

# An IDEA in Action!

*Composer Reflections on Their Journey to Writing for Winds*

*Featuring*

*Carol Brittin Chambers, Kevin Day, JaRod Hall, & Jorge Vargas*

*Gabe Musella, moderator*

**December 18, 2025, 8:30 AM - McCormick West 191**



**Carol Brittin-Chambers** – *"I believe that music for concert band should be interesting! Regardless of difficulty level, a work should exhibit qualities that make it unique...whether it is an intriguing title, memorable melody, clever use of rhythmic motifs, or even a compelling story behind the creation of the piece in the first place. Yes, it is extremely important that concert band music be written well (in terms of the nuts and bolts), but the inclusion of special, distinctive elements is what sets certain works apart from others."*



**Kevin Day** – *"I believe that music for concert band should reflect our world and the various lived experiences within it. It is an ever-expanding medium that can tell powerful stories, and its composers, conductors, and players have the opportunity to bring these stories to life in a way that resonates with the soul, allowing people to see themselves reflected in its music. The band community has always been where I've felt the most at home and what continues to inspire my voice."*



**JaRod Hall** – *"I believe that music for concert band should represent as many voices and experiences as possible; I believe that the concert band is a medium of music, not a genre; I believe that music written for this medium should incorporate any style, technique, orchestration, or performance consideration necessary to maximize the human connection to the art form."*



**Jorge Vargas** – *"Music for concert band should establish an emotional connection with the students. While I convey my thoughts through my music, I want the students to interpret my story in their own unique manner. Whether it is a fast-paced march or a slow, lyrical piece, the music holds greater significance for them when it resonates with their personal experiences and emotions."*

**This session is sponsored by The American Bandmasters Association**

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## The American Bandmasters Association

*Roy Holder, President*

The American Bandmasters Association, founded in 1929, with John Philip Sousa as Honorary Life President, recognizes outstanding achievement on the part of Concert Band conductors and composers. Charter members included Edwin Franko Goldman; Charles Benter, Director of the United States Navy Band, Washington, D. C.; J. J. Gagnier, Director of His Majesty's Grenadier Guards Band, Montreal, Canada; Victor J. Grabel, Conductor of the Chicago Concert Band; Albert Austin Harding, Director of Bands at the University of Illinois; Richard B. Hayward, Director of the Toronto Concert Band, Toronto, Canada; Charles O'Neill, Director of the Royal 22nd Regiment Band, Quebec, Canada; Arthur Pryor, Director of Arthur Pryor's Band, New York, NY; and Frank Simon, Director of the ARMCO Band, Middletown, Ohio. The current membership (invitational) comprises approximately 300 band conductors and composers in the USA and Canada, and 80 Associate Members. The first annual convention was held March 13-16, 1930, in Middletown, Ohio

## The ABA IDEA Committee

The American Bandmasters Association (ABA) commits to being an inclusive organization, honoring the diversity which represents excellence in the American Band movement, promoting equity through use of our resources, and building awareness of the critical issues facing our nation and our profession. The band world has changed since the ABA's founding, and as such, so must we. Through the work of the **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness Committee** (IDEA), the ABA aspires to build awareness, not only of excellence within our collegial ranks, but outside of our organization. The American Society is more a melting pot than ever, and through the American Bandmasters Association Commissioning Project, we hope that we can promote the diversity of our country through music of truly diverse composers. This effort provides tangible materials that will forever mark our place in history as an organization that lives by the principles of IDEA, gifting the band world with quality music!

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