

The Midwest Clinic International Band and Orchestra Conference  
McCormick Place  
Chicago, Illinois

**S**ound

**M**usic

**A**rranging

**L**anguage

**L**eadership

**Strategies  
For  
Success**

Dr. Brandon Robinson  
Wake Forest University  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Dr. David Robinson  
McMurry University  
Abilene, Texas

December 21, 2017  
8:30-9:30 AM  
W187

**Band  
Programs**

## **SOUND**

ALWAYS insist on a good tone.  
Use a daily warm up and know your ensembles dynamic abilities.  
Blend and balance has a different meaning, focus on groupings not instruments.  
Sprinkle less experienced or more cautious players throughout the ensemble.  
It's important to stay close together on the marching field.

## **MUSIC**

LOOK at scores more than you listen to recordings when searching for music.  
Don't automatically leave out the lowest parts in multi-part sections.  
Make sure all harmonic parts are covered appropriately, not just the melody!  
Don't be afraid to hand someone a different instrument's part.  
Rewriting parts is worth it!

## **ARRANGING**

Feature experienced players with solos/solis.  
Don't write more than two parts on splits and use typical doublings.  
Fill out chords in other instruments.  
Alto sax and mellophone can be used to reinforce the woodwinds or low brass.  
Range and endurance should be a priority.

## **LANGUAGE**

Accept your ensemble for what it is.  
Have high, attainable expectations and celebrate meeting those.  
Don't be afraid to talk with your group about small numbers.  
Remind your ensemble that they put reeds on the same way as everyone else.  
Turn it on its head: use your small size as a branding technique!

## **LEADERSHIP**

You must make ideal leadership choices. Be creative if necessary.  
Give clear descriptions and expectations for each leadership position.  
Allow time before camp to educate your leadership team.  
Allow your student leaders to assist in the operations/teaching of your band.  
Don't assume you know what your students want...ask their opinion.