



Better Hands for Better Bands: A Conducting Refresher

2025 Midwest Clinic International Band & Orchestra Conference

Chicago, Illinois | McCormick Place West | W187

Wednesday, December 17, 2025 | 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

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WHY DO WE NEED BETTER HANDS?

- Lack of experience/exposure/depth in undergraduate curriculums
- It can be a time saver in rehearsals
- Ability to connect with the music more quickly
- Conductor/Teachers are more effective when they combine clear, inspired physical gestures with accurate verbal pedagogy

SESSION GOALS

- Review baseline parameters for good conducting execution
- Isolate some common conducting pitfalls and identify methods for overcoming them
- Outline some of the non-physical areas that should be developed for more efficient conducting

CLINIC OUTLINE

- Stretching Exercises
- Posture & Stance Considerations
- Hand Position & Baton Grip
- Methods for Communicating Style via Gesture
- Cueing (Who, When, and How)
- Fermati Execution
- Incorporating Facial Expressions
- Establishing a Gestural Vocabulary
- Melding & Negating Beats
- Common Conducting Pitfalls & Solutions
- Bonus Advice for Educators!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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