



**Best of Both Worlds:
Incorporating Conducting into Your Teaching**

**CLINICIAN:
Fred Allen**

**Texas Bandmasters Association
2016 Convention/Clinic**

**JULY 21-24, 2016
HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

Best of Both Worlds

Incorporating Conducting into Your Teaching

Texas Bandmasters Association Convention
Thursday, July 21 4:30-5:30PM
Room: CC 214AB

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Conducting is often a forgotten component of the daily life of a public school band director. Teachers who conduct clearly and expressively can save valuable time and aid in the musical development of players. A prepared conductor-teacher exudes more confidence on the podium, not only in performance, but also in rehearsals.

This clinic will focus on reasons and techniques for introducing conducting seamlessly into the teaching process.

- I. Reasons directors don't place a stronger emphasis on conducting
- II. Identifying places to incorporate conducting into teaching
- III. Avoiding bad habits
 - A. The elbow hitch
 - B. Preparatory beat does not match tempo
 - C. Conducting has nothing to do with the music being made
 - D. Walking, bouncing or rocking
- IV. Reviewing the basics
 - A. Exercises
 1. Paint the wall
 - a. Both hands horizontally
 - b. Both hands vertically (together, contrary motion)
 - c. One hand each way

- d. Hands opposite orientation (h/v)
- e. Both hands vertical, l.h. fast/ r.h. slow (reverse)
- f. The BIG ONE! Both hands vertical, l.h. moves $\frac{1}{2}$ speed of r.h. (This is how the l.h. often feels in music)

2. Illusions

- a. pick up a big rock
- b. pet the kitty
- c. pull a rope to get the boat ashore
- d. press the door closed
- e. press down on the table
- f. toss away a dandelion in slow motion

- B. Beginning sound: the preparatory beat
- C. Ending sound: the release
- D. Changing tempo
- E. Changing dynamics (the four hinges)
- F. Changing style
- G. Cueing: how and when
- H. Subdivision made easy
- I. Mixed meter made easy
- J. Three main ways to conduct fermata
- K. Trust your instinct: conduct what “feels” right to you and for the music. You’re probably making a good choice!

IV. Specific exercises for practicing conducting

- A. Guess my tempo/dynamic/style
- B. The quarter-note exercise (4 quarters on each pitch of scale, conductor makes changes in tempo/dynamics/style)

V. Finding inspiration in conducting

- A. Videos
- B. Attend live performances by professional groups
- C. Attend and participate in conducting workshops
- D. Books
- E. Practice!