



Chamber Music and its Multiple Benefits to Your Program

CLINICIANS:

Gabe Musella, Jason Smith

DEMONSTRATION GROUPS:

Spring High School Chamber Ensembles

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Marching Show Concepts

Texas Bandmasters Association 2014 Convention/Clinic



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JULY 27-30, 2014

**HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

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Gabe Musella and Jason Smith, Spring High School

- I. Student Development
 - A. Fundamental applications to preparing a chamber recital
 - B. Technical growth through independence
 - C. Musical growth through communication
 - D. Personal growth & greater confidence
 - E. Learning as an audience member at the chamber recital

- II. Why Mozart, Beethoven, Faure, Ibert, and Villalobos?
 - A. Exposure to literature by master composers
 - B. Greater opportunities to investigate the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Impressionist periods of music
 - C. Opportunity to delve into period-performance practices
 - D. Discover the music of 20th & 21st century composers who **DO NOT** make a living writing for band!

- III. The use of small ensembles for recruiting purposes
 - A. Having trouble convincing students that double reeds are cool?
 - B. Low brass ensembles and dexterity
 - C. Everyone is STAR in chamber ensemble!
 - D. Middle school and elementary recruitment

- IV. Increase student performance opportunities
 - A. School board functions
 - B. Holiday caroling
 - C. A PRISM style holiday concert
 - D. The PR Machine is quick and easy!
 - E. Do your own June chamber camp at home!

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Facts & thoughts that may or may not get discussed today!

We hold our Chamber Recital on the Thursday before the annual TMEA Convention. A performance evaluator is encouraged to interact with the performers at the conclusion of their performance in the presence of the audience. Number ratings are not given. **Appropriate dress is required and all student performers must serve as audience members at some point during the evening!** The choir room and black box theatres are utilized, and by the end of the night it is not uncommon for our top groups to perform for packed rooms with standing room only. An outstanding woodwind and brass group is selected in each band.

Our 2nd and 3rd bands mostly utilize homogenous choirs. In the top band we have had as many as three woodwind quintets and mixed brass ensembles running concurrently. 99.9% of our ensembles are pre-assigned. On rare occasions students are allowed to form their own brass quintets, woodwind quintets, and duets. The duets do not take the place of their primary ensemble responsibilities. Each ensemble has an assigned coach. Students are increasingly researching literature on their own and asking the opinion of staff members!

The Spring 1st band saxes, The Enigma Saxophone Quartet, performed at the 2013 Midwest Clinic and was the highest-ranking wind group at the 2014 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, reaching the semi-finals round. They won 1st place at the 2014 Houston Underground Saxophone Competition and placed 3rd at this event in 2013. The Enigma and Veritas Saxophone Quartets are both coached by Jason Smith.

We encourage you to investigate the following **small** sampling of professional and collegiate chamber ensembles for inspiration and ideas:

The Imani Winds, The Canadian Brass, Claribel Clarinet Choir, The Empire Brass Quintet, Angeles Saxophone Quartet, Boston Brass, Marici Saxes, Chicago Chamber Brass, Dorian Wind Quintet, Dallas Brass, New York Woodwind Quintet, Rhythm & Brass, Philadelphia Woodwind Quintet, Trombones de Costa Rica, Eastman Saxophone Project, Texas Tech Faculty Brass Quintet, Baylor Woodwind Quintet, The Navy Band Tuba/Euphonium Quartet, Tennessee Tech Tuba Ensemble, Eastman Trombone Choir

More importantly, have your students get online to seek these and countless others out! The whole point is for them to be curious and excited about the instrument they play. When this happens, great things happen in your band program!