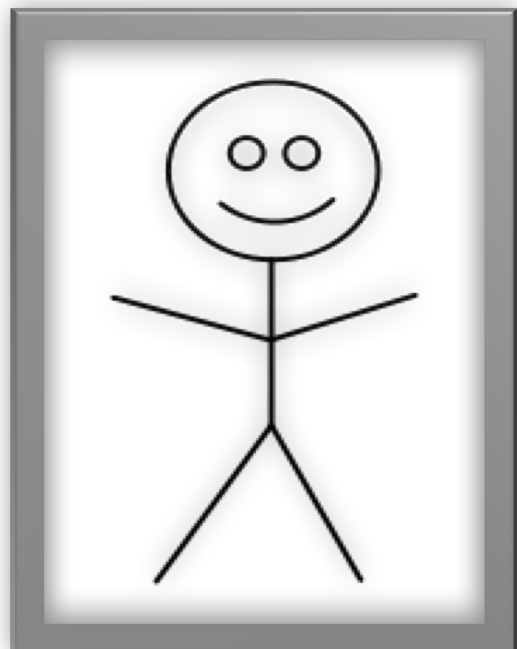
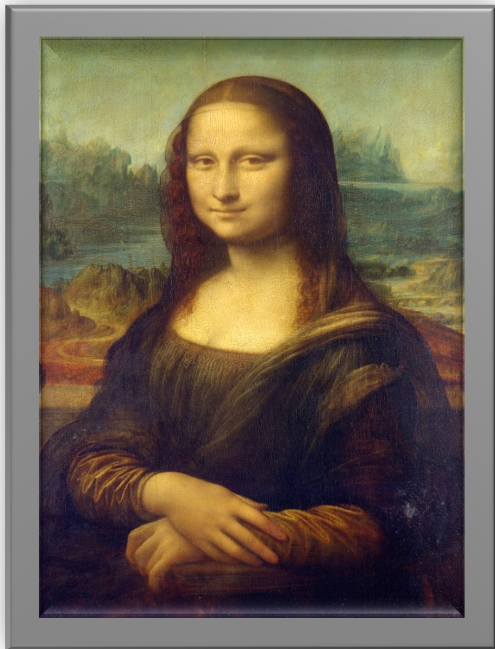


Why We Do What We Do:

“Creating Memorable Masterpieces
In a World of Stick Figures”



Joel L. Denton
Director of Bands
Ooltewah High School

71st Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic
Thursday, December 21, 2017; 1:00 PM

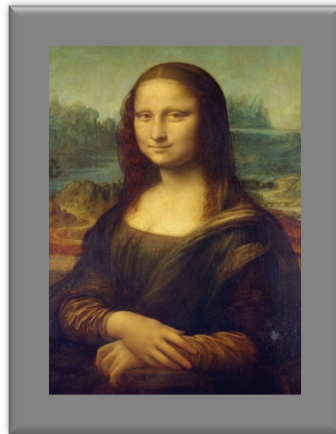
“WHO” - IT BEGINS AND ENDS WITH THE STUDENTS

- **Are we “Sounding and Clanking” or are we “Resounding and Ringing” in our relationships with our students?**
- *“No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care” - Theodore Roosevelt*
- **Trust Matters – You must earn this!**
 - Create “Covenant Contracts”
- **Respect** is a two- way street:

You can DEMAND it and they will respect your POSITION
Or
You can EARN it and they will respect YOU
- You must be a leader and demonstrate and teach leadership.
- *“Leadership is not something you do; Leadership is something you are.” - Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser*
- Great leaders produce more leaders!
- Ensemble is a French term meaning “together.”
- *“The ensemble is not about U; it is about a bunch of little u(s) – That’s us doing it together.” - JD*
- If you don’t teach them, no one will!
 - Teach everyday like your hair is on fire! – It’s your job!
- *“You must care the most, but you must create an environment where others may care as much!” – JD*

“WHAT” ABOUT THE MUSIC?

- Why do we accept stick figures when our students come into our room each day with the tools to create masterpieces?
- You just drew a stick figure when you had all the tools to draw the Mona Lisa!
- **Our students come into the rehearsal each day with all the tools necessary to create a most fantastic piece of art.** They have Tone, Tuning, Time, Articulation, Rhythm, Expressive Qualities - vertical dynamics, horizontal shape, the ability to create different tonal shadings through balance and blend, clarity through musical dimensions, and Technique. **Yet, many times we've become so focused on the product that we forget the art.** We think only about the notes in front of us and not what's inside and between them and the incredible opportunities for expression.
- **Let's talk about why the Mona Lisa:** How can this painting represent Music?



- **Melody, Counter Melody, Accompaniment (Rhythmic/Chordal), Low Tones**
- **Here are some thoughts on Producing Great Art through our Music:**
 - *“A Painter paints pictures on canvas, but musicians paint their pictures on silence.” – Leopold Stokowski*
 - Music should come from silence. Anything else is just added on noise. *“Control all the sounds in the room” – Alfred Watkins*
- Music only happens when the director and student are on the same page
 - You can teach notes and rhythms and still not make music

- **Three Levels of Performance**

- 1) Technical** – Play the notes and rhythms

- Technique. Wonderful sound. Not enough.
 - *“The most perfect technique is that which is not noticed at all.”* – **Pablo Casals**

- 2) Intellectual** – Teach how to listen and what to listen for

- Work to have students listen from the inside out
 - Teach historical context to better engage and enlighten the students

- 3) Emotional** – The emotional content of the music touches us like no other subject can

- Emotion: *“The longest, most arduous journey is from the head to the heart.”* – “Credo” - **William Sloane Coffin**
 - *“Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart.”* – **Pablo Casals**

- If you want your band to play with passion, teach with passion

- *“To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable.”* - **Beethoven**
 - *“You are the music...while the music lasts.”* – **T.S. Eliot**
 - *“Are you playing to be impressive or expressive? Play to be impressive through your expressive qualities.”* – **Richard Floyd**
 - *“The Band’s Sound should engulf you (listener), not penetrate you!”* - **Ray Cramer**

- Teach them to play their instruments, not just the music!

- This will hopefully cause them to fall in love with music and encourage them to play their instruments for rest of their lives – church, community bands, etc.

“WHY” - OUR STUDENTS ARE OUR REAL TROPHIES

- Love the students as much as you love the music
- Remember, we teach students how to play instruments and make music, but in the process we will teach them about life
- The more you give, the more you will receive!
- *“We will chase perfection, and we will chase it relentlessly, knowing all the while we can never attain it. But along the way, we shall catch excellence.” – Vince Lombardi*
- Never accept less than their best and never give less than your best!
- *“Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.” - John Wooden*
- *Measure your success not in the hardware that you win, but the in heart-wear you create. Hardware collects dust, while heart-wear lasts a lifetime! – JD*

WHY SHOULD IT BE MEMORABLE AND WHO SHOULD REMEMBER?

“There is nothing more important today than to find a way to be knowledge-based creative societies. My job as a performer is to make sure that whatever happens in a performance lives in somebody else, that it’s memorable...If you forget tomorrow what you heard yesterday, there’s really not much point in you having been there – or me, for that matter. Now, isn’t that the purpose of education too? That’s when I realized that education and culture are the same. Once everything is memorable, it’s living and you’re using it. That to me is the foundation of a creative society.” – Yo-Yo Ma

A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS FOR US – The Directors:

- *“The problem with our hearts is not that we want too much, but that we are satisfied with too little.” – C.S. Lewis*
- *“The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short, but in setting our aim too low and achieving the mark.” – Michelangelo*
- *“The proper rewards are not simply tacked on to the activity for which they are given, but are the activity itself in consummation.” — C.S. Lewis*
- *“The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.”— Kalu Ndukwe Kalu*