

Finding Respect

Welcome to all new members.

This has been the hottest summer on record. We have had the hottest temperatures in the United States and the hottest recruitment drive ever for ACB. We have surpassed our 2012 goal of 1100 members because of the efforts of our RMC's and many individuals who invited their friends to join us.

It is hard to believe that there are just six more months left in my presidency of ACB because the time has flown by so fast. My presidential MORE goals: Membership, Outreach, Recognition and Enrichment are important and should be ongoing for years to come. Another goal important to me is "Finding RESPECT", the sense of significance and importance for all Community Bands.

Community Band musicians work together to perfect music for public performance thus leading to a strong sense of pride in themselves and in their organization. Performing members feel the same intrinsic rewards they were introduced to in their years of schooling; the concepts of teamwork, discipline, self-confidence, determination and camaraderie. They are using their training and maintain and improve their musical skills and talent by participating in community bands.

As an organization we must exist not only for our own rewards, but also to serve others. When we act accordingly, respect will follow. To make that happen we must KNOW our audiences and PROGRAM for the benefit of their tastes and our own personal growth.

Though the art of concert programming is a creative endeavor, it receives relatively little attention in the curriculum that shapes young conductors. It may be the most neglected aspect of ensemble conducting education. Concert programming must include music that is audience appealing with enough musical and technical difficulty to challenge and yet not discourage performers. A variety of styles, genre, tempo and moods are essential to every presentation. Two important elements in programming are using an opening selection to "pull the audience in" and at least one "audio aspirin" selection, a meditative piece of reflection to soothe the soul. A short, well-played concert is always better than a long, less-polished one.

Col. Arnald Gabriel, (USAF Band Ret.) provides this effective programming guide using an analogy between a well-balanced program and a finely prepared French dinner. *"A program should include an appetizer to tantalize the appetite (a march); hors d'oeuvres to stimulate, (the overture), a salad course with a rare tasting dressing (a brilliant soloist), a main course of whatever suits our fancy that day (a contemporary work, a ballet suite), a vegetable that we don't really like but know is good for us, a fruit or cheese course (a light work to relax, easy to digest) and for dessert – a flambeau to bring sheer joy to the listener. The meal must be accompanied by fine wine to compliment and heighten the total effect. The conductor takes upon himself the musical creation of a total emotional experience in listening to maintain the essences of unity, variety and interest throughout his work."*

Dr. David Goza in his "Fine Art of Concert Programming" states, *"The music director, when choosing the concert program, is fulfilling exactly the same function as the curator of a museum or art gallery, who devotes much thought to the question of what painting to hang between which two*

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other paintings, so that each of the artworks contributes an enhancing context for the others and the whole exhibition becomes more than the sum of its parts."

Today it is easy to find quality music to perform. We should begin by looking at the masterpieces of band literature, original band compositions and transcriptions. Modern publishing companies have made it simple for us to find great new music. Their CD demos of new compositions and full recordings online help us make wise choices.

The Association of Concert Bands wants to help your band find respect. We delight in the chance to promote the importance of music in our lives. We take pleasure in assisting and encouraging young students of music to know the joy of making music a life long journey.

Community Bands have much to offer their members and their communities. We need to accomplish all we can, not only to be recognized that we exist but also to be respected for the benefits we provide.

Judy



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