to the young directors in Texas: continue learning the “art of teaching band” just as you studied under your most inspirational college professors and band conductors.

Allow yourself to experience the summer TBA Convention/Clinic and the professional development clinics offered throughout the year. This is where you find special tools to work your magic. Make it happen for you and your students! I encourage you to learn from today's master teachers, just as they learned the craft from band experts of the past. Keep listening and learning the craft, because someday soon, you will be our master teachers.