

## **“Energize Your Program with a Commissioned Work”**

The Midwest Clinic

Friday, December 17, 2021 10:30am

Presented by:

Dr. Leroy Osmon and Stan Mauldin

### **(1) Why commission a work for your ensemble?**

- (a) The opportunity to have a work written for these particular students.
- (b) Have a work composed to fit your ensemble’s abilities.
- (c) The ability to have the composer visit your program.
- (d) Premiere a new composition.
- (e) Fill the need for special music for a special occasion.
- (f) When you know the composer the notes on the paper come alive.
- (g) Have your ensemble listed in the credits.
- (h) It’s Fun!

### **(2) How to find a composer:**

- (a) Ask a friend or colleague who has had a work commissioned.
- (b) Email or call a composer that you respect. Yes, they will email you back.
- (c) Attend composer presented workshops.
- (d) Visit Internet composer chat rooms.
- (e) Post an ad on social media.

## **“Energize Your Program with a Commissioned Work”**

### **(3) What is the process?**

- (a) The process is simple.
  - (1) Find a composer that you like and respect.
  - (2) Communicate with the composer.
  - (3) Talk with the composer about your students, their musical strengths/weaknesses/personalities, what kind of music the kids enjoy.
  - (4) Identify any possible soloist.
  - (5) Agree on a price. What does that price entail? Is the composer coming in for a clinic? Are you paying travel etc. or just the written music?
  - (6) Communication is the key to a great composition. Meet with the composer on Zoom, email and phone.
  - (7) What is the timeline for completion?
  - (8) For what event is the music composed?
  - (9) What grade level?
  - (10) How do you pay for the commission?
  - (11) What if you don't like the commission?

### **(4) Create relationships and benefits**

- (a) A relationship is created by the director and composer but also by the students and composer AND the parents and composer.
- (b) My students were excited to play a new composition ever year. They especially enjoyed the unusual harmonies Dr. Osmon favors.
- (c) Dr. Osmon is a Granger expert... so we played a lot of Granger.
- (d) UH Recording session of commissioned works.
- (e) From the director's point of view, the composers and the students.**
- (f) Expand your student's and directors harmonic language.