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From the Board

Steven Moore, 2015-16 TBA President

Greetings colleagues and friends! By now, you have wrapped up your year and hopefully have been able to find some time to relax a little. I hope that your year was successful, and that you accomplished all the goals that you set for yourself, your students, and your program. Even though we have wrapped up one year, we have all begun the process of getting the next year started—evaluating our programs, our students and ourselves, and trying to develop strategies to meet their needs and to become better educators. TBA has been helping band directors meet these goals for over 65 years, and we have a great convention filled with some of our best educators at all levels ready to share their ideas, strategies and techniques to help us all grow in the profession. The 69th annual TBA Convention/Clinic will be held July 21-24 and should prove to be an informative, fun and inspiring three and a half days.

As you look through the Schedule of Events in this magazine or on the interactive schedule online at texasbandmasters.org, you will see a great line up of over 60 clinics that pertain to middle school, high school, university, marching band, color guard, percussion, and concert and beginning band. In addition, there are several concerts, exhibits, Student Day, New Teacher Academy, meetings, awards and social activities. As you can see there is something for everyone. Some of the highlights of the clinic will be our concerts, our featured clinicians, a middle school track and of course great clinics for the high school concert and marching bands along with 16 demo groups.

First, we have a great group of concerts set for your that include “America’s Big Band” The Jazz Ambassadors from the U.S. Army Field Band, the U.S. Air Force

Band of the West, which will feature Eric Whitacre conducting along with the TCDA Directors Chorus, the Blue Knights Drum Corps, the East Texas Symphonic Band, WTSU/AMU Alumni Band, the Kingwood Big Band, and The Moanin’ Frogs. In addition, we will have a performance by Southwest HS (Fort Worth ISD) directed by Stacy Dunn and the Willis HS Jazz Band.

You will not want to miss the sessions with our world renowned Featured Clinician Gary Green and our Grammy-winning Featured Composer Eric Whitacre. Mr. Green will be talking about things he has learned from a career as a band director as well as the development of an inner voice and many other musical concepts. Mr. Whitacre will begin his sessions at 8 am on Friday, July 22 in the Stars of Night Ballroom 3 & 4 with a welcome session discussing “Why We Do What We Do” (definitely one not to miss). He will continue with a combined clinic with Mr. Green featuring Mr. Whitacre’s piece “Lux Aurumque”—another clinic not to miss. In addition to these two gentlemen, we will have a Featured Artist Tom “Bones” Malone and the group The Moanin’ Frogs. Tom “Bones” Malone is best known for his work with The Blues Brothers, David Letterman Show and Saturday Night Live. He will perform with the Kingwood Big Band and the U.S. Air Force Band of the West as well and give a clinic on “Principals of Brass Instruments.” Bending genres and uplifting spirits, The Moanin’ Frogs saxophone sextet



From the Board

is redefining what chamber music can be. Rooted in the classical tradition and theatre of the American Vaudeville show, The Moanin' Frogs' spirited arrangements, creative choreography, and technically precise performances of jazz, pop, and classical music delight fans across the world.

I am very pleased with our offerings to our middle school directors. We will continue our beginner series this year with flute, clarinet, trumpet, horn, tuba and percussion. I am extremely excited about a middle school 4-part series of clinics called "The Nuts and Bolts of Teaching Band". These clinics are led by Brian Merrill and Lynne Jackson along with a team of other outstanding directors that will discuss everything middle school band, and are geared at getting the middle school band student ready for the challenges of HS Band.

For the high school marching bands, we will feature Leander ISD and their amazing schools Cedar Park and Leander HS along with Jim Cude and the Whitesboro HS Band. These schools will focus on their marching band, percussion and color guard techniques and strategies. In addition, the Blue Nights Drum Corps will present a clinic on marching movement.

The high school concert band directors will be able to attend sessions with Fred Allen, Lowell Graham, John Whitwell, Barbara Lambrecht, Rick Lambrecht, Chris Brannon and George Little, as well as a panel discussion with Kathy Johnson, Alma Beach, Darla McBryde and Carol Turner.

There will be 16 demo groups at this year's convention with great clinicians to give you immediate feedback on what the clinician is discussing. These groups include the Reagan HS (Northeast ISD) Steel Band and Percussion, Jazz Ambassadors, Whitesboro HS, Willis HS Percussion, Blue Knights Drum Corps, Leander HS Color Guard, UT El Paso Horn Choir to discuss everything Horn, Southwest HS Band (Fort Worth ISD), Cedar Park HS Marching Band and Percussion, Kingwood Big Band Combo, Brandeis HS Jazz Ensemble, and The Moanin' Frogs.

For the family we will have several activities so be sure to include them in your TBA plans. Some of the events include TBA Fun Run, Golf and Tennis

Tournaments, the Annual Bobby Goff Washer Chunkin', TBA Barbeque, Annual Spouses Luncheon and Fashion Show/Seminar, a trip to San Antonio's new children's museum called the DoSeum, and a tour of two elegant 19th century mansions, The Edward Steves Home and the Guenther House.

Finally, please notice that we have scheduled more clinics on Thursday and the Exhibit Hall will only be open on Friday and Saturday. So make your plans to arrive on Wednesday in order to get the most out of your convention and spend time on the exhibit floor networking and doing business with our exhibitors, as they are a vital part of our convention and clinic. This is a convention not to miss! I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio July 21-24!