



**Texas Bandmasters Association
Convention/Clinic July 26-28, 2018**

**Making the Big Band a School's
Best Friend**

**CLINICIAN:
Ronnie Rios**

**Demonstration Group: Rio Grande Valley Jazz
Orchestra**

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

“Making the Big Band a School’s Best Friend”

TBA Convention

July 28, 2018

4:30pm-5:30pm

Room: CC 217 ABC

San Antonio, Texas

Presented by: Ronnie Rios

The clinic will explore how the use of a Big Band (Jazz Ensemble) can help promote instrumental pedagogy, ensemble pedagogy, stylistic refinement and performance development in the band program. These concepts will be discussed and brought to life using the demo group-Rio Grande Valley Jazz Orchestra.

**Rules of Thumb: Never Rehearse more than parent group,
Once you say yes, do not cancel, Share w/Head Director group’s M.O.**

1. Instrumental Pedagogy:

- Airflow/Breathing**
- Band Face**
- Sound Concept**
- Reference Recordings**
- Rhythmic Interpretation**
- Reading Skills**
- Promotes independency**

2. Ensemble Pedagogy:

- Start with all playing full sounds**
- In ensemble, Performers must match pitch**
- Must match sound energies**
- Within section, Lead on top**
- Strongest Section in Ensemble cannot dictate Balance of Group**
- Not a chorale blend, Keep it tune-full, must hear melodies, instruments, colors/chords.**
- Left Side of Group people, must hear tune or rhythmic patterns**
- Articulations: tOH, dOH, tONE, DAHT vs. DOT**
- Releases!**
- Easier to develop/refine skills (listening, etc.) because of number of performers**

3. Stylistic Refinement:

- Saxes must have correct Mouthpieces
- Bring Brass Sounds from Concert Band
- Rhythm Section Tones must be Legit!
- Style not always on a judge sheet, but this makes the difference!
- Work the “Swing” Don’t give up! It is a legato expression. (Ooo-Va, Ooo-Va)
- Ballads-Straight eighths, unless Jazz Ballad-swing
- Funk-Straight eighths
- Latin-Straight eighths
- Warm-Up with the different Styles
- Secret Ingredient to Style: Listen to Tune, Position along with Tune, Play along with Tune. Repeat.
- Having a good sense of time is your foundation for Success!

4. Performance (Fearlessly)

- Let the bosses know your group is available
- Work the PR
- Attend a Festival
- Improvisation develops Creativity
- Ambassadors for School
- Invigorating, Exciting, High-Energy Music

The Rio Grande Valley Jazz Orchestra was founded in November 2017. Our purpose of the organization is to provide talented music educators an opportunity to perform in a big band for students and communities in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas to enjoy. The ensemble is comprised of almost all music educators who reside in Harlingen and Brownsville, Texas (no professional musicians participate). The group enjoys a 6-7-month season ending with a grand performance at the RGV Jazz Festival that sees over 25-30 area ensembles participate. All performances have been free and open to the public and have received overwhelming enthusiasm.

The Rio Grande Valley Jazz Orchestra will perform at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago this December 2018.

Tunes performed today include: “This Could Be the Start of Something Big,” Allen/Niehaus, “Freedom Jazz Dance,” Harris/Richards, “Hub Cap,” Rodriguez.

Special Thanks to: RGVJO Orchestra Members, Dr. Ramon Vasquez, Michael Corcoran, TBA, Mike Brashear, and Chico Portillo.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY JAZZ FESTIVAL
ADJUDICATION FORM

SCHOOL _____ CLASS _____ CITY _____

DIRECTOR _____

RATINGS/COMMENTS

Selection #1	Selection #2	Selection #3	Selection #4
<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Ensemble</u>
Tone/Balance/Blend + -	Tone/Balance/Blend + -	Tone/Balance/Blend + -	Tone/Balance/Blend + -
Style/Interpretation + -	Style/Interpretation + -	Style/Interpretation + -	Style/Interpretation + -
Precision/Articulation + -	Precision/Articulation + -	Precision/Articulation + -	Precision/Articulation + -
Intonation + -	Intonation + -	Intonation + -	Intonation + -
Rhythm/Time + -	Rhythm/Time + -	Rhythm/Time + -	Rhythm/Time + -
<u>Rhythm Section</u>	<u>Rhythm Section</u>	<u>Rhythm Section</u>	<u>Rhythm Section</u>
Tone/Balance + -	Tone/Balance + -	Tone/Balance + -	Tone/Balance + -
Time/Rhythm Feel + -	Time/Rhythm Feel + -	Time/Rhythm Feel + -	Time/Rhythm Feel + -
Style/Comping/Fills + -	Style/Comping/Fills + -	Style/Comping/Fills + -	Style/Comping/Fills + -
<u>Solo/Improvisation</u>	<u>Solo/Improvisation</u>	<u>Solo/Improvisation</u>	<u>Solo/Improvisation</u>
Woodwinds + -	Woodwinds + -	Woodwinds + -	Woodwinds + -
Brass + -	Brass + -	Brass + -	Brass + -
Rhythm Section + -	Rhythm Section + -	Rhythm Section + -	Rhythm Section + -
Score:	Score:	Score:	Score:

(Possible Points for each selection: 33, 33, 34 points if there are 3 selections, 25 points each if there are 4 selections)

SUMMARY _____

TOTAL SCORE _____

(SCALE I = 85 and above, II = 70 - 84, III = below 70)

RATING _____

ADJUDICATOR _____

The Rio Grande Valley Jazz Orchestra

Ronnie Rios, Director, *Harlingen CISD*

Michael Corcoran, Manager/Librarian, *Harlingen CISD*

Saxophones

Michael Machietto, *Donna North HS, Donna ISD*

Laura Benavides, *Harlingen South HS, Harlingen CISD*

Manny Hernandez, *Harlingen HS, Harlingen CISD*

Veronica Villegas, *Harlingen School of Health Professions, Harlingen CISD*

Maurice Hernandez, *UTRGV Student, from McAllen*

Trumpets

Dr. Ramon Vazquez, *Lopez HS, Brownsville ISD*

Richard de la Riva, *Harlingen South HS, Harlingen CISD*

Maria Coronado, *Harlingen HS, Harlingen CISD*

Melanie Kulaga, *Harlingen HS, Harlingen CISD*

Ricky Guevara, *Vernon MS, Harlingen CISD*

Trombones

Alejandro Cavazos, *Donna HS, Donna ISD*

Abel Garza, *Harlingen HS Student, Harlingen*

Noe Garcia, *Besteiro MS, Brownsville ISD*

Omar Blanco, *UTRGV Graduate Student, from Brownsville*

Jose Garcia, *Harlingen South HS, Harlingen CISD*

Jhonatan Padron, *Mission JH, Mission CISD*

Rhythm Section

Carlos Perez, *Stell MS, Brownsville ISD*

Ruben Reyes, *Harlingen HS, Harlingen CISD*

Israel Yanez, *Texas State University Student, from Harlingen*

Raul Liendo, *Harlingen South HS, Harlingen CISD*

Rob Larios, *Harlingen HS, Harlingen CISD*

Vocals

Anne Marie Boeding, *Harlingen HS, Harlingen CISD*