# Texas Bandmasters Association 2018-19 Board of Directors

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## From the Board

John Morrison, 2018-19 TBA President

Celebrate!!! Many of you are celebrating your first year of teaching, some of you are celebrating the great performances this year by your ensembles, and some of you might even be celebrating the beginning of retirement!!! All of those are moments certainly worth celebrating!

As a district music coordinator, I had the good fortune of listening to well over 200 UIL band, orchestra and choir performances this year from my home school district. One thing I know for certain, programs that continue to make progress are doing so because the teaching staff has committed to growing as educators. I always look forward to discussing performances with my younger directors following a UIL stage performance. What did we like, what did we not like, how and or why does an ensemble sound a certain way, good or bad? Characteristic tone, ensemble balance, phrasing and style interpretations to name a few are discussed to establish a set of standards so that these younger teachers can begin to establish their "ears" for teaching band. I reinforce that we are discussing performances in a manner that helps us become more effective in our own classrooms and to establish that others will listen to our ensembles in a similar manner to do the same, creating a growth cycle that can benefit us all. One thing is for certain, there is no substitute for sitting in the auditorium at UIL contests to establish your "ears".

I hope you are making plans to visit San Antonio July 25-27 for what is shaping up to be a great TBA convention. Over 60 clinics designed to meet your pedagogical needs. Our Featured Clinician for 2019 is

Jerry Junkin. Mr. Junkin is certainly at the pinnacle of the wind



band movement and we are excited to hear from this True Texan as he shares his insights and experiences as Director of Bands at The University of Texas. If that wasn't enough, let's add that our Featured Composer is the wildly popular John Mackey! We will also hear from our TBA Bandmaster of the Year, Frank Troyka. After Mr. Troyka spends Friday revving up our high school students for the 11th straight year at Student Day, we then get our chance to hear from him at our business meeting luncheon on Saturday. I think we can all agree that if the power goes out in San Antonio, the lights will shine bright at the convention center with the energy that these gentlemen will bring to our convention.

We are excited to bring you several great performances this summer. Our Featured Concerts will be something to remember. The Boston Brass will entertain us Thursday evening, while The Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus of The U.S. Army Field Band from Washington D.C. will perform on Friday evening. The Dimensions in Blue Jazz Band from the Air Force Band of the West will perform Friday afternoon. I'm also looking forward to our community band series that will feature performances from The Rio Grande Wind Symphony and the Central Winds from Central New York.

Our slate of clinics is designed to meet the needs of all your program types and will allow you to earn many hours of CPE

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credit. Regardless of the size of your school, we've got you covered! I hope that you will notice that programming in our schedule covers the urban, suburban and rural schools. We also have clinics that focus on teaching the mariachi groups and the jazz bands. Come hear from Julie Duty from United Sound. Julie will be here to share about the peer mentorship program that is sweeping across the country that includes students with disabilities in your band programs.

How about the nuts and bolts of quality beginner instrument instruction, master teachers sharing their tricks and tips to help you with adding tools to your toolbox? Maybe you want to refine the ensemble skills of your concert ensembles. We have the best of the best when bringing in recent TMEA Honor Band Directors as well as directors of the feature performing bands from the most recent Midwest Clinic. Hear these master teachers share their secret recipes for program successes.

Marching Band clinics will certainly be featured again with sessions by recent UIL champions Vista Ridge HS (6A) and Canton HS (4A), as well as the NAMMB champion, the Lindale HS band. Color guard, marching percussion, movement, program design, military marching band styles are all being addressed in our schedule for all size band programs.

Clinics to help you to create a vision for your band program are layered throughout the convention schedule. Sessions to help you with balancing the stresses of the modern-day classroom, planning for retirement and communicating effectively with administrators are just some of the sessions available for you to choose from.

Saturday evening, we will close out our convention with our annual BBQ down on the river. Free boat rides, face painters, mariachi and jazz band performances truly make this a festive event for the whole family to enjoy. Dena and I look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio!