Updated 03-11-17

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Suggested Strategy for Auditioning

1. The Part 2 No. 1 scale exercise, from the Unisonal Scales, Chords & Rhythmic Studies for Bands compiled and edited by William C White, published by Carl Fischer, is the cornerstone requirement of our audition program. Part 2 No. 1 is a combined exercise of every major, minor, melodic and harmonic scale. It is a requirement for both Senior (2 lines) and Symphonic (complete exercise/ all 8 lines). I recommend that all Junior members aspire to learning the first 2 lines, as it is a requirement for admittance into the Senior band. Senior members must perform those 2 lines annually for their audition. Current Symphonic members and all trying out for Symphonic must master the entire Part 2 No. 1 exercise. Parents should purchase the book earlier than later for their child. Don't wait until next summer. Your child needs much advance time, to learn and master these exercises. NOTE: Mastery of these scales determines entry into both Senior and Symphonic bands.

2. Regarding auditions in general, some families seem frustrated, from running out of time and/or cramming all the requirements into the last day/week. There is a better way to prepare for auditions. I would like to suggest a different approach:

A. All year, practice the known required audition elements. They are:

1. Junior band – Ex. 174, 181, 185 and the rhythms on page 42 and 43. Several of the rhythm lines will be selected for the audition and posted in April. Begin practicing daily.
2. For Senior band, the chromatic scale, the first 2 lines of Part 2 No. 1 exercise are known, year round, and should be practiced daily. In April, the rhythm lines are posted. Begin practicing daily.
3. For Symphonic band, the full chromatic scale, the entire Part 2 No. 1 exercise and the double and triple tonguing for flute and brass are all known. Begin practicing daily.

B. In April, go to the website to verify exactly what will be required for the audition. Make a hard copy of that page of the website, for your reference.

C. Begin immediately taping all/some of the "known" elements daily. These requirements can/should be practiced, and could even be taped daily, year round.

B. If you are practicing and taping daily, especially during May and June, you will develop a large collection of "takes" of all of these exercises. You will quickly learn that some will be better than others.

C. By the end of June, use a notebook, and evaluate each take. Write down the number of the recording, the tempo and especially, the number of errors it contains.

D. Choose the best take of each required exercise. Write its number in the notebook. Earmark the file and /or move it to a flash drive or a computer file, for safe keeping.

E. For members with multiple instruments, families with multiple children, etc, I strongly suggest you have all Junior auditions taped by the end of June. In the same way, Senior/ Symphonic members should strive to tape all of their “known" audition material by this same time as well.

F. In early July, the Senior and Symphonic audition passages will be released. By having recorded all known elements beforehand, you can then completely focus all your time on the newly-released audition music passages. For those passages, follow the same system: Practice and record as many parts of the required audition passages possible, every day. By the end of July, you should again have built a large collection of takes of the music passages. In the same way as before, some takes will be better than others.

G. Select the best takes of each required music passage and add it to your file.

G. The week the auditions are due, or before, put your best takes on a DVD or YouTube link. Remember to include every required audition element. Omitting one element costs you a full 10 points!

H. Then, deliver the DVD to my house or email me the YouTube link **USING THE SPECIAL AUDITION LINK** provided on our Auditions webpage. Do not email any YouTube links using the CONTACT DIRECTOR form or the director’s regular address.