



## **Recording and Playback in the Band Rehearsal: How, When, and Why**

CLINICIAN:  
**Dr. Russell Gavin**

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## **Texas Bandmasters Association 2012 Convention/Clinic**



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# **Effective Use of Recording and Playback in the Ensemble Rehearsal**

*2012 Texas Bandmasters Association Conference*

Dr. Russell Gavin, Baylor University

[Russell\\_Gavin@baylor.edu](mailto:Russell_Gavin@baylor.edu)

## **I. What do we accomplish when we record our ensembles?**

- We provide ourselves with...
- We provide our students with...

## **II. What equipment do you need?**

- A digital recorder with immediate playback options...of course. Which one? Well, that information will be out of date by the time I finish typing this handout...
- Be wary of “voice recorders”
- Some means of playing the recordings back to the students (i.e. – speaker, stereo, etc.)

## **III. How do we record our ensembles? (Under the hood!!)**

- MP3 vs. WAV
- Quality of Recording vs. Size of File
- Mic levels
- Connecting to your computer!?!? (no fear ☺ )

## **IV. How often should we be recording?**

- The needs of the director
- The value for the students

## **V. When should we record our ensemble? When should we play the recordings for students?**

- At points that make sense pedagogically (obvious yes, but do we always do it this way?)
- If you are working on a particular performance concept

- If fine-tuning a section within a particular piece of music
- If you are nearing a performance
- All the other times that make sense...

## **VI. How do we record our ensembles? (Classroom strategies)**

- The process of recording your ensemble should become a smooth and effortless procedure. In order for this to happen, you **MUST** be familiar with your equipment.
- When you make recording something of “importance”, what are the benefits?
- When you do not heighten student awareness towards the recording process, what do you learn?

## **VII. What do students actually get out of hearing themselves perform?**

- Results of multiple studies show individuals evaluate recordings of their own performances differently than they evaluate their live performances (Gavin, 2011; Hewitt, 2001; Killian, 2001)
- Specific findings encourage the use of recording in teaching a number of musical concepts, while also promoting retention

## **VIII. How much is it? Who is going to pay for this?**

- The good news is that recording equipment has gone up in quality and down in price over the last 15 years. The market is currently filled with a variety of quality digital recorders that cost less than \$300.
- School technology budgets are often large and flexible. Tap into this resource! \$500 for recording and playback equipment is small when you compare it to \$125,000 for three computer labs.
- Classroom technology grants are awarded from a variety of sources. Do a little homework to see if your program qualifies for any local, state, or national grants. Technology does not just mean a computer! Recording and playback equipment will qualify in many programs. (<http://www.engaging-technologies.com/education-technology-grants.html> AND <http://www.technologygrantnews.com>)