



How Your Color Guard Can Enhance Your Musical Effect

CLINICIAN:

Stephen Howard

Demonstration Group: Bowie HS Color Guard

Texas Bandmasters Association 2012 Convention/Clinic



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**JULY 20 – 23, 2012
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

HOW YOUR COLOR GUARD CAN ENHANCE YOUR MUSICAL EFFECT

CHOREOGRAPHY

Questions to ask:

- What counts are accented or emphasized?
 - *Listen to the music first and figure out where the strong counts are in the phrase. These counts are the most important.*
- What is the shape of the melodic line?
 - *When you are watching your choreography, you should be able to see how the music matches it.*
- What is the instrumentation of the phrase?
 - *If the full ensemble is playing, then match that intensity with more color. If it is a smaller section, try taking some of the color away. The visual intensity should complement the musical intensity.*
- Where does the phrase fit in the overall structure of the piece?
 - *Plan out where you will put the big visual moments to complement the big musical moments.*

STAGING

General rules:

- If you have more than one idea musically, stage more than one idea in the color guard.
 - *Flags with melody, another set with counter melody*
 - *Weapons/Flags/Dancers, you can use different visual voices*
- Try to avoid passing through too often
 - *It is fine to do it, but a good drill writer will never have them constantly passing through the band or during an impact moment*
 - *Pass-throughs should be choreographed*
- Choreograph and stage transitions between equipment
 - Don't be afraid to use improvisation!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

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MANY THANKS TO:

Texas Bandmasters Association
James Bowie HS Band Staff:
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