

The 2014 Midwest Clinic

An International Band and Orchestra Conference

Chicago, IL

Innovative Uses of Technology in the Orchestra Rehearsal

Joe Brennan, Clinician

Meeting Room W187
McCormack Place West Level 1
Thursday, December 18, 2014
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Innovative Uses of Technology in the Orchestra Rehearsal

Presented by
Joe Brennan

I. Introduction

II. Hardware used in rehearsals

- A. Stereo
- B. Metronomes
- C. Tuners
- D. Laptop w/Remote
- E. LCD Projector
- F. Document Camera or Overhead Projector
- G. Mp3 player or iPod
- H. Miscellaneous – laser pointer, carts, keyboard, A/V selector, cables, screen (whiteboard)

III. Bring **YouTube** and other media from the web into the rehearsal room

- A. Using “Download Helper” with Firefox
- B. Using a download site: www.Keepvid.com
- C. Use a screen capture program

IV. Software uses in rehearsals

- A. Quicktime (Apple)
- B. PowerPoint (Microsoft)
- C. Audiation Assistant (GIA Publications)
- D. Tune Assistant (GIA Publications)
- E. Freeware Metronomes & Tuners
- F. Photo Media Display Software (Preview/Adobe Reader, iPhoto, Word)
- G. Countdown Timers

V. Internet – many great websites; see the list on the next page

VI. Conclusion and Questions

Websites – Links are also on my website: www.josephbrennan.net

www.airturn.com	hands free page turning technology
www.averusa.com	maker of document camera and other presentation equipment
www.artofthebow.com	great info for bass bowing; specifically the bow
www.bachtohealth.org	medical awareness using music
www.carynlin.com	great electric violinist who does terrific shows for schools
www.dolmetsch.com	theory site
www.emusictheory.com	theory/drill site
www.keepvid.com	website that downloads YouTube videos onto your computer
www.metronomeonline.com	an online metronome that also plays an “A”
www.musicianbrain.com	research center based at Harvard Medical school
www.musictheory.net	theory/drill site that can be downloaded onto your computer
www.practicesightreading.com	theory/drill site
www.sightreadingfactory.com	sight reading site
www.sharmusic.com	retailer for all things string related
www.stringskills.com	good general site
www.studybass.com	use the fretboard printer
www.teoria.com	theory site
www.theviolinsite.com	a lot of great pedagogical info with videos
www.toddehle.com	great collection of pedagogical videos
www.violinonline.com	good general site for violin
www.stringtechnique.com	String pedagogy notebook; great pedagogical info & videos
www.violinmasterclass.com	a lot of great pedagogical info with videos
www.youtube.com	videos
www.musiciansway.com	a great website for musicians
www.bulletproofmusician.com	a great website for musicians

Software List

iTunes	Quicktime 7.0 – free media player	Mira – program your Apple remote
iPhoto	Apimac - freeware timer and alarm clock	iShowU - screen video capturing
PowerPoint	Tune Assistant – from GIA	TapNTune - tuner
Word	Audiation Assistant – from GIA	TapNTempo - metronome freeware
Preview or Adobe Reader	Download Helper - free add-on for Firefox	MetronomeX - metronome freeware
Firefox	Perian- free flash video plugin for Quicktime	

Published Materials Mentioned

Fine Tuning – Kjos

Variables – Kjos

String Basics - Kjos

Company Listing

GIA Publications, Inc.

AirTurn, Inc.

Shar Products Company

AVer Information, Inc.

Clinic Synopsis:

Using technology in the secondary string rehearsal will improve your students' playing skills and make your rehearsals more effective and fun. Applications and rehearsal techniques for use of technology in the rehearsal will be shown throughout the session. Devices such as: computer, document camera, tuners and metronomes, along with various software applications, and websites like YouTube will be demonstrated. Setting up your rehearsal room and how to acquire these devices will also be discussed.

What will the audience take away from this clinic?

Learn how to use technology in your secondary strings rehearsal to improve the playing skills of your string students, increase their focus in rehearsal, as well as making your rehearsals more interesting, effective and efficient. Ways to set up and acquire technology equipment will be discussed. Applications and rehearsal techniques for use of technology in the rehearsal will be shown throughout the session. Three areas of technology will be demonstrated: hardware, software, and the internet. Specific types of hardware mentioned include: computers, metronomes, tuners, overhead projector, document camera, to name a few. Software to be demonstrated include: freeware metronomes and tuners, PowerPoint, Quicktime, word processing and other regularly available software applications. Several internet sites, especially YouTube, will be demonstrated. If you do not have internet access, or if websites like YouTube are blocked at your school and/or rehearsal room, you will want to attend this session to find out how YouTube videos and other internet resources can be brought in the rehearsal room. Many of the innovative uses of the technology shown, can be used right away in the rehearsal room with minimal expense, and with equipment and software that is readily available.

Is there anything else you would like attendees to know about this clinic?

This clinic is meant to inspire educators to explore and invent effective and fun uses of technology that will improve and expand the student learning experience. The collection of uses demonstrated in the clinic is merely a snapshot of all of the possibilities. Although this clinic is titled for orchestra rehearsals, it is not at all limited to that area; please share this clinic with all of your music education colleagues. And by all means, please share your ideas with me.

Some personal thoughts on this session topic

I have always enjoyed making music along with attending concerts and recitals, especially while I was growing up. What a treat it would be to play my violin along with my sister playing cello accompanied by my mom at the piano. It was enjoyable and fun. Since the music program where I teach does not have any pull-out lessons except in the beginning year, I have relied on private teachers and any, teaching techniques, gimmicks and tricks in rehearsal to enable students to realize the benefits of music making, not just socially, but also emotionally and cognitively. I have discovered that using technology in their rehearsals has been so helpful, since for them, each new technological gadget or innovation catches their attention and instills an eagerness to connect, belong, interact, learn and grow. Through the use of technology I have witnessed a closer realization of the benefits of playing music together for my students.

There are very few activities for students to join together in a collaborative, non-competitive effort that can bring such a fun-filled and truly humanistic experience that transcends all ideological, social and cultural barriers. If group music making has been around since the beginning of man's recorded history, then it must be something powerful, meaningful, and necessary.

About Joe Brennan:

Joe is the director of the string program at Haverford Middle and High Schools, located in suburban Philadelphia; a position he has held for the past 28 years. He directs five orchestras at the secondary level and teaches general music at the Middle School. In addition to his teaching duties, Joe is the Music Department Co-Chair for the School District of Haverford Township. While at Haverford, Joe has brought many string chamber ensembles and orchestras to perform at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) annual state convention. In 2006, Joe was recognized by PMEA with the Citation of Excellence Award. The Haverford High School Orchestra has participated in a "Side-by-Side" rehearsal and performance with the Philadelphia Orchestra, as well as having represented the State of Pennsylvania by performing in ***America's 400th Anniversary***, a national event, with President Bush in attendance, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in the US, namely Jamestown. Prior to coming to Haverford, Joe taught a Suzuki program in the Readington Twp. School District in New Jersey

Joe received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Music Education from Temple University studying violin with Julian Meyer while also playing regularly in ensembles on Trumpet. Joe is now a Doctorale student in Education Leadership at Temple.

Joe is currently the President of the Pennsylvania/Delaware Chapter of the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He has presented sessions at ASTA national conferences, Midwest Clinics, NafME conferences, as well as state conferences in Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, to name a few. Joe also continues to be a guest conductor and clinician for various string festivals. He has twice been chosen to attend the Juilliard School's "Conductors Workshop for Music Educators".

Joe is the former music director, organist, and choir director at St. Pius X Church in Broomall, PA. He continually performs as a violinist and trumpeter throughout the Philadelphia area. Joe is a former competing quartet singer and Music Specialist with the Wilmington chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). Joe lives in Hainesport, New Jersey with his wife and children and enjoys doing many DIY homeowner projects. Since being a kidney donor, Joe, has been an advocate for organ donor awareness.



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