



FLORIDA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION – 76th year

DISTRICT MEETING #3 MINUTES

(ver. 08-11)

DISTRICT NUMBER: 9	MEETING DATE: January 19, 2012
MEETING NUMBER: 3	LOCATION: Largo High School

Item 1: Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Robin Benoit, District Chairperson.

Item 2: Members and Guests Present

Chris Ellis, Tyrone Middle	Don Edwards, Osceola High
Sandee Katz, Fitzgerald Middle	Jason Obara, Carwise Middle
Ben Futoran, Indian Rocks Christian	Chad Guess, Seminole Middle
Max Bygrave, Azalea Middle	Ian Black, Dunedin High
Cliff Dawson, Northeast High	Bob Barfield, Tarpon Springs High
Calista Zebley, Clearwater Fundamental Middle	Steve Harris, Meadowlawn Middle
Chris Benoit, Largo High	James Dykes, Palm Harbor University High
Josette Harris, Dixie Hollins High	Michele Salmon, Safety Harbor Middle
Maurice McClover, Gibbs High	Chad Robbins, Boca Ciega High
Andrew Tucker, Clearwater High	Shawna Grimes, Pinellas Park Middle
Aunna Kilgore, Palm Harbor University High	Daniel Wood, Seminole High
Maribeth Trill, Keswick Christian	John Bannon, St. Petersburg Collegiate High
Troy White, Bay Point Middle	Anthony Fuoco, Oak Grove Middle
Corey Simpson, Northside Christian	Christopher Simons, Osceola Middle
Jack Henderson, Pinellas Park High	Patrick Phillips, St. Petersburg High
Jeff Bowen, John Hopkins Middle	Eric Krause, Thurgood Marshall Middle
Jahn Van Der Putte, St. Petersburg Catholic High	Jeanne Reynolds, Pinellas County Schools

Item 3: Reading of Previous Minutes

Motion (Dykes/White): Dispense with the reading of the previous minutes. Passes unanimously.

Item 4: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Tagliarini could not attend as he is the clinician for Hillsborough All-County Band (kudos Tag!). The report was read by Chairperson Robin Benoit.

Our district balance is \$15,966.63. At the December Executive Board Meeting, our mid-year audit went well. Good job, Tag.

Item 5: Music Advocacy Issues

Jeanne Reynolds reported that we need to stay alert as to music education advocacy issues that require our attention and action.

We typically do better financially in an election year.

Jeanne attended a meeting at Ruth Eckerd Hall that revealed we have a potential supporter in Creative Aging.

Educate your own administrators and have them be your champion.

Robin Benoit gave advice about dealing with your school administration: Invite them in to your band room often. We are doing everything they want us to do, but we need to do it in their language. Email about good things you are doing in your class. Save the email so you can prove you did.

Item 6: Communications

None

Item 7: Unfinished Business

- Keep nominating for the Oliver Hobbs Award next year.
- All reclassifications were approved.

Item 8: Committee Reports

- Chris Touchton will report at next meeting for the MPA Redesign Committee.

Item 9: New Business

- Entry forms, disks, and assessment checks collected
- Solo and Ensemble information:
 - Dates: February 10-11, 2012
 - Location: Gibbs High School
 - S & E Judges: Al Hager, Amy Collins, Brandon Putzke, KC Crocco, Manuel Suarez, (lost the rest...)
 - Chip Wood and Calista Zebley are looking for judges. We still need a percussion judge. Dr. Shaylor James of FAMU is suggested. We must use all FBA certified judges unless it is an emergency. We contact Bill Reineke if we cannot fill our panel.
 - Special requests, title changes, etc. email Robin Benoit. You have until 10 days before the event: February 1. The originals with numbered measures must be in the judges hands. You must have accompanist if it is written that way. Taped accompaniment is allowed. No sound equipment will be available. You have to bring it and run it.
- Jazz MPA information:
 - Dates: February 17-18, 2012
 - Location: Palm Harbor University High School
 - Jazz MPA judges: Don Zentz, somebody Zinglehoffer, ??? need a third judge.
 - Ruth Eckerd Hall is bringing in the Meta Jazz Quintet and two of them will do jazz clinics. They do a lot of work with kids.
- Concert MPA information:
 - High School
 - Dates: March 6-8, 2012
 - Location: Gibbs High School
 - High School Concert MPA judges: Burt Cresswell, Phil Wharton, Roanna Combs, KC Crocco
 - Middle School
 - Dates: March 20-22, 2012
 - Location: John Hopkins Middle School

- Middle School Concert MPA judges: Manuel Suarez, Brad Wharton, Jeff Cayer, Who?
- Concert MPA Programs: Robin Benoit will communicate the need for titles two weeks before the event. Change titles on MPA online. This year we will go back to including the music grade levels in the program.
- Chris Gaines will once again be recording the concert MPA's. He deserves our thanks for keeping his price the same for many years.
- Make sure Robin gets back the district flash drives. You can pony them to her.

Item 10: State MPA Dates and Sites

Senior High Directors—If you have not received your State MPA Entry Bulletin by early March, CALL the executive director.

- State MPA dates: _____ Bucholtz _____ lost it...
State Concert May 3-5, 2012
High School Directors: If your kids get a superior, there is a quick turn around to get form in for State MPA.

Item 11: Election of Officers (if applicable)

Motion (Zebley/Bowen): Steve Harris remain District Secretary for another year. Passes

Item 12: District MPA Dates for Next Year

- All-State Auditions: September 22 or 19. Auditions will upload online. FVA already did it. Because of this, we could do it during the week. We will not need Chris Gaines for recording. The cost should go down. Discussion about whether our early date had an effect on the outcome of All-State selection and whether an early release day would be a good day to have auditions. Further discussion on whether we should continue to have auditions on a Saturday or have them during the week. We can have more rooms since there is not the same recording equipment issue, as we will just use computers.
- Marching MPA: First choice is November 3, second choice is November 10.
- Solo and Ensemble MPA: February 8-9. Discussion about having it later and together with Jazz MPA. It will be cheaper and will not be two weekends in a row. It will be easier to get judges too. Another possibility is starting Jazz MPA on the Thursday night before S & E. The problem with this is we have 18-20 bands. That's 2-3 days of bands The third weekend, February 22-23 is could be a better weekend but that puts it close to High School Concert MPA.
- Jazz MPA: February 15-16
- High School Concert MPA: March 5-7 (or March 12-14?)
- Middle School Concert MPA: March 19-21
- Jeanne Reynolds mentioned that the calendar is going to look different next year because All-County will be later (beginning of April?). She wants us to work together with FVA, FOA & Drama to avoid conflicts.

Item 13: Nominations for Adjudicators List (secret ballot)

Latonya Hicks (R. Benoit/C. Benoit) for Auxiliary. Passes

Robin Benoit is encouraging auxiliary people to judge for FBA, as they are needed

Item 14: Nominations for All-State Clinicians

Frank Williams (Barfield/Dawson) for All-State Jazz Band. Passes

Item 15: Suggestions to State Committees

None

Item 16: Proposals to the Executive Board

(must be in the form of a motion)

1. Proposal (C. Benoit/Zebley)

Motion:

The Music Committee shall create a form to be used as part of the process evaluating music for consideration in being added to the FBA music list. This form will be made available to all members for any evaluative and educational purposes they find suitable.

Rationale:

Evaluating the artistic worth and merit of a musical composition is a critical aspect of what musicians do, and an important skill to teach. It's a big part of any conductor's job, yet one we are often hesitant to discuss due to the degree of subjectivity involved.

Just because it is subjective doesn't mean there aren't specific and appropriate criteria to be considered and discussed, however. (Composer Brian Balmages gave an excellent clinic on this topic at the conference in January.) Evaluating a musical performance is a subjective task as well, yet we do not hesitate to create sheets with evaluative criteria for the various MPAs. Something along a similar framework to be used in evaluating items such as melodic development, harmonic interest, rhythm, texture/orchestration, form, and so forth could be developed and shared with the membership to help spur discussions among colleagues and with students.

The sheet could then be used when the music committee rejects a piece for which special permission has been requested. If we are willing to state that a composer's work is not worthy of study for the purpose of formal evaluation, then we must also be intellectually honest enough to give valid reasons for that decision. There are many valid reasons for not using a piece for MPA, and it doesn't even necessarily mean the piece is not well crafted by the composer. Harold Walter's *Instant Concert* is an absolute creative gem, but its function as a novelty with no intent of melodic, harmonic, or formal development means that while it serves its intended purpose extremely well, it is not the kind of artistic composition suitable for MPA. We have to be willing to say this!

It is NOT the intent of this motion to create a large amount of extra work for the music committee. It is expected that the members of the committee already spend the time to fairly evaluate all pieces being considered for inclusion or special permission; the form would serve the purpose of helping to share the key decisions arising from that process with the members concerned, as well as providing guidance with the evaluative process to less experienced musicians and a tool for directors to use in evaluating pieces themselves and teaching this skill to their students.

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Proposal (C. Benoit/Simons)

Motion:

Any composition approved by the Music Committee for special permission to perform at MPA will be added to the Music List at its next revision.

Rationale:

If a composition is worthy of being performed for formal evaluation, then it is worthy of being performed for formal evaluation, and should be added to the Music List as a matter of course.

It is the intent of this motion that any piece submitted for special permission be carefully considered for its worth as a permanent inclusion to the Music List, and the decision made on that basis.

Motion passes unanimously.

3. Proposal (C. Benoit/Salmon)

Motion:

The FBA Executive Board take a comprehensive survey of the general membership during the 2012-2013 school year to get feedback on the memberships views and concerns with the music list, classification, and any other areas the board may feel appropriate to include.

Rationale:

It was clear from the discussion at the general membership meeting in January that there are a number of members with concerns of one type or another about the music list and requests for special permission. On an issue of such clear importance to the organization as a whole, it would be wise to proceed with all due diligence. Many people have very strong feelings on these issues, but the FBA is an organization that must serve for the good of ALL members. A well constructed survey distributed to ALL members (in whatever manner would be most effective in getting the broadest possible response) would give the board the advantage of having a good set of facts about the views of the membership as a whole as they discuss possible ways to improve our organization's procedures.

Motion passes unanimously

Item 16: Other

Item 17: For the Good of the Association

- The Suncoasters parade will be in conjunction with St. Petersburg Grand Prix. It is a great parade at night. Let's support it.
- June 5 PCMEA Banquet
- James Dykes spoke about High School All-County Band. Please let him know about name mistakes in the program. Rehearsals will be at Palm Harbor University High School. We need percussion equipment. James will send an email about percussion needs.
- Robin Benoit to those who still need to get information in for MPA: Get it done so she can get the schedule done ASAP. You can change titles in MPA online. Let her know about DNA's.
- Thanks to Robin for giving us an extra week to get in our MPA materials.
- The All-American Marching Band is a great experience.
- Music For All has a summer symposium. If you have kids going, tell James Dykes.
- Drawing for prizes from Seminole Music. Winners are : Jeff Bowen, Troy White, Shawna Grimes

Item 18: Next Meeting Date

May 7. Location TBA.

Item 19: Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Krause/Bowen). Motion passes

Name of District Secretary:

Steve Harris

Signature: