

Creating, Recreating and Consuming Music – The High School Band as a Component in a High School Instrumental Music Program.

**Frank L. Battisti and Tim Lautzenheiser, Clinicians
Thursday, December 20, 2012
Meeting Room 181 McCormick Place West
1:30 – 2:30 PM**

Frank Battisti and Tim Lautzenheiser discuss strategies, procedures and activities used by Battisti in his legendary Ithaca High School Band Program from 1955-67. Using the IHS Band as a point of departure their presentation will focus on the importance of developing creative, re-creative and consuming music experiences which can assist students in developing their musical and personal potential – to be “The Best They Can Be.”

Note: The information included in this handout is taken from *The Best We Can Be: The Story of the Ithaca High School Band, 1955-67* by Frank L. Battisti and R. Bruce Musgrave (Meredith Music Publications, 2010).

TIME LINE: ITHACA HIGH SCHOOLBAND, 1953-67

1953	Frank Battisti begins teaching instrumental music lessons at IHS.
December 1954	IHS Band brass players start playing Christmas carols at IHS faculty homes.
1955	Frank Battisti becomes Band Director at IHS (1955). IHS Band begins series of annual school assembly concerts. IHS Band plays concert outside of Ithaca for the first time at Owego Free Academy, Owego, New York.
1958	IHS Band travels to Cornwall, Ontario, Canada for concert at St. Lawrence Collegiate – the band’s first trip outside of United States. IHS Band commissions first piece from Warren Benson. Bach Honor Society established by Mr. Battisti and IHS Band members.
April 1959	IHS Concert and Marching Bands travel to Maryland and Washington, DC to present concerts in Annapolis and Westminster, MD and march in the National Cherry Blossom Parade.
May 20, 1959	Premiere performance of <i>Night Song</i> by Warren Benson – IHS Band’s first commissioned work.
Sept. 3-7, 1959	First IHS Band Camp at Ithaca College camp in Danby Hills.
February 5, 1960	Mr. Battisti and band members travel to Rochester, NY to hear Eastman Wind Ensemble concert. Trips to these concerts continue for the next seven years.
March. 16, 1960	First IHS Band Parents’ Night
May 29, 1960	Frederick Fennell visits IHS Band for first time—visits continue through 1967.
September 1960	New Ithaca High School opened with separate Music Department Building.
May 19, 1961	Premiere performance of Vincent Persichetti’s <i>Serenade for Band</i> , IHS Band’s third commissioned work.
August 10, 1961	First IHS Band Chicken Barbecue held at Stewart Park.
Nov. 21-27, 1961	IHS Band tour to Midwest. Marching Band performs in J. L. Hudson Parade in Detroit and at Cleveland Memorial Stadium for Cleveland Browns vs. New York Giants NFL game. Concert Band performs concerts in Dayton’s NCR Auditorium and at Williamsville, NY High School.
May 2, 1962	Harvey Phillips guest soloist with IHS Band on two school assembly programs. Phillips-IHS Band relationship continues through 1967.
December 1962	IHS Band members commission Warren Benson to write a piece for Mr. Battisti as a Christmas gift. The piece, <i>Remembrance</i> , premiered in 1964.

January 1963	Repertory Band (later renamed Symphony Band) formed at IHS.
May 15, 1963	Donald Sinta performs solos with IHS Band on school assembly programs—begins long relationship with Mr. Battisti and the IHS Band.
Nov. 21-24, 1963	IHS Band trip to New York City abruptly halted by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Performance at Yankee Stadium cancelled.
December 1963	IHS Band commissions Vincent Persichetti to write piece in memory of John F. Kennedy (<i>Turn Not Thy Face</i>).
January 1964	“Project Creativity” started.
February 26, 1964	Carl “Doc” Severinson performs solos on band’s school assembly concerts.
April 13-19, 1964	First IHS Band Contemporary Music Festival
April 23-24, 1964	IHS Invitational Band Festival
July 21-24, 1964	Ithaca Summer Youth Band (IHS Concert Band) performs at New York World’s Fair and Rockefeller Plaza.
December 26, 1964	IHS Band performs in Buffalo, NY for Buffalo Bills – San Diego Chargers AFL Championship game.
March 12, 1965	Benny Goodman performs with IHS Jazz Ensemble at school assembly concert.
April 28, 1965	IHS Band premieres Barney Childs <i>Six Events for 58 Players</i> – first aleatoric piece written for high school band.
December 16, 1965	IHS Concert Band performs at Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.
May 11, 1966	IHS Band premieres three commissioned works by Alec Wilder, Warren Benson, and Walter Hartley on Spring Concert.
1966-67	David Borden becomes Ithaca Public Schools’ MENC-Ford Foundation Composer-in residence.
October 2, 1966	IHS Band performs in New York’s Yankee Stadium for New York Giants – Cleveland Browns NFL game.
February 12, 1967	IHS Band performs concert at Eastern Division MENC Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. Program includes premiere performances of two newly commissioned works and <i>Prisms</i> (for concert band and pre-recorded electronic sounds) by Herbert Bielawa.
May 4-14, 1967	Second IHS Band Contemporary Music Festival
May 17, 1967	IHS Band premieres three commissioned works by Warren Benson, Vincent Persichetti and Robert Ward. This is Mr. Battisti’ s final concert with the IHS Concert Band.
October 2, 1967	Mr. Battisti informs IHS Band students he is leaving Ithaca High School.
October 15, 1967	IHS Band performs in Buffalo, New York for Buffalo Bills – Oakland Raiders NFL game.
November 4, 1967	Farewell Banquet for Mr. and Mrs. Battisti at Cornell University’s Statler Hotel.
April 1997	John Philip Sousa Foundation selects Mr. Battisti’s Ithaca High School Concert Band for their Historic Roll of Honor of High School Concert Bands, 1920-1980. This Roll of Honor identifies high school concert bands whose musical excellence at the national level exerted historically significant influence on high school band programs.
June 23-24, 2006	The 1955-67 IHS Band “best ever reunion” in Ithaca, New York.
Oct. 12 & 17, 2006	Dual premiere performances of Dana Wilson’s <i>Day Dreams</i> at New England Conservatory and Ithaca College. Work commissioned by former IHS Band students as a 75 th birthday gift to Mr. Battisti.
May 5 – 7, 2009	50 th Anniversary Concert and Celebration in Ithaca, NY (Boynton Middle and Ithaca High School Bands) marking the Band’s May 20, 1959 premiere performance of Warren Benson’s <i>Night Song</i> , the Band’s first commissioned piece.

**SUMMARY OF ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM, 1955-67,
INCLUDING VISITING COMPOSERS, CONDUCTORS, SOLOISTS, ENSEMBLES.**

1. Weekly Instrumental Music Lessons
2. Concert Ensembles:
 - Concert Band
 - Symphony Band
 - Small Ensembles
 - Jazz Lab Workshop/Ensemble
3. Marching Band
4. Solo and Chamber Music Recitals
5. Ithaca High School Band Commissioned Works Project
6. Project in Creativity
7. Guest Conductors, Soloists, Composers and Visiting Ensembles

Conductors

Frederick Fennell
Clyde A. Roller
Richard Franko Goldman
Norman Dello Joio
William D. Revelli
Thomas Beversdorf
Vincent Persichetti

Soloists

Benny Goodman
"Doc" Severinsen
Harvey Phillips
Donald Sinta
Robert Jaeger
Jimmy Burke
William Hebert

Composers

Vincent Persichetti
Warren Benson
Leslie Bassett
Alec Wilder
Walter Hartley
John Huggler
David Borden
Robert Ward
Norman Dello Joio

Visiting Ensembles

New York Brass Quintet
Eastman Brass Quintet
Ithaca College Woodwind Quintet
Ithaca College Brass Quintet
Eastman Wind Ensemble
University of Michigan Symphony Band
Luther College Wind Ensemble
U. S. Air Force Band

8. IHS Band Contemporary Music Festivals
Festival programs included recitals of original compositions by IHS Band students; recitals of contemporary music by small ensembles/chamber music groups from IHS, Ithaca College, and the Eastman School of Music; lectures by guest musicians and artists; concerts by IHS Concert Band and visiting large ensembles; exhibitions of paintings and photographs by IHS students.
9. Bach Honor Society
10. Composer-in-Residence Project
MENC-Ford Foundation Composer-in-Residence in 1966-68.
11. Band Awards
12. Band Camp
13. Special Performances (MENC Conference, Midwest National Band & Orchestra Clinic, NFL and AFL championship games)
14. Attending Public Concerts
In Ithaca, Bailey Hall concerts which featured national and international soloists and ensembles; Ithaca College and Cornell University concerts and recitals. In Rochester, concerts by the Eastman Wind Ensemble.
15. IHS Invitational Band Festival
16. Summer Lessons/Band Program
17. Master Classes and Clinics presented by visiting guest artists and chamber music groups.
18. Band Parents' Night

Final concert program conducted by Frank Battisti with the Ithaca High School Concert Band on May 17, 1967.

Vincent Persichetti (world premiere performance)	<i>Turn Not Thy Face</i>
David Borden (world premiere performance)	<i>All-American; Teenage; Lovesongs</i>
Robert Ward (world premiere performance)	<i>Fiesta Processional</i>
Warren Benson Harvey Phillips, tuba soloist (<i>Helix</i> premiered at the MENC Conference Concert in Boston, MA on February 12, 1967)	<i>Helix</i>
Percy Grainger Frederick Fennell, guest conductor	<i>Lincolnshire Posy</i>
Warren Benson	<i>Leaves are Falling</i>

Note: Composers Vincent Persichetti, David Borden, Robert Ward and Warren Benson attended pre-concert rehearsals and the premiere performances of their pieces.