

# Marywood University Wind Band Celebration

December 4-5, 2009

Insalanco College of Creative and Performing Arts

Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance

University Bands

## Director Information and Procedures

### Administrators:

- Joan McCusker ~ Director, Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance
- F. David Romines ~ Director, University Bands
- Patricia Purcell ~ Administrative Assistant, Dept. of Music, Theatre, and Dance

### Guest Clinicians:

- David Holsinger ~ Honor Band
  - Two-time recipient of the Ostwald Composition Prize
  - Member – American Bandmasters Association
  - Visiting Composer in Residence at eleven American universities
- David Shaffer ~ Celebration Band
  - Director Emeritus, Ohio University Marching Band
  - Over 250 published compositions and arrangements
  - Composed works for band that are on the required contest performance lists in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and Asia

### Event Overview:

The Marywood University Wind Band Celebration is an outreach program designed to provide support to Northeastern Pennsylvania band students and their directors. The two-day event is sponsored by the Marywood University Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance, the Marywood chapter of the Collegiate Music Educators' National Conference, and the Marywood University Bands.

The program is designed as an instructional supplement for selected 7-9 grade band students and will help students prepare for future festivals and auditions. An important part of the overall experience is providing an opportunity for participants to rehearse with and perform under the direction of nationally recognized band conductor/clinician. Primary emphasis is directed toward improving individual musicianship and ensemble techniques within a positive and inspiring environment.

### Participants:

Band students from Northeastern Pennsylvania (approximately 160-180 individuals) who have been nominated by their directors and selected for participation by the event administrators will receive invitations.

**Nomination Process/Nomination Form:**

Band directors will nominate students from their school(s) by providing before the published deadline, a list of recommended participants in rank order on the provided nomination form. Directors will follow a predetermined format for nominations as outlined on the form. It is the responsibility of the individual directors to understand the nomination form format, correctly complete the form, and return the form before the deadline.

When adding students to the nomination form, please PRINT IN CAPS or TYPE all information. It is important that the director indicate the exact instrument the nominated student would play for the audition. For example: (treble or bass clef euphonium) (Eb or Bb Contra Clarinet) (Eb Alto, Bb Tenor, or Eb Baritone Saxophone). Directors should list all recommended students in rank order with the student that the director feels is the most qualified positioned in the first (#1) slot. Careful consideration should be given to student rankings and the accurate completion of all additional information as required on the form.

The Marywood University Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance will make the final decision regarding the number of individual participants. Directors cannot make substitutions for students from their school that have been accepted, but for some reason are forced to cancel. Moreover, directors should not contact event administrators requesting that additional students be accepted. The event over-accepts students in anticipation of cancellations. Directors are asked to provide advance notification to the event administration if accepted students from their school must for any reason cancel their participation or be absent from a rehearsal. Decisions related to the final number of participants will be based on instrumentation and the number of students that can be effectively served by the event. In fairness to all participating students and directors, nominations received after the published deadline will **not** be accepted.

**Registration/Auditions:**

Registration will begin on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. on the campus of Marywood University in the Sette LaVerghetta Center for the Performing Arts. The registration table will be positioned in the first floor lobby area. Directors will receive final schedules and supplemental information at registration. The per-student fee for the event is **\$50.00**. If student registration fees are not paid in advance (preferred) and will be paid at registration, please have checks written and made payable to: Marywood University MENC.

**Audition Procedures and Materials:**

Auditions will be held on the morning of Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> on the campus of Marywood University in the Sette LaVerghetta Center for the Performing Arts. All students who are selected for participation will be evaluated for band and chair placements via live audition before a panel of professional music educators. Audition results will be used to create a ranking of students for each instrument. Students will be assigned to the Honor Band or Celebration Band based on these results.

Auditions will commence as soon after 8:00 a.m. as is possible (when judges are in position and students who have warmed-up are waiting in the auditorium). The goal is to quickly finish the auditions, seat the bands, have the guest clinicians assign parts, and begin the first clinician rehearsals at or before 10:30 a.m.

Upon arrival, participating students will move directly to the auditorium where they may warm-up/relax. Because of the large number of students who will be auditioning, it is requested that warm-ups be accomplished at moderate to softer volume levels. Small groups of students from the same section will be directed via P.A. announcement to follow guides to the proper audition room. Workers will be in radio communication to promote a smooth process and traffic flow. Students should **not** gather in the halls outside the audition rooms or leave the auditorium area until they are called to audition. Directors or chaperones need to be available to supervise students while they are in the auditorium and should accompany them if they need to leave the area.

Judges in each room may choose their own system to organize and rank students. This can include assigning every audition a numerical value. After the auditions for each instrument are complete, the judges will provide the event director with a list of names ranked in numerical order – all we are interested in is the rank order – please do not provide numerical scores. At the top of this list (form provided) will be the name of the instrument audition room and lines progressing in numerical order where students are to be ranked. The student who completed the highest ranked audition will be listed on the form as #1. The balance of the students who auditioned will be ranked in order down the page. It is the responsibility of the judges in each room to rank the students from the highest position down. There will be no tabulation room. Please PRINT IN CAPS the ranked list of students. Carbon paper will be provided to quickly produce two copies. Please carry both copies of the ranked list to the auditorium where band placement announcements will be made. The event director will divide the list of performers into sections for two bands (Honor & Celebration).

As aforementioned, because the event features two ensembles, there is the need to determine a ranking for every student playing a particular instrument based on the quality of their audition. This means auditions for instruments that previously utilized multiple rooms (example-trumpets) must now audition in a single room. Therefore, it is important that students be moved quickly through the auditions while maintaining the integrity of the process.

There should be at least two judges per audition room. In order to move auditions more quickly, judges should have someone stationed at the door to help speed the exit of one student from the audition room while notifying the next student that it is time to enter. In order to facilitate the audition process **these will not be blind auditions**. The event operates under the assumption that all directors will provide a professional assessment of every student who auditions.

Although judges will be directed to avoid delays during the audition process, they are reminded that for many students this is their first musical audition. Allowing students time if necessary to regain their composure and “take a deep breath” is expected. Judges are reminded to consider all of the primary elements of music as they evaluate students. Tone, pitch, and musical nuance should be carefully considered along with rhythm and technique.

### **Audition Requirements (Winds)**

#### **There are two components to the wind auditions:**

- The performance of predetermined scales
  - The starting note for required scales is the same for every instrument as determined by the scale name. Instruments that are not pitched in C **do not** transpose to determine the scale they are to play.
    - The following scales should be prepared for the auditions: (C-Major) (G-Major) (D-Major) (F-Major) and (Bb-Major)
  - Students are not required to perform scales from memory – they may use a scale sheet. However, extra consideration will be given to students who perform requested scales from memory.
  - Students **must** perform requested scales at least one octave (ascending and descending) before the scale will be considered for full credit. Those who display the ability to perform scales covering multiple octaves may receive additional consideration depending on the quality of the presentation.
  - The students may choose the articulation style or rhythm that best suits their abilities.
  - Judges may politely ask a student to move on to another scale or portion of the audition if it has been determined that the student is having excessive difficulty.
  - In an effort to move auditions forward, **only two** of the required scales mentioned above will be requested by the judges during each individual audition.
  
- The performance of a brief audition etude provided in advance by the event hosts
  - The judges reserve the right to shorten the etude. However, the decision to shorten the etude must be made before the first audition and all students playing that instrument will be asked to play the same portion of the etude.
  - Judges may politely ask a student to move on to another portion of the etude if it has been determined that the student is having excessive difficulty with a particular passage.

**It is the responsibility of individual directors to inform students of all audition procedures.**

### **Audition Requirements (Percussion)**

**Three rooms covering the basic areas of percussion performance will be utilized for the auditions.** These rooms cover the generally accepted components of basic percussion studies.

The three rooms are:

- Snare Audition Room
- Keyboard/Mallet Audition Room
- Timpani Audition Room

Percussionists **MUST** complete an audition in **one** of the three audition rooms (snare, mallet, timpani) in order to be eligible for event participation. To receive extra consideration, it is **strongly recommended** that percussion students audition in multiple rooms. Students who prepare and complete auditions in **all three rooms** will receive the most consideration. This is encouraged because most clinicians expect student percussionists to be able to perform in all three areas. **It is the responsibility of individual directors to inform students of all audition procedures.** This is especially true in the percussion area. Once percussion auditions are closed for the day, a student cannot audition in a room that he/she may have missed.

#### **Snare Audition Requirements**

- Percussionists are required to bring their own concert snare sticks to the audition.
- It is preferred that percussionists use the snare drum that will be provided in the audition room.

#### **There are two components to the snare audition:**

- The following three rudiments\* in an open-close-open rudimental presentation
  - long roll
  - flam accent
  - ruff

\* In order to move auditions along, the percussion judge **may ask only two** of the three rudiments. The snare judges will make the decision regarding the number of requested rudiments before the first audition and consistently ask the same rudiments from every student.
- The performance of a brief audition etude provided in advance by the event hosts
  - The judges reserve the right to shorten the etude. However, the decision to shorten the etude must be made before the first audition and all percussionists playing that instrument will be asked to play the same portion of the etude.
  - Judges may politely ask a student to move on to another portion of the etude if it has been determined that the student is having excessive difficulty with a particular passage.

### **Keyboard/Mallet Audition Requirements**

- Percussionists are required to bring their own xylophone mallets to the audition.
- Percussionists will play the mallet audition on a xylophone.

### **There are two components to the keyboard/mallet audition:**

- The following scales should be prepared for the auditions: (C-Major) (G-Major) (D-Major) (F-Major) and (Bb-Major)
  - Students are not required to perform scales from memory – they may use a scale sheet. However, extra consideration will be given to students who perform requested scales from memory.
  - Students **must** perform requested scales at least one octave (ascending and descending) before the scale will be considered for full credit. Those who display the ability to perform scales covering multiple octaves may receive additional consideration depending on the quality of the presentation. Students may play scales utilizing the rhythm that best displays their abilities.
  - Judges may politely ask a student to move on to another scale or portion of the audition if it has been determined that the student is having excessive difficulty.
  - In an effort to move auditions forward, **only two** of the required scales will be requested by the judges during each individual audition.
- The performance of a brief audition etude provided in advance by the event hosts
  - The judges reserve the right to shorten the etude. However, the decision to shorten the etude must be made before the first audition and all percussionists playing that instrument will be asked to play the same portion of the etude.
  - Judges may politely ask a student to move on to another portion of the etude if it has been determined that the student is having excessive difficulty with a particular passage.

### **Timpani Audition Requirements**

- Percussionists are required to bring their own timpani sticks and should bring their own tuning device (tuning fork or pitch pipe) to the timpani audition.

### **There are two components to the timpani audition:**

- A simple tuning test
- The performance of a brief audition etude provided in advance by the event hosts
  - The judges reserve the right to shorten the etude. However, the decision to shorten the etude must be made before the first audition and all students playing that instrument will be asked to play the same portion of the etude.
  - Judges may politely ask a student to move on to another portion of the etude if it has been determined that the student is having excessive difficulty with a particular passage.

**Seating of the Bands/Part Assignments:**

As auditions conclude for individual sections, band placement announcements will be made (by section) from the stage of the auditorium. Once the students know their band placement, they will follow guides (if necessary) to the appropriate rehearsal venue. Individual chair assignments will be announced at the rehearsal site. Part assignments will be made by the guest clinician based on the number of individuals in the section and by the requirements of the selected repertoire.

**Rehearsals:**

The Wind Band Celebration is fortunate to have two clinicians who have a significant national reputation as band composers, clinicians, and conductors. Students who are selected to participate in the “Celebration” are expected to know in advance and adhere to the highest standards of rehearsal etiquette. Lapses in decorum cannot be ignored. Rehearsal assistants will notify the event administration of issues related to questionable individual behavior. If possible, actions taken by the event administration in response to discipline problems will be made after consultations with the student’s director. The event administration reserves the right to immediately remove any student from a rehearsal and all subsequent rehearsals/concert for behaviors that compromise the educational process.

**Rehearsal Assistants:**

Each band will be assigned at least one rehearsal assistant and at least one percussion assistant. Rehearsal/percussion assistants will be instrumental music education students from the Marywood Band Program. These assistants will be instructed to provide help as necessary to the clinicians and to the participating students. Band directors who have students participating in the event are encouraged to attend all rehearsals. All assistance from directors at any time during the event is welcomed and encouraged.

**Tentative Schedule:** (any changes will be reflected on the registration schedule)

**Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00-5:00**

8:00-9:00

**Registration**

- Directors receive school packet containing all relevant information and pay all outstanding registration fees
- Students report to the auditorium for warm-ups

ASAP-10:00

**Auditions**

- Auditions will begin when rooms are staffed with judges and students have warmed-up

10:00-10:15

**Seating placements**

- Band assignments will be made from the auditorium stage as results become available
- Seats assignments will be made at the rehearsal venue and the clinicians will make part assignments

10:15-1:00

**Rehearsal**

1:00-2:00

**Lunch**

- Students will have pizza in the Latour Room

- Director's luncheon TBA
- 2:00-5:00                   **Rehearsal with breaks**

**Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00-8:30**

9:00-12:00               **Rehearsal with breaks**

12:00-1:00               **Lunch**

- Student lunch served in the Latour Room

1:00-2:00               **Marywood Wind Ensemble Concert**

2:00-4:30               **Rehearsal with breaks**

4:30-5:00               **Dress for banquet**

5:00-6:00               **Banquet**

- Schools will be recognized
- Plaques, certificates and band ribbons will be passed out

6:00-7:00               **Warm-ups**

6:30- 8:30               CD recordings of the concert will be sold in the auditorium lobby

**Final Concerts:**

7:00-7:30               **Celebration Band Concert**  
David Shaffer – Conductor

7:30-8:00               **Honor Band Concert**  
David Holsinger - Conductor

Concerts will be held on the campus of Marywood University in the Sette LaVerghetta Center for the Performing Arts Auditorium. The concerts are free to the public and all involved parties are encouraged to invite anyone who may be interested. The concerts will begin with the Celebration Band performance at 7:00 p.m. and conclude with the Honor Band performance.

Students may wear the uniform that is utilized by their individual school. If the school does not have a uniform or defined dress for concerts, the following is recommended:

**Girls:**

- black pants or skirt
- black shoes
- white blouse

**Boys:**

- Black pants, socks, shoes
- White shirt (long tie optional)

**Concert Recordings:**

Bill Roditski will produce audio recordings of the final concerts. These recordings will be for sale to all. Order forms will be available.

**Additional Details:**

Additional information deemed to be time sensitive will be shared via e-mail as it becomes available. Other new information will be provided at registration.