

EMPOWERING AND MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FEMALE BAND DIRECTORS

Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic

Friday, December 22, 2023

10:30-11:30am

Room W185

PRESENTERS

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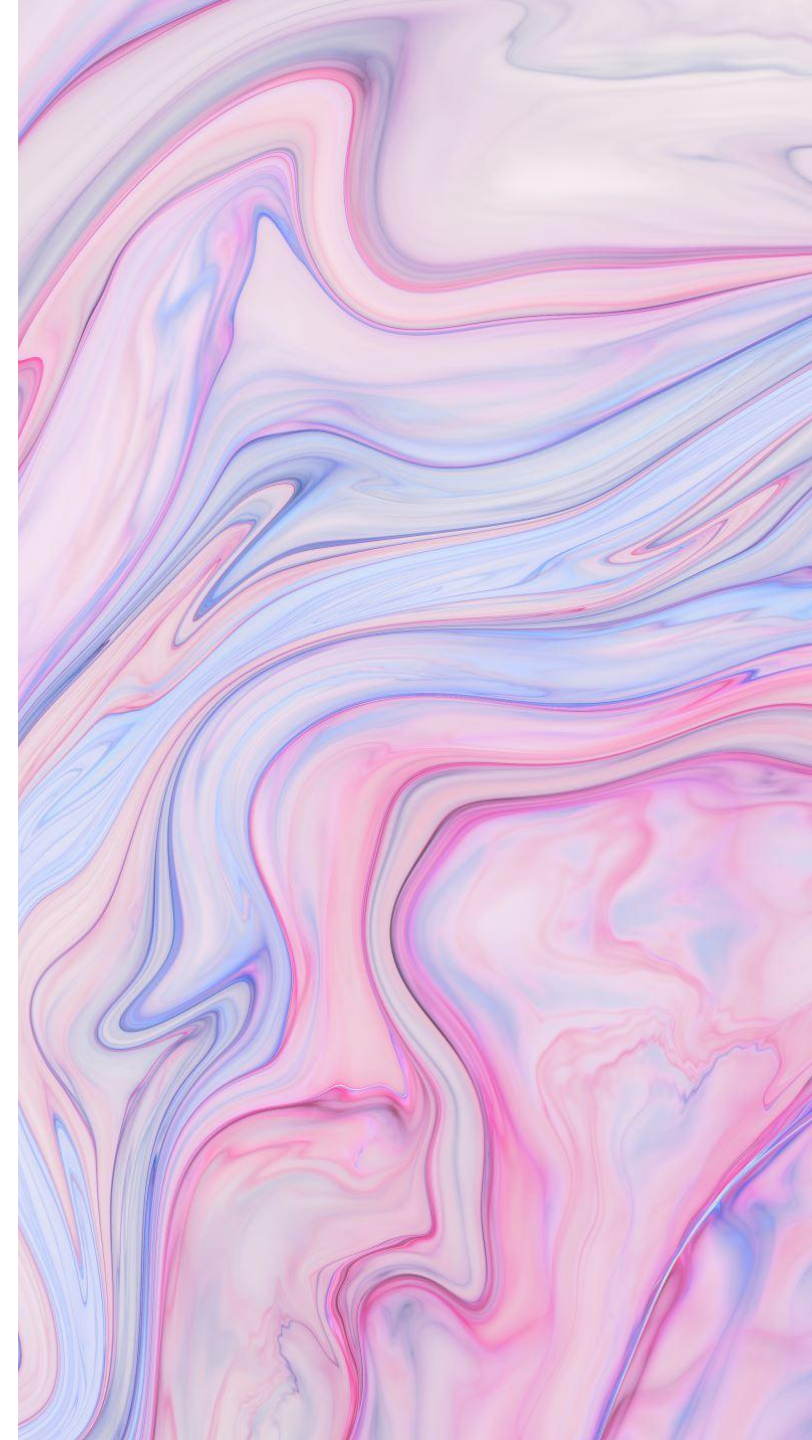
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PRESENTATION MAP

INTRODUCTION

**HISTORICAL
PRETENSES**

**MODERN
PERCEPTIONS**

**RECOGNIZING
CHALLENGES**

**EMPOWERING
WOMEN IN THE
FIELD AND
MENTORSHIP**

**CONCLUSION
AND
RESOURCES**



HISTORICAL PRETENSES

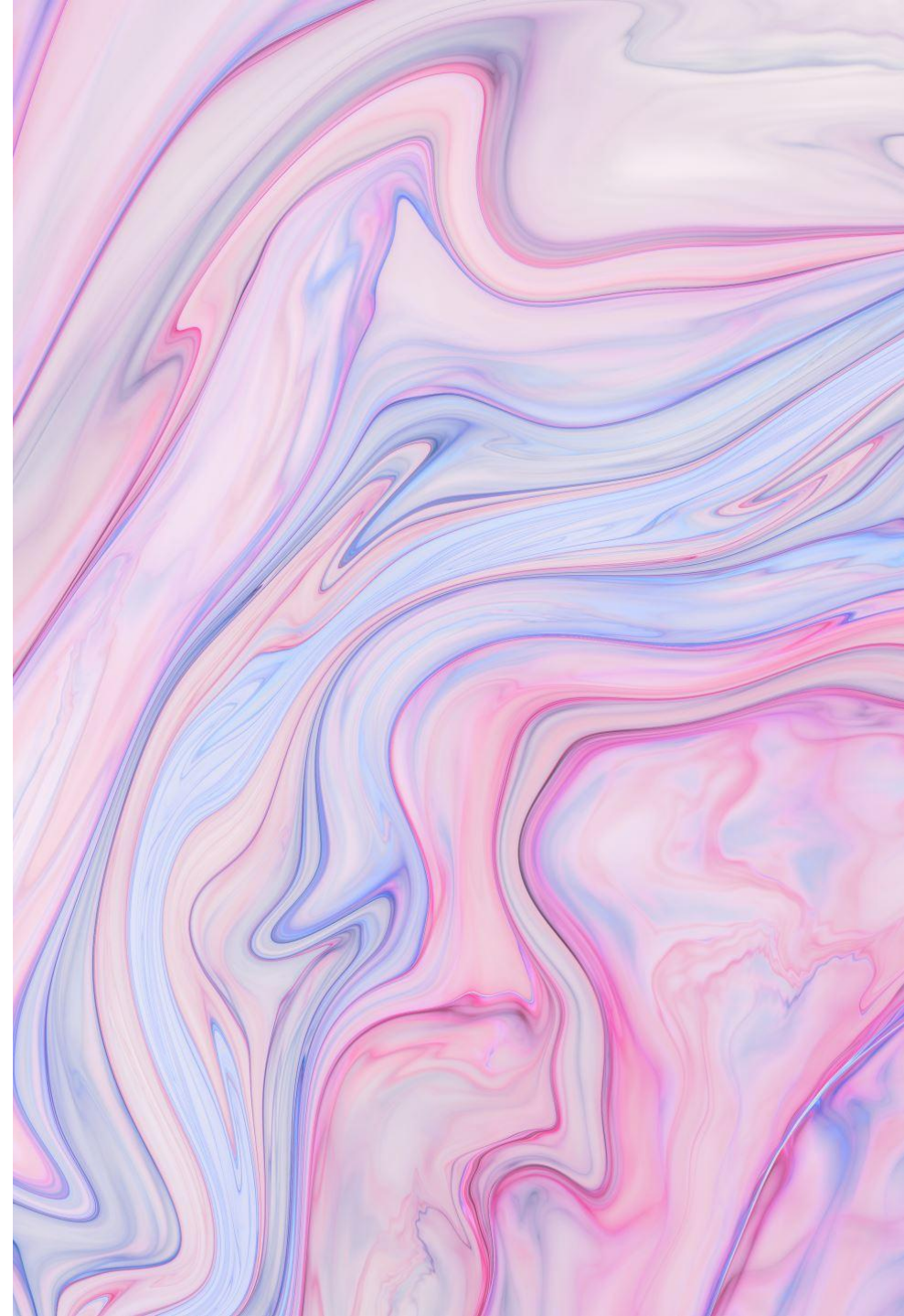
“I’ve been a woman for a little over fifty years and have gotten over my initial astonishment.”

- Nadia Boulanger

In response to “How does it feel to be the first woman to conduct the Boston Symphony Orchestra?” (February 1938)

HISTORY AND THE DOUBLE ENTENDRE OF BEING EXCEPTIONAL

- 18th Century and the Paris Conservatory
- Pre-WWII Expectations
- During and Post-WWII
- Title IX and Change in the Last 50 Years





"WOMEN WILL SOMEDAY UNLEASH THEIR ENORMOUS
CREATIVE POTENTIAL AND WILL EXCEL MEN IN ALL
FIELDS BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN SO LONG DORMANT."

NICKOLA TESLA

*" WOMEN PROPERLY PREPARED CAN TEACH
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, AND MANY ARE ENTERING
THIS FIELD AND WILL BE FOUND SUCCESSFULLY
TEACHING AND CONDUCTING INSTRUMENTAL
PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE. "*

WILLIAM D. REVELLI



ANTONIA
BRINCO



INA RAY
HUTTON



ELIZABETH
GREEN

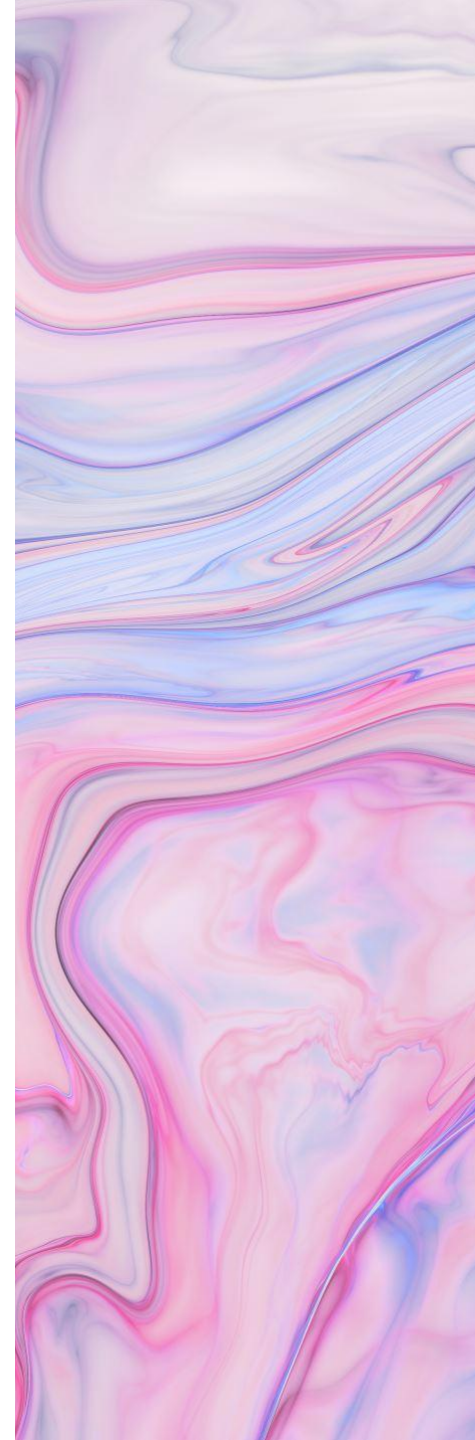


MICHELLE
RAKERS

MODERN PERCEPTIONS

FROM THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

- Did you have female band director in high school?
- What attributes do you associate with your high school band director? (both male and female)
- Do you view your director as a mentor?
- Did they have an impact on your choice to going into music?
- Would your college major choice be different if your director wasn't viewed as a mentor?



MODERN PERCEPTIONS

FROM THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

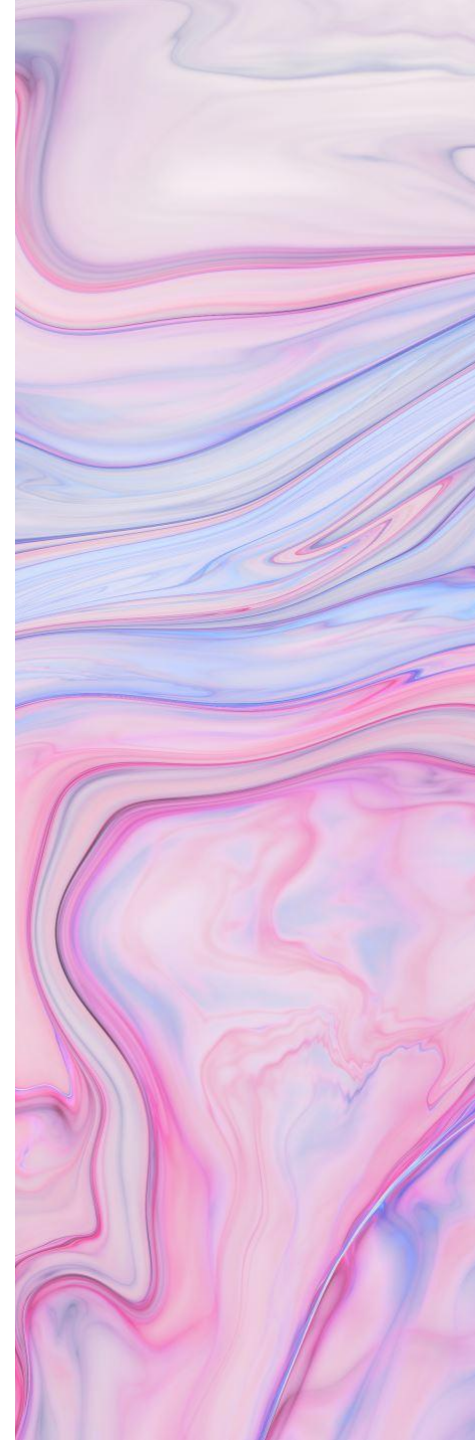
- Do you think your opinions on band education and your decision to go into music would be different if your high school band director had been the opposite sex?

I think I would have felt more comfortable going to them for advice and therefore have had a stronger foundation/background if my director had been female. I might feel more confident about my decision to go into music now.

As a woman, I have always thought out female mentors, so there's a chance that would've made a huge difference for me.

I feel as though music would not have been presented to me as a viable career for my level of experience had I not had a female band director.

I'm not sure if male or female would've made a difference in my high school music career, but having a director, who was passionate, compassionate, and striving for excellence, might've made the difference for me.



MODERN PERCEPTIONS

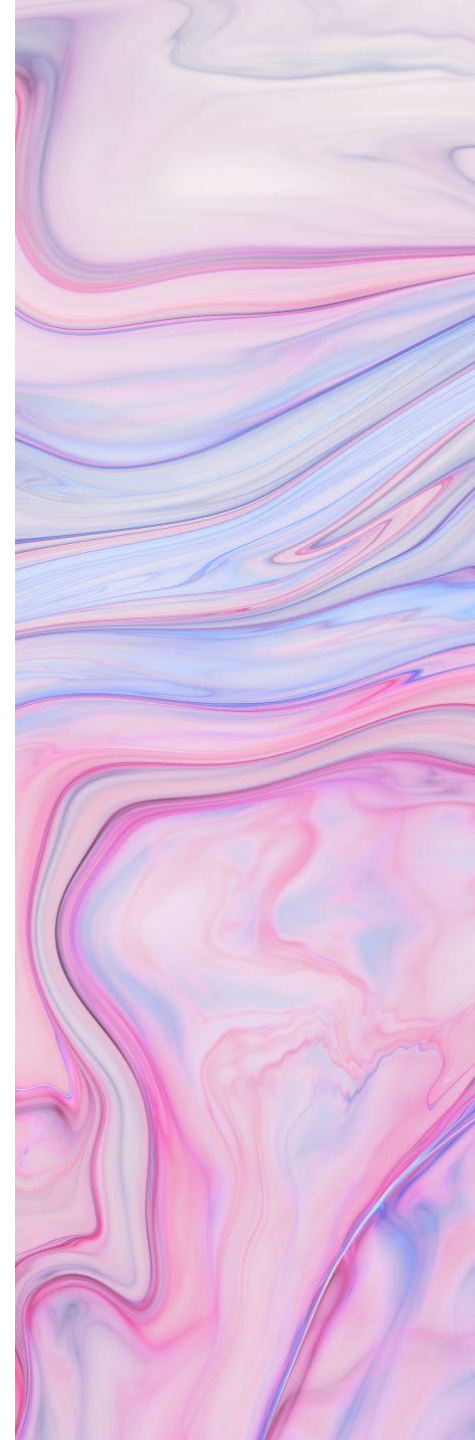
Having a woman as a director/conductor really helped me realize, “oh, I can actually do that,” because it seemed unreachable before. When there are people that you can identify with in your field, it makes it seem more attainable.

I believe that having a female role model in the field is vital, and my current female professors are role models for me.

I remember how excited I was to see a female grad student conducting collegiate ensembles. Her conducting was stunning and I remember how excited I was just watching her run rehearsal.

I think this is an interesting topic, there's such a stereotype that band directors are males and choir teachers are females. It is truly unfortunate because I remember students treating female band student teachers with less respect than males.

I believe that women in music leadership roles, have a special responsibility to be mentors for young female musicians, who are seeking out music at a higher level. There is no reason for an art form like music to be a boys club. As young aspiring musicians, you should seek out whoever you would feel most comfortable having as a mentor - but that means that there needs to be options and opportunities for both men and women in these leadership roles.



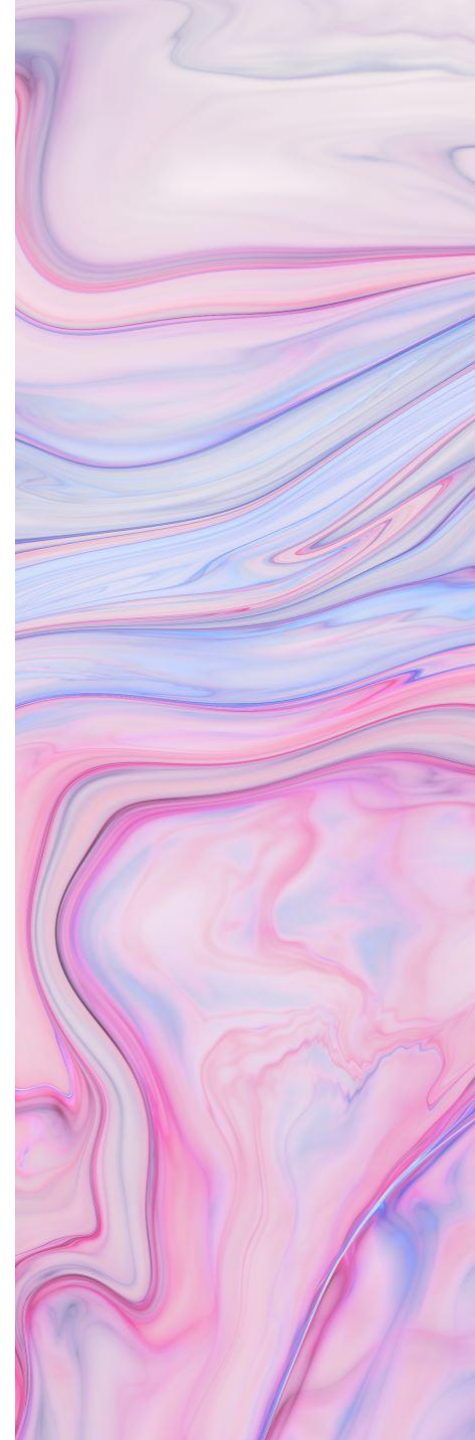
MODERN PERCEPTIONS

No matter the gender, if a teacher/band director can inspire and teach, then they will inspire a new generation through another student who will go on to do the same.

I came into music education deciding to teach middle school band, because that was the only place I saw female representation. I didn't realize this back then, but having all male directors in high school shows how male-dominated the marching arts are. After graduating, I visited a program with a female director and she was fantastic. She was so detail-oriented and had the most incredible ideas to make drill learning more efficient. I wish I had her while in high school because she was the representation I wish I had growing up.

Women face different challenges than men in everything, one field being education. Female teachers may find it more difficult to get respect from her students than a man might. This may affect a teacher's perception of her students. If I had a female band director, I may not have developed such a close bond with her, and the encouragement and support I received may have been different.

I see things behind the scenes and see the different dynamics that are between male and female band directors with other directors in the state. I see how female directors are perceived differently from male directors.

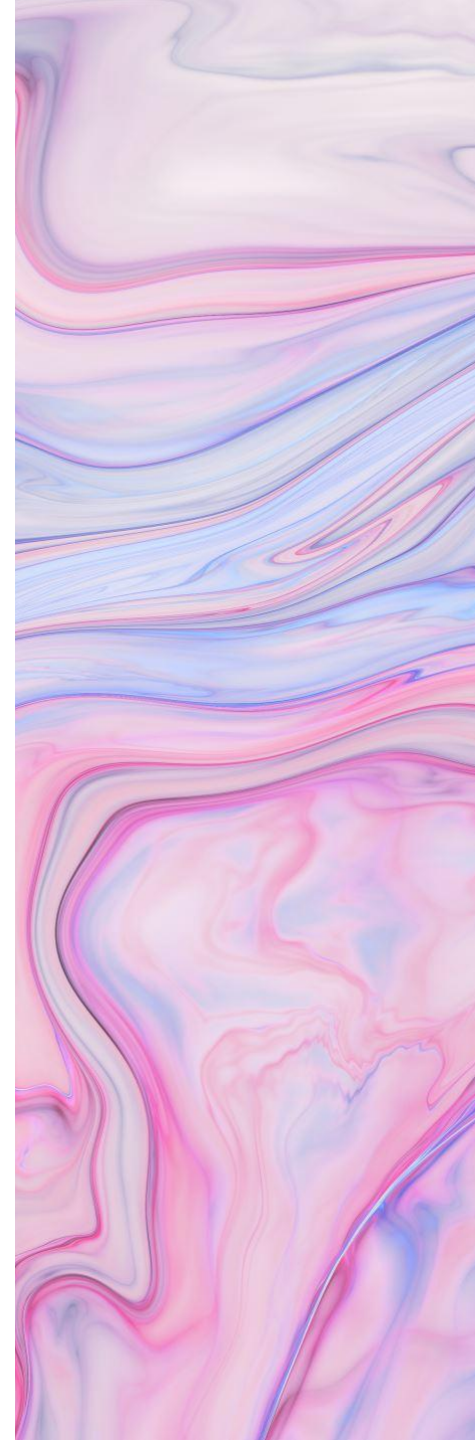


MODERN PERCEPTIONS

I think having all male music teachers and band directors throughout my time as a student instilled in me that there is a specific archetype of person that makes a good band director, and I never fit that archetype. Now in college I'm starting to learn that staying true to my personality, my approach to building relationships, and my style of teaching actually aids me in teaching rather than taking away from it. I think having a woman band director, whose life experience would potentially be more similar to mine, would have shown me that I could be myself and be great at this, and that changing myself to try and act like my male band directors wasn't the path to success I thought it was.

I feel as though music would not have been presented to me as a viable career for my level of experience had I not had a female band director.

I do think that if I would've had a strong female mentor as a band director that I would have had more confidence early on that I could also be a conductor/director. I did not play under a female conductor until my junior year in college in a graduate conducting workshop. I always knew I wanted to conduct, but I had never seen a woman in such a position of leadership, so I have in the past and continue to in the present, question whether or not I have what it takes to be an effective director/conductor.





"I WANT TO SUPPORT YOUNG GIRLS WHO ARE IN THEIR TWENTIES NOW AND TELL THEM, 'YOU'RE NOT JUST IMAGINING THINGS.' IT'S TOUGH. EVERYTHING THAT A GUY SAYS ONCE, YOU HAVE TO SAY FIVE TIMES."

BJORK

RECOGNIZING CHALLENGES

WHAT IMPACTS THE MENTALITY AROUND FEMALE BAND DIRECTOR?

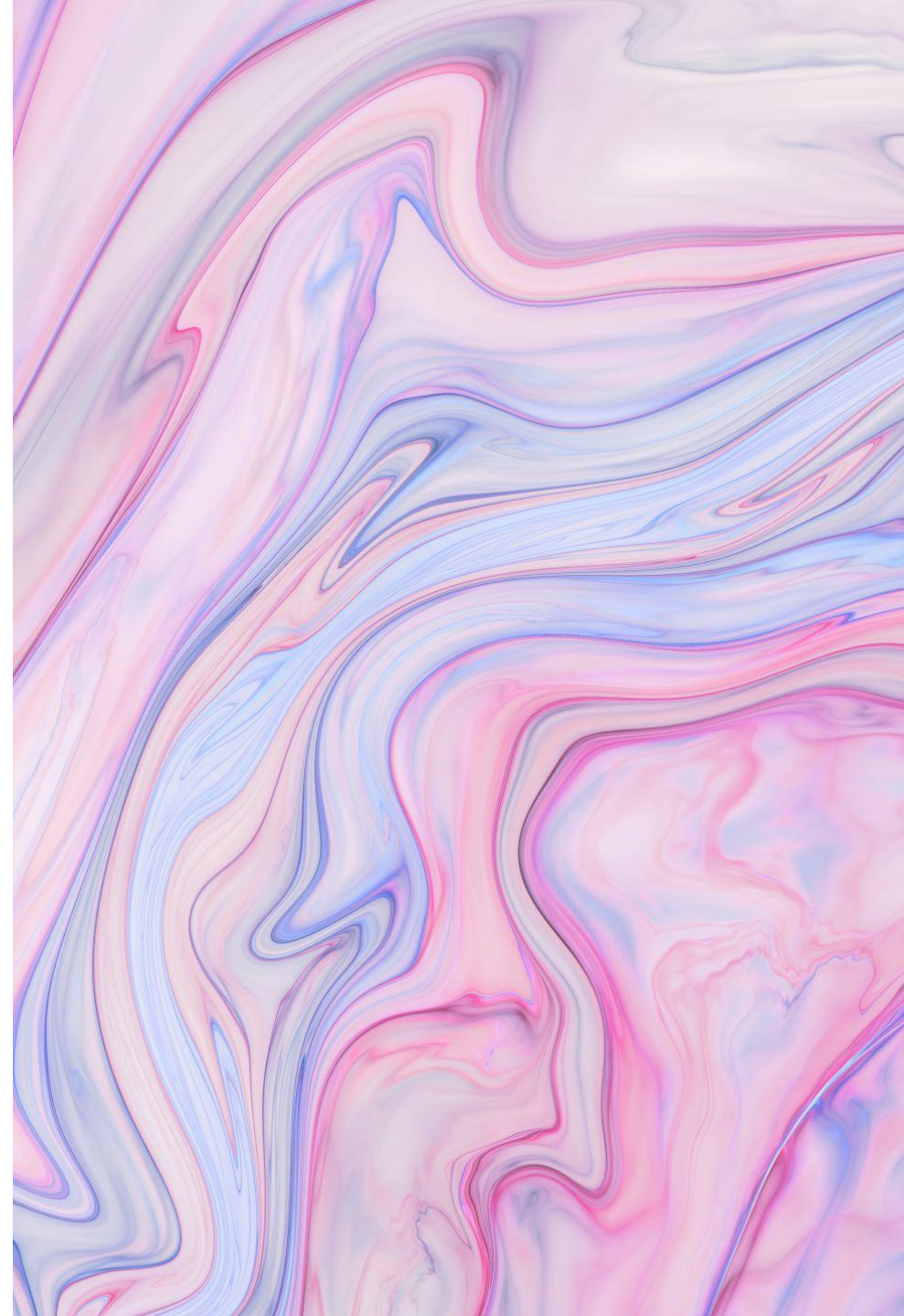
Representation

Familial Expectations

Demographics

Politics

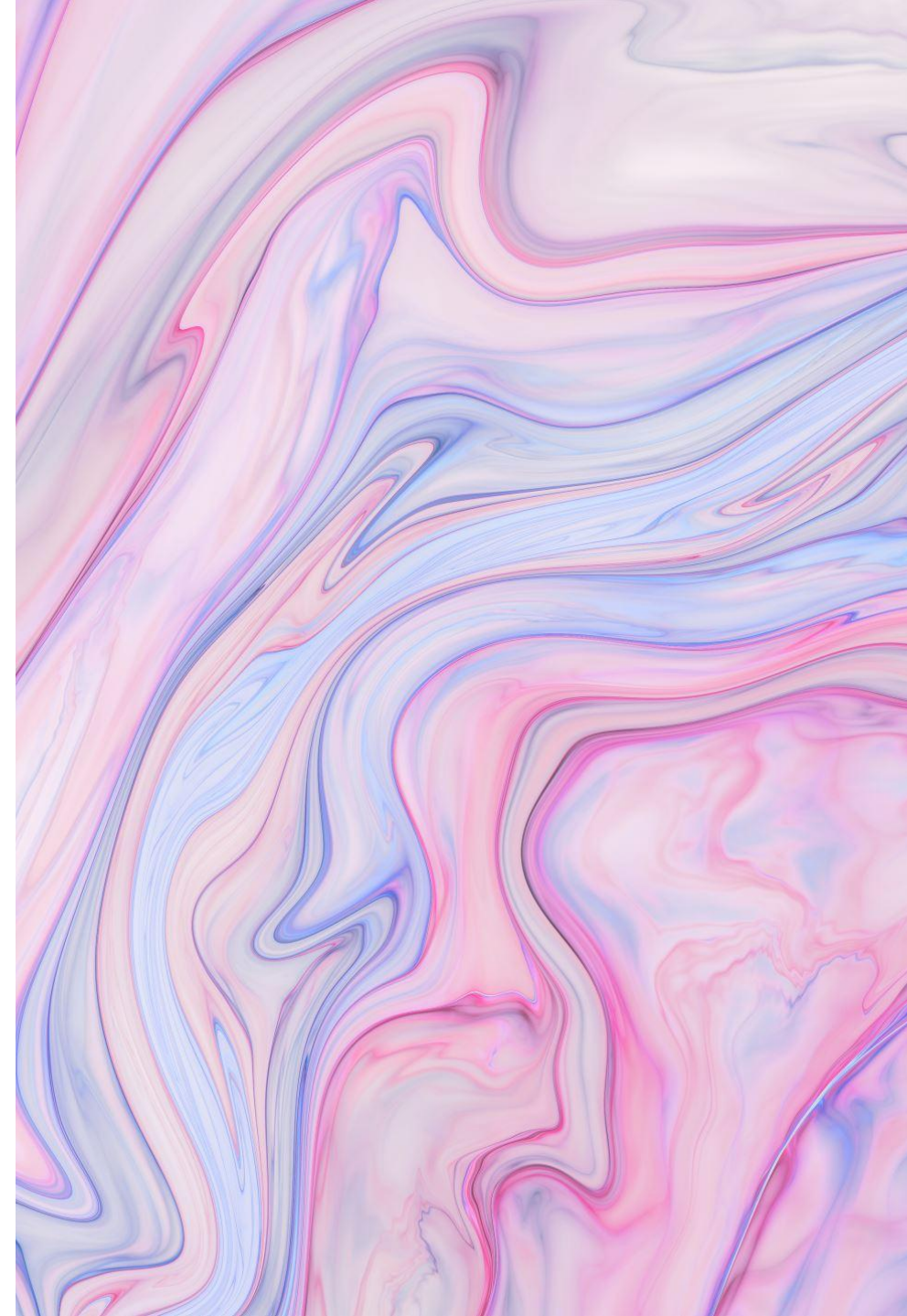
Stereotypes



MENTORSHIP

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MENTOR?

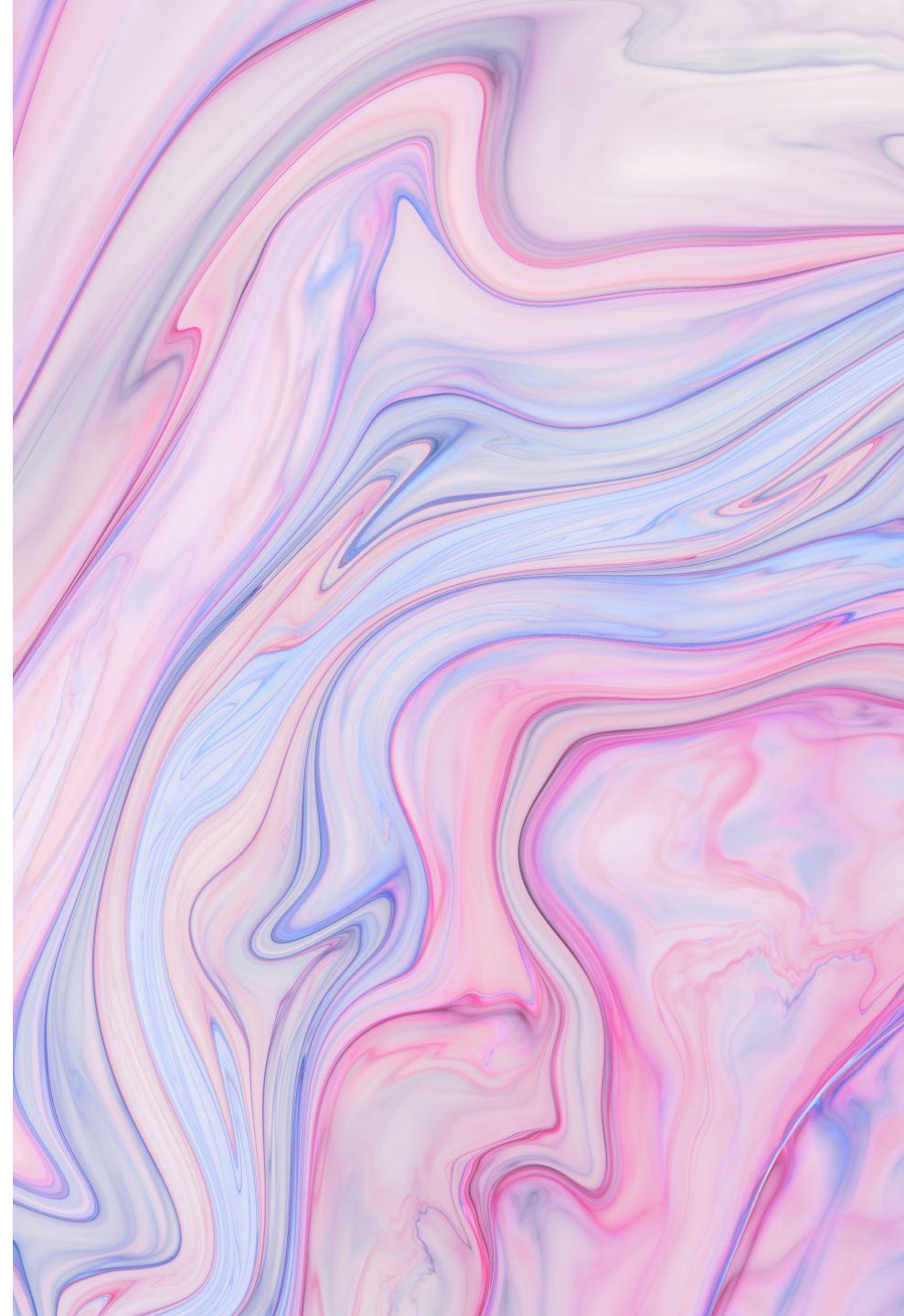
- intelligent
- enthusiastic
- passionate
- compassionate
- strong
- supportive
- knowledgeable
- kind-hearted
- organized
- leader
- adaptive
- creative
- learner
- humor
- in control without being controlling
- respectful
- fair



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE FIELD

1. Provide opportunities for young women to observe female role models and mentors.
2. Identify and explore accomplishments of women band directors, past and present.
3. Offer examples of band director careers and how directors empower creativity in others.
4. Provide hands-on experiences.
5. Encourage young women to seek personal development activities beyond your rehearsal hall.
6. Provide support in developing self-advocacy skills.
7. Distinguish between confidence and competence and don't lower standards.

Motivating Girls to Be Band Directors Begins in the Band Room by
Virginia Allen (2020)



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE FIELD

ADVICE AND TAKE AWAY

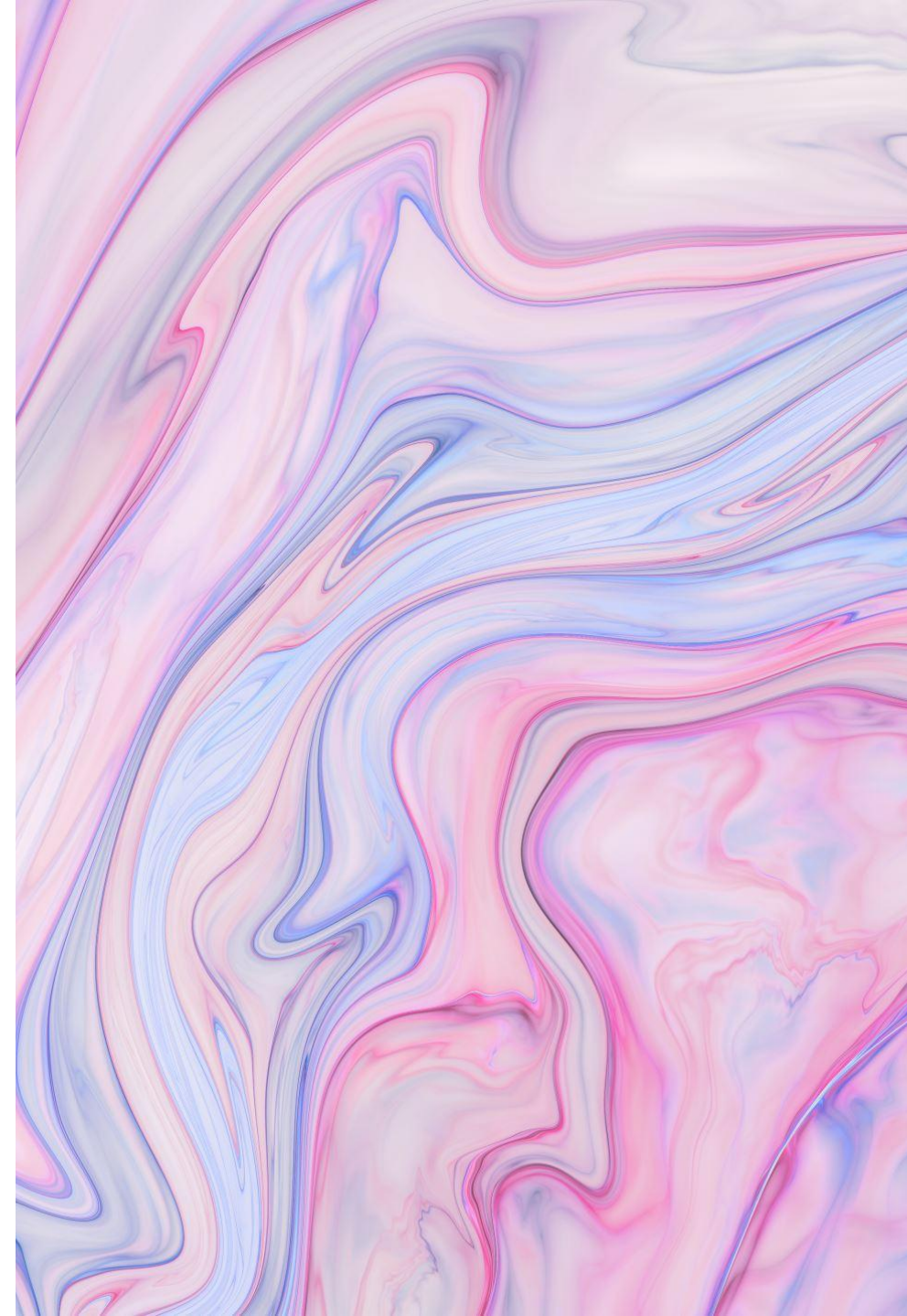
Tips & Tricks

Day to Day Practice

Community

Representation

Microaggressions



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE FIELD

RESOURCES

Women Rising to the Podium

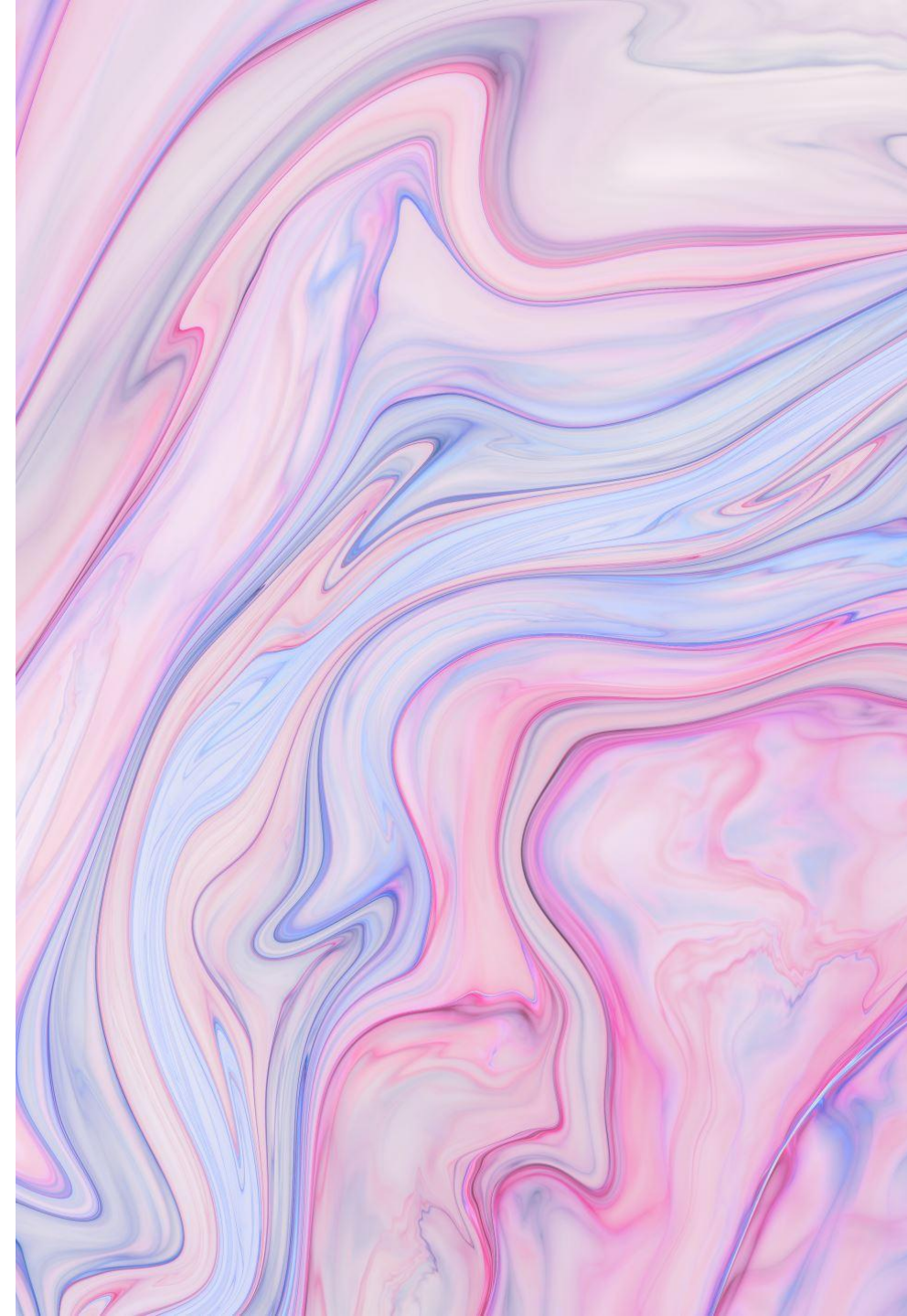
Girls Who Conduct

Women Band Directors International

Athena Music & Leadership Camp

Key of She

Social Media





Q & A



THANK YOU AND SAFE TRAVELS