

Skokie School District 73 1/2



TAMING THE BEGINNER BAND
Strategies for Teaching Our Youngest Students

MIDDLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIFTH GRADE BAND
SKOKIE, ILLINOIS

Chip De Stefano, *clinician/conductor*

January 31, 2003
2:00 P.M.

Illinois Music Educators Association
All State Conference
Civic Center 135 & 136
Peoria, Illinois

THE CLINIC

The purpose of this session is to demonstrate and discuss strategies for approaching the beginner band.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Goals for instruction
- Discipline techniques
- Instruction through student vocalizations
- Teaching musicianship and developing technique
- Material selection for beginning students
- Student motivation

Handout resources include:

- First lesson pages used in our program
- Supplemental exercises used in our program

Throughout the clinic, the Middleton Elementary School Fifth Grade Band will demonstrate the techniques and materials that can be utilized for young bands.

CLINIC OUTLINE

PERFORMANCE

The Crusaders - Frank Erickson
(Warner Brothers Music Publishers)

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SESSION PURPOSE

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PERFORMANCE

Chant for Percussion - Andrew Balent
(C. L. Barnhouse Company)

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GOALS FOR INSTRUCTION

Tone, Sustained Playing, Intonation, Rhythm

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PERFORMANCE

Grandfather's Clock - Traditional, arranged by Frank Erickson
(Luverne Publications)

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DEVELOPING MUSICIANSHIP

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DEVELOPING TECHNIQUE

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PERFORMANCE

A Touch of Baroque - Sandy Feldstein and John O'Reilly
(Alfred Publishing Company)

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SETUP AND SEATING

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DISCIPLINE

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PERFORMANCE

The Silver Scepter - John Kinyon
(Alfred Publishing Company)

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GETTING STUDENTS TO PRACTICE

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SELECTING MATERIALS FOR INSTRUCTION

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PERFORMANCE

Stony Creek March - Anne McGinty
(Queenwood Publications)

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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE METHOD BOOK

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WORLD PREMIER PERFORMANCE

Entry of the Nobles - Douglas Akey
(Hal Leonard)

Skokie School District 73 1/2 Band Program

School District 73 1/2 is located in Skokie, Illinois. Consisting of McCracken Middle School, Middleton Elementary School, and Meyer Primary School, our district and community prides itself on the diversity of its students and the quality of education and experience it provides for them. Music Education is a vital part of this experience.

Currently, 200 students in grades four through eight participate in the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, 5th Grade Band, and Beginning Band. The McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band has received 40 consecutive Division I (Superior) ratings at the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) District Organizational Contest and was selected as an "honors ensemble" at the inaugural IGSMA State Festival in 2002. The Symphonic Band has also made three appearances at the prestigious University of Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival in 1999, 2000 and 2001. The 1999-2000 Symphonic Band received perhaps the two highest honors a middle school band in Illinois can be awarded with its selection as Honor Band at the Illinois Superstate Festival and its invitation to perform at the 2001 Illinois Music Education Association (IMEA) State Conference. The Fifth Grade Band and Symphonic Band clarinets were invited to perform as demonstration groups at the 2003 IMEA All State Conference.

The Middleton Elementary School Fifth Grade Band consists of second year students. The Fifth Grade Band rehearses after school twice a week for 50 minutes with students also receiving a weekly private lesson and occasional like instrument sectional.

Believing in the importance of supporting the creation of quality young band literature, the McCracken Bands have founded a commissioning project that has yielded five commissions in seven years:

- *Spirit!* by Douglas Akey is dedicated to McCracken Middle School's former Director of Bands, Donald Stahlberg, in appreciation for his 33 years of teaching at McCracken Middle School. *Spirit!* was premiered by the Symphonic Band on March 14, 1998 and is published by Queenwood Publications.
- *Aurora Borealis* was written for the Symphonic Band by composer and band parent David Zabriskie. It was premiered on May 21, 1998.
- *Tales of the Emerald Isle*, by Douglas Akey, was commissioned by the Skokie School District 73 1/2 Foundation. It was premiered on March 15, 2002 with the composer conducting. It is scheduled to be published by Hal Leonard in 2003.
- *Entry of the Nobles*, by Douglas Akey, was commissioned for the Middleton Elementary School 5th Grade Band's performance on January 31, 2003 at the Illinois Music Educators Association All State Conference. *Entry of the Nobles* is scheduled to be published by Hal Leonard in 2003.
- Noted composer Andrew Boysen has been commissioned to write a work for the Symphonic Band to be premiered in the Spring of 2004.

The Symphonic Band has also performed at the Plainfield Invitational Concert Band Festival, the Midwest Music Festival, Skokie Festival of Cultures, AYSO Opening Ceremonies, WBBM News Radio 780 30th anniversary promotion, and IMEA Music Education Day at the Capitol. In the spring of 2001, the band was highlighted in WLS-TV's (Chicago's ABC affiliate) feature "Someone You Should Know." June 5, 2000 was declared McCracken Middle School Band Day by Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen and the Village Board of Trustees in recognition of our students' outstanding achievement in instrumental music.

The success of our band program is due to the hard work of the administration, the parents, the community, the educators, and most importantly, our students.

Chip De Stefano

Chip De Stefano received both his Bachelor of Music in Trombone Performance and Master of Music Education Degrees from Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, he studied conducting with John P. Paynter, Steve Peterson, and Don Owens, trombone with Frank Crisafulli and Art Linsner, and music education with Bennett Reimer, Donald Casey, Jim Kjelland, and Peter Webster. Mr. De Stefano was director of the Northwestern University Basketball Band (1994-1996) and the University Jazz Lab Band (1995-1996). In addition to these responsibilities, he assisted with all the office of band's performing organizations and had conducting appearances with the wind ensemble, symphonic band, trombone ensemble, and marching band.

Mr. De Stefano is currently in his seventh year as Director of Bands in Skokie School District 73 1/2. Under his leadership the McCracken Middle School Bands has received much recognition:

- The Symphonic Band has received first division ratings at all district and state organization contests of the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) and was selected as an “honors ensemble” at the inaugural IGSMA State Festival in 2002.
- The Symphonic Band has made three appearances (1999, 2000 and 2001) at the prestigious Illinois Superstate Concert Band Festival and was the unanimous selection as Honor Band in 2000.
- The Symphonic Band performed at the 2001 Illinois Music Education Association All State/North Central MENC Conference.
- The Fifth Grade Band and Symphonic Band clarinets performed as demonstration groups at the 2003 IMEA All State Conference.

As a published arranger and composer, Mr. De Stefano has received commissions from the marching bands of Northwestern University, Samford University, the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, the University of Idaho and dozens of high schools from across the United States. His works have been performed on ABC's 1996 Rose Bowl Halftime Show, *Live!* with Regis and Kathy Lee, and WBBM News Radio 780. Mr. De Stefano's works are available from Grand Mesa Music, Kagarice Brass Editions and DeStefanoMusic.com.

Mr. De Stefano's article “Using Goal Sheets for Student Motivation” was published in the Spring 2002 National Band Association *Journal*. His clinic session “Taming the Beginner Band: Strategies for Teaching Our Youngest Students” was presented at the 2003 IMEA All State Conference. Mr. De Stefano was also one of only twenty Illinois music educator's invited to participate in the 2002 IMEA Leadership Conference.

Mr. De Stefano's professional affiliations include the Music Educators National Conference, the Illinois Music Educators Association, the National Band Association, the International Trombone Association, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Mr. De Stefano is a recipient of three National Band Association Citations of Excellence (1999, 2000 and 2001) and was awarded the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award in 2001.

Skokie School District 73 1/2 Music Faculty

Chip De Stefano, Director of Bands
Beth Lehner, Director of Choirs

Lisa Friedman, General Music
Tina Keitel, Percussion Instructor

Skokie School District 73 1/2 Board of Education

James McGowan - President
Diane Meggs - Vice President
Karen Christianson - Secretary
David Rosario

Dr. John Pelissero
Beth Allen
Andrea Rosen

Skokie School District 73 1/2 Administration

Dr. Karen Campbell, Superintendent
Dr. Vicki Gunther, Principal, Oliver McCracken Middle School
Ms. Kate Conway, Assistant Principal, Oliver McCracken Middle School
Ms. Dana Otto, Principal, John Middleton Elementary School
Ms. Nel Sychangco, Assistant Principal, John Middleton Elementary School
Ms. Marla Hori, Principal, Elizabeth Meyer Primary School
Mr. Don Buckman, Maintenance Supervisor

Clinicians (1996 - 2003)

The Skokie School District 73 1/2 Bands gratefully thank the following individuals who have so graciously given their time, and their ears, in assisting our band program:

** assisted the Fifth Grade Band in preparation for this performance*

Douglas Akey (Hendrix Junior High School)
* Jan Barry (freelance musician)
Greg Bimm (Marian Catholic High School)
Michael Burritt (Northwestern University)
Donald DeRoche (DePaul University)
Julie DeRoche (DePaul University)
Rodney Dorsey (DePaul University)
Thad Driskell (Jefferson High School)
* Marc Dwyer (freelance musician)
Elton Eislie (Niles North High School)
* Dan Farris (Northwestern University)
* Richard Fischer (Concordia University)
Jay Gephart (Purdue University)
Craig Hancock (Wartburg College)
Phil Hash (Kelvin Grove Middle School)
* Julie Hobbs (freelance musician)
* Tina Keitel (freelance musician)
* Molly Kelly (freelance musician)
Heather Landes (Northwestern University)

John Lynch (University of Kansas)
* Cynthia McGregor (freelance musician)
* Jerry Mohlman (freelance musician)
Matthew Olson (Furman University)
Don Owens (Northwestern University)
Pete Pappas (Glenbrook South HS, retired)
Steve Peterson (Ithaca College)
* Audrey Denny (freelance musician)
Don Shupe (Libertyville High School)
* James Smith (freelance musician)
Susan Spindler (Lincoln Hall Middle School)
* Mark Taylor (freelance musician)
Brayer Teague (Downers Grove North HS)
Duane Tutaj (Byron Middle School)
* Bill Walsh (freelance musician)
Nancy Whitaker (Greenbriar School)
Christopher Woodruff (Lycoming College)
* Eric Yates (freelance musician)

BAND MENTORS

The Middleton Elementary School Fifth Grade Band thanks the following McCracken Middle School Symphonic Band members who volunteered their time by giving lessons and providing guidance as band mentors:

Isabelle Castro (flute)

Erin Egan (clarinet)

Alison Hill (trumpet)

Wedee Kao (bass clarinet)

Kristin Kirland (clarinet)

Kelly Leung (euphonium)

Philbert Lin (trombone)

Jessica Madigan (trumpet)

Elisa Meggs (clarinet)

Jason Mormolstein (percussion)

Emily Morrissey (trumpet)

Erin O'Connor (euphonium)

Kate Seebacher (trombone)

Jorell Silva (saxophone)

Matt Stonequist (trumpet)

Andrew Thompson (tuba)

Krystle Vicencio (clarinet)

Kiyan Warner (euphonium)

Scott Wolff-Klammer (tuba)

SPECIAL THANKS

Students, Parents, Families, and Friends

Middleton Elementary School Administration, Faculty and Staff

Barb Yablonsky, Laurie Kolpas, Mary Petriko and Mary Walker (McCracken Middle School Secretaries)

Heather Rubio and Beverly Gothelf (Middleton Elementary School Secretaries)

Miguel Marzol, Chris Cieplinski, Alvin Carter and Bill Phillips (District Custodians)

Donald Stahlberg (McCracken Middle School, Director of Bands, retired)

Phil Hash for allowing me to constantly bounce ideas for this session off of him.

Mark Taylor for his tremendous work running sectionals and clinics for the Fifth Grade Band.

Doug Akey for accepting our commission on short notice and delivering a wonderful work for our students to premier.

Dr. Richard Fischer (Concordia University) and Dan Farris (Northwestern University) for their inspiring and motivating work with our Fifth Grade Band Members.

Mike Balter Mallets (Prospect Heights, Illinois)

Karnes Music Company (Itasca, Illinois)

Evanston Band and Orchestra (Evanston, Illinois)

Klein Printing (Chicago, Illinois)

and last, but definitely not least:

Thank you to my wife Susan and son Brian, for their love, patience, and support.

McCracken Middle School Bands

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