

Dear PMEA All-State Concert Band Member,

Congratulations on being selected to perform in the 2019 PMEA All-State Concert Band! I very much look forward to making music with you this April 3–6 in Pittsburgh!

I have the privilege of working with several all-state and honor bands each year, and it's always a wonderful opportunity to come together, make new friends, and see how deeply we can learn and perform an interesting musical program in a short period of time.

Since you will have the music well in advance of our rehearsals and performance, I trust you will be able to spend whatever time you may need (and ask for whatever help from your teachers you may need) in order to play your individual parts with fluency and confidence. To aid in your individual preparation—so we can spend our intense time together listening to each other and making musical choices, instead of chasing after notes and rhythms—here are some links to online recordings of the repertoire:

NAVARRO: *Downey Overture*

University of North Texas Wind Symphony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szHAc0xlk30>

CROSS: *Memento*

JanFest Symphonic Band: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhuJsaigqDQ>

“On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away,” which is quoted in Memento: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2c3wObvUUo>

MASLANKA: *Traveler*

University of North Texas Wind Symphony (audio only): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTYwuA1K8H8>

University of British Columbia Symphonic Wind Ensemble: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bVF6jiSbfQ>

SCHUMAN: *Chester*

“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band (audio only): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4MMikzRROk>

Original hymn appearing in HBO’s John Adams miniseries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWjDqTafzXI>

Choral version with text: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7S\\_07E-9CA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7S_07E-9CA)

I also encourage you to do three things leading up to and during the all-state festival:

1. Get plenty of sleep, especially the night before our first rehearsal. Many of you will have traveled all day, combined with the stress of chair placement auditions, and that Thursday will be a test of endurance as we jump right in and get to work.
2. Drink a few glasses of water each day, especially on Saturday. We’ll play a lot, and the best thing you can do for your chops is stay hydrated, and if you get a good head start on this earlier in the week, you’ll feel better throughout the rehearsals and performance. (Corollary: It’s also wise to avoid especially salty and otherwise unhealthy foods, so as not to undermine your hydration efforts!)
3. Meet as many new people as you can, and don’t be shy about introducing yourself to others. If you come to the festival with other students from your school, try not to spend all of your free time with the people you already know. Be the student who reaches out and includes others in your meal and exhibit-visiting plans. It’s about the music, but it’s about the people, too!

All best for a great winter, and I look forward to collaborating with all of you in the spring!

Sincerely,



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Wind Ensemble Conductor  
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