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From the Board

Bruce Beach, 2014-15 TBA President

It is difficult to fathom that I have been attending TBA conventions since 1985. I have only missed one during that time and I don't remember why?!?! I do remember quite a bit about that first convention. Dan Black told me I had to go! Rick Lambrecht was President that year. I drove from El Paso to San Antonio in a vehicle without cruise control (when the speed limit was still 55 mph!) and the convention was the most eye-opening event I had ever experienced. Welcome to Texas Bands!!!

The 2015 Convention/Clinic is almost here and it will be one of the best. Outstanding clinicians, teachers, performers, conductors, and demonstration groups from across the country have been invited. I do not know any other place where band directors can come together to learn from so many accomplished professionals. If you want to be a successful music educator, the convention in San Antonio is the place to be.

This year's convention lineup has over 60 clinics covering beginners, middle and high school band, color guard, drum line, jazz band and combos, recruiting, preparing for contest and many other topics. We have also scheduled clinics for band programs of all sizes. There are too many great clinics to list in this article. If you miss a day, you will miss out of many outstanding clinics.

The Thursday evening opening concert features the incredible Boston Brass. These gentlemen are not only fine musicians; they are also great music educators. Boston Brass

will present a clinic at the convention on brass performance techniques that you do not want to miss.

The 2015 TBA Featured Clinician is Professor James F. Keene, retired Director of Bands at the University of Illinois. Some of you may remember when he was Director of Bands at East Texas State University (now Texas A&M - Commerce) and the performance of that band at TMEA many years ago. That performance took the convention and the state by storm! He then moved to the University of Arizona where he revived and rebuilt that band program. Following five years in Arizona, he moved to Illinois where he became the fourth director of bands in that program's very rich history. Mr. Keene's bands have performed for the TMEA, Midwest, MENC, CBDNA, and ABA conventions. He will be presenting three clinics that I know will be informative and entertaining!

We are also fortunate to have Mark Camphouse as the 2015 TBA Featured Composer. He has had commissions from the Paynter Foundation, The Revelli Foundation, Bands of America, The U. S. Army Band, The U. S. Marine Band, The Northshore Concert Band and numerous commissions from the finest high school, college and community bands from across the country. We all know Mark's music; he is also a fine conductor and music educator. He conducts the Wind Symphony at George Mason University



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in addition to teaching courses in conducting and composition. Mark will present two clinics that we feel will be of very special interest.

Our demonstration groups include an impressive list of bands and music educators. John Benzer, with a demo group made up of students from Bush MS and Lopez MS (both North East ISD, San Antonio) will discuss UIL Contest preparation. The Canyon Ridge MS Band from Leander ISD, with Amy Allison and staff, will present a clinic on producing a successful middle school program. Traveling all the way from El Paso, the Indian Ridge MS Jazz Band, with Nick Flood and Raul Chavira directors, will present ways you can have an incredible Jazz Band within a successful program.

Roland Sandoval's O'Connor (Northside ISD, San Antonio) HS Jazz Combo will provide material to enhance your high school programs with quality jazz bands and combos.

Our marching band clinics will feature the Hebron HS Band and staff as well as the Princeton HS Band and staff. This offers two different size schools and two different approaches to marching band. There will also be a clinic for teaching Military Marching Band in small schools presented by Shaka Hawkins, Brandon Garmon and Josh King.

TBA and its emphasis on Beginner Band has never been stronger. We continue with the Teaching Beginner Band Series. This year we feature Sally Bohls on Oboe, Jennifer Auerbach on Bassoon, Mark Teal on Percussion, Jon Bohls on Trombone and Damian Gonzalez, Carter Matschek and Manuel San Luis on Saxophone. Chris Brown and George Little will present a Comprehensive Approach to

Beginners while David Puckett will discuss strategies for teaching beginners every other day!

The Bandmaster of the Year for 2014, Dan Gibbs, was unable to attend the convention last year due to health issues. So we have set aside a special time for him to chat, talk, tell funny stories and discuss his life as a Texas band director. What a bonus—two Bandmaster of the Year speeches at one convention!

TBA has always provided a venue for the wonderful community bands in our state and this year we offer five great bands, five great concerts: Carrollton Wind Symphony, Jim McDaniel, conductor; EL Paso Wind Symphony, Ron Hufstader, conductor; Lone Star Symphonic Band, Bob Bryant, conductor; The Woodlands Concert Band, Paul Worosello, conductor; and The Naperville Municipal Band from Naperville, Illinois, Ron Keller and Rene Rosas, conductors.

Other successful TBA programs include our TBA Academy, Student Day and Band Booster Day. The TBA Academy for new or young teachers will be held on Thursday, July 23rd. Encourage all the new teachers in your area to attend our Academy. Student Day and Band Booster Day will both be held on Friday, July 24th. Frank Troyka and staff have a powerful program for the students as does David Vandewalker for the boosters!

Our members always look forward to traditional social activities: the Golf Tournament, Tennis Tournament and Fun Run on Thursday morning, the Business Luncheon on Saturday at 12 noon, and the TBA Barbecue and the Bobby Goff Memorial Washer Chunkin' Contest Saturday evening.

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We have so many ways to gather information these days, but there is nothing better than listening to someone who has been there, who has the experience, or who has learned different ways to teach the Bb Scale!

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I have just mentioned a small number of names and clinics. How about a few more headliners? Dennis Fisher, Matthew McInturf, Paula Crider, Don Haynes, Kathy Johnson, Richard Floyd, Frank Ticheli, Ryan Johnstone, Barbara Lambrecht, Michael Cesario, Christopher Bill, and Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser. To steal a word from that old movie—we have a *plethora* of great names and clinics. You are just going to have to attend and see for yourself.

The spouses' events are so important to the success of the convention and this year they are simply awesome! So let me encourage you to bring your spouse to the convention this

year. They will not be disappointed. On Friday, July 24th, the two main events are the annual Spouses Luncheon in the Lonesome Dove Room (LDR) at the Convention Center followed by the Fashion Show and Seminar at Macy's. Seating is limited in the LDR therefore we encourage everyone to pre-register by July 1st. On Saturday, July 25th, there are two special treats this year: a trip to the Jingu House at the Japanese Tea Garden in Brackenridge Park and a demonstration at the Garcia Art Glass Studio!! *Sign up in the Registration Area for these two TBA Spouse events.*

In closing, let me encourage everyone to attend this year's convention. It is simply the best way to stay connected to our profession. We have so many ways to gather information these days, but there is nothing better than listening to someone who has been there, who has the experience, or who has learned different ways to teach the Bb Scale! I mentioned in my opening statement about how my first TBA convention was so eye-opening. They have all been eye-opening! Every year I learn something new and I go back home revived and ready to begin the new school year.

So, please join me this year in San Antonio at the 68th Annual TBA Convention/Clinic, July 23-26, 2015. Pre-registration is available until Tuesday, July 1. Check out the TBA website for more information about the convention, clinics, clinicians, concerts, hotels, and everything related. ***www.texasbandmasters.org***.