

From the Board

Chico Portillo, 2013-14 TBA Secretary

I recently visited an elementary music teacher who is an outstanding veteran educator and is new to our district. I wanted to see how things were going for him and to check on whether he needed

anything. I caught him right before a Kindergarten class was about to begin. The following transpired:

Teacher: (With great eagerness) "Good morning boys and girls. It is soooo great to see you! I'm looking forward to our music lesson today because we are going to

learn and sing a new song and then move around the room in partners!"

Students: "Yay!!"

Teacher: "But before we begin, I want to introduce to you a very special guest. The man standing right there is Mr. Portillo, and he is the Fine Arts Coordinator for our entire district. Can you say good morning to Mr. Portillo?"

Students: (In unison and looking at me) "Good morning, Mr. Portillo!"

Teacher: "And guess what else, students? (a slight pause, as he bent over and whispered) He is a musician!"

Students: (Nodding their heads up and down) "Oooooohhh!" Then one little girl with hands clasped in her lap excitedly said out loud, "I just LOVE magic tricks!"

I burst out laughing because she thought the teacher had said, "Magician." I then thought to myself, "Well in so many ways, sometimes band directors get to be part magicians as well."



I believe the magic does indeed live in our rehearsal rooms. Creating the "musical" moment IS the magic. The emotional attachment produced by students when they have achieved

whatever the expectation is during the rehearsal is the "tada." It wasn't there before, and after your instruction, it appeared. My hope is that you have these moments each and every time your students are with you. I believe that for most students, this is the very reason they

WANT to be in your class. They get to experience a form of soulful success that they do not often times obtain in other academic classes. The best part is that each student's "tada" is shared with every other student in the class, and YOU, their teacher. When your reaction and body language show your pride in their achievement, the connection is magical! Your magic is so important, whether it is that your beginning band students have just learned to play "Hot Cross Buns" or your Wind Ensemble has just learned the "Symphony in Bb" by Hindemith.

I wish you the very best for the remainder of this school year and as you begin to plan for the summer and fall. I look forward to seeing you at the TBA convention where all great band directors make the time to hone their skills, visit with friends, share their knowledge and learn some more "magic!"

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