

# **THINGS I WISH I HAD KNOWN YEARS AGO**

**(or, Experience Is Something You Don't Get Until Just After You Need It!!!)**

A Clinic Presented by Paula Crider  
Texas Bandmaster's 57th Annual Convention/Clinic  
Sponsored by the Hal Leonard Corporation

## **1. You Can't Know Everything**

- \* It is a sign of strength, not weakness to admit that you don't have all the answers.
- \* Before you find the answers, you must know the questions.
- \*\*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire!" — Wm. Butler Yeats
- \*\*"Knowledge is only potential power. For the power to be manifested, it must be applied."  
— Ferrari

## **2. It's All About The Music...And The Musicians !**

- \* Other people's opinions are never as important as your own.
- \* Great musical moments provide unforgettable experiences.

### **A Student's Wish**

Look past my armor and seek the goodness within.  
Demand my best; but don't lose faith should I fall short of your expectations.  
Tell me the truth, but always with compassion.  
Teach me to experience beauty through music, and goodness through life.  
Help me to experience those unforgettable moments  
that are only possible through uncommon dedication and relentless hard work.  
Inspire me by your example.  
Be my teacher,  
and I shall take the best of you with me for the rest of my life.

—L. Reynard

## **3, The Fear Factor/Raising The Bar**

- \* Fear of failure is the single most insidious impediment to success.
- \*\*"Musicians are weird!" — I.R. Dumas
- \*\*"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

#### **4. PC's Allegro Guide to 24 Personal Epiphanies, Paradigm Shifts and Other Somewhat Useful Factoids.** (A "Reader's Digest" sketch of things I wish I'd known much sooner...and why they work!)

1. Great band programs are built one person at a time.
2. Know thy score.
3. Rehearsal planning.
4. Discipline and motivation.
5. Student leadership.
6. Use your ears: give the strobotuner a vacation!
7. Metronome or "metrognome?"
8. Expressive conducting. (Directors must practice, too.)
9. Sensitizing the ensemble.
10. The Rule of 21.
11. Laughter, the necessary ingredient.
12. Time management.
13. Chronic excusitis, the dreaded pandemic.
14. The value of "storying"
15. Sang, sang, ka-tang-tang.
16. Notes, notes & more notes.
17. Chateau Lafite Rothschild or Ripple?
18. In praise of praise.
19. Setting goals & surpassing them.
20. Life is not fair!
21. A daily "ear cleansing"
22. Self-evaluation : "Why did my evil twin appear on video tape?!"
23. Finding sources of joy and inspiration.
24. Enjoy the journey/taking time for yourself.

#### **5. Doing Good Is Equally Important As Is Doing Well**

The greatest good you can do for another  
is not just to share your riches,  
but to reveal to him his own.

—Disraeli