

# Together Again!

**Michael Brashear, TBA Executive Director**

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**TOGETHER AGAIN!**—This has been our dream and wish for 2021, and now it is becoming a reality! In mid-April, the City of San Antonio and the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center leadership gave us the green light to move ahead with an in-person convention this summer. The protocols which were previously in place would have limited meeting room capacity to the extent that our convention would not have been possible.

We know that our convention this summer may look and feel a little different than past years. That, however, does not dampen our excitement for meeting together in person in July! Thank you for your patience as we work through all the details. Highlights for your consideration:

PRE-REGISTRATION - Now until July 16 at [www.texasbandmasters.org](http://www.texasbandmasters.org).

- I highly recommend that you pre-register before Friday, July 16 to streamline the badge pickup process and minimize congestion in the registration area at the convention.

- TBA is using a new software program to process member registration. Everyone must create a new profile, set a password, and process your payment using a credit card or printing and mailing an invoice with your check. All checks **MUST BE POSTMARKED** by July 2.

- Register before June 15 to take advantage of Early Bird pricing.

- Reserve your hotel room online. Hotels have **FURTHER DISCOUNTED** their convention rates from previous

years to encourage YOU to return to San Antonio this July! These special rates will be available until July 7. We have contracted with each hotel for a specific number of rooms and once those rooms are filled, these discounted rates will not be available to TBA attendees.

## **ATTENDEE HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- The health and safety of our attendees is our top priority. We agreed to abide by the protocols mandated by the city this summer such as masks, temperature checks, and as much social distancing as possible. These requirements may change over time and we will keep you informed as we get closer to our convention. With vaccines being available to all adults now, I anticipate that most of our attendees will be fully vaccinated by July and be able to enjoy that level of protection as we come back together.

- There will be **NO CHILD CARE** provided at the convention this summer.

## **CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

- **RECONNECT** - One of the most exciting aspects of the 2021 Convention/Clinic is that we will have the opportunity to reconnect and visit with our colleagues and close friends **IN-PERSON!** The TBA Board is finalizing plans for social events which we will announce soon. As in the past, you can register your spouse for the convention, and we are planning the Spouse Luncheon and other activities. On Saturday you can attend the annual Active/Retired Member Business luncheon as well as

the Phi Beta Mu Hall of Fame Induction ceremonies.

- **CLINICS** are listed on the last pages of this magazine. What a great opportunity for you to learn from these rock star educators. They will offer suggestions for returning to a more normal fall semester as well as lessons learned from teaching in the pandemic. You will leave inspired and ready to begin your fall semester!

- **NEW!** We all have attended conventions and been disappointed that so many great clinics are scheduled at the same time which forces us to miss many presentations. This year, our clinicians will pre-record 30-minute summaries of their clinics and TBA will make these recordings available as bonus **ON-DEMAND** content to attendees free of charge after the convention. This will allow you to view as many clinics as you want from the convenience of your home.

- **TBA AWARD WINNERS** - The 2020 TBA Board Award Winners are listed on pages 21-22. The 2021 Award Winners will be featured in our June magazine. All will be honored this July at the convention.

- **BANDMASTER OF THE YEAR** - Hearty congratulations to our 2021 Bandmaster of the Year Keith Bearden as well as to Amanda Drinkwater, our 2020 Bandmaster of the Year. Both outstanding educators will be honored this summer at our convention.

## Together Again!

- PERFORMANCES will include The U.S. Air Force Band of the West and the Heart of Texas Concert Band. Additional groups will be announced soon.

- EXHIBIT HALL - If there was ever a time that we as educators need to thank our business partners for their support of music education and TBA it is NOW! Be sure to make plenty of time to visit the Exhibit Hall this summer.

I know this year has been incredibly stressful and challenging for everyone. In my opinion, band directors have been some of the most creative and selfless people on the planet! Thank you for caring for your students in such a positive way by putting their physical and emotional well-being ahead of musical achievement and standards

of performance. Those standards will come back, but we cannot make music with empty chairs. Keeping students involved and excited about your program was certainly the top priority this year and will remain so next Fall as well.

I encourage you to reserve July 22-24 to attend the 74th annual TBA Convention/Clinic. I realize everyone will be excited to get back to marching band rehearsals with students. However, your performance achievement in October will not suffer by giving up these three days to attend. You will become a better teacher and your students will be the beneficiaries of your time spent at the TBA convention! Have a great finish to your semester. See you in July!