

**TBA  
Board of Directors  
2019-20**

**Phillip Clements  
President**

Texas A&M University-Commerce  
P.O. Box 3011  
Commerce, TX 75429  
903-886-5285  
[phillip.clements@tamuc.edu](mailto:phillip.clements@tamuc.edu)

**Roland Sandoval  
President Elect**

Department of Music-UTSA  
1 UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, TX 78249  
210-737-8929  
[roljack@satx.rr.com](mailto:roljack@satx.rr.com)

**Daniel Allen  
Vice President**

Franklin High School  
900 N. Resler  
El Paso, TX 79912  
915-236-2266  
[dallenep@aol.com](mailto:dallenep@aol.com)

**George Little  
Treasurer**

Lufkin High School  
309 South Medford Drive  
Lufkin, TX 75901  
936-630-4134  
[glittle@lufkinisd.org](mailto:glittle@lufkinisd.org)

**Reagan Brumley  
Secretary**

Highland Park High School  
4220 Emerson  
Dallas, TX 75205  
214-780-3737  
[rabrumley@gmail.com](mailto:rabrumley@gmail.com)

**Christopher Yee  
Sergeant-at-Arms**

Cedar Park High School  
2150 Cypress Creek Road  
Cedar Park, TX 78613  
512-570-1200  
[christopher.yee@leanderisd.org](mailto:christopher.yee@leanderisd.org)

**John Morrison  
Past President**

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD  
Secondary Music  
10300 Jones Road, Suite 724  
Houston, TX 77065  
281-897-4042  
[john.morrison@cfisd.net](mailto:john.morrison@cfisd.net)

**Michael Brashear  
Executive Director**

Texas Bandmasters Association  
1002 Central Parkway South  
San Antonio, TX 78232  
210-492-8878  
[mbrashear@texasbandmasters.org](mailto:mbrashear@texasbandmasters.org)

# Remembering Why We Love What We Do!

## Phillip Clements, 2019-20 TBA President



The beginning of the year is a wonderful time to remember why you love what you do. Why is it that you enjoy teaching? Why do you love music? Why is it important that students have the opportunity to learn music and experience the wonderful culture we call TEXAS BANDS?

When the sounds have faded and the contests and concerts are over, you want your students to love what they have experienced in your program, but to also have developed a life-long love of music. At the end of their time with you, the most important thing they can learn is a passion and a true love for music! Music education is not only teaching them about music and how to perform music, but why music is central to our lives as human beings.

Taking time to reflect on your own passion for music can be a helpful reminder of what you can share with your students every day. Consider the following ideas you can use in your teaching to guide your students towards their own love of music:

- 1** Talk with your students about why you love music and why you love sharing it with them.
- 2** Remind them that they are fortunate to have the opportunity, talent and ability to create music every day. This will do wonders for your own attitude as well.
- 3** Tell them about your favorite pieces and why you enjoy certain composers' music.
- 4** During rehearsal, take the time to share with your students why you selected a piece of music, what you like about it, and what they will learn from it.
- 5** Describe for them why the composer wrote the piece and what they were trying to portray or say through the music. Remember, even a march is trying to portray a feeling.
- 6** Describe for them how a piece makes you FEEL and ask them about their feelings about the music.
- 7** Celebrate successes in rehearsal in a way that makes them realize that only music can make them feel this way. For example, say: *"I love the way we arrived at that final chord-what a moment!"*
- 8** Describe to them what the composer did in the music to evoke a certain feeling. *"Notice how the composer changes keys and brings back the theme in major to make us feel that everything is okay."*
- 9** Remind them you care about them and that making music with people we care about is better than making music alone.
- 10** Remind them that in a world where bad news seems to be all around us, music can make them feel safe, connected to others, and feel a way that words cannot. They need to know WHY they need music in their lives.

We are fortunate in Texas to have a culture of band that exists nowhere else in the world.

Even though we all have bad days, bad rehearsals, and issues we must work through, it is important to remember we have the privilege to teach wonderful students about music through band every day. Talking to your students about your passion for music and helping them understand the feelings that music can provide as we prepare outstanding performances is a wonderful way to ensure that they carry with them a love for music. You may also notice that by remembering why you love what you do, the “bad” rehearsals don’t seem quite as bad.

I look forward to continuing to serve all of you this year as President of TBA. The TBA Board has already begun preparing for the 2020 convention and are very excited to have Kevin Sedatole, Director of Bands at Michigan State University as our Featured Clinician and Steven Bryant as our Featured Composer. A partial list of our concerts includes the Air Force Band of the West and the Kasesart University Wind Symphony from Bangkok, Thailand.

If there is anything that I or any of the Board of Directors can do to assist you or make your convention experience better, please don’t hesitate to ask. I wish you a wonderful year full of success for you and your students and look forward to seeing you at the 2020 Convention.

**THANKS, FROM THE  
PRESIDENT:**

***We all owe a “round of applause”  
to 2019 Presidents John and  
Dena Morrison for the wonderful  
work they did preparing for  
this year’s convention. I would  
also like to thank our Board of  
Directors, Executive Director  
Mike Brashear and his wife  
Priscilla and the TBA staff,  
Robin Tovar and Justin Young for  
their tireless efforts on behalf  
of our association. Thank you  
also to Brian Merrill, Richard  
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to making 2019 such a success.***