

What's Next? Together Again!

Phillip Clements, 2019-21 TBA President



As we come to the end of what has undoubtedly been the most challenging year for all of us, I think we are already asking, *What's Next?* Those simple words remind me of one of my favorite television shows: *The West Wing*. If you have seen it, you will remember that after dealing with an unbelievable deluge of problems and situations, the President of the United States, played by Martin Sheen, would look at his staff and say: *What's Next?* I'm sure you have said that more than once this year and maybe with a sense of dread or trepidation. In *The West Wing*, Martin Sheen's character would always say it with a tone of optimism. A tone that signaled that the problem is solved and he was ready for a new challenge to overcome.

One of the wonderful things about being a band director and musician is that there is always another challenge ahead. There is always a new piece of music to explore or another student we can help or inspire. Our *What's Next?* is now a question filled with hope and excitement, and I encourage you to think about *What's Next* for you and your program. You must remain optimistic—next year WILL be better.

We have learned a tremendous amount this year. Many of us have learned and embraced new technologies, gained more patience and empathy, and learned that our students can do amazing things—things we could never have imagined.

We have all been reminded of how important music is in our lives and that human interaction is essential in education at every level. We will be better teachers for having endured this year, and our students will be better as well. Yes, we are tired, and yes, we need a break. But soon, we will be ready to move forward, excited about next year, and TBA is here to help you.

In 2020 the TBA Board of Directors worked diligently to help the band directors of Texas by providing the first Virtual Convention. This year we are excited to return to meeting in person July 22-24 in San Antonio for **TBA 2021: Together Again**. We have designed an exceptional slate of clinics and concerts (YES—LIVE PERFORMANCES) to help you learn, recharge, and, most importantly, reconnect with your colleagues from across the state.

TBA 2021 will feature outstanding performances by the internationally known Canadian Brass, The United States Air Force Band of the West, Mansfield Wind Symphony, Heart of Texas Concert Band, Rio Grande Valley Jazz Orchestra, and John Wasson's Strata Big Band. Members and staff from the Crossmen and the Santa Clara Vanguard Drum Corps will be with us to present clinics. Our guest composers include Steven Bryant, Jennifer Jolly, Willie Owens, and Omar Thomas.

The outstanding line-up of world-class clinicians and demonstration

groups includes

our featured clinician, Dr. Kevin Sedatole, and a keynote address by Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser. TBA is proud to present numerous clinics on marching band, concert band, beginning band, motivation, inclusion, technology, retention, and many other topics to help you become a better teacher and refuel your passion for music. No matter the level you teach or your level of experience, you can't afford to miss the opportunity to learn from these master clinicians.

To be ready for *What's Next*, it is vital to learn proven and new ideas and strategies to help you meet your students where they are and take them to where they dream of being.

On Wednesday night before the convention, we are planning a Welcome Back Party Barbeque to help us reunite and celebrate the opportunities ahead of us. Discounted hotel rates are available this year to make attendance even more affordable.

The time we spend at TBA 2021 is invaluable, but it is so much more than the clinics and performances. It is the opportunity to connect with our wonderful colleagues from across the state and remember that we are in this together and we are TOGETHER AGAIN.

What's Next? TBA Convention/Clinic in July! See you in San Antonio!