



August 8, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Joshua Kearney and I am honored to serve the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association as the organization's current Concert Band Chair. I am excited to share materials regarding the 2020 NSBA State Concert Band Festival with each of you.

The NSBA State Concert Band Festival will take place on April 1, 2020 on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha in the newly renovated Strauss Performing Arts Center. This annual festival provides a non-competitive environment that serves all levels of ensembles in the state of Nebraska—middle school, high school, and college/university groups. In addition to having the opportunity to perform in this outstanding concert venue, students and directors will receive ***immediate*** and ***applicable*** feedback from some of the finest musicians and educators in the country—including recorded comments and a private clinic with one of the 2020 Concert Band Festival clinicians (a truly ***unique*** and valuable aspect of the NSBA Concert Band Festival). At the conclusion of their ensemble's performance, directors will receive professional audio recordings of their stage performance and a video recording of their ensemble's clinic.

I hope that you will consider bringing your ensembles to this incredible event. It is a truly world-class opportunity for Nebraska students in service of one of NSBA's primary goals: creating "Better Bands for Nebraska."

Festival Details

- **Date:** April 1, 2020
- **Location:** University of Nebraska at Omaha, Strauss Performing Arts Center (newly renovated)
- **How to Register:** Visit www.NSBMA.org and click on the link that says "Concert" at the top of the page. Online registration will become active on Oct. 1, 2019.
- **Entry Fee for Participating Groups:** \$175 (mailed separately – online payment not accepted at this time)

2020 State Concert Band Festival Clinicians

Dr. Scott Boerma is the Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Western Michigan University. Prior to this appointment, he was the Associate Director of Bands and Director of the Michigan Marching Band at the University of Michigan. Before those positions, Boerma was the Director of Bands at Eastern Michigan University, and he began his career teaching music in the Michigan public schools at Novi and Lamphere High Schools. Boerma earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in wind conducting at Michigan State University, his Master of Music degree in music education from the University of Michigan, and his Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Western Michigan University.

Boerma is an elected member of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. He is active as a band/orchestra conductor, adjudicator, and clinician, also serving as a guest conductor for several honor bands and community bands throughout the nation each year. He often conducts the Detroit Chamber Winds Brass holiday concerts.

An active composer, Boerma's concert band works have been performed by many outstanding ensembles, including "The President's Own" Marine Band, the Dallas Wind Symphony, and the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra, to name just a few. His music has been heard in such venues as Carnegie Hall and at the Chicago Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic. Boerma's works have been featured in the popular GIA series, "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band."

Also a prolific arranger, Boerma receives yearly commissions to write music for many university and high school marching bands and drum and bugle corps. From 1989-2006 and from 2014-2018, he was the music arranger for the acclaimed Madison Scouts Drum & Bugle Corps. In addition to many of the ensembles across the nation, most of the Big Ten university marching bands have performed Boerma's arrangements. He has also written arrangements for the Boston Pops and the Detroit Chamber Winds Brass.

Dr. J. Ashley Jarrell currently serves as Coordinator of Music Education at the University of North Georgia - Gainesville Campus, where his responsibilities include conducting instrumental ensembles and overseeing all facets of the instrumental music program. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Jarrell served as Assistant Director of Bands at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where his teaching and conducting responsibilities included the Hinsley Symphonic Band, Introduction to Conducting, Advanced Conducting and Graduate Wind Literature and History. Previously, he served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and the inaugural candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Wind Conducting at the University, where he was a recipient of the Begian Conducting Assistantship. While a graduate student at the University, Dr. Jarrell served on the School of Music Graduate Committee and he received the Edmund C. Williams award for excellence in bands.

He received the Master of Arts degree in Wind Conducting from Middle Tennessee State University and the Bachelor of Music degree from East Tennessee State University. Before coming to the University of Illinois, Dr. Jarrell served as Director of Bands at Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Magnet School in Nashville, Tennessee. Consistently named by *U.S. News and World Report* and *Newsweek* magazines as one of the fifty best high schools in the nation, Martin Luther King Jr. Academic Magnet School Bands received numerous superior ratings, accolades, and three performances for the Tennessee Music Education Association Conference in the span of six years during Dr. Jarrell's tenure.

Previously, Dr. Jarrell also served as Associate Director of Bands at Middle Tennessee State University and Associate Director of Bands at Harpeth High School. Dr. Jarrell is active as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States. He is also an active member of many professional organizations including National Association for Music Education, National Band Association, College Band Directors National Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and elected membership with American School Band Directors Association, Phi Beta Mu and Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.

Dr. Jarrell is the featured young band clinician for the 2020 NSBA State Concert Band Festival.

Dr. Amy Knopps is the Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at the University of Missouri where she directs Marching Mizzou, Mini Mizzou, Symphonic Band, and teaches courses in the music education curriculum of the School of Music. Prior to her appointment in the fall of 2017, Dr. Knopps served for seven years as Associate Professor of Music, Associate Director of Bands, and Director of Athletic Bands in the School of Music and Dance at Eastern Michigan University. While at Eastern Michigan she was a 2017 Faculty Spotlight Recipient as well as the Eastern Michigan University Thank-A-Teacher Inaugural Recipient.

Dr. Knopps holds degrees from The University of Georgia (DMA), the University of Kansas (MM), and the University of Missouri (BS, Ed.) where her principal conducting teachers were Dr. John P. Lynch and Dr. Dale J. Lonis. While at Georgia and Kansas she held conducting associate positions that involved conducting both concert and athletic

bands as well as teaching courses in the music curriculum. During her time at The University of Georgia, Dr. Knopps received the Hugh Hodgson School of Music Director's Excellence Award and at the University of Kansas she received the Russell L. Wiley Graduate Conducting Award.

Additional teaching experience includes numerous years as Director of Bands at Center High School and Center Middle School in her hometown of Kansas City, Missouri where she guided all aspects of the diverse and award-winning band program. While in the Center School District, Dr. Knopps received the 2003 Missouri Fine Arts Outstanding Teacher Award and the 2004 You Make the Difference Award for her dedication and commitment to excellence in education. As an advocate for new wind music she solely commissioned and premiered Jonathan Newman's *1861* for concert band in 2004 and continues her commitment to contributing to the wind band repertoire through additional commissions.

Dr. Knopps continues to be an active conductor, clinician, and adjudicator across the United States and internationally having worked and performed throughout Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, and South America. Each summer she serves as a clinician/instructor at the Smith-Walbridge Clinics held in Charleston, Illinois working with high school and college drum majors from across the country. Dr. Knopps is also known for her published contributions as she has authored several articles for *School Band and Orchestra Magazine* and has contributed to seven volumes of the *Teaching Music Through Performance in Band* series. In addition to her published articles she has completed extensive research on American-Sponsored overseas secondary band programs in the People's Republic of China.

Dr. Knopps maintains professional affiliations with the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), currently serving on the CBDNA Athletic Bands Committee, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles (WASBE), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), National Band Association (NBA), currently serving as the Missouri State Chair, Phi Beta Mu, Tau Beta Sigma, Kappa Kappa Psi, currently serving as the sponsor for the Eta Upsilon chapter, the Griffiths Leadership Society for Women, currently serving on the Executive Committee, and QEBH, the oldest of six secret honor societies at the University of Missouri. She currently resides in Columbia, Missouri with her two cats Buddy and Rocky.