

### **All State Bands**

First-round all state auditions begin in September across our state. I am excited about many of the changes and innovations that we have implemented in the last year to make our auditions more streamlined and the calculation of scores more accurate and their distribution to directors and students faster. There are several changes that will impact the selection of students at both first and second round this year.

First is the method by which students will be selected at first round.

- All districts will require students to perform all 12 major scales and the chromatic scale, all etudes (with cuts allowed), and sightreading at first round as prescribed in the LMEA Handbook.
- All districts will use the scoring system prescribed in the LMEA Handbook.
- No student will progress to second round whose total score does not equal at least 50% of the highest score in the district on that particular instrument. (50% rule).
- Allotment forms will require the inclusion of total scores for each student listed.
- Allotment forms will include additional alternate positions to broaden the pool for second round in the event of the need to call up alternates. First alternates will receive priority over second alternates, etc.

Second is a change to the allotment of several instruments. As you may recall, the LMEA board voted to eliminate the Bass Trombone audition. Additionally, the ration of first round to second round placement was skewed on several instruments. To allow for more student participation we have amended the following:

- Trombone – increase to 5 tenor trombones per district
- Euphonium and tuba – increase to 4 per district

Third, we have added provisions to allow districts with exceptional showings at second round to expand their positions in the future.

- In the event a district places all of its allotted students on a single instrument into all-state, that district will receive one additional allotment the following year in that particular instrument.
- If after receiving an additional allotment, the district places all students into all-state including the additional allotment, the district will receive another additional allotment.
- If a district places all of its allotment into all state and places additional students into all-state due to alternates, that district will receive one additional allotment beyond the alternates placed.
- If a district fails to place all of its allotment into all-state, the district will return to its original allotment.

Please also note that snare drum etudes have been changed as of last year. Of this information was distributed through the district directors las January. Please consult the LMEA Website for the most accurate and up to date requirements.

First-round auditions must be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>. District Directors must verify two documents before a student is allowed to audition for first-round: NAFME membership for each participating director and a “Release of Information” form for each student. Additionally, it is crucial that

we have senior preferences for band or orchestra so that students may be placed accordingly. If no preference is indicated, senior students will simply be assigned in the order they place. All first-round results need to be delivered to me via email no later than noon Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please look for an email with the current allotment form in the near future.

Of course, please contact me if you have any questions on any procedure for first or second-round auditions, and I will be happy to help you.

### **All State Band Clinicians**

We have a fantastic line-up of clinics, demonstration groups, concerts, exhibits, and social events for our band division members. Please make every effort to attend our conference.

This year's clinicians for our All-State Symphonic Band is Steven D. Davis of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. Dr. Davis is a lauded, versatile, and cosmopolitan conductor who has inspired ensembles around the world. In constant demand as a guest conductor, he has conducted across four continents, working with ensembles in cities such as Bangkok, Beijing, Lisbon, Sydney, and regularly conducts in his favorite city, Kansas City. His most recent guest conducting and teaching engagements include the Eastman Wind Ensemble, Beijing Modern Music Festival, and the Texas All-State Symphonic Band. Davis has, for many years, served on the Orchestra and Wind Ensemble conducting faculty of the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp.

All-State Concert Band clinician Catherine Rand of the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Rand maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and guest lecturer throughout the United States and abroad. Catherine Rand came to Southern Miss from her position as Director of Bands and Area Coordinator of Winds and Percussion at Florida International University, where she conducted the Wind Ensemble, Chamber Winds, and taught wind literature and graduate conducting.

### **Band Division Meeting**

Our annual band division meeting will be held on the Sunday during our conference. Please attend and consider offering nominations for future all-state clinicians and state assessment adjudicators. Also, please bring to the table suggestions for ways we can make LMEA better serve our band division membership. I want to be sure your voice is heard on the LMEA board.

Please contact me or your district director if you need any assistance in pursuing this for your program.

I am honored to serve you as band division chairman. It is my goal to see the bands in Louisiana continue to grow in size and quality. Please let me know how I can serve you and make your experience with LMEA a truly rewarding one. Don't hesitate to email me at [joseph.nassar@apsb.org](mailto:joseph.nassar@apsb.org).