

**TBA
Board of Directors
2019-21**

**Phillip Clements
President**

Texas A&M University-Commerce
P.O. Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429
903-886-5285
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

**Daniel Allen
Vice President**

Franklin High School
900 N. Resler
El Paso, TX 79912
915-236-2266
dallenep@aol.com

**George Little
Treasurer**

Lufkin High School
309 South Medford Drive
Lufkin, TX 75901
936-630-4134
glittle@lufkinisd.org

**Reagan Brumley
Secretary**

Irving ISD
Director of Performing Arts
2621 W. Airport Freeway
Irving, TX 75062
972-600-5088
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

**John Morrison
Past President**

Cypress-Fairbanks ISD
Secondary Music
10300 Jones Road, Suite 724
Houston, TX 77065
281-897-4042
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

What Do They Need?

Phillip Clements, 2019-21 TBA President



As I start my 30th year of teaching, I have noticed that this feels very much like my first year in the profession. When I began as the Assistant Director of Bands at Lake Highlands High School in 1990, I remember being uncertain of what to expect, unsure of whether the methods I had learned and used in the past would actually work, and feeling as though I was just a few weeks ahead of the students in terms of preparation. With all the change we have experienced in 2020, I find myself with all those same feelings once again. Everything is different! Processes, templates, ensemble set-ups, you name it—it has all changed, and that is unsettling, to say the least.

As the TBA Board of Directors made the difficult decision in May to transition the TBA Convention to a virtual format, we had to shift our thinking. What worked in the past wouldn't work this year. Our focus became, "What do our attendees need?" That question guided our decisions as we changed format, delivery method, topics, and reinvented the convention for this year.

"What do they need?" The answer evolved into two main items: Up-to-date, clear INFORMATION and INSPIRATION! That simple answer guided our planning and helped us establish priorities as we prepared for the convention.

When I met with our band faculty at Texas A&M University-Commerce to begin making decisions and planning for the fall, I utilized this same guiding principle to help construct a new curriculum for the coming school year. The answers again became readily apparent: the students need to be safe;

they need to have the best information we can provide them,

and they need to be inspired and reminded why they love music. All the details will come together by working to meet those needs.

With all that's happening in the world right now, it's easy for some to view music as a distant priority, but in many ways, it may be one of the most important. The environment in which our students are growing up is one that is filled with uncertainty, unrest, and polarization of groups and ideas. This endless rhetoric is constant. Our students need to be safe and feel safe. Yes, they need to continue to learn how to play their instruments well, and we need band now more than ever. But more importantly, they need to understand that music gives them something that they cannot find anywhere else. Jean Sibelius said, *Music begins where the possibilities of language end*. Music provides them with a way to express what they are feeling, a connection to something larger than themselves and what is happening in the world, and hopefully a sense that everything will be all right.

Band won't look or feel the same this year—and that's okay. Those of us who are veteran teachers may feel like first-year teachers again—and that's okay. We must embrace this opportunity to teach and remind students why music is so essential in all our lives and reveal to them that music can have healing powers. We should continue to ask ourselves,

What Do They Need?

What do our students need? The answers may change month to month, week to week, or day to day. We must remain flexible and encouraging. We must stay steadfast in our goals to keep them safe, to help them learn about music through band, and to help them learn to love music.

I was so impressed this summer by how everyone involved with the convention in July was able to adapt. Our marvelous clinicians went above and beyond as they changed topics, reinvented their presentations, and learned a new platform to present virtually. Most impressive was that they did it with optimism, spirit, and passion.

I can't begin to tell you how many hours our executive director, Mike Brashear, office administrator and exhibit manager, Robin Tovar, and our board of directors devoted to bringing you this summer's convention. So many committed individuals made sacrifices to ensure that the clinics and presentations would help you as a teacher.

Frank Troyka's oversight of Student Day and Richard Herrera's work with the Academy for New Teachers deserve a special round of applause! Both events had a record number of attendees and a fabulous slate of presenters.

What I have learned throughout this spring and summer is that we all have the ability to change, to reinvent our processes, and to reaffirm our commitments. We do this because we love teaching, helping our students learn and mature, and because we love sharing what has become so meaningful to us—MUSIC.

Continue to ask yourself, *What do my students need?* and you will discover the methods, strategies, and processes to help them. Be the inspiration for them, and share your love of music with them every day.

I wish you a safe and productive year filled with the joy of music. Please know that TBA is here to serve and help you, no matter the challenges you may face.

In Memoriam

Join us in honoring the legacy of these music educators.

Bob Brandenberger	Granbury	Clay Pope	Yoakum
Moton Crockett Jr.	Austin	Bobby Renfroe	Texas City
Jose Davila	San Antonio	Leslie C. Ross	Howe
Tommy Fry	San Antonio	Nancy Shepard	McAllen
Arturo Gerardo	El Paso	Stuart Shipley	Arlington
Eddie Green	Houston	Woodrow Smith	Montgomery
Fred Hardin	Lubbock	Bryan Snyder	Uvalde
Roy Hinojosa	Taft	Bryce Taylor	Alice
Jasper Huff	Lindale	George Townsend	Duncanville
Ron Hufstader	El Paso	Dee A. Tucker	Slaton
David Johnson	Beaumont	Tom Waggoner	Austin
Tommy Neumann	Houston	Michael Westbrook	Beaumont
Mike Norris	Waller	Steve Wilkinson	Petrolia
Donnie Owens	Waxahachie	Bobby Wren	Houston