

TBA Student Day Returns in 2022!

Frank Troyka

Something was missing at TBA last summer.

Of course, it was terrific to be back in person after having to move things online in 2020. Nothing beats the face-to-face conversations, serendipitous connections and spontaneous reconnections that can only happen when you're in the same place at the same time. Not to mention the world-class clinics and performances that TBA is known for. None of those disappointed. But something was missing. About 1400 of our most valued, most esteemed, and most essential attendees couldn't join us because we were still navigating the very uncertain waters of the pandemic.

That's behind us for now, and we can all celebrate the return of an in-person Student Day at TBA this coming July 22!

WHY STUDENT DAY?

Student Day exists to help inspire and motivate our students to become better band members. Leadership is a common thread as kids gather for a high-energy, fast-paced day of workshops, performances, and breakout sessions. The atmosphere is something like a rock concert combined with a tent revival as hundreds of kids—wildly enthusiastic BAND kids—share their love of music and their devotion to their programs. Band is a pretty big deal in Texas.

When those kids look across the Stars At Night Ballroom and see over a thousand other fanatical band kids from across the state, they reinforce each other's commitment. They start to sense just how big a deal it is!

This is Year 14 for Student Day. Our current students hadn't even begun their band careers in 2009 when Student Day had its less-than-humble debut. Now, after two years of wonderfully successful online versions, we're back in person and the lineup of events is as impressive as ever.

CONCERT EVENTS

There are two concerts on the schedule, the first of which is midday

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in the Lila Cockrell Theatre. Cedar Park Winds, conducted by Jeremy Spicer and Chris Yee, will present an hour-long performance featuring internationally acclaimed clarinetist Doreen Ketchens as a guest soloist. If you're unfamiliar with Doreen's brilliance, it's time for a road trip to New Orleans, where you're likely to find her performing with her husband and daughter in Jackson Square or at the corner of Royal and St. Peter in The Quarter. That is if she's not appearing with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra or on CBS *Sunday Morning*!

The other big feature concert will be José Hernández and Mariachi Sol de México, also performing in the Lila Cockrell, as the finale to Student Day. A Grammy-nominated ensemble, Sol de México reveal their virtuosity as instrumentalists and their musical versatility as vocalists. There's no better way to send our kids off after Student Day than hearing AND SEEING this world-class, world-famous ensemble. They are truly spectacular in the literal sense of the word!

SESSIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS

There are several more Student Day events everyone will attend. Shortly after our opening session (which will be highlighted by a couple of surprise performances!), Fran Kick, one of the most sought-after speakers in our profession and a perennial TBA celebrity, will present an interactive session on the power of being positive, constructive band members and leaders. TBA Featured Composer Omar Thomas will join the kids later in the afternoon for a session on his music and unique background, including a short Q&A.

Some of Texas' finest colleges and universities will have representatives to answer questions about admissions, major areas of study, and scholarship opportunities as part of the annual College Fair. And for those students who might be considering the military as an option after high school, SSG Irving Ray of the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" will present a session on pursuing membership in a military band.

BREAKOUTS

Breakout sessions will include "Conducting Technique and Tempo Management for Drum Majors," "Movement and Choreography for Winds and Percussion" and "If I Knew Then What I Know Now," a discussion by current teachers who are recent DCI alumni. They'll share some of their most impactful lessons learned in drum corps and how our kids can apply them while still in high school.

There will be instrument-specific sessions on the TMEA and ATSSB All-State audition etudes throughout the day. These 30-minute clinics are presented by the teachers who selected the All-State audition music and feature practice strategies and suggestions for interpretation. We couldn't leave out one of the most interesting (and overwhelming!) attractions of the TBA convention: the Exhibit Hall! Student Day badge-holders gain entrance to the Exhibit Hall just as any other convention attendee.

STUDENT DAY TAKES PLACE ON FRIDAY, JULY 22, the second full day of the TBA convention, and (not by coincidence) the TBA Strategic Booster Institute happens simultaneously. The Institute begins at 8:30 AM, a half-hour after the start of Student Day. It concludes in time for parents to join their kids at the finale concert by Mariachi Sol de México. Lunch breaks for both events are coordinated so parent chaperones can escort students to lunch without missing booster sessions. This is the perfect opportunity to create a shared experience and reinforce a sense of community among directors, students, and parents. For further information and to register for Student Day, the Booster Institute, or TBA, visit www.texasbandmasters.org.

Frank Troyka is the retired Director of Bands and Coordinator of Fine Arts at Berkner High School in Richardson. He began his college career at Western Michigan University under the baton of Eddie Green and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Arlington where he studied conducting with Ray Lichtenwalter and clarinet with Carol Jessup. He is an active clinician, presenting workshops and professional development sessions across Texas, throughout the United States, and at international destinations. Frank is a Senior Educational Clinician with Conn-Selmer, Inc.; the Director of Education for System Blue, the educational arm of the Blue Devils Drum and Bugle Corps; and for The Midwest Clinic, he is the coordinator of the Generation Next track and co-founder of the Day One track.