

Rehearsing To Get At The Heart Of The Music

(“not to make the band sound better”)

A Midwest Rehearsal Lab

67th Annual Midwest Clinic

Presenter

**John T. Madden
Associate Director of Bands
Associate Professor of Music
Michigan State University**

Featuring

**The Williamston (MI) High School Symphony Band
Lynn Kelsey, Director of Bands
Williamston High School
Williamston, Michigan**

1:10 PM

**Meeting Room W 183
McCormick Place - Chicago, IL
Wednesday, December 18, 2013**

Brahms, arr. Buehlman - Blessed Are They

Goal # 1 Establish the Purpose - *Get at the Heart of the Music* (plot)
Goal # 2 Involve Everyone in the Room (sub-plot)

Our Ultimate Curricular Decision - Choosing The Repertoire

1. What is this music about?
2. What is the composer's intent?
3. What resources do we have to discover the answers?
4. What is our approach?
 - a. Lips and Fingers
 - b. Objective vs. Subjective
 - c. "At the Heart of the Music"

Challenges:

- Line
- Arrival
- Connection
- Shape
- Listening
- Blend
- Tuning
- Meaning (Requiem)

Tools:

- Dalcroze method (connects music, movement, mind and body)
- Gesture (student conducting)
- Improvisation
- Air movement "hiss"
- Percussion involvement/creativity

A comparative view of “Objective vs. Subjective” rehearsal matters:

(“Science vs. Art”)

OBJECTIVE

Dynamics
Tone
Blend
Balance
Poor Intonation
Good Intonation
Rhythm

2 others

Letter A
Title

SUBJECTIVE (alternative method)

Color
Mood
Orchestration Decision
Harmonic Decision
Clutter
Sonority
Vertical Alignment

Payoff:

Better Listening

1st Theme
Composer

Obvious consideration:

Maturity/Task ratio

Ticheli - Fortress

Thoughts on Working with living composers!

1. Call them!
2. Email them! (FB, tweet, etc.)
3. Share your rehearsal recordings
4. Ask them how the piece came to be?
5. Discover the work's "essence" (profound/simple/functional)

Rehearsal Challenges:

- Image
- Character ("sinister")
- Mood
- Precision
- Energy
- Surprise
- Drama
- Tritone

Tools:

- Libretto
- Metaphor
- Analogy (maturity/task ratio)
- Cross breed themes
- ID sing
- Anchor sing

Williamston High School Symphony Band

Flute

Annah Duffey - 11
Kira Ferguson - 12
Winona Loewen - 9
Gwen Oeseburg - 9
Kirsten Pollok - 9
Rachel Rogers - 12
Bailey Steadman - 11
Calla Sundin - 11
Eli Yauk - 10

Oboe

Sarah Bonnelle-Roberts -10
Tori Manack - 9

Bassoon

Nora Graham -9
Brandon Watros -10

Clarinet

Jenniffer Blanton -11
Erin Deal - 11
Monica Haller - 10
Alexa Iannarelli - 9
Elizabeth Kusey - 10
Lara McLaughlin - 11
Emily Schneider -11
Abby Stampfly - 9
Sarah VanSwol - 11
JoAnn Wheeler - 9

Bass Clarinet

Jennifer Baker - 11
Sarah Hagelberger - 10

Alto Saxophone

Vanessa Cool -9
Maia Guenther -9
Rachel Harman - 9
Sean McGuire -12
Rachel Rewiako -11
Ryan Shane -10
Nia Terry-10

Tenor Saxophone

Kaitlynn Bauer -11
Wade Yauk -12

Baritone Saxophone

Lauren Carr -11

Trumpet

Jordan Hereza - 10
Alex Kemp - 9
Mitchell Loe - 11
Rebecca Manack -12
Jarod McAuliffe -11
Dustin Stevens - 12

Trombone

Ian Burke - 11
Landon Davenport - 11
Sara Harman - 10
Sean Johnson - 10
Andrew Keyes -9

Horn

Rachel Shane -12
Emma Sturm -9

Baritone

Andrew Lockwood -12
Tim Stampfly - 10
Jacob Topp -11

Tuba

Stephen Branch -11
Aaron Padda -10

Percussion

Jessica Glynn -10
Athena Jasman -9
Mitchell Rewiako -12
Alan Sleight -12
Marisa Sundin -11
Lexi Wennberg -10

Biographical Information

Lynn Kelsey is entering her sixteenth year of teaching and presently serving her tenth year as the high school director for the Williamston Community Schools. Previously she was Director of Bands in the Fowler (MI) Public Schools (1998-2002), the Portland (MI) Public Schools (2002-2003), and the Assistant Director at the Battle Creek Pennfield (MI) Schools in the 2003-2004 school year. During her tenure at those schools her groups consistently received superior and excellent ratings at MSBOA sponsored band festivals. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from Michigan State University in 1998 and her Master of Music Education degree from MSU in 2007.

Williamston is a mid-Michigan community located ten miles east of Michigan State University. Williamston High School has a student population of 660 and this year's Hornet Marching Band numbers 70 students. In addition to the Marching Band, Williamston High School offers Symphony Band and Jazz Ensemble. The Williamston Band has consistently received superior ratings at MSBOA sponsored festivals. Guest conductors, composers, clinicians, and artists who have worked with the bands include: Kevin Sedatole, Director of Bands, John T. Madden, Associate Director of Bands, and Cormac Cannon, Assistant Director of Bands, from Michigan State University, as well as marimba soloist Gwendolyn Burgett and composer John Mackey.

John T. Madden is serving his 25th year as Associate Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music in the College of Music at Michigan State University. Madden is Director of the Spartan Marching Band, and Conductor of the MSU Symphony Band. He is a frequent guest conductor of the MSU Wind Symphony and Chamber Winds. Additionally, Professor Madden teaches advanced instrumental conducting at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has previously taught courses on marching band techniques. As Director of the Spartan Athletic Bands, Madden supervises all aspects of the Spartan Brass.

Prior to coming to MSU, Madden served as Associate Director of Bands at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He received his master of music education (MME) and masters of wind conducting degrees (MM) from Wichita State University, where he also served as Graduate Teaching Assistant to the University Bands. Madden is a 1985 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Music, where he received his bachelor of music education (BME) degree. His primary conducting teachers and influences include Stanley DeRusha, Richard Blatti, Eugene Corporan, Myles Mazur, and Jay Decker. Madden was chosen twice to participate in the "Rocky Mountain Retreat" for wind conductors, led by H. Robert Reynolds.

Madden is active throughout the nation as a guest conductor and conducting clinician, and has conducted MSU ensembles at state, regional, and national conventions, conferences and symposiums. In December of 2004, he presented a clinic session at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, entitled "From Carnegie Hall to the 50-yard line: Approaching Concert and Marching Ensembles with the same vision." He has presented similar clinics at both the National College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Athletic Bands Symposium as well as at the Michigan Music Conference (MMC). In 2000, the MSU Symphony Band was selected to perform at the North Central Divisional Conference of the CBDNA in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. In 2011, the MSU Symphony Band was chosen to perform at the MMC at DeVos Hall in Grand Rapids. In the summer, Madden is the resident conductor of the Symphony Band at the New England Music Camp in Sidney, Maine.

Madden is a member of the College Band Directors National Association and has served that organization as the state of Michigan chair and chair of the Athletic Bands Committee. He is a member of the Big Ten Band Directors Association, and is a past national vice-president for professional relations, and past north central district governor of Kappa Kappa Psi, the national honorary band service fraternity. He also holds honorary membership in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, Tau Beta Sigma, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and the Golden Key Honor Society. He was inducted into the prestigious American Bandmasters Association in March of 2008.