

## 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.

# From the Board Is Performing Our Contest Show Enough?

**Richard Herrera, 2010-11 TBA Treasurer**

To all of my high school colleagues, I hope you had a successful and enjoyable marching season. As you read this article, most of you have put away marching equipment and have started concentrating on concert season. However, now is the time to reflect how marching season went over all. Visit with staff and student leaders to discuss the positive and negative aspects of the season. Regardless of ratings or placements at competitions, every band program can work on improving the past marching season. The most important questions to ask are, "did the music and drill fit the band? Did the audience understand the show concept? What was the "Friday night crowd" response to the show? Finally, if you had a chance to do it all over again, what would you change?" Some of the conversations may be difficult to hear, but dissecting every part of the season will help with future marching band planning. This brings me to the main reason for writing this article. Is performing the contest show enough? Are our bands and students reaching their full performance potential?

Some of us, including yours truly, will continue marching season into post-season playoffs. Many times I have witnessed bands at a playoff game march onto the field, play a song for the dance team, and march off to the fight song. Or, they continue playing part of their

competition show. I understand this is the easiest show to perform late in the season with limited rehearsal time, but are we doing an injustice to our band program?



In my view, this is a missed opportunity to involve and build community support for the band program. Stay on the field the full twelve minutes and incorporate show ideas from college marching bands. For example, our band does a run-on onto the field to a fast clip drum cadence,

then "sweeps" the field playing March Grandioso. Using a counter march we spell out school mascot and school name. These are easy to do by using a four-step interval, front to back, and a two-step interval north to south. If the band cannot spell out the school mascot or name due to limited numbers, then form a block letter. For example, a "B" to represent Brandeis High School or BHS is a good option. Students can quickly learn these formations. Next, feature the guard, twirlers, or dance team. If a feature group does not exist, add a band feature such as a favorite stand tune. Finally, march off the field playing the fight song to another spell out formation. These shows do not require much rehearsal time. Tweak the show as the team continues their winning season by adding more spell outs. If the football team continues into December, add a Christmas tree formation playing holiday favorites. Whatever you do, have a complete show. Your community and

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administration will be very appreciative of the bands efforts.

One of the most memorable post-season shows I witnessed was Permian High School Band, under the direction of Charles Nail. The group was in block band heading toward the south end zone doing a counter march. As the students heading north cleared the block, a “P” appeared, then an “E”, then “R”, then “M”, then “I”, then “A”, and finally an “N”. The crowd went wild with applause while chanting each letter after a drum roll. After that spell out, came the M-O-J-O spell out. It was the most electrifying halftime for both the band and the fans. This show, created by J.R. McEntyre, has been a long tradition of the Permian Band and continues today with Michael Watts.

Regardless of what halftime show you do for the playoffs, it is important for us to redefine our task and that is to entertain the fans. Let us face it, this is the largest audience the band will perform to all year long. Just think of the lasting effect you will have on the community, administration, and more importantly, the band students. If you are fortunate to perform a “fun” halftime show this fall, then kudos to you. If not, I hope that you plan to perform an audience pleasing show next season. For more show ideas, search for University Marching Bands on Youtube. There are many fantastic examples of audience grabbing shows on the web.



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**TAKE A DIVE INTO OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.NRH2OMUSIC.COM**  
**Founder/Director: Brad White \* Consultant: Cindy Lansford**

### **Congratulations to these Texas schools on their performance at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago this month!**

Texas A&M University Wind Symphony College Station Dr. Timothy Rhea, Conductor	Henry Middle School Honors Band Cedar Park Robert Herrings, Conductor
Dekaney High School Wind Ensemble Houston Trent Cooper, Conductor	Kealing Middle School Wind Ensemble Austin Mark Gurgel, Conductor
Hebron High School Wind Symphony Carrollton Andy Sealy, Conductor	West Ridge Middle School Wind Ensemble Austin Susan Glover, Conductor
Liberty High School Saxophone Quartet Frisco Alyson Keller, Conductor	Spring High School Jazz Ensemble Spring Joe Clark, Conductor