

66<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Clinic

Chicago, IL

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4:30 PM



# Leading the Way

Band: Academic or Activity?

William Eicher, Clinician  
Clarence, New York

Assisted by  
The Clarence Wind Ensemble

# Leading the Way – Band: Academic or Activity?

## *Clinic Outline*

### **Educate or Advocate? Guiding People to Make Informed Decisions**

- Parents, Administrators, Board of Education, Faculty

### **The Nuts & Bolts**

- 60 -90 Minutes in Length
- Arrange Seating Around the Ensemble
- Send Out Invitations with an R.S.V.P.
- Script Your Session
- Annual Presentation

### **Choosing a Topic - Questions to Ask About Your Program**

- Is your program recognized as being only a competitive activity?
- Is your program considered to be a part of the academic offerings?
- Does your audience expect you to play pops literature?
- Do your parents/administrators understand why you select certain repertoire?
- Do your parents/administrators know the difference between an excellent performance and a mediocre performance?
- What does it mean to play “in-tune” and/or what does an “out of tune” band sound like?
- Why is the language of music important?

### **Greek Philosophy**

- Astronomy was seen as the study of relationships between observable, permanent, external objects.
- Music was seen as the study of relationships between invisible, internal, hidden objects.

“Music is part of the human spirit, an unquenchable expression of who we are.  
Music is one of the ways in which we say, I am alive, and my life has meaning.”

-Karl Paulnack

## The Theory of Multiple Intelligences – Howard Gardner

- Musical
- Logical-Mathematical
- Linguistic
- Spatial
- Bodily Kinesthetic
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal
- Naturalist & Existential

**Interpersonal** – working cooperatively in a group through effective, clear and specific verbal/non-verbal communication with sensitivity to other’s moods, temperaments and feelings.

Our job is to shape perceptions about ensemble quality during rehearsals

### Examples

- Right and Wrong Balance
- Give and Take Between Groups and Individuals

### Losing Your Identity – Three Questions to Ask

1. Am I In Balance?
2. Am I In Tune?
3. Am I Matching Tone Quality?

### Examples

- Unisons and Octaves
- Full Ensemble to Sections

### Expressive Phrasing, Dynamics, and Articulation

- *March of the Belgian Paratroopers*
- *Song for Japan*

### Cooperative Learning and Organizational Skills

- Matching Vibrato

**Intrapersonal** – is the introspection and awareness of internal aspects of self. This includes awareness of one’s own feelings, intuitions, and thinking process; the recognition and control of our thinking as we perform specific tasks, and the employment of this realization to control what we are doing. This process is termed *metacognition*. Instrumental teaching techniques deal with this concept formation, especially when presenting tone quality, phrasing, and expression.

#### Examples

- *Irish Tune from County Derry*
- *A Movement for Rosa*

**Bodily Kinesthetic** - is the control of one’s body, objects, and the timing of trained responses that function like reflexes with a mind-body connection.

#### Examples

- Five Note Patterns - Slur Two Tongue Two
- Melodic Minor Scales
- *Pas Redouble*

**Logical Mathematical** – is the involvement of precision counting, abstract thought, organization, and logical structure. To solve musically complex problems one needs the ability to see relationships in rhythmic, harmonic and melodic patterns, to predict outcomes by understanding process, and draw logical conclusions.

#### Examples

- *Postcard*
- *Salvation Is Created*

#### **In Layman’s Terms - Mike Huckabee**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpnoY0Q55I8>

#### **95% of America is Beautiful**

Music demands perfection. We never get there,  
but along the way we discover excellence.

We, as directors and conductors, have the opportunity to shape beauty, compassion, appreciation, warmth, love, self-esteem, cooperation, kindness, and respect. These are but a few of the "living or life priorities" that are hidden in the study of music.

-Edward Lisk

## Additional Presentation Topics Suggested by Ed Lisk

Elementary Band: The Beginning of Artistic Thought

Elementary Band: The Musical Sounds of Reading, Math, and Science

Beginning Band: My First Story (March, Folk Song, Overture)

Middle School Band: Expressing Standards of Excellence

Listening to the Mystery of Music (phrasing and expression)

Artistic Thought & Expression: Sensitive to the Details!

Skill Development: Surgeon or Musician

Musical Performance: Integrated Thought and Action

Imagining and Creating Through Musical Sounds

Is Music Performance Important?

The World of Music: Life-long Learning

Music Performance: Beyond the Notation

Music Literature that Defines a Curriculum

## Resources

### **The Creative Director Series by Edward Lisk**

Published by Meredith Music Publications

Alternative Rehearsal Techniques

Intangibles of Musical Performance

Conductor, Teacher, Leader

The Musical Mind of the Creative Director

Lyrical Conducting: A New Dimension in Expressive Musicianship (avail. Jan. 2013)

## **About the Clinician:**

William Eicher is presently in his seventeenth year at Clarence Central High School where he serves as conductor of the Wind Ensemble and District Coordinator of Music. His duties also include teaching lessons, directing the Jazz Ensemble, and Pit Orchestra. Prior to his appointment at Clarence, he taught for eleven years in Plainwell, Michigan.

In 2010-2011 Mr. Eicher was awarded the New York State Band Directors Association's (NYSBDA) Richard H. Snook Outstanding Band Director Award. He has also received the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence Award (2003 & 2009), and was honored by School Band & Orchestra magazine as one of the "50 Directors Who Make a Difference"(2003), and the Plainwell Community Schools Award of Merit (1994).

Under Mr. Eicher's leadership, the Clarence Wind Ensemble has performed at major conventions including the Midwest Clinic (2003 & 2009), NYSBDA Winter Symposium (2005), New York State School Board Association Convention (2001), and the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Winter Conference (1999). In 2012 the Wind Ensemble was one of the featured groups in the inaugural *Young Performers* series on WNED public radio. Mr. Eicher has been a featured clinician at state and regional conventions and workshops.

Mr. Eicher is a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, the National Band Association, College Band Directors National Association, World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, and the New York State Band Directors Association.

## **The Clarence Wind Ensemble:**

The exact origins of the Clarence Band Program are unknown, although an instrumental ensemble existed at Parker High School prior to 1946. Starting in 1951, Clarence High School was opened to replace Parker High School. As a result of Principal Eugene Small's vision for music to be an integral part of the education of the students at Clarence High School the district began the development of one of the finest educational music programs in Western New York.

National recognition was brought to the instrumental music program when Norbert J. Buskey became director of the Clarence High School Band in 1962. Mr. Buskey established the present Wind Ensemble, and brought guest artists to Clarence such as Warren Benson, Carl "Doc" Severinson, Harvey Phillips, Vaclav Nelhybel, Lionel Hampton, Clarke Terry, and Roy Burns to share their talents. Under his direction, the band performed numerous times at the NYSSMA Conference, the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) and the Midwest Clinic (1966).

Ronald A. Sutherland took over the Wind Ensemble in September of 1971 following a two-year period when Gary Good served as the conductor. During Mr. Sutherland's 25 year tenure as conductor of the Wind Ensemble the following conductors and composers graced the Clarence High School stage: The Free Design, Urbie Green, Donald Hunsburger, Vaclav Nelhybel, Karel Husa, Sigurd Rascher, The Rascher Quartet, Allen Vizzutti, Frank Erickson, Anthony Maiello, Rhythm and Brass, William C. Willett, Joseph Wincenc, Donald Schleicher, and Carl St. Clair. He led the ensemble in performances in Aberdeen, Scotland and London, England in 1976 and in 1990 in Graz, and Salzburg, Austria.

In 1996, William Eicher became the Wind Ensemble's fourth conductor. Following the traditions established by his predecessors, Mr. Eicher and the Wind Ensemble have maintained the tradition of working with guest artists. During the past seventeen years, they have hosted such notables as:

**Composers:** Warren Benson, Steven Bryant, Mark Camphouse, David Gillingham, David Gluck, David Maslanka, Stephen Melillo, Ron Nelson, Michael Pratt, and Persis Parshall Vehar.

**Conductors:** Frank Battisti, Harry Begian, Frederick Fennell, Donald Hunsberger, Tim Lautzenheizer, Edward Lisk, Anthony Maiello, Sarah McKoin, Jeffrey Renshaw, Mark Scatterday, John Whitwell, and Rodney Winther.

**Soloists:** Laura Aikin, Jim Akins, Sal Andolina, Mary Karen Clardy, Mark Babbitt, Robert Dilutis, Mark Fisher, Karen Futterer, Ken Futterer, Alex Jokipii, Peter Karau, Mark Kellogg, Alice Lenaghan, Chien-Kwan Lin, John Nichol, Jim Pyne, Donald Sinta, James Thompson, Brad Wong, Meridian Arts Ensemble, Central Michigan University Percussion Ensemble, Eastman Horn Choir, Rhythm & Brass, and Atlantic Brass.

Membership (grades 9-12) in the Clarence Wind Ensemble is by annual audition, and is a regularly scheduled class that rehearses daily for thirty-nine minutes. It is the premiere wind band of the district that also includes a Symphonic Band conducted by Lou Vitello, and a Concert Band conducted by Thomas Stroth.

The continued success that the Clarence Music Program has experienced can be attributed to the outstanding music faculty, the commitment and hard work of students, the support and encouragement of parents, the school administration, the Board of Education and the Clarence Community.

*Mr. Eicher and the Clarence Wind Ensemble would like to thank the Clarence Central School District, the Clarence Band Boosters, and the Ferguson-Stillman Charitable Fund for the financial support that made our appearance possible.*

# Clarence Wind Ensemble

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## **Piccolo**

Schupbach, Emily<sup>+</sup>

## **Flute**

Buczowski, Katrina

Johnson, Melanie

Scanio, Lauren \*

Schupbach, Emily<sup>+</sup>

## **Oboe**

Alberico, Gabriella<sup>+</sup>

Martin, Cailey

Rosas, Jordan

## **English Horn**

Martin, Cailey

## **Bassoon**

Barron, Jennifer \*

Rockwell, Emmanuel<sup>+</sup>

Tryjankowski, Alex

## **Clarinet**

Ansuini, Taylor

Chen, Allen

Christopher, Hallie

Corigliano, Amanda

Layer, Kathryn

McCadden, Meagan

Pallotta, Kayla

Perry, Lauren

Roberts, Caitlyn

## **Bass Clarinet**

Aumiller, Kevin

Berry, Rachel

## **Soprano Saxophone**

Saenger, Marissa

## **Alto Saxophone**

Eicher, Lauren

Redman, Taylor

Saenger, Marissa

## **Tenor Saxophone**

Swarts, Lucia<sup>+</sup>

## **Bari Saxophone**

Mayle, Zachary

## **Horns**

Bianchi, Gabriella

Boyer, Derek

Fasanello, Giovanna

Lombardi, Alyssa

Peters, Emily

## **Trumpet**

Bennett, Anne

Brodziak, Ryan

Devine, Kelsey

Klemenz, Madeline

Koeppel, Matthew

Lombardi, Joseph

Reed, Casidy

## **Trombone**

Knight, Mitchell

Viola, Alexandra

Wright, Sean

## **Bass Trombone**

Abt, William

## **Euphonium**

Lipka, Holly \*

Sebian, Mason

## **Tuba**

Dentinger, Erika

Marzano, Stephen

Mastrodomenico, Dominick

## **Percussion**

Acee, Jacob

Bonk, Samuel

Gardiner, Eric

Kohnen, Tom

Percy, Alexander

Weiser, Caitlin

## **String Bass**

Cassidy, Andrew

Saeli, Jacob

+ - Denotes 2013 NYSSMA  
All-State Band

\* - Denotes 2013 NYSBDA  
High School Honor Band



# Clarence Music Department Faculty & Staff

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## **WINDS AND PERCUSSION**

Andrew Bodemer  
William Eicher  
Thomas Furminger  
Christopher Gawlak  
Andrea Runfola  
Thomas Stroth  
Michael Vertoske  
Louis Vitello

## **STRINGS**

Nancy Benz  
Jill Fitzgerald  
James Ieda  
Doug Shaw

## **SECRETARIAL**

Cheryl Rollo

## **VOCAL**

Valerie Acee  
Jeanne Boyar  
Daniel Denecke  
Amy Fetterly  
Heidi Fors  
William Lambert  
Jennifer Mernitz  
Louis Shafer

## **EMERITUS FACULTY**

Ronald Case  
Mary Ann Endres  
Beverly Hurst  
Robert Lehner  
William Rich  
Michael Ried  
Ronald Sutherland  
Robert Vehar  
George Whittier

## **Acknowledgements**

Board of Education of the Clarence Central Schools ..... Michael Lex, President  
Geoffrey Hicks ..... Superintendent of Schools  
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Sharon Webber .....High School Assistant Principal  
Robert Coniglio .....High School Assistant Principal  
Cheryl Rollo.....Music Department Secretary  
Loretta Sarafin .....Photocopying  
Amy Rockwell.....Band Booster Co-President  
Colleen Weiser .....Band Booster Co-President