



# **What I Learned from Teachers and Mentors**

**CLINICIAN:**

**John Whitwell**

## **Texas Bandmasters Association 2016 Convention/Clinic**

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

# WHAT I LEARNED FROM TEACHERS AND MENTORS

John L. Whitwell  
Director of Bands Emeritus  
Michigan State University

## TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION July, 2016

“What I Learned from Teachers and Mentors” is a clinic which will be a detailed discussion about some of the great icons in instrumental music education – their education, influences, teaching philosophy and techniques, personalities, and legacy – along with many personal stories.

Each of us is a composite of our family influences, teachers and mentors, friends, and every life experience. The same is true of these exemplary iconic figures.

We all start our careers “playing the role” of the music educator, usually imitating our teacher. As we mature, we gradually discover WHO WE ARE and our teaching evolves to accommodate the greater life experience.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our profession could synthesize and assimilate what has been refined by the greatest among those earlier generations?

MAC E. CARR, River Rouge, (MI) High School  
Band Director and trombone teacher

Used the latest technology – StrobeConn, Dynalevel

Assisted with purchase of my first personal instrument

Learning by teaching, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Provided enrichment, such as William Bell (tuba), and Leonard B. Smith (trumpet)

National prominence – ASBDA

“If you want to sightread well, sightread often.”

ELIZABETH A. H. GREEN, University of Michigan

Studied with greatest teachers and performers in the world – Nicolai Malco,  
Ivan Galamian

Lifelong student, music, art

“Telling is not teaching!”

“You band guys are great at teaching the lips and fingers. When will you  
discover teaching the brain?” (Any tuning ritual must include singing.)

“Know your score, use your imagination, get it all to the tip” (of the stick)

Distinguished author and clinician

WILLIAM D. REVELLI, University of Michigan

Developed national champion high school band at Hobart, IN

Personally provided exemplary model on every instrument

His models were professional orchestral conductors, like Arturo Toscanini.

Founder of College Band Directors National Association 1941

“I never got Elsa to the Alter.”

“Will there be any music in heaven?”

Made an appointment to meet and welcome the new University of Michigan  
football coach, Bo Schembechler

H. ROBERT REYNOLDS, University of Michigan

“What does it mean to be musically educated?”

Creates a “vacuum” in the rehearsal, preparing the students to  
be independent and then expecting them to fully participate

Teaches by asking questions

An accomplished musician and conductor, and “he is even humane!”

Musical scholar, questioning innovator and philosophical leader

DALE CLEVINGER, Retired Principle Horn, Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Master performer, teacher and conductor

Student of A. R. Casavant, and drum major of the Chattanooga (TN)  
High School Band

Teaches by modeling

Asked Elizabeth Green for a conducting lesson

“What do players in the CSO want from a conductor?”

Does great impersonations of many professional conductors