



The Frenzied Instrumental Conductor's Guide to Score Preparation

**CLINICIAN:
Gary Stith**

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**Texas Bandmasters Association
Annual Convention/Clinic
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas
Wednesday, July 24, 2013 – 9:30 AM**

***The Frenzied Instrumental Conductor's
Guide to Score Preparation***

**Gary Stith, Clinician
Conductor Emeritus
The Greatbatch School of Music
Houghton College
One Willard Avenue
Houghton, New York 14744
gary.stith@houghton.edu**

What Every Conductor Should Know About a Piece Prior to the First Rehearsal

(Taken from the *Score & Rehearsal Preparation Worksheet*)

- 1) Background on the Composer
 - a. Dates & Locations of Birth and Death
 - b. Schools Attended
 - c. Former Teachers
 - d. Major Instrument(s)
 - e. Important Posts Held
 - f. Awards, Achievements & Honors
 - g. General Compositional Style
 - h. List of Significant Works
- 2) Relevant Info Learned from Printed Text in the Score
- 3) Duration of the Piece
- 4) Date of Composition
- 5) Tempi
- 6) Level of Difficulty
- 7) Unusual Instrumentation
- 8) Glossary of Italian, German or French Terms
- 9) Numbered Measures in the Score
- 10) Recordings Studied
- 11) Relevant Literature on the Work Studied
- 12) Overall Form of the Composition
- 13) Keys in Order of Appearance
- 14) Flowchart of the Entire Piece
- 15) Marked and Prepared the Score
- 16) Sang Through, Studied and Marked Each Individual Part in the Score for Phrasing, and Breath Marks
- 17) Seating Recommendation for the Piece
- 18) Percussion Parts Determined and Assigned
- 19) Solo/Soli/Section Parts Assigned
- 20) Errors Corrected in Score and Parts
- 21) Anticipated Problem Spots & Rehearsal Strategies
- 22) Memorized Key Rehearsal Spots
- 23) Practiced Conducting in Front of a Mirror

TWENTY Highly Recommended Score and Rehearsal Preparation Resources For Wind Band Conductors

- Battisti, Frank L. *On Becoming a Conductor*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2007. (10, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21)
- Battisti, Frank & Garofalo, Robert. *Guide to Score Study for the Wind Band Conductor*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publication, 1990. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14)
- Chevallard, Carl. *Teaching Music Through Performing Marches*. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, Inc., 2003. (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 21)
- Fennell, Frederick. *A Conductor's Interpretive Analysis of Masterworks for Band*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2008. (1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21)
- _____. *Basic Band Repertory*. Evanston, IL: The Instrumentalist Co., 1980. (1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 21)
- Garofalo, Robert. *Improving Intonation in Band and Orchestra Performance*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publication, 1996. (21)
- _____. *Guide to Band Masterworks, Vols. 1*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 1992 - 95. (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21)
- Girsberger, Russ. *Percussion Assignments for Band & Wind Ensemble, Vols. 1 & 2*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2004. (18)
- Jagow, Shelley. *Tuning for Wind Instruments: A Roadmap to Successful Intonation*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2012. (21)
- Lisk, Edward S. *Creative Director: Conductor, Teacher, Leader*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2006. (21)
- McBeth, W. Francis. *Effective Performance of Band Music: Solutions to Specific Problems in the Performance of 20th Century Band Music*. San Antonio, TX: Southern Music Company, 1972.
- Miles, Richard. *Teaching Music through Performance in Band, Vols. 1 – 8*. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, Inc., 1997 – 2011. (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21)
- _____. *Teaching Music through Performance in Beginning Band, Vols. 1 – 2*. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, Inc., 2001 - 2008 . (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 21)

- Neidig, Kenneth L. *Conductor's Anthology; Vols. I & II*. Northfield, IL: The Instrumentalist Company. 1993. (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 20, 210)
- _____. *Performance Study Guides of Essential Works for Band*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2009. (1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 21)
- Salzman, Timothy. *A Composer's Insight: Thoughts, Analysis and Commentary on Contemporary Masterpieces for Wind Band, Vols. I – V*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2003 - 2011. (1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11)
- Smith, Norman E. *March Music Notes*. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, Inc., 1986. (1, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11)
- _____. *Program Notes for Band*. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, Inc., 2002. (1, 3, 4, 6, 11)
- Stith, Gary. *Score & Rehearsal Preparation: A Realistic Approach for Instrumental Conductors*. Galesville, MD: Meredith Music Publications, 2011.
- Topolewski, Timothy. *Errata Studies for the Wind Band Conductor, Vols. 1 – 5*. Montreal, Canada: Plein La Vue, 1990-2007. (20)

(* numerals in parentheses correspond with those items on
Score & Preparation Worksheet)

Highly Recommended Resources on Leadership:

- Maxwell, John C. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1998.
- Maxwell, John C. *Today Matters: 12 Daily Practices To Guarantee Tomorrow's Success*. New York, NY: Warner Faith, 2004.
- Wooden, John & Jamison, Steve. *Wooden On Leadership*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Additional Resource:

- Swenson, Richard A. *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2004.

Recording at Beginning of Today's Clinic Session:

Flourish for Wind Band by Ralph Vaughan Williams (final A section)
Performed by the *Houghton College Symphonic Winds*
Brian Casey, Music Director, Judy Congdon, Organ
Gary Stith, Guest Conductor

About the Clinician



Gary Stith is Conductor Emeritus and recently retired Coordinator of Music Education at the Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton College in Houghton, NY. From 2002 – 2010, he also served as Conductor and Music Director of the Houghton College Symphonic Winds. He holds degrees from The Ohio State University and the Eastman School of Music, as well as the Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Administration from the State University College of New York at Buffalo. His conducting teachers have included Donald McGinnis, Frank L. Battisti, Charles Peltz, Arnald Gabriel and Frederick Fennell, and he studied timpani and percussion with Cloyd Duff, John Beck, John Rowland, James L. Moore, William Youhass, and George Ward.

Stith taught instrumental music in the Holland and Williamsville (NY) Central Schools for a total of thirty years, also serving as Instructional Specialist for the Fine and Performing Arts in the Williamsville schools from 1993 – 2002. During his tenure in Williamsville, he founded the Williamsville Concert (Community) Band and established the national Williamsville Commissioning Consortium for the commissioning of new works for wind ensemble. Past President of both the New York State Band Directors Association and the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education, he was the northeast regional recipient of the 1976 *ASBDA-Stanbury Award*, the *Outstanding Educator Award* at the 1993 World of Music Festival in Chicago, the 2003 Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra *Award for Excellence in Music Education*, and the 2010-11 Houghton College *Excellence in Teaching Award*.

He has authored numerous articles and penned chapters for the *Conductors Anthology*, *The Drum and Percussion Cookbook*, and served as Consulting Editor for a compilation entitled *Classic Beginning Solos for the Complete Percussionist*. His most recent text is entitled *Score & Rehearsal Preparation: A Realistic Approach for Instrumental Conductors* published by Meredith Music Publications in 2011.